



# What We Are Hearing!

As is the case with any community project, there are questions, comments and concerns that come about. We are very appreciative of all of the comments we hear, both positive and negative as it provides another perspective for us to consider to ensure that this Region is getting the best possible facility to serve their needs. I would like to tackle some of the comments and questions that are frequently asked of the Project Steering Committee, which is comprised of four Municipal representatives, four community volunteers and staff resources.

Is there going to be enough parking on the Exit 13 site?

By far, this is the number one question that we get asked, it was top of mind for the Project Steering Committee and rest assured we have been doing our due diligence on this component. We have been working closely with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal and completed a traffic impact study which has helped to define on-site parking needs. Project architects, Perkins + Will in partnership with Nova Scotia based JDA Architects created a schematic design that maximizes parking capacities on the site which should more than adequately address day-to-day needs.

There will be approximately 500 parking spaces to meet the needs of the facility users and take into consideration large events, swim meets, hockey games, trade shows and all of the exciting activities that will take place in the facility. Arrangements have also been made with the new hospital for an additional 300 spaces should circumstances require.

### Why are we building a competitive pool?

The need for a 25 meter, 8 lane pool has been identified through countless community meetings with the User Group Space Programming committee led by volunteer chair, Terry Hunt. Furthermore, a 2005 study conducted by dma Consultants confirmed that the demand for improved/increased aquatic facilities among the general public was high. Given our central location in the province, it was important to offer an amenity that will accommodate the needs of provincial and regional

level swim meets. The proposed pool has been designed to meet competitive swimming needs and will offer ample seating to provide a comfortable viewing environment. While the pools in Truro and Colchester have served us well over the last three decades, it was made very clear new and updated facilities were needed to accommodate the growing needs and expectations of the local swimming community and beyond.

### Why not two ice pads in the facility?

This has also been a very popular question especially within the region's hockey community. Extensive research was completed on the demand for two ice pads for the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre, taking into consideration the rural facilities that currently exist. The study conducted by dma Consultants concluded that the demand for ice time in the region has not grown significantly in the past number of years and a second ice pad would in turn jeopardize the operations of the rural facilities such as the West Colchester United Arena in Debert and the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex in Brookfield. The purpose of the ice rink in the new facility is to increase the opportunity for recreation without compromising the current facilities that have been serving this region for many years.

In closing, the people of Central Nova Scotia have recognized for years that new and updated facilities are needed in the Region to address an emerging relevance and focus on health and wellness, in addition to traditional and growing needs in sport and recreation. We are well on our way to building a facility that will reach out beyond the offerings of a traditional sports and recreational facility and aim to meet the needs of all constituents. The civic centre will be more than just sport; it will be a social and economic nucleus within the Central Nova Region.

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# New Entrance Doors Planned at Bass River Firehall

By Peter Christensen

It is time for a change. NOW. Soooo, on that note, I wish it would hurry up and get here.

When i was a little boy, change was always going on, and my mother told me once that it was because I was a little. ...., when I was a baby. But there was always change.

So when spring comes along and it should soon, change your clocks, change your batteries for your fire and smoke alarms and if you have them your carbon monoxide alarms as well.

Change at the hall is coming as well. We are changing the entrance doors. The old ones are just about done. As the snow round the hall begins to recede, final work on the monument will begin. The flag has flown all winter and it looks great.

We'll begin new training sessions in the next month at the hall. Level one sessions, but with a twist. It should be a full house at the hall during those sessions. Fire training is being led by Dave and he is doing an awesome job.

As the weather gets

warmer, our hall will start humming again. I think a dance is set for the end of April. Should be fun and enjoyable. On the dance front, TEAM HOLLY, are having a fundraising dance at the hall on JUNE 9. Now that will be a fundraiser.

As the sun gets warmer, the trees will begin to give up their tasty treat of sap, which in turn will be made into maple syrup. YUMMM.

Keep your eyes and ears open, the time for our PAN-CAKE AND MAPLE SYRUP BRUNCH will be coming in the near future.

In other news at the hall, we have just received some new breathing apparatus, as well as new nozzles, along with a new monitor gun, which is a heavy hitting nozzle for sure.

Lots of new gear to be at the ready, in case of fire related events that will need everyone we have, and everything as well.

On that note we are looking for fire related photos of any structure fires which have happened in the Bass River

Fire Brigade district. Does not matter if they are recent or historical. If you have anything relating to this topic, please contact Martha Brown or our Chief Alfred Grue.

Well that is all I have for this one. Hope everyone is healthy. Now that the ice is beginning to leave the road ways, which makes it easier to walk, perhaps we all can get out and enjoy any sunny days in the future. Don't rush it though, cause winter bodies, i think, do not like change, or so I have heard. Although it would be nice to go to a gym, where it is nice and warm, at least on the good days you can see nature at her best, in the spring, as she renews the earth and everyone's soul as the sun warms the earth and 53 year old bones.

Oh by the way, a special birthday greeting to the fire chiefs MOM Joyce Grue, and to our treasurer MARTHA BROWN, on their birthdays, both on Feb 25, now that is neat.

Fireman Pete saying clean your pipes in the spring and be safe as well.

# Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club Rally - March 17<sup>TH</sup>

By Laura Brenton

What's going on in the Onslow Belmont 4H Club? Lots of things! The Onslow Belmont 4H Club is having a great year so far, we have had lots of project meetings and general meetings. The club had a general meeting on February 14th, Valentine's Day. The meeting was very fun and we had Valentine's Day snacks

at the end.

The club has decided to hold our Club Rally day on March 17th at the Onslow Belmont Fire hall. County Rally will be held later in March at North River Elementary School. One of our senior members Taylor Hoyt received in award in 4H in which she will be going to Nationals in Ottawa, congratu-

lations to Taylor!

There was a 4H Art Show held on February 17th, 18th and 19th for the Halifax, Colchester and East Hants counties at Mastodon Ridge, Stewiacke. Judging day for the county will be coming up soon at the McMillan Show Center. The Club will also be holding our achievement day on July 17th.

# McCaull Villa Notes

By Hazel Hill

Several of the residents have been in Colchester Regional Hospital recently. They are Gary Rogers, Allen Rouliston, Dorothy Jordan and Florence Adams. All have returned home.

We express our sympathy to the family of Lydia Fisher, who passed away at Glen Haven Manor, New Glasgow. We at McCaull Villa miss Lydia very much as she was a resident here for twenty-five years. Lydia was a very kind person always willing to help anyone who was sick or needed help in any way.

We also express our sympathy to the family of Harland Akerman.

Everyone here enjoyed a Valentine's pot luck supper in the lounge on February 14th. Bernice Kaulback, who celebrated her birthday on January 30th was quite surprised, when invited into the lounge and all the residents greeted her with "Happy Birthday" and she was taken to a table to cut a beautiful birthday cake, which was served to everyone followed by a social time.

George Cook and friends were here on Wednesday, February 15th to entertain with songs and music. We wish to thank the students from Great Village Elementary school for the valentines they made and sent to us.

We also had some nice music on Thursday evening by Wyman Little, who sand and played guitar.

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