

Drop-In Session Attracts New Volunteers



Pictured above while attending the Wentworth Community Drop-In Session are: Front row: Sonya Seymour holding her son Caleb, President of WFRCA; Brenda McLean, Chair of CAPSite and Marie Duranceau, President of United Church Women. Back row: Jordan Sprague, active volunteer; Bob McLean, Treasurer of WFRCA and Norah Topping, Secretary of WFRCA. All attended the Community Drop-In Session hosted by the Wentworth Firemen's Recreation Centre Association. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

A community drop-in information session to better acquaint the residents with ongoing activities and the belief in volunteer work was held recently at the Wentworth Firemen's Recreation Centre. The event was the inspiration of President Sonya Seymour, Vice-President Stacie MacLeod, Secretary Norah Topping, Treasurer Bob McLean, and Past-President Betty Curry of the Wentworth Firemen's Recreation Centre Association (WFRCA). They are a group with vision and optimism and most of the present executive is of a newer generation that is taking charge and it is inspiring to see.

Summarizing the event, Norah Topping said, "People were invited to come and bring their friends to help celebrate another successful year at the Centre and to find out about volunteer opportunities". Visitors were provided refreshments and encouraged to ask questions.

Sonya Seymour, President, gave a good introduction to the afternoon including mention that the current Recreation Centre was built after an earlier building burned down in 1987. We are very proud of the newly refinished floor, completed this past year all by volunteer labour. Cecil MacLeod was the volunteer most responsible

for the project and many others joined in as well.

The Recreation Centre currently hosts many regular programs and special events. Programs include monthly Sunday Music Afternoons, weekly Monday card parties, Thursday Bingo, and Friday Pioneers. Yoga is offered three days a week (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday) and Preschool on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2 pm. Special events include the March Pancake Supper, the October Pork Supper, and the November Craft Fair.

There was good discussion about what the Association is doing now, where we would like to take it in terms of more events and programs, and what sort of volunteer jobs are available. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could host ball games and tournaments or sock hops?

Organizers were pleased to talk to new people, many of whom signed up to volunteer in one capacity or another. The group could use more volunteers to help with hall maintenance as well as kitchen assistance, serving or baking for fundraising events. Anyone interested in helping out should contact us at Wentworth.rec.ctr@gmail.com or call Helen Feeley at 902-548-2075.

Your name will be put on our list and you will be contacted on an event by event basis.

RECC Deficit to be Reduced

By Maurice Rees

A consulting firm hired by Rath Eastlink Community Centre has determined a major reason for the larger than anticipated annual cost overruns at RECC is because two different systems supplied by Johnson Controls and CIMCO were not integrated causing equipment not to work as it was designed. In the current year, the deficit to be shared by Town of Truro and Municipality of Colchester is estimated to be \$1.2-Million far larger than originally budgeted.

Matt Moore, general manager, stated the consulting firm anticipates they will be able to solve the problem in mid-March with three days on-site work to integrate the systems to function as designed. He anticipates effective April 1st, the systems will be working properly. The engineering firm is also working on similar problems with the same equipment in Pictou, Lunenburg, Saint John, NB and St John's, Newfoundland. Once the systems are integrated properly, a significant drop in the annual deficit is anticipated, as a result of improved efficiencies requiring less electricity.

When asked about recouping some of the past losses due to improper installation, councillors were told the focus has

been to correct the problem on a go-forward basis, then gather all the facts and data to use legal action to seek remediation and restitution.

As part of his presentation to the joint meeting, manager Moore, said the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling generated \$1.2-Million for the local economy, of which RECC received approximately \$51,000, comprised of \$29,000 in food and beverage profit, plus \$22,000 from ticket sales.

In going forward, Moore is looking for a 12% increase in membership in 2016-2017 to increase from 1600 towards the overall goal of 2,500. His budget calls for a 45 increase in food and beverage to approximately \$291,000, while rentals may show a slight decrease.

He cited the fact that Colchester is the only area other than Halifax, which

has shown economic growth and should bode well to increasing usage of the centre. He's also hopeful several major attractions will materialize. Referencing the growth in female hockey, he sees the RECC as an ideal place to host a major female hockey tournament.

As part of his budget planning he anticipates cost of sales will decrease from 52% to approximately 44%. With a new thrust from medical experts that "Exercise is Medicine", he anticipates significant growth in the wellness centre, including the pool, indoor track, and other amenities. Another asset for the centre is the strong team of volunteers who step forward to assist at major events. For Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling, the volunteer contingent was well over 100 people. He sees similar volunteer interest in this fall's version of NS Music Week, which will be held again in Truro.

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