

Exciting Plans for BASS RIVER COMMUNITY PARK



Members of the Bass River Community Park Committee held an information session at the Community Hall on August 4th. There was a good turnout on hand to hear plans for a playground, recreation area and community gardens on the grounds of the West Colchester Consolidated School. Some of those in attendance included: Front (l to r)- Sierra Patriquin, Renae Culter, Olivia McLaughlin, Norah McLaughlin, Ewan Patriquin, Cullen Patriquin, Avary McLaughlin, Madeline McLaughlin, Sabastian Patriquin, Cecellia McLaughlin; Back (l to r)- Michael Patriquin with Rein Patriquin, Nellie McLaughlin, Wendy Cox with Amaya Faulkner, Garnet McLaughlin, Alexia McLaughlin, Kevin Harnish and Jeff McLaughlin. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Members of the Bass River Community Park Committee have been brainstorming ideas since last fall. They held a meeting on August 4th in the Community Hall to share their vision.

Garnet McLaughlin began the discussion, on behalf of the Committee, to a crowd of about twenty people saying, "We can have a lot of say about developing this outdoors space and we can see tremendous things happen here."

He was referring to the grass area behind the West Colchester Consolidated School and the tennis court. The Committee envisions more than just a playground in this space, they are hoping for a Community Park which would be used outside of regular school hours.

Members of the Bass River Community Park Committee include Garnet McLaughlin,

Alexia McLaughlin, Nellie McLaughlin and Wendy Cox, along with backing from the Bass River Tennis Court Committee.

Wendy Cox says the threat of Bass River Elementary School closure last year prompted the Committee to look into options to meet the needs of area children. They sent surveys home through the school last spring looking for suggestions and they received a lot of positive support for the project. "We even had suggestions for a hot tub and a zoo," laughed Wendy.

Kevin Harnish, Principal at WCCS and Bass River Elementary, was in attendance at the August meeting and says the school is very supportive of the idea of a Community Park. "We think it is a great opportunity to build a partnership between the school and the community," he says.

Some of the ideas pro-

posed for the Community Park include new playground equipment, a walking track, improvements to the tennis court and a community garden area. "The kids suggested a vegetable garden at the school a few years ago. They could help grow some vegetables for the cafeteria," says Wendy Cox.

There was talk about upgrading the tennis courts into a multi-use area for street hockey, basketball and tennis. The playground will be built keeping the younger children in mind, and it was suggested some areas be wheelchair accessible, too.

The Committee hopes to gain access to funding through Municipal and Provincial grants. "We could really use someone who is good at writing proposals," said Garnet. "It would help our cause if people would write letters of support to the Major and other political leaders, too."

Central Colchester Regional School Board's Property Services will make a sight visit to the school at the end of August and give direction to the Bass River Community Park Committee as to where things will go. This will give them a better idea of how to proceed.

The Committee is anxious to bring their project to life. "We are planning on having equipment installed this spring," says Wendy Cox. "There are lots of areas for people in the community to become involved, from offering ideas, to time and talents."

Anyone wishing to offer support can give Wendy a call at 647-2720 or Garnet at 647-2271.

Garnet finished off the discussion with much enthusiasm for the future saying, "We plan to build this Community Park, no matter what. I look at it as a legacy for the kids."

