

Two Schools Collaborate on Biography of Local Commissionaires

By Linda Harrington

A unique book launch was held Tuesday, May 19th on the lawn at Chiganois Elementary School. Students had recently completed a biography of local Commissionaires.

The book was written by students from Mrs. Kennedy's Grade 2 class at Chiganois Elementary and Mr. Ferguson's Grade 6 class at Redcliff Middle School as an independent lesson following a month of explicit instruction about how to write a biography.

Students collaborated by creating questions, asking these questions in a formal interview, and composing an original biography of the person(s) interviewed.

The portraits on the cover of the book were created by Grade 6.5 students at Redcliff Middle School and the Grade 4/5 Class at Chiganois. These portraits were on display at the celebration of the book launch, as well.

Major James Taylor, Commissionaires Nova Scotia, was involved with the project from the start. He was immediately excited about the project, when first approached by teacher Judy Kennedy. "I saw this as an opportunity to share our stories with new generations," said Major Taylor.



"We do a lot of interviewing for various reasons, as part of our jobs, and to sit down and have the tables turned was unique and a lot of fun."

Major Taylor was impressed by the different questions and found the interview process a rewarding experience. "We were all changed afterwards. Not one person walked away unaffected."

Commissionaires Nova Scotia (CNS) is a member division of Commissionaires, Canada's premier security services provider, serving the entire province of Nova Scotia for over 80 years. As a not-for-profit organization, they employ approximately 1,600 well-trained, professional commissionaires, most of whom are former military and RCMP.

Captain Sean Howell, a commissionaire from Truro, says being involved "was a blast" and his interviewer, Connor, kept him on his toes with some great questions. He says any person, who enters the province, whether by land, sea or air will come in contact with a commissionaire and he hopes this book will help students remember where they came from and their life experiences.

Copies of the book were presented to each of the five Commissionaires Nova Scotia branch offices and two copies were given to each of the Redcliff and Chiganois principals.

Chiganois Principal, Kathy Weathebee congratulated the students on doing such a wonderful job with the book and thanked the commissionaires for the assistance. "This is bringing real life to the classrooms and the learning experience was phenomenal."

Redcliff Middle School Principal Kennedy passed along his congratulations and gratitude adding, "This is how we learn, thorough what others have experienced."

Judy Kennedy, a Chiganois teacher who helped facilitate the project, says she was surprised by some of the questions students wanted to ask in their interviews. "They wanted to know who supported them in their career choice and the path that took them to be a commissionaire. But they also wanted to know how the commissionaires wanted to be remembered," says Mrs. Kennedy, who was very pleased with the final product and noted the students' work was not altered or edited.

Biographies of 24 commissionaires are featured in the book, with photos of the interviews and hand drawn portraits.



Students presented copies of the book to commissionaires Major James Taylor, Captain Sean Howell, Captain Eric d Entremont and Master Warrant Officer Mike Jay.



Laura Thurston and Caleb read an excerpt from the book of commissionaire biographies.

Masstown Community News

By Christine Urquhart

Spring has finally arrived with all things sprouting up in a rush! How wonderful. It seemed at times like we'd never see green grass again. Driving around it is a pleasure to see all the daffodils blooming, flowers on some trees, and buds on others. Leaves are coming out quickly and soon the trees will all be green again. The birds are busy picking up nesting

materials and the humming-birds are back. Get your feeders out! For a nice "gift" for the birds, take your now empty suet feeder and fill it with scraps of yarn and bits of lint for nesting materials.

There will be a Coffee Party on Wednesday May 27th, 2pm, at the Masstown United Church. Bake table and a nice play room for the children. Everyone welcome. I am glad to see some men

coming to our Coffee Parties.

On Wednesday June 17th at 2pm, there will be a Fancy Hat Tea at the Masstown United Church. This will be an "all desserts" event! Put on your best bonnet and come out for some fun! There will be a bake table at this event and, as always, the play room for the children. I look forward to seeing what different "fancy" hats walk through the door!

On Thursday June 4th the Masstown UCW will hold their closing meeting at Irene Gratto's cottage in Portipique. All ladies of the congregations are welcome to attend. There will be lots of great food and fellowship, plus a chance to walk along the beach or just sit in a chair and enjoy the fresh air.

On June 5th the DGM Men's Club will meet at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome.

There will be a congregational meeting for the Masstown congregation after Church services on June 14th. If you are a member or adherent of Masstown United Church, please do your best to be there.

Congratulations go out to Audrey Williams of Truro who won the Mother's Day Basket. Audrey was thrilled to win and as a mother of two she will find lots in the basket to enjoy. Congratulations go out this month to Rodney and Joy Reid on the birth of a new grandson, Logan Charles MacLaughlin, born on April 3, 2015 to proud parents Shaun and Vikki MacLaughlin. Vikki is the daughter of Rodney and Joy Reid; to Gail Hines on the birth of her first great grandchild, Cylas Jack 8 lbs 3 oz born May 9 parents Olivia Willett and Kyle Biss, his grandmother is Gail's daughter Susan Willett.

Once July hits we will be very busy! There will be Canada Day events at our Community Park and the Annual Strawberry Supper at the Debert Fire Hall on July 8th. Keep an eye out for more information on both these events next month. Enjoy the good weather, it seemed like an awfully long winter.



Major James Taylor talks about the involvement of local commissionaires in the book project as Captain Sean Howell looks on.



Casey McSwain welcomes everyone to the book launch celebration at Chiganois Elementary on Tuesday, May 19th.



Each biography was collaborative effort of interviews, recording, photography and drawing. Left to right- Cameron Myatt (artist), Commissionaire Captain Eric Dentremont, Nick White (artist), McKenna O'Brien (interviewer), Haley MacKenzie (recorder)



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