

Alternative School Fundraising Underway in Wentworth



Nathan Patriquin, vice-president of the Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative, accepts funds from Jocelyn Morris, director of the Cumberland Singers. All proceeds from the concert is for the Learning Centre Cooperative. (Photo: member of the audience)

By Hope Bridgewater

A top-notch concert was recently performed by the Cumberland Singers at the Wentworth Recreation Centre in order to raise funds for the new Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative. The Cumberland Singers at times gives funding to Chalice-Care International which gives aid to the world's neediest children. This time the Singers have focused on the needs of Wentworth including the community's children whose school, the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School was recently closed in June 2015 by the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board.

Now students as young as four years (if five years in December) are expected to go to a distant school out of their community on a school bus taking almost two hours daily (nearly one hour there and nearly one hour back) and this is a human rights issue as so long on a school bus hurts a young child physically, educationally, emotionally, and socially.

Parents and supporters in Wentworth, although already paying their share of taxes, are voluntarily working long and hard hours to establish a learning Centre at the location of the closed school (which they now own) which will house, with other services, a Primary to Grade Three alternative school. The Cumberland Singers, who are volunteer workers and some live away from Wentworth in Halifax or elsewhere, have offered to help in establishing a Learning Centre in Wentworth and in their recent concert contributed about \$3000.00.

With knowledge of their ethical commitment to help Wentworth, it was even more powerful emotionally and socially to enjoy and appreciate the talented musicians and singers as they sang favourites of the 50's and 60's. Jocelyn Morris, director and singer, organized hours of rehearsals for the concert and the concert itself (over two hours) with these volunteer musicians and singers who contributed both their time and money to participate. We cannot thank them enough.

The Cumberland Singers were first organized by the late Jean Mooring and Pearl Crowley in 1989 and still continue to function under the leadership of Pearl Crowley's daughter, Jocelyn Morris. It was inspiring to see Pearl Crowley in this concert as a choir member. Pearl Crowley's mother and father were Ellsworth and Edith Patriquin of Thompson Station, many of

the Cumberland Singers are also their descendants by blood or marriage, and can be called a "Patriquin Clan": Nick Morris (singer, drummer), Ashley Baker (singer, rhythm guitar), Jocelyn Morris (singer, show coordinator), Amy Morris (singer, sound technician), Charles Patriquin (singer, MC), Sharon Miller (singer), Carmen Baker (singer), Larry Patriquin (singer), David Patriquin (singer), Pearl Crowley (choir singer), Bill Baker (choir singer), Roger Patriquin (choir singer) Sarah Morris (choir singer), and Andrew Keilty (choir singer).

Musicians and singing friends were: Shane Lyons (bass guitar), Angela Trenholm (piano, back-up singer), Wayne Reid (singer, lead guitar), Laura Mezzelani (singer, back-up drummer), and Gerald Davis (guest singer). Band members (as well listed above as singers) Nick Morris, Ashley Baker, Shane Lyons, Angela Trenholm, Wayne Reid, and Laura Mezzelani backed up all the singers except one.

Other volunteer workers at the concert gave their time to help with the success of the event. As people came into the large hall of the Recreation Centre, Ethel Gilroy and Jeanette Murray sold admission tickets at the first table, Sharon Miller and other rotating volunteers sold raffle tickets at a second table, and Shirley Patriquin sold homemade food at the third table. Jocelyn Morris, Concert Coordinator and Director of Music, appreciated the hours of work done by volunteers preparing and bringing the goods for both the raffle table and food table.

Volunteers Jordan Sprague, Barb Palmer, Linda Patriquin, Andrew Keilty, and Orland Carter served the audience at the canteen during the recess between the two sets of music. Also, there was excitement as a man called out the winners for the door prize and raffle tickets.

During this break came a dramatic incident when Jocelyn Morris handed to Nathan Patriquin, vice-President of the new Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative, a cheque of about \$3000. Nathan in his comments of thanks showed his appreciation of this wonderful gift.

The concert ended with many people commenting on the beauty of the music and the generosity of the Cumberland Singers helping out the new Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative. In brief, it was a wonderful concert by the Cumberland Singers.



Happy group of 3/4 students going home with their freshly caught fish. Back Row - Bradley Mattix, Carly Ralph, Samuel Pulley, Alexis Morse, Brianna Griffiths and Adam Millen; Front Row - Mattia Poelzer, Faith Taplin, Will Higgins, Rowan Durning and Kyle Dykstra.



Alexis Morse and Brianna Griffiths work together to bait their hooks.

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marine ecosystem and the fisheries which depend on it. They provide food for charismatic species like sharks and whales, as well as commercially important species such as tuna, halibut and cod. These species are also an important source of bait for many Atlantic Canadian fisheries, including the crab and lobster fisheries - which in 2014 combined made up 65% of the over \$1 billion total landed value of fisheries in Nova Scotia.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) welcomes news from The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), that wild Atlantic salmon stand to benefit from the investment of \$197.1 million to be spent over five years to increase ocean and freshwater scientific research activities.

About 20 Nova Scotia firefighters have been asked to help fight wildfires in Manitoba. They flew out of Halifax on Friday, May 13. The fire that razed through Fort McMurray is not larger than PEI. Nova Scotia is a member of the Canadian Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement, established in the early 1980s, which ensures all provinces and territories will receive help if forest fires become too big for them to handle.

Emera Utility Services has contracted Canadian Helicopters, of Halifax, to use helicopters to install about 350 "bird flight diverters" on power lines that cross the Canso Causeway. The diverters are proven to reduce incidents of birds flying into lines, particularly in areas where they circle over bodies of water to feed on fish. The project is budgeted at \$170,000. These diverters are relatively new technologies that have recently been used successfully at wire crossings over the Cornwallis River (Kings County) and West River (Antigonish County).

Efficiency Nova Scotia has been recognized nationally by Natural Resources Canada for the second time. The non-profit was named *Advocate of the Year* at the 2016 ENERGY STAR® Canada awards - a recognition it also earned in 2013. For more information on the awards, please see Natural Resource's Canada's press release and a full list of the 2016 winner profiles.

Government has invested \$1.9 million to help 160 more Nova Scotians get orthopedic surgeries. The investment brings the total funding for reducing orthopedic wait times this year to \$8.1 million for more than 800 additional procedures and system improvements. Since 2013, these new investments have supported an additional 2200 surgeries.

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