



Arlington Timber Frame Company recently completed the beautiful white pine structure for the new visitor's center at Captain Cob's Corn Maze & Fun Farm in Masstown. Wooden pegs are used to join the timbers together. (Harrington Photo)

Truro Presbyterial Rally October 8th

By Chris Urquhart

Truro Presbyterial UCW Fall Rally will be held on October 8th at Brunswick St. United Church, Truro. Registration is from 9:30 - 10am. Program includes information on looking after someone with Alzheimer's with

nurse Linda MacDonald, South Africa - Ruth Rudderham's trip with Valerie Hearder, and Camp MacLennan.

There will be a Book Display. Bring a bag lunch, lug a mug, and don't forget a huge smile! Everyone Welcome!

Whose Bunker is it anyway?

By Linda Harrington

This is a question Jonathan Bahá'i would like answered.

Bahá'i purchased the Debert Diefenbunker and adjoining parking lot at a tax sale in November, 2013 for approximately \$35,000. The purchase came with a six month right of redemption for former owner Anton Self, which expired on May 21st.

After the purchase in November, Bahá'i had assessments done for property maintenance, which were approved by the County. He says there hadn't been power at the facility for a long time, so this was his first challenge.

Secondly, the walls had

become covered in mold, which had to be cleaned. The boilers had to be up and running to keep the facility heated, to prevent further growth of mould.

"This took months of work," says Jonathan Bahá'i, "I had to replace the well pump and refurbish the boiler and air launderer. During this time a small budget film, called Bunker 6, set up location on site for the month of February."

The clean-up of the mould was not approved as a maintenance cost and so Jonathan says he tried to come up with creative ideas to recover some costs. "CDA Paintball used the bunker over the winter. I figured the paint-

(Editor's Note: Candidates for the Liberals, Progressive Conservative and NDP in Colchester North were sent the same questionnaire containing 13 questions. Some of the questions were inter-related. Here is Karen Casey's reply).

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the constituents in Colchester North regarding their concerns and priorities. I have grouped the questions together because of their related themes.

Priorities

The concerns in Colchester North have always been my priority and since 2006 I have listened to my constituents and worked with them to help provide support and assistance both on an individual basis and for the communities. One of their great concerns is the opportunity for good jobs close to home. Many of our small communities are suffering because workers must commute or move to other areas both inside the province and outside, everyone wants to be able to earn a decent living so they can support their families. A Liberal government will build a stronger rural economy by supporting, respecting and investing in small business owners.

I have been proud to secure funding to help support local organizations and community projects. This has included local fire departments, recreational facil-

COLCHESTER NORTH

Karen Casey, Liberal Party Candidate



ties, tourist attractions and not for profit organizations. I will continue to work with volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to these projects.

The rising cost of power by Nova Scotia Power is hurting all constituents in Colchester North and that will continue until the monopoly that NSP has is broken and competition is allowed so that you and I have a choice. We all remember when the only telephone service was delivered through Maritime Tel & Tel. That monopoly was broken. Consumers now have several providers and choices within the industry. Competition is good and we need it in the energy market as well.

I have been working constantly with residents along the shore and the cell service and internet providers to improve the quality of their service. For some residents it has been successful and for others there are still challenges and I continue to work on their behalf.

The Liberal Party is committed to relocating some government services into more rural part of the province and you can be sure that I will be standing up for communities in Colchester North when those decisions are made. There is no question that in this modern day of technology, rural communities can be very much a part of government services.

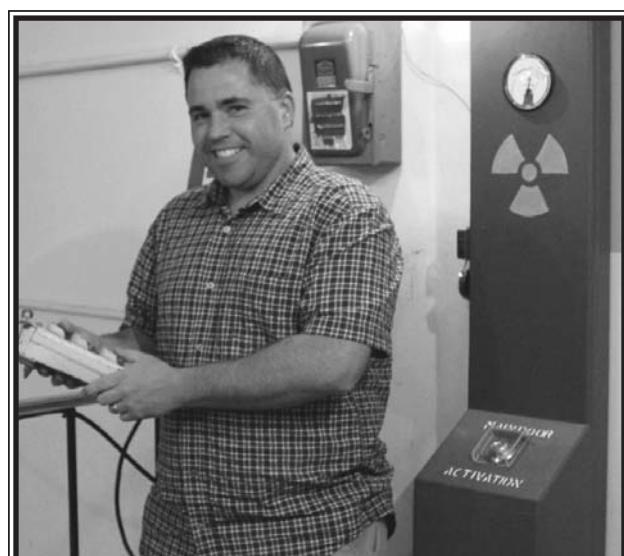
It was sad to see the closing of the Bass River Elementary School, but it was encouraging to know that our students did not have to leave the community. I am confident they will receive quality education in a school with their brothers, sisters and friends. The closing of schools is never easy for any community, but the success of the move will be dependent on the cooperation and understanding of the parents and teachers who have the best interest of their children at heart.

