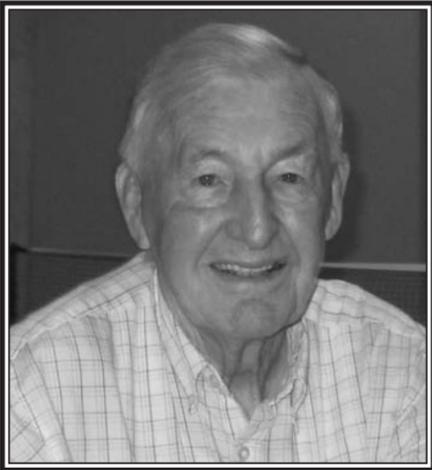




Some of the 100 cars in the Show & Shine attending the Blueberry Festival at the Wentworth Learning Centre. (Submitted)



The Quilt Show & Sale, organized by the Wentworth Quilting Bees, held during the Blueberry Festival was a success. (Submitted)



Talented musician, Charley Patriquin, now retired from performing, attends a Music Afternoon as an observer and friend at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



Vivian Taylor, talented pianist, plays at the monthly Music Afternoons located at the Wentworth Recreation Centre on the last Sunday of each Month except in December. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

Wentworth Music Afternoons - Past & Present

By Hope Bridgewater

A previous community centre existed in Wentworth from 1976 to 1987 until a fire destroyed the building. Wentworth residents began building another centre in 1988 on property owned by the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department and with local fund raising and grants accomplished building the current Recreation Centre in 1990 for a cost of \$500,000.

An opening ceremony was held on September 21, 1991 with the executive listed as chair, Dale Patriquin; vice-chair, Winston Patriquin; secretary, Peggy Patriquin and treasurer, Arden Little. One of the active volunteers was Betty Curry as coordinator of special events. From 1991 to 2018, the Recreation Centre has remained active and now has an executive as follows: chair, Robert MacLean; vice-chair, Marie Duranceau; secretary, Norah Topping and treasurer, Gary Jollymore.

The entire monthly Music Afternoons on the last Sunday of each month (except December) is done with volunteers from Wentworth and area plus from other communities such as Dartmouth, Truro, Tatamagouche, Springhill, Malagash and others places in Nova Scotia and the New Brunswick border interested in Down East country style music geared to dancing. This Wentworth music afternoon is inclusive and done in free style instead of square dancing format and couples and singles are both welcome for ages able to dance.

The name for this music afternoon is also called "Fiddler's Do" as the fiddler usually uses his or her violin to lead the tunes with a band often consisting of a piano, guitar, banjo, drums, and bass. At times a saxophone or singer may lead the dancing.

The audience is asked for a voluntary donation at the door to help with the hall's maintenance as it a large hall with a

hardwood floor superb for dancing and also to bring food for a potluck meal prepared by kitchen staff for all at 4 pm.

Circumstances change and sadness has come to these monthly musical afternoons with the passing of Betty Curry who since 1988 until 2018 (30 years) volunteered her time to make the Recreation Centre itself a success, became a director of the Sunday music afternoons and also played as pianist for the selections, while Vivian Taylor in later years shared playing as pianist with Betty for several of the selections. Another sadness is David Bagnell, who served as a director alongside Betty Curry, has had to retire as director because of illness.

A third sadness is that Charley Patriquin has had to retire from actively taking part in his musical skills because of illness. Charley Patriquin played fiddle, guitar, drums and sang with an impressive bass voice. Charley at times attends the music afternoons as observer and friend. Everyone is happy to see him as an accompanied photo will show. Another photo shows Vivian Taylor, a talented pianist, from Dartmouth who has attended the musical afternoon for several years. She has taken over as pianist from the late Betty Curry.

As her husband fiddler, Robert Taylor, says in his book, Beyond the Music: "She was born in Dean Settlement, high on the hills of Halifax County. Her talent for basic music is a true gift. She has remarkable timing, skills, great ear for music, and an ability to learn so fast." He added in a recent note: "Vivian got her first piano when she was 14 years old. It is still in her present music room. She started going to dances with her parents at a very young age. She was always fascinated by the black and white keys. Waldo Munroe was her idol. She played her first dance with Mel MacPhee. She went from there to the

Metro Fiddlers, Down Home Fiddlers, especially the Last Chance Band, and to countless dances and concerts at all parts of this province. She still plays in Wentworth and loves her old-time fiddle friends. Over fifty years she has played with talented skill the keyboard for these many events."

This column was a mixture of the past and present, and we are praying that the future will be as fortunate as the past has been.

Blueberry Harvest Festival at Wentworth Learning Centre

By Hope Bridgewater

The third annual Show & Shine Show took place during August 19 at the Wentworth Learning Centre. This event included a quilt show/sale, kids zone, blueberry cafe, BBQ, fire truck display, and multiple vendors and is part of the Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival.

The Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative is a paid member of the Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Festival Cooperative which allows us to host events each year. Also, this event is a joint fundraiser between the Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative and

the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department.

This year we had more than 600 people in attendance throughout the day, and a little more than 100 cars in the outdoor car show. The public and car owners could vote on their favourite cars. The winner received a people's Choice trophy which was sponsored by Vernon Sprague & Sons Ltd. The winning car was a Sunliner, and unfortunately I do not have the owner's name!

Inside the building, members of the Quilting Bees hosted a quilt show and sale with more than 40 quilts on display. Joining them were a

couple of fabric/quilting vendors. Other vendors sold items such as homemade soaps, maple syrup, fresh blue berries and strawberries, baked goods, craft beer, moonshine and vodka.

Some of the vendors gave me a reports:

#1. Bentley's Blueberries Ltd. As well as producing blue berries, Jean Bentley as vendor had a table featuring maple syrup and she wrote: "My husband, Avar, and I have been in business for maple syrup and blueberries since 1981 and live in Westchester. We have five children: Michael works full-time with us and Marney helps out during blueberry time. We have 50,000 trees for tapping maple syrup. We also have a blueberry business.

#2. Spry Bay Soap & Bath Co. Owner Sherry from Spry Bay on the Eastern Shore says: "I started making soaps two years ago for myself and family and now it is a full-time hobby. I go to Truro market on Saturday and Musquodoboit Harbour on Sunday. My soaps are inspired by the sea and the top seller is Sea Salt and Peppermint. All of my soaps are made of food-grade oils such as coconut oil, olive oil, palm oil, and castor oil.

#3. Mrs. Pugsley's Emporium Inc. Beth Pugsley writes: "Mrs. Pugsley's Emporium which

continued on page 15



Children enjoying Slip & Slide operated by the Fire Department. (Submitted)

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We encourage submissions of upcoming community events, which are published FREE.

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