

Debert's Aaron Taylor Named to Prime Minister's First Youth Council

By Linda Harrington

Taking part in a Youth Parliament back in High School, Aaron Taylor could only dream of one-day getting to meet a future Prime Minister of Canada. A recent appointment to the PM's Youth Council is certainly a dream come true for this young man!

"When I found out that I had been appointed to the Council I was ecstatic," says Aaron. "I called my parents right away and we were just thrilled. When it became public that I was selected, I can't even describe the amount of support from people throughout our community. I heard that in some classrooms in CCRSB, teachers had discussed a boy from Colchester County had been selected to work with the Prime Minister. It has been a very exciting and humbling experience so far."

Aaron is the son of Gail and Derek Taylor of Debert. After completing high school at Cobequid Educational Center, Aaron pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Russian Studies at Dalhousie University, graduating in May, 2016. This past September, he started his Master's of Arts at the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, ON.

Aaron says he has been interested in politics and the decision making process



A photo of Aaron Taylor with the Dalhousie University Governors' Award for Exceptional Contributions and Leadership in the Extracurricular realm. (submitted)

since middle school. Later on, while attending CEC he was part of the Youth Parliament, which was an initiative to help students better understand the Canadian system

and practice public speaking. As he carried on with his studies the interest in politics continued to grow.

"I wanted to be a part of the Prime Minister's Youth Council because I feel it is an incredible opportunity to make youth voices heard. For some time, I have been involved with various programs, initiatives, and groups in addition to my studies which have allowed me to grow my community. My peers have shared with me the issues they feel are important, and in a country where we believe that better is always possible, I knew this council would be a great way to share these perspectives," says Aaron.

Aaron hopes participation in the Youth Council will help the voices of Canadian Youth be better heard in the decision making process. "Canada is a tartan, a mosaic of diversity encompassing all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life. It is crucial that all voices

are heard, including youth voices. I hope that the Youth Council will inspire the youth to be involved with their communities," he says adding, "There are many fantastic ways to make a difference, including local Youth Councils which some communities are founding."

The term for Aaron's participation on the Council is for 1-2 years. The Council will be meeting with the Prime Minister up to four times a year, with several meetings amongst Council members both online and offline throughout the year.

"We've already started work and I am so proud of our amazing team!", says an enthusiastic Aaron, who attended the first Council meeting in Ottawa at the end of September. "If I had to sum up the first meeting in just a few words I would say Greenhouse of Young Canadian Democracy. It was thrilling to meet our team for the first time. We are 15 from

across Canada from every Province and Territory. Sitting in the meetings I was blown away with the incredible journeys of every member and what they brought to the table. Watching as Ministers took note of what we had to say, it was a truly empowering experience."

A huge congratulation to Aaron, from The Shoreline Journal, and your local Community. We will keep our ears and eyes open for great things from this young man in the near future!



The Prime Minister's Youth Council posed for a group photo in Ottawa. Aaron Taylor, of Debert, is standing at the far right, fourth row up. (submitted)



Aaron Taylor (far left), with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all the Youth Council members at the One Young World Summit, Ottawa on Sept. 28th. (submitted)



Another successful Karen Casey Golf Tournament with proceeds of \$1158 going to the Children's Wish Foundation being presented to Lloyd Berliner, Truro Coordinator for the Children's Wish Foundation. (Submitted)

Dr. Gerald McKenzie, 80 – Now a Mud Hero

By Hope Bridgewater

Wentworth Sunday Music Afternoons are held the last Sunday of the month (except December) with Down East style of fiddle music from 1:30 pm to 5 pm at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Singles and couples are both welcome for an afternoon of fun and the dancing, which is free-style and not formalized square dancing.

Younger generations are invited to come and to see how wonderful it is to dance or jive to old-time country music. This year we have welcomed volunteer musicians, both local and those who often come from away as far as Halifax and other areas in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Musicians arriving often include: Bob Taylor, Vivian Taylor, Al McVicar, Budd Gavel, Gerry McKenzie, Lauren Letcher, Diane Hicks, David Miner, Betty Curry, Charley Patriquin, Claude

Langille, Martha Forrest, Jim Mosher, Fred Phinney, Royal Hicks, Ben Gelling, and Bruce Gibson.

