

Debert's First Highland Games a Success

By Linda Harrington

The weather was chilly, but the competitors didn't seem to notice as they gave their all in seven ancient Scottish events of Kilt-Ober.

Adam Ogilvie, one of the local competitors is hoping the Debert Heavy Events and Family Day, otherwise known as Kilt-Ober, will become an annual event. "There is a Maritime Circuit, with 10 Festivals for Heavy Events which usually wrap up at the first of September. This is a great location and by holding it this time of year we can extend our competition season and promote Scottish history and culture locally."

The seven events have an agricultural background based on distance thrown. For instance, the caber tossing came from logging and the weights from black smiths. Participants must compete in all seven events, so they must be well rounded to



Patrick Moore made a few heads turn as he competed in the Scottish Heavy Events with a "baby" strapped inside a carrier.

achieve a top score.

Kilt-Ober was held at the Debert Days Field on Ventura Drive. The Debert Community Center held a fund-raising BBQ and there was a children's corner with pumpkin carving and a bouncy house.

Marie Irving-Benoit, of the Debert Community Association, says she hopes this event will continue. "This is a great location and it is nice to see it used more often. We started out small this year, but we can certainly grow the event next year."



Cayden Watson and Matthew Henderson at the kid's corner where there was pumpkin carving and a bouncy house.



Adam Ogilvie gives his all in the 56lb Weight for Distance event.



Erin Quin throws the 28lb Weight through the air with ease. Erin, a National Champion from PEI, was the lone female competitor at the Kilt-Ober Event.

Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

Although all the leaves haven't fallen, there are plenty on the ground to shuffle your feet through. Unfortunately enough to rake if you need to. We mow ours for mulch, it's so good for the lawn.

The birds have changed into their winter colors and many have flown south for the winter. The geese are flocking together and getting ready to leave, as are the starlings and other birds. For those left here for the winter, keep putting out seed as well as suet, and if you can, water for them to drink. A heated bird bath works wonders for this!

The Masstown Community Association didn't have Pumpkin Carving this year as the Church wasn't ready for us to use. Next year, we hope! Speaking of our Church, as you know we are now Cobequid United, Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge. We have the word that the Debert Church has been sold and it looks like the Glenholme - Erskine United - has also acquired new owners. Therefore, come November 25th we will be meeting in the Masstown Church building.

Money from the sale of the other two building will probably be used to some extent in fixing up the Masstown Church building. At least that's my hope for it! Services are still at 10am and if you would be interested in teaching Sunday School this year, please let Joy Reid 902-662-3515 know. Unfor-

tunately Megan Donkin, who has looked after our Sunday School for many years is no longer in a position to do so. We thank Megan for all her years of hard work.

Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday November 1st, 7pm, at the home of Irene Gratto. All ladies welcome. We will be discussing our upcoming Christmas Party.

The Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday November 3rd, 8am, at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome.

Townsvie Estates are hosting an Annual Tea & Bake Sale at their facility at 310 Abenaki Road, Truro, on Friday November 30th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Cost \$5.00 per person. There will be a 50/50 draw, baked goods, auction table and more! Proceeds for resident's activities. All welcome!

Shirley Leeming with her two sisters, Noreen MacDonald and Alice Carrigan went on a short trip to the Valley and had a great time in all the stores!

Condolences go out this month to Elsie Rudolph and family on the death of her uncle, Gerald Hutt; to Ardith McCully and family on the death of her sister, Karen Green; to Krista Marsh and family on the death of her aunt, Marilyn Higgins and to Ethel Slocum and family on the death of her sister.

Take care of your health, you only live once.

\$6-Million TAAC Revitalization?

Continued from page 1

this fall for a revitalization project which totals around \$6-Million.

In a letter to council for the October 25th meeting, Wood stated, the \$310,000 commitment is subject to possible reduction based on the success of private funding, reduction of project costs through "in-kind" donations and any contribution received from Millbrook First Nation.

Wood's letter further states the TAAC Revitalization Society (fundraising group) would in turn sign a promissory note with Truro and Colchester to provide a minimum of \$1-Million in private sector fundraising. The proposed \$1-Million private sector contribution would be deducted from the original \$1.62-Million co-sign promissory note leaving only \$620,000 to be split equally between the municipalities.