Funding for public schools is the responsibility of the provincial govern-

ment and during the last four years the NDP government has slashed over \$65 million dollars from schools and classrooms in our communities. They have asked School Boards to pay any increases in electricity, fuel and other inflationary costs. These are costs over which the School Board has no control. I will continue to fight for adequate funding so that our schools can stay open, teachers can teach and students can learn. A Liberal government will cap class sizes so that no classes are crowded. We will also ensure that students with special needs have supports from an education assistant so they can achieve and have success within the public schools. This support will also allow teachers to focus on literacy and numeracy in the early years. Research has shown that students who have not learned to read by the time they reach grade 3 will struggle through the rest of their school years and beyond. We owe it to our kids to give them the very best education possible and a Liberal government will reinvest the \$65 million dollars that was cut back into the classrooms across the province.

As readers will know I was elected in 2006 to represent the constituents in Colchester North and I have done that to the best of my ability. I was re-elected in 2009 and constituents understood that I took their concerns seriously and worked hard on their behalf. Voters will have another chance to show their support when they vote on October 8th. Many of my constituents in Colchester North have put aside partisan politics and have chosen to vote for the person who has represented them and who can continue to be a strong voice for them in Halifax.

I asked for your support in the past and I am asking for your support in the future. It has been a privilege to stand up on behalf of all voters in Colchester North. I am very proud to do so.



Jonathan Bahá'i bought the Debert Diefenbunker at a tax sale last November but has yet to receive the deed to the property from the County of Colchester. The ownership dispute will be settled in a Halifax Court on Oct. 17th. A movie "Bunker 6" was recently filmed at the Diefenbunker and will be shown at Empire Theatre, Park Lane on Sept. 14th. Jonathan is shown here recreating a scene from the movie. (Harrington Photo)

balls were no worse than all the mold and the money would help with the clean-up costs," he laughs. "I actually lost money on this, as the clean-up was far bigger than I expected, but the event actually received lots of PR, and we connected with lots of local businesses."

Finally May 21st came, the day came when the redemption period was up and Jonathan Bahá'i expected to get a clear deed to the property. He says he was in communication with the County and started filing papers but things seemed to be starting to stall and then County asked for a week's extension. Municipal Government Act states, if the prior owner doesn't come up with the money six months after the sale, the deed of ownership is handed to the new purchaser. "Councillor Doug MacInnes was there fighting for me, but still after 3 weeks, I had no deed," says Bahá'i.

Three weeks after the May 21st deadline, former owner of the bunker, Anton Self, applied to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, taking both

the Municipality of Colchester and Bahá'i to court.

"The County was legally obligated to give my dead after the May 21st deadline," says Bahá'i, "They have denied me my legal right."

A "Save the Bunker" public outcry began with a petition of over 300 signatures asking the County to transfer the deed to Bahá'i, and a demonstration in front of the County Courthouse. "To this day I have had no official communication with the County," he says. "Supporters continued to fight for my rights and organized "Save the Bunker-Reloaded", which included contacting other levels of government including MLA's and local MP. Even Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Allan Johnson tried to arrange a meeting with me and Mayor Bob Taylor but he couldn't get a response."

A Court appearance took place on July 11th, and at that time Justice Pat Duncan set the date for the hearing as Oct. 17th, at the Supreme Court in Halifax. Bahá'i has

filed a Cross Application so both judgements on the property can be settled at once.

"I am an entrepreneur. My main business is web hosting, a company called Server Balance Data Solutions, registered in Truro. I live on the former Debert military base with my wife and son. This is my backyard," says Jonathan Bahá'i referring to the location of the bunker. "There have been numerous investors interested in projects here but they have put them on hold until the issue with the deed is solved. I have lost some investors who can't wait around and these are lost opportunities."

A data centre is only one of many ideas he has for the bunker. "The data storage would only take up 2500 sq. feet, there is still lots of room in this 64,000 sq. foot facility for many other ventures," says Bahá'i. One of his ideas is to have Air Soft games here on a regular basis but he is cautious to talk about other plans, as it all depends on available funds. "As an entrepreneur, I believe the business finds the owner. When I

bought bunker, I never thought of having Airsoft games here and look where that has gone."

Jonathan says since he bought the bunker he is also amazed at all those who have stepped up to help with the clean-up and operations. "It has been very serendipitous with people from an electronic technician, millwright and a former custodian to an amazing number of youth who have taken a strong interest in preserving the bunker. They have been giving up hours of free time to come and help with the cleaning and fixing."

The court date is still over two months away and Bahá'i says clean-up activities will continue at the bunker. "I still have the tax sale deed giving me rights and provisions as an owner to maintain the building."

Bunker tours were held recently as a fund raiser for the local Military Museum. The movie, "Bunker 6", will be featured at Empire Theatres, Park Lane on Sept. 14th. A trailer for the movie is online at <http://vimeo.com/70879643>

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