



Shawn Alexander of Debert had a great time at the Youth Expo, Brookfield on April 22nd with his Big Brother. (Submitted)



It was a rough ride for Shawn Alexander of Debert when he tried to outlast the bucking bull at the Youth Expo. Accompanied by his "big" brother, Shawn was among thousands of youth who had a fun filled day in Brookfield. (Submitted)

## Central Equipment & Roop's Esso Chamber's Top Winners

Central Equipment Ltd and Roop's Esso have been selected as 2017 Award Finalists by the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce for its 127th Annual Gala Award dinner celebration at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, April 27th.

Central Equipment Ltd., owned by Anthony Waugh and Chad Bower, has been selected as the recipient of the Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award. The Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award recognizes leadership achieving a demonstrated growth in sales, workforce investment, community involvement, support of the local business community, commitment to the environment, innovation and job creation.

Central Equipment Ltd. is celebrating 59 years in Lower Truro this year. The business employs more than 20 people, dedicated to providing top-of-the-line products and customer service, while supporting the community in a number of ways from volunteering with 4-H, to serving with fire departments and providing companionship to residents in special care homes, and more.

Jack and Andrew Roop of Roop's Esso, Brookfield have been selected to receive the BDC Business Persons of the Year Award. The BDC Business Person(s) of the Year Award acknowledges a founder, owner, CEO, president or manager who has achieved significant success showing strong leadership skills con-

tributing to the growth of the business.

Jack and Andrew Roop "grew up" in the family business working alongside their parents who took over ownership in 1971. Jack joined the family enterprise in 2004, followed by Andrew 2006. The brothers have continued to expand the business offerings which began as a service station and now includes a convenience store, Tim Hortons Drive-thru and NSLC agency store.

The Roop's business employs up to 38 full-time and part-time employees during the summer tourist season in rural Colchester County.

The awards will be presented on April 27 during the Chamber's 127th annual gala dinner celebration at the Holiday Inn. The cost is \$50 (+HST) per seat for members and \$55 (+HST) for non-members. To reserve seats call the Chamber office at 902-895-6328, or email oa@tcchamber.ca.

Nominations for the Chamber awards were open to all businesses in Truro and Colchester County.

The gala awards dinner will feature guest speaker Cathy Bennett, CEO of Bennett Group of Companies, recipient of several Top CEO awards and recognized as one of the top 25 Women of Influence in Canada. Bennett is currently serving as the Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board for Newfoundland and Labrador.

## Masstown Community News

By *Christine Urqubart*

Easter has come and gone but we are "Easter People", knowing about resurrection of not only our lives but of the plants we see around us! My crocuses are blooming and for some reason have spread into my back yard! Very pretty and I am thankful that the lawn doesn't need mowing yet! My tulips and daffodils are up about six inches so will soon be blooming as well. I so love spring with all the new growth and renewed growth. Blessings to each of you.

Masstown UCW held a Coffee Party on April 19th which was loads of fun but for the month of May they have decided to hold a "Bakeless Tea"! Those wishing to contribute please put some cash into an envelope and drop it off to either Gail Hines or Irene Gratto at the senior's center on G. Porter Road.

Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday May 4th, 7 pm at the home of Irene Gratto. All ladies welcome!

They will not be holding their usual Blind Auction at this meeting but plan to hold it come fall when there are more folks around to attend. Keep this in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning - you might find some "blind" items for the auction!

The DGM Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday May 6th at 8 am at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome.

The Masstown Comm-

unity Association will meet on Tuesday June 13th, 7 pm at the restaurant part of the Masstown Market. We will be making plans for upcoming summer events so if you have any ideas, come and join us! Everyone welcome! In the meantime, the Association are selling tickets on a Mother's Day Basket which will be drawn the weekend before Mother's Day - May 6th, at the Masstown Market. This basket holds 40 items! Tickets are \$1 each or three for \$2. See any association member to get your tickets

today!

We have had some folks traveling this past month: Doug and Tracey Jardine spent a week in Cuba and Bill and Shirley Leeming also spent a week in Cuba. Doug and Tracey arrived back on the plane that took Bill and Shirley to Cuba. Since they live across the road from each other, I guess this was just meant to be!

