

Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse Annual Reunion

By Hope Bridgewater

Friends of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse held another annual reunion. The Friends arranged a three hour hike up to High Head and back starting off the reunion at 10 am. Led by Norah Topping, interested hikers Debi Atkinson, Lillian Campbell, Mel Clark and Andy Hunt, got to the top for a splendid view where on a fine day one can see over the land to the Northumberland Strait.

Just outside on the grounds of this Heritage One-Room School was an auction with a large white canopy with seating and a long table with the items for sale. The items were gathered because the admission to the event required each person bring something for the auction. The volunteer auctioneer, Bob Lafrance, sold all the items with skill, diplomacy, and humour, thus raising money for the Restoration Fund of the Heritage Schoolhouse. Bob Lafrance had a career that made for a good auctioneer: he spent time in the navy, worked for CNR, had a taxidermy studio and school, and taught English in Mexico.

When the auction finished, there was time to look outside and inside of this Heritage School, play games or see how the theme of this reunion was celebrating 21 years of restoring the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse. Inside the building, the history of the one-room school was instantly shown by the teacher's desk, the desks for seating two students, two blackboards, and a wood stove. Even more amazing were the photo and text displays created by Carol Hyslop on the walls showing the restoration of this Heritage School for the last 21 years from 1994 to 2016 by volunteer workers.

Stepping back in history to the 1870's, the school on this location was called the Wentworth Station School, section No. 14. Then after a meeting in 1902, the school was ordered to be torn down

to be replaced for \$540 by Alexander Munroe in 1903 and called by the name Wentworth Valley School, section No.14. It was a one-room school for grades 1 to 11 until in 1958 when it was closed due to the amalgamation of all six Wentworth area schools. The closed Valley school became a Rifle Club and a Ski Club until taken over by Friends of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse. The Friends successful restoration of the school building resulted in it being named a Heritage School, representative of the one-room schools that dotted the province.

In the display Carol Hyslop shows the hard work involved in restoration: new well and water system; new septic system; a wheelchair accessible

ramp; a storage shed; new foundation; new floor; erosion protection from the nearby brook; new steps; new wood stove; a kitchen addition with refrigerator, stove, sinks, cupboards, toilets and storage room; forest clearing; landscaping; grass mowing; snow plowing; stacking wood; painting; door repairs; general cleaning and other maintenance chores that appear.

The Friends of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse, Debbie and Harold Barclay, Ernest and Wavey Wood, Bobbie and Francie Hunt, Butch and Debbie Atkinson, Howard Waugh, Andy Hunt, Shannon Letcher, Chris and Norah Topping, and Carol Hyslop, deserve praise and admiration for their continuing work in

the restoration of this Heritage School and for "sustaining the dream" of more restoration and beneficial programs in the future.

After the food had been served entertainment began with a very talented trio of guitar players and singers featuring most of the songs: Shannon Letcher, Terry Keiver and Gordon Moore. At times three others helped this splendid concert: pianist Geri Letcher, drummer Dianne Ring, and singer Janice Letcher. At times Carol Hyslop would wave a stop to their music to give out prizes. Winners of the prizes were: 50/50 won by Tim Rushton, and mini-affle 1st prize basket of local products won by Margie Langille, 2nd prize won by Kathy Little, and 3rd prize won by Pearl Crowley. Several door prizes. What a fun time that was!

Many words of thanks go to the following sponsors: Thompson Berries, Bentley's Maple, Tatamagouche Foodland, Truro Ron's Hair Care, Meeting Water Coffee, Tatamagouche Brewery, Masstown Market, Patsy's Diner and Wentworth Market.



Brooke Vance, Economy, recently visited North Star Masonic Lodge #74 in Londonderry to tell of her first year experience studying nursing at Memorial University in Newfoundland and to thank the Lodge for a \$1,000 Bursary toward her studies in nursing at Memorial University in Newfoundland. Jack Johnson, Chairman of the North Star Bursary Committee (left) is shown with Worshipful Master Earle McKenna and Colchester District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Les Graham. (Submitted)




Late Thursday night or early Friday morning, September 22nd vandals damaged the Great Village Ballfield by creating large deep ruts in the outfield. RCMP have taken moulds of the tracks and are investigating. A suspect vehicle is under observation. (Submitted)



Vandals who tore up the Great Village Ballfield didn't stop at creating large ruts in the outfield, it is suspected they gained entry to the field by tearing down the sign and damaging the metal fence. Colchester detachment of the RCMP are actively working on the file. (Submitted)

Bass River United Baptist Church
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
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