

Five Islands Needs First Responder Vehicle



The backbone of the outstanding Roast Pork Dinner served at the Five Islands Fire Brigade fund raising dinner on October are (L-R): Judy Bristow Roberts, Nancy Davis, Helen Field Reid, Linda Lewis, Eva Lewis and Gail Spence. (Taggart Photo)

By Maurice Rees

The Five Islands Fire Brigade held a very successful Roast Pork Dinner at the fire hall on Saturday, October 1st with approximately 80 people in attendance. However, the numbers were not available when Deputy Chief, Darrell Spence was contacted.

Spence said attendance was on par with other years, but more would have probably attended if it had not been for two funerals, one local and the other in Parrsboro earlier that afternoon.

The brigade is one of the smaller ones in the province, but it's 15 members is dedi-

cated to their responsibilities to protect their community and are backed up with a very strong and dedicated auxiliary, who help in any way possible.

The fall Roast Pork fundraiser and the spring fish and chip supper in the spring are the two largest fund raising events of the brigade. Even though they are always successful, they are not enough to overcome the brigade's most pressing problem, a new First Responder vehicle.

Deputy Chief Spence, said the current vehicle needs to be replaced within the next year, as the current one will not pass inspection. It puts the small brigade in an unfavourable position. A new vehicle would cost \$40-\$50,000, but they don't have the funds.

Inserting a bit of humour into the situation, Spence said, "the province provides money for radios and other equipment but not for vehicles. I guess we could hear

what is going on but couldn't get there. I don't understand it, but that's the way it is".

Not to think lightly about the situation, they could approach the municipality to guarantee a loan, but before doing that they need to make sure they can meet the repayment schedule. The brigade is also looking at two other possibilities, perhaps one of the other brigades in the province might have an appropriate vehicle being removed from their fleet, or they could find a one ton cab and chassis and with proper conversion transfer the existing box to another vehicle.

If they were able to find a cab and chassis, they would prefer an extended cab, with capacity to carry more members. The other problem faced by the brigade is universal to nearly all brigades - an aging membership, and lack of interest from younger generations. It's a major problem in Rural Nova Scotia, because of out-migration. So many of the young talented people have had to move away to find employment.

Debert Elementary Fall Fiesta Raises \$2,000



The Debert Elementary PEBS team recently used many of the school garden's harvest to create a salad for all to enjoy. The children not only learned a lot about the process from planting to harvest but also got to enjoy a nice healthy, locally grown lunch. The smiles on their faces showed it truly was appreciated. (Submitted)

By Erma Cox

It is hard to believe that we are already looking at another month coming to a close. Students at Debert Elementary have been reaping the benefits of a late harvest. We had our PEBS team recently take many of the garden's harvest and create a salad for all to enjoy. The children not only learned a lot about the process from planting to harvest but also got to enjoy a nice healthy, locally grown lunch. The smiles on their faces showed it truly was appreciated. The PEBS team also learned about precautions that need to be taken when handling foods.

On October 5th families from near and far came out to support our Fall Fiesta. Pony rides, games of chance and a book fair were all part of this annual event. Once again we were thrilled by the turnout and support for this annual event. I am pleased to announce that over two thousand dollars was raised during this event with an additional \$1,700 made at the book fair for classroom books for your children. This all came to a successful finish due to the diligence of parents, staff, the community and local businesses. These funds will be used to support opportunities for our children.

On Thursday October 27th the Parent Teacher Group will be sponsoring a Family Halloween Dance. This is an opportunity for children to get more than one night out of their costumes and to enjoy a night of dancing and camaraderie with their friends. Our Parent Teacher group is a critical part of our school as they plan this and other events throughout the school year. They are also the reason we are able to keep your school supply money to a minimum as they pay for the agendas for every student by hosting events throughout the year. Hope to see you all there. Remember it is a family dance so all students must be accompanied by an adult.

On November 10th all of our students will be attending a Remembrance Day service

at Veteran's Memorial Park in Bass River. Veterans Memorial Park is very unique in its design, purpose & scope, including a Garden of Sorrows, designed as a WW 1 Trench; a Garden of Remembrance - a heritage garden; and a Garden of Hope - an International garden. I believe it is important for children to have the opportunity to visit and learn more about the reason they have the freedoms they enjoy. Special thanks to Sonya Tremblay for organizing this day and the staff of WCCS for allowing us to participate in a day of Remembrance with them.

