

Chebucto News

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Hurricane Juan sparks renewed interest in underground power lines

By Sandra MacLean
Staff

The lucky residents of Cowie Hill experienced one of the shortest power outages when Hurricane Juan struck the region, while many

less fortunate areas affected by downed power lines and poles waited days, or in some cases more than a week, to see power returned. And although at the time this was a blessing for these residents, their power problems may indeed outlast those of all other Metro resi-

dents.

Brewing underground in this condominium community is a significant, and potentially very expensive, conflict involving area residents, condo corporations, the Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia Power and the Utilities And Review Board.

History is that approximately 430 residents of Cowie Hill are now, and have been for 30 years, fully served by underground wiring installed more than 30 years ago by the community's original developers. Original development plans approved by HRM included construction of "narrower than normal" streets where residents have paid a monthly surcharge to NSP to cover the extra costs of underground wiring.

Residents anticipated and expected that they would always be served with underground wiring, but the original wiring has reached the end of its expected lifespan, is now considered outdated, and, according to a NSP proposal made in the year 2,000, is in need of replacement. The question for all parties involved is what kind of wiring should now be utilized.

The NSP proposal involves replacing the old system with an overhead system, largely based on costs which run from a \$900,000 bill for overhead to estimates of a more than \$3 million price tag for a new underground system. But residents and condominium operators in the neighbourhood fear an overhead system will destroy the character of the neighbourhood.

Cowie Hill residents worry the look and feel of their neighbourhood, an area designed

on a different scale because it was planned for underground wiring, will be spoiled by power poles. They are concerned the poles would "be uncomfortably close" to the houses on their small lots and narrow streets. Claire Mason, Condo Corporation Five President and area resident for fifteen years says she and others "want it to stay the same."

Graham Steele, MLA for the area, says that although the province is not directly involved in the matter, "in the course of knocking on doors, this comes up as an issue in that neighbourhood quite often." District 17 Municipal Councillor Linda Mosher says that "for the past three years that I've been involved the Cowie Hill power upgrading has been an HRM discussion and HRM wants the underground system replaced."

see "Underground" pg. 2



Santa greets children after the 29th annual Spryfield Santa Parade. The parade is the longest running parade in Atlantic Canada and this Santa has visited it for 25 years.

29th Annual Parade brings thousands to Spryfield sidewalks

By Akiko Lovett
Staff

Grey Hound Dogs, the grinch and cheerleaders dressed in green might sound like a strange combination, but that's exactly what you would have seen if you attended this year's Spryfield Santa Claus Parade held on November 23rd. This was the 29th year for the longest running parade in all Atlantic Canada and thousands of people lined the sidewalks of Herring Cove Road to catch a glimpse of the creative floats.

Even Frosty the snow man came out to join the festivities. "We have the best float," laughs Danny Steele from behind his snowman suit costume. "And I'm nice and toasty in

here," said Steele, a Baden Powell Scouting Association leader. The group, formally known as Scouts Canada is the first in HRM to go back to the "old school" approach to scouting. "Baden Powell invented scouts," says the jovial Steele. "We're getting back to the roots of scouting. Back to what it was in the olden days."

Steele and co-leader Tommy Dobbin, both in their snowman costumes, accompanied the Baden Powell float, while the Explorers and Timberwolves led the pack, flying their flags.

Other floats in the parade included the brownies, girl guides, local elementary and junior high schools, local corporations like the Superstore and even the Halifax Regional Municipality.

But the most exciting float had to be Santa, who anchored the parade high a top his float. "You know what?" says Steele "We have the real Santa Clause in this parade too," he laughs. It is true that Santa Clause has visited the Spryfield Parade for 25 years now, visiting children and taking their Christmas wishes with him back to the North Pole. "I've been coming here for 25 years," says Santa. "And now little kids who used to sit on my lap are bringing kids of their own. It's just wonderful."

The parade ended in the South Centre mall parking lot where everyone waited in anticipation to hear the winners. In the meantime, there was one casualty. Frosty went missing.

see "29th Annual" pg. 2

Court rules in Council's favour

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court this week ruled in favour of Chebucto Community Council's February actions in dealing with the public hearing process surrounding the Governor's Brook Development proposal, but the decision does not clear the way for Kimberley Lloyd Developments to proceed with the project.

Kimberley Lloyd entered a public hearing late last year and into February this year requesting permission to enter a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDD) with the city to construct an 850 unit housing project along the eastern side of the McIntosh Run, just west of Colpitt and Williams Lake.

The proposal opposition was led by the Williams Lake Conservation Company and the heated debate led to several weeks of protest and resulted in an estimated 400 citizens appearing at the public hearing to voice collective concerns about the project.

At issue for the community is potential damage to the watershed lands of both lakes and concern that the waters of Williams Lake will be threatened by changes in storm water run-off patterns. Residents are also worried the project will put additional sewage pressure on

see "Court" pg. 2

Court rules in Council's favour

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an already taxed system and increased traffic will cause back-ups at the Armdale Rotary.

For its part, the proposed CDD would allow the company to construct only 50 units per year over a 25 year period, require pre-determined setbacks from the McIntosh Run, force the developer to make alterations to existing sewer services to accommodate the project and, according to a favourable city planning staff report, the development would have little impact at the rotary.

Following an often heated debate, Chebucto Community Council approved the

proposed CDD at one of two public hearings which had to have their venue moved because of the expected attendance, a fact the conservation company and its supporters felt hindered their opportunity to protest. The court challenge also charged Chebucto Council did not give opponents sufficient time to make presentations at the hearing and the process did not afford them sufficient time to respond or react to questions raised at the hearing.

Supreme Court Justice Glen McDougal ruled that the Council did everything it could to be fair throughout the proceedings, includ-

ing posting notices about the change in venue, providing a bus service and accepting unlimited written presentations regarding the project.

But the ruling stalling the protest is only the first hurdle. The Williams Lake Conservation Company has already filed a protest to the Utilities and Review Board which will be asked to review the decision on matters of planning law. The date for the URB hearing has been postponed once to await the decision of the process challenge of the residents. No date has been set for the URB hearing at this point.

Underground power lines

continued from pg. 1

She said that following Hurricane Juan, the city has a renewed interest in the benefits of underground wiring and there is a new task force examining the issue for future housing developments coming up for discussion.

But with NSP recommending an overhead system, and the city, residents and condominium owners pushing for retention of underground services, the issue may be handed to the Utilities and Review Board for review and decision. The URB has not yet scheduled a formal hearing on the matter, but it is likely that if the interested parties can not reach a mutually satisfactory decision, a hearing may be required.



Rhonda Lee and her daughters Rachel and Jenny and their friend Elizabeth Dempsey stop by Susan Waringer's craft table to look at the hand painted pins at the Cunard Junior High School's Christmas Craft show. This is their third time coming to the craft show that boasts more than 63 vendors who sell everything from jam and fudge to quilts, jewelry and handmade crafts.

29th Annual Santa Claus Parade

continued from pg. 1

"The sun was too warm," laughs Steele, now out of his Snowman costume. "Frosty melted," he laughed, pointing at a puddle of water on the ground.

The floats were judged by Judy Webster and Councillor Linda Moser for originality. Honourable mention went to the Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society, Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Legion, Spryfield Lion's Club; Winner for the individual float entry went to the Urban Farm Museum; Honourable mention for most original entry went to Grey Hound Pets of Canada and the

winner was Safety minded ATV Drivers; Best Cheerleading Entry went to Herring Cove Cheerleaders; Best Majorettes went to The Sparklettes; Best Commercial Entry was the Atlantic Superstore; Best School went to Elizabeth Sutherland School; Honourable mention for best Community Entry was 3rd Herring Cove Brownies and Cowie Hill Brownies was the winner; Honourable mention for best overall entry went to the Chebucto Girls and Boys Club and the winner was E'cole Chebucto Heights PTA.

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Butler, friends and Salvation Army spread Christmas cheer

By Laura Pellerine
Staff

Margaret Butler has been getting into the Christmas spirit for the past eleven months. Last January, while most people were taking down their trees and decorations, 79-year-old Butler began knitting wrap afghans for the Salvation Army. She is among several volunteers who have spent hours making the lap blankets for the organization to give away during their annual Christmas visit to seniors in Chebucto area nursing homes.

"The homes are heated and warm," Butler says, "but the poor dears find it cold

in there, so this helps."

Butler and nearly twenty of her fellow church members help bring holiday cheer in many other ways to nursing home patients for the church's December visits. The event is co-ordinated by Captain Michelle Mercer, one of the reverends at the Circle Drive parish.

Sitting in the small corner office inside the church, Mercer pulls out one of the care packages they will be bringing to all the 620 nursing home residents in the area. Inside a small bag a white teddy bear dressed in a Santa coat sits on top of a package of tissue. A sweet, In this case Humpty Dumpty cheezies, is packed beside the bear, and a

booklet of the Christmas Story fits snugly behind it. There is a form inside the book where residents can request future personal visits from members.