Painting Parrsboro Band Hall

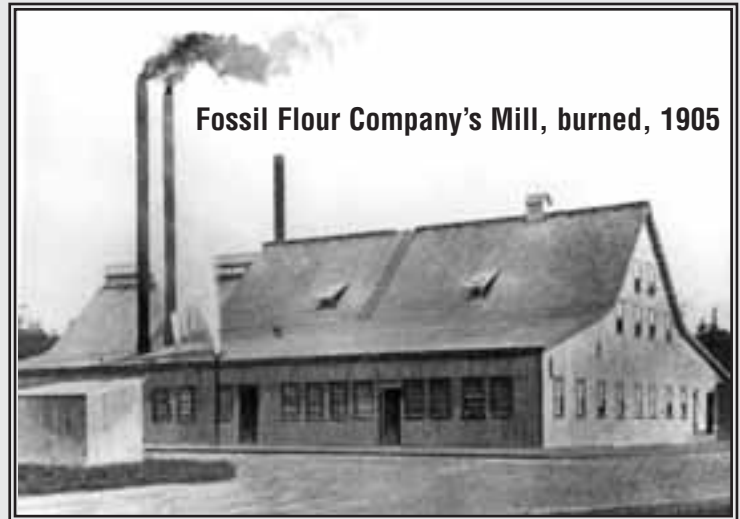
Now that the weather seems to be cooperating a bit more, the Parrsboro Band Hall executive wants to continue with exterior painting of the hall. There is very little

remaining to be done on the walls by the parking lot. The executive is seeking the assistance of some volunteers to pitch in and help. Painting times are restricted, for the

time being, to Mondays when The Hall is vacant (even the actors deserve a day off). If you could help, please call the Facilities Chair, Patricia Burke, at 902-728-2015.

Historic Sites Along The Shore - FOSSIL FLOUR MILL

The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.



Fossil Flour Company's Mill, burned, 1905

By Dick Akerman

The arrow pointer on map # 301 shows the location of the "Fossil Flour Mill" in the small hamlet Castlereagh, which is situated in the Cobequid Mountains above Bass River and Portauquique.



From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The first settlers to this area came from Ireland in the first half of the Nineteenth Century, and since the preferred land near the shore was taken up by earlier settlers, "the Planters" these latecomers had to take up land further inland, clear the forest and plant their crops without the benefit of the cleared land and dyked marshes left behind by the "Acadians". Some of the early family names were- Starratt, Fulton, Gamble, Wilson, Black, Cook and Grue.

Around 1890, the community built a school and a church, and around the same time, the mineral "silica" was discovered in the nearby lake. American interests formed a company, "The Fossil Fuel Co" and built a processing mill nearby, to dry and clean the product, which was then shipped over a pole railroad, powered by a steam engine, to the wharf at Bass River, for shipment to markets in the U.S.

This business operated for a few years, and with its demise, the community slowly died, and today there is but one empty house, several hunting cabins, and acres of blueberries left in what was once a thriving village.

Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, which will be published as a monthly column in the Shoreline Journal.

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade News

By: Clair Peers

The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Annual Harvest Sales and Auction is not that far away. This year's sale is Friday September 30 & Saturday October 1. The auction runs 2 days and is a fun event, with lots of fresh produce, baked goods, pickles, jams etc and an unbelievable array of used and new goods with a good selection of antiques and collectables and a ton of household products, appliances etc. etc. Last year's sale brought in over \$18,000. That is a tremendous boost to the annual budget. Those dollars go directly back into the local taxpayer's pockets by off- setting the fire tax rate. Again, your support is greatly appreciated!!

Check our web site for regular updates from now to auction day.

Watch for notices in your mailbox as to when firefighters will be in your area for pick-up

If you have items to drop off early contact us for arrangements to pick up or drop off.

<http://www.onslowbelmontfb.ca/>

You can also email me direct at c.peers@ns.sympatico.ca or phone 895 0788 & leave a message. The fire Brigade's new replacement #10 pumper is due to be delivered sometime in September. Watch next month's news for that.

Community Health Boards are making a difference...



Along the Shore

You Can Too!

Please join us for a community meeting at:
Economy Recreation Center at 7pm, Tues, Sep 6, 2011
OR

Lower Onslow Community Centre 7pm, Mon, Oct 3, 2011

- If you are seeking funding for a healthy community related initiative, please come to the session to find out more.
- You are welcome to participate in a discussion about your health, health promotion and prevention programs and the health of your community. All are welcome.
- If you would like to know more about your CHB...please attend!

**Your contribution will be valuable to your community,
yourself and to the local health system!**

For more information visit: www.cehha.nshealth.ca/chb or contact:

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