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The Shoreline Journal

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2013

Looking for a chance to be a star? If you can sing, play an instrument or act, The Cobequid Interpretive Centre needs you! A Variety Concert is planned for March 9th 7 – 10pm at Economy Rec Centre. Call Natalie 647-2255 or Anita 647-2312 to offer your talents at a fundraiser for CIC. Admission will be a donation at the door. Canteen, etc. will be open. Should prove to be a great night of entertainment. Everyone welcome. Proceeds for upgrades at The Centre.

Only one day remains to submit an application for Canada Summer Jobs funding. Funding is available to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses. Young people aged 15 to 30 years who are full-time students and intend to return to school in the following school year can qualify for these job opportunities. Employers can apply online at serviccanada.gc.ca/csj2013 or print an application from the website. Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2013.

Winter Wonderland Fundraising Festival, originally scheduled for February 9th has been rescheduled for March 3rd. The day's events will be held at the Londonderry Community Centre as a fund raiser for Stephanie Baker from 9AM until 5PM. There will be plenty of activities. For more information or donations contact Abby at 662-3269.

CCJHS Bears Basketball team won their final game against Truro Junior High, 66-31 and are now headed to Regionals on March 3rd.

The 90 / 90+ Birthday party, sponsored and organized by the Shoreline Journal will be held at the Economy Recreation Centre, Economy on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Publisher, Maurice Rees, says he has already received the names of some people who will be turning 90 this year and they have been added to the database, but he's sure there are many more out there whose names have not been submitted. This is the third year for the event, and all those in the database will receive a formal invitation and response card early in April. In the meantime, publisher Rees is hoping friends and relatives will submit names of others who are longtime residents or used to live along the shore from Onslow to Advocate. If they meet the residency requirements, the only other thing is born in 1923 or earlier. Anyone knowing someone who meets these requirements are asked to contact: Maurice Rees, publisher, at 902-647-2968 or E-mail: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

The monthly meeting of Municipality of County of Colchester will be held at the council chambers on Thursday, February 28th. During the meeting second reading will be given to council's new by-law covering disposal of fluids into the municipal water system. The by-law is being revised due to recent concerns about what's in the fracking fluids being processed in Debert.

Another appeal by The Shoreline Journal is going out to area residents and 4-H club members to submit new entries for the "My Favourite Pet" contest. The monthly winning entry gets their photo published in the Shoreline and also receives a \$20.00 Gift Certificate from The Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services. Photos entries and details should be emailed to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Internevor Status at the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board (URB) hearings into the Maritime Link has been granted to the Shoreline Journal, who applied to appear before the board to represent the views of residents and businesses from West Colchester. A story and submission form is printed elsewhere in this issue. Maurice Rees, publisher says he wanted to let the voices of West Colchester be heard before the URB hearings. Comments should be submitted to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Village Follies cast are busy preparing for their annual dinner theatre at the Debert Hospitality Center on May 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th, 10th, 11th.

icListen Nets \$296,892

By Linda Harrington

MP Scott Armstrong had a big announcement for Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts of Great Village on Feb. 18th. A contract of \$296,892 has just been awarded through the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program (CICP).

Ocean Sonics and Instrumentation, founded by Mark Wood, might be a small rural company but it is making big headlines with its innovative smart hydrophone, icListen. This device can be used to help protect marine borders by listening for and detecting boating activity. It

detects specific sounds, processes the data and sends it to an off-site command center, where it can be monitored by border patrol.

The Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program (CICP) was launched in 2010. It helps connect Canadian companies with federal

departments and agencies having a need for innovative products and services. By selling to federal government, businesses can demonstrate the value of their products and services, potentially generating future sales to non-government customers.

MP Armstrong, in his funding announcement, referred the remarkable success of this local company saying "It would be hard to come up with a better example of the drive to innovate than Great Village's own Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts."

At the time of Armstrong's announcement, Mr. Wood was out on the west coast deploying his company's new technology through CICP for the Office of Boating Safety and Dept. of Transportation. The icListen had undergone extensive testing here in Nova Scotia before being shipped to the False Creek area of Vancouver.

Desirée Stockermans, Operations Manager for Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts, said they are very pleased with the support of the Federal Government



Incoming! (Photo by Linda Harrington)

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Local Fan returns from Vegas with Tim McGraw's Guitar

By Linda Harrington

Gena Priest had been looking forward to her dream vacation in Las Vegas for the last 4 months; after receiving the trip as a gift from her husband, Matt on her birthday in October. They were excited to celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary Vegas style, with tickets to a Tim McGraw/Faith Hill concert.

"I have been a huge fan of Tim McGraw for over 10 years and have gone to his concerts in Boston and at the Cavendish Beach Festival in PEI. I also enjoyed Faith Hill when she opened for a concert in Halifax a few years ago."

Their anniversary turned into a thrill of a lifetime, a night Gena will never forget.

Seating in row 3, on an aisle seat, Gena had a fairly good view of her favourite country singer. She updated her status on facebook earlier in the day, expressing her excitement, and saying she was taking a sign to hold up at the concert in hopes of attracting Tim's eye.

Gena says the sign was a last minute idea and when they couldn't find Bristol board she used the inside of a gift bag to write "From Nova Scotia for Our 16th Anniversary". "I was hoping he might acknowledge the sign, know we had travelled a long way, and then maybe give a little shout out to us," she says.

About 15 minutes into the concert, while Tim McGraw was making small talk on stage, Gena held up the sign and it immedi-



Gena and Matt Priest cuddle up with a "once in a lifetime" anniversary gift. The Belmont couple celebrated their 16th Anniversary in Vegas and came home with Tim McGraw's electric guitar. (Harrington Photo)

ately caught his attention. "What's that sign say," he asked, trying to see beyond the stage lights. When he read the words from "Nova Scotia" and "anniversary" he looked at Gena and said, "Why don't you bring that sign up here!"

From then on it was magical. Matt was trying to capture photos and video of this incredible moment for his wife, while she was mesmerized to be up close and personal with her country idol.

All at once Tim asked if Gena would mind holding his mic. "I said, sure, and then my legs started to shake," says Gena. "It didn't click what was happening, he was asking me questions, and then all at once he undid the guitar strap, and my heart leaped, when I realized he was giving it to me. He wanted to make sure he spelled my name right, telling me he had an aunt who spelled her name Gina."

Taking Tim McGraw's guitar back to her seat, the crowd went crazy, and Gena tried to concentrate on the rest of the concert.

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Myrtle Sprague has recently celebrated her 90th birthday at the Wentworth United Church hall. Seated beside her, Rev. Morley Bentley, her former minister, wishes her a happy birthday. (H. Bridgewater Photo)

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