

Not Only Beavers Building Dams



By Linda Harrington

A work crew has been busy as beavers constructing a new dam at the end of Folly Lake, replacing a wooden structure built approximately 25 years ago.

The original dam was built by Folly Lake residents in partnership with Lafarge. Each resident paid a \$70 toll and the work was carried out by a committee of cottage owners. This dam had been starting to show its age the last few years and was rapidly deteriorating. Its location is important to maintain constant water level in the lake and to allow for fish migration into the Folly River.

Three years ago landowners around Folly Lake formed the Folly Lake Landowners Association to maintain the

quality of the lake and their properties. This Association currently has 60 members.

In 2009, at the Association's AGM, it was decided that dues would go toward repairing the dam and any additional funds required for construction would be divided among the members.

A committee was formed to look into building a new dam. Members included Ron Robichaud as chair, Darren Milner, Plant Manager for Lafarge, and two other property owners Carmen Milner and Jud Pearson.

Meetings were held with Craig Hominick of Dept. of Fisheries and Chris O'Connell, Engineer with Dept. of Environment. Ron Robichaud worked on a design for the proposed dam in consultation with DOE.

Lafarge came on as a partner, which really helped with the cost and labour in the construction. Brian Stewart, concrete contractor with CNS Foundations, offered some of his employees at cost as well. Bob Blair Trucking supplied trucking and excavation. Rebar was sourced from Russell Metals, Debert. Water pumps were arranged by Randy Crosby at Classic Rentals.

Ron Robichaud says because of the wonderful community support the four week effort was kept on schedule and within budget. "We had tremendous support from everyone around the lake. They wanted to make sure this was a structure that would be built to last. A motion was made to share the costs and short term financing was even made available from property owners," he says. "People came out in their kayaks and canoes to check on how things were going and to chat with those working on the project. It was really a community affair."

The new dam is made of solid concrete, donated by Lafarge Truro Ready Mix. It includes a fish ladder and has set the level of the lake at "100".

Ron says many volunteers pitched in with shovels and tying steel, in particular Roy Mosher and Carmen Milner, who were pumping water for 20 hours a day and maintaining watch all night. They were running pumps at 4 am to get ready for the next day's pour.

The Folly Lake Land Owners Association was pleased with the final project and hope it will last for many years to come. They plan on celebrating the completion with a community potluck supper.



Seniors Clubs hold summer picnic in Wallace

By Hope Bridgewater

Senior Council President, Judy Shultz, invited all the Senior Clubs of Cumberland County to meet in August at Wallace for the annual summer picnic. The Mi'kmaq called this area Remsheg (meaning "the place between") and this name still fits as Wallace (renamed in 1825) is located in a beautiful area where the Wallace River empties into Wallace Bay which is, in turn, a sub basin of the Northumberland Strait.

Wallace has an interesting history of shipbuilding, ship transportation, quarrying sandstone, fishing and a lively social life. The Wallace Museum is one of the best attractions in this seaside village as a store-place of history, as a creator of educational programs and activities and by having an expert staff. The Museum contains history about the Mi'kmaq, Acadians and the Loyalists in a superb building with a beautiful lawn and garden nearby.

President of Cumberland County Senior Citizens Council, Judy Shultz, opened the program at 2 p.m. and talked of the Memorial Bench being built in honour of Les Day, a late president of CCSCC, who had worked diligently to have created with others the Preventing Falls Together Coalition under the direction of the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion & Prevention, the Department of Seniors and the Seniors Secretariat.

The Memorial Bench will be situated near the Amherst Golden Years Society Club and its cost is being shared between the town of Amherst and CCSCC. Wallace has an excellent community hall for social events, and the Cumberland Clubs were happy to meet there.

President Shultz gave the Master of Ceremony role to Marion Dotten, President of the Wallace & Area Sunrise Seniors Association and host of the summer picnic. Marion introduced the clubs who were entertaining on stage for the next two hours. Most of the actors on stage were club members, but some were friends invited by some clubs to help with a show's presentation. Throughout the entertainment, Ralph Anderson supervised the sound system.

Roger Cardinal from Wallace performed an excellent set as he



Aileen Wiita entertained the audience with her comic recitation called "Maggie and Jiggs at the Pearly Gates with St. Peter". (Bridgewater Photo)

played several selections on his 12-string guitar. The Parrsboro Over Sixty Club members, accompanied by Roger Cardinal sang songs, including "Come home, come home, it's supper-time" and "I don't know about tomorrow."

Well-known Parrsboro comic, Aileen Wiita, recited from memory the story of Maggie and Jiggs at the Pearly Gates meeting with St. Peter, and her comedy received much applause from an audience of approximately 100 people.

The Springhill Senior Citizens' and Retired Pensioners' Club performed two hilarious skits: in funny costumes, they acted and sang their version of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," and, in the second skit, they dressed in grass skirts to act and dance wildly Hawaiian style. Representing the Northport Sunrise Senior Citizens, Chuck Irving accompanied on guitar by Ralph Anderson, sang the follow-

ing songs: "In Beautiful Yoho Valley", "Precious Islands, Pretty Islands", "When It's Springtime in Red River Valley", and "Strolling Along in the Moonlight."

Ken Tibbett's, President of the Malagash M.A. R. S. Senior Citizens Club, did a comic stand-up routine by telling stories. The Bakers, Wendell and Geraldine, and friends (Ralph Anderson and David Horne) were multi-talented with singing and musical instruments of violin, mouth organ and guitar. Wendell Baker talked and sang a memorable selection about his grandfather: "I Thought He Walked on Water."

Betty Curry (piano) and Charley Patriquin (singer, violinist) with friends, David Moore (guitar) and Gordon Canning (guitar), did a great job representing the Wentworth Pioneer Club by playing old-time music and country singing. The group played Twilight Waltz, Saint Ann's Reel, Florence Killen Waltz, and Blind Man's Reel. Charley Patriquin sang: It's Such a Pretty World Today, When Mama Sang, Don't Come Crying To Me When It's Over.

Throughout the entertainment, there were pauses to give out two door prizes, guessing how many jelly beans were in a glass (379), and prizes for having on certain clothes or items (who has on an orange shirt? Who has an old \$2 bill?). All members who were aged 90 or over were given prizes. Helen Sweeney of Springhill had a birthday and everyone sang Happy Birthday to her.

It is well worth having a summer picnic each summer.

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October 9 & 10

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