

Rec Centre Music Afternoon in Wentworth



David Bagnell plays the fiddle at a Music Afternoon in Wentworth located at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Later in the event, Dave was presented with a surprise birthday cake. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Another excellent Sunday Music Afternoon recently happened in Wentworth.

A previous community center existed from 1976 to 1987 in Wentworth until a fire destroyed the building.

Wentworth residents decided to rebuild beginning in 1988 and ending in October 1990 for a cost of \$500,000, on property owned by the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department.

The grand opening ceremony was on September 21, 1991, with the following executive in place: Chair, Dale Patriquin; Vice-chair, Winston Patriquin; Secretary, Peggy Patriquin and Treasurer, Arden Little.

One of the active volunteers in 1991 was Betty Curry as coordinator of special events. From 1991 to 2018, the Recreation has remained active due to hours of work by volunteer community residents.

The current 2018 executive is Chair, Bob MacLean; Vice-chair, Marie Duranceau; Secretary, Norah Topping and Treasurer, Gary Jollymore.

One of the best activities for cultural, social and individual reasons is the Wentworth Sunday Music Afternoon at the Recreation Centre at 1:30 pm the last Sunday of every month, except December.

The Music Afternoon is based on Down-East country dance music and which is a combination of different styles formed into a melodious amalgam of tunes from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, Germany, Cape Breton, Acadian, Mi'kmaq, Quebec, Vermont, Maine, other New England States.

In Wentworth Down-East style is usually played with a Don Messer influence for polkas, hop-polkas, reels, jigs, waltzes, and fox-trots.

The Centre has a hard wood floor which is best for dancing, a large hall, a stage, seating on the sides for those who come to listen or to play, and a kitchen for a lunch at 4pm.

Those attending are asked to bring a lunch with them which becomes part of the 4pm potluck lunch, and to make a voluntary donation at the incoming door

as such a donation helps with the hall maintenance.

What is amazing about these dance musicians is that there was no rehearsal ahead of time.

These volunteer musicians arrive often from different locations, volunteering their time, talents, and expenses, and put on great shows based on their skills and knowledge.

At this recent event, everyone present was happy to see Dave Bagnell return after his illness.

He was missed for his musical talent and knowledge, and as active stage manager and coordinator.

Bagnell grew up in Truro, began playing the violin at five years of age, during school years performed at many music festivals and events, studied violin at Acadia University, and over the years has performed as fiddler and saxophonist at many Down East music groups.

Bagnell can also play Cape Breton Celtic as well.

Bagnell also composes music and is an author having published a book of sheet music called Down East Fiddle Tunes From Both Sides Of The Cobequid Mountain Range.

In this book are eight of Bagnell's compositions: "Sherry's Waltz," "Don Isnor's Party," "Happy Birthday Waltz," "Fiddling Dave's Reel," "Curt and Winnie's Polka," "Christmas Polka," "Captain Smith's Polka," "A Very Pretty Waltz."

Bagnell also listed for most of the book tunes from the well known late fiddler Lloyd Tattrie.

In the title of the book, "From Both Sides of the Cobequid Mountain Range," can be explained by the fact that Lloyd Tattrie lived in Tatamagouche and Dave Bagnell lived in Truro.

The two of them kept in touch by telephone. Tattrie would play a tune on the telephone, Bagnell would record the tune and transcribe it using a software

program. Their motive was to make sure that certain traditional tunes were not being lost and could be passed down to future generations.

An example: Lloyd Tattrie heard Dave Langille of Brule play a tune about 80 years ago (Lloyd Tattrie lived to be 102 years of age) and the tune was still played by Tattrie under the name "David Langille's March," and in this way the tune was saved.

The introduction to Bagnell's book is very interesting. For instance he tells us that when Lloyd Tattrie needed rosin and, when times were difficult, he would go to the woods to find a piece of hard spruce gum that he would use to rosin his fiddle bow.

Bagnell's beautiful composition "Sherry's Waltz" was composed in 1952 in celebration of the birth of his daughter Sherry, and Don Messer of the TV show "Don Messer's Jubilee" asked Bagnell's permission to use "Sherry's Waltz" on Apex Records and as a result this waltz has played all over Canada and the USA.

On one of Dave Bagnell's last appearances before he became ill, I interviewed him and he sent me a list of the tunes he played with the band from 4:30 to closing time, and he wrote. "These are the tunes we played Sunday. I hope these will help with your article." Dave, "I will use them again now. Dave, I hope you will be back next Music Afternoon on February 25, 2018, with all your talent and great personality. The tunes: "West Branch Waltz," "Give Me Your Heart," "Plaza Polka," "Rainbow Two Step," "Dear Heart," "San Antonio Rose," "Lamp Lighting Time In The Valley," "Kerry Mills Barn Dance."

March Church Services

By Christine Urquhart

Church services for the month of March are all at 10 am and all at Debert United Church. It is still a wait and see as to when the other two Churches open for services come spring. With the amalgamation, everything is up in the air.

We will make you welcome at our weekly Church services and hope that you will continue to join us!



We have a great Sunday School and children of all ages are welcome to attend. See you on Sunday!

Mary-Emma on CCJHS



Students off to Central Canada

By Mary-Emma Barnhill

This year, 50 Grade Nine students will get the opportunity to go on a Montreal/Ottawa trip, which is taking place from May 30th to June 3rd. The students will be able to experience Montreal's french culture and cuisine, tour the Bell Centre, Old Montreal's Chinatown, and the Montreal Canadians Dressing Room. While in Montreal, they will also visit the Pointe-à-Cal-lière museum, the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium, and the National Circus School. They will then head to Ottawa, where they will receive a tour of the city, Parliament, and the Canadian Mint, as well as the experience of eating and shopping at the ByWard Market. Thank you to Mrs. Morrisey, Ms. Westhaver, Mrs. Hepburn and Mr. Munro, who will be supervising the students on the trip.

This is a great opportunity for Grade Nine students to experience two new cities and many different cultures!

The first tryout for the curling club was held on January 23 from 4pm at the Truro Curling club.

A meeting for all Grade Nine students was held on January 22 in the AV room at CEC.

CCJHS is proud to be presenting the musical Oz! Students are busy getting ready for the performance, which will be on the 10th and 11th of April. I will be sharing more details about this as we get closer to that performance dates.

Mary-Emma Barnhill, a student at CCJHS, started writing for the Shoreline Journal as reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club. This school year her reports focus on activities at CCJHS.

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