

# Debert Golf's for Cancer Huge Success



Diane Paquet, a fellow cancer survivor, offers support to Geraldine Gratto, prior to the start of the Debert Golf For Cancer Tournament.

**Debert's Golf For Cancer Tournament was held at the Debert Golf Course on Sept. 15, raising over \$4000. (Harrington Photos)**

By Linda Harrington

After fighting her own battle with cancer two years ago, Geraldine Gratto knows how hard it is and she wants to help make it just a little bit easier for anyone else who must go through it.

Assisted by Debert Golf ladies, Heather Morrissey, Shelley Mattix and Donna Webb, Geraldine organized a golf tournament with all proceeds going to help cancer patients but with a bit of a twist. Instead of donating to cancer research or to the Hospital Foundation, she wanted to have the funds go directly to the cancer ward to help patients.

"There is so much cancer out there," says Geraldine, "And I know what it is like to be sitting for hours in the chair while you receive treatment. I wanted to do something to make people feel just a bit better and take their mind off the treatment."

Geraldine was up front with her fund raising cause from the beginning and says people really seemed to appreciate the idea. "I was overwhelmed; the amount of prizes just blew me away. I had hoped for maybe 15 auction items and ended up with over 30, plus enough prizes to fill 60 gift bags and monetary donations, as well."

Thirteen teams took part in the Tournament, raising over \$4000. "We tried to make it fun, with stunts on some of the holes, costumes, decorated carts and lots of prizes. It was so successful, I am excited to make it annual event," says Geraldine, who also took part in the Relay for Life and Run for the Cure this year.



Roger Langille, Kevin Webb, Jeff Webb and Richie Webb completed the stunt on the fourth hole with ease. They had to tee off with their opposite swing.



Heather Morrissey ties a blind fold on Shelly Mattix as Noel Gratto, Irene Gratto and Ian Blackie look on. Teams had to complete a 'blind putt' at this hole.



The Breast Friends team showed great spirit for the cause and since no bribe has been paid...making up the team were: Left to right- Derek Taylor, Gail Taylor, Sonya Barnhill, Kathy Barnhill, Rhoda Dash, Leonard Dash, Eric Barnhill and Mike Morrissey.

## COLCHESTER NORTH

### John K. MacDonald, Progressive Conservative Party Candidate



(Editor's Note: Candidates for the three mainline parties in Colchester North were sent a questionnaire unique to Colchester North. Here is the reply from John K. MacDonald, candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia in Colchester North).

**What will you do to stop the out-migration of government services to Truro?**

I am not aware of any government services leaving Colchester North and moving to Truro. Access Nova Scotia is moving to Colchester County which should make it more accessible to residents of Colchester North.

**Are you willing to work with citizens along the shore to establish a suite of satellite offices in the now vacant credit union offices in Bass River?**

I would be willing to support any government agency that wanted to move to any part of Colchester North.

**If five departments were to occupy the satellite office one day per week, which departments do you feel would be best for the area?**

I would favour Education, Health & Wellness, Service Nova Scotia, Agriculture, and Seniors setting up a satellite location should any departments be available.

**How do you propose to ensure internet service with the same broadband width as**

**Truro or Amherst is available within Colchester North?**

Immediately upon being elected I will insist that any companies that were awarded contracts to provide these services be forced to fulfill their contractual obligations.

**How long would it take to become reality?**

As soon as I am elected I will insist the pre-existing contracts for broadband service be fulfilled.

**As we all know cell phone reception along Highway # 2 from Glenholme to Advocate is spotty at best. What promise can you make to ensure reception is equal to the consistent quality if one were driving between Truro and Halifax?**

As we all know, telephone companies are not government agencies, but I will call on cell phone providers to improve service coverage in Colchester North.

**What are the two most important things you can do to help the citizens of Colchester North?**

I will work to provide stable long term jobs through small and medium-sized businesses by eliminating the small business tax, and continuing to support our core industries: agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

**Recently the elementary school in Bass River was closed. What is your approach to future closing of small elementary schools and what can you do to curtail further closings?**

I am proud of the Progressive Conservative platform calling for a moratorium on any future closures of schools in rural areas.

**If a school is closed should the costs of maintaining that facility remain with the school board until the building has new owners or the site is remediated?**

Based on the original amalgamation agreement, buildings declared surplus by the school board revert to the sponsoring municipality. The building should be

maintained by the owner during transfer.

**To assist in reducing costs and overheads should administration of repairs for electrical, mechanical, carpentry, plus landscaping and snow removal be the responsibility of the local school so local contractors can perform the work, rather than having board maintenance staff use valuable time and expense travelling to each school?**

I am a supporter of local contractors and labour. I would support their use depending upon the availability of current union staff employed by the School Board subject to current union agreements.

**How would you facilitate using under-utilized space in existing schools to provide additional education opportunities for adults?**

I believe schools should be utilized more than seven hours per day. When demand and programs exist, schools should see additional utilization for community recreation, adult education, and other community needs.

**What do you perceive is the most critical situations facing Colchester North residents and how would you solve those problems?**

Out-migration is the most serious problem facing rural communities in Nova Scotia. This can be abated by helping job creators create sustainable long term employment to let families find work closer to home.

**If voters decided to vote for the person rather than the party, why should voters cast their vote to support you?**

I believe voters vote not only for the candidate, but also the party platform, the party leader and the party that best represents their values. I will honour that vote. My first order of business as your MLA will be to introduce a Bill requiring that if an MLA switches parties, a by-election is triggered automatically. Democracy is about the voters, not the candidate.



Rednecks always have more fun! Debbie, Peggy, Dan and Greg Mattix were enjoying a sunny day of golf for a great cause.



Geraldine Gratto sets out some of the wonderful gifts on the Silent Auction table.



Betty Blackie organizes gift bags donated by Masstown Hardware, one of the Tournament's major sponsors.



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