"It is just a little thought," says Mercer, who started organizing the event in the summer. The volunteers spend one evening before the visiting begins to put together all of the care packages. "We put on Christmas music and have a good time," Mercer says. "It's a great way to start the holiday season."

This winter the Spryfield church was given a grant to fund the project, although next year the funding will have to be raised locally. Every December the group visits Glades Lodge, the Camp Hill Veteran's Memorial Home, Melville Lodge and Armview Estates. They sing Christmas carols and go room to room to speak to residents who are bedridden.

When Butler, a volunteer, first started going on the Christmas visit six years ago she thought it would be her last. She remembers going to speak to a woman who was sick. When she walked into the room the woman, who couldn't speak, just reached out her hand. "I held her hand and talked. When I left her room, I cried," Butler says. "At first I didn't think I could do it

again, but I realized how much it means to people, so I kept going every year after."

At Glades Lodge, recreation director, Monique Fougere says that the Salvation Army's visit is a little thought that goes a long way. "A lot of residents don't have family near or at all so this is a big deal for them."

On the afternoon of the scheduled visit, Fougere says that many of the residents will start to gather early around the lobby where the Salvation Army volunteers will arrive. "It is so special because there is something for everyone, and for a lot of people here, it will be the only gift they will get for Christmas."

Donald Coade is a 68 year-old retired taxi driver who has lived at Glades for the past three years. He looks forward to the holiday visit every year. "It brings the Christmas spirit," Coade says. "It means that someone cares about us and we're not being forgotten."

For Margaret Butler, seeing the smiles on the faces of the residents more than makes up for the time she spends preparing for the event. "It makes you feel good because you see how much it is appreciated."

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Salvation Army volunteers Albert Taylor, Richard Bernard, Margaret Butler, Bob Makin, Vannie Makin, Florence Penny, Fiona Baguma, Anne Schivers and John Schivers volunteer their time making lap blankets that they'll give out as Christmas presents to seniors in the Chebucto area nursing homes during the holiday season.

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DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Reminiscences of school life in Spryfield during the 1950s

By Carolyn Mont
Part One of Two

When I started school in 1952, Spryfield was a small community outside of the city. My first two years, primary and grade one, were at Central. The school was quite crowded with my primary class, with Mrs. McKay, being in the front part of the auditorium. There was another primary class in the back part of the auditorium, with folding walls separating us. We could certainly hear the other class but I don't recall that being a problem, but perhaps the teachers would remember that differently.

Mr. Baxter, who lived on Kidston Road, was the principal. I remember the first day of school, lining up. He came to the door and brought out two straps, a black one and a red one. He told us that the black one was used most often but the red one was reserved for those who were especially bad, since the blood would not show. What strikes me most about that was that I believed what he said and was not the least bit shocked by it. From the vantage point of 50 years distance, I assume he meant to be funny. At the time I just assumed it to be reality. (I was a very literal child.) In fact, I have very fond memories of that time and was not in the least traumatized by that day.

In light of that, one of my main memories of grade one was getting a strapping almost every day for talking, usually to Virginia Hilton. Mrs. Robinson, who lived on Dentith Road, was the teacher. She used a Coca Cola ruler as a strap, that is, a ruler used to advertise Coca Cola. I have no memory of minding this, being embarrassed by it or finding it painful. What does cause me to wonder about it is that I never learned to stop talking. (Not only was I literal, I was obviously a slow learner.)

By the time I was in grade two, a new school, West Spryfield, had been built. It was on the site of the Captain William Spry Community Centre, and later the name was changed to G.K. Butler School. Mrs. Theriault our teacher, began by telling us that we would have talking time every day. How wonderful for me, thinking it was time to talk to my friends without punishment. She meant time to talk to her, something that many years later was called Show and Tell. I didn't realize that she was really ahead of her time, being the only teacher in my life as a student to do this. I next came upon this as a student teacher, many years later. Mrs. Theriault's room, which was where I also had my grade four year, had a small storage closet in the back. From that closet, she sold penny candy at recess. At that time, we would actually bring one or two pennies for recess, and think we were lucky.

Those first few years, our teachers were older women, but I remember that in grade three, five and six, they were young women from outside of the area. Often, they were country girls, perhaps drawn by the nearness of the city. At that time, city schools paid a bit more than the provincial scale and many of these teachers wanted to be close to the city. Remember, Spryfield was in the county then, and teachers were paid according to scale. However, I don't recall any of them moving to better paying jobs in town. Some of them

boarded with local families; others lived in town. Teachers at that time were not well paid so they often could only afford to board. There were also not a lot of apartments available. Usually, those who lived in town traveled by bus. School got out at 3:15 and the teachers were on the 3:30 bus to town.

While there were no extracurricular activities provided by the school, there were a few special events throughout the school year. For several years, in upper elementary school, we had Junior Red Cross, perhaps every second Friday. This was a bit of a break from our regular activities, when the teacher told us about the work of the Red Cross around the world and I believe we collected money for the organization at this time. In fact, I recall in grade four, dressing up as a Red Cross aid worker for Hallowe'en. We wore our costumes to school in the afternoon and I won a prize for my costume. I have no recollection of what the others wore, but my costume was very simple, a

white skirt and blouse, with a Red Cross arm band and head band. Maybe everyone received a prize but I doubt it. In those days, there was no effort to see that everyone was treated

type of savings account. Some times my sister Janet, and I would have a quarter to put in and felt quite affluent with our savings. I can't remember the woman's name but I think she

lived on Dentith Rd. (Could it have been a Mrs. Grono?) In the winter, we were given cod liver capsules, just at recess time. This was a vitamin supplement that was to keep us from getting colds and flu. It may indeed, have worked because I certainly was never sick. I think our parents paid \$25 for this but I don't know if that was monthly or annually. We were allowed to go to the fountain to get a drink if it would help to swallow the capsule. I was one who swallowed it quickly but was in awe of those hardy souls who actually bit them. Yuck!

Editor's Note: This photo is the Primary class of 1950 at Central Spryfield School. If you know the names of these children or have more class photos of Spryfield schools in the 1950s, please email: carolynmont@ns.sympatico.ca or ishea@ns.sympatico.ca.



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At the Pepperberry, breakfast is a "big deal"

By Des Writer
Staff

Elizabeth and Jim Trites began their search for a Bed and Breakfast property almost 10 years ago. Staying in one of their favourite places, "Blue Harbour House" in Camden, Maine, they got into conversation with the owner. He'd moved from California, wanting to get off the fast track, and opened his business as an adventure.

"We were fascinated," says Jim. "Jim loves to putter and do renovations, and I love to cook," Elizabeth says. "So we thought gee, we could do it."

Jim remembers the excitement he felt, walking along Camden's main street afterwards, thinking about the prospect of owning a "B&B." Prepared to forsake their respective careers in broadcasting and media advertising, Elizabeth and Jim searched for the home to fulfill their dream. They looked in Ontario, contemplated Canada's west coast, and almost settled on a place in Maine. "We were in high gear in this process of finding a place," says Jim.

Elizabeth recalls when she first stepped into the Halifax heritage property, "Craighburn," located on what was then Dutch Village Road. Dating back to 1915, the property was unoccupied and its walls bare white. But, says Elizabeth, "it felt like home." Because they had no intention of buying a start-up property, especially in Halifax, they continued searching. "Friends thought we were pipe-dreaming," she says.

All the places we looked at felt unfriendly,

Elizabeth says. Finally, the need to be near the ocean and family convinced them, and Elizabeth asked Jim "how about that place on Dutch Village Road?" We thought his could be the place - we could put our own stamp on it."

So, in January 1999, they bought Craighburn. Now better known as "Pepperberry," it's one of Halifax's most popular B&B properties, a home away from home for guests from around the world.

Choosing the name for their home presented another challenge. The original Scottish owner and builder, Alexander Falconer, named it "Craighburn" because of rocky crags behind the property and a burn alongside. It sounded too austere for the Trites. But in their years of dreaming, they kept a list of possible names. "One day I was making a wreath and poking in these pepperberries," Elizabeth says. She added the name to their short list of four or five. Whenever friends came around, they'd strike out other names and favour Pepperberry. But some friends are still forgetful and ask me "how are things in the pepper pot?" she chuckles.

As guests step from the portico into

Pepperberry's entrance hall, inevitably they notice the frieze quoting John Keats's "Endymion," which quips that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever," and rather epitomizes



Jim and Elizabeth Trites own the Pepperberry Inn bed and breakfast. The couple decided to open the bed and breakfast after falling in love with one they stayed in Maine almost 10 years ago.

the couple's attitude to their home.

