

Celebrating Down East Music in Wentworth



Linda and Garry Shears from Great Village enjoy dancing modern jive to the Down East music played live by musicians during Sunday Music Afternoon held at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

On Sunday afternoon on February 28 there was lots of fun as people appreciated the opportunity to dance to Down-East fiddle music, or listen to the music and observe the dancing seated on the sidelines. A recently repaired hardwood floor makes for excellent dancing as well as the music which it timed for Down-East style dancing with waltzes, polkas, hop-polkas, foxtrots, reels and jigs.

The folks attending gave a voluntary donation at the door (given to help maintenance of the hall) and brought a donation of food to the kitchen for the free potluck lunch at 4 pm.

At the previous Sunday Music Afternoon on January 31, thirteen volunteer musicians came, including those from faraway as Dartmouth,

Nova Scotia, and Aulac, New Brunswick, even though it had been storming two days previously. What is amazing is the range of places where these musicians come from, paying their own expenses, and volunteering their time. Also, there is no rehearsal ahead of time nor does each musician know what the others will be playing, and yet, there is always a variety of tunes.

In addition to the large hardwood floor for dancing, there is a large stage upfront, an excellent PA system and a kitchen well stocked with a refrigerator, cooler, freezer, electric stoves, dishwasher, and cupboards to better serve all those who attend a variety of events at the hall.

Volunteer musicians attending on January 31 included: Betty Curry (pianist

and coordinator of the Music Afternoon); Dave Bagnell (fiddler, saxophonist, composer, author, and coordinator of the Music Afternoon); Charley Patriquin (guitarist, drummer, assistant); Cecil Benedict (fiddler); Nick Nicholson (guitarist); Al McVicar (fiddler); Robert Taylor (fiddler, composer, author); Royal Hicks (fiddler); Arden Hayman (fiddler); Willett Stevenson (fiddler); Gerald MacKenzie (fiddler, banjoist); Carol Hanson (pianist); and Vivian Taylor (pianist).

Working in the kitchen Kathy and Lloyd Wilcox received the food from those attending, merged the variety of foods into a potluck lunch at 4 pm, tended the canteen, and cleaned up afterwards. They worked hard, but at least they had the Down East Music for background inspiration. It is important to note that single people are welcome and they can find partners to dance with.

Musician Robert Taylor's book *Beyond the Music* describes in a sincere and emotional way the special camaraderie which exists between musicians who play together.

Also, David Bagnell achieves the same effect as he describes in his book *Down East Fiddle Tunes From Both Sides of the Cobequid Mountain Range* and tells of how he and the late Lloyd Tattrie worked together to save some of the fiddle tunes with composers unknown could have been lost forever.

Do Your Water Pipes Freeze?

By Christine Urquhart

Do you ever worry about your pipes freezing? Being prepared and informed may help you to avoid the messy and often expensive issue of frozen pipes. Pipe freezing is a problem because water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the "strength" of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of these water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations: Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions.

Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping. Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs.

Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break. Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.

Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape", "heat cable", or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can

provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes - even 1/4" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.



If it becomes very cold weather, take preventative action. Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.

When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing. Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.

If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F. Sometimes pipes just freeze! To thaw frozen pipes first you need to know that they are frozen. If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation. Keep the faucet open.

As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe. Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water.

Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device. Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.

Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too. To protect your pipes in the future consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing.

Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled. Add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas. For more information, please contact a licensed plumber or building professional.

Excellence In Teaching Nominations Open

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) are seeking nominations for outstanding teachers who exemplify excellence in teaching. Students, parents, guardians, community members and educational colleagues are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher for a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by March 24, 2016.

Each candidate must be nominated by three people: a school administrator, a teacher colleague, and a member of the public (i.e. parent, guardian or a student). Nomination forms are available at all school offices, through School Advisory Councils

and on the CCRSB website. Nominations must be submitted to the Selection Committee at the CCRSB central office in Truro by Thursday, March 24, 2016.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards, jointly sponsored by the CCRSB and NSTU, are presented annually to recognize outstanding teachers and to celebrate teaching excellence within CCRSB. To be eligible, nominees must hold a Nova Scotia teaching certificate, be a school-based staff member (includes teachers, department heads, vice-principals and principals), have taught with CCRSB during 2015-2016 and not have received an Excellence in Teaching Award in the last 5 years.

New Dewatering Equipment Being Commissioned

By Maurice Rees

In an ongoing basis of cooperation councils from County of Colchester and Town of Truro held a joint meeting at the Millbrook Room, Rath Eastlink Community Centre on February 24th with two items on the agenda, for public viewing, plus negotiations which were to be discussed in a closed session.

First on the agenda was a presentation by Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, Municipality of Colchester on the Central Colchester Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrades.

In 2012 an upgrade was undertaken to overcome effluent containing 40 to 80 mg/L, whereas the regulatory limit was 25 mg/L. Following the upgrade a level of 10 mg/L or was achieved, which meant there was a significant increase in the amount of solids being taken out of the effluent. As more sludge was created, costs of removing the sludge increased to unaccept-

able levels. When the process starts to remove solids from the fluids, it is 99.5% water. Even the best belt filter press can obtain a rate of 11% solids (89% water).

Biosolids have to be disposed of a 3rd party facility, which meant that trucks loads were 89% water. Prior to the 2012 upgrades disposal costs ranged from \$7-13,000 per month. Following those upgrades and reducing the water level to 89% water disposal costs ballooned to \$36-40,000 per month.

To achieve better efficiencies and to meet Department of Environment regulations a further \$2-Million upgrade was taken to remove more water from the sludge. This includes installation of two new dewatering machines (Centrifuge Project), which are currently being commissioned. The machines create sludge at 18%- 22% solids. Bringing the water level down has to approximately 80% will result in what was originally approximately 400

tonnes of sludge now results in removing an additional 156 tonnes of water each month.

A \$2-million expenditure to remove a further 156 tonnes of water from the sludge each month seems like a lot, but it's a numbers game. With 156 less tones, the monthly cost saving is approximately \$15,000 per month or \$180,000 per year. Financing the project over 15 years, will provide an 11 year payback on a life cycle of 20 years on the equipment.

One area where unexpected increases in costs have arisen is in the regulatory required UV disinfection system, which was made necessary because chlorination is no longer permitted. It was originally calculated the 480 UV bulbs would have a lifespan of 2 years, however, bulbs, which cost \$300 each are lasting for only one year, which translates into an annual cost of \$144,000 for bulbs instead of the anticipation of \$72,000. Staff will now focus efforts to see how the bulb replace-

ment cost can be lowered to original expectations.

Bass River United Baptist Church
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
Bible Study - Mondays 10 a.m.

Gospel Coffee House
4th Saturday every month... 7 p.m.

Lic. Larry Tirrell - Pastor
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