



Who is Lexxie Turner?

Eighteen year old Lexxie Tuner, a grade 12 student at Cobequid Educational Centre, volunteers each week at the Friday Night Suppers at the Debert Legion. She admits to originally volunteering for rather selfish reasons but this weekly routine has become one of the highlights in her week. "I really enjoy going and wouldn't miss it. They have become like a second family and I have formed many friendships," she says.

A Teenagers View of "Old" People

By Lexxie Turner

When we think of Royal Canadian Legions, we automatically think of "old" people not a place to learn or a place of laughter.

Several months ago I began volunteering at the Debert Legion. To be honest, my intentions could be viewed as selfish because I began due to the fact that volunteering looks good on university applications. My first afternoon there, I was nervous. I fretted that I wouldn't "fit in" because for whatever reason. I worried about fitting in even with men and women who are my grandparent's age or older (50+). When I got there, it was uncomfortable.

I had no idea what I was doing and I was so nervous I found myself striking conversation about the most random of things. Time went on, and I quickly fell into place.

What seems to be so commonly mistaken is that the Legion is only a place for "old people", that it isn't cool for us "kids" to go and hang out there. Well, who's going to run the Legions when the older generation has passed away or have decided it isn't what they want to do anymore?

Will it be my generation or will all of the Legions just become a thing of memory instead of somewhere you can go for wedding receptions, darts, dances, winter carnival and so many other things? Everybody seems to look past the incredible people, who are in the kitchen providing food and refreshments for all of these occasions and donating so much of their time. We generally assume there will always be more people to fill their place, or people think, "Oh they aren't anything special". Without these people the Legions wouldn't remain open.

Every Thursday late morning/afternoon, about a dozen men and women arrive at the Debert Legion to prepare food for Friday nights. They work together with a well-organized system so that there is always a hot supper served with a delicious, homemade dessert. I've learned without this dinner,

Lexxie recently put her thoughts about her experiences at the Legion into an essay for a Journalism class assignment where she says the teacher asked students to write about something that "lit a fire under them".

Lexxie plans to attend Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB next year where she will take a four year BA, followed by her BEd in English and French, and eventually she hopes to teach up North.

the Legion would go under. Those men and women deserve praise and more honour than they receive; they dedicate just as much time to make events successful. So, if we don't have Legions then how will the veterans and current soldiers be so well recognized?

Is this younger generation really so selfish and self-involved, we can't see there is so much to learn from these men and women? What kind of things will we serve to our families if we aren't taught the basics-TV dinners? It feels to me like anything you want to know about how to cook, they know. I'm not saying we can only learn from them, but we need to pay more attention to people we can learn a lot from.

From volunteering these past two months, I have learned so much about meals and how funny these people are. They have so much to teach and we just look past them because they're "old". Why aren't parents raising their children to see that these men and women are so wise and they will be some of the best friends you could ever have?

There isn't any high school drama; they don't care how you look, or if you're captain of a sports team, or what your marks are, or if your jokes are the funniest. All they care about is that you care enough to generously donate your time to them. They genuinely care about how your day was when they ask, and when they ask you "what else is new?" they would really like to hear everything else that is new - not just the short, one worded answer.

What needs to happen is our generation needs to take some time out of their week and learn a thing or two from these people because if we don't want traditions in our communities to fade away, we need to step up and be the ones to take over when the people before us are gone.

These men and women aren't praised enough, and they are some of the best people I've ever met, and all I can say is "I'm very glad, I started spending my Fridays with them".

Gospel Hall Information Needed

By Ken Kennedy, Director

The Debert Gospel Hall has recently been purchased and renovated by a local family into what is now called the "Angel Hearts Chapel." This building, located across from the Debert Post Office is intended to be used as a community sanctuary for prayer meetings, Bible discussion, coffee houses, and such.

As far as we know, the hall was constructed in the early 1900's and used until 2000 by the local Brethren congregation for their church services. We are asking the community for historical information - and photo's if possible - to allow us to prepare a booklet for our official opening on May 5th.