Wood's team have been busy doing a design of the facilities, getting quotes, surveys and preparing drawings in preparation for submission of its official application.

A \$6-Million fund raising has been launched to put Colchester and Truro into first place with an iconic track and field facility. The

volunteer team are reporting strong support for the \$1-Million local financing commitment, which as of early October was up to \$392,140 raised to date; 57 total donors; 4 ongoing campaigns with local businesses; 16 requests for "in-kind" work (such as electrical, excavation, etc), and if it's a one year project there are several grant opportunities with major national and international companies.

In each presentation Wood reminds people the municipal contributions of \$310,000 is a 1,840% rate of return towards a \$6-Million project.

In a presentation to Colchester council in early October, Wood reminded council that a presentation given in 2015 stated current facilities were out of date, unsafe and inadequate to host competitions. In fact elite athletes from the area must travel to Halifax or to Pictou and Antigonish Counties for training.

Truro and Colchester have been left behind by 17 other communities, with improved facilities, when it comes to track and field facilities. Colchester is unable to apply for or host regional, provincial or national events.

The project would include: build new high quality stadium

on Angus Drive; revitalize the TAAC location with multi use all weather field for soccer, football, lacrosse, and ruby; install new 8-lane synthetic track and regulation throwing areas and increase storage and public use space such as washrooms.

The TAAC team has broken down the costs as follows: Ball field, \$1,526-million; TAAC grounds, \$200,000 to purchase property on Prince Street and \$3,459-Million, as outlined, plus storage buildings. Equipment costs will include \$35,000 for baseball and \$550,000 for track and field. All quotes are current and have been escalated by 15%.

If the project moves to implementation it will provide the ability for all amateur sport - minor / senior baseball; soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse, elementary / high school track and field to host provincial and national events. The community would benefit from better facilities for health and wellness, plus ability to book field use for recreational use.

Local businesses, particularly hotels and restaurants, would benefit from the area's ability to host regional, provincial and national events. In addition the modern facilities provide much lower maintenance costs.

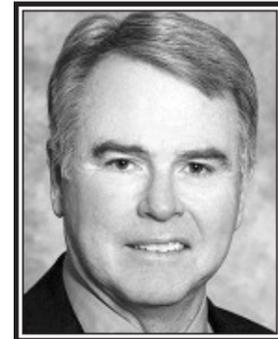
Boutilier Chosen Alternate Chair

By Maurice Rees

District 1 Councillor Eric Boutilier, Brookside, was elected by fellow councillors as alternate chair Council Committee during an election process at council's meeting on October 25th. Under the Municipal Governance Act (MGA) council must elect an alternate chair on the second Anniversary following a municipal election.

In an election held by secret ballot the nominees were Councillors Boutilier and Cooper with Boutilier succeeding. Councillor Cooper has served as the Alternate Chair of the Council Committee since October 30, 2008.

Both Boutilier and Deputy Mayor Stewart will continue in the positions until the beginning of the first regular Coun-



Councillor Geoff Stewart

cil meeting after the second anniversary of the date of the previous general municipal election or when the term of office of the Council expires following a general municipal election, whichever comes first.

Boutilier is serving his first term as Councillor for District

1, recently retired from the Chignecto Central Regional School Board where he has been both a teacher and Guidance Counsellor at several schools including 15 years at Bible Hill Junior High.

Eric coached soccer and fastball in the school board for many years, as well as hockey with the Truro and Area Minor Hockey Association. He has volunteered for the Nova Scotia Music Week, the Dutch Mason Blues Festival and the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling.

For his first term of Council, he has been appointed to serve on the Library Board, Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee (Vice Chair), Flood Advisory and Sewer Use Appeals Committee.



Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North

10653 HWY. 2, MASSTOWN

(grey office building beside the Petro Can opposite the Masstown Market)

Phone: 902-641-2200

Fax: 902-641-2266

Email: karencasey@eastlink.ca

Website: karencasey.ca

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

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