

Jim Dooks Memorial Campground – an \$80,000 Project

JIM DOOKS MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND



Camp Evangeline proposed playground

The above image shows the layout and equipment to be purchased for the Jim Dooks Memorial Playground to be constructed at Camp Evangeline. (Submitted Photo)

By Maurice Rees

The "Jim Dooks Memorial Playground" being proposed for Camp Evangeline will become reality this summer if Amanda Evans and her committee have anything to do with it. The playground which would be open year round to the public is expected to cost \$80,000. Evans is chairperson of the Playgroup Committee,

Camp Evangeline.

Evans has been working for three years to get the playground constructed and she is not a resident of the area. Approaching 35 years and a stay at home mother of three girls, she has attended Camp Evangeline since she was one years old. Her passion to the playground project is a bit unusual because she is not

from the area. She actually lives on the Eastern Shore near Musquodoboit Harbour.

Evans said, "The playground is in memory of a wonderful man, Jim Dooks. He was an avid camper and supporter of Camp Evangeline. He was affectionately known as the "Candy Man" to the kids. Being a father and grandfather himself, he believed in treating children with respect and recognized their extreme value. Over the years, Jim had become the camp handyman too. His enthusiasm and hard work has seen many projects accomplished as well as the day to day problems that needed to be fixed. He spent many hours volunteering his time and talents. From fixing doorknobs and stopping leaks, to painting cabins and constructing picnic tables, Jim did everything with a cheerful heart".

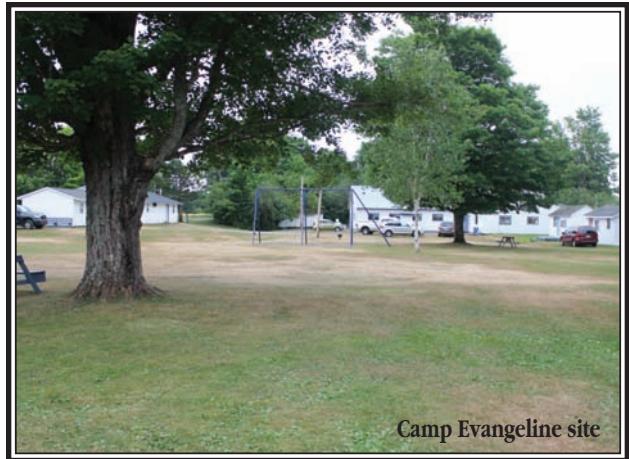
In a phone interview with the Shoreline Journal, Evans said she and her husband were touring the area three years ago and could not find a playground nearby for their daughters to play. With her love of Camp Evangeline, she commenced focusing on a

playground for the camp and the general public so children could enjoy for many years to come.

Camp Evangeline is situated in the heart of Debert along the Debert River on the East Folly Mountain Rd. Over the past 50+ years, people of all ages have spent many summers relaxing, renewing old friendships, exploring the richness of the area and rejuvenating their faith. Over the course of a summer, various "camps" take place, such as: Kids Camp, Family Camp and Teen Camp. The campgrounds have also been rented out to other groups with some groups coming back each year for one or two weeks.

Last year Evans attempted to raise funding and was successful receiving one grant in excess of \$20,000, but it was contingent upon raising the remainder of the money. She returned the grant, and started planning for this year. The project will require \$80,000, which is comprised of \$54,000 for the equipment and an additional \$18,000 for installation. The remaining \$8,000 will be for site preparation, then finishing with landscaping and installation of wood fiber chips throughout the playground.

Since returning the grant last year, Evans' committee has been busy and have raised \$20,000 and have applied to some grants - the Recreation Facility Development (RFD) grant, and the Community Parks Funding program in support of the Municipality of Colchester County. We are also in the process of applying for the Community Access-ability program, as the entire playground would be accessible by those with access limitations.