Barbara Walker, who grew up in Wentworth and now lives in the Annapolis Valley, came for a visit and played the fiddle this past August. Unfortunately David Bagnell who usually coordinates the event has been ill and is greatly missed.

Those attending bring a shared lunch, and at 4 pm the dance is stopped for a recess of the shared lunch which has been organized by volunteer staff in the kitchen. At the door of the large hall, a voluntary donation is requested.

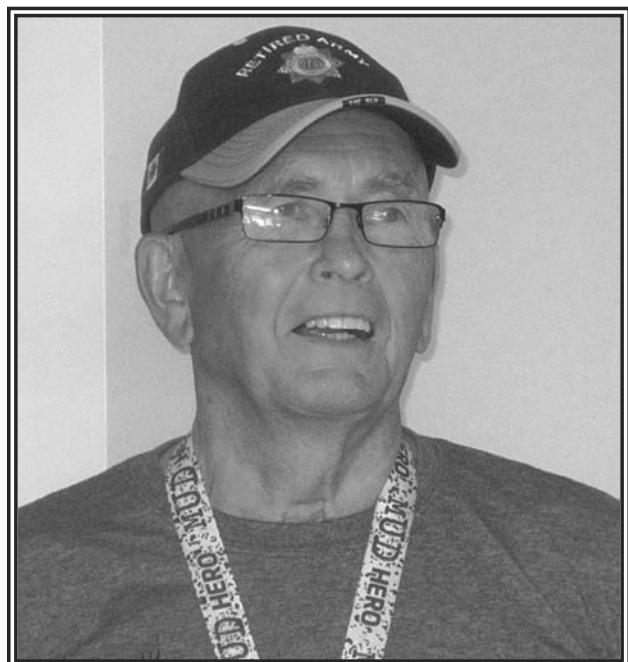
Eighty year old retired pharmacology professor and outstanding country music fiddler, Dr. Gerald McKenzie, is the oldest Mud Hero in Eastern Canada and maybe all of Canada. This past summer, Dr. McKenzie, one of Wentworth's favourite coun-

try fiddlers, became a Mud Hero at a six kilometre charity mud run held annually at Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia. Among the more than 7,000 participants, Dr. McKenzie placed first in the aged 70 and over category, fourth in the aged 60 and over category, and 2600th overall. His time was only six minutes over the average time for the event.

The event raised an estimated \$200,000 for cancer research. This gruelling course up steep slopes, through neck-deep mud holes, and over 18 obstacles was certainly challenging for the many marathoners and young athletes, let alone a 80 year old senior, albeit in excellent physical condition. A young physician who recently attended Dr. McKenzie remarked, "This man has the body of a 50 year old." Since his retirement from university teaching and research, Dr. McKenzie, known as Gerry, has become one of Nova Scotia's premiere fiddlers, as well as an accomplished banjo and bass player.

On most Sunday afternoons, Gerry can be found at one of the many fiddle fests in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, giving of his time and talent to entertain and provide dance music to hundreds of mostly senior dancers. For more than 20 years he has been a reliable contributor to the Wentworth fiddle fest held at the Recreation Centre. He is also one of the favourite fiddlers at the Shinimicas fest. Over the past 40 years, Gerry has provided music for senior homes, nursing homes, senior dance clubs and dance halls around Nova Scotia. It is not unusual to find him and his band, "Home Grown Country," performing at local charities and exhibitions."

We're proud of our Mud Hero and musician, Dr. Gerald McKenzie, and welcome him on stage at all our Sunday Music Afternoons. It was good of him to share his experiences with us.



Dr. Gerald McKenzie recently won a Mud Hero award at Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

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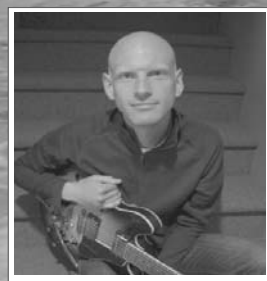
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