Condolences go out this month to Benny Cavanagh and family on the death of his father, Lloyd Cavanagh.

## Classroom Conditions Initial Report - April 28

The Council to Improve Classroom Conditions finished three days of meetings today, April 20. The council made the following recommendations with regards to attendance:

- request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to release the draft policy immediately, to gather and return feedback to the council before the May 17 meetings, to communicate the policy to schools in June, and to take effect in September.
- ask principals to share the policy with staff and school advisory councils and encourage feedback to council members or the department's website.

- request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and school boards to bring forward research and best practices on outreach workers or other supports and accountability measures to increase attendance. This would support discussion around the potential of a pilot project.

The council will meet again on April 26 to finalize its initial report. That report, which is to be submitted by April 28, will contain additional recommendations from this week's meetings.

Topics discussed this week include Individual Program Plans, TIENET, PowerSchool, class sizes, assessment, and evaluation.

## Mastodon Market Store and Sunday Farmers' Market Opens May 20<sup>TH</sup>

Mastodon Ridge is pleased to announce the Mastodon Market Store in Stewiacke on Highway 102, Exit 11 will open for the season on May 20th. The new Mastodon Market Store will be open seven days a week offering a variety of products from local artisans and producers. The Mastodon Market Store is set to open on Saturday, May 20th and will be open every day until Christmas. The Sunday Farmers' Market will operate again this year starting Sunday, May 21 and will be open every Sunday until Thanksgiving. Hours of operation for the Sunday Farmers' Market will be from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Expansion of a seven-day week Market store will complement other activities at Mastodon Ridge. The Winding River Art Gallery, relocated to the second level, offers art work by local artisans and Coldstream Clear Distillery is a local spirit store offering a variety of locally made spirits. The Mastodon Market Store will positively add to the site by increasing the offerings of more local products. The Sunday Farmers' Market, started last year, will continue with vendors onsite selling their locally made or locally produced items.

Farmers' Markets are an integral part of many communities across Nova Scotia and continue to be popular with consumers who appreciate the opportunity to purchase local produce, baked goods, locally distilled spirits and craft beers and arts and crafts directly from the producer. Local Farmers' Markets provide positive experiences for both the customer and the vendor.

Customers can ask direct questions about how an item is made or grown, thus providing an educational experience and a greater appreciation for the producer or artist. Vendors also get to share their passion for their products with their customers.

Customers will enjoy the fun atmosphere of the Sunday Farmers' Market and the opportunity to meet friends

and neighbours from their community. Live, local music and a children's craft area will be featured each Sunday. Visitors can also enjoy other features at Mastodon Ridge including mini golf, the children's playground, hiking trails and delicious ice cream. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

"We look forward to the opening of the Mastodon Market Store in May. In addition to the Sunday Farmers' Market started last year, we are pleased to be opening a seven-day week Market Store

where we can offer more local products to our customers, as well as provide a space for artisans and producers to sell their products. We are excited about our new expansion, says owner Bill Hay.

We have been developing Mastodon Ridge over the years and the addition of the Mastodon Market Store further enhances our Sunday Farmers' Market and the amenities we already have at our location. Customers can expect to find fresh baked goods, local food, art work

and other local items. We are pleased to support the "Buy Local" community."

Interested vendors for the Sunday Farmers' Market and producers and artisans interested in placing products in the Mastodon Market Store can find out more information by emailing market@mastodonridge.com or call 902-305-2673. Community members can follow Mastodon Ridge on Facebook and Instagram to find out about weekly specials and events.

**Saturday, May 20**

**at Mastodon Ridge in Stewiacke, The Mastodon Ridge Market Store will be opening for the season. This store will feature a variety of products from local artisans and producers. The Market Store will be open from 10 am - 6 pm seven days a week.**

**ALSO, on Sunday, May 21**

**the Mastodon Ridge Farmers' Market reopens for the season. The hours are from 10 am - 3 pm every Sunday until Thanksgiving.**

**Exit 11, Highway 102, Stewiacke, NS**



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