Lovingly restored and refurbished, it retains many original features, such as wood-beamed ceilings in the dining room, a built-in glassed hutch, some fireplaces, even one original en-suite bathroom. The dining room has a

central table, large enough for eight to ten guests. "Breakfasts are a big deal here," says Elizabeth, whose working hours prevent her from enjoying them, except at weekends. A

cosy living room "for guests only" has the original fireplace and a piano that guests are encouraged to play. Decorated in bright colours, the conservatory catches the morning sun, and a study has books and magazines for all tastes. Four comfortable bedrooms, all en-suite, have romantic names such as Portico and Spa.

Jim takes pride in having started the business from scratch. "It satisfies my entrepreneurial spirit," he says. Both love meeting people. "You don't have to travel, the world comes to you," says Jim. But they quickly learned to make room for themselves and cherish their privacy. "If we want quiet quality time, we have to leave," Jim says ironically.

Owning Pepperberry has brought them much joy. Relaxing in the study Elizabeth laughs remembering the couple who drove from Florida to see the "Parade of the Tall Ships." He was 80, and his girlfriend was 82, she says. When he arrived he was using a walker. "He got lost and suggested I come and find him. He was one cranky man," she says. When they asked next day where was the best place to watch the Tall Ships, "I told them right here, in this room," she says. "So, they watched CBC's television coverage and raved about it!"

Thumbing through the guest book, she pictures almost everyone who came the first year. "These folks didn't want to come because we had two cats. So the mother and sister came. Then the folks themselves came there was no trace of the cats!"

"One guest told me, if ever I get depressed, to sit down and read through the guest book," says Elizabeth. Comments like "it was our serendipitous good fortune to land here," and "What a lovely treasure" lift the spirits. Or this one: "The best French toast in the world!" In Pepperberry, breakfast is a big deal.

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Drysdale shooting for satisfaction in paintball business

By Corey Baird
Staff

Probably more than most of us would care to admit, many wake up every day and go to a job that we don't really enjoy. Mike Drysdale was one of those people just a few short months ago, but now he's the owner of his own business and the master of his own fate.

"I'd known I'd wanted my own business since I graduated from high school in 1995," says Drysdale, owner of the recently opened "Ballbreakers" indoor paintball facility on Herring Cove Road. Like most dreams, this one was discarded as fantasy as Drysdale tried to find his way through life, first enrolling in a computer course at the Nova Scotia

Community College and then working odd jobs at Zeller's and Canadian Tire to pay the rent and support his two young children.

"It didn't work out for me because I didn't want to do it," he says of a kind of internal revelation that posed the question "what does Mike Drysdale want to do?" When that happened, the idea of going into business for himself suddenly seemed tangible, and once again, the questions came fast and furious.

"At first I thought a game store. I've always liked video games so I thought a store that's all games, video games, board games and role playing games. That came from my background at Zeller's," said Drysdale who was also working at Canadian Tire which sold paintball gear. A lot of paintball gear so it

turned out, and after a little research Drysdale discovered the sport was skyrocketing in popularity. He also discovered an opportunity in his own backyard.

"Splatshot, an established paintball name in the province, went out of business, meaning people couldn't buy gear from the Quinpool Road headquarters anymore and the closest place to play a game became Beaverbank. There was nothing left in the city. Seeing the sales of gear at Canadian Tire I also saw an opportunity," said Drysdale.

From there Drysdale talked to the people at the Open For Business Centre in the South Centre Mall and they helped him secure a loan. Drysdale, in turn, secured a location, a 125 x 60 foot facility that he transformed from an indoor storage space to an indoor battlefield and ballbreakers was born.

"Paintball is close combat and really fast moving," he says of the experience. If you've never played paintball, the rules are simple, shoot first and ask questions later. Teams are assigned and you're either given a time limit to shoot and eliminate as many players as you can or it's a last man standing scenario. It sounds quite brutal but that's far from the truth.

Paintball has long been popular among friends. Now the sport is gaining a foothold in the corporate market, a fun getaway from the stress of the nine-to-five grind. Corporate clients thus far have included Sobey's, SportChek, McKelvie's Restaurant and the Delta Barrington Hotel.

"It's actually been found statistically you have more chances of getting injured and going to the emergency room in bowling than

in paintball," Drysdale laughs, while rattling off all of the safety precautions that are taken, such as helmets and goggles as well as verbal instructions to surrender rather than shoot at close proximity to another player.

Drysdale, it seems, is taking the biggest risk. It's his money at stake after all. Not only is he responsible for an independent financial enterprise, but he's also responsible for six staff members. It's a 180-degree turn from working as a cog in two of the nation's largest chain stores and the difference isn't lost on him. "My mom was a little concerned but I had to do it," he reasons. "It was now or never. Who wants to live your life second-guessing yourself? And I know if I didn't do this someone else would have."



Mike Drysdale is one of the newest entrepreneur's in HRM. Drysdale, who says he's always wanted to work for himself recently, opened Ballbreakers - a paintball business on Herring Cove Rd.



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Zellers and Sylvan recommend "Top 10 Educational Toys" for Christmas

During the holiday season, stores are packed with an exciting variety of toys and games, making it difficult for parents to know which types are ideal matches for their children. By selecting toys that offer a combination of fun and learning, parents can do more than just stimulate their child's enjoyment, they can actually enhance reading and math skills while nurturing problem solving and imagination.

Many toys and games allow children to have fun while fostering attributes important for future learning and development. Parents can easily judge a toy's value by identifying the skills that can be enhanced through play. A well chosen toy will fit a child's age, abilities and interests, and stimulate thought and imagination.

When faced with aisles filled with toys and games, parents want reassurance in knowing that they are making the right gift choices for their children. To help parents identify toys that nurture learning behaviors in key areas of development, Sylvan Learning Centres has worked with Zellers to identify the "Top Learning Toy Selections for Holiday 2003." The following toys, approved by Sylvan, can be found at local Zellers stores.

"Lego Bionicles," provide imagination stimulation by encouraging storytelling and role-playing and encouraging the use of logic and verbal skills. (\$9.88)

Board games like Monopoly, Scrabble Junior, Life and Clue, offer family fun. Playing these classic board games is a wonderful way to encourage family time and to learn about counting, managing money, spelling and strat-

egy. They are available for a variety of ages. (\$18.95-\$34.95)

The "Bob the Builder Fix N' Clean Roadway" game encourages imagination and spatial sense development. This toy can top every pre-schoolers list this year. Children roll into the exciting world of Bob the Builder and help Muck build houses, repair roads or move boulders around the construction site. Children use their imagination and begin to develop spatial sense. (\$25.97)

The "Playdoh Creation Station" teaches about shapes, colors and imagination as children ages 3 and up use tools and molds to create all kinds of fun shapes. Using their imaginations to create almost anything, children learn to identify colors and shapes. (\$44.98)

The "LeapPad Learning System" promotes reading skills and marries learning with laptop technology. This console runs a variety of learning software that teaches reading, phonics and vocabulary. (\$69.99)

For slightly younger children, the "Alphabet Pal" features opportunities for children to experience letters and sounds. With several ways to play and learn, the Alpha-Pal helps teach children ages 3 and up the alphabet song, colors, letters and letter sounds. (\$34.88)

The family favourite game "Yahtzee" is a math stimulator. Yahtzee lets children take turns rolling the dice to fill their scorecards with different combinations. While having fun, this game for ages 8 and up, allows children to improve math skills including addition, multiplication and probability. (\$9.98)

"Little Tikes Goofy Giggles" is a fun toy which helps deliver motor skills as "goofy"

encourages the little ones to follow him around as he helps them learn to crawl. (\$29.97)

The "Sims Double Deluxe" game gives children experience with hand-eye coordination. This game lets players create neighborhoods of simulated people known as "Sims" and control their lives. Sims and other video games help children with hand-eye coordination, memory stimulation and problem solving. (\$39.96-\$59.96)

"Palm Tungsten E," helps children learn how to stay organized, track homework assignments and activities, and manage their time.

For various ages, palm organizers help children manage both schoolwork and their personal life. (\$299.97)

Take a moment to think about what kind of benefits you want your child to receive out of his or her toys this Christmas. By making the right gift selections, you can help your nurture your child's educational growth and development.

Everyone at Sylvan Learning Centres would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season. Happy shopping. www.educate.com



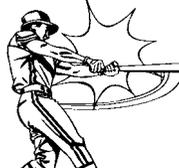
Sylvan instructor Chantal Rogers, assists Sylvan student Darcy, in filling out his ballot for a chance to win one of the Top Ten Educational Toys for Christmas - "The Leap Pad Learning System."



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Peter Saulnier's been Santa's helper for 25 years

By Laura Pellerine

Every year in late November for more than a decade, Peter Saulnier has gone to a beauty parlour to have his mustache dyed a snowy-white. It's a real mustache, but when Peter dons his Santa suit for his 25th straight year, he wants it to be as authentic as possible.

