

Great Village Elementary Notes



Great Village Elementary School students Shelby Wenham, Endrikus van den Hoek and Sophi Cooke were busy making heart shaped wind chimes during "Friendship Stations Day" on Feb. 17th. (Harrington Photo)



Kamryn Miller, Erika Schroeder, Larrissa Johnson, Kyle Dykstra and Ty McLean were making friendship bracelets during Great Village Elementary School Friendship Station's Day.



GVES students Morgan Works and Olivia Pugsley were happy to finally get a look at their Valentines. School was cancelled on Feb. 14th and activities were moved to Feb. 17th. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

A warm welcome to a new Grade 3 student, Erika Schroeder. Erika lives with her parents and older brother in Londonderry. We also welcomed Mrs. Rose, Educational Assistant, back to GVES.

Next year's Grade Primary students registered for school on Thursday, February 13. There are currently sixteen students registered for the 2014-15 primary class. If you know of anyone who has not yet registered, please ask them to contact the school.

February was African Heritage Month.

Parents are reminded that when busses do not travel on gravel roads in the morning, the regular practice is that the busses will not travel on these roads in the afternoon, even if the road conditions improve throughout the day.

The Home & School recognized all staff, including the bus drivers during Staff Appreciation Week, Feb. 10th until the 14th. Teachers received a piece of art created by the students, and support staff received home baked cookies. Lunch was provided one day, as well.

Students meet in Peace Groups each month to participate in activities related to that month's Virtue.

For "responsibility", student learned about the importance of being responsible and discussed how to

show responsibility in a variety of settings (e.g. school, home, while visiting at a friend's). Students illustrated one way in which they are responsible at school and at home.

February's Virtue was "friendliness" and Valentine's

Being "First" a Habit at Bayview Farms

By Linda Harrington

Bayview Poultry Farms Ltd., in Masstown, is undergoing major renovations. The previous 94 x 33 ft laying barn will soon be 160 x 33 ft. "I guess you could really say we are building a new barn," says owner Glen Jennings. "By the time we add on, rewire and upgrade equipment all we will be left with is the shell of the old barn."

Besides the increase in size, the plan is to upgrade 30 year old equipment with a fully enriched new system. "We are the first ones in Atlantic Canada to put in this enriched system and the only farm in Canada to have this particular make of system," says Glen.

The new system will give the chickens twice as much living space, a nest box where they can lay their eggs, perches to sit on and even a scratch pad area. The enlarged building will house another 1000 birds, which will require Bayview Farms to lease more

quota. They currently have quota for 13,000 and with this additional space will be able to house 14,000 birds.

The building is "expected" to be complete the 1st week of May. "We have 7000 pullets that will be ready to lay eggs in the new building the first of May," says Glen. "So we really don't have a choice, the building has to be ready for them."

Local contractor Clint Verheul has been busy putting the finishing touches on the building, a difficult job with all the inclement weather this winter. Building supplies have been purchased from Masstown Hardware and the main equipment was ordered from Germany. "They are sending a guy over with the equipment from Germany, and we need to supply eight helpers. It will take six weeks to install, so our egg production will be cut in half for about 10 weeks while we make the change over," says Glen.

Bayview Poultry Farms Ltd. has never shied away from innovation. They were the first "Eco-Friendly" egg farm in Nova Scotia and have always strived to be environmentally friendly. Several years ago three wind turbines were installed on the farm, providing 100% of the power to two laying barns.

Besides egg production, Bayview Poultry Farms Ltd. also grows pumpkins and squash each fall.

With son Blake joining the family run operation, he is the fifth generation to work on the farm. 81 year old Cecil Jennings, Glen's father, is still fully involved and although looking forward to the new renovations he can remember a much less complex system. "I can home from school when I was about 15 or 16 and have been at it ever since," he says. "My father

went into egg production in 1947/48, starting with 23000 hens and working up to 5000. Back then it was an open barn with nest boxes around the outside wall. This new system will be quite a change."

With new generations, there is opportunity for change. Bayview Farms used to do their own grading and packaging at the farm until a few years ago. "We are considering going back into the grading, now that Blake is home. We kept the grading license up to date and have really missed supplying local stores like Masstown Market," says Glen. "It would be nice to be able to sell directly from the barn again. Local customers used to enjoy dropping in and we miss this, too."

There are currently 24 egg producers in Nova Scotia, with 780,000 laying birds, making Nova Scotia 100% self-sufficient in eggs.



Contractor Clint Verheul has been busy working on the expansion at Bayview Poultry Farm. Ventilation fans are being installed in the new laying barn.



Still lots to do before the first of May! The back wall will be knocked out and a new fully enriched system installed before 7000 laying hens move in the first week of May.



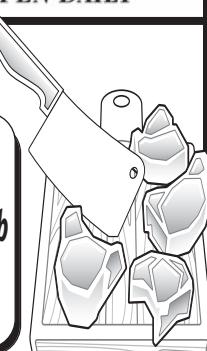
Cecil Jennings is still very active in day to day operations at Bayview Poultry Farm. His father started the egg business in the late 1940's and he has seen a lot of changes in operations over the years.

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