

Contrasts in the Life of Jordan Sprague



Jordan Sprague gives to Kelly Steeves and her grandson Jackson, lobsters which were won by Kelly's father, Charles Patriquin, in a fundraiser draw for the Wentworth C@Psite." (Felicia MacKinnon Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Still a teenager at age 19, Jordan Sprague of Wentworth has experienced many contrasts in his life. Jordan grew up on his family's beef farm and grew to love animals. At an early age he would help with the feeding of the animals and haying on the farm, learning core values on what the true definition of volunteerism means from his hard-working, tight knit family. The "training" from his family would come in handy as his years progressed, leading to many accolades for the work that he puts into his home community.

Growing up on a farm, Jordan loved to be outdoors four wheeling, helping his grandmother with her garden, and helping his grandfather and father with the farm. During the summer Jordan was nine years old, he began looking after the group of piglets his grandfather bought for the farm. As naive as any nine-year-old, he didn't realize what would be happening at the end of the summer, even though he had seen it happen with several of the farms' cows. Thinking these piglets were pets, he ran over to feed them everyday after school, spending hours with them, even naming them. One day in October of that year, Jordan arrived home from school to find his beloved pigs being butchered. While the vow to never talk to his grandfather and father didn't last long (because his grandfather took him for ice cream that night), his vow to never eat meat or be a part of animal butchering held through, and for the past nine and a half years, Jordan has remained a complete vegetarian, even while living on his family's beef farm.

When Jordan was seven, a new business opened in Wentworth. It was the brand new Millennium Library and C@Psite located at his school, Wentworth Elementary. Just like his love for animals, he loved to read books and play on the computer, and there was never a free moment

where Jordan wasn't begging his parents to take him to the C@Psite. Each summer Jordan attended the computer camps held at the C@Psite learning more and more each visit, dreaming that one day he could help people learn just as much as he learned.

Jordan's love for computers and technology grew when he began attending Pugwash District High School. In Grade eight he joined the PDHS Panther Press, the monthly school newspaper. His monthly column, "What's Happening, Juniors?" was written by him until he began grade ten when Dawn Moore took over to allow Jordan to become co-editor of the paper with Mariah Johnson. The Panther Press saw a huge turning point in its history as Jordan helped take it to places it has never gone before. Jordan began a new monthly column "Ask a Celebrity" where he interviewed celebrities and featured it in the paper. Celebrities he interviewed included athlete Rick Hanson, model Fabio, violinist Natalie McMaster, and cast members of "Dancing with the Stars," "The Dukes of Hazzard," "Reba," "The Simpsons," and "Family Guy." Aside from talking to celebrities, Jordan also pulled double duty, organizing four years straight for his Panther Press team to raise money and volunteer at the annual IWK Telethon.

All the while he was booking nearly 100 hours a month during his extra curricular activities, and editing the bimonthly Wentworth Community Newsletter which he started at the age of 14, Jordan began volunteering at the Wentworth C@Psite and becoming an active member on the C@Psite's Steering Committee, a job he had wanted since the age of seven. The numerous volunteer hours banked at the C@Psite eventually led to a nomination by the Department of Seniors for Cumberland County's annual Youth Volunteer of the Year award, which he ended up winning in April of 2010.

Volunteerism proves to be in his blood as Jordan, along with his family, also won the award for Family Volunteers of the Year in 2001. A month later, Jordan again won an award for his volunteering and time spent on extra curricular activities when he was a recipient of the 2010 Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governors Medal.

When Jordan started working at the Ski Wentworth day-care during the winter months, he never turned his back on the C@Psite. After working an eight hour shift, he would go straight to the C@Psite and volunteer for three more hours every Sunday. His dedication helped earn him a position as a C@P Summer Intern, a position he has now held for three years running.

In grade twelve, Jordan began the daily duties of producing the morning announcements broadcast at Pugwash District High School, in hopes to gain experience for his dream career of broadcast journalist. While continuing to edit the monthly newspaper and the bimonthly community newsletter, Jordan was a busy guy. For his outstanding efforts in all that he did, Jordan was awarded with Student of the Year at his 2011 high school graduation.

His knowledge of writing and technology helped propel him into the field of Journalism. Last fall, Jordan left his rural community of Wentworth (population of about 500) to Toronto (population 2.6 million) to study for a Bachelor of Journalism at Ryerson University. His courses gave him the opportunity to grow as a journalist, and had the chance to interview even more stars, such as singer Jan Arden, and "Days of our Lives" star and Emmy nominee Molly Burnett. While in Toronto, Jordan continued to edit the Wentworth Community Newsletter, keeping in constant contact with his home community, with plans to return in the spring to get back into volunteer-mode. Upon his return, news broke that the Canadian Federal government was cutting funds for all C@Psites immediately. The C@Psite he grew up with and loved was possibly shutting down for good.

Although working five days a week again at the Wentworth C@Psite, hosting the weekly Reading Programs for children, and assisting in computer technology with individuals of all ages, Jordan helped create the Wentworth Community C@Psite & Library Fundraising Committee in hopes to raise enough money to keep the site open for another year at

Historic Sites

Along The Shore - Hiram Hyde & the Stage Coach

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.



By Dick Akerman

The King's Highways in Nova Scotia in the early part of the 19th Century were little more than footpaths and blazed trails. With the improvement of the roads, came the first use of public conveyances, or coach lines. At first, the coaches used were converted farm wagons and sleighs open to the weather, dusty and hot in summer, cold in winter. In 1842, an American, Hiram Hyde, was given the contract, by Samuel Cunard, to carry the Royal Mail, and passengers, between Halifax and Pictou. Using Truro as a hub, this service was soon expanded to Cape Breton and New Brunswick. Hyde bought, from New England, well build, enclosed, Concorde Coaches which could carry nine passengers inside, with an additional six plus the driver outside. The service between Halifax and Truro carried on until the completion of rail service in 1858, the service to Pictou carried on until 1867, when the railroad reached Pictou County.

In 1860 Hyde conveyed the then Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII, from Truro to Pictou, as part of the Prince's tour of the province. The coach used on that occasion is pictured in front of the "Prince Edward Hotel" on Court Street in Truro. The hotel is located by the # 1 arrow on Map# 305, and was located on today's Superstore parking lot. Hyde's



home on Queen Street, is located with arrow # 2. With the advent of the railroads, Hyde retired from the stagecoach business and was involved with the construction of the early telegraph systems in the central part of the Province.

The coach in the picture was used for transport on the north shore for many years, and then went on display at the small museum at Green Hill, Pictou County. It was then taken to Banff, Alberta and used to transport tourists around that picturesque town. In 1950 it was used to transport the then Princess, now Queen Elizabeth and her husband Philip to the Calgary Stampede. The coach was moved to an antique car museum in Victoria, B.C. and is now in the "Wells Fargo" Museum in Portland, Oregon.

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.

From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September Church Schedule

By Chris Urquhart

Church services for the month of September will remain at 10am and continue rotating between the three Churches - Erskine United, Glenholme, Debert United, Debert and Masstown United, Masstown. We are enjoying our new minister Carol Gillard M.Div. and invite you to join us at

our services where you can listen to Carol's inspired and thought provoking sermons as well as our choir's musical selections.

Services will be:
September 2 - Debert,
September 9 - Glenholme,
September 16 - Masstown,
September 23 - Debert and
September 30 - Glenholme.

See you there!

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Lic. Larry Tirrell - Pastor
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