

Jim Dooks Memorial Playground Opened



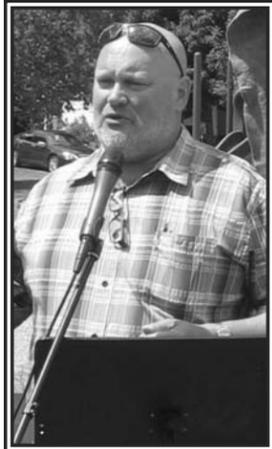
An overall view of equipment at the Jim Dooks Memorial Playground.



Mrs. Jim Dooks addresses the crowd at the opening of Camp Evangeline's new Jim Dooks Memorial Playground, named in the honour of her late husband.



Amanda Evans, the driving force behind organizing and fundraising for the completion of the \$80,000 new playground at Camp Evangeline.



District 9 Councillor Doug MacInnes speaking at the opening of the Jim Dooks Memorial Playground at Camp Evangeline on Saturday, July 30th.

Story and photos by Maurice Rees

When Amanda Evans, Musquodoboit Harbour sets her mind to something, she doesn't give up until it's completed. Such was the situation when she started three years ago to have a new playground built at Camp Evangeline, on East Folly Mountain Road, Debert.

Yes it took her leading a committee of dedicated volunteers to get everything in place for an official opening on July 30th. Many hours of hard work, hundreds of calls and she was able to hold the official opening of a new \$80,000 playground not just for children at Camp Evangeline, but the playground is open to all area families and children.

The playground is in memory of Jim Dooks and has been named "Jim Dooks Memorial Playground. Jim was an avid camper and supporter of Camp Evangeline. Jim's passion for Camp Evangeline evolved over 20 years, during which he did just about anything there and became known to the adults as Mr Fix-It, but to the children, whom he loved dearly, he was known as "the Candyman".

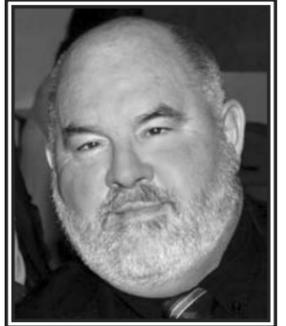
The official opening was attended by a large crowd of camp enthusiasts and it was amazing to see the large number of children anxiously waiting for the ribbon cutting, so they could have lots of fun on all the new equipment.

Amanda would not reveal all the sources of funding, but it is commonly known that of the \$80,000, almost \$25,000 was raised through local fundraising with significant support from Debert area businesses. A sign at the entrance to the playground graciously acknowledges and displays the logo or names of many businesses. Through the support of local councillor, Doug MacInnes, the recreation department of the Municipality of Colchester provided significant funding, which then helped Amanda

and her committee to see funding from the province and other government agencies.

Speaking at the official opening, Councillor MacInnes said the playground is a welcome addition to the Debert area and he hopes children from the entire area will make great use of the new facility. Councillor Christine Blair was the other representative from the municipality.

Speaking prior to ribbon cutting, Mrs. Dooks spoke how proud her husband would be at the new facility, and she hoped family members, not only from Camp Evangeline, but the entire area would find many hours of enjoyment there and as the playground gets better known families from afar will



The late Jim Dooks, who for many years was "handyman" at Camp Evangeline, but for his love of children was known to them as "the candyman".

visit the camp. She was presented with a special poster which had been signed by all the children present.



All children at Camp Evangeline prepared a poster for Mrs. Dooks to indicate they were the first ones to play at the new playground.



A portion of the crowd attending the official opening of the Jim Dooks Memorial Playground at Camp Evangeline.



A number of children are shown playing on the new equipment just after the official opening on July 30th.



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