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# Chebucto News

Vol.25 • No.4  
 December 2023

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## Santa Claus parade 2023



More parade photos on page 11

PHOTO: SAM RAMSAY

## Northwest Arm infill

by Cathy Vaughan

Besides healthy sea breezes, the Northwest Arm has gifted HRM citizens with beauty, peace, recreation, fishing and transportation. This popular, well-loved public waterway is now facing a complicated dilemma with the existence of outdated “pre-confederation” water lots. This designation gives these unique waterfront properties a potential extension of the property beyond the shoreline, into the waters of the Northwest Arm.

There are 155 “pre-confederation” deeded waterfront lots on the Northwest Arm that extend beyond the shoreline. Pre 1867, the deeds gave landowners access to the water and allowed for the construction of wharfs, fish sheds, docks and boat moorings. Fast forward to today’s situation where some shorelines have already been filled in with rock, silt and soil, effectively creating a landmass into the Arm. While this additional land increases the property value for owners there are some present-day issues and concerns that are being hotly debated.

Flash point issues being challenged are the narrowing of navigational

channels, the loss of sensitive marine ecosystems, impact on lobster fisheries livelihood, the disruption of the natural hydrology of tidal flushing of these waterways, and the unobstructed recreational use of the Northwest Arm.

To date there has been considerable and constant pressure on both the Municipal and Federal governments to stop the infilling of the Northwest Arm. This has resulted in the Federal government expressing a willingness to recognize a limited jurisdiction for the Municipality over the infilling of water lots.

Andy Fillmore, MP Halifax, voiced his concern with other environmentalists and concerned citizens over the infilling of the Arm and recently stated, “We have been working with city officials and the relevant federal departments to help facilitate the HRM initiative to regulate infilling on the Northwest Arm.”

According to the HRM staff report of October 31, 2023, Attachment A, if all ‘pre-confederation’ water lots were filled in, the surface area of the water  
 (See NW Arm on page 2)

## Remembrance Day 2023 at the Spryfield Legion

The Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Legion held its annual outdoor Remembrance Day ceremony on the legion grounds under partly sunny skies with a working sound system.

A large crowd gathered in front of the cenotaph for the service which included participation by the JL Ilsley High School Band directed by Vanessa Mignault; the Dartmouth Pipe and Drum Band, featuring piper Ross Whyte; 529 Kiwanis Air Cadet Squad-

ron; and trumpeter Sue Mantin.

Prayers were offered by local clergy representatives Rev. Michelle Bull from Emmanuel Anglican Church; Max Martin from St. Paul’s United Church; Steve Sutherland from Open Door Community Church; and Andy Ardern from Wayfarers Church. Readings were done by JL students Meaghan Williams, Lily Rooney, and Simon Strowbridge.

A special guest, Captain Earle

Wagner who is a Merchant Marine WW 2 veteran, spoke briefly to the young people in attendance offering advice on developing a purpose in life and pursuing their goals. Captain Wagner suggested that with any luck they could perhaps achieve longevity like him - he will be 100 years old on Christmas Day this year.

The legion would like to thank all 11 area schools who held Remembrance services this year, some of

which a legion color party was able to attend.

In addition, the schools assisted the Poppy Campaign with wreath purchases and poppy donations.

Following the ceremony, the young people in attendance were treated to hot dogs, juice and snacks. Later in the afternoon, guests at the dance were provided with complimentary seafood chowder, turkey soup, tea  
 (See Legion on page 2)

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## NW Arm

*(continued from page 1)*  
in the Arm would be reduced by 31% and the width of the entrance to the Arm would be reduced by more than half! Oh buoy.

The HRM Council staff report also states “that only water lot infilling activities which would enable the following would be allowed on the Northwest Arm: public infrastructure; utility use; publicly owned or operated ferry terminals; parks on public land; municipal, provincial, and national historic sites and monuments; and retaining walls. Additionally, it is being proposed that any water lot infilling activities on the Northwest Arm permitted by the Minister would first be required to obtain a development permit from the Municipality before being allowed to proceed by the Municipality notwithstanding Federal permitting.” Staff also recommended that Regional Council initiate the process to amend the land use by-laws and build in the opportunity for public participation in the debates.

Patty Cuttell, HRM Councillor District 11, has been vocal on this topic and said “The infilling issue is about private privilege over public benefit. I’m very happy to finally see that the process for amending HRM by-laws has started. The next steps include a staff report coming back to Council sometime in December, and a Public Hearing in January. There will be opportunity for residents to provide their input on this matter. I know protecting this environmentally sensitive waterway and preserving the recreational use of the

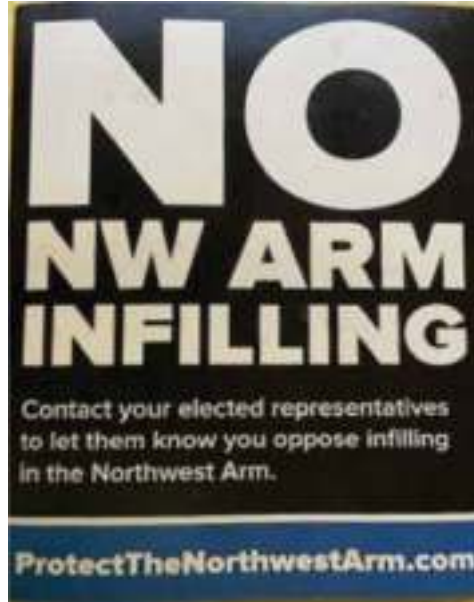


Photo: Facebook ProtectTheNorthwestArm.com

Northwest Arm is very important to the residents of HRM.”