"There was one beard I found that had a mustache that looked like you had two brooms on your face," Peter laughs now, several years later. His own mustache has since turned grey, so the bleaching isn't necessary. But his suit is always improving tweaked. Not only is his beard made out of hair that feels coarse and natural, but he has worn-leather boots decorated with bells and buckles. Even his belt is embossed with Christmas scenes. Over the last 25 years Peter has put on a lot of suits.

He first started listening to children's Christmas wishes at Bedford Place mall in 1979, when he was 28. Although Peter was born and raised in Spryfield, he and his family briefly moved to Bedford

where he worked as part of the mall's maintenance crew. When their Santa got sick, the mall's manager asked Peter to fill-in. "I was

kind of heavy-set, and always jolly, so I was a good candidate."

The first day held a few challenges for Peter. He was given only simple instructions, "Just sit down and talk to the kids," and a terri-

vousness that day. But it didn't take long for this self-proclaimed "Christmas-crazy" man to get into the swing of things. "Something came over me that day; it was so magical and I loved it."

Later that year, Peter, his wife and three sons moved back to Spryfield and he discovered Santa spot at the "South Centre mall" was open. He knew right away that he wanted it and with little hesitation he was chosen for the job. He's been Spryfield's steadfast Santa ever since. He has also become a favourite in the annual Spryfield Santa Claus Parade and has visited children in the IWK for the last 19 years.

Over the last two decades, Peter has received a wide range of requests from children. They have asked for everything from toy trucks and hockey cards to seeing if he can bring back a relative that has passed away. "You learn not to promise them anything," Peter says. "I do the best I can, but I can't grant wishes."

One year, however, Peter did help to make one little boy's dream come true. "His name was Matthew," Peter remembers. "There was just something about him that touched my heart."

Matthew told Peter that he wanted to be a policeman. His neighbourhood was filling up with some bad people and, with his Dad gone,

he wanted to protect his mother. "He told me he wanted real police gear, 'not the plastic stuff.'" So Peter went around the community and collected donated police items to give Matthew for Christmas.

Sometimes children will bring Santa presents. Peter has gotten gifts like a cookie with a bite out of it, a handful of smarties and once a single chocolate chip wrapped in a piece of paper. "People don't realize how good the kids are here," Peter says.

He starts getting ready for his Santa duties all throughout the year. He observes children whenever they are around him, studying their actions so that he can let them know Santa has been watching them all year long when they sit on his knee. "The kids are really surprised when I tell them how I saw them behave while they were swimming at the wave pool," Peter chuckles softly.

Also for the second year in a row, Peter has been collecting donated toys throughout the year from places like Frenchy's, the Salvation Army and through individual contributions, to give to every child that comes to see him. "We have our own Santa's workshop, and the children can choose whatever toy they want."

But putting on the red suit isn't always easy. Kids have stuck their fingers up Peter's nose, poked him in the eye and have drizzled their runny noses on his sleeve. But he takes it all in stride. Laughing quietly to himself he says you have to have the right kind of nature to adopt the role. "You've got to love kids and be interested in what they're going to say," Peter says.



Spryfield resident Peter Saulnier has been Santa's helper for 25 years.. The self-proclaimed "jolly" man first started being Santa's helper at Bedford Place mall in 1979, he's now become a favourite in the annual Spryfield Santa Claus Parade.

ble-looking suit. The beard was made of cotton. "I looked like something a child would make in a craft-centre," says Peter remembering his ner-

Dr. Judy Martin, Optometrist is celebrating her 20th year of practice here in Spryfield.

She would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of her patients for their support over the last two decades, and in particular the people of Spryfield and the surrounding communities.



Pictured here are left to right - April Dicks, Contact Lens Fitter, Cheryl Wetmore, Optician, Christine Purcell, Receptionist, Dr. Shelly Huang, Optometrist, Dr. Judy Martin, Optometrist, Gail Smith, Office Manager, Sue Feltmate, Optician and Terri Hughes, Certified Optometric Assistant.

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Community Centre gets piano

More than \$800 was raised for the Captain William Spry Community Centre's new piano following a recital event this month in the Community Meeting Room.

Several months ago a community member, in attempting to gauge interest in a local choral group, spoke to centre staff about whether or not the facility would be interested in obtaining a second hand piano for the Centre. Others who heard of the idea also expressed interest so staff responded by following potential leads

but with no luck.

Then, in an effort to jump-start the project a local resident offered to front the purchase of a beautiful digital piano. The intent was for the community centre to raise money in order to fully or partially reimburse the resident for the cost of the piano.

The first fundraiser was on a Sunday in November when Marjorie Willison gave a voice recital, "Love Songs Through the Ages, from Medieval to Modern," with Nancy Carr accompanying her on the new digital piano, which was played with the sound of a harpsichord for two of the songs. Ms. Carr also played an alto recorder at one point, and Ms. Willison accompanied herself on a lyre for one of the songs.

About forty people turned out for the afternoon of music, conversation, and food, and donations totalling \$454 were raised for the Piano Fund. Another \$1800 needs to be raised in the months ahead.

Groups and individuals hosting functions at the Community Centre will be able to rent the piano. Peggy Allen, Facility Manager, said "it is a wonderful resource for Spryfield and surrounding areas, and will open up many possibilities for local residents. Staff and community members are very excited about this addition to our Community Centre."

Donations toward the cost of the piano are welcomed, said Allen. Groups may contact the Centre to arrange use of the piano for functions. Fundraising concerts or other activities for the Piano Fund, should be directed to the Administration Office of the Community Centre by calling 479-1111.



Chebucto Boys and Girls Club member Kristin Mabe was part of an award winning float in the Spryfield Santa Claus Parade.

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The VALUE keeps on getting better!

District 18 completes a busy fall in search of improved services

By Stephen Adams
Councillor District 18

On November 11, I had the distinct honour of attending the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Spryfield Legion. This service is likely the second largest in HRM, and is attended by 200 or 300 residents every year. It can be overwhelming at times, as friends and family members of veterans lay wreaths in memory of

loved ones. In order to appreciate the significance of this ceremony, you have to experience it. I encourage you to attend next year's ceremony, and see first hand the great work of our local Legion. I was privileged to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of the residents of District 18, and to represent HRM Council, as well.

The surveys for Transit in the Sambro Loop have been collected and are being assessed by our staff. Once the data is com-

pleted, a proposal for bus service will be put forward with the proposed area rate to support it. In addition, all questions that were asked at our community meeting will be answered.

Upon completion, ballots will be sent to each household so that you will have your opportunity to vote for or against the service. The results will be tallied, and according to the count, a decision will be made.

Our civic addressing staff held meetings

throughout District 18 to better define the boundaries of our many communities. The intent of this exercise is to ensure the boundaries are accurate so that signage may be created, and to ensure 911 services can respond appropriately. In future, streets and roads with similar names will be examined to determine if slight changes are required to again ensure appropriate and accurate 911 response.

We also had a meeting to discuss policing issues where Chief Frank Beazley addressed a group of approximately 35 residents. Questions ranged from ATV use to break and enters, drug offenses and loitering. Chief Beazley clearly articulated the procedures police use when dealing with issues and also heard of a few instances where policing was deemed to be unsatisfactory. I was very pleased with the attendance and with the overall responses. At this time, I would like to welcome Roger Booker, who is our new Community Constable. I have had a few occasions on which to contact Roger and I am very pleased with his prompt follow-up.

A public information meeting was held with respect to the Urban Farm Museum, which is located on the Kidston property. About 30 residents attended and heard issues regarding parking, loitering and the number of farm animals that may be on the property from time to time. I will be asking for an additional meeting for further clarification to illustrate the potential impact on abutting neighbours.

In closing, I would like to wish my good friend Brian Dempsey a quick recovery from his recent surgery. We all wish you well.

Martin election allows new federal vision for Canada

By Geoff Regan
Halifax West MP

Last month members of the Liberal Party of Canada, including many from Nova Scotia, gathered in Toronto for what many thought of only as a foregone conclusion, the election of Paul Martin as the new leader of the Liberal Party and next Prime Minister of Canada.

Although clearly the principle focus of the weekend, that election was not the only event of note. In his remarks after his election, and the next day at the weekend's closing meeting, Mr. Martin spoke about his vision for the future of Canada. That vision is based on what he calls "The Politics of Achievement."

Just words? No, that's the point. Paul Martin's government, which will be sworn in on December 12th, is going to be task oriented. The accomplishments of the last ten years should not be dismissed, but the next ten years will require a different kind of focus. The slaying of the deficit, preservation of public healthcare, national unity and so on were

important accomplishments to be sure, but we must look forward, not back. The Government of Canada must become action oriented.

Take the role of a Member of Parliament as one example. Mr. Martin has said several times that Parliament must change. Parliament must once again become the national Main Street, the place where people from across Canada come to meet and discuss the nation's business in informed debates. Members of Parliament must cease to be "representatives of Ottawa in their ridings, instead of representatives of their ridings in Ottawa." In other words, members will be expected to engage their constituents, understand their views and represent them, not just their party, in Ottawa.

