

Londonderry Community Council - Sally says "Good-bye"

By Sally Richard

An estimated 90 people turned out to enjoy the first ever Gospel jamboree held at the Community Centre on May 5th. This event was sponsored by the Thirsty Church, Londonderry Station. The freewill offering was shared with the Community Centre. Several artists performed, each leaving a spiritual impact on the appreciative audi-

ence. Many thanks to all the performers for sharing their time and talents and bringing us such an uplifting evening. Thanks also to all those who came out in support of the jamboree. It is hoped this event will continue. The Thirsty Church members always do great work.

The last Council meeting for the summer was held on Thursday, May 9th. An election of officers was held.



At the last card party for the year at the Londonderry Community Centre, trophies were presented to Shep Scott, Sutherland's Lake and Bertha Johnson, Londonderry who were the top male and female winners. (Maxine Richard Photo)

Peggy Mattix remains as President with Rebecca Taylor as Vice-President. Anne Spencer remains as Secretary and Susan Sharp as new Treasurer. The Council is not scheduled to meet again until September.

The past year was very busy at the Community Centre. This is just a brief summary of our activities. Several birthday and anniversary parties were celebrated. Hunter breakfasts were record breaking in attendance and door prizes were given away. Also, the cap and toque sales were very popular. Christmas dinner was successful which also included door prizes and a silent auction. The fundraiser in support of the vandalism repair fund just blew us away!

The support from our community and surrounding areas, as well as the Shoreline Journal was awesome. It really put us back on our foundation. Two youth groups have started and are both well attended. A program funded by Fundy Director Practitioners Association was established offering nine activities for young girls. Internet is now available with one computer. It is hoped a few more computers can be purchased so instructional classes can

be held for those who wish to learn and/or homework for students can be handled. Zumba classes were a hit. Yoga was as well, however there was not quite enough interest to keep it running.

The Great Village and District Fire Department held their annual banquet at the Centre and was catered to by the Council. The Masons (Lodge 74) also held their annual dance at the Centre. Amanda Langille and Robbin Spencer are working tirelessly on the playground project with the Dept. of Recreation. They are taking their time and are determined to establish a positive playground experience for the younger children. In February Eric Young, one of our members, brought in several musical groups to perform in a coffee house atmosphere. A few community members have been helping the Council without holding membership. Debbie McMullin is doing all the purchasing for the hall and has done a few breakfast brunches as well as a penny sale.

Val Rushton and Teri-Lyn Joudrey have each freely given their time with the After School Club. Mona Scott was presented with a plaque

for her outstanding contributions. A very special thank you to Charlotte McVicar for auditing our bookkeeping over the years. This job is very time consuming and often goes unnoticed. Charlotte also prepares an annual financial report, which is filed with the Registry of Joint Stocks in Halifax for the Londonderry Community Council Association.

Card parties ended on May 13th. Thirty players came out for the last night of this season. Bertha Johnson won the ladies championship and Shep Scott (99 years young) won the men's championship. They each received a trophy. Gary Matheson received honourable mention for his two years of perfect attendance. Some of the ladies brought in a lovely lunch. Thank you to the card players for supporting our weekly card parties. Contact Amanda Langille for hall rental inquiries at 668-2300.

The Council would like to express their condolences to Alma Vaughan on the passing of her sister Mary (West) Brown of Halifax. Mary was born in Londonderry, daughter of the late Arthur West and Katherine (Lee, West) Purdy and

stepdaughter of Mack Purdy. Mary was also an aunt to Maxine (Dan) Richard. Best wishes to Shirley Ryan who has not been well. It was nice to see clothes hanging out on Ruth Casey's line recently. Maxine and Dan Richard vacationed in Ottawa over Victoria Day with their son Aaron and his family. Ed and Carlotta Langille spent a week in Cuba while Denise and Glenn Miller visited Florida. Peggy and Danny Mattix's house is on its foundation and is looking good. Robbin and Connor Spencer spent a week in Calgary with Robbins parents.

In closing, this will be my last column. Anne Spencer will be writing for the Londonderry Community Council starting next month. I have thoroughly enjoyed the years of keeping you up-to-date on both the Council and community news. My right hand was Maxine Richard. It was truly a joint effort on our part. I would like to thank the Shoreline Journal for giving us a voice over the years. This gem of a publication really helped to develop our Community Centre into an active facility and a well known landmark. See you around....

