

# Learning Centre Fundraising to Establish P-3 School

By Hope Bridgewater

Wentworth Learning Centre, once the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School for Grades Primary up to and including Grade six is an important new organization working hard to meet the needs of the community.

Unfortunately, the Wentworth Elementary School was closed on July 31, 2015 in a dictatorial (supposedly democratic) way by the Chignecto Central Regional School Board which is set up to have the last word (not the government in power as it should be). It is a method which affects a rural community in an educational, cultural and economic downgrading as new families with young children often will not move into a community with no local elementary school and other families will move out as some have already done in Wentworth in order to be near a school. There are also health and education issues issue regarding sending young students in grades Primary to Three (ages 5/6 up to and including ages 8/9) out of their community by bus to a distant school. The daily long bus trips may not affect Grades Five or Six so severely.



**Carol Hyslop, secretary and director of the Wentworth Learning Centre, spends many hours volunteering to help the Learning Centre be a cultural, social, educational, and economic benefit to the community and area.**  
(Hope Bridgewater Photo)

After the closure of the Elementary School, the Wentworth community reacted by going through the process of owning the building (and property beside it) in order to help mitigate the loss by creating a Learning Centre Cooperative which met in November, 2015. The executive for the organization board was elected on February 22, 2016. One of the important objectives is to establish a school for grades Primary to Three, independent of a

school board. To do this takes time and will be part of the focus. At this time in 2017, the Learning Centre Cooperative is establishing inter-generational programs for social, cultural, educational and economic reasons (fund-raising).

The Learning Centre now houses its office, a CAPsite, community library, two large meeting rooms for programs, and rents an office to Barbara Palmer, the present Cumberland County Councillor for District 6.

According to the mandate of the Learning Centre, it is governed by an incorporated, not-for-profit, cooperative funded by members of the Wentworth community. Nine volunteer directors and 95 members are responsible for cooperative operations. Current efforts focus on raising funds for programming and maintenance of the Learning Centre.

On-going programs contain the following:

#1. Maggie's Place-Pop Up: Tuesdays at 9 am. It is a weekly two hour outreach pre-school play group for parents/caretakers and their children aged up to six years. No registration is

required. Free of charge.

#2. Historical Flashbacks: Tea and Talk, Tuesdays at 1 pm in the community library. Discuss Wentworth history rummaging through boxes of old photographs (yours and others). Transportation provided: need a ride to and from the library? Call 902-548-2076 and we will pick you up.

#3. Jamboree and Open Mike: Second Sunday of the month from 2 pm to 5 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of old-time country music. All are welcome to play a tune. Sign up at the door.

#4. Evening with the Brushes: Fridays - 6:30pm. Cost \$40. Other special programs not always continuous, but tied to one special date are also offered. For more information phone the office at 902-548-2076.

Together with other important Wentworth organizations such as the Old Wentworth Valley Heritage Schoolhouse and the Wentworth Recreation Centre, the Learning Centre will help keep Wentworth a social, cultural, educational, friendly and economic viable community.



## Natural Resources

### Woodland Conference - March 25

By Maurice Rees

The annual regional woodland conference organized by Nova Scotia Natural Resources will be held at the Maple Ridge Elementary School, Lantz from 8:30am - 3 pm on Saturday, March 25th. Created in early 1990s, the conferences were designed to 1) help woodland owners manage their woodland sustainably, 2) provide timely information to owners from industry experts and other owners, and (3) meet the information needs of the landowners.

This year's conference will feature opening remarks by Julie Towers, DNR Deputy Minister; NS Woodland Owner of the Year - 2016, Matt

Harrison and Ed MacDonnell, Conform, speaking on woodland management company opportunities.

Other presenters will include Gerald Gloade - the 7 Districts and Animals of the Woodlot; Walter Rodler - firewood splitter demonstration and a three member panel comprising Bob Bancroft, Ed MacDonnell and Jeff Bishop speaking on the role of Cleacutting in Forest Management and a panel discussion on clearcutting and forest practices.

Several other events will conclude the day. Cost of \$25.00 includes registration and hearty lunch. Student rate is \$15.

# Debert Airport Updating Certification

By Maurice Rees

Council committee set 6:00 pm on February 28th and March 1st as nights to receive presentations from community groups who are applying for funding under the Non-Profit Grants program. Committee also set April 10th as a budget meeting with budget deletions to be discussed at a meeting of councillors on April 18th. Confirmation of these dates was made at re-scheduled council committee meeting held on February 15th, but had been cancelled due to severe winter storm on February 9th.

