



Sheree Fitch reading from one of her books. (Wentworth Learning Centre Photo)

New Millennium Library Re-Opens

By Carol Hyslop

Approximately 60 people came to the Wentworth Learning Centre to celebrate the re-opening of the New Millennium Library on Sunday, April 30, 2017. There they enjoyed the special guest, acclaimed Canadian author Sheree Fitch, reading from her books. Sheree has written books for all ages but is especially known for her children's books. She now lives in River John and will soon be opening her own book shop.

The attendees arranged in age from babies to seniors, but all delighted in joining Sheree in "tongue-twisters" and "Spoonersisms". Following the reading, a delicious lunch was available and door prizes of Sheree's books and other library related items were given out.

The New Millennium Library began its life in the early 1980s in a storeroom of Wentworth Elementary Consolidated School at the instigation of volunteer members of the Wentworth Community School organization. From there it served students, teachers and community members until the year 2000.

At that time, school staff and community members were successful in acquiring a "Millennium Grant" for the purpose of moving the growing library to an unused classroom with much more space. Shelving and library supplies were purchased and a C@Psite was placed in the new site which was named the "New

Millennium Library".

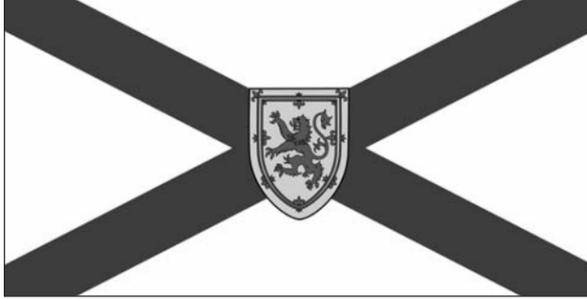
Both school and community continued to be served by volunteers in the new library until 2011 when the C@Psite and the part of the library collection available to the public were moved to Wentworth Recreation Centre due to changes in school board policy.

With the purchase of the former Wentworth Elementary Consolidated School building by the Wentworth Learning Centre Co-operative, a re-uniting of the library collection and C@Psite was made possible. Once again, volunteers in the community worked to set up the New Millennium Library in the building, adding more shelving and more books for adults to the collection, and, once again, the library is accessible to the public in this location.

The library has been present in the community in one form or another for over 30 years and is a legacy of the Wentworth Community School (Council), a group of volunteers who worked tirelessly in and with Wentworth Elementary Consolidated School from 1980 on, providing activities and learning sessions for all members of the community.

With the closure of the school in 2015, WCSC was no longer operative and the setup and operation of the library is now under the direction of the Education Committee of the Wentworth Learning Centre Co-operative.

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION



Questions to James Finnie

To ensure residents of the remote areas of Colchester North do not have to travel to Truro what would you do to ensure government services/offices are available close to their home community?

Due to Colchester North being a large geographical area, I felt the only fair approach when planning my campaign, was to have a mobile office in order to reach out to all the communities. I believe we could use this model in order to extend and develop this service beyond the campaign, bringing a mobile government service which would be accessible to all.

If you are elected what will you do to assist community groups develop initiatives to improve the economy of their community, including more accommodations, food outlets and related services, as the profile of the Bay of Fundy becomes more iconic as a destination for tourists?

The Bay of Fundy is the best tourist attraction in the whole of Nova Scotia and this should be protected and nurtured. There is great potential in this area to further tap into tourism as a boost to the economy. I feel so passionate about this I have taken a major volunteer role in bringing a huge event to Colchester in the form of the Colchester Highland Games & Gathering. It may also be possible that by the use of incentives and strategic planning, businesses and services could be attracted into these communities.

What will you do to raise the standard of living of Colchester North residents so less of them are living on or below the poverty line?

The NDP plan to phase in the \$15 minimum wage to help raise the income of over 130,000 people in this province. Both

Gary Burrell & I find it unacceptable to have hard working Nova Scotian families relying on food banks.

