

FREE



Spreading the spirit with Cop Shop... see p. 12

north dartmouth echo

linking our community

The more things change...

by Karl Nightingale

Those of us who have lived in the same place for a long period of time often stop seeing things that those who are new to our neighbourhood notice right away. New people can help us see the neighbourhood in a new light and we need to welcome that new sight. Take, for example, the article on the 50th anniversary of Stairs Memorial Church. How many people know where the name came from? (It was named after William Stairs, an early rope maker in North Dartmouth who supported the church from the start). How many long-term residents of our community just take for granted the existence of the church and know little of the long and varied contribution the congregation has made to the community of North Dartmouth? Yet if you are one of the hundreds of newcomers to our community who have been helped by the programs offered through Stairs Memorial, you know it as a place of support and assistance, a congregation that reaches out and cares about all in the community.

In the face of growing challenges, from a declining and aging congregation to ever-rising costs for heat and maintenance, the congregation continues to serve the community and share its resources with the wider community.

We would all benefit from taking a few moments to look around our community with "new" eyes and see again the many organizations, large and small, that have for many

cont. page 2...



The construction of Stairs Memorial United Church on Hester Street in the late 1950s was a community project that drew parishioners together and inspired a spiritual renewal in Dartmouth North.

Stairs United – thanks for the memories

by Pam Lutz

On Sunday, February 22, Stairs Memorial United Church will hold a special service, 50 years to the day of the first service ever held there. Stairs sits at 44 Hester Street in Dartmouth North, and

the church wants to thank its many members and their families who contributed to the planning, financing and construction of the church.

The Echo spoke with two long-time Stairs parishioners about their memories of the church.

Many years ago, Frances Hunter lived with her husband and two young sons in an apartment in Woodside. Then one day, the apartment building burned down and she and her family moved back to Windsor. Her husband

commuted to his job at Ferry Aviation and when Frances and the boys decided to move back to Dartmouth, she wanted three things: proximity to a bus stop, a church and a school. They bought their first home on Elmwood in the early

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north dartmouth echo

The North Dartmouth Echo is published 6 times a year by The Dartmouth North Community Newspaper Society. This community newspaper is dedicated to celebrating many good news stories and activities that take place in the community, as well as keeping the residents informed of activities and issues that impact on our community.

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The more things change
...cont. from p.1

years contributed to our community and to making it a healthier, more vibrant place to live and work. If you are one of the hundreds involved

with those community groups, thank you and well done! If you are not involved, at least take a few minutes and thank those who give so much, while asking nothing in return.

Just as we often take for granted the organizations that serve our community, so too do we tend to lose sight of the long-standing rituals, holidays and celebrations that take place in our community. One such celebration, St. Patrick's Day, was once a huge celebration in our community, owing to the large number of Irish immigrants who settled in North Dartmouth over the years, including the Irish labourers who built the Shubie canal. Once a religious holiday (one of the few days in the year that pubs were closed in Ireland), St. Patrick's

Day has become a day celebrated by many, as the Irish are very glad to welcome anyone into their clan on St. Paddy's Day. This openness and willingness to share their culture, food and dance are not unique to the Irish, but they seem to do a great job of making all feel part of a fun and festive day. Maybe we need to do like they do in Newfoundland and Labrador, where St. Patrick's Day is a provincial holiday! Now that would make the winter go away just a bit quicker!

Let's not lose our respect for those who serve, our pleasure in celebrating other cultures, or our pride in our community. Those who went before and those who come new to our community will thank you.



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Stairs United—thanks for the memories!

...cont. from p. 1

1950s, and the family attended Stairs Memorial United at its former location on Henry Street.

Meanwhile, the church community was coming together to erect a new home for their spiritual community on Hester Street.

As a young mother of four children, Francis was taken under the collective wing of the women of the church, who invited her to their houses for meetings and made her feel special. She became active in the Women's Missionary Society (later,

the United Church Women or UCW). Her sons attended Cubs and Scouts at the church and her daughter attended Brownies and Girl Guides. Around 1966, Frances started leading the Explorers program, whose motto was: "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only." She enjoyed teaching the girls every week, and fondly remembers packing mission boxes for Inuit children in northern Canada, and hearing guest speakers from different parts of the world. By the time

she stopped teaching, there were 53 young women in the program.

Four of Frances's five children were married at Stairs and two were baptized there. She served as president of the UCW for three years and received her life membership pin.

Frances is currently the food bank manager of the North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre, which operates out of the Stairs church basement.

Jean Kenney lived on Slayter Street for over 40 years and was the part-time secretary of Stairs church for 20 of those years. She saw many developments during her time at Stairs, including a fire under the eaves which forced a quick evacuation several years ago. When the church installed an elevator, it made a huge difference to the elderly in the congregation who had trouble negotiating the church steps. For many years the church was home to a men's club and sponsored a very active bowling club that raised money for church activities. There were many plays staged under its eaves, to the delight of the congregation and its budding actors.

Jean speaks fondly of the beautiful pipe organ that was built over a number of years by Joseph MacDonald.

Joe was a Catholic and taught in Halifax at the School for the Blind, but he was also the organist at Stairs. In 1973 the pipe organ was dedicated to the church. She remembers the UCW as a "vibrant group of women who put on bazaars, dinners and wonderful breakfasts to raise funds for the church's many programs."

Around 1978, Paul Blaney of Saint John, NB began crafting a series of stained glass windows for the church which took about ten years to complete. They were memorials to different people in the congregation. Eight more stained glass panels were erected

in the church's balcony, depicting events such as the Halifax Explosion and the Second World War. Other panels show the history of Stairs, each with a different theme.

Jean produced the church's newsletter, *Inside Stairs*, for many years so the church "family" could keep abreast of the news about its congregation. She laughs, remembering how "one Sunday, a kitten was born in the choir during the service."

The service on February 22 is an opportunity to thank all those who contributed so generously this past year to the "Greening of Stairs – the Furnace Fund." In a few short

months, thanks to the leadership of Gordon McKeen and Ron Carter, members raised \$40,000 to replace the old, oil furnace with a new gas heating system. Once again, the community of Stairs United will come together to celebrate the renewal of faith and how great things can be accomplished when people come together united in one purpose.

