



Evelyn Patriquin organizes the selection of used clothing available. (Harrington Photo)



Volunteers like Shirley Shipley open The Pantry from 3-6pm each week at the Thirsty Church in Londonderry for anyone who wishes to stop by. (Harrington Photo)

Community Pantry Available for All

By Linda Harrington

It is Monday afternoon at the Thirsty Church, the door opens and in comes Millie Hanlan with a tray of hot homemade biscuits. No one needs to go hungry with all the food available at The Pantry, located in the basement of Londonderry's Thirsty Church. Everyone is welcome to stop by no questions asked.

The idea to offer people a little help each week started with volunteer Sue Conway back in 2020. She would put out a large box filled with food items on the doorstep of the



Sue Conway started putting out a box filled with grocery items for anyone who wished to stop by each week and this generosity has grown into a much larger offering at the Thirsty Church.

(Harrington Photo)



Millie Hanlan arrived with fresh-made biscuits for The Pantry this week. (Harrington Photo)

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Fire Brigades Hold Joint Training Session

By Rob Poirier

(The Economy, Five Islands and Bass River Fire Brigades participated in a joint training exercise to simulate a fire rescue in a smoke filled house in which 2 residents were unaccounted for after the fire was extinguished. It was also a chance for members to get acquainted or reacquainted with using SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). Rob Poirier, member of the Economy Fire Brigade provided the following article and accompanying photos)

According to FSANS (Fire Service of Nova Scotia) there are about 6000 firefighters in the province and about 600 of those are paid. The remaining 5400 are volunteers in local communities who willingly give up their time and risk their personal safety to respond to emergency calls. Unlike paid firefighters in large, urban centers, volunteer firefighters are largely responsible for their own training; usually one night a week for about 3 hours at a time.

During this time, they perform any number of duties from cleaning, repairing and maintaining



The Economy Rec Centre is shown with the obstacle course set up for training for the area fire departments. (Poirier Photo)

ing equipment to practicing the skills necessary to respond quickly and professionally to emergencies like fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical emergencies. Due to their small size and limited resources, these volunteer fire departments often work together to provide mutual aid to neighbouring communities. Three such Fire Departments in West Colchester are the Bass River Fire Brigade, Economy Fire Brigade and Five Islands & District Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Although often called upon to support each other in emergency situations, the fire brigades don't usually train together. Recently however, the three departments participated in a joint training night hosted by the Economy Fire Brigade at the Economy Recreation Centre.

In the training simulation, firefighters were told only that they would be entering a smoke-filled home where the fire had been extinguished but two of the home's residents were still

continued on page 3



Prior to entering the Rec Centre each trainee had to check the air breathing tanks before donning them for training. (Poirier Photo)



Air bottles checked and installed, these firefighters are all geared up and ready to start the training session. (Poirier Photo)

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