Stay Informed:  
HRM: 2023-01544 | MPS and LUB | Northwest Arm | Halifax.  
Staff Report: <https://tinyurl.com/5fj9un47>  
Ecology Action: <https://protectthenorthwestarm.com>,

## Legion

*(continued from page 1)*  
biscuits and rolls, along with a special drink of punch.

The Spryfield Legion wishes to thank everyone who came out to the ceremony as well as all those who supported the Poppy Campaign through their donations.

Special thanks to Legion staff and volunteers for their help prior to and during Remembrance Day.

A report on funds raised will be brought forward later in the year.

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Fax to 902-477-NEWS (6397)

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Dan Doherty 902-479-6397  
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# December at St. Paul's United Church

by Carolyn Mont

St. Paul's United Church has had several successful fundraisers in November. Both our takeout turkey dinner and our Christmas wreaths were sold out.

As many of you know, the Family Resources Institute (FRI) at St. Paul's United Church offers several programs for free. One of these is our very popular Tuesday Soup's On. We offer a free lunch, often soup, sandwich, tea/coffee and dessert. I say often because we have certainly had other meals offered at that time. We find out what is being served when we arrive, and it is served to us. After lunch, some people gather to play board games or cards. There are certainly some very committed crib players every week and you are invited to join us.

With the holidays coming up, the last day for Soup's On before Christmas is Tuesday, December 12 and our dedicated volunteers will be back on Tuesday, January 9. Lunch starts at noon when volunteers will be ready to serve you.

Before Christmas, FRI will be asking Food Bank clients to register for a Christmas food hamper. You can register by calling the Food Bank line at 902-477-5090. When you call, you may be asked to leave your name and phone number, and someone will get back to you to let you know when to pick up your order. Registration is very important because if you don't register, they will not have a hamper for you.

The staff and volunteers at FRI also have a toy store where clients can choose new age appropriate toys for their children. Like the food, these are free but to avoid disappointment you must register when you call Rena about your food bank pick up.

We are all aware that times are tough right now and that means that food bank donations are lower this year and demand is higher. Donations of food, new toys and money are welcome. You may wonder why I mention money because money is not given out. However, when the hampers are being filled, and they do all have the same amount of food,

Kristen Hollery is running (well, driving) to the grocery stores several times to fill the gaps where shortages are noticed.

Donations can be dropped off at the FRI office at the church. Also, we thank the Williamswood Fire Department for accepting donations on our behalf on Sunday, December 10 from 10:00AM-4:00PM.

On December 21, we will be having our Longest Night Service in conjunction with Sambro's St. James United Church. This will be at St. Paul's, at 7:00pm. The Longest Night Service is a quiet service amidst the celebratory hustle and bustle of the

traditional Christmas.

Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, our Christmas Eve Service will be celebrated at our regular Sunday Service at 11:00am.

For a number of years, St. Paul's United has had an outdoor tap for those people in Harrietsfield who do not have access to clean water. As we do every year, as the cold weather comes on, we have to turn off the outdoor tap for fear of freezing the water lines. That means that those who want access to water have to get it when the church is open, meaning during traditional business hours. The outdoor tap is now closed off until spring.

# JL Indigenous Program November/December Update

by Gibson Deveau

The J.L. Ilsley Indigenous program had a very productive November. Inuit Day was on the 7th and saw announcements made to the school to help educate students on the culture; Indigenous Students also learned more about it with Ms. Tish! Indigenous students within Cadets and Reserves were seen wearing their uniforms for Indigenous Veterans Day on the 8th. An Elder luncheon was hosted on the 24th for community Elders to foster a connection with the Indigenous students. A separate student potluck

was hosted on the 29th to give Indigenous students an opportunity to connect with each other and their culture. Moving into December, there will be traditional beadwork, quill, and birch bark crafts for students to participate in with the Indigenous program. Indigenous students will also attend a Christmas Feast to celebrate the holiday within the program. We plan to wrap the 2023 school year up on a very positive note!



Photo by Gibson Deveau – courtesy of the JL Ilsley yearbook



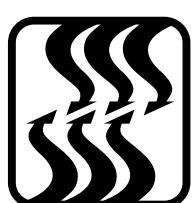
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## DISCOVERING OUR PAST