Past Ministers of Stairs, Atlantic School of Theology students, members, friends and families residing in Dartmouth are invited to attend the service. A reception will follow in the church hall. For further information, please contact the church office at 466-4389.



These photos show the construction of Stairs church on Hester Street, beginning with the empty lot (top left), completion of the framing in above and the new spiritual home opening its doors to the congregation in 1959.

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Report from:

DISTRICT NINE COUNCILLOR

Sidewalks, caps and budgets

Dear Residents of District 9:

I hope you are living well and enjoying this winter. As your HRM Councillor, I get many calls during the winter season from residents who are having problems with snow clearing on their streets and sidewalks. HRM Public Works is very good at addressing these issues as best it can. Every contact made to me either in person, by phone message, fax or e-mail is taken with respect and discussed with the snow clearing supervisors. Each year the area councillors meet with Public Works to go over the problems of previous years, and new initiatives to address the new year's operations. This year, all the sidewalks in District 9 are on a performance contract and this has helped lower the amount of problem incidents.

Winter also brings assessments and tax bills and the approval of a municipal tax rate. We will be into April or May before the budget is passed and the tax rate set for this year. Assessments for single-family homes have gone up an average 4.3 per cent in District 9 over last year. The highest was District 22—Timberlea Prospect—at 5.3 per cent and the lowest District 15—Fairview Clayton Park—at 3.2 per cent.

There are 102,000 HRM residential properties under the provincial cap program. The average assessment of a capped property in District 9 is \$129,682. The program has its benefits but already it is creating situations where residents on the same street, in similar homes, are paying different amounts of property tax. When a home is sold, the new owners start paying tax on the uncapped market value. It will not be long before this inequity gets so high that residents will be demanding the program be changed. The province has been asked by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to review the cap program and replace it with an income-based program of direct tax relief to those who need it the most. This is a provincial program that has a lot of short-term financial gain that will be accompanied by long-term pain. Research by the UNSM indicates that under the cap system, the tax burden is being shifted to medium- to low-income property owners.

I am putting forth suggestions to staff on where we might reduce our expenditures this year, such as curbing out-of-province travel. I expect we will have to cut and delay programs as we are going to be under pressure to provide matching funds for federal initiatives under the economic recovery strategic funds program. Municipal governments are not permitted to have deficits, so we will have to shift funds within existing budgets to provide dollars for the federal projects. This is a challenge as we try to keep property taxes at present levels by trimming the excess and reallocating existing funds.

Please contact me anytime to discuss these or any other issues of concern.

~ Jim Smith, Councillor, District 9

The time is NOW

by Angel Wright

I first heard of the WEE Society this summer when I walked into the NOW Program Office on Ochterloney Street in downtown Dartmouth. I wasn't even aware of WEE, which stands for the Woman's Economic Equality Society. It's been around since 1996, which made me wonder how many other women (just like me) have never even heard of the WEE Society and its programs.

The WEE Society's mission is to promote the economic well-being of women in Nova Scotia, and ensure that diverse women are included in

community-based economic development. The programs that the society supports include: Women Unlimited, IT Works for Women, Women and Co. and the NOW Project.

The NOW Project (New Opportunities for Women) aims to decrease the barriers that women on social assistance face in finding employment and to support their successful transition into the labour market. Through its 28-week program, the NOW Project helps women build upon their life and work skills by helping them apply those

skills during community-based work experience with local employers.

The NOW Program takes place in two phases. The first phase offers participants an opportunity to upgrade, a GED preparation program, computer skills enhancement, confidence building, service learning and workshops on various topics from stress management to employability skills. It is a chance for women from diverse backgrounds to come together to support and inspire each other to achieve their goals. The second phase consists of

14 weeks of supportive work experience with local employers, which is designed to give the women not only experience, but also training in the field that is best suited for their interests and skills.

This past October, the NOW Project was happy to announce the graduation of the first intake of participants and were even more pleased with the results. Of the 13 that started in the program, nine participants completed it successfully, with five of them becoming fully employed.



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Substituting a breeze at John Martin

Dear Editor;

I was recently given the opportunity to work as a substitute EPA (Educational Program Assistant) at John Martin Junior High School. I will say that I accepted the job and went in with a sense of unease, as I am used to working in elementary schools, not junior highs, where the students are bigger than me. The unease that started my day certainly didn't last long.

Upon my arrival at the school, a student not only rang the bell for me, but held open the door as well. I was greeted at the office with warm smiles and cheerful ban-

ter. I proceeded to the classroom and was again, very warmly greeted by both staff and students. What a great start to my day! I was given a schedule for the day indicating which classrooms to go to and which students would need my help that day. Again, the students and staff were very helpful. They pointed me in the right direction and often times they escorted me to the room I needed to find.

As I completed each of my assigned tasks, the different classroom teachers and students thanked me for my help. The whole day was a completely gratifying

experience! When asked if I would be willing to come back again, I jumped at the chance.

One further thing that I would like everyone (not just our community, but everyone) to know about this school, is that the respect between students and staff is visible to anyone walking in the halls. The staff

goes out of their way to help the students in ANY way they can and the students WANT to please them. Everybody in the building works hard and they work TOGETHER. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of this highly respectful group of people.

Jennifer Fitzsimmons



New Vice-Principal Lisa Knott, Principal Ramona Joseph and Maureen Banfield.

Fare thee well, Ms. Banfield!

On January 29, John Martin Junior High students, staff and the School Advisory Committee bid "Farewell" to Vice Principal Maureen Banfield, who has moved to a new position with the school board. Ms. Lisa Knott is the new acting vice principal.

