

PHOTO FEATURE

Kudos to those who volunteer their time to do these garbage clean-ups along our roadways.

(Harrington Photos)



Keith Smith was busy cleaning up garbage from a section of Hwy #2 in Glenholme, something he has been doing for close to 20 years.



Luke Smith, Bob Smith and Michelle Sparrow were filling lots of bags with roadside trash along the Little Dyke Road.



An Onslow Blemont Fire Brigade truck adds some protection to Councillor Doug MacInnes and the clean-up crew along the McElmon Road as they start their roadside clean-up.



Volunteers from Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, Onslow Belmont4-H Club, Lower Onslow Community Center and Preschool spent their Saturday morning on May 7th cleaning up the ditches along McElmon Road, from Debert to Lower Onslow. Left to right- (Front Row) Carlie Barnhill, Jaedan Mac Neil, Thomas Barnhill, Mary Emma Barnhill, (Back Row) Councillor Doug MacInnes, Jennifer Shreve, Shelley Llewlynn, Mallory Llewlynn, Hazel McKay, Amanada LeBlanc and John McKay.

Dirty Job, Keeping Roadside Clean

By Linda Harrington

The drive along the highway from Onslow to Economy on May 7th, presented mixed emotions. First there was joy to see what a great job the garbage clean-up crews had done to make our rural roadway so much more attractive, but as bag after bag of trash was observed, one couldn't help but feel sad and even disgusted with those who put the trash there in the first place.

Kudos to those who volunteer their time to do these garbage clean-ups along our roadways. In Lower Onslow a contingent from the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, Lower Onslow Community Center and Preschool and Onslow Belmont 4-H were out bright and early to sweep the ditches along McElmon Road. Councillor Doug MacInnes reported a few sore muscles later in the day from his trek up and down the ditch banks.

In West Colchester, the Smith family were once again heading up the area ditch

sweep. Organizer Debbie Smith says this year they went a half km farther into Highland Village and a dedicated group cleaned up a mess on Station Road, including the highway ramps. "When we started I guess I never thought we would be still at it almost 20 years later. I must say in the last couple of years I have had people calling me to help which is great. In the beginning it was mostly Smiths and Bowers' - a family affair and we just did the # 2 from Glenholme to the GV Bridge. Now there are enough volunteers to do all the side roads from here to Highland Village," says Debbie. "And I would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work crawling through some nasty ditches. I would again like to remind everyone to think before they litter and to PLEASE take control of their household garbage!"

Put your trash where it belongs...help keep our community's trash free.

Debert School Notes

By Erma Cox

The school year is quickly drawing to a close and with that come lots of excitement. We recently hosted our annual Volunteer Tea and although attendance was low we want all supporters of our school to know that we really appreciate all you do to make Debert Elementary an awesome place to work and learn.

Our Grade six class has started their transition to Junior high.

We had the Respect Ed team in to answer many questions about CCJHS on May 5th. Our grade six class will be heading up to the junior high on June 2nd to have a tour of that school and receive information to assist them as they continue on their path of learning. The excitement of a new beginning and the anxiety that occurs when you leave the comforts of a known environment are expected but we believe that our students are ready for this next step.

The grade sixes will also be participating in an Active Living Day on May 27th where they will do a 7 km hike, some swimming and bowling. This is an annual event offered by Mr Caudle to the senior class in the school and is enjoyed by all.

Ms Langille's Drama club is busy preparing for their end of year production. This group has added some extra rehears-

al times into their schedule in order to prepare for their show, The Littlest Scientist, on June 22nd. Please stay tuned for further updates on this performance.

Class trips are organized, class configurations and scheduling are being processed and staffing for the upcoming school year is underway. Our 2016-17 primaries will be joining us for a half day of school on one day between May 30th and June 2nd.

We are very excited to have 25 new little ones registered for school in September. We encourage and remind you that if you have not registered your child for school yet or if you have moved in to the area that it is very helpful for us to have the information on your child before the school year ends.

To add to the excitement Mrs. Barnhill has sixty students training for our "We Run This Town" annual Fun Run. You may see them out on the roads of Debert each Wednesday and Friday as they prepare for the big run on June 16th.

Special thanks to all those who have come out to support Mrs. Barnhill and our students in the training. We invite and encourage you to blow horns, wave flags and cheer them on as they make their way through the community on the big day.

Roger Marsters "Enthusiast, Not An Expert"

By Janet Maybee

At the Colchester Historeum on May 26, Roger Marsters, Curator of Marine History at the Maritime Museum of Nova Scotia, gave an illustrated talk of great interest to people living around the Minas Shore. The author of Shipwreck Treasures and Bold Privateers, Marsters described himself as "an enthusiast, not an expert" in his appreciation of the remarkable history of this region.

Poised between dense forests and the world's highest tides, the coastal zone of the Upper Bay of Fundy has hosted a succession of rich cultures adapted to its unique geography and resources. Marsters explained how successive societies have shaped and reshaped the region's coastal landscapes to serve human needs—from Mi'kmaq weirs to Acadian dykes to tidal power installations. All of these adaptations to place and changing conditions over centuries have left legacies and useful clues for dealing with present and future challenges.

Among the historic photos in his collection were many that displayed the sheer physical power of the tides, like no other place on earth. There are still vestiges of the unusually long and tall wharves and breakwaters, mostly rubble now because of the natural force of ten cubic kilometres of water roaring through the Minas Passage four times a day. That monumental force caused a sudden breach in the barrier of glacial till, which stretched from the current location of Parrsboro to Blomidon 3500 years ago. There was a dramatic change in the landscape around the Minas Basin, which prior to that massive flood was a calm lagoon. Indigenous legend has

it that Glooscap "opened The Tub." The Mi'kmaq inhabitants adapted to this sudden drastic change and for centuries inhabited the region, moving as seasons dictated for food from the sea and rivers. They were the first pilots and assisted Acadian mapmakers to chart the safest travel routes. Acadian settlers introduced agriculture, their amazing skill at dykebuilding responsible for "Made Land" on both sides of the water. They learned to build in a degree of resiliency, aware that human constructions in this coastal region are subject to catastrophe; the incoming settlers after the expulsion of 1755 continued to build dykes but learned that lesson the hard way, particularly in the infamous 1869 Saxby Gale.

Marsters noted that tourism was actually happening in the late 1800's as the romantic allure of the beaches and islands became widespread among more affluent folks. Rockhounding on Partridge Island was a particular draw, thanks to the Kipawo ferry, and road improvements as governments realized the potential economic benefits of encouraging visitors. The combination of vast timber resources, sloping beaches and skilled shipbuilders led to a booming industry for a time, but communities created by those activities appeared and often vanished. Marsters highlighted the importance of development that makes communities sustainable, and stressed the value of reflecting on the solutions of the past as people along the shore adapted to changing conditions. Local museums and the collected stories from longtime residents are a valuable resource for this purpose.

Deadline for the July issue of The Shoreline Journal is June 21



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