### Halifax Explosion caused much suffering and heartache in local communities

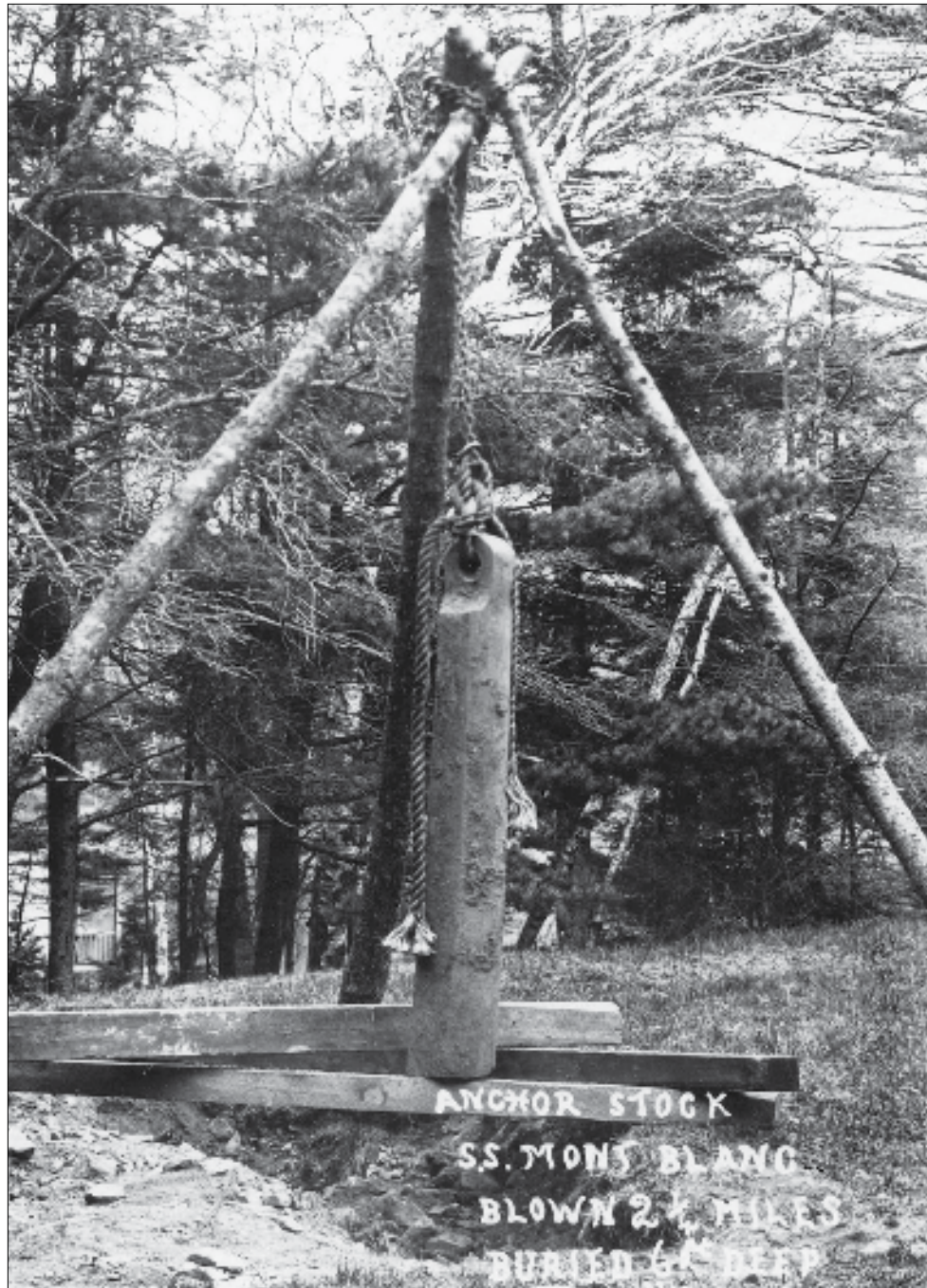
by Iris V. Shea

On December 6, 2023, we mark the 106th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion and its devastating effect on the people of Halifax and surrounding communities. The collision of the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Belgian Relief freighter SS Imo in Halifax Harbour on December 5th, 1917, caused death and destruction for miles around.

On February 27, 1918, at the opening of the annual meeting of the Municipal Council of Halifax County, Warden Charles E. Smith, Councillor for District 9, Sambro, made these remarks: "On December 6 last an explosion occurred in Halifax Harbour causing a great loss of life and destruction of property, and has cast a gloom over this Municipality that will not soon be forgotten. Not only is the loss of property in the districts adjacent to the City of Halifax and Town of Dartmouth regrettable but the loss of life from a number of our County districts most deplorable, and will long be remembered by the bereaved families." Some of the people who lost their lives had ties to our local area... a few are included here.

Hugh J. Brackett was 24 years old and employed as a checker at the Sugar Refinery when he disappeared on the day of the explosion. His body was never identified. He was born in Herring Cove, the son of Archibald Brackett and Elizabeth Munro. Forty-two year old Thomas Connell Scallion, also born in Herring Cove, the son of Andrew Scallion and Susan Connell, died that day. Scallion was a Canadian Government Railway employee. He was survived by his parents, his wife Loretta Connors, formerly of Ketch Harbour, and two daughters, five year old Olive, and two year old Margaret. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. In 1922 his widow married Norbert Delouchry, also a native of Herring Cove.

Deputy Fire Chief William Paul Brunt, whose father, John, was born in Spryfield, was killed in the explosion when he and fellow firemen rushed to the scene of the fire on Mont Blanc. They were still unravelling their hoses to direct water at the burning ship when the explosion occurred, killing Brunt and Fire Chief Edward P. Condon. The force of the explosion sent the anchor shaft of the Mont Blanc into the air. It was found two and one quarter miles away, embedded six feet deep in land on the western side of the Northwest Arm at Edmonds Grounds. Nine firemen lost their lives as a result of the explosion. William P. Brunt



The photograph of Mont Blanc's anchor shaft was taken in 1918 shortly after Mr. Edmonds discovered it, dug it up, and put it on display. Today it is displayed with a commemorative plaque on Anchor Drive in Regatta Point, not far from where it landed, now surrounded by townhouses, condominiums and apartment buildings. Courtesy NS Archives.

was survived by his wife, Margaret McPhee of Cape Breton and his adopted daughter, 13 year old Florence Hogan (daughter of his wife's sister). William Brunt was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. The previous year, on 13 July 1916, the Brunt family mourned the death of William's younger brother, Private Vincent Brunt of the Nova Scotia Infantry, 25th Battalion. Before going overseas, Vincent, like his brother, was a member of the Halifax Fire Department. He died of wounds received while fighting at the front and was buried in Reninghelst New Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Edward John Johnson, a native of Bear Cove, died in the explosion. He was 56 years old, married, the son of John Johnson and Kate Scallion of Bear Cove. Another victim of the explosion was 13 year old George Purcell from Portuguese Cove, the son of George and Elizabeth Purcell.