A few words from Ms. Banfield:

"It has been a pleasure serving John Martin Junior High and its community these four years. As you now know, I have recently accepted a position with the [School] Board as Facilitator of Student Services... While I am thrilled for the opportunity to serve students in my new

capacity, leaving John Martin mid-year is difficult. The relationships and time with the John Martin community are treasured. My experiences here have taught me much about the resilience and strength of a team committed to doing better and being better. Working in partnership with Ramona Joseph, your principal, has been the greatest gift. The entire staff's dedication to this school and community is unmatched and I know the balance of the year will hold continued support and success. Thank you for allowing me this time with you all and know I consider my John Martin experiences one of the best of my career."

Report from: Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP

Deficits and a growing debt


Dear friends,

As many of you know, the recent federal budget introduced by the Conservatives was passed in the House of Commons. After years of budget surpluses and sound fiscal management by previous Liberal governments, we now find ourselves facing huge deficits and a growing debt.

The budget wasn't perfect by any stretch; it was, however, a step forward from the November Economic Update when the Conservative government denied they would run a deficit and seemed to deny that we were in fact facing serious economic difficulties, even though others seemed to be able to anticipate the emerging difficulties. We had hoped they would have done more for the vulnerable and for recently unemployed workers by making more meaningful changes to Employment Insurance, by increasing access and showing more sensitivity for Canadians who are facing job losses.

This is a tough time for Canadians — people are suffering and many are worried about their future. We allowed the budget to pass in order to let the money and programs included in it to kick in as soon as possible. However, if these investments are not meeting the needs of Canadians, the Conservative government will have to account for that. They will either have to change course or face the consequences. We laid down conditions requiring the prime minister to update Canadians every three months on the stimulus plan. Our new leader, Michael Ignatieff, recently reappointed me as Official Opposition Critic for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. It will be my job to hold the government to account on much of their recent stimulus package, specifically as it relates to employment insurance, post-secondary education, literacy and childcare. All of these will be of top priority for the Liberal opposition as we move forward.

~ Mike Savage, MP
Dartmouth-Cole Harbour



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Annual turkey dinner à la John Martin Junior High

by Megan Vance

Each year, John Martin Junior High puts on a turkey dinner for students and invited guests. The meal consists of healthy food options, with a hint of sweet for dessert.

Grade seven teacher Sarah Miles says "The turkey dinner is a good way for the school community to celebrate the season."

In preparation for the meal, the principal, vice principal, students, staff and community members prepare food and set up a place for everyone to sit. "We can't do it without the kids!" Principal Ramona Joseph says.

The entire student

body huddles around any table they can get to and chat until the food is ready to be handed out. To see all of their smiling, eager faces when they see and eat the food is absolutely awesome.

I love the idea of a turkey dinner, because all of the students come together like a family and it is a good way to celebrate without buying everyone a present or saying "Merry Christmas." It's also much more fun. And, this is the only school I know of where kids hold a major event like this. Community members such as the police, Nova Scotia Power, Trevor



photo: Rebecca Douglass

Zinck (MLA) and HRM Councillor Jim Smith attend. Alas, we could not have done this without the help from the students and staff who dedicated their time to make a special day for

everyone.

Special thanks to Councillor Jim Smith, Trevor Zinck, MLA, Mary Bordeleau (owner, Tim Hortons), O'Regans Auto, Capitol Health, United Way's Action For

Neighbourhood Change, the Breakfast Program, Kim Conrad, Conrad Brothers Ltd. and Nova Scotia Power for your ongoing support throughout the year.

Cst. Randy Wood serves up turkey with a smile at John Martin Jr. High.

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA...

Getting into the spirit...

Farrell Hall was host to a Christmas Singalong one Sunday afternoon in December. The hall was decorated with white mini lights, garlands and wreaths. Mr. Paul Simons, a well-known jazz pianist and Dartmouth resident, brought along his electric keyboard and song sheets were given out to the men, women and children who had gathered to sing out and usher in the season.

Pam Lutz (Farrell Hall General Manager) and Bob Anthony took turns leading the singalong. During the break, everyone sampled hot, spiced apple cider, coffee, tea, soft drinks and Christmas cookies. A group of ladies from a local church donned colorful, Victorian costumes replete with red velvet

capes, fancy hats and hand muffs. They were stunning in their finery, which no one could have guessed was sewn from old curtains!


Santa took time from his busy schedule to drop by and say "hello" and door prizes were given out after intermission. Six happy visitors left with Christmas poinsettias tucked under their arms.

It was interesting to see people come up to the table at the door and dig out their wallets, expecting to pay for the singalong. They couldn't believe there was no cost associated with it. One lady who brought along her two children commented, "This is wonderful. If I'd known about this earlier, I could've filled the place." Well, ma'am, there's always next year!



photo: Rebecca Douglass

Victorian carolers and Santa added spice to the singalong at Farrell Hall.



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Lonnie James – “I got the rhythm in me” by Pam Lutz

When Lonnie James smiles, he looks like a cherub. Born Lawrence Gilbert James, he has a round face, huge, soft, dark eyes and a shy smile. At first meeting, you might think his gentle nature more reminiscent of a country cleric. As it happens, his grandfather was a Baptist deacon in Five Mile Plains and had a profound impact on Lonnie’s life.

When Lonnie was a youngster, his mother left him with her parents in rural Nova Scotia and she returned to Toronto to work. His grandfather ran a small, mixed farm and was busy with his local church. He had two basic rules if you lived under his roof: you went to school and you went to church. His grandmother worked cleaning houses but was always there with a hot meal on the table at night.

Grandfather George was a strict disciplinarian. He constantly pushed Lonnie to excel. He bought Lonnie an acoustic “Lone Ranger” guitar with the expectation that Lonnie would only play it for church activities and other religious functions. That’s like giving a starving child a chocolate bar on Wednesday and telling him he can’t eat it until Sunday. One night, while his grandfather was in Halifax, Lonnie’s grandmother allowed him to attend a local dance where he and a few of his friends played back up with the band. His grandfather heard about it and all hell broke loose. So before his 17th birthday, after listening to a local recruiter at Windsor Regional High School,

Lonnie joined the Armed Forces. Because he was under age, his grandmother had to approve his enlistment. This made for another argument on the home front.