Although there are mechanical changes that will help accomplish this, the so-called three-line whip, for example, the most important change will be in attitude. Much has been said about western alienation, but clearly all of Canada's regions are at risk of being neglected without a system that allows the views of all Canadians to be represented in the national

government. Transforming the role of the Member of Parliament is one part of that.

Another often talked about part of Mr. Martin's plan is a new deal for Canada's municipalities. Exclusively creatures of provincial governments, municipalities have traditionally had great difficulty dealing with the federal government. While Mr. Martin is not suggesting that we should amend the constitution to allow for a more direct relationship, there are many things that can be done to include cities and towns in national planning. Communities like Halifax are on the brink of amazing growth. They need help, and the Government of Canada will be there to provide it.

The next few months will be an exciting time for Canadians. I encourage you to take the time to get involved in deciding your country's future. As always, if either my staff or I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us by phone or by e-mail at geoff@geoffregan.com.

HRM's new blasting by-law designed to protect existing communities

By Linda Mosher
Councillor District 17

About two years ago, there was blasting in Jollimore and I received many calls from residents who were concerned about safety, damage to their properties, and nuisance issues such as dust and noise. I questioned the blasting practices and the effectiveness of our by-law to protect residents, their properties and the environment. After conducting extensive research on blasting practices throughout North America and consulting with numerous residents, I determined that significant changes were required to our by-law. I presented these findings to Council and obtained approval to have staff assess blasting in HRM.

Before the report was complete, residents in Fairmount subdivision dealt with more than six months of constant blasting of as much as 185 recorded blasts in a two week period. These residents expressed many of the same concerns as those in Jollimore. As well, there were many other blasting incidences in HRM with reports of rocks flying considerable distances through the air, even landing on vehicles and homes.

The main issue was that the previous by-law was not effective in regulating blasting practices and was not a sufficient deterrent. In some cases, companies came in and used excessive charges for the area with little regard for existing communities. Although some of these incidences resulted in companies being

charged, it either received a minimal fine, or the courts dismissed the charges due to insufficient evidence.

When residents reported the damage they perceived to be a result of the blasting, no one would take ownership for causing the damage. This left homeowners with no recourse. I asked staff to develop a new, effective by-law; as the required changes were so substantial that amendments could not be made to the existing bylaw. This new by-law was prepared by HRM Engineer, Peter Duncan, after extensive study and consultation with industry, citizens, and government agencies. As more development will be ongoing in our area, the new by-law will discourage improper blasting practices that may have detrimental effects to existing communities.

HRM staff audited blasting practices and blast designs for previous projects. They concluded that the ground vibration and air blast levels were not being accurately recorded all the time and that often larger than usual charge weights were being used, and our by-law was not effective in preventing these issues.

Our new by-law has incorporated many improvements, including standards for blast monitoring and reporting. As well, HRM will ensure the weight of the explosive charge will be recorded and regulated. A "scaled distance" determination will be made for each application, taking into account factors such as the

see "HRM" pg. 14

Stephen Adams

HRM Councillor, District 18



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MLA helps grieving father establish memorial cross

By *Graham Steele*
Halifax Fairview MLA

At noon on Sunday, November 2nd, I was standing with a shovel in my hands, digging a small hole in the gully between the roadways of the Cobequid Pass. With me were four members of a Fairview family. And this was part of my job? Let me take a minute to explain what I, as your MLA, was doing there.

On October 31, 2002, a Brinks truck heading towards Truro hit the shoulder of the Cobequid Pass and rolled down into the gully. Darren Daine, one of three people in the truck, was killed.

Darren's father Stanley, as well as Darren's brother, sister-in-law and nephew, live in my

constituency. Recently I got to talking with Stanley, and he told me about a problem he'd been having with the Department of Transportation.

You see, Stanley's pretty handy with wood, and he'd built a cross as a memorial to Darren. When I visited Stanley, the cross was in his kitchen. It's a very personal cross, not quite as high as my waist, with a picture of Darren, some poppies, a short sentence about the family's loss, and Darren's name in red letters.

The problem was that the Department of Transportation told Stanley he couldn't place the cross at the accident site. That would be against departmental policy. I raised the issue with the Minister of Transportation in a letter,

and again during Question Period in the Legislature. Still the answer was no.

Of course we knew that some roadside crosses are allowed. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has a "white cross program" where crosses are placed at the scene of drunk-driving fatalities. The Department of Transportation endorses this program, as do Stanley and I. We just didn't see why MADD crosses should be the only ones allowed. The more we looked into it, the more we discovered that there are a quite a few other roadside crosses unrelated to drunk-driving. So the departmental policy, even if it were a good one, was being applied haphazardly. So Stanley and I decided that the best way to challenge the Department's policy was, well, to ignore it.

So, on November 2nd we loaded up my van with shovels, a pickax and the cross, and off we went to the Cobequid Pass. Once we were there, it was the work of 10 minutes to

place the cross. The ground was rocky, but with the shovel and pickax we were able to dig a decent hole. Stanley had brought along a cement block to provide a solid foundation. With a bit of effort we made sure that the cross was solidly in the ground.

Stanley is still grieving for his son, but I'm convinced that placing the memorial cross eased a little of his pain. The next day thankfully, a spokesperson for the Department of Transportation said that the cross would likely be allowed to remain.

Maybe you have a problem with your government that I can help with. I doubt that solving it with require a shovel and a pickax, like Stanley's problem did. Usually my tools are a telephone, a pen, and a computer keyboard. But I'm here to do whatever I can to help solve your problem. Sometimes government policies need a shake, and the DOT policy on roadside crosses was one of them.

Rest in peace, Darren Daine.



Geoff Regan, MP
Halifax West

Suite 222, 1496 Bedford Hwy.
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For information or assistance:
Phone: 426-2217
Fax: 426-8339
email: geoff@geoffregan.com
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Be on the look-out for questionnaire on community interests

By *Michele Raymond*
Halifax Atlantic MLA

My job, as a member of the Legislative Assembly, is to be a representative of the community. There are many ways to do this, and one of my biggest challenges is to find out what exactly are the interests of this constituency. I'll need your help in doing this.

In the next few weeks, I'll be sending out a very simple questionnaire, to every household and business in the Halifax Atlantic area. Your assignment is to decide which four things are your greatest concerns, and to return the form to me at your nearest school or c@psite. Please be sure to do this. I can only represent the community if I know what your interests are.

Also, the constituency office is open at the Captain Spry Community Centre from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday, and you're always welcome to call or e-mail with concerns, or just to drop in. I also have monthly "office hours" in Sambro, Harrietsfield, Herring Cove and at the Chocolate Lake Centre on the Purcell's Cove Road. (See advertisement above for details). We can also arrange a meeting outside of these hours, or elsewhere in the area, if it's more convenient.

People usually come to my office because they are having trouble getting what they need from the provincial government system as it exists. We do our best to help them through the steps, making calls or writing letters on their behalf, or suggesting other approaches.

Often there's a pattern to these problems, and it's then my responsibility to bring that pattern forward to the legislature, so that I, or another member of the New Democratic Party, can argue for changes in the system.

Every NDP member of the legislature is also assigned two or three critic areas. Each critic area, sometimes called a "shadow portfolio," with the whole caucus making up a "shadow Cabinet," corresponds to a government department.

Each critic watches and comments on what's going on across the province in anything related to their critic area. My own critic areas are Human Rights, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs. This is why sometimes you'll hear me speak up about an issue that starts elsewhere in the province, or you'll hear another NDP member speak up about something in Halifax Atlantic.

The four months since the election, have

see "Be" pg. 14

MICHELE RAYMOND, MLA

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Humans eating their way down the fish food chain

Food for Thought

by Marjorie Willison



Had fish for dinner lately? Ninety per cent of the world's large fish are gone, according to research cited in the latest issue of Reality Check, The Canadian Review of Wellbeing (Vol.3 No.3, 2003).

Ransom Myers and others at Dalhousie University looked at international fish populations from 1950 to the present, and found that only 10% of the world's largest fish, such as tuna, cod, halibut and swordfish, are left in the oceans. They identified industrial fishing as the cause of the decline. The methods are so efficient that within 10 to 15 years of finding a new fish stock, 90% of the population has been destroyed.

As well, it is taking more and more energy to catch the remaining fish, as fishing vessels and fleets increase in number, size, power, and

technical sophistication. In fact, more energy (fuel, fishing gear and vessels) now goes into harvesting fish than there is food energy in the fish. Estimates from around the world for different kinds of fisheries suggest from 2 to 50 times more energy is used to catch fish than there is food energy in the fish. This is like always taking more money out of the bank than you put in. What all this means is that we are still catching a lot of fish, but we are using more and more energy to catch a shrinking population.

A trend of great concern in the current state of fisheries in many parts of the world is the "fishery resource depletion-substitution cycle." This is the tendency for fish species to be overexploited to the point of commercial extinction, and for alternative species then to be found and similarly over-exploited.

Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia has created an index of the mean position on the marine food chain at which humans are eating. The data indicate a slow

but steady progression toward eating lower on the food chain. In other words, we go from eating whales, to large fish, to small fish, to crustaceans and so on. By doing so, we compete with progressively larger numbers of wild species and threaten the integrity of existing marine ecosystems. This is a clear indication that we are eating through our marine food supply faster than it can be replaced.

Since 1950, the amount of fish caught has been increasing. Even so, the human population is growing faster than the fish harvest, and the amount of food per person from fisheries has been decreasing since 1986. And not all of the fish caught goes to people. In the 1980s, more fish was consumed by US livestock than by people in all of western Europe combined.

Of course you can still eat fish. There will be less wastage, however, if you eat whole or filleted fish more often than processed fish. The Ecology Action Centre also offers fish that has been caught using environmentally sustainable methods.

HRM blasting by-law

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types of rock formation and distance of nearest structure. Basically, we will obtain the blast design prior to issuing the permit to ensure the blasting is customized to each site.

The permit fees have increased so that HRM can hire a full time Blasting Inspector. As well, there are provisions for a \$5,000 security deposit. The blasting companies monitor must now be a Professional Engineer or Professional Geoscientist. There are specific requirements for calibration and placement of the monitoring machines. There are strict requirements for community notification and provisions for public information meetings. Previously, interior pre-home inspections did not require videotaping of homes, this is now mandatory. The level of the blaster's insurance has been raised from \$1 million to \$2 million.

To put the changes of the new by-law in context, the weight of the explosives used in Fairmount was about 85 pounds in five inch holes, and the pre-blast survey area was 150 metres. The new by-law would only allow about 35 pounds of explosives in two inch holes and the pre-blast survey area would be 200 metres. To obtain a copy of By-Law B-600 Respecting Blasting, it is available at www.region.halifax.ns.ca or at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall.

Be on the look-out for questionnaire on community interests

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literally been a whirlwind of activity for me. It's hard to believe that it's nearly December but I look forward enormously to the holidays as a time of rest, reflection, and the pleasure of sharing time with my children and family. I hope that everyone reading this will have the same pleasures, and realize the same joys.

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14 games @ \$300
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The last Sunday of each month you can win a trip for two to Penobscot High Stakes Bingo in Bangor Maine with Sue-Anne Tours.

There will be no Bingo on December 25th
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from Spryfield Lions & Lioness

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Full parking lot for Remembrance Day service

It may have been, according to Councillor Stephen Adams, one of the most well attended in all of Metro, and when the first ever Remembrance Day Ceremonial Parade to be held under the name Earl Francis Memorial Spryfield Branch 152, arrived at the Sussex Street Legion parking lot it was already jam packed with spectators.

Sergeant-At-Arms Al Bergeron led his Colour Guard contingent through a widening crowd to take up position near the Cenotaph and by the time the Halifax Armdale Kiwanis Air Cadet Squadron 529, troops of Boy Scouts and others arrived, the parking lot was overflowing to the street. As was usual there were seats for the elderly who witnessed the ceremony under what was unusual, sunny skies and pleasant temperatures.

Legion Pastor Reverend Carl Price took

the Master of Ceremonies podium to ask J.L. Ilsley band and choir to begin a singing of O'Canada before beginning a moment of silences in honour of those who fell victim to war's most atrocious sacrifice. The service continued with the "Act of Remembrance" and playing of the Lament by bagpiper Ian McKinnon. J.L.'s Gilliam Wesley read "In Flanders Fields" and fellow student Frances Ritchie followed with a reading of "In High Flight." The gathering sang "Abide With Me" before the band played "For The Fallen" written by Mike Sammes and then played "In Honoured Glory."

Calvary Church Rev. Jake McIssac offered an inspirational poem followed by prayers from St. Paul's United Church Reverend Ginn and Captain James Mercer of the Salvation Army before the placing of nearly 60 wreaths

unfolded before a crowd of about 300 people. Reverend Price gave the Benediction and the spectators combined their voices for God Save The Queen before the assembly retired to the Legion for the annual reception and dance that afternoon.

Wreaths were laid in memory of Kenny Robinson, Horrace Robinson and Frederick Robinson by nephew Paul Strole; Edward Duggan by wife Anne; J. Graham Walsh by son Graham; Jean Chambers by husband Roy Chambers, son George Chambers, daughters Shelly and Peggy and granddaughter Heather; Ronald Thurber by daughter Judy McCarthy and great-granddaughter Erica; George L. Beaman by wife Iona Beaman; Samuel Nicholson by son Gary Nicholson and grandson Jason; Walter K. Purcell by son Vince Purcell; Lawrence Bellefontaine by Diane Purcell; Father John Francis Connolly WWI, uncle Edward Connolly WWI (died at Vimy Ridge) brothers Lou, Robert, Charles, Steve, Pat, Edward by Mrs. Margaret Melvin; Don Langille by son-in-law Warren; John Ginn (Green Cross) by daughter Helen Ginn; Clarence White by great-granddaughters Crystal and Cara Walsh and Brittany Young; Angus and Bill Kingsley by Sally Kingsley; Joseph Kelly by Tammy Kelly; Harold Pelham by Don Pelham; Anne Isnor and George Isnor (Green Cross) by Anne Marie Isnor, Michelle Isnor, and Melissa Betts; Father Frank Warrington by daughter Fran Griffiths and grandson Hedley Cullen; major Maynard Denton and Sgt. Seymour Denton layed by a cadet; William Walsh by sons John and Robbie, grandson Lee and great-grandson Skylar; Spencer Armsworthy by Maureen and Jean; Herb Edwards by Thomas Delorey; John Thomas Stewart by Butch and Lorraine Stewart; Father John Campbell, layed by a cadet; Brother Victor Campbell, layed by a cadet; Jack Whittle, layed by a cadet; Frederick Micheau by Don Micheau and Cory; Robert Ayres (Green Cross) by Kathy and son Danny and Arthur; Albert Richardson by James Auby; James Ernest Candow by daughter Lorraine Collins; Douglas Wright by son David Wright and daughter in law Karen Wright; Boys and Girls Club, layed by Tristen Harnish and Kathleen Chapman; the Armdale Yacht Club, layed by Christine Jagoe.

Official Laying of the Wreaths by those representing organizations included the Government of Canada by Ian McKinnon; Senate, layed by a cadet; Silver Cross Mother, Pidge Chant; Province of Nova Scotia by MLS Michelle Raymond; Veterans Affairs, layed by

a cadet; HRM by Steve Adams; Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Legion Br#52; Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial BR#152 Ladies Auxiliary; Halifax Atlantic NDP Riding, Dennis Burgess; District 17, Linda Moser; District 18, Steve Adams; Hong Kong Veterans layed by Walter Francis; Korean Veterans by Reg Gamache; Past Pres. Doug Ash by Terry Bobbit; Past Pres. Wolford Gates by son Wolford Gates Jr.; Past Pres. Walter Kennedy by daughter Judith, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Past Pres. Ken Smith by sons Tim and Bill; Granite Lodge 158 IOF Topaz Rebeccas 125 by Don Brushette and Lynn Martell; Lion's Club by Tom Parsons; Lion's Aquatic Centre in memory of Frank Cameron, layed by daughter Jean Clement. Knights of Columbus Council 5017, layed by Douglas Young; Duke of Kent Lodge layed by Paul Simms; Cantona Halifax and Ladies Auxiliary Halifax #1 layed by Lit. General retire Arthur Collicutt and Lady Julia Smith, past president dept. association; J.A. Walker layed by Kristen and Wally; J.L. Ilsley Student Council, layed by Merridith Lake, George Rae and Ean Whalen; Elizabeth Sutherland School layed by Samantha Swinnamer and Jessica Pyke; Herring Cove Junior High School, layed by a veteran; Men's City Dart League in Memory of Earl Francis, layed by Stephen Field; Beaver Enviro, layed by Nicholas Wyatt.



Members of Halifax-Armdale Kiwanis Air Cadet Squadron 529 are annual participants in the Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Legion Remembrance Day Parade.



Spryfield Lion Tom Parsons lays a wreath at the Earl Francis Memorial Cenotaph on behalf of his fellow club members during Remembrance Day ceremonies.

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The Den is available for groups of up to 120 people, and the hall for larger groups.

For rental information or to check available dates, call Herman Peterson at 477-7753.



Support your local Lions Club

Community working and celebrating together

MULTI-SERVICE NEWS

by Linda Roberts

Multi-Service Coordinator
Captain William Spry Community Centre

Two events over the holiday season are being organized as a cooperative, community efforts and we should be proud of how our local groups and individuals pull together to make things happen.