Doris Lillian Jollimore was a casualty of the Halifax Explosion. She was the infant daughter of William (Bill)

and Margaret (Davis) Jollimore living at West Young Street in Halifax. Bill Jollimore grew up in Jollimore and later moved his family back to that community. His daughter, Doris, was born 12 days before the explosion and died 1 January 1918 from shock and injuries due to the explosion, compounded by Bronchial Pneumonia.

Tragedy struck the home of Melissa (Umlah) Bayers on the day of the explosion. Her 42 year old husband, James McKenzie Bayers, was killed and the body of their eight year old daughter, Olga, was never found. Melissa was born in Ferguson's Cove, the daughter of William Umlah and Sarah Robinson. In 1917 the Bayers family lived at 42 Campbell Road.

Forty-four year old William Hayes of Herring Cove was the pilot aboard Imo as she made her way out of the crowded Bedford Basin into the Narrows, close to the Dartmouth side. Heading into the area was Mont Blanc, heavily laden with munitions. Pilot Francis Mackey, with ties to Ketch Harbour, was aboard Mont Blanc. His good friend, Pilot Hayes, did not make it to safety following the collision of the two ships and the subsequent explosion. William Hayes was the son of Edward Hayes and Sarah Brackett of Herring Cove. He is buried in Herring Cove Cemetery.

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# Sammy says



Sambro Area Community Association (“SACA”) is hosting a festive Lunch with Santa on Saturday, December 9 from 11am to 1pm at St. James United Church Hall, 3811 Old Sambro Road in Sambro. \$6 admission includes hot dog, drink, temporary tattoo, cookie decorating, and a visit with the big man himself, SANTA! We’ll also have coffee and tea available for \$1. We will be selling raffle tickets, 50/50 tickets, canvas totes, lip balms and Sandy Claus ornaments (while supplies last).

As the year draws to a close, we’ve reflected on the past 12 months and it’s been a great year for SACA! We had some new members join the team and their fresh ideas and energy have allowed our group and our community to flourish.

We were thrilled to be able to resume our regular events post-pandemic, and we enjoyed a great turnout for events like our Pancake Supper, Shay & MacKay Fishing Derby, and Children’s Movie Nights. Our annual Sambro Sou’Wester Days festival went off without a hitch and we received much positive feedback. In the new year we will be providing a detailed breakdown of our festival expenses and profit.

This year we were awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Community Spirit Award in recognition of our power, strength and diversity. We hosted a community reception with His Honor Albert LeBlanc and his wife, Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc.

We opened the Sambro Imagination Library which is helping support early childhood literacy in the Sambro area by supplying a free book a month to children from birth until their 5th birthday who reside in the Sambro Ketch Harbour Elementary School catchment area.

It took just two months to raise sufficient funds to open enrollment in the program, and the first books will be delivered this month. Our financial needs will be ongoing so that we can continue providing this valuable service. Donations can be made at any time at [www.imaginationlibrary.com/ca/affiliate/NSSAMBRO](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/ca/affiliate/NSSAMBRO). Child enrollment can be submitted at the same link. For more information or questions, you can reach out to [SambroImaginationLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:SambroImaginationLibrary@gmail.com).

We were also honoured to be able to help out at other community events in 2023 such as the Swordfish Supper hosted by Sambro Fisheries and Tribune Seafood, and serving up treats at the Sambro Lobster Trap tree in front of Mishoo’s. We look forward to forming other partnerships around the community in future.

We are and continue to be **SAMBRO PROUD!**

Sammy Sambro is SACA’s mischievous mascot. You can follow him on Twitter and Facebook.

# Bottle Drive for athletes



A bottle drive will be held at Beaver Enviro Depot on December 2nd and 16th, and January 6th and 13th from 10am to 2 pm to help send these two young people, Christian and Noah, to the Ontario International Jui-Jitsu championships in May. This International competition is the largest and most prestigious Jui-Jitsu competi-

tion in Canada. These two sportsmen have a combined 51 wins between them through local tournaments and are now double gold medal winners. Christian, 8, has 33 wins under his belt and Noah, 6, has 18. Very impressive for such young people. So, save those bottles and cans and help us send them to Ontario in May!

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# Halloween Boyz Update



- The Chebucto News for doing an amazing story for us.
- Andie DotCalm for writing the scripts for the Holograms.
- KT Ells for donating our awesome arch for the trail
- Beth Moulton for the decor donations.
- Tashlyn MacDonald for the multiple totes of decor.

This event could not have been so successful without the amazing decorations, so we need to thank Kent Building Supplies, and Bridget Von Snaps for donating so many of the supplies we needed to create the haunted trail.