Lonnie completed basic training in Petawawa, Ontario. After six months, he had his first leave and on his way home in Montreal, he bought gifts for his grandparents. But he had three items for his grandmother and one, a flashlight, for his grandfather. His grandfather turned away and Lonnie discovered later that he was hurt at receiving only one gift. From this, Lonnie learned that you have to respect everyone and treat them all equally.

After basic training, Lonnie was stationed in Aldershot, Debert and Gagetown, New Brunswick. He married

Minnie, a local girl, at 17 and fathered four boys and three girls. He didn’t smoke or drink and music played an important part in his life. While his friends were out partying, Lonnie concentrated on studying and playing music.

He eventually formed a band with his sons. He called the group *The Rhythm Bells* and they have been playing steadily now for over 30 years. Lonnie plays the mandolin, guitar, ukulele and mouth organ. While Minnie lived and raised the family in Five Mile Plains, his eldest son, Carl, managed the band when Lonnie was away.

Lonnie worked his way up the military ranks. He started out as a private, then became a sergeant, then got his CFR (Commissioned From the Ranks). He took

officer training courses and studied military law. He became a second lieutenant and graduated to first lieutenant within six months. Four years later, he received his captain’s designation. He transferred to the Air Force in order to qualify for the military’s education program. His entire military career was spent in Canada.

In the mid-1980s, Lonnie moved to Timberlea and several of his children attended Sir John A. MacDonald School. Musically, his career morphed from playing gospel music in church, to country and then country rock. He met up with blues guru, Dutchie Mason, in the ‘70s and played electric guitar with him from time to time. Now, Lonnie prefers blues and jazz. He still plays with his original band at legions and community halls.

He speaks with pride about his military accomplishments. Thirty years and nine months working for the Government of Canada. In 1992, he received a plaque of appreciation from Scotia Branch 25, Royal Canadian Legion for his “long and dedicated service as Commanding Officer of 615 Bluenose Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets.”

Lonnie retired in 1993. His wife, Minnie, became ill and passed away from complications of diabetes. His oldest daughter, Barb, took over the task of helping with her younger siblings. Lonnie’s mother passed away this year at close to 90. He’s proud of his children (all of whom live in Nova Scotia) and says

his wife deserves the credit for raising them. He also has 11 grandchildren and he had to stop a couple of times mid-

count to make sure he hadn’t missed any.

I asked him what dreams he had for the future. He said, “If my ship comes in financially, I’ll invest in a program that will allow me to help others.” He still believes (perhaps due to his grandfather’s teachings) that

even praying three times a week helps solve your problems. And he’s also come to realize that his grandfather loved him very much. That’s why he pushed him so hard.

Captain Lonnie James (retired) on Veterans Day.



It’s funny how a few years’ experience can

make you see your family in a whole new light.

It was lovely meeting you, Lonnie!

FREE Computer Classes for Women*

IT Works for Women is offering FREE training sessions for women:

- basic and intermediate computer skills
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- creating with PowerPoint
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- interview skills

For information or to register contact:
Christina Nunn 478-8300

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Dartmouth Family Centre
107 Albro Lake Rd. 464-8234

BABY PLAY GROUP
Join us for **Baby Play Group** each Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-3:00. Meet other parents and enjoy lots of floor space if your baby is mobile! There are many fun toys and books just right for baby! This drop in is for parents of babies up to 1 year old. See you there!




Call the centre or drop by for more information www.dartmouthfamilycentre.com

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Acupuncture
enjoy the health benefits!

Dartmouth Mental Health and
Addiction Services are providing
acupuncture to individuals
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Centre, 134 Pinecrest Drive
1:30-2:30 PM

No pre-registration needed.
No fee for service.

Capital Health



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earlhickey@ns.sympatico.ca

or call Earle Hickey at 452-0464 (cell)



Mental Health Services
are now offered at
the **Dartmouth North
Community Centre**

Clinicians from the Dartmouth City
Mental Health Outpatient Service
will be available as follows:

Tuesdays
9 am — 4 pm

Located in the main entrance.
No appointment necessary.

**CONTACT: 466-1830 Reception
Dartmouth Mental Health**

Capital Health





Community Champions

photos: Rebecca Douglass



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BREAKFAST
 The Boys and Girls Club on Farrell Street held their annual fundraiser breakfast on Saturday, November 29. Volunteers served up a hot breakfast and Santa made a surprise visit to make the morning extra special. This program provides 20,000 breakfasts during the year in our community. (Left to right): Brian Tuttle, Blair Andrews, Carolyn Tuttle, Annette Petrie and Nick Gorman.

Rotarians... long-time secret supporters of the Boys and Girls Club by Wilfrid Warner



Anthony Crossley and Nancy Hollis of the Boys and Girls Club accept a cheque from Rotary Club President Dana Atwell.

The Boys and Girls Club received a wonderful gift from the Rotary Club of Dartmouth in December — a cheque for \$14,200! This was presented to Boys and Girls Club President Anthony Crossley and Executive Director Nancy Hollis by Rotary Club President Dana Atwell. The funds will be used towards the cost of a new bus and for the breakfast program.

It's a little known fact

that the Rotary Club has been behind the development of the Boys and Girls Club since 1963. A Rotarian (Roy Boland) provided the land and the club purchased the first building on Main Street in Dartmouth. Originally called the Boys Club, the name was changed to the Boys and Girls Club when the programs expanded to include girls.

The Boys and Girls Club soon determined there was a need for

a facility in north-end Dartmouth. Initially, a temporary club was operated from the basement of St. Anthony's Church. Then Roy Boland negotiated the use of a property on Farrell Road that belonged to Nova Scotia Light and Power. The Rotary Club challenged the Boys and Girls Club to build a new clubhouse on Farrell Road. They promised to donate \$20,000 provided that the three levels of gov-

ernment supported the project. The \$20,000 grew with matching grants to \$80,000. As a result, a fine new building was erected named the Roy Boland Centre.

The Rotary Club has continued its relationship with the Boys and Girls Club over the years, providing much appreciated financial support and serving on its board of directors.

Want to talk about your community?