We continue to try to expand opportunities for our children on the playground. We recently purchased two benches, repaired the picnic tables that were misused this summer and have bought pinnies to allow for noticeably different teams on the soccer field. A basketball net was placed on the cemented area of the playground and balls and skipping ropes acquired for every classroom. We most recently been supporting a group from the community to assist in the development of a skate park for Debert. We encourage you to vote if you have not already done so as this will certainly add another venue in the community for our youth.

We have a full SAC again this year and that we are thrilled by the work they have done to date to make our school a great place to work and learn. Should you have concerns that you would like addressed by the SAC you can be added to the agenda by simply contacting the school office and the administrative assistant will inform Shannon Barnes, SAC chair, of your request.

In closing, I encourage you to use PowerSchool to keep up to date with your child's academic successes. Should you not have the username and password to access this information, simply send a note in your child's agenda and we would be more than happy to forward it along to you.



Paula Ruchon shown helping out at the October 1st Five Islands Fire Brigade Fund Raising dinner. (Taggart Photo)



95 year old Iona Canning wouldn't miss the annual Five Islands fund raising dinner. She made sure her daughters Syliva Dellisle, left, and Joyce Canning, right, were there with her. (Taggart Photo)



The ladies of the Five Islands Fire Brigade did all the heavy lifting, but they did allow these guys to cook the vegetables and clean off some tables. Shown above are: (L-R): Justin Yorke, Tim Reid, Darrell Spence, Chief Glen Davis and Gerry Roberts. (Taggart Photo)



Each year the Colchester North Liberal Association autumn fund raising dinner gives part of the proceed to the Ed Lorraine Bursary Fund. Shown here during the October 22nd dinner at the Debert Legion are Heather Douglas, daughter, Karen Casey, M.L.A., and Shirley Lorraine. (Rees Photo)



Christopher Spence and Andrea Gibbs, daughter of Councillor Lloyd Gibbs relaxing after the Five Islands Fire Brigade fund raising dinner. Gibbs is shown in the bottom right hand corner. (Taggart Photo)

Village Green Park to get New Swings

By Maurice Rees

During the last council meeting prior to the municipal election, Colchester County council on September 29th approved Councillor MacInnes' attendance, plus a staff member to a Local Prosperity 2016 conference being held in Miramichi, NB, November 3-6.

The conference is to deal with "New Economics for Rural Canada". A note about the conference indicates it will focus on putting in place a new economic model for small and rural communities.

Information items presented to council included, one application received by the September 15th deadline under the community park program.

Staff has approved a grant of \$3,603.00 for the Upper Stewiacke Community Development Association for 46% of the project cost of \$7,823.75 for the purchase and installation of a 2-bay (4 swing) set for the Village Green Park.

Even though there was room in the department's budget, approved earlier this year, council is to be advised of approvals prior to issuance of cheques and notification of approval to

the applicants.

The Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) reported that based on a number of project delays, they would have sufficient room in their budget to cover the cost of a promotional video, which had been discussed at earlier committee meeting. FAC has limited the cost to a maximum of \$3,000.00.

A letter from Carol McKee, Capital Program Administration office, NSTIR regarding cost shared subdivision street for fiscal 2017-2018 was received for information.

Similarly a letter from Craig Cameron, President Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club, requesting \$3,000.00 to send two delegates to Wisconsin in recognition of the club being inducted in the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame was received for information on motions by Councillor's MacInnes and Cooper.

John Simms, 2nd Vice President, Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society in a letter dated September 26th, requested support for the 32nd Annual Eastern Canadian Bluegrass Awards Show to be held at CEC on October 15th. Staff reported they had tried to seek addition

information, prior to council meeting but could not make contact with the organizers.

The matter was received for Information purposes, but council asked that a letter be sent explaining the procedures and information required for such requests.

In a similar request, dated September 19th from Sue King-Darby, chair Colchester Anti-Poverty

Network was received for information. Council asked the group be advised of procedures and the type of information provided with applications in future. The conference, "Working Together to End Poverty in Nova Scotia" was held on October 18th & 19th in Truro at St. Andrews United Church, King Street.