

The Grand Opening celebration held at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre on Saturday, September 28 was a huge success. The community was invited to visit the RECC to see firsthand all that the Centre has to offer.

A cake-cutting ceremony

began the festivities which saw Andrew & Sarah Boone & family, making the initial cut to kick off the celebrations. The Boones have a family membership at the facility and are an example of what the Centre means to the community. During the opening

ceremony, the co-Chairs of the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Project, Mayor Bob Taylor and Deputy Mayor Greg MacArthur, welcomed those present to the RECC and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the Grand Opening Celebration activities planned throughout the day.

An afternoon community swim was held in the Wilsons Aquatic Centre with demonstrations by the Truro Centurions Swim Club as well as a Swim to Survive and Life Guard demo. Over 150 people enjoyed both the competitive pool and leisure pool throughout the afternoon.

The Kohler Klimbing Wall was also open to the community for the adventurous types to enjoy; some even conquered the wall, climbing to the very top! Local experienced climbers also visited during the afternoon to demonstrate various climbing techniques and to encourage all those willing to try the fun and challenging experience.

Many also took part in one of the stimulating group exercise classes that were held in the Fitness Centre. The classes, offered in the regular RECC group ex schedule included strength training, cardio, yoga and spin.

Those who gathered for the celebrations enjoyed entertainment by Alycia Putnam & Family, the Colchester Highland Dance Association, the Terry Family and other gifted entertainers.

Among these performances was a popular session with "Brad the Balloon Guy" who amazed the youth and children with a magic show and balloon animals. Our upper and lower main atriums were also filled with local businesses who were displaying various products and services.

After the afternoon festivities died down, the evening entertainment revved up. Gloryhound, an up-and-coming local rock band, kicked the night off with a bang before the main act, April Wine, took the stage to wow the audience. The evening stage wound down with a local house band, The Chess Club. The Celebration marked the first successful concert held at the RECC with over 2,500 people were in attendance.

The day was not only a celebration for the community but also for the many committed volunteers who gave significant time, effort and expertise to bring the dream of a community centre for this Region to a reality. It was a long road but one well worth the travel.

Thank you to all the volunteers and also all those who visited the centre and took part in our celebrations and





to those who continue to support the dream! The RECC has certainly become, and will

be for many years, a place for our community to gather, play