Anyone with information on the Debert Gospel Hall is asked to call 662-2097 or email: angelhearts@eastlink.ca

Debert Elementary Notes

By Erma Cox and Jolene Green

As the end of the school year approaches excitement amongst the students reaches an all-time high! Plans are well underway for class trips, field day, school picnic, final Mug & Muffin and Grade 6 Recognition Day. We are also looking forward to our 29 new primaries coming for a half day visit in June. We are excited to learn that all of our Grade 6's wishing to take part in Extended Core French have been accepted and we will soon be doing transition visits with the Grade 6's to CCJHS.

The WOW! Reading Challenge concluded at the beginning of the month and we are thrilled to have been selected to receive a collection of books for our Library. Students read 6,857 books over the duration of this challenge. We are also grateful for the generous donation of books from the Debert and Area Garden Club. It is with sadness that we announce the

School Board's decision to cut all Librarians. This decision is presently under review and we will continue to keep our community informed of all decisions affecting the school.

Earth Day was April 22nd this year. Here at Debert Elementary we did our part to help our Earth by cleaning up the school grounds on April 20th.

Students are to be commended for the leadership opportunities that they have undertaken this year. The Newspaper Club has published several newspapers this year and has challenged students to express themselves through a variety of writing opportunities. The support of local businesses has allowed this group to offer prizes for both upper and lower elementary writing contests.

Students have also been very active in our Drama Clubs. The Grade 4 - 6 group will have their final Mug & Muffin on May 31st at 8:30

Debert Elementary Raises Funds to help Orphanage in Haiti

A letter of appreciation was received from the director at the Messef Orphanage, Haiti, on behalf of the 50 children who live there and the 250 children who go to the school based at Messef. This is the third year Debert Elementary has held a fund raiser to help the people of Haiti. (Harrington Photos)



Debert Elementary has some very generous grandmother's! Lucas Rushton, Morgen Barnes, Cameron Barnes and Nina Green hold up two of the wonderful boxes filled with baked goods.



Emma and Lauren Stevenson fill out their names for some of the prize draws. Area businesses and friends of the school donated very generous prizes.



Jesse Thomas played guitar and sang a few tunes to entertain the crowd.



DEBERT FIRE CHIEFS

1972 - 1973 - Ron Totten
1974 - 1979 - Wendell Barnhill
1980 - 1981 - Aubrey Gamble
1982 - 1983 - Ted Totten
1984 - Ron Hoyt
1985 - 1991 - Ed Hingley
1992 - 2008 - Shane Slack
2009 - present - Wade Jennings

am. The students, under the guidance of Ms. Langille, will present "The Wizard of Floss" with students learning the roles of leads, understudies and set designers. The lower elementary students will also be having a presentation for parents in early June.

On May 3rd, the Truro Boys Cantile Choir will be performing at the school and students from Grade 3 - 6 will be attending the Milk Sports Fair in Truro later that day.

May 16th the Cornwall Junior High String & Band Group will perform here at Debert Elementary.

We would like to offer Mrs. Dickey and Mrs. Fraser our best wishes as they leave

the teaching profession and start new adventures in their retirement. These two positions will be filled in the upcoming weeks as staffing numbers have been allocated for the 2012-2013 academic year and we are pleased to maintain our teaching component.

We are excited to be able to assist the Debert Museum with their preparations for the Diamond Jubilee. Students from selected classes will be creating banners or participating in a coloring contest. This will give our students some insight into Canadian history and the role of the Royal Family in our heritage.



Colin and Makayla Isenor were pleased to see so many ballots in the grocery draw. One lucky person was going to have a stocked pantry for awhile.



Not sure if it was the enthusiastic auctioneering of Tony Prinsen (left) or the cute kids displaying the goodies (maybe a little of both!) but this box of baked goods brought in a very high bid of \$102.50. Right to left- Brody Shearer, Marlee Green, Madison Shearer and Nina Green.

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