What programs will you help implement to stop "out migration" resulting in youth and young families remaining in or being attracted to live, work and play in Colchester North?

The NDP's Plan for free tuition at the Nova Scotia Community College will be the first steps in ensuring that our youth are not burdened with an overwhelming debt upon graduation, forcing them to seek employment elsewhere. We need to invest in our youth who are the future of our local economies and our communities. I understand this only too well, having two daughters who have gone to Scotland to take advantage of their free University Programme.

Realtors are adamant they have difficulty selling rural properties if high speed internet is not available. At the same time, the competitiveness of businesses and education of students is being hampered. Realizing Bell Aliant has FIBRE OP installed along Highway # 2 to government offices, highway garages and hospitals, what will you do ensure Bell Aliant is forced to make FIBRE OP available to smaller local internet providers at an economical price?

Let's not fool ourselves - The big companies have no economic interest in providing this service. In my opinion, the government needs to step in and provide a definite solution to ensure that we support our students and attract investment & entrepreneurs into rural communities by, if needs be, supplementing a modern effective digital network for rural Nova Scotia. Having my own small business, which is almost fully reliant on online commerce, means I know only too well the seriousness of this issue.

What will you do to ensure the ecology and envi-

ronmental assets of the Bay of Fundy is protected and the livelihood of local entrepreneurs, fishers and clammers is not impacted negatively?

We should endeavor to make sure legislation is in place to maintain the balance between the natural systems and the economy based on these systems is both protected and nurtured. This of course would involve continuous & transparent communications with all those who have a stake in these issues.

With an aging population how will you help community groups develop programs to assist seniors to remain in their home for longer period of time?

As the key factor in remaining in your own home during your senior years, is that your quality of life continues to be maintained at the best possible level, I feel that we need to tackle our health care system and repair what is broken. I will listen, encourage and assist where I can to implement any programs that will ensure our seniors are cared for in the best possible environment in which to live out the remainder of their lives.

If both parents are in the workforce would you help develop a program so "children care" or "after-school care" could be offered as an extension of work already being done in the community at existing churches?

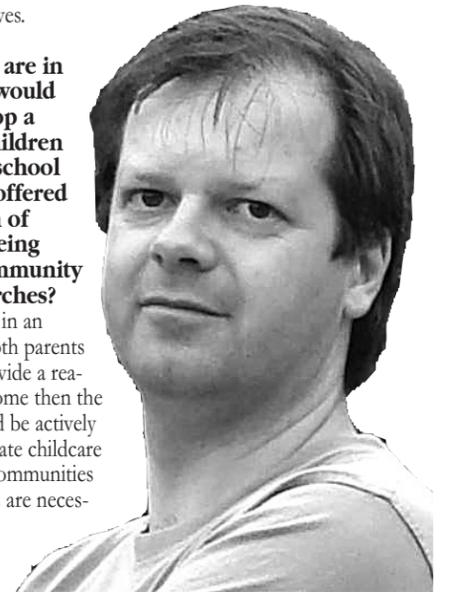
It is my belief that in an economy where both parents are working to provide a reasonable family income then the government should be actively encouraging adequate childcare facilities in those communities by whatever means are necessary.

Should branches of Royal Canadian Legion in Colchester North be set up to offer counseling and assistance to veterans and others suffering PTSD? If so, how would you help?

It would only make sense for the Legion to work in Liaison with mental health services to provide adequate support for our veterans. Coming from a military family I would feel it would be my duty to support any endeavors to make this a reality.

In your own words, why are you the most qualified candidate to represent residents of Colchester North?

Unlike my two rivals I understand what life is like to live both on the poverty line and as Head of an international company. Having been brought up in a small village in a rural community and seen the damage that can be caused by out of touch bad government. I know that what Colchester North needs is an MLA who will stand up for the people of Colchester first and put his Party second. Together we can make a difference.



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