



If you are wondering what the students have created, It is an ice marble caterpillar. (Joann Michelin)

Small Talk

By Joann Michelin

It is that time of the year when elementary schools have their registration for the new Primary students. These are the children who are eligible to attend in September 2019. It is a huge milestone for the child and the family. Of course, the home and parents provide the basis for the child's development. Hopefully, the child has also had access to a preschool environment outside the home. Some families access this through the day care they are utilizing because the parent/parents are working outside the home and need full time child care. Many families realize the importance of an Early Child-

hood learning experience and enroll their child in a part time program where they learn socialization, communication skills and how to interact with other adults. They learn best from example and what better place than a room full of other little people? Start researching centers in your area. Ask around and get reviews, contact the center and ask for a tour. Take your child and get a feel for the environment.

Great changes are happening in the Early Childhood sector ~ Quality standards have improved, wage floor have been implemented, a Curriculum Framework is being piloted. The area of Early Childhood care

has surpassed the image of "glorified babysitters". We are so much more and have so much invested in our centers.

An interesting report was released the beginning of February. It is entitled, "Unappreciated and Underpaid". Now, this could cover just about anyone in the workforce, but this particular report is about Early Childhood Educators. Unfortunately, this report is a perfect case of the horse coming after the cart. The authors of this report delivered an online survey to ECE's and employers in Nova Scotia. Their findings and information should have been what the provincial government used to implement their policy to try to insure that each child in Nova Scotia had access to quality childcare. Instead, with very little consultation with stakeholders, they chose another path. You can access this report at www.policyalternatives.ca.

Our center has conducted several informal surveys researching what families need most in our area to access a quality early childhood center. At present their main obstacle is transportation. We are working on a plan to help with this.

In our area there are 3 licensed child care centers that provide care for many families. The staff at each of these centers have are well educated and hold many years of experience between them. They are continually taking course/workshops for Professional Development and adapting programs to

best suit the needs of their families.

The Love, Laughter and Learning Center is located in Masstown. It is licensed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and offers a before and after school program. Contact numbers are 902-662-3210 /902-324-3210.

The Debert Child Development Center is located in the Debert Legion. It offers a licensed part time Preschool program and the contact number: 902-662-2225.

The Lower Onslow Preschool is located in Lower Onslow. It is a licensed part time center for ages 30 months to 5 years. Their contact number; 902-662-2495.

Each of these centers has a Facebook page. Check them all out and call if you would like more information.

I would also invite you to email me if you have a question on Early Childhood development. I certainly don't claim to be an expert, but will do my best to offer an answer. You never know, there might be many parents with that same question/concern. (Lower onslowp@gmail.com)

The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. That is why understanding the need to invest in very young children is so important, so as to maximize their future well-being. (Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development)



Pictured above are three founding members of Colchester Trefoil Guild, Rebecca Penney, Frances Fiddes and Goldie Chisholm holding poinsettias given to honour them on the 30th anniversary of the guild. (Sheila Stewart Photo)



Goldie Chisholm and Rebecca Penney cutting the 30th Anniversary Cake; both are founding members of Colchester Trefoil Guild and still active in the Guild. (Sheila Stewart Photo)

Committee Appointments Changed to Two Years

By Maurice Rees

Colchester's Council Committee did some housekeeping and minor changes regarding how it conducts committee and council meetings. To avoid possible rush to discuss, as happened last summer regarding dog kennel by-law that Councillors, staff, and the Municipal Solicitor, notify the CAO of any items they wish to have introduced as an agenda item for the next Council or Council Committee meeting as far in advance of the meeting as possible

Councillors, staff and the Municipal Solicitor may only bring new action items forward at Council and Council Committee meetings for decision, if the items are urgent or time-sensitive and the asso-



ciated staff and/or financial resources are known. Otherwise, action items will be referred to staff for research and analysis.

No Member may speak more than twice, without the leave of the Council, on any motion except to explain a misconception of his or her remarks, but the mover of a motion shall have the right to reply and sum up in closing the debate. To move the discuss along at a quicker pace, no Member shall speak more than ten minutes upon any matter at one time, without

the leave of the Council.

To give councillors an opportunity to serve on a variety of committees, the term of office for members of Council on all Committees shall be two years, instead of the full term of council. The Alternate Chair has been an annual appointment but was changed to a two year term. Citizen representatives and those appointed as non-voting or ExOfficio members shall be the term of Council, unless otherwise specified. Traditionally, Council Committee were held on the Second Thursday, but now has been permitting council committee to be held on the second or third Thursday of the month.

Colchester Trefoil Guild Notes

By Sheila Stewart

On November 24, 2018, Colchester Trefoil Guild members celebrated their 30th anniversary, 30 years to the day since the Guild was formed. Members gathered at the Cobeguid Fire Hall and were joined by members of the Provincial Trefoil Executive, the NS Provincial Commissioner and her Deputy, members of several Trefoil Guilds around the Province,

and several former Girl Guide leaders from the local area. One Guide and two Pathfinders were on hand to help with replenishing the snack table and with cleaning up at the end of the day - they were amazing! Old friendships were renewed and stories long-forgotten were recalled as the sounds of "Do you remember . . ." and "Were you there when . . ." accompanied the viewing of photos, Guiding

clothing and Guide memorabilia.

One of the most moving displays was a tribute to our "Dearly Departed". As at all Guiding events, the day closed with singing around the campfire: "... All is well, safely rest, God is nigh." No doubt, as we resume regular meetings in February, there will be lots of reminiscing about this special day!

Sheila Stewart is Co-Coordinator, Colchester Trefoil Guild



Members of Colchester Trefoil Guild celebrating 30 years of being together. (Sheila Stewart Photo)

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