

## Masstown Community News

By *Christine Urquhart*

What a glorious time of year this is! Everything in bloom, the grass so green, birds singing from dawn to dusk and building their nests - ah - life is great! I hope you have your hummingbird feeders out and filled, they are back and hungry! Remember not to dig up the dandelions as they are the best food for bees and we need our bees. Besides, they are pretty and "cheap roses" for your children to bring you. I remember when my girls used to bring me bouquets of dandelions - worth more than any bought bouquet at the time.

The Cobequid Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday June 1st, 8 am, at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome!

The Masstown UCW will hold their closing meeting on Thursday June 20th at Rhona Gomez-Murray's cottage on Mattatall Lake. Rhona says that

we are welcome at her cottage any time after 2pm! Invited to join our Masstown UCW are all our Church ladies from our Cobequid congregation plus all UCW members from Debert and Glenholme. Pray for a sunny, warm day! We plan to eat by 6pm.

Remember to use our Masstown Community Park! There are lovely picnic tables, which Bill Leeming has painted, shady maple trees, a cement pad, basketball hoop, port-a-potty and a hand pumped well. You have to pump the handle a few times to get water but it is good water, we get it tested every two years! A great spot for a picnic, a safe walking area, set up your small tent for a quiet night and much more! Remember, please don't leave garbage lying around, it attracts the wild animals.

Condolences go out this month to the family of Ethel Slocum.

## Winding Down for Another Year

*The Love, Laughter and Learning Center, Debert Preschool and Lower Onslow Preschool*

By *Joann Michelin*

As this issue goes to press we will be winding down our year. It has been a year of growth for us. Even with the hurdles we have had to jump this year, we have grown. Our program and our staff have continued to develop a child centered outlook that endeavors to provide an environment of inclusion.

We have used grants to acquire materials and attended workshops that have aided us in implementing a curriculum we feel addresses the individual child's need. We are continuing to research an extension of hours to better accommodate families needs. We can't offer full day programs, but there is a quality center (The Love, Laughter & Learning Center) that can provide you with this.

We have had a busy month with our annual Mothers' Day Tea and Open House. We were very pleased with both. Thank you to the families, past and future, who came out to support us. We have a registration that is 3/4 full, so please contact us if you are looking for a spot!

Again, I encourage families to seize the opportunity to have your child participate in an Early Learning Experience. Of course, the family unit is

the primary learning space, but an opportunity for socializing without the primary caregiver extends the experience.

The child is provided with the opportunity to practice their interactions with other adults who will influence their learning. It promotes emotional and social development, children learn to take care of themselves and others and it promotes cognitive and language skills.

As I have advocated, it does not mean an environment where the 3 year old is being prepped for "Big School". It should be a center that provides opportunities for appropriate development and growth. It is not a building which provides those experiences, but the staff, children and program of a quality center.

I have included the contact info for some centers in our area. They all have avid supporters and alumni and would welcome you to visit them and check out what is the best fit for your family: The Love, Laughter and Learning Center, 902-662-3210; Debert Preschool, 902-662-2225 and Lower Onslow Preschool, 902-662-2495.

**"Education is not the filling of a pail, But the lighting of a fire."**

*William Butler Yeats*

# HOME DECOR & MORE



## Converting Rural Land into Community Well-Being

There is now a way that landowners, both Nova Scotian and non-resident, can contribute to the future vitality of rural communities by donating property. The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCF) is now accepting land and property gifts as part of their fund development strategy, in order to raise funds that will support community organizations across rural Nova Scotia.

The process is simple. Here's how it works: The property owner contacts RCF and identifies the property that they want to donate; RCF meets with the donor, and they draw up an agreement together; RCF facilitates the necessary legal, tax and real estate arrangements; The donor receives a tax credit based on the assessed value of the property and On receiving the gift,



RCF then sells the property, and puts the funds toward supporting local non-profit organizations that are working for the future of rural communities.

The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia has been making small grants to rural community organizations since 1999, in an accountable and transparent way, at a minimum administrative cost. Its grant programs have supported local groups whose work is focused on youth, environment, leadership, seniors, and rural innovation

## RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of NOVA SCOTIA

throughout the rural areas of the province, including Mi'kmaq communities.

RCF's 2019-2020 Grants Program will be announced at their AGM on Wednesday May 29, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Forrester Hall, NSCC Truro. RCF will launch two new grant programs for rural youth organizations, one on youth leadership and one on climate change.

In its 20 years experience, RCF has found time and time again, that small

grants in small communities can make a huge difference. RCF Chair Arthur Bull puts it this way: "We believe that the solution to many of the issues facing rural Nova Scotia are to be found right in those communities themselves... and it's our job to support them. Gifts of land will help us do that".

For more information contact: Arthur Bull, Chair, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCF) [info@ruralcommunitiesfdn.ca](mailto:info@ruralcommunitiesfdn.ca)

## Hub Centre Drive Discussed Again

By *Maurice Rees*

The plea to get Hub Centre Drive paved was before Colchester council at a presentation session on May 7th. Andy LeBlanc, Northeast Truck and Trailer appeared before council pleading for assistance to find a way to get the new road paved.

He said the dust and dirt from the roadway poses major problems as businesses are spending a lot of money to keep equipment clean.

CAO, Rob Simonds suggested Mr. LeBlanc convince tenants to attend a meeting with county staff, which would include Michelle Powell, Director of Public Works; Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services and himself to see what might evolve.

In a third survey in July

2018, excluding the single property owned by the County, there are 15 privately owned properties fronting on Hub Centre Drive. Of these 15, 9 voted in favour of paving and 5 voted against. This translates to 60% being in favour of paving. Should the county property be included, and should Council elect to fund its share of the paving, then the % in favour based on 16 properties would be 62.5%. Each year the County spends approximately \$2,500 providing grading and dust control for Hub Centre Drive. During the winter of 2018, additional gravels were added to the road at a cost of \$12,000. According to council policy and the MGA rules nothing can be done until 2/3 of property owners agree.



Hub Centre Drive - file photo

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