"Afternoons" at Elizabeth Bishop House

By Patti Sharpe

Throughout the year, Elizabeth Bishop House, Great Village is the venue for informal afternoon gatherings that spotlight an artist, poet or writer, and provide an opportunity to learn about that individual's work and life. Attendance is limited to allow for easier conversation and the discussion concludes with light refreshments. The afternoons are always engaging and entertaining and serve as a fundraiser for EB House.

On Saturday, April 27, EB House hosted an afternoon with Janet Maybee, an independent scholar and research associate at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Maybee is a retired teacher with ties to the West Colchester area. Retirement has allowed her to revive a passion for historical research that has focused on harbour pilot, Francis Mackey, who was aboard the ship, Mont Blanc, when it was engaged in a collision with the Imo on the morning of December 6, 1917. The devastating explosion that followed levelled much of the city of Halifax and resulted in the death and injury of thousands of people.

As harbour pilot, it was Mackey's task to see that ships safely navigated obstacles within the harbour and in his more than two decades of service he had never failed to do so. In the turmoil and grief that followed the explosion, Mackey became a



Sandra Barry and historian Janet Maybee at Elizabeth Bishop House, Great Village. (Patti Sharpe Photo)

scapegoat for a military and government that refused to be associated with the disaster.

Initially, Mackey was imprisoned on charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence. The charges were dismissed and Mackey was released within weeks, but it would be four years before his pilot's license was restored. Four years that resulted in financial hardship and public disgrace for Mackey and his family - a disgrace that time has not erased.

Mackey's descendants are still tainted by those unfounded charges because of efforts by the government to bury evidence that would have exonerated Francis Mackey. Although much has been written about the Halifax Explosion, the story of Francis Mackey remained a mys-

tery until Maybee discovered restricted files at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa.

Eager to know the contents of the files, Maybee proceeded with an application to the Information Commissioner of Canada and after sixteen months of negotiation access was granted and Maybee learned of misdeeds at the federal level. With the help of Mackey's remaining family members and information from the restricted files, Maybee was able to piece together the story of Francis Mackey - a story that involved wrongful imprisonment, loss of professional license and uncompensated losses and suffering on the part of Mackey and his family.

Maybee published an article in 2010 revealing her findings entitled "The Persecution of Pilot

Mackey". It appeared in The Northern Mariner, a journal of the Canadian Nautical Research Society. Maybee has promised Mackey's descendants that she will write a book that will reveal the truth of Mackey's role in the Halifax Explosion and the under-handed government dealings that brought about his persecution. With the centenary of the Halifax Explosion looming in 2017, Janet Maybee feels it is important that the truth be told about this important part of Nova Scotia history.

"Afternoons" at Elizabeth Bishop House will continue on Saturday, May 25 from 1-3 p.m. with a reading by award winning poet Anne Simpson followed by discussion of her work and life. An Afternoon with biographer Evelyn White will happen on Saturday, July 27, from 1-3 p.m. Space is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come basis. A gift of \$25 to the Elizabeth Bishop Society of NS is the suggested donation. Light refreshments will be served. To reserve a place contact Sandra Barry, slbarry@ns.sympatico.ca.

Great Village Garden Club members Patti Sharpe, Eileen Eaton and Arthur Haskins (left to right) were making sure the plants were labelling correctly before the plant sale began. (Harrington Photo)



Future gardeners! Ava Brown (left) and Hailey Field picked out their favorite plants at the Great Village Garden Club's plant sale on May 11th. (Harrington Photo)



Karen Casey Colchester North

**Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**30 Duke Street, Truro, NS
B2N 2A1
Phone 893-2180
Fax 893-3064**

Email: karencasey@ns.aliantzinc.ca

**"Support Our
Communities,
Buy Local, Eat Fresh"**



www.karencasey.ca

Scotia Metal Products Ltd

Metal Roofing & Siding

Made in Nova Scotia

Many Colours to choose from

Visit our showroom at

188 Joseph Zatzman Drive Dartmouth

902-468-7217

www.scotiametal.ca