Come out to our next meeting:
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 pm
 Farrell Hall, 276 Windmill Road

YOUR CONCERNS ARE OUR CONCERNS —
 Give us a call, or attend our next meeting.

 For information call **Dave Carter 463-8913**



Dartmouth District 9 Citizens' Association

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From wasteland to business park

by Frank Leaman

High risk and high adventure in North Dartmouth! It was kind of like when the Island of Manhattan was sold for a few tokens. Or when Seward bought Alaska from the Russians! I was in Dartmouth and heard and read all the stories in the media but could it be true?

In the 1960s, former mayor of Dartmouth, Joseph Zatzman, told the media that he bought the Burnside Park for approximately \$180,000. The land began at Windmill Road and stretched back to the Dartmouth Lakes. It was said to be 2,400 acres and at least one third the size of Halifax at that time. The former mayor said he had to purchase it in secret without council's approval as outside

influences might intervene.

The naysayers had a field day! People called it a "perilous waste of land," "a worthless barren," etc. Who would ever put a business there? How would your customers find you? A fortune had been paid for land that would never be used!

For our readers who watch council discussions on Channel 10, can you imagine if the current mayor did that today!

Once again, dear readers, North Dartmouth, with all its other accomplishments (like our two magnificent bridges) has lead the way. Formerly called the Dartmouth Industrial Park, the name was changed to the Burnside Industrial Park in 1970, to coincide with the opening of the A.

Murray MacKay bridge. It became a major commercial and industrial development. Mr. Zatzman has since had a street named after him—Joe Zatzman Drive at the top of Burnside.

This economic miracle now has over 1,500 companies and a business population of over 20,000 people. It is the envy of Eastern Canada and with the annex, Dartmouth Crossing growing so fast, you almost need a monthly account to keep up. Many people from other places have told me this park is known across Canada and Europe. Burnside even has its own newspaper and functions like a city within a city. Mr. Zatzman's risk paid off.

Terry Kelly brings message & music to École Shannon Park School

by Jim King



In January the students of École Shannon Park School were treated to a musical event that brought a message of hope and acceptance. Well-known musician Terry Kelly performed for staff and students as a thank you for the school's help on the "Listen to the Children" project.

"Listen to the Children" is a reminder to act on the goodness in our hearts. In January 2008, 10-year-old Logan MacGillvary decided to do something to support the children of Northern Provence, Sierra Leone. With guidance from the Centre for Development and Peace Education, he spearheaded the filling of a 40-foot shipping container with educational and recreational materi-

"Terry... talked about acceptance of persons with challenges, always trying your best in whatever you do, showing kindness to others and the importance of having a positive outlook on life."

als that went to seven schools in Sierra Leone. This amazing act of kindness was captured on video and Terry Kelly wrote a song to capture the spirit of the event. The École Shannon Park School Choir sang with Terry on the video. As a thank you to them, Terry agreed to do a perfor-

mance at the school. The show was a musical feast for the soul. Terry sang and talked about acceptance of persons with challenges, always trying your best in whatever you do, showing kindness to others and the importance of having a positive outlook on life. The children sang and danced their way through the performance and were so engaged, they didn't even budge when the lunch bell rang! The students at École Shannon Park School wish to thank Terry for his visit and are looking forward to him returning next year. If you would like to learn more about Logan MacGillvary and the "Listen to the Children" project, you can visit www.listentothechildren.net.



CONGRATULATIONS CUBS!

Cubs Nicholas Hudson, Harley Muzzeroll and Eric Pardy with the prizes they received from Scouts Canada. These young men were the top popcorn salesmen in 10th Dartmouth Cub pack. This troop meets regularly at St. Paul's Church on Windmill Road.



Thank you to all of our wonderful customers who support us throughout the year!

CAMILLO'S BARBERSHOP

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10 Primrose St., Dartmouth • 463-6806

Do you recall...

Back around 1945-46, a team of Clydesdale horses went over the side of the old Dartmouth Ferry into Halifax Harbour. The team belonged to Harris Dares, who lived on Elmwood Avenue. It seems a young boy hit a car horn on the ferry and it spooked the horses. They bolted and both horses, plus the wagon they were attached to, went off the end of the boat. Rumor has it they were a prize-winning team.

Does anyone remember that incident? Were the horses rescued? The Echo would like to hear from you with any information you may know about this. Give us a call at: 463-2702.



Spotlight on Youth

is sponsored by Trevor Zinck, MLA, Dartmouth North



Spencer Holland and John Schmeisser, true Guitar Heroes.

Guitar Heroes

by Steve Ruxton

Back in 2005, *Guitar Hero* broke into the video game world. A completely new approach to interactive gaming, it gives people everywhere the chance to feel like a rock star as they strum along with their favourite rock classics.

This new interactive style of gaming became increasingly more popular and expanded to include drums, bass and vocals in 2007 with the release of *Rock Band*. This multiplied the popularity of these games. No longer was this genre restricted to one or two players; now you could now have four people take part at one time, which made it a more social style of gaming.

In the summer of 2007, thanks to an Action grant from the United Way, we started what we refer to as the "Interactive Zone" at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. We introduced games like *Guitar Hero*, *SingStar*, *Rock Band* and *Dance Dance Revolution* to the local youth. This activity was overwhelmingly popular and is still

ongoing at the community centre four days a week from 3 to 5 p.m.

This past December, Dave DooLittle's Bar and Grill started a *Guitar Hero III* tournament for all ages. This gave us the chance to pit some of our aspiring young Guitar Heroes against others from around the HRM. After getting the required permissions, we entered two youth, Spencer Holland and John Schmeisser, in the first stage of the competition.

These two had displayed a high level of skill and interest in these games, and are both drummers in real life. They did an excellent job of representing Dartmouth North with Spencer finishing second place and John taking the crown as week one winner.

John will return later in February to compete in the finals. We have hopes of entering a few more youth if Mother Nature ever decides to chill out on Wednesday evenings. So stay tuned to the *Echo* for an update on how John and others do as the finals draw near.

