New Reporter for Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

By Sarah Kittleson

Hello, my name is Sarah Kittleson and I am the club reporter for the Onslow Belmont 4-H club! I will be writing an article for the Shoreline Journal every month. I can’t wait to let you guys know what’s new with our club. Let’s begin!

Ski Wentworth Ski Swap & Sale - November 22

The annual Open House, Ski Swap, Equipment Sale & Craft Sale is being held Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10am-3pm at Ski Wentworth. Such a deal for good used equipment! The Canadian Ski Patrol Ski Swap and Sale is the place to get your used equipment or sell your old equipment. A portion of all sales go to the CSP.

“The Ski Swap is a great way to outfit your kids for the season. Last year we had tons of kids skis. People got some great deals,” says Leslie Wilson, Ski Wentworth General Manager. “Of course you’re never guaranteed any specific length or size boot, but you can always find some good deals.”

If you want to sell your old equipment, drop off your gear at Ski Wentworth the night before the swap from 7pm or the morning of the sale until 9am. The sale will take place upstairs in Ducky’s. Wilson cautions not to bring older style straight skis. They will not be accepted.

In addition to the Ski Swap in the lodge, the Wentworth rental shop will sell all of its used rental equipment to make room for new equipment. There will be skis and boards for sale. Equipment sold as is where is.

Several ski and snowboard retailers will be on site with great deals on ski snowboards, boots and cross country skis. Cleave’s, Aerosolar First, Hub Cycle and HAW will have the latest gear and great prices. Plus, representatives from Rossignol and Head will be showing off the newest and hottest gear for this season.

“Our expanded area for retailers and manufacturers reps was well received last year, so come with all your questions on the latest gear and speak directly to the people who know what’s up,” says Wilson.

Dave Wilson’s Ski Shop will be open with lots of great Christmas gifts available - hats, mitts, gloves, long underwear, helmets - they’ve got it all!

If you missed the Early Bird season pass sale, the Open House is the final chance to get a deal on a 2014-15 season pass with the ‘NO HST’ sale. Buy a regular price season pass at the Open House and pay no tax. That’s a savings of close to $50 on a single pass! You must come to the Open House to get the deal.

Another yearly tradition is getting your season pass photo taken. The Open House is a great chance to smile and pick up your pass. Remember you also must fill out a waiver, which can be downloaded from the website or filled out at the Open House.

Looking for a great Christmas gift? Ski Wentworth gift cards and Super Value Cards make great giving gifts.

Speaking of Christmas ideas, the Open House Craft Sale features local crafters selling a wide range of crafts, homemade goodies and wreaths.

Historic Sites

FORT BELCHER

By Dick Akerman

Our journey along Highway #2 in Lower Onslow, we see on the shore side, a road named “Fort Belcher.” In the early 1760’s, this was an area in the new Onslow Township known as “Kings Village.” The township was being settled by newcomers from the New England States known as the “Planters.” The Acadians had been removed from the area in 1755, some by choice, the rest by force. By the early 1760’s some of the Acadians who had escaped the “Expulsion” and others who had found their way back from exile, were finding their way back to the area where they had lived before their departure and this caused the new settlers to fear trouble with these displaced folk. Their representative, Jonathan Belcher petitioned the Boston Government to provide protection for the settlers, in the form of a fort and a garrison of soldiers. An area at the mouth of the Chiganois River was selected, and a couple of harrack buildings were built.

The fort was armed with two cannons, which covered the Bay, and the mouth of the Chiganois River, which had long been the beginning of a pathway over the Cobequid Mountains for both the Acadians and their aboriginal allies.

There is no evidence there was ever any danger from the former residents, the fort was never garrisoned, and certainly no military action ever took place there. At that time the Cobequid Bay below the fort was fordable on foot at low tide and local residents crossed back and forth to Clifton on the south side of the bay rather than traveling up steam to Truro to make the crossing.

The fort area gradually reverted to farm acreage under the ownership of early settlers such as the Putnam, Upham, Lynds and Higgins families.

The arrow pointer on map # 307 locates the site of the fort as does the accompanying 1761 hand drawn map by Charles Morris, Chief Surveyor of Nova Scotia. “Kings Village” became “Queen Village” when Queen Victoria took the throne in 1837; she was still there when this map was created in 1876.

Further information about the site is available at the Archives, in research done by Stacy Colgin.

Dick Akerman has been conducing research and gathering information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, and is published monthly in the Shoreline Journal.

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