No Halloween event is complete without food, so we would like to send a Thank You to Dylan's No Frills Spryfield NS (Halifax) for donating the candy and Bananas. Also Thank You to Bernadine, Old Dutch Foods Canada, Jana Williams, Bruce Holland, Discover Spryfield Business Centre, Mark Boudreau, and everyone else who dropped off treats for the kids, and to Ikea Halifax for the amazing Diam candy.

Adult Hot chocolate was donated by the amazing Lori Hennessey - Real Estate Agent at Elite Realty Group and the fabulous J.D. Shore with their New Death by Chocolate Rum Cream.

All 78 Pumpkins were donated by the amazing Angela Cowan-Patterson, Bruce Patterson, and Withrows Farm Market.

Thank you to Angela Pepperdene, Kathy Walsh, Andie DotCalm, Tara Adamson, Jimmy D Adamson, Jane

Macdonald-O'Connell, David and Alex for helping me to clean out the pumpkins and to help carve all 78.

Thank you, Brendan Maguire and Patty Cuttell, for all your support.

Halloween night thank yous go to the Incredible coach of the JL Isley High School football team, Calvin Clarke, and the players who came and helped make the haunted trail a huge success!

Thank you to Jason Spurrell & Juanita Fraser for being our witches,

and Connor McKiggan, Seth Daley, Anna Mona-Pia, Reign Marie, Liam, Kat Walsh, Sarah Walsh, Cat Mack for taking care of the treats and crowd control.

Finally, Thank You to Sonya Parker Butler, Jordan Parker, Angela Johnson, Sharon, Jean Marie and Jim for all you did to make this event amazing.

We could not have made this night happen without all of your amazing support. We are so thankful to our family, friends, and this community.



by Steven MacLeod

We had at least 800-900 kids and countless adults come for a visit. This translated into our best Halloween event ever. We raised \$1223.75 for The Youth Project! We could not have made this event happen without the help and support of A LOT of people. We hope we don't miss anyone but if we do, please accept our sincere apologies as it was not intentional.

Thank you to:

- David P J Cosens for everything from helping Create pieces, to setting up the event.
- HRM Mascots and iNFLATABLES for the amazing bouncy Pumpkin.
- HaliMac Axe Throwing - Halifax for joining us this year with axe throwing on the street
- Amber Fryday from Global TV who gave us amazing coverage to help us spread the word.

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# What's Happening at the Urban Farm

All photos by Joshua Barss Donham:

by Joshua Barss Donham

The woods at the farm are mostly mature hardwood: sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, and beech. Over the years the woods paths have been edged with logs and fallen limbs, perfect habitat for the profusion of mushrooms that followed the heavy rains this summer and fall: vibrant blue turkey tail mushrooms and lumpy black chaga, often sought after for making tea, growing on the birch. In mid-September, a living sculpture appeared a couple of feet from the base of a large birch, a beautiful cluster of Pholiota mushrooms cascading out of a cavity in the tree. Other colourful mushrooms appeared with equally colourful names like scarlet waxy cap, orange-gilled waxcap, and violet-toothed polypore. Even in mid-November more species popped up: yellow fairy cups and little villages of *Mycena* mushrooms.

Not to be outdone by the local fungi, the birds have also put on a show. In October a Palm Warbler, its yellow belly streaked with rusty-red, rusty crown, and a bold yellow streak above its eye, showed up among the flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers that visit the farm in the fall to feed on insects in the branches of the apple trees. In early June, Fulton Laverder, our local bird expert, heard an Orchard Oriole calling in the west corner of the farm near the apple tree that was planted in 1840. The northern extent of the Oriole's range is the southern tip of Maine. In August an Ovenbird hung about for several days, its distinctive call, TeaCher TeaCher TeaCher, carrying all the way up from the lower woods to the garden. Ovenbird, often seen walking about the forest floor looking for insects, gets its name because it builds a nest on the ground out of leaves which resembles an oven. In mid-August a Magnolia Warbler with its bright yellow chest with dark streaks appeared up in one of the walnut trees, and in late September a juvenile male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, with the first hint of red beginning to show on his chest, spent a morning at the Farm.

While only a few Monarchs were seen this year at the farm, their numbers down throughout the region, beautiful red admiral butterflies frequented the native pollinator plants and the mint patch in the front bed. Many native plants have been added to flower plots at the farm in recent years, including the brilliant red cardinal flower and blue great lobelia, which are favourites of the hummingbirds.

With the plots tucked beneath straw and less human activity, those birds that overwinter here are settling back in again. Mourning Doves, that lately have been spending all but the coldest part of the winter at the farm, are feeding on the ground between the plots in the main garden. Bands of Black-capped Chickadees

patrol the edges of woods, Cardinals perch on the shed rooftop, Dark-eyed Juncos scratch away at the gravel on the driveway, and the pair of Downy Woodpeckers that nest in the woods make regular visits to the hawthorn tree near the entrance to the main garden. On a mild day in mid-November a Song Sparrow, perched on a garden fence and a little out of sync with the seasons, sings his spring song reminding us that winter will not last.

This October, for the second year, we held our Urban Farm Spooky Halloween to celebrate Halloween with the community. Thank you to everyone who came out to take part in the spookiness, to the volunteers who made the evening such a success, to Andy Fillmore for his contributions, and to our MLA Brendan Maguire who co-hosted the event. Have a happy Holiday!

