

Annabelle Design Apparel creating beautiful, delicate garments



Long hours and dedication is paying off for Wanda MacInnes the new designs she has created and marketing as Annabelle Design Apparel. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

A year ago Wanda MacInnes, Lower Onslow, could only have dreamed her new business would be such a huge success, putting in many long hours has paid off. Her new company, Annabelle Design Apparel, launched their first collection of fine loungewear, sleepwear and lingerie during Atlantic Fashion Week's emerging designer show which was held at Mercedes Benz in Halifax last April. Their latest collection debuted at the Downtown Truro Partnership Fashion Gala in November at the Best Western Glengarry.

Dreams can become a reality if you really want it! Thanks to some assistance from Northern Opportunities for Business and Colchester Regional Development Agency, Wanda has been able to turn her stylish design ideas into quality hand crafted apparel.

Wanda was designing and sewing garments for her dolls before she was big enough to operate her mom's sewing machine. She loved the process of taking scraps of fabric and turning them into something wearable. Now, more than 40 years later, she still loves to create beautiful and delicate garments for women to wear and instead

of having scraps of fabric to work with now she has thousands of meters of fabrics that fill the shelves along the walls of her cutting room.

Annabelle Design Apparel gives customers a whole lot of value for their dollar. They give customers an experience not just a garment. The first appointment includes a consultation with the designer who helps them find styles that best suit their body shape and flatter their figure. The second step is choosing the right fabric color that blends with that customer's skin tone. Colors can deepen or soften ones facial features, especially the eye and mouth area. When a woman wears a style that suits her body type which has a good fit and is in a flattering color, she will look amazing and beautiful. Size 0 - 28, does not matter, only the style, fit and color matter. Lastly, measurements are taken so that Annabelle Design Apparel can make garments that fit perfectly.

Gift certificates are available for anyone looking for a wonderful gift idea to pamper a special lady for her birthday, anniversary or Valentine's Day.

For an appointment or more information please call 902-895-6172 (toll free 1-877-713-6277), or visit the website at www.annabelleapparel.ca.

Spring is Really Around the Corner

By Chris Urquhart

As hard as it may seem as we look outside our windows today, spring is really just around the corner. Now is the time to make some plans for what you would like in your gardens and where those gardens should be.

Make a diagram of your yard and cut out some "gardens" from a magazine (or just draw one up) and place it around your yard to give you some ideas of what you would like your yard to look like come July and August. Planning prior to heading off to the local green house is a wise thing to do.

Otherwise you may end up purchasing plants that you really don't like or have room for just because they look "so good" at the shop. Check out which plants attract the birds and butterflies you want in your yard.

Know what will grow well in shaded areas and what needs full sunlight. Start some seedlings indoors before full spring arrives to give your plants a head start.

If you are thinking about planting some trees, always a good idea, take the time to realize how much space a full sized tree will take up before you plant it. You can see the mistakes others have made when you notice a full sized, 40 foot tall tree, pushing against the siding on a house!

Trees grow, give them plenty of space! Never plant so much around the base of a tree that you cut off the air to its roots. Adding too much soil around the base of a tree can slowly kill it.

If you are looking at planters, remember that what you put in them will not survive our harsh winters, so plant annuals with this in

mind. Bulbs, which should have been put in in the fall, also need to be deep enough in the ground to keep them from rotting or dying due to the cold and ice.

When they are nice and snug in the ground they stay safe for the winter and bloom come spring. Now may be the time to plan you fall planting of bulbs as you may need to prepare new beds for them.

Soon the seed catalogues will arrive in the mail and we will all start having "spring fever"!



Evan Jennings and Keith Smith were busy plowing out driveways on the Little Dyke Road following the Ground Hog Day snowstorm which dumped two feet of snow locally and resulted in the cancellation of school for two days. (Harrington Photo)

Debert Elementary School Notes

By Linda Harrington

Angels were everywhere on Thursday, Feb. 10th. One hundred and thirty students and staff participated in the snow angel challenge. Recreation Nova Scotia was on hand to record the event and it will be submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Winter Carnival Activities were held the week of Feb. 14th to 18th. Monday was Red, White and Pink Day; Tuesday was Crazy Hat Day; Wednesday was Crazy Hair Day; Thursday was PJ Day and Friday was Sports Day. The whole school enjoyed skating at the Debert Rink on Thursday and a family dance was held on Friday evening. Tickets were sold on

an iPod Touch, donated by Maynard Simpson Electric. Thank you to Maynard Simpson Electric for this very generous donation.

Teacher Appreciation Week was also held Feb. 14th to 18th. Debert Elementary staff is appreciated each and every day for their dedication to students but it is nice to take a few days to give them special recognition.

Debert and Chiganois Elementary students were sharing afterschool skating on Feb. 21st and again on March 7th from 3:30 to 4:30. Grade Six applications for Integrated French are due Feb. 28th.

Primary Registration was held on Feb. 24th. If you have a child born before Dec. 31st,

2006, who plans to attend Debert Elementary, and they missed registration, please contact the school at 662-4400.

Students will be making a kente quilt in celebration of African Heritage Month.

Caught Making a Healthy Food Choice winners were: Morgen Barnes, Mallory Priest, Marlee Green, Sam Archibald, Maia Sloan, Blaise Taylor, Jaci Rushton, Brent Maberry, Brooklyn Robichaud, Drew Mumford, Jayden Lawrence and Hannah Lane.

Report Cards go home on March 7th. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on March 10th from 6:30-8:00PM and on March 11th from 1:00-2:30PM. No school for students on March 11th.

Enjoy March Break from the 14th to 18th.

Great Village Garden Club Notes

By Linda Shears

The Garden Club held its first meeting of the new year on January 25. January 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of our club. Members were asked to think of ways we can celebrate this occasion.

A shared subscription to Gardens East magazine allows members to keep their gardening instincts alive during the winter months. There was discussion also of the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary being celebrated this year

with events in Great Village, Halifax, the USA and Brazil.

Saturday, May 14, was set as the date for our annual Plant Sale.

The program for the evening was provided by Arthur Haskins, who shared a colourful slide show of his trip to Chatanooga, Tennessee, to attend the American Dahlia Society Show. The journey to get there took three days and it was a challenge to keep the blooms they were transporting cool in temperatures of 90 to 95 (32C to 35C). They

were obviously very successful in keeping them cool because he and Carol Dexter won seven Court of Honour awards for their dahlia blooms. Arthur showed slides of the trip to nearby Ruby Falls Cave, which descends 1600 feet inside a mountain. The temperature there remains at 68 (18 C) year round. A 120 foot waterfall inside the cave was spectacular.

The evening concluded with refreshments and a birth-

day cake to mark 59 years as a club. Helen MacLaughlin, a founding member of the club, who continues to faithfully attend meetings, helped us celebrate this anniversary.

The program for next month's meeting on March 22 at Faith Baptist Church at 7:30 will be provided by Linda Giddens. The topic will be either a slide show of her trip to the Graham Bell Estate and gardens in Baddeck or a preview of the Garden Club yearbook for 2010. New members are always welcome.

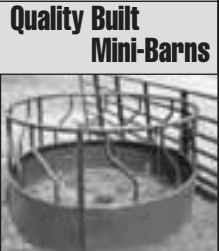


Hard to get a plow up here! The piles of snow on the ground have been hard to deal with but as the inches continue to accumulate many are worried about the added weight on the roof as well. (Harrington Photo)

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Family Skating
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For more info call 662-4014