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PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0

VOL. 14 NO. 5

MAY 2010

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2010

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Nova Scotia is recruiting teams for its 19th Annual Slowpitch Tournament Fundraiser. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Mixed teams of 15 are eligible to participate. The deadline to register is May 15, 2010. For more information and to register 1-800-304-0450.

Ship's Company Theatre is again offering its popular annual Fiddle Camp, to be held in Parrsboro on the long weekend of May 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Renowned musicians and instructors Gordon Stobbe, Kelli Trotter, Kendra MacGillivray, Timi Levy, Geoff Horrocks, Skip Holmes, and Greg Simm will offer professional instruction in fiddle, guitar, mandolin and piano accompaniment within two jam-packed days of classroom instruction and workshops.

Seaside Highspeed announced on April 7th, another structure has been completed and commissioned for service in the Debert area of Colchester County. This structure is designed to provide high-speed service to residents in the following communities: Alton, Beaver Brook, Belmont, Black Rock, Brentwood, Central Onslow, Clifton, Debert, East Folly Mountain, East Mines, East Mines Station, East Village, Folly Mountain, Fort Belcher, Fort Ellis, Glenholme, Great Village, Green Creek, Green Oaks, Highland Village, Little Dyke, Londonderry, Londonderry Station, Lower Debert, Lower Onslow, Lower Pleasant Valley, Masstown, Montrose, Old Barns, Pleasant Valley, Portapique, Princeport, Princeport Road, Riverside, Scrabble Hill, Staples Brook, Stewiacke, and Upper Belmont.

Perry Kossatz, a dedicated member of the Board of Parrsboro's Ship's Company Theatre, is the recipient of a Robert Merritt Award for Volunteer of the Year during Theatre Nova Scotia's ceremonies in Dartmouth.

Are You A "Bucket Filler"?



By Linda Harrington

Students at Great Village Elementary School have filled their buckets to overflowing. Each classroom spent the month of March keeping track of good deeds by placing a colorful stone in a bucket. "Our goal was for each classroom to fill a bucket which holds 400 stones," says Principal Connie Smith. "By March 30th, all the buckets had overflowed."

The concept was based on the book "Have You Filled A Bucket", by Carol McCloud. The book had been read to all students and discussed in their Peace Groups. Students

who received a compliment, or were helped by another student, placed a stone in their classroom bucket. Some of the acts of kindness were recorded on raindrops and posted in the hallway for everyone to read.

Mrs. Smith says after the school reached their goal of filling each classroom bucket, they made plans for a school wide celebration of their success. "The students decided on a Pool Party, which will be held on May 19th," she says.

We can all try to be "bucket fillers" as we go about our daily lives.

Interesting Tidbits about Nova Scotia Weather

By Chris Urquhart

Everywhere you go you hear someone talking about the weather. Nice day, hate the

rain, its snowing again, I wish spring would come, we never get enough summer, winter lasts too long - they go on and on and on!

Here are some interesting things about weather in Nova Scotia! Wind is a significant factor on the plateau of the

Cape Breton Highlands, and also on the west coast (Inverness County) where winds from the southeast - locally called les suetes- typically reach hurricane force, gusting up to 200 KPH. High southeast winds gain speed over the open plateau and

tumble down onto the western coast in turbulent gusts, buffeting local communities.

The highest tides on earth occur in the Minas Basin, the eastern extremity of the Bay of Fundy, where the average tide range is 12 meters and can reach 17 meters when the various factors affecting the tides are in phase. Nova Scotia is almost an island, with no point in the province more than 60km from the water. In the late spring and early summer, warm southerly breezes produce extensive fog along the Atlantic coast, but that short drive to the other side of the province reveals warmth and sunshine. It is the effect of these same southerly breezes blowing in off the cold North Atlantic that inhibit the production of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes - a rarity in the province.

Here are some historical weather notes I thought might interest you (and also make you really, really appreciate the weather we have been having this spring!). March 1, 1869 - During a fierce gale Bay of Fundy tides rose some 2m higher than ever before. Seas washed over the dykes, flooding the marshes. Fortunately, the dykes and embankments were frozen hard or they would have washed away. The wind-wave spray was so powerful that shutters were put up to save store windows in Joggins.

March 4, 2009 - Officials evacuated 24 people from a trailer park near Truro after ice-jammed flooding on the Salmon River. In Pictou County people watched the ice-clogged and "noisy" East River rise 4m high. Pieces of equipment, building materials, unoccupied kennels, and other debris bobbed in the waters. Ice cakes 1m thick floated about, rumbling and crushing everything in river-side yards.

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Perhaps Mr. Bluejay thinks he is feather bonnet, keeping the carving's head warm. (Harrington Photo)



Construction is underway at the Masstown Market for a new Lighthouse and Fish Market. The lighthouse will offer a towering view of the surrounding area when completed. (Harrington Photo)

Growing High-Value Trees Seminar Upcoming

By Flora Johnson

A popular educational program for woodlot owners has returned to Nova Scotia this year, with funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. The closest event for West Colchester and Cumberland South areas will be held Saturday, June 12, 2010: near Springhill, Cumberland County.

Woodland owners and sil-

viculture contractors in Nova Scotia have another chance to learn about uneven-aged management and growing high-value trees. In 2010-2011, the Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF) will offer an expanded version of an educational project that was enthusiastically received by hundreds of Nova Scotia woodland owners and sil-

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