In keeping with the long-standing tradition of holding a tree lighting event in Spryfield, a Peace Tree Lighting and concert will be held at the Captain William Spry Community Centre December 6 at 6:30 pm. A local band, Billy's Flick, will be appearing. There will be refreshments and caroling. This is a community event, so bring your friends, family and neighbors. Sponsors of the Tree Lighting are the Spryfield Youth Action Team, the Chebucto Boys & Girls Club, Hand in Hand, St. Paul's Family Resources Institute, Captain William Spry Community Centre, and the Chebucto West Community Health Board. These groups are being assisted by Dalhousie University nursing students and volunteers from the community.

As a way to have fun during the holiday, families are invited to the Family Wave Pool

Swim (family rates) and a Family Social (free) at the Captain William Spry Community Centre for a Family Holiday Social and Swim on Monday, December 29 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm. The Swim and Social are at the same time, so families can come to the social before or after the swim. At the Social there will be light snacks and the Spryfield Youth Action Team will help with activities for the children. This event is being sponsored by the Teen Health Centre, Single Parent Centre, St. Paul's Family Resources Institute, Cornerstone Family Resource Centre, Healthy Kidz, Chebucto Boys and Girls Club, and the Captain William Spry Community Centre. For more information, call me at 479-4487.

We don't know what we don't know so we need your help to make sure new groups are included in the 2004 edition of the Community Directory. The Captain Spry Community Directory is a listing of schools, churches, service groups, sports and recreation facilities and other non-profit organizations in District 17 and 18. Groups already listed in the Directory will be contacted in early December to update the description of their organization. If you know of any new, non-profit groups in the area formed in the last two years, please call me at 479-4487 with the contact information.

At this time of year many people make donations to charitable causes. If you are planning to make donations to charities,

think about giving locally. Most of the groups listed in the Captain Spry Community Directory would welcome cash gifts to help them provide services to our community.

The Captain William Spry Community Centre website was recently updated. You can read our Annual Report or find out who is on the Board of Directors by going to www.sprycentre.ns.ca. The Captain Spry Community Directory is also available on the website.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Captain William Spry Community Centre, I would like to wish you all a peaceful holiday season.



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Make sure your pets have a safe and happy Christmas

Once again, Christmas is here and while we embark on our holiday decorating and entertaining we should keep in mind that without careful thought, these festive preparations can actually create some unexpected and often unpleasant problems for our pets. A few precautions will ensure that the holidays are not hazardous to your pet's health.

When decorating, please remember that many holiday plants such as holly and mistletoe can be extremely poisonous to pets. If you have a pet that tends to be very curious or loves to eat plants you may want to reconsider if you were thinking about using the real thing. If you do use these plants in your festivities, make sure they are hung well out of your pets' reach.

Christmas trees require careful consideration if you have pets in your household. Pine needles are very sharp and if eaten can actually perforate your pet's intestines. Check around the tree and other decorative bows and swags frequently and clean up loose needles as often as possible, particularly if you have a small puppy or kitten.

Electrical lights pose a very real threat to playful puppies and kittens as well as adult pets. Secure the electrical cords up and out of the way and there will be less likelihood that your pet will be tempted to chew on them. Unfortunately, many pets have received severe burns from chewing on electrical cords.

Ornaments such as sharp or breakable bulbs should be placed high up on the tree, out

of reach. Ribbons, yarn, angel hair and especially string and tinsel should be hung out of reach. If you have a curious cat, make sure you check all parcels beneath the tree and ensure ribbons and string are securely attached. Cats love to play with any string-like object and are more likely than dogs to ingest them accidentally. Also make sure that your tree is well secured. If you have a tree-climbing pet, make sure you anchor the top of your tree to the wall, using a strong rope or cord. As well, preservatives used in the base of trees can cause intestinal problems so be sure that it is inaccessible for any pet who may think it is the perfect place to get a drink!

Not only are the decorations problematic during the holidays. Many pets are brought in for medical attention during or after the holidays due to the foods they have eaten during this season. Although it is very tempting to offer your pooch a lovely dinner of turkey, this should be avoided. Many pets are unable to digest turkey well and can end up with severe gastrointestinal problems after overindulging

in a feast of turkey. In particular, turkey fats, gravies and skin, although extremely tantalizing to pets, can wreak havoc on their digestive tract. Even worse are the problems that can result from feeding holiday turkey or ham bones, however tasty, to your dog or cat. Smaller bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach and intestinal tract and in severe cases may require surgical intervention.

Finally, a word on sweets. Although many pets initially enjoy the sweet taste of holiday candy, too much candy is as bad for your pet as it is for you. A stomach ache is a mild side-effect of even a very small amount of sugar, while an over-indulgence can actually be fatal to your pet. Chocolate poisoning is caused by theobromine, a caffeine-like substance found naturally in chocolate. Keep those one-pound chocolate kisses well away from curious pets - don't leave them wrapped under the tree. Talk about bah-hum-bug! Not meaning to take all the fun away, but your pet doesn't need turkey or sweets and would be much happier with lots of your time and attention instead!



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Mosher re-elected Chair of Chebucto Community Council

District 17 Councillor Lind Mosher was re-elected Chair of Chebucto Community Council at its regular monthly meeting in November.

Mosher was first elected Chair in 2002 when four Councillors, including Stephen Adams, District 18, Russell Walker, District

15, and Diane Whalen, then a Councillor in District 16, chose Mosher for the posting. The recent provincial election caused a vacancy at Chebucto Community Council and Mosher was re-elected to the position by Councillors Walker and Adams.

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LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd.

PARSONS, Vera May - 92, Halifax, passed away at home. Born in Halifax she was a daughter of the late George and Hester (Strong) Murphy. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Surviving are daughters Blossom Graves, Truro; Shirley Schnare, Hackett's Cove; Nancy (Donald) Graves, Halifax; Betty Lou (Bill) Petite, Darling Island, NB; Carol Ann (Carl) White, Halifax; sons Douglas (Paulette), Halifax; Stewart "Sonny" (Veronica), Halifax; 23 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; four great great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Clarence Wallace Parsons; brothers Art, Harry and William; sisters Hester, Susie, Maude, Goldie and Hannah; a grandson Brian Schnare. Interment was in Fairview Lawn Cemetery, Halifax. Donations to the IWK Health Centre.

KEDDY, Beryl Margaret - 82, Old Sambro Road, Harrietsfield, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Percy and Margaret (McDow) Lavers. She was a lifetime member of West End Baptist Church, Halifax. Surviving are daughter, Margaret (Mrs. Charles Hubley), Williamswood; sisters, Dorothy Brooks, Fairview; Mona Watts, Halifax; grandchildren, Robert Le Rue and wife Elizabeth, Kimberley Hubley and Heidi Hubley; great-grandchildren, Robert Le Rue and Baillie Le Rue. She was predeceased by her husband, R. Gerald Keddy; daughter, Pat Keddy; grandson, Christopher Le Rue. Cremation has taken place under the direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax.

SMITH, Marguerite "Joyce" - 92, Halifax, passed away in Melville Lodge Nursing Home, surrounded in love by her family. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Charles James and Loretta Melinda (Miller) Puplett. She was a survivor of The Halifax Explosion. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Surviving are daughters, Madeline (Mrs. C. Douglas Dexter), North Brookfield, Lunenburg Co.; Marlene (Mrs. David S. Henley), Woodstock, N.B.; Marilyn Singer (who was like a daughter to Joyce); sons, Milton "Sonny" B. (Elizabeth) Singer, David M. (Marlene) Singer, Royce M. (Marlaine) Singer, Halifax; stepdaughter, Jean P. Osborne, Halifax; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; a number of step-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, George Milton Singer; second

husband, Jeffrey Daniel Smith; sisters, Florence Dorey, Winnifred Weare, Trudeth Barber, Grace Nobuary; brother, Charles James; stepson, Russell Singer; step-grandson in infancy. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax.

KINGWELL, Vilena - 81, Herring Cove, passed away at home. Born in Herring Cove, she was a daughter of the late Harold and Carrie Lee (MacKenzie) Nagle. A loving and caring soul who will be missed by many. She worked for Wood brothers Company, Canada Liquid Air, McInnis Cooper and Robinson and the County of Halifax. She was a lifelong member of St. James Anglican Church. She is survived by stepson, David S. Kingwell, Toronto; brother, Harold Nagle, Halifax; nephews, Jimmy Duff, Ricky Nagle; nieces, Diane Falkner, Leanna Reinhardt, Terri Zinc, Janet Rafuse, Vilena Walker, Debbie Billard, Linda Duff, and caregivers, Sharron Duff and Chuck Rafuse. She was predeceased by her husband, John A.L. Kingwell; brother, Richard; sister, Doris; brother-in-law, Alan Duff; sister-in-law, Olive Nagle; nephew, Stephen Nagle. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax.