Family Literacy Day at John MacNeil

by Doris Buffett-MacDonald



Ms. Were reads to an attentive audience.

Staff and students of John MacNeil Elementary School celebrated Family Literacy Day on January 30. Volunteer readers from the community made stories come to life and delighted the little ones who sat quietly in reading tents strewn throughout the gym.

Tables in the gym were loaded down with every book a kid could dream about reading. Children milled about the tables, gingerly selecting the two books they would get to take

home for their very own.

Family Literacy Day is a page taken from "Raise A Reader" and it is truly a win-win scenario for the kids and their schools. Volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of this day-long endeavour. Many of the volunteer readers have, or have had, children who attend John MacNeil School. Volunteering is a tangible way of paying it forward.

The annual event brings together amazing

people like volunteer coordinator Diana Quinn; the caring Mrs. T. (special needs assistant); and the amazing Vivian Lewis, who has volunteered at John MacNeil for the past 30 years. Wow!

Also lending a hand was Joy Colley. Her two kids go to John MacNeil and she gives back by helping with this program and with school outings. Rhea Mahar from Evergreen and her assistant Raquel Clement (in her last year of the Community

Design Program at Dal) also chose to take time out of their day to read to the little ones.

Diana Quinn hears a lot of "You mean I get to keep them?" as the children, treasures held close to their hearts, faces lit up with smiles of appreciation, depart the gym. It is reward enough for those special people who give of themselves to put those smiles on the faces of the little ones at John MacNeil School.



Chip Bingo for John MacNeil

by Paxton Quinn

On a cold, crisp, Sunday afternoon in January, Farrell Hall came alive with the sounds of "Bingo!"

Parents, teachers and staff of John MacNeil Elementary School, along with many members of the community, played bingo to help raise much-needed funds for the school. In addition,

grade six students sold 50/50 tickets to raise funds for a school in a developing country.

The air crackled with excitement as prizes were won game after game. Many die-hard bingo players were just as excited as those who were playing for the first time. By the end of the day, the school raised over \$700, and every-

one in attendance had a fun-filled afternoon.

John MacNeil staff would like to thank Farrell Hall for the use of the hall. A big thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who came out to play bingo, and a special thanks to Brandon Walker for being the caller.

Neighbourhood Watch is sponsored by:



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Good neighbours = great neighbourhoods

WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

It is simply good neighbours working together by keeping eyes and ears open to signs of possible crime so we can help stop it before it starts.

IS IT SAFE TO BE INVOLVED?

All members get a personal identification number (PIN). If you call to report an incident, you only have to give your number. Your identity is protected. Your information is kept on file in the City Watch database, and only your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator has access.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATING?

You will be taught how to make your home less inviting to thieves, how to make your personal property less desirable to burglars and how to

recognize suspicious activity in your neighbourhood.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Not many people are able to protect their homes and property all of the time. Vacation, business and shopping trips, or even an evening out leave homes unattended and more prone to theft. This program may provide a sense of security for people who leave their homes for any length of time and also helps support police efforts in tracking down criminals.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Contact Cst. Don Jenkins, Community Relations/Crime Prevention at 490-6977 or your Community Coordinator at 463-5806.

Notice to Neighbourhood Watch Members

Please advise your Steering Committee at 463-5806 of any changes in address and phone numbers.



Village Constable Randy Wood is only a phone call away at 223-2735

“There is work to be done if you NEED US but don’t WANT US.

We will know success when you WANT US...but don’t NEED US.”



Halifax Regional Police

A GUIDE TO POLICE SERVICES

Emergency	911
Non Emergency Police Dispatch	490-5020
General Info	490-5016
Divisional Commander Dartmouth	490-5171
Dartmouth North Village Cst.....	223-2735
Dedicated Beat Patrols.....	476-2660
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.....	490-6977
Victim Services.....	490-5300
Anti-Bullying Hotline	490-7283
Block Parent	490-5243
Office of Chief of Police	490-6500
Crime Stoppers	1-800-222 TIPS (8477)

Another Cop Shop, another success!

by Cst. Kathryn Willett, HRP Community Response Officer, Scotia Court



Staff Sergeant Donald MacLean, East Divisional Commander (far right); Csts. Kathryn Willett and Aaron Head, Community Response Officers, Scotia Court, were proud to be a part of Cop Shop. They are shown here with participants Terry Downey, Dante Reddick and Alexis Rousseau.

Members of Halifax Regional Police (HRP) descended upon the Halifax Shopping Centre on December 17 with a group of deserving youths eager to participate in Cop Shop.

Cop Shop began in 2005 when Halifax Regional Police teamed up with the shopping centre to acknowledge the achievements of youth who have overcome adversity, contributed to their community or excelled academically.

Thanks to the generosity of Halifax Shopping Centre, each child was given a Christmas stocking filled with mall merchandise, as well as a \$200 gift certificate towards purchases of their choice. The children have such big hearts that when given the opportunity to spend the money on themselves, they often opted to buy gifts for their friends and family instead.

Eight children from North End Dartmouth were proud to be a part of this incredible initiative. The police officers

involved had the opportunity to become personal shoppers with the kids and share in the experience. Before the shopping began, there was a celebratory pizza party to kick start the event. We are very fortunate that parents, grandparents and volunteers were able to get the kids to the mall to participate.

Overall, Cop Shop is filled with heartwarming moments that remind police officers, mall staff and on-lookers alike about the true spirit of the holiday season!



Bicycles in winter—why not? Welcome to HRP Constables Tracy MacDonald and Matthew Guest on “Bike Patrol” in our Dartmouth North community.

photo: Rebecca Douglass



SENIORS CORNER

is sponsored by **Mike Savage, MP**
Dartmouth-Cole Harbour



Medical Transportation

Transportation to and from appointments:

- In Dartmouth \$15
- Over 2 hours \$20
- In Halifax \$21
- Over 2 hours \$25

48 hours notice is required for booking or cancellation.

Volunteer drivers are allowed 40¢/km

For information call Carol 465-5578 ext.12

Home Helpers

Do you need help at home?

