

# Onslow-Belmont 4H Club Schedules Rally



Shown at a craft meeting of the Onslow-Belmont Exploring 4-H project are: Amy Chapman (leader), Avelin Densmore, Zachary Best, Marion Porter and Natalie Porter. (Natalie Porter Photo)



The Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club is bringing in potential new members with its Exploring 4-H project. Pictured above attending a rabbit meeting are: Ciara Congdon, Avelin Densmore, Serena Del Mastro, Zachary Best, and Jasmin Atkinson. (Natalie Porter Photo)

By Natalie Porter

The Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club Rally will be Saturday, March 5th, 9:00 a.m. at the Fire Hall in Onslow. Public Speaking is one of the requirements for all 4-H members to complete their year. Every 4-H member, not including Cloverbuds, is required to do a speech or a demonstration at their Club Rally.

The speeches and demonstrations are presented before a panel of judges and an audience of club members and family. The winners from Club Rally will move on to County Rally.

At the February general meeting we talked about how to do a speech or demonstration. Everyone is invited to attend to hear and learn from the interesting variety of speeches and demos.

This year, Onslow-Belmont has two members in the Exploring 4-H project and so far they have attended a rabbit meeting and a crafts meeting, where they made origami fish. In February and March, they will try their hand at cake decorating, foods, and scrapbooking. The Exploring

4-H Project is available to any junior member in his or her first year of 4-H.

Members in Exploring 4-H Project are not permitted to be enrolled in any other project. This project is designed so that these members can learn more about 4-H, and experience some different projects to help them decide what project(s) they would like to take the next year. Exploring 4-H Project members will explore at least six different projects or aspects of the 4-H program and on Achievement Day they will display six items they completed from different projects.

Congratulations to Michael Congdon for winning a National 4-H award which sends him to the National Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa this May! Delegates at the seminar will learn about the Canadian political process, and their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens. Members chosen to participate in this seminar have shown their dedication and commitment to the 4-H program in their club, regionally and provincially.

*Natalie Porter is Club Reporter for the Onslow Belmont 4-H Club*

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mated municipality will be frozen for five years at the levels that the four separate municipalities are currently receiving, totaling \$11.9 million.

**A hybrid survey** commissioned by CTV News and conducted by Nanos Research between January 30th and February 1st, 2016 revealed Canadians are delaying major purchases and will spend either the same or less on vacations in the current economic climate. **Making major purchases** - Fifty-one percent of Canadians are delaying major purchases such as a home or a car at this time, while 20% think now is a good time to make major purchases and 12% are cancelling major purchases. Eighteen percent of Canadians are unsure how they would describe themselves in terms of making major purchases. Those in Atlantic Canada are the least likely to cancel major purchases at this time (six percent). **Vacation spending** - More than one of three (36%) Canadians plan to spend about the same amount on their vacation this year and a significant 25% say they will spend less. Ten percent will spend more on their vacation this year, while 12% are cancelling their vacation this year. Fourteen percent of Canadians said they do not take vacations and three percent are unsure how to describe their vacation spending this year.

**On February 10<sup>th</sup>**, the Harbour Port Development Partners (HPDP) and the Port of Sydney announced the naming of Sydney's new container terminal: *NOVAPORTIE* and its adjacent logistics park *NOVA-ZONE*.

**Colchester's Councillor**, Christine Blair was one of 400 delegates in Ottawa at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM's) Sustainable Communities Conference, which was the largest meeting of mayors, councillors, administrators and industry experts focusing on innovative and emerging practices as well as proven solutions in greening municipalities across Canada. The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection. During the conference grants and loans for 20 communities across Canada valued at \$31.5 million were announced. GMF funding supports plans, studies, field tests and capital projects to assist making these communities more sustainable while taking into account environmental, social and economic considerations. Halifax's ground-breaking Solar City project, installing solar hot water systems and efficient water fixtures in homes was mentioned as one of the examples. Many of the announced projects assist municipalities in reaching higher standards of air, water and soil quality. They provide a concrete example of how local communities contribute to climate protection.

**The 8,200 square-foot** former Amherst Town Hall known as the Confederation Memorial Building is being repurposed to become an innovation centre for local businesses and community groups. Work on the

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# Council Receives Presentation on Solar PV Panels

By Maurice Rees

Colchester councillors and mayor got an opportunity to learn more about Solar PV panels at a presentation meeting of council on Tuesday, January 5th. ITC Engineering Solutions Inc., which opened an office in Colchester in 2008 asked Michael-Alan Murley, Managing Director to bring council up to date on the company and it's capabilities. Early in the presentation, Murley said he was not there to sell anything, but rather to inform council of the company and it's capabilities.

ITC Engineering Solutions Inc. got involved with the Truro Farmer's Market a couple of years ago by sponsoring and donating its expertise to develop a plan to solve the projects electricity solutions through incorporation of solar panels.

Murley said the \$40,000.00 project has reduced energy costs enough that it has pay-back period of 4.5 years. He further indicated ITC Engineering Solutions will continue to monitor and

advise on the project for its life cycle and that additional panels may be installed to cover the remainder of the roof which faces the east.

ITC Engineering has acquired property in the Manganese Mines area and is hopeful it will be able to establish a commercial facility there or elsewhere in Colchester to either manufacture panels or as a distribution centre.

The company is a privately held shareholder corporation with offices in Canada, China, Beijing, Shenzhen. It designs, manufactures, sells, install all its own products. It has extensive experience in: Waste Water and Water Treatment plants, Land Fill, Renewable Energy Technologies, SCADA System Technologies, Automation, Occupational Health & Safety, Solar Technologies and LED Lighting Technologies.

Murley's presentation focused on "net metering" whereby customers continue to pay their monthly base charge as usual, and business customers con-

tinue to pay demand charges. If you use more electricity than you generate, you draw from the grid as needed and receive a bill for the difference at your regular rate.

If you generate more electricity than you can use, these surplus kilowatt hours (kWh) will be "banked" and applied to your next bill to offset any electricity drawn from the grid. If any surplus kilowatt-hours remain on the account at the end of a 12 month cycle, you will be paid for that energy at the same rate you pay for electricity from the grid.

He said Solar PV Systems are a good fit Municipal, Community, Town halls, Fire Hall and Community Centers. During the presentation he referred to the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, and can't understand why solar PV panels were not incorporated into the construction design as it would reduce the demand load on of electricity on a building. When asked by Councillor Ron Cavanagh, why he

didn't mention this during construction, Murley replied they were not operating here at that time.

Continuing with his presentation, Murley said Solar PV panels are also a good match will Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water Systems.

Murley's presentation also included reference to FCM's Municipal Green Fund, which council already knew about because Councillor Tom Taggart is a provincial representative to the FCM board, and has been involved in discussions concerning the Green Municipal Fund. He also mentioned the Province of Nova Scotia is developing new programs which will involve solar PV panels.

## Community Meeting

**NOW ON - March 12, 2016.  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**RE-SCHEDULED**



Doug MacInnes



Tom Taggart

Councillor's Doug MacInnes, District 9 and Tom Taggart, District 10 will hold a community Meeting at The Peg (Masstown Market) for all residents of Districts 9 & 10.

This will be an *Open Agenda* meeting to discuss whatever residents have on their mind.

For information or written input contact:

**Doug MacInnes**  
Councillordistrict9@colchester.ca

**Tom Taggart**  
Councillordistrict10@colchester.ca

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