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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

September 2023

A community meeting, hosted by Tom Taggart MLA, to discuss Option 4 for new Bass River Bridge will be Thursday, Sept 28 at Victoria Hall, from 6pm to 8 pm

Several special pages highlighting the completion and opening of Heart's Haven, a new 16 acre memorial park will be featured in the October issue. The park recently opened, but we didn't have enough room to give it justice. The park aligns with the type of recommendations from the Mass Murder Commission issued in its final report.

An 80th birthday celebration in May 2024 will replace the infamous 90th Birthday celebration started by the Shoreline Journal in 2010 and ran for 10 years stopping only because of CoVid-19. Area residents who will reach the ripe old age of 80 by December 2024 will be invited to attend. Registration details should be emailed to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

The Halifax Lebanese Festival is back, and it's bigger and better than ever before! Mark your calendars for September 8th to 10th as we transform the corner of Windsor Street and Cunard Street into a bustling and lively celebration of Lebanese culture, food, and traditions. Since 2001, the Annual Halifax Lebanese Festival has been a cherished tradition, bringing together the diverse community of Halifax. With over 25,000 attendees expected this year, the festival promises an experience like no other.

Hurricane Preparedness may become a priority of all levels of government as climate change is causing an increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes. Hurricane Fiona, last September, and the more recent heavy rains and flooding is causing concern and has resulted in Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Lohr, also Minister responsible for the Emergency Management Office holding a news conference on hurricane preparedness on August 24. It's believed to be the first of many initiatives.

Once in a Lifetime Parachute Jump with the SkyHawks

By Linda Harrington

It only took five seconds to answer the question posed by Atlantic Air Show Media & Public Relations Director Tracy Morgan-Boudreau, "Do you want to jump with the Sky Hawks?", but I will admit to having second thoughts a few hours later.

The Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team, the SkyHawks were scheduled to perform in Air Show Atlantic, Debert on Saturday, Aug. 26th and 27th. A

few media personnel were to be invited to go on a jump with them on the Thursday, the 24th. I had checked the box on the registration form to say I would do the jump but never expected to get chosen. Now, in less than 24 hours, at 61 years of age, I was going to be jumping out of a plane.

The Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team, the SkyHawks, are Canada's only military parachute demonstration team. The 15 demonstrators come from

the Canadian Army and the Canadian Rangers

Knowing I would be in good hands and googling the risks of skydiving (which said you had a higher risk of injury on the drive to the jump) made me put any reservations aside and show up on time for this once in a life-time experience.

The day was perfect for jumping out of a plane at 12,000 feet. A high ceiling, bright sunshine and little to no wind. There were three of us

media reps going up on the first flight of the day. Myself, Megan King of Global News and Anna, from Truro Buzz.

First order of business was a three-page release form. Listing next of kin and emergency contacts was a bit unnerving but had to be done.

We were assigned a Sky-Hawk team member to be our tandem jumper. Warrant Officer Eric Demers- Second in Command was assigned to me. I asked him how many jumps he had done and when he told me, "This was his first, as he was actually the cook", I knew we were going to have lots of fun. Now it was time to put on

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The Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team, the SkyHawks took our Linda Harrington for the trip of a lifetime, parachuting from 12,000 feet. Linda reports there's lots of adrenaline leading up to such a jump, but once the parachute opens it is a very peaceful float back down to earth. See Linda's story and more photos on page 11.

Kilttober

September 30TH

The Debert and Area Community Association requested and received a grant of \$6,000 from Colchester Council at its committee meeting on August 17th after its return from July break. The funds will be used to fund 2023 Kilttober being held on Ventura Drive in Debert on September 30th. Opening ceremonies will be held at 12 noon, although Scottish Heavy Events start at 9 am.

Events will include the Ancient Scottish heavy events from 9am-5pm; BBQ and sweet treats beginning at 11 am. Other attractions will include live music provided by Five Days in May from 3-7 pm; Pumpkins for Distance and the 2nd annual pie eating contest.

Kids activities will include: Bouncy Tent; face painting, petting zoo crafts starting at 11 am.

Free admission to the events, except for concessions, which will operate on a "cash only" basis. To assist Debert and Area Community Association undertake additional community events, throughout the year, cash donations at the gate are welcomed and appreciated. The association hopes to host Kilttober on an annual basis.

This funding request falls under the municipality's Community Event Policy of which \$60,000 was included in the 2023/24 maintenance budget for Community Event Grants. Currently, \$9,510 of the \$60,000 has been committed to community event activities to date.

Replacing Deteriorating Sandbag Trench at VMP

Submitted by John Gilley

On the 19 Aug 2023, the board representing The Vet-



erans Memorial Park executed a workday to replace our deteriorating sandbag trench. Community involvement was overwhelming with a total of 52 people showing up to do the hard work. Designed and built over 15 years ago the Garden of Sorrow is one part of the Celtic Flower design of the park. The 1100 plus sandbags which line this 100-foot area is a sterile replica of the horrific trenches of WWI. It provides a unique opportunity for the visitors to experience the illusion of stepping down into a trench with upturned soldiers' helmet a stark reminder of the sacrifices.

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In 2022, the sub-committee started the plan to replace our concrete filled burlap sandbags as the mixture was crumbling. Through planning and the calling of friends, colleagues, and community members the first Casey Concrete truck showed up at 8AM and the second was emptied by 1PM the over 50 volunteers (listed below as best we could recall) had 19 cubic meters of cement filled and placed. It truly was a show of camaraderie, community, respect, and teamwork. Especially reassuring to see so many young people participate.

continued with photo of finished trench on page 2

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