

# Welcome the World into Your Home

The Chignecto-Central International Student Program invites you and your family to join other families across the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board who enjoy the enriching and rewarding experience of becoming a host family.

The Chignecto-Central International Student Program offers a short term program for families interested in hosting an international student for a few weeks at a time. This program is ideal for busy families who want to participate in the program but may not have the time available to host long term. Students stay for four, six or eight weeks and then return to their home country.

"It was an amazing experience and we would love to do

it again. Casey became one of the family and we still share our favorite stories of her," says Suzanne Adshade, a host family mother, who encourages others to participate in the program. Families have a very rewarding experience and everyone learns.

Imagine sharing the beauty, history and culture of Canada with a young student from Russia, Colombia, Brazil, Germany, Korea, Italy, or one of the many other countries, and developing lifelong friendships between your two families. See Canada through the youthful eyes of an inquisitive teen, and rediscover the simple things that we often take for granted...a hockey or football game, a community picnic, even window-shopping at the mall!

The students become part of the family and participate in all the activities that you do as a family. They attend school daily and on some occasions are taken on group excursions to visit popular destinations in Nova Scotia.

The Chignecto-Central International Student Program has been in operation for over 12 years and has welcomed thousands of international students in that time. Schools, students and families are key to the success of the program.

**For more information, Please contact:**  
**Kendra MacKinnon,**  
**Short Term Home Stay Coordinator, Chignecto-Central International Student Program,**  
**Email [kmackhart@gmail.com](mailto:kmackhart@gmail.com) or phone 890-9631**



Barb Bryanton found this little mouse living in one of the family's bird houses in Lower Debert. (Submitted Photo)

## Giant Hogweed Grows to 20 Feet



Photo courtesy Cara Reay, Green Apprentices

By Chris Urquhart

There has been some talk in the media about Giant Hogweed. Here is some important information about it. It's called giant hogweed for a reason. This plant can stand as high as 15 to 20 feet with leaves that can grow up to five feet wide. And although the size is impressive, the hazard giant hogweed poses to human health is just as big. If you come into contact with giant hogweed sap your skin can become extremely sensitive to sunlight, resulting in severe burns and blisters.

Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) is part of the parsley or carrot family, and except for its larger size, it looks very much like cow parsnip. The plant has hollow stalks and stems that range from 2 to 4 inches in diameter, with dark reddish-purple splotches and coarse white hair.

The plant produces flattened oval shaped fruit and forms small white flowers that bloom from June to August. Each of the huge flower heads can produce up to 100,000 seeds that can lie

dormant in the soil for up to 15 years. A clear and watery sap is found in the stem and hairs of giant hogweed.

Contact with the sap itself is not painful. However, skin that comes into contact with the sap can become extremely sensitive to ultraviolet light in sunlight.

A few quick facts: - the reaction can occur up to 48 hours after contact. - the resulting rash and blisters can develop into purplish or blackened scars that may last for long periods of time. - the skin can remain sensitive to ultraviolet light for years. - temporary or permanent blindness can occur if the sap gets into your eyes.

Giant hogweed, originating from the Caucasus Mountains and southwestern Asia was brought to Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States as an ornamental garden plant. Over time it escaped and invaded new environments in many of the places where it was first introduced including Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

It often grows along streams and rivers, forming a dense canopy that overtakes native species. Giant hogweed is also found along roadsides and railways, waste areas, fields and vacant lots. It prefers moist soils and partial shade, but may also grow in full shade to full sun.

Protect yourself when working near these plants. Avoid getting sap on your skin. Cover your body from

head to toe with protective, nonabsorbent clothing made from synthetic, waterproof material: long sleeved shirts and pants, gloves with long cuffs, boots and protective coveralls. Protect your eyes and your entire face.

To prevent contamination, remove your clothes and gloves by turning them inside out. Avoid putting soiled clothes in contact with other objects or clothing and wash them well before any further use. If you do get sap on your skin - remove the sap as quickly as possible without rubbing and spreading it by blotting it with absorbent cloth or paper. - wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water, and then rinse thoroughly. - Wash and rinse your hands afterwards. - Change and wash your clothes to avoid contaminating yourself or other people. - Cover affected areas with protective clothing (gloves, long pants, and long sleeves) to avoid any exposure to light (sun or artificial light) for at least 48 hours. - See a doctor as soon as possible if your skin reacts.

If you get sap in your eyes - rinse your eyes thoroughly with clean water for at least 10-15 minutes. - Wear dark sunglasses to protect your eyes from any exposure to light. - See a doctor as soon as possible. If you find that you have giant hogweed growing on your property it is best to have a licensed weed exterminator remove it. However, if you choose to remove the plant yourself get professional advice to protect yourself.

AUGUST RAIN

The earth is dry and thirsty  
Beneath July's bright sun  
Its needs a drink so badly  
When all is said and done.

A little shower in the morning  
Will never do the trick  
A good down pour is needed  
It cannot come too quick.

Rain filled clouds are gathering  
As rain begins to fall  
Upon the sun baked gardens  
The thirsty earth drinks it all.

The refreshed flowers lift their heads  
An enjoy the welcome rain  
As the thankful earth relaxes  
And all is well again.

F.B. Adams

## Onslow Belmont Notes

By Debbie Weatherby

Hard to believe it is the end of August already! Exhibition has come to town and the kids will be heading back to school once again. Time sure has a way of flying by! Campers will soon be bringing their campers home and another camping season will be over. Pickling is on the go and my house still smells like chow this morning.

Now I just need to do up

beets and some cukes and check what is in my pickle cupboard so I don't make too many. Not seeing as much wild life as I have been but they are out there somewhere and when I least expect it they will run out in front of me.

Belmont Baptist Church services are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Prayer meeting is held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. They

held their Bible Vacation School for the kids again this year and by the sounds of things the kids had a blast.

Services are held at the Trinity United Church every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. There is also card playing of 45's every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. with lunch and prizes provided. All are welcome to come for an enjoyable evening.

Hope you all have a great Labour Day week end and be safe. If anyone wants to include something please contact me at 662-2425.

## Great Village Community Association Bringing a Community Together By Building Ideas

By Heather MacKay

The Great Village Community Association along with the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival, brought the community to life Sat. August 21st. For those that had a sweet tooth some lovely cooks prepared a variety of blueberry desserts, cheesecakes, pies, cakes and more. All of which were delicious. This was served in the Lower Level of the St James Church. many local people were on hand as well as visitors from afar. On the grounds outside there were children's games. Some adults also got caught up in the fun and were caught taking turns. The local businesses were so generous with

donations we were able to let all the kids play laser tag for two hours at no charge. By the end we had some tired, happy children. Meanwhile the BBQ was cooking up a storm as we were entertained by Country Transit. They are certainly a talented group.

Our next big event will be the Christmas Craft Sale Nov 20th. It will be one to mark on your calendar.

Sept 8th 7pm the County of Colchester will be at the Community Centre for a Q&A period regarding the upcoming Green Composters that will be delivered soon.

July 1st 2011 meeting will take place soon. We will brainstorming and need some

input from our community. I would like to see more attractions for everyone Laser Tag, Bouncy house etc. These are all very costly for a small community. I would like to be offer these at a cost so all children could afford to come and enjoy the events. So I am going to ask the community if they could help by dropping off any refundables that they may have at the Community Centre. They will be picked up daily and marked for July 1st. This will be an ongoing refundable collection. Every little bit helps. If you have some refundable and cannot get the Centre please call to make arrangements. Heather 668-2501.

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