CHAPPELL, Linda Ruth - 54, Halifax, passed away in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Lunenburg County, she was a daughter of the late Bernard Swinamer. Surviving are her mother, Florence (Acker) Swinamer, Martin's Point; son, Allen Barkhouse, at home; daughter, Sarah Chappell, at home; brothers, Russell and David, both of Martin's River; Bernard Jr. "Wayne", Spryfield; sisters, Janet, Martin's Point; Susan and Wendy, both of Western Shore; grandson, Arthur Teale; granddaughter, Laurie Teale. She was predeceased by her husband, Peter Chappell; two infant brothers. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax. Interment will be with her husband Peter's ashes in Oakridge Memory Gardens, Lower Sackville.

MUNROE, Marjorie May - 98, Halifax, passed away in Parkstone Nursing Home. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late William and Amy (Verge) Hiscock. She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Parker Street. Surviving are

son, Maxwell, Antigonish; daughters, Marjorie (Kenneth) White, Ervinville, Guysborough Co.; Jean (Howard) Boutcher, Halifax; Dorine (Eric) Wrangell, Hubbards; brother, Francis (Ann), Ontario; 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; four great great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Owen Arthur Munroe; son, Francis; brother, George; sister, Dorothy Hilton. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax.

MEAD, George Austin - 67, Spryfield, died in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late John Robert and Vallie Marie (Robar) Mead. He was employed with the Canadian Tire Store, Quinpool Road, Halifax, until his retirement in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Joan (Oickle) Mead; sons, George (Lynette Ross), Dartmouth; Shawn, Spryfield; daughters, Donna (Paul) Brown, Mount Uniacke; Darlene (Donny) Smith, Dartmouth; Diane (David) LaBonté, Haneytown, N.B.; Deborah Mead, Halifax; brothers, Rupert, Bridgewater; Wayne (Geraldine), Williamswood; Gene (Cathy), Sackville; sisters, Catherine Hall, British Columbia; Nina Chambers, Windsor; Myrna (Luke) Feetham, Pickering, Ont.; Shirley Parsons, Sackville; Valerie (Eugene) Myra, Kingston; Fern Mead, Dartmouth; Rose Moore, Ontario; Joan MacDonald, United States; Wanda (Eugene) MacDonald, Dartmouth; grandchildren, Michael and Christopher Brown, Ashley and Adam Smith, Dawn (Jeff Wright), Desiree and Dustin LeBonté. He was predeceased by brothers, John, Lawrence, Russel; sister, Patricia Short; sister-in-law, Dee Mead; brother-in-law, Bud Hall. Funeral arrangements were under the care and direction of J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, 149 Herring Cove Rd., Halifax. Interment in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lower Sackville.

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The Spryfield Lion's Club are replacing the old sign on the corner of Drsydale and Herring Cove Road. Lions Victor Eisan, Herman Peterson, Tom Parsons, and Jim Pretty help Quality Signs owner Gerry Brown put the new sign in place.

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Boys and Girls Club Merchandise Bingo

The Chebucto Boys and Girls Club will hold a merchandise Bingo Sunday December 7 at the Earl Francis Memorial Spryfield Legion. Doors open at 6 p.m. with bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Proceeds go to the after school program.

Majorette Bingo

The Halifax Sparklette Majorettes will hold a Toy Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday December 14 at the Earl Francis Memorial Spryfield Legion Branch 152. Bingo starts at 7 pm sharp and doors open at 6:00 pm. Books are \$3.00 each. Jackpot prize is a Sony DVD Player. Donations for the Metro Food Bank will be accepted at the door. See you there!

Down Home Christmas

St. James United Church, Sambro, will have a Down Home Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Refreshments to follow. Everyone Welcome.

Lobster Supper

St. James United Church, Sambro, will have a Lobster Supper on Saturday, December 6th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Adults \$15.00; Children \$7.50. Advanced Tickets can be purchased by calling Jamie 868-2667; Eva Mae 868-2660; Aronda 868-2617; Barb 868-2478. Everyone welcome.

PTA Breakfast and Craft Sale

The Sambro-Ketch Harbour Elementary School's 4th Annual Christmas "PTA" Breakfast and Craft Sale will be held Saturday, December 6th with breakfast from 8 to 11 am and the craft sale from 8 am to noon. Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, french toast, juice, tea and coffee. Costs are ages 13 and up, \$5.00; 5 to 12, \$2.50 and 4 and under free. Takeout service is available. There will be door prizes.

Peace Tree Lighting

There will be a Christmas Peace Tree Lighting and Concert on December 6th at 6:30 pm to be held at the Captain William Spry Community Centre.

New Year's Dance

The Royal Canadian Legion, Earl Francis Memorial Spryfield Branch, will hold a New Year's Eve buffet dinner and dance beginning at 8 p.m. with Cody Rose playing until 2 am.

Christmas Gathering

A Christmas Gathering including malt cider and eggnog will be held December 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Parkland Estates, 3 Fairfax Drive, Clayton Park West. Entertainment will be the piano stylings of Frank Arab. For information call 457-8621.

TAG's Christmas Pantomime

"Smuts Saga" or "Santa and the Vikings" is Theatre Arts Guild's choice pantomime this Christmas. The show runs from December 4th to December 20th. Evening shows begin at 8 pm. There are five matinees: Dec. 6 and 7; Dec. 13th and 14th; and Dec. 20th. Call now to book your reservation at 477-2663. Tickets are \$12.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for members, students, seniors and children.

Legion Notes

The following events will be held at the Earl Francis Memorial Legion in December:
Bingo - Sundays beginning at 1 pm - doors open at noon;
Senior's Day - December 1, with Newfie George at 1 pm;

Library Happenings

All ages Puppet Shows
Captain William Spry Library alternate Saturdays 11

a.m. Patrick the Pig and Moe the Crow invite you to bring the whole family and all your friends for a half hour of hilarious entertainment with a show featuring your favourite puppet characters. For group bookings, call Cindy Sampson Fleet at 490-5796. December 6, Chanukka Guest.

Adult programs:

Book Discussion Group for Adults
The Captain Spry Book Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of the month and is a great way to meet new people and share in the enjoyment of good books in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Be ready for an hour and a half of animated discussion and a lot of fun. Books for discussion are a mixture of genres, decided upon by the group. For more information call, Scott Taylor at 490-5774. On Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm it will be Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.

Children's Reading Support

Tuesdays to Thursdays - 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. & Saturdays / 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Capt. William Spry Library 490-5734.

Reading Support Volunteers Needed

Do you love reading and enjoy the company of children? If you are 18 years or older, these are the only qualifications you need to become a reading support volunteer. Each volunteer is given an orientation session which deals with the practical and philosophical aspects of the program. Share your love of reading with a child. For more information, call Dorothy Minaker at 490-5734.

English Language Training Program

Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Captain William Spry Public Library offers an (English Language Training) ESL program, and provides a comfortable meeting space to work one-on-one with a tutor. Register at any time for this free program. For more information, call 490-5715.

Tutoring in Reading, Writing and Math for Adults

Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 -12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. At the Capt. William Spry Library. This program is designed for learners who wish to improve their reading, writing and math skills. There is no fee for this program, and registration is ongoing. For more information, please call Kendall Murphy at 490-5734.

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Students at William King Elementary School drew pictures of their community, many representing the damage caused by Hurricane Juan. The pictures were auctioned as a fundraiser for fishermen who were victims of the hurricane. Shown are organizers Rhonda Bowdridge, PTA Chair; Tracey Marchand, VP, PTA; Susan Lathan, Principal; Hazel Bowers, administrative assistant; Brigitte Petersmen, former Art teacher; Sabine Fels, art teacher.

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8X12	\$529	\$599	\$699	\$769	\$989	\$1049	\$879	\$1099	\$1379	\$1589
8X14	\$599	\$679	\$829	\$869	\$1079	\$1199	\$1069	\$1149	\$1619	\$1819
8X16	\$659	\$739	\$859	\$969	\$1099	\$1299	\$1119	\$1389	\$1719	\$1929
10X8	\$479	\$529	\$649	\$679	\$939	\$919	\$899	\$989	\$1319	\$1429
10X10	\$579	\$629	\$779	\$829	\$1019	\$1099	\$1019	\$1179	\$1419	\$1689
10X12	\$649	\$719	\$859	\$929	\$1119	\$1239	\$1149	\$1309	\$1699	\$1849
10X14	\$699	\$829	\$979	\$1069	\$1289	\$1399	\$1209	\$1489	\$1899	\$2099
10X16	\$769	\$879	\$1029	\$1119	\$1429	\$1519	\$1309	\$1579	\$2019	\$2179
12X8	\$549	\$619	\$719	\$769	\$969	\$1059	\$999	\$1139	\$1449	\$1589
12X10	\$649	\$729	\$859	\$929	\$1159	\$1239	\$1159	\$1319	\$1689	\$1849
12X12	\$739	\$849	\$979	\$1019	\$1299	\$1429	\$1299	\$1499	\$1919	\$2109
12X14	\$839	\$949	\$1119	\$1179	\$1489	\$1579	\$1449	\$1689	\$2149	\$2389
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