Stompin' Tom Tribute in Wentworth

Stompin' Tom Connors Tribute, a musical event celebrated at the Wentworth Learning Centre featured Fraser Newcombe, assisted by Andy Crossan, Hayden Stover and Bronwyn Bridges, to represent Stompin' Tom. As well, Newcombe and his assistants performed songs composed by Newcombe and Stover and stepping dance by Bridges.

As the major focus were the songs of Stompin' Tom, it is important to relate significant facts of his life. His early life was difficult and poverty struck having spent time in an orphanage, and eventually was adopted. At age 15, he ran away travelling across Canada and doing part-time jobs for low wages for 13 years, until he came while living on small wages, he was amazing for composing songs and playing a guitar which at times he used for singing in order to have a meal.

The big change came for Stompin' Tom in 1973, when he made friends with bartender, Gau- tan Lepine at a hotel and a song a beer for a beer. This resulted in Stompin' Tom, being hired by the hotel for over a year and given time on a local radio station. Stompin' Tom remained friends with Lepine and they composed many songs together. In his lifetime he composed over 500 songs and released 18 albums, all of them featuring his authentic style.

Two of these songs and his many other songs reveal Stompin' Tom's talent for Canadian themes, history and culture. As an example, he believed the Canadian Juno Awards should be given not only to those who live and conduct business in Canada, and those Canadian who live and work in the USA should compete in the Grammy Awards, not in the his farm around 1974, but emerged again to make two more albums, one in 1986 and one in 1988. He passed away in 2015. He is remember- bered for his many songs, his interest in Canadian themes, and his forceful, frank and unique personality.

Musician and composer Fraser Newcombe’s and his as- sistants did an excellent job presenting a tribute to Stompin’ Tom Connors. New-combe has performed on TV and at many events espe- cially in the USA and Canada. Previously he has repre- sented other famous musi- cians, for example, he represented Hank Snow in tribute events for 9 years. Newcombe says, “Keeping the old country sound alive is what I am all about. I say it like it is and I am proud of that.”

No Tax Increase

By Maurice Rees

Achieving a balanced budget was made more diffi- cult because revenues from solid waste and diversion contracts was down by over $250,000, partly due to lower processing fees for such recover metals and cardboard and partly be- cause of non-renewed con- tract with Divert Nova Scotia. Financial support for community organizations, events, and non-municipal fa- cilities totals approximately $750,000 or 2.5% of spend- ing.

Recognizing taxpayers concerns about the amount paid for taxes each year. Mayor Blair noted Colch- ester’s tax rate continues to be lower than most Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Another positive for the county is reflected in studies stating Colchester County is an Atlantic regional leader in waste management, includ- ing diversion processing for ourselves and other municipali- ties.

Mayor Blair’s comments echoed, what individual councils could see when dealing with issues around the council table, community organizations are the backbone of the country and are responsible for and overall positive atti- tude throughout the area.

The balanced budget, as noted by Mayor Blair, finan- cially supported vital work being done in every corner of Colchester County by 95 community organizations. She stated, their facilities, programs, and events make our communities wonderful and caring places to live or visit.

These dynamic commu- nity groups, many of which are run on sparse budgets by volunteers, touch thousands of lives throughout Colch- ester making them healthier, happier, and more mean- ingful - making our communi- ties inclusive places of belonging.

The Municipality sup- ports not-for-profit organiza- tions through grants for things like programming, di- rector’s insurance, events, and repairs to community fa- cilities.

Grant decisions are based on assessed community ben- efit, need, and organizational capacity. Mayor Blair concluded, “Council sees these as valued and valuable invest- ments, but it also realizes that on ability to respond to the increasing number and with non-municipal costs.”

This year, under our revised non-profit grant policy, many grant applicants did not receive the full amount requested.”

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