

# PAGE BRIEFS

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**Nova Scotia secondary** students with an interest in learning more about careers in skilled trades and technology will be able to attend next month's Skills Canada National Competition in Moncton. The province is providing funding to Skills Canada-Nova Scotia to cover transportation and substitute costs for teachers to accompany students to the competition. Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey says students will be able to observe the skills competition, participate in hands-on activities and explore careers through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics).

**The application deadline** is rapidly approaching for the University of King's College's new program, Humanities for Young People (HYP), a new summer program for ambitious secondary students. A few spots are still available and HYP will be accepting applications until June 1st for the inaugural year of this exciting new program. For more information on HYP, please contact: Drs. Sarah Clift & Laura Penny, HYP Coordinators Sarah.Clift@ukings.ca & Laura.Penny@ukings.ca 902-422-1271

**William (Bill) Smith**, who most recently was the executive director of Correctional Services for the Province of Nova Scotia, has been chosen as Nova Scotia's new ombudsman. The appointment is effective June 1, 2016. He previously was a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 33 years. His last position in the RCMP was the assistant commissioner - commanding officer for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**More Nova Scotians** will soon be able to get married by a justice of the peace. Government is improving the Civil Weddings Program and increasing the number of justices of the peace who can perform a civil wedding. There are about 170 trained justices of the peace who perform about 2,500 civil weddings a year.

**Nova Scotians interested** in becoming a justice of the peace will have to make an application to the Department of Justice, provide two character references and complete training. There is also a fee of \$132.70 to become an administrative justice of the peace. For anyone wishing to become an administrative justice of the peace, or for more information on the Civil Weddings Program, visit: [http://novascotia.ca/just/Court\\_Services/civilWed.asp](http://novascotia.ca/just/Court_Services/civilWed.asp)

**Management and non-management** employees who are not unionized will fall under the same four-year wage pattern, step increases and service award rules as bargaining unit employees. The four-year wage pattern for non-bargaining unit employees will not have an increase in the first two years, then one per cent in the third year, 1.5 per cent in the fourth year and 0.5 per cent on the last day of the fourth year. Eligible non-bargaining unit employees will continue to receive step increases consistent with their bargaining unit colleagues. The public service award, for those who are eligible, has been updated and will be based on an employee's bi-weekly salary at the time of retirement. This applies to: government departments; government business enterprises and governmental units, including Crown corporations and agencies, the health authorities, regional school boards and various other employers funded by departments

**Statistics Canada** reported on May 11 that culture and sport contributed more than \$1 billion to Nova Scotia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014 and accounted for 15,813 jobs. Culture GDP grew by more than 15 per cent during the five-year period between 2010-14 and sport GDP grew by 10 per cent, according to the report available at [www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/160511/dq160511a-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/160511/dq160511a-eng.htm) Culture jobs increased by 4.7 per cent to 13,874 and sport jobs increased by 2.3 per cent to 1,939.

**The Ecology Action Centre** has launched a new fisheries campaign, aimed at protecting and rebuilding the important fish species which sustain the ecosystem. Small forage fish, which, in Atlantic Canada, includes species like herring and mackerel, are crucial to the

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# Masstown Community News

By Christine Urquhart

What a wonderful thing it is to see all the leaves coming out on the trees! Birds singing, bees buzzing, children laughing...ah, yes, Spring!

Many in our community are busy getting their gardens planted, be they vegetable, flower or other. Please remember to be careful! Digging takes different muscles than sweeping the floor, for instance. Be careful! Lift with your knees, not your back. Raking also uses different muscles again.

You can get a real work out doing gardening! Remember to put on the sun screen and bug repellent. Wear gloves. Never touch your face with hands that have been in commercial fertilizer, the chemicals can be harmful before they are diluted by water. If you have pets that like to dig, you are better off using compost or well-aged manure. They may still try to eat it but it won't hurt them.

Remember to take breathers when working in your yard or garden. A short rest may well prevent a heart attack. If you are burning old stalks and stems from last year, be sure to have your garden hose ready to use before you light the match. Even with all the rain we seem to get our soil is dry.

Summer is just around the corner so things are wrapping up for the season. The Masstown UCW will hold their closing meeting on Thursday June 2nd at Irene Gratto's cottage in Portipique. Supper will be at 6pm. All ladies from our Pastoral Charge, including Great Village, are welcome to attend. We always have such fun at this closing meeting! Nice to just "get away" to the beach for some quiet time among friends.

The winner of the Masstown Community Association's Mother's Day Basket draw was Margaret Spicer from Truro. Margaret was very pleased with the contents of the basket and said she felt very lucky to have won it! Congratulations Margaret! With Margaret when she picked up her basket was her grandson Wyatt Rogers. He was happy to end up in the photo with her.

Canada Day will be with us before we know it! There will be lots of things happening at the Masstown Community

Park from 1-3pm on that day, including a BBQ, live music and much more! The Masstown Community Association will meet on Tuesday June 14th, 7pm, at the Masstown Market - restaurant part. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. If you have ideas of things to do at our upcoming Canada Day event we'd love to hear from you! I know that Canada Day is a Friday this year but we hope that you will still make coming to our Park part of your long weekend celebrations!

There were some visitors this past month. Pat Whiten of Taccoa Georgia visited her parents Jack and Mary Barley. Norman Clarke of Prince George BC visited his sister Elsie and Owen Rudolph. Also visiting with Elsie and Owen were her sister Laura Selig of Riverview NB.

Condolences go out this month to Lester Robinson and his family on the death of his mother, Marion Robinson; Dotty Jennings and her family on the death of her sister-in-law, Joan Fletcher.

I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, emails or made calls during my recent stays in hospital. Although I ended up in the hospital twice for two different operations I am recovering nicely. May all the spring flowers blooming into summer bring you happiness.



The winner of the Masstown Community Association's Mother's Day Basket draw was Margaret Spicer from Truro. With Margaret when she picked up her basket was her grandson Wyatt Rogers. (Urquhart Photo)



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