Council committee approved \$2,500 or of this year's budget to assist with Hike Nova Scotia Summit to be held in Tatamagouche April 28-30. Various locations in Tatamagouche will host the event, which is expected to draw over 200 participants from across the province. Hike Nova Scotia is described at a non-profit which encourages and promotes hiking, walking and snowshoeing throughout Nova Scotia. Its

initiatives are achieved primarily through partnerships with community-based organizations. In the municipality it works with Cobequid Eco-trails Society (CETS), which focuses on development and promotion of non-motorized trails.

At the meeting Michelle Powell, Director of Public Works, provided council with an update on sidewalk priorities with the Active Transportation Strategy, which had originally be adopted in January 2011. As part of the evaluation criteria priority is given to those streets in transportation corridors or have safety concerns. Priorities are rated on Safety (35%); Linking Communities, (35%); recreation network, (20%) and extension of existing, (10%).

Powell's presentation was prompted by two items on the agenda: award of tender for sidewalk reconstruction for Fir/Spruce and Evergreen, plus discussion on location of a new sidewalk on Carter Road, Brookfield.

Fir Avenue and Evergreen

Drive in Salmon River will benefit from a re-construction of existing sidewalks with the awarding of a \$198,630 tender to Sackville Trenching, who underbid C.F. Construction's \$230,290 submission. 123 companies had purchased plans but only 10 bids were received. The highest bid was from S.W. Weeks Construction at \$395,672.50.

Continuing on sidewalks the action item on Carter Road Sidewalk, Brookfield was more contentious. Prompted originally as a result of safety concerns for area residents and students travelling to the Brookfield Sportsplex. Municipal staff were in agreement with provincial Dept of Transportation & Infrastructure the sidewalk should be constructed on the West side of Carter Road.

Speaking on the matter, area councillor Geoff Stewart advised councillors area, residents wanted the sidewalk shifted to the East side, as it would have less impact on mature trees and their properties. To conclude discussion

on the matter he put forward a motion to table the matter until a public meeting was held with area residents.

Because of time limitations council authorized staff to proceed with acquiring services of Jetpro to certify runway approaches at Debert Airport, to a WAAS / LPV standard at a start-up cost of \$23,000, which includes the first year of an annual maintenance fee of \$4,000.00. Certification changes were necessary, because NAV Canada which has previously done the certification would no longer be providing the service and current certification would expire December 12, 2017.

Jetpro, an Alberta company with representatives in the Maritimes provides these services to 120 airports. The rush to completion was on, because it takes six months to publish certification and Jetpro will be conducting certifications this spring and late fall.

# Bass River Storage

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# If I Gave You \$1-Billion to Give Away

**Editors Note: Life-long Truro resident Orville Pulsifer has spent his life communicating, doing, inventing and thinking. He recently sent along these thoughts:**

By Orville Pulsifer

If I give you \$1 billion and you stand on a street corner handing out \$1 per second, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, you would still not have handed out \$1 billion after 31 years!!

Now read on.

### A VERY BIG NUMBER

This is too true to be funny.

The next time you hear a politician use the word 'billion' in a casual manner, think about whether you want the 'politicians' spending YOUR tax money.

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases:

- A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.

- A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.
- A billion Dollars ago was only 13 hours and 12 minutes, at the rate our present government is spending it.

Stamp Duty, Tobacco Tax, Corporate Income Tax, Income Tax, Council Tax, Unemployment Tax, Fishing Licence Tax, Petrol/Diesel Tax, Inheritance Tax - (tax on top of tax), Alcohol Tax, G.S.T., Property Tax, Service charge taxes, Social Security Tax, Vehicle License / Registration Tax, Vehicle Sales Tax, Workers Compensation Tax and Carbon Dioxide Tax.

### STILL THINK THIS IS FUNNY?

Not one of these taxes existed 60 years ago and our nation was one of the most prosperous in the world. We had absolutely no national debt. We had the largest middle class in the world. Mum stayed home to raise the kids. Dad and teachers were allowed to discipline kids. A criminal's life was uncomfortable.

What the h!!!! Happened? 'Political Correctness', 'Politicians and both?'. I hope this goes around CANADA and beyond at least 100 times!

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