

Village Follies at Debert Legion

Village Follies Dinner Theatre Sells Out at Debert Legion- the 2017 Village Follies performance was a huge success the first two weekends in May, with 6 sold out performances. This was the 17th dinner theatre presented by Village Follies over the years and the second successful run at the Debert Legion. Rave reviews were received for the wonderful meals prepared by the Legion kitchen crew! (Harrington Photos)



Some crazy characters took to the stage for an ensemble dance number featuring various literary genres.



Lorraine (Lisa McBurnie) and Anna (Shannon Fielding) share concerns about their friends Bill and Mary.



Chris (Laurence Tuttle) and Joey (Malcolm Macpherson) had the audience in stitches with their crazy antics.



Shannon Fielding, John Harrington, Lisa McBurnie and Andre Myette perform a choreographed musical number.



Bill (John Harrington) and Marie (Lynn Macpherson) try to figure out what might be going on with Marie's husband Joey.



Tim (Paul Gamble) and Dimitri (Andre Myette) try to figure out what has Joey acting so strange.

Tax Rate Increases One Cent

By Maurice Rees

Colchester taxpayers will pay an additional one cent per \$100 assessment following approval of the 2017/18 Colchester Municipal Budget at the monthly meeting on April 27th. Tax rate for the coming year will be \$0.88 per \$100 assessment on residential property, and \$2.28 commercial. After many hours of deliberations council had balanced the budget at a additions and deletions meeting on April 17th, without any increase in taxation rates, even though three motions calling for an increase were defeated.

However, in reflection that reserves we constantly being defeated, a motion by Councillor MacInnes, seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters was placed on the table calling for a one cent increase in residential and commercial rates with all revenue being placed in the reserve account.

Mayor Blair, asked for council's indulgence, before discussion on the motion. She brought forward a report from the executive committee, which had met earlier in the day. The executive committee suggested similar action. During discussions it was noted Colchester has one of the lowest taxation rates of rural municipalities across the province.

Mayor Blair emphasized in 2016-17, Colchester's rate of \$.87 was fourteen cents below the average of \$1.01 for all municipalities. On vote, the surplus was approved with Councillor's Parker and Gregory voting in the negative. The rate increase will generate \$203,000 from residential and \$30,000

from commercial property.

During budget deliberations Deputy Mayor Masters suggested any surplus from the Winter Maintenance Program should be placed in a reserve fund to be able to handle increased expenses, when more severe winters are experienced. Council approved \$8,000 surplus from 2016/17 should be placed in a reserve account up to a maximum of \$100,000.

Council approved Scott Fraser, Director Corporate Services be appointed chief negotiator for the upcoming collective bargaining process with CUPE Local 3945. The current contract expires June 30, 2017.

At the suggestion of Councillor MacKenzie, council approved the relocation of street lights on Coldstream Drive to existing poles on the opposite side of the street. Years ago, the street lights were installed on one side and later, a sidewalk was constructed on the other side. Cost of the move is \$2,628.

Councillor Parker brought another poor storm water drainage issue in his district to council, requesting staff meet with Public works staff from Village of Bible Hill to see if there could be a possible solution. Mayor Blair mentioned it's a complex solution because there are several problems, and would involve Bible Hill, Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal as well as the municipality to a minor degree.

Deputy Mayor Masters interjected to say there has been an ongoing problem in Truro Heights where NS TIR admits there is problems with their culvert and piping, but it has never been fixed.

Small Donations for Big Change

By Sheila Stewart

Colchester Trefoil Guild held its April meeting a week later than usual, coming together on Monday, April 24, 2017 in Sobey's Community Room, Prince Street, Truro. The highlight of the meeting was our guest speaker, Dorene Matheson, a former Colchester Trefoil Guild member. She spoke on an initiative undertaken by herself and her two grandchildren, Ben and Hannah, and related how this idea took root and grew.

Dorene's church has traditionally used penny parades to raise funds to support a church expansion project and various outreach projects. In 2007, it was decided that money from this project would support the Water for Life project which in turn supports Lifewater Canada, a non-profit organization of volunteers bound together by a common desire to provide adequate supplies of safe water in Africa and Haiti.

After reading the information provided by Lifewater Canada, explaining that one-sixth of the people on earth do not have safe drinking water and two-fifths lack access to improved sanitation, and sharing the impact that drinking unsafe water has, particularly on children, Dorene shared this information with her grandchildren.

Realizing just how lucky they were to live in a place where safe water was readily available, they decided that they would like to sponsor a well on their own. They set up a dedicated bank account and began collecting refundables, hoping to raise the \$2,500.00 needed in about seven years. They collected, sorted, counted and made frequent trips to the Subway Bottle Exchange.

Ben and Hannah contributed a portion of the tips they earned at their part-time jobs and saved pennies and later nickels and dimes. The cost for a well has risen to between \$3,000.00 and \$3,500.00 and the seven year project goal has passed but Dorene, Ben and Hannah soldiered on.

As word has spread, more and more people are leaving refundables on Dorene's back deck and we like to think that our small donation will help. Our donation of refundables filled Dorene's car and with our added monetary dona-

tions, their bank balance grew by approximately \$35.00; it is daunting to realize the number of refundables needed to fund this project!

Dorene, Ben and Hannah have made a great start and, with lots of help, we are sure they will succeed in having "their well" drilled!

After that amazing presentation, the routine of our regular meeting paled in comparison. Thank you notes were read, reminders about the upcoming Trefoil AGM in Centreville were circulated, a new Girl Guide Pin, the Full Circle Award, was announced, and plans were made for our next

meeting - a road trip to Tatamagouche to visit one of our members in a nursing home there. We closed by taking turns reading sections of "31 Incredible Things Being a Girl Guide Taught You for Life" and indulging in a lovely lunch provided by two of our members. **Sheila Stewart is Vice Coordinator, Colchester Trefoil Guild submitting this article on behalf of Goldie Chisholm.**

Guardian

Bayside Pharmacy
6044 Highway #2
Bass River
Tel: 902-647-2552

Hours of Operation:
Monday 9:30-7
Tuesday 9:30-5
Wednesday 9:30-5
Thursday 9:30-6
Friday 9:30-6

Are you at risk of Shingles? We carry and administer the vaccine. Call to inquire!

Be safe in the sun! We carry all of your sun care needs. ✓

Himalayan Salt Lamps are back in stock!

The Ideal Protein Diet - It just works!

Call 902-647-2552
To Schedule Your Appointment.





BILL CASEY
Member of Parliament



Canada 150

Email: bill.casey@parl.gc.ca

Amherst Address:
5 Ratchford Street
Amherst NS B4H 1X2
902-667-8679

Truro Address:
40 Inglis Place
Truro NS B2N 4B4
902-895-2863