Camp Evangeline site

The foreground of this photo shows the site of the Jim Dooks Memorial Playground planned for Camp Evangeline. The project costing \$80,000 will be completed this summer if grants for funding are approved. The committee has already raised \$20,000. (Submitted Photo)

Dreams Made For You

(A Parent's Prayer)

For Your Tiny Hands
For Your Tiny Feet
For Your Tiny Hearts
And How They Beat
For The World Your
Tiny Eyes May See
For All The Strength
You Need From Me

Our Dreams Are Made For You

For Each Day That We Carry You
For Every Step We See You Through
For The Quiet Times We Talk Alone
For Every Ounce We Know You've Grown

Our Dreams Are Made For You

For Every Time You'll Need A Bath
For Every Time You'll Pass Your Math
For Every Picture We'll Ever Take
For Every Leaf You'll Ever Rake

Our Dreams Are Made For You

For Blisters And Boils We Have To Lance
For The Moment When You Learn To Dance
For The First Time That You Plant A Kiss
For The Parent Meetings You Thought We'd Miss

Our Dreams Are Made For You

For The Time When You Learn To Drive
For The Honor Role We Hope You'll Strive
For The Special Person You Bring On Home
For Important Words Sent In A Poem

Our Dreams Are Made For You

For When It Is Time To Leave The Nest
For This We Hope We've Taught You Best
For Now You'll Find Just What We See
For It Is With Our Blessings That We Set You Free!

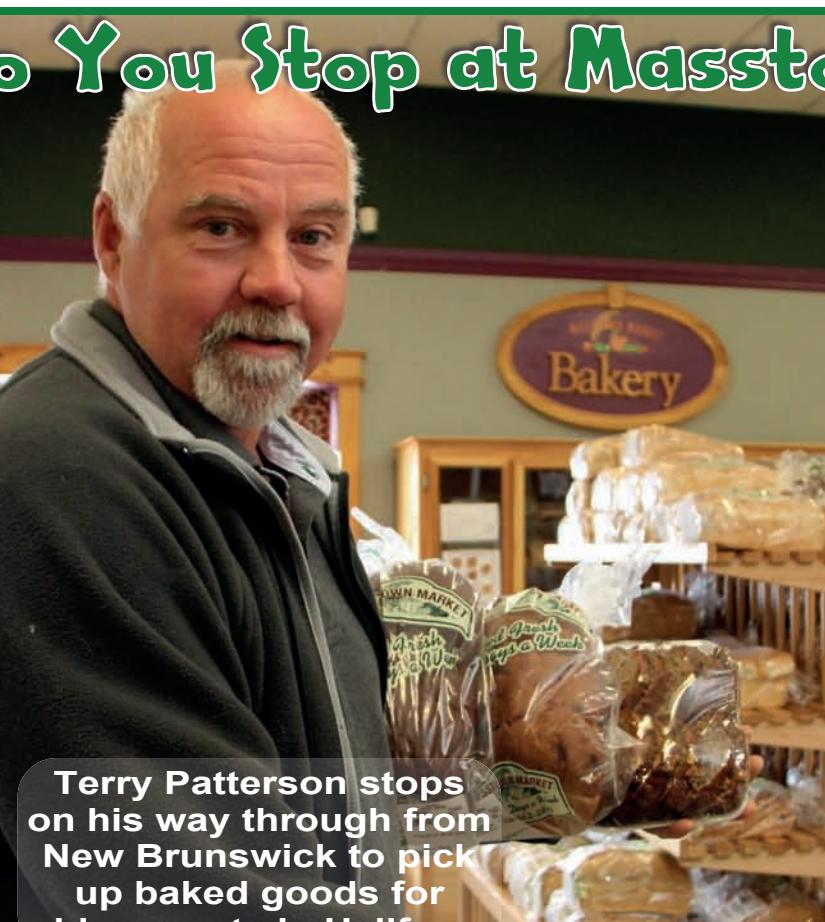
Our Dreams Are Made For You

Amen
God Bless And Thank-you
Thomas A. Marshall (Ex-Navy)

The costs might seem high to some, but due to the public use of the camp and the community's access to the finished playground, we are required to have professionally installed, commercial equipment and safe wood

fibre material for the ground for accessibility, she said.

If companies or individuals are interested in helping make this happen, contact Amanda Evans at 902-889-2469 or email Amanda.ben@hotmail.com.



The Gilroy family often meets for lunch.