Farm Memberships available: Individuals \$10.00, Seniors/Students \$5.00, Families \$15.00, Groups/Organizations \$25.00 - \$50.00. For info: [urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com), <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117594394923932/> Website: [urbanfarmmuseumspryfield.org](http://urbanfarmmuseumspryfield.org)



A cluster of Pholiota mushrooms growing in the crevice of a birch near the main woods path.



Red Admiral butterfly feeding on nectar in the mint patch.



A hummingbird visiting the cardinal flowers.



An Ovenbird spent several days at the farm in August.



Parula Warblers that nest at the farm feed on insects in the apple tree branches in the early morning.

# Update from the Premier

by Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia



Premier Tim Houston

## YourHealthNS – Healthcare in Your Hands

Nova Scotians have many ways to access healthcare. With virtual care, pharmacies, walk-in clinics, mobile clinics, primary care clinics, urgent treatment centres and more, there are more options than ever.

That's a good thing. But navigating the system can be overwhelming. How do you know which option is the right one? How do you know what's available at various times and locations, or find out where to go?

As a government, we need to make sure Nova Scotians know what options are available and how to access them.

Now, there's an app for that. YourHealthNS, a new mobile app, is a one-stop shop for healthcare information, resources and services. You can find it where you get your mobile apps or on your computer at: [www.YourHealthNS.ca](http://www.YourHealthNS.ca)

The app is simple to use and includes many features, including a search tool to find and book health services nearest you. You can book blood tests, x-rays, flu shots and vaccine appointments or access vaccination records.

Can't find what you need? Not sure what you need? No problem. You can chat, in real time, with a care navigator to help you find information and the healthcare option that is right for you.

YourHealthNS is also your path to virtual care in Nova Scotia. And now we've made it available to everyone.

If you are on the Need a Family Practice Registry, you'll continue to have access to virtual care. This includes comprehensive care from Nova Scotian healthcare providers who can order diagnostic tests and provide referrals to specialists. Now, you'll also have access to the service 24/7, 365 days a year, for general consults and prescription refills.

If you already have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, we've also got you covered. You'll now have access

to two free virtual care visits per year. This includes general consults and prescription refills.

YourHealthNS gives every Nova Scotian the power to find care for yourself or your loved ones.

It means access to more healthcare,

faster.

On your phone. On your tablet. On your laptop.

One app. Any day. Any time.

YourHealthNS is healthcare in your hands. Get it today.

# The Maguire Report

by Brendan Maguire, MLA for Halifax Atlantic

This month, we've observed a notable increase in individuals within our local communities seeking a family doctor. The current count is 5928 friends, family, and community members without a family doctor, approaching nearly 20% of our community. Despite a public commitment from the Minister of Health and the Premier to allocate resources for retaining multiple family doctors in our community, their agreement in front of the cameras needed to translate into action. Consequently, hundreds, if not thousands, have lost access to their family doctor because of these doctors' retirements. There is a clear call to do better; we need leaders who emphasize the importance of listening to the community and professionals in addressing this issue.

Undoubtedly, we find ourselves amid a housing crisis. While constructing homes priced at \$750,000 and apartments at \$2500 is one approach, the solution must extend beyond this. I am urging the government to create incentives and initiatives to promote the development of genuinely affordable housing; we must act quickly.

Special recognition goes to Diana Elcheikh and the volunteers in Sambro for their exceptional Lobster Trap

Christmas tree, a symbol of keeping the Christmas spirit alive. As the festive season approaches, with numerous markets and local craft shows, it's crucial to remember to support local businesses. These businesses play a vital role in sustaining our sports teams, art shows, and local events. Supporting them during this season can make a significant difference in determining their success.

A heartfelt acknowledgment is extended to Dan Doherty, who is concluding the era by selling his business, Water and Wine. Dan, your support has been invaluable to me, and as you transition into the next stage of your life, please remember that I love and respect you, and I am always here for you; I love you, sir.

As another year concludes, it prompts reflection on the challenges and achievements we faced this year. Each passing day, week, month, and year reinforces my gratitude for the privilege of serving as your MLA. Thank you; it is genuinely an honour. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, you beautiful people!

Proud to be your MLA  
Brendan Maguire  
349 Herring Cove Road  
902 444 0147  
[Brendan@brendanmaguire.ca](mailto:Brendan@brendanmaguire.ca)

## Thank you to our Parade Sponsors!

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**SILVER SPONSORS**

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**Hosts**

Happy Holidays  
from the Spryfield Business Commission!

# A Rotary moment

## From The Rotary Club of Halifax North West



Welcome to the newsletter from the Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest, where we share the club's news with the community we serve. This issue highlights one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, Disease Prevention and Treatment. We also remind our readers of our Rotary Wishes project.

### Quick Facts

- Over the years Rotary has spent \$65 million in grants to fight disease.
- Since 1985, Rotary, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Foundation, has eradicated 99.9% of global polio cases.

We believe good healthcare is everyone's right. Yet 400 million people in the world can't afford, or don't have access to, basic health care.

Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That's why treating and preventing disease is so important to us. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up temporary clinics, blood donation centres, and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and healthcare access. We design and build infrastructure

that allows doctors, patients, and governments to work together.

We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases. Rotary members have hundreds of health projects underway around the world at any given time. Our members combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.

