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# The Shoreline Journal

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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS October 2012

**Cumberland-Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP**, Scott Armstrong has been appointed Chair of the 14 member Atlantic Caucus. Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement during a visit to Amherst in late August. MP Scott Armstrong takes over Caucus Chair duties from New Brunswick MP Mike Allen.

**Cathy Devine, Postmaster**, in Debert has informed the Shoreline Journal that until the end of October, used books will be for sale at the Debert Post Office, 1222 Plains Road, Debert. The sale is in support of the Canada Post Community Foundation, which provides financial support to registered charities, school programs or local initiatives that benefit children. Donations are welcome.

**A West Colchester Business** and Community Coffee House will be held at the Great Village Community Centre on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Purpose is to discuss develop a strategy to develop and relocate new businesses to West Colchester. The coffee house is open to all business owners and community leaders from Onslow to Parrsboro. For more information see elsewhere in this issue, or contact CoRDA at 902-893-0140.

**The Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre** is on the road again, bringing information to all Canadian Forces members and their families in Truro. Don't miss out on this informative and interactive evening to discover all of the awesome programs, services and resources available to CF members and their families. Wednesday, October 24, 4:30-6:30pm. For more information visit: [www.halifaxmfrcc.ca](http://www.halifaxmfrcc.ca) or call 1-888-753-8827.

**The Debert Fire Brigade** will be holding an Open House on Oct. 6th from 10AM until 2PM. There will be a BBQ, tour of the hall, equipment demonstrations, door prizes and much much more. Bring the family and come on over to 34 Carter Road, Debert.

**CALA has started up again** in Great Village welcoming anyone interested each Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 til 4:00. The annual Fall Launch will be held at the Great Village School gym on Oct. 19th from 6:00 til 8:00. There will be pumpkin decorating, story telling etc.

**Florence Adams has** moved to Wynn Park, Truro and will be unable to continue to write news from Great Village, nor will she be able to continue with her monthly poem. We thank her for her contributions to the Shoreline over the years. All of us will miss her wonderful verses. A correspondent is needed for the Great Village area, as a replacement for Mrs. Adams. Interested persons should contact Maurice Rees at 902-647-2968.

**Municipal Election Day** is October 20. The Shoreline Journal challenged the candidates from District 9 and 10 with a short questionnaire. Their responses are on page 17 to 21.



View from the bridge in Great Village during the early morning of Monday, Sept. 10th. It is easy to see why the Legion Hall, on the opposite side of the road, received the worst flooding ever recorded. See page 15 for detailed coverage of the hall damage.

## "Give Us More Time To Make It Work!"

By Linda Harrington

Two hundred and fifty people packed the West Colchester Consolidated School auditorium in a show of support for the Bass River Credit Union at a community meeting on September 20th. Emotions ran high when local residents stepped up to the mic and voiced their opinions, pleading

with the Board of Directors to keep the doors open.

Valerie Meredith, Chair of the Bass River Branch Committee, created to try to save the Credit Union, opened the meeting. She introduced the head table and wasted no time getting right to the point saying, "This is our Credit Union. We are the only ones

that can save it."

Branch CEO, Darrell Kuhn came to the microphone with high praise for the Branch Committee saying he and the Board Members were here, "Because of a passionate discussion held a few days ago by these people." He went on to say, "And we are now looking at the same level of

passion from the people gathered in this room."

Kuhn stated the recommended closure of the Bass River Branch of the Community Credit Union was based on detailed assessment which included financial, demographic and economic challenges. He assured those present that these challenges are not unique to Bass River. The simple facts are the current lending business is not sufficient to support or sustain the branch.

**The credit union board of directors will not be meeting until after this issue has gone to press.**

On Friday, September 14th, Board Chair, Charlotte MacVicar, issued the following statement to the Shoreline's inquiry, "This community meeting was requested by the Board to determine the level of commitment from the membership and community at large. While we were pleased with the turn out, we must all be cognizant that it represented only 25% of the entire membership. The Bass River branch of Community Credit Union has required more commitment from the members specifically in transferring their lending business to the branch - this demonstrates support and has not been evident for many years. The Board will assess whether an extension is warranted - a meeting is planned next week"

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Maddi Bushen and Dolorian Clark proudly show the veggies they picked from the garden planted last spring by students at Wentworth Elementary. See our story on page 27. (Elizabeth Aitkens Photo)

## How Sweet It Is!



Not quite ready for harvest! Brandon and Jonathan Millen will soon be harvesting their two acre crop of sweet potatoes, a new commercial crop for J & B Millen Farms. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

If you have access to agricultural land and machinery why not experiment growing something new? Brandon and Jonathan Millen will have to wait until their 2 acre crop of sweet potatoes is harvested and sold before they will know if a new venture is worth repeating, but so far everything looks promising.

The brother's partnership, J & B Millen Farms, follows closely in the footsteps of their father Curtis Millen, who has been commercially growing strawberries for a number of years. Brandon and Jonathan

have been growing a variety of vegetables for the last few years and this year decided to give sweet potatoes a try.

"They have been experimenting with growing sweet potatoes in the Valley, so we thought we could give it a try here," says Brandon.

Sweet potatoes are grown from what are called a "slips", small shoots grown from the tuber that are then transplanted. They are more of a root cutting, not what one would see with a normal seed potato. These were planted in the spring, after the danger of frost had

passed, in plastic covered beds with drip irrigation.

The field at the end of Little Road, Glenholme looks very lush and green as the sweet potatoes are reaching maturity. Brandon says so far there haven't been any surprises and he expects to be harvesting in the next few weeks.

Digging deep into the soil, out pops a perfectly formed sweet potato, about six inches long with deep purple-red outer skin and an orangey-pink flesh. It looks like harvesting would require a lot of hard digging but Brandon says the field will actually be harvested using a machine to lift the plants up out of the ground and then each potatoe will be picked off by hand.

The sweet potatoes will be cured in a drying room under proper humidity before moving on to store shelves. With temperature controlled storage, they expect to be able to supply the Masstown Market and Sobeys' stores throughout the winter months.

J & B Millen Farms have planted a few new acres of onions and squash this year, as well. They plan to review the success of these crops over the winter months before deciding what will be on their planting list for next year.

## Vote October 20<sup>TH</sup>

By Maurice Rees

Normally the voter turnout for municipal elections is low, but the Shoreline Journal is encouraging all eligible voters to get out and vote, between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 20th, if they have not already voted in the Advance Polls on October 11th and 16th between 12 noon and 8:00 pm.

**DISTRICT 9** voters have three choices, Bob White, incumbent councilor who has served on council for 8 years; and newcomers, Doug MacInnes, Sales Manager, Wilson's Fuels Ltd, and Rick Johnson, a financial advisor. District 9's advance poll will be located at Debert Legion and will be open from 12 noon to 8:00 pm on October 11th and 16th.

Two locations will operate for the three polls for the regular voting day of October

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