Light house keeping, vacuuming, dusting, bathroom cleaning, floor cleaning and waxing, making and/or changing beds, meal preparation.

\$10 per hour (minimum 2 hours)

Call Carol Atkinson at 465-5578 ext.12

Catering

Have an anniversary or birthday coming up? The Dartmouth Seniors' Service Centre has a great hall which seats 175 and has standing for

over 200. Great food and a bar is available also. For more information, call Activity Coordinator **Carol Atkinson, 465-5578 ext.12.**



Congratulations to Clint and Joan Schofield of Dartmouth on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Halifax, on January 31, 1959. Love and best wishes from their children Paul, Philip and Tina, daughter-in-law Chrissie and grand-daughters Alyssa and Kim Bocking, and Amelia Schofield. The Echo wishes you many more years of happy togetherness.

WINTER CARNIVAL SCHEDULE 2009

FRIDAY, FEB. 13
8:00 pm
Valentine Dance
(Music by Grover Country)

THURSDAY, FEB. 19
7:30 pm
Dance
(Music by Silver Wings) (Findlay Centre)

MONDAY, FEB. 16
1:00 pm
Bowling
(Woodside Bowlarama)

FRIDAY, FEB. 20
12:00 noon
Bag Lunch & Bingo
(Findlay Centre)

TUESDAY, FEB. 17
1:10 pm
Bingo
(Double Specials)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18
7:00 pm
Bingo
(Double specials)



(Sign-Up Lists at DSSC & Findlay)



ACTIVITIES

photo: Rebecca Douglass



Belated birthday greetings to Marguerite Bailey, a lovely lady who was 93 years young on January 29. She is very active in her church, attends card socials and still bowls every Friday afternoon with other seniors. Marguerite is now busy writing her memoirs. From everyone in District 9 and the staff of The Echo, we wish you joy and peace for the coming year.



Oakwood Terrace ADULT DAY PROGRAM

For more information call 469-2794 ext.199

Providing respite for care givers and a friendly place for seniors. Offering nutritious lunches, crafts, games, sing songs and more! Located in Dartmouth.

NOVA SCOTIA CRIME STOPPERS

Call Crime Stoppers With A Tip

You Could Be Holding The Piece Of The Puzzle That Solves A Crime

Remember We Want Your Information Not Your Name!
1-800-222-8477(Tips)
www.crimestoppers.ns.ca

TOPS NS 111 celebrates 45 years

by Doris MacKaracher, Leader

TOPS NS 111 Dartmouth, will host a 45th anniversary reunion on April 4, 2009 at the Dartmouth Senior Service Centre, corner of Ochterloney & King Streets.

This chapter was incorporated in January 1964 as the first chapter in Nova Scotia. It was started by four ladies at the Church of the Redeemer in Shannon Park. We presently meet at Holy Trinity Emmanuel

Church on Alfred Street with an enrolment of 30 members.

Registration will take place on April 4 at 3 pm. Finger foods will be provided and there will be photo albums on display showing past and present activities.

Please come and join us for an afternoon of friendship, followed by supper at 5 pm. The cost is \$25 per person. The deadline for the reunion is March 13.

Happy Hour

Last Friday of every month
5 - 8 pm

Admission: \$2
Food: \$5

Ron Arsenault Trio
Sax Jim Francais
Piano Guy LeBlanc
Vocals Ron Arsenault

Requests welcome
Open to non members

Dartmouth Seniors' Service Centre

Info: 465-5578 45 Ochterloney St, Dartmouth



DANCING AND LISTENING MUSIC FROM THE 40s TO THE 70s

Community Calendar

Dartmouth North Library Events

PUPPET SHOWS

Leprechaun's Gold
Tuesday, March 17
 10:30 am
 All Ages

Max's Chocolate Chicken
Tuesday, April 7
 10:30 am
 All Ages

Groups must register

*BOOK CLUB

Thursdays,
April 2 - April 30
 3:15 - 4 pm
 Ages 10-13

Enter the wild and wacky world of books — if you dare!

Registration begins March 26

COOL CRAFTS

Fridays,
April 3 - May 1
 3:15 pm
 Ages 8-12

Don't be bored—chill out at the library and make some cool crafts! There's something different every week.

BOARD GAME BONANZA

Check out our great collection of new board games, and some old favourites. *Battleship, Star Wars, Harry Potter, CSI and Sorry* are just a few. Bring a friend, make new friends, have fun!

Wednesdays,
April 1 - April 29
 3:15 pm
 Ages 8+

MARCH BREAK PROGRAMS

Puppet Show - The Leprechaun's Gold
Tuesday, March 17
 10:30-11 am
 All Ages

Groups must register

Grossology

Come join the "ewwy gooeey" fun and make a cake with a guaranteed major gross factor!

Tuesday, March 17
 2:30-3:10 pm
 Ages 8-12

Registration required

**This program is generously funded by the Dartmouth Community Health Board.*

Scavenger Hunt

Take part in a scavenger hunt at the library. Prizes for the top three!

Wednesday, March 18
 2:30-3:10 pm
 Ages 8 - 12

*Funk It Up!

Get creative. Bring a piece of your clothing and give it some pizzazz with fabric paint, glitter pens and other glam stuff.

Refreshments provided.

Thursday, March 19
 2:30-3:10 pm
 Ages 10+

Mad Science - Fire & Ice

Ever seen scissors sizzle and shiver? Ever take a carbon dioxide shower? If not, here's your chance! Presented by Mad Science of the

Maritimes, this show features foggy ice storms and bubbling potions and ends with a Big Bang!

Friday, March 20
 2-2:45 pm
 Ages 5 - 12

**Healthy snacks for these programs are generously funded by the Dartmouth Community Health Board*



LET'S JIVE!

Northbrook Community Centre will be holding **Jive Beginner** classes starting Monday, **March 30** at 7 pm. **Jive Intermediate** classes start Monday, **February 16**. For details contact instructor **Barb Perrin** at **463-0376**.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

John Martin Junior High will be hosting a Book Fair from **Wednesday, February 25 to Friday, February 27**. Grade nine students will be busy for the next few weeks preparing for a great fair. See you on the 25th!