Rotary Wishes It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to Christmas. For most people, it's an occasion to celebrate our good fortunes, spend time with family and to exchange gifts. But for many, especially in the wake of the COVID pandemic, natural disasters and raging inflation, Christmas can be an emotional and financial challenge. The Atlantic Superstore (Joseph Howe Location) is kindly providing space for the Rotary Wish tree, which will be "decorated" with individual Christmas wishes

(See Rotary on page 10)



# The Jason Doherty Memorial COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE



## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

### Food Banks:

• St. Paul's Family Resource Institute (173 Old Sambro Rd). Food Bank clients call the Food Bank line, 902-477-5090, on Monday and leave a message. Those messages are answered on Tuesday and then the food orders are filled with pickup on Wed. between 9 am and 10 am

• Chebucto Family Centre (3 Sylvia Ave) has an Emergency Food Cupboard which can be accessed every two weeks.

• Emmanuel Food Bank: If you would like help with food, please call 902-477-1954 and leave a message. Our volunteers will call you back on Tuesday. Pick up time is Wednesday, 9:00-10 am, at the lower church hall behind the church.

If you would like to donate food, please drop it off on Tuesday morning before 10:30 or Sunday morning at the church.

### Free meals for those in need:

• Salvation Army offers Breakfast To-Go Bags Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am-10:00am

• Twelve Baskets, Stella Maris Parish outreach ministry, will provide a free, light take-out meal every Friday evening, between 5:30 and 6:30 PM, out of the St Michael's Church Hall site. (while supplies last).

### Spryfield Legion Events:

• Bingo - Every Sunday - 1:00pm - doors open at 11:30.

• Sunday Evening Bingo, starting October 1st. 6:30pm start. First Sunday of every month

• Kitchen Open every Friday - 5 - 6:30 pm. For more information about legion events, please contact the legion at (902) 477-0467.

• New Year's Eve Dance Tickets on sale now at the legion or by emailing [nye2024@peeksdj.ca](mailto:nye2024@peeksdj.ca) \$25 each. Presented by Peek's DJ & Dance Party

• Fri. Dec. 1, Karaoke 7-11 pm Adm. \$ 6.00

• Sat., Dec. 2, Kitchen Party 2:00 pm

Cheryl Misener & friends

• Fri. Dec. 8 -Fundraiser Dance in support of Sampson Family 8:00 pm start

• Sat. Dec. 9, Staff and Volunteer Party 7-9 pm 9:00 pm - Dance for members

• Tues, Dec. 12 - General Meeting 7 pm

• Sat., Dec. 16 Elvis and George Jones Tribute Show 8-11 pm Adm. \$20.00. Tickets at bar

### Harrietsfield Williamswood Community Centre events:

• Parent Tot Group will be held December

12th and 19th at 9:30 AM- 11 AM \$5 child. \$1 for each additional child in same family.

• Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be Tuesday December 5th at 7PM. Come see our After School Program children sing! Santa will be there!

• Complimentary hot chocolate, hot apple cider, Temporary Christmas tattoos, and cookie decorating

Currently taking bookings. Please call, email or message us through our FB page (902) 446-4847 email [hwcc@outlook.com](mailto:hwcc@outlook.com)

### Spryfield Lions Club events:

Spryfield Lions Club would like to invite members of the public to join us at our regularly scheduled meetings at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the meeting room of our signed entrance. Our regularly scheduled weekly bingos will continue to be suspended until further notice. Please call 902-479-2917 if you are interested in attending.

### City Church (276 Herring Cove Road) events:

• City Church Telephone #: 902-479-248 [c.citychurch@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:c.citychurch@ns.sympatico.ca) [www.citychurchhalifax.ca](http://www.citychurchhalifax.ca)

• City Church Christian Radio Station Life 94.7 FM

### Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Rd) events:

• Prayer Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month for an hour of prayer for each other, the world and the church. All welcome.

• Messy Church: Saturday, December 2, 4:00-6:00pm Informal worship and social time and dinner for children and their significant others.

• Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, December 9, 10:00-2:00 in the hall. Lunch, bake table, crafts and more. Rental tables are available for crafts. Call the church.

### Salvation Army (328 Herring Cove Rd) events:

• Family Services by phone call or walk in 902-477-5393 ext 0.

• Immigration Support by limited appointments call 902-477-5393 ext. 226

### Stella Maris Roman Catholic Parish events:

• Twelve Baskets, Stella Maris Parish out-

reach ministry, will provide a free, light take-out meal every Friday evening, between 5:30 and 6:30 PM, out of the St Michael's Church Hall site. (while supplies last). For further information contact Stella Maris Parish office at 902 477-3530 or email [stellamaristwelvebaskets@gmail.com](mailto:stellamaristwelvebaskets@gmail.com)

• New Year's Eve Dance. \$20 per person with music provided by the band NeeDeep. Bar and light lunch. From 9pm to 12:30am. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets available by calling 902-477-7118

### St. Paul's United Church (173 Old Sambro Road) events:

• Now that the temperatures are dropping, we have had to turn off the outdoor tap. Water jugs can still be filled inside the church during normal business hours.

### St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Road, Sambro)

• Down Home Christmas, Sunday Dec. 10th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Free Admission.

Non-perishable food and monetary donations will be collected for the St. Paul's Food Bank

• Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting. Friday, December 1st at 6:30pm

### Improve your reading, writing and math skills,

work toward the GED in person or from home. The Halifax Community Learning Network is here to help! We offer free adult learning programs in several locations. COVID protocols are in place for your safety. Call 902-422-7648 for more information. Let's get learning together!

### TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Monday evening - 6:15 to approximately 7:30 at the Golden Age Centre, 212 Herring Cove Rd.

Our mission statement is "to help and support our members as they take off pounds sensibly. We are a non-profit organization which exists to provide you with support when needed. We welcome new members. Come sit in on a meeting some Monday night.

For information, please contact [shay@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:shay@ns.sympatico.ca) or check out the TOPS org website at [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org)

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Tuesdays** from 6 to 7pm at the Golden Age Centre, 212 Herring Cove Rd. Call for information: Colleen 902-868-2214 or Bev 902-477-4335 or check us out on the web at [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org)

**Spryfield Legion/Forever Young Seniors Club Chase the Ace** draws on Mondays at 7 pm. Ticket sales at the bar during Legion open hours as well as Mondays by volunteers from 5 pm to 6:45 pm. Tickets \$5.00 each and support programs that are offered to members of the community at large. Please Note: Tickets must be clearly filled in with just one person's name and phone number. You are not required to be present at the draw in order to win.

### Urban Farm Museum Society of

**Spryfield** 2023 memberships are now available - Individuals \$10.00, Students & Seniors \$5.00, Families \$15.00 and Groups & Organizations \$25.00. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing your suggestions for the future. For more information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email [urbanfarm-spryfield@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarm-spryfield@gmail.com)

As 2023 comes to a close, our UFMSS would like to express our sincere appreciation and "Thanks" to our dedicated members, the Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest, HRM, and our donors without whose financial support, our Urban Farm could not exist!

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11th, 6:45 - 8:45pm at the Capt. Wm. Spry Community Centre. You are most welcome to attend and share your ideas for the future of our Urban Farm. For more information, please call Pat at 902-497-3683 or email [urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarmspryfield@gmail.com)

### Santa Claus - the Panto, TAG's Annual Holiday Pantomime Musical

By Diana Kimp-ton, Directed by Kimberly Charron, Runs from November 23 - December 9, 2023 for tickets or more information, contact TAG at [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

**The Spryfield Farmers Market** has moved to our fall indoor location in the lower hall of St. Paul's Church 173 Old Sambro Rd.

**Forever Fit for Seniors.** Mon, Wed, and Fri from 10 to 11am at Emmanuel Church Hall. Punch cards available from the YMCA. First class free.

**To have your Community Event listed call or fax us at 902-477-NEWS or send email to [chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com).**

**Check our Facebook page for updates & late arrivals**

# Religious Services Directory for December

Send your submissions to [chebuctoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chebuctoeditor@gmail.com) for January's issue by December 22.

### City Church (276 Herring Cove Road)

Sunday Family service: 10:30am

Nursery and Children's ministry: 10:30am

Wednesday night prayer: 7-8pm

### Hill Chapel (91 Thornhill Dr)

Formerly Spryfield Christian Community Church

Church services Sunday 11-12 am

### Oromo Gospel Church

Sunday worship service: 3 pm and Tuesday prayer: 10 am.

### Emmanuel Anglican Church (322 Herring Cove Rd. [emmanuelanglican-church.net](http://emmanuelanglican-church.net), 902-477-1783.

Sunday Worship:

8:00 am: Quiet, traditional, contemplative communion service.

10:00 am: Lively, contemporary communion service with music. This is

livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Followed by coffee hour

Messy Church: December 2nd, 4:00-6:00pm: A time of informal worship, social time, crafts and dinner, particularly for children and their significant adults. All are welcome. Please RSVP to the church.

Sunday, December 10, 7:00pm Taizé service. A contemplative service with readings and chanting.

Christmas worship:

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00pm Service of Compassion and Hope, a service for people who are feeling sad at Christmas time.

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve: 2:00pm and 6:30pm: Communion service with carols

4:00pm Children's service with pageant

Christmas Day, 10:00am Communion service with carols

Sunday, December 31, 10:00am Carols and Devotions

Emmanuel Church is an affirming church. Everyone is welcome to our ser-

vices. Masking is optional but if you are sick, please join us online.

### St. Paul's United Church (173 Old Sambro Road)

Worship at St. Paul's United Church is now in person, at 11am on Sunday mornings. Masks are still required, however. One will be provided if you have forgotten yours.

### Stella Maris Roman Catholic Parish at St Michael's Catholic Church

Weekend Masses: Saturdays 4:00 pm Sundays at 10:00 am

Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday 9 am

Monthly Tuesday Night Prayer:

7 PM each month

First Tuesday: Healing Mass

Second Tuesday: Upper Room Praise and Worship

Third Tuesday: Mass and Adoration

Last Tuesday (Sept-May): Eventide

Candlelight Prayer

All are welcome, wherever you are on your faith journey!

### St. James United Church (3811 Old Sambro Rd)

Sunday services held at 11am.

Sunday school held at 11am.

Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page (St James United Church Sambro NS) and Youtube. Our website is [www.sambrojollimorepc.com](http://www.sambrojollimorepc.com) and our email address is [office.sambrojollimorepc@gmail.com](mailto:office.sambrojollimorepc@gmail.com)

Our phone number is 902-868-2791

### Open Door Community Church (11 Aldergrove)

You are invited to join us weekly for a time of fellowship, contemporary worship and Bible based teaching for today's world on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Visit us at <http://opendoorhalifax.ca> for more information.

### Wayfarers' Church (328 Herring Cove Road)

Sunