

Spring Just Around the Corner

By Patricia Burke

There is no doubt we have been dealt terrible weather in the Parrsboro area during the last month. We are still digging out from a major snowstorm last weekend. Hats off to The Town of Parrsboro Public Works Department who continually worked throughout the storm to keep our streets safe to drive or walk on.

Hopefully March will see better weather so that we can all get out of our homes and participate in the many events sponsored in our great town. The first Thurs. Of March will see the Monthly Fish Chowder and Soup Luncheon at the United Church in Parrsboro. On Thurs evenings Storytelling will take place at the Anglican Church Hall in Parrsboro at 7 pm. Open Mic will be held at "The Hall" at 7 pm on March 1, 15, 29. Come out for a wonder-

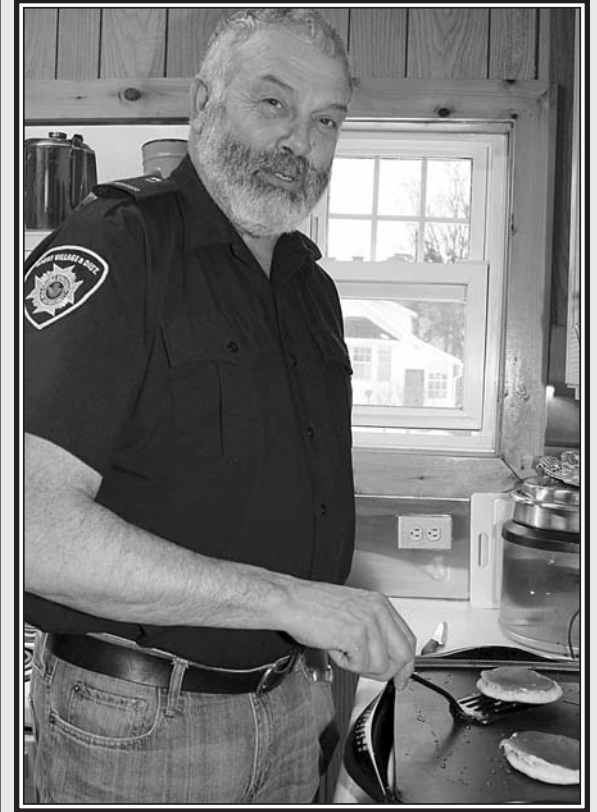
ful evening of music and show your support to "The Hall". Donations at the door will help the band association continue their insulation program.

On Wed. March 6 at 7:30 pm will be movie night at "The Hall" (Argo), on Wed. March 20 will also be movie night (Cloud Atlas Trinity United Church in Parrsboro will hold their Jiggs Dinner on Sat. March 16 from 4:30-6 pm) Following that there will be a St. Patrick's Day Kitchen Party at "The Hall" from 7-11. Entertaining will be Hooligans Rough, along with several special guests. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Bar/Canteen will be available. The Town of Parrsboro has several events scheduled events. Go to The Town of Parrsboro website or give the office a call. I hope everyone has a very Happy St. Patrick's Day.

PHOTO FEATURE

Great Village Fire Brigade Pancake Supper

Members of the Great Village Fire Brigade hosted a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12th. Photos by Linda Harrington



George Hudson tests his flipping skills on the pancake griddle.



It is all about the maple syrup! Kate Cameron gets ready to enjoy a delicious plate of pancakes, beans and sausage.



Robert Layton delivers servings of dessert to Betty and Charles Hudson.



Morgan and Cole Works were helping out on the door at the Great Village Fire Brigade Pancake Supper.

31 Projects Presented at Debert Diversity Fair

By Linda Harrington

Debert Elementary School gymnasium was abuzz with medical terminology and diagnosis, more fitting of Medical students than 8 to 12 year olds, as the grade three to six students held an extremely informative "Diversity" Fair on Jan 30th and 31st.

The thirty-one topics presented ranged from Headaches to Cleft Palates, with each student ready to pass on information they had learned while researching their topic.

Some students had first-hand experience and were able to add personal stories to their project. Marinna Lockhart and Emma McCulloch chose Cancer as their research topic because Marinna was diagnosed with cancer when she was only 3 months old. Emma always knew her best friend had cancer but did not know she was so young at the time. "By doing this project I learned cancer is very powerful and takes a long time to get over. It affects the whole family, whether big or small," says Emma.

Marinna's father, Stephen was viewing the girl's project with mixed emotions. "It is difficult having to revisit the disease. You don't ask for it (cancer), especially at such a young age," he said as he recalled two years of treatment for his baby daughter. "She has been in full remission since she was two years old but still goes every two years for a checkup at the IWK."

Program Support Teacher, Shelley Langille, was thrilled with the response to the "Diversity" Fair. Herself a transplant patient, living with a chronic Kidney condition, she says, "It was amazing how students were able to self-identify through

the fair and give other students a better understanding of themselves." This is something she says she has always tried to do. "I always try to be candid with other students and many have come back and shared their own stories."

The idea for the fair was a collective staff decision as they looked for ways students could expand their own ideas of what "ability" is. "We hoped to increase everyone's level of understanding towards diversity and acceptance in order to promote better relationships right across the board," says Ms. Langille. "This ties in with the message of anti-bullying in schools by focusing on the positive, not the negative or the "don't's"."

Katie Webb's step grandmother Bonny Yorke was visiting the projects and said she thought the Fair was "just awesome, and every one of the projects deserved an A+." Katie picked her project "Hole in the Heart" because she was born with a hole in her heart.

Students stood with the projects, eagerly waiting for visitors to approach so they could tell them all they had learned. Nina Green said she learned 8 million people in Canada have Asthma, including her uncle and a cousin, while Abi MacKenzie, whose sister has Asthma, says she learned just how serious it is to have an asthma attack.

Principal Erma Cox says she was very proud of her students and their ability to give detailed answers to questions, their respect of others and taking turns when presenting their projects.

The "Diversity" Fair was held over two days, with one evening showing. Well done, Debert Elementary Students!



Taylor Dickson shows Nina Green and Abi MacKenzie how to use a puffer, a common medical device used by Asthma patients.



Rebecca Murphy, Makayla Isenor and Katie Webb worked on a project called "Hole in the Heart". Katie was born with a hole in her tiny heart and the girls wanted to learn more about this condition.



Marrina Lockhart's father Stephen stopped by to look at the project his daughter completed with Emma McCulloch (left) on the topic of cancer. Marrina is wearing the Relay for Life trademark yellow shirt for cancer survivors having battled the disease from the age of three months to two years.



Brent Maberry, Blake Fiddes and Ethan Dawson (l to r) learned many children suffer from Aquaphobia when they are little, but most overcome it as they grow older.



Madeline Hepburn (pictured) and her partner Kirsten Olsen have suffered with bad headaches and decided to research information on this topic, while expanding to cover migraines. Madeline says she learned a lot from visiting all the other projects, as well.



The Grade 4 group working on the Autism/Asperger's Syndrome project included: Sarah Kittilsen, Jaden Storry-Trefry, Ethan Totten, Connor Simpson, Tegan Hulme, Canaan Hebb and Cole Roberts. The class completed a project information board, musical presentation and magazine.