News from Harbour View Elementary

Annual Read-A-Thon—March 2 - 6

Harbour View is hosting its annual Read-A-Thon and is looking for the community to join us. If you are available to be a guest reader, please contact Ms. "S".

On March 6 families and friends are invited to join us in the gym for a social, classroom reading and a beach party — come one, come all!

Collection Week: March 9-13

The children receive pledge sheets to raise funds and receive prizes for their contributions.

Teacher Competition—March 9 Student Talent Show—March 11. Movie—March 13 Daily prizes—March 9-13

Harbour View is very proud of the commitment our families make to participate in their children's learning.

Sing Out!

A Fund Raiser for the North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre Food Bank

FEATURING

- Gordie Duggan • Art MacAulay
- Praise Music from Church Choirs
- Local Entertainers

Sunday, March 8, 7 pm
 Stairs Memorial United Church,
 44 Hester St., Dartmouth

Free will offering

Boys & Girls Club of Dartmouth

Join us at our annual **AUCTION** **CHILDREN WELCOME!**
Sunday, Feb. 22
1:00 to 4:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 includes chili, roll and beverage

March Break Camp
 March 16 -20
 7 am - 6 pm
 \$18/day or \$90/week
 Join us for crafts, games, gym time, cooking and other fun activities.
Registration Feb. 23 - 27
 Payment due when registering

Youth Volunteers Needed
 We are looking for youth to help with our afterschool children as well as other activities or special events. If interested please call Robyne at 463-1210.

Call 463-1210 for information or registration

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

Come home to Farrell Hall!

Farrell Hall needs volunteers to help with our many activities, especially at Bingo games on Saturday and Monday evenings. We will train all volunteers beforehand.

We also rent the hall for special occasions and have regular flea markets every Sunday morning.

Call: 469-5769

Farrell Hall
 276 Windmill Rd.
 Dartmouth

OUR THANKS TO YOU

Submitted by Lynn Orton, Coordinator Xmas Hampers

photo: Rebecca Douglass



On behalf of the committee and the volunteers of the Holy Trinity Emmanuel Xmas Hampers, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all who supported the program, in volunteering their time, giving donations, or monetary help, to make Christmas for over 150

families in and around our community. To those who have been continuous supporters over the years, we appreciate all that you have contributed to make the program such a success. New partnerships have also been part of this Christian endeavor, and this year the manager and members of the

Burnside Curves generously donated miscellaneous gifts for the families as well as donating to our baby layette program. Our history in this program is widely known and only through these partnerships have we been able to flourish and grow. Again, thank you, and God bless.

Left: Church volunteers had a busy season filling Christmas hampers.

Above: Little helpers this year included Nancy Rockwood, owner of Curves and members of the club who bought and wrapped presents for needy families in our community.

Youth Palladium – the hottest spot in town!

Palladium – “Anything believed to provide protection or safety; safeguard”

The Youth Palladium is a free program designed to assist junior high and high school students with academic support and provide recreational activities after school. It happens at the Dartmouth North Community Centre on Mondays and Fridays from 6-8 pm. The Youth Palladium offers homework support, social time, outings, special events, guest speakers and much more.

Working in partnership with HRM Community Recreation Services, the palladium is operated by community volunteers.

Program participants will be hosting a dinner in early February for their parents and are extending an invitation to Councilor Jim Smith as a thank-you for his generous support of this new program in the community. For more information on the Youth Palladium, please contact HRM Community Recreation Programmer Matt Maguire at 490-4730 or drop by the Recreation Office at the Dartmouth North Community Centre.



Play. Learn. Move. Stay Active.



Winter

recreation

IN

Dartmouth North



Children's Programs

HIP HOP ANGELS
Ages 8 to 12
Wed. 4:00 - 5:00pm
DN Community Centre
8 classes
You must register for this program

BASKETBALL
Ages 8 to 12
Tues. 4:00 - 5:00pm
John MacNeil School
10 classes

SPORTS
Ages 8 to 12
Thurs. 4:00 - 5:00pm
John MacNeil School
10 classes

BASKETBALL
Ages 8 to 12
Fri. 6:00 - 7:00pm
Harbourview School
10 classes

KIDZ IN THE KITCHEN
Ages 8 to 12
Fri. 3:45 - 5:15pm
DN Community Centre
\$8 for 8 classes
You must register for this program

Youth Programs

PLADIUM
Ages 13 to 17
Drop-in Mondays and Fridays for homework help and social time
6:00 - 8:00pm
DN Community Centre
You must register for this program

INTERACTIVE ZONE
Ages 12 to 16
On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays play the newest video games like **Guitar Hero World Tour** and **Rock Band 2!**
3:00 - 5:00pm
DN Community Centre



DROP-IN BASKETBALL
Ages 12 to 16
Wed. 5:30 - 6:30pm
John MacNeil School
Fri. 7:30 - 9:00pm
John Martin School
10 classes

Most of these programs are already underway. Call Matt Maguire at 490-4730 to join in today!

March Break Programs

MARCH BREAK CAMP
Ages 6 to 10
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Monday March 16 - Friday March 20
DN Community Centre
Cost: \$40
You must register for this program

BABYSITTER TRAINING
Ages 12 to 16
1:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday March 18 - Friday March 20
DN Community Centre
Cost: \$30
You must register for this program

For more information on these programs contact Matt Maguire at:

490-4730





Festival of Lights

The annual Festival of Lights took place on December 18 at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. It was a great success!

Top left: the John Martin Jazz Band wowed the crowd.

Top right: children lined up for treats from around the world!

Percussionists from the Cobequid Road United Baptist Youth Choir add their sparkle.



photos: Rebecca Douglass

Skyline of a Community Imperial Oil: 1918-2008

January 20 - March 21, 2009

Tuesdays - Fridays (10-5), Saturdays (10-1 & 2-5)

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

Information: 464-2300 / www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca



An exhibit of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum with thanks to the Dartmouth Refinery 90th Anniversary Committee