

## PHOTO FEATURE

Community Work Day Gets the Job Done! The Lower Onslow Community Centre Playground Committee held a volunteer work day on Oct. 7th to get some of the finishing touches put on the new natural playground. There was busy crew planting, building and doing all sorts of odd jobs. (Harrington Photos)



Margaret Davidson, Jennifer MacKay and Austin Young are busy planting flowers in the green space.



Tom Shreve and Aaron Crossman were kept busy loading the wheel barrow with mulch during the volunteer work day.



Many hands get the jobs done faster! There was a good crew on hand at the Lower Onslow Community Centre's work day for the new playground.



Garnet Maclaughlin, Cobequid Trails Consulting, carries one of logs for the natural benches.

## Most Calls Ever

By Maurice Rees

Recent suggested changes to the income tax act has created the most number of calls from constituents that Bill Casey, MP has received in his nearly 30 years as an elected MP. Like many MP's who have received strong opposition to the suggestions, Casey feels the plan was "rolled-out" poorly and MP's didn't have the answers.

The government's plan were almost derailed, because of strong opposition across the county. Core areas of the plan were not well defined and open to multiple interpretations, which has created enough public outcry the government now has to go back to the drawing board.

The concerns of farmers were most prevalent. Farmers were upset because a lot more tax would be payable if they sold to a family member, rather than to a larger arm's length independent company.

Under the proposed changes, according to very experienced tax accountant professionals, the following would apply: If the farm had generated value of \$1-Million, if sold to a family member the capital gains tax would be \$460,000 (46%). However if sold to an

independent arm's length company, perhaps a larger multi-national, the tax payable would be \$40,000.

It's not hard to understand why the agriculture sector was terribly upset. Similar situations were probable in other sectors of the economy.

Just after Thanksgiving holiday, at his office in Truro, Cumberland-Colchester MP, Bill Casey said "I've received more calls about the income tax changes than any other matter in my nearly 30 years as an elected representative".

Canada-wide opposition to the changes were so strong, Finance minister, Bill Morneau has been forced to announce changes. He did announce some changes on Monday, October 16th, however the matter doesn't end there. MP's have demanded that a new plan be presented to them in about three weeks. This would suggest major changes will be forthcoming at the end of October or in early November.

Those monitoring the situation believe the new plan will be rolled out to MP's, so they are able to better explain what is anticipated, before they have another weeklong break from Ottawa the week of November 13th.

## Pharmacare Hearings Wrap

The Standing Committee on Health held its final meeting on national pharmacare today in Ottawa, and Chair Bill Casey, M.P. (Cumberland-Colchester) looks forward to a final report.

The Committee will begin work on the draft right away with the goal of tabling it before Parliament rises in December.

Since April of 2016, the Committee has heard from over 90 witnesses including doctors, pharmacists, policy experts, patient advocates and others on the subject of ensuring drug coverage for every Canadian.

Estimates have shown that up to 20% of Canadians have very limited to no coverage for pharmaceuticals prescribed outside of a hospital setting. That is despite the fact that there are around 80 provincial programs covering specific populations, such as seniors, children and those receiving social assistance.

A recent report of the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimates that a single-payer national pharmacare system could reduce the cost of drugs

purchased in Canada by around \$4.2 bn per year. However, the PBO report did not recommend a particular structure or model and did not address a funding formula, issues the Health Committee will attempt to tackle in its own report.

Casey says although the Health Committee's report is not drafted, the weight of evidence seems overwhelming to him.

"It would be impossible to review the evidence and not come away with the clear sense that Canadians would save money and have better health outcomes if national pharmacare were implemented in a smart and responsible way," he says.

## Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

What beautiful colors there are around our small community, as well as throughout our province! I took a drive down to Halifax last week and everywhere I looked I saw trees in the splendor colors of autumn. Those around lakes were reflected in them - oh so pretty - and you were always surprised when a tree of very red leaves showed up among a group of spruce trees.

Here in Masstown we have Blake's Pumpkin Jungle where there is a very large field filled with beautiful orange pumpkins. Our Pumpkin carving was held on Saturday October 28th from 1-3 pm at the Masstown United Church. Thanks to Blake Jennings, the pumpkins were donated free of charge, a lots of children enjoyed carving them. They liked the "treats" too!

The DGM Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday November 4th, 8am, at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men are welcome!

The Masstown Community Association are selling tickets on a "Ready For Christmas" basket. Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2 and can be purchased from any community association member. There are so many items in this basket you will spend ages just reading the list! The basket will be drawn on November 25th at the Masstown Market, around 2pm. You do not have to be there to win! The next meeting of the Masstown Community Association is on Tuesday November 7th, 7pm, in the restaurant part of the Masstown Market. Everyone Welcome!

Just a "heads up" notice - the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Masstown Community Park will be held on Friday December 8th at 7pm.

There have been a lot of folks sick with colds lately, and unless you have gotten the flu shot, you may also be sick with the flu! Too sick to exercise? The common cold doesn't have to keep you on the sidelines. Mild to moderate exercise is usually OK if your

symptoms are all above the neck, such as a runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing or a minor sore throat. However, if your symptoms are below the neck, such as chest congestion, a hacking cough or an upset stomach, delay your workout. And don't exercise if you have a fever, fatigue or widespread muscle aches.

We have had some visitors and travelers this past month! Shirley Leeming along with her sisters Noreen MacDonald and Alice Carrigan made a short trip to the Valley. Rev. Carol Gillard stopped into the Masstown Market to enjoy some fish & chips on her way from Cape Breton to Ontario where she will be replacing the present minister, who is going to be absent for a year on maternity leave. Carol was traveling with her daughter Carol Jean, and her cat Kanga. She emailed me to let me know that Kanga decided to play hide & seek in a hotel in Edmundston NB and they thought she was lost! They ended up going on without the cat but lo and behold the hotel owner found Kanga and a good Samaritan agreed to drive her to Kingston where Carol Jean could pick her up. Joy Reid, Mary Thompson and Chris Urquhart visited with Carol while she was here, and she was happy to see other friends while she strolled through the Market. Mark Stevenson was home from Chatham Ontario to visit his mother Lynda Stevenson and Bob Warning. Carolyn and daughter Cassia Parsons from St. John's Newfoundland visited Cassia's grandparents Bill and Shirley Leeming. Jo-Anne Osborne of Florida and her cousin Kevin Boats from Truro visited their cousin Ron Urquhart.

Condolences go out this month to: Mark Pearson and family on the death of his brother Bruce Pearson; condolences to Tony Dickie and family on the death of his mother Anna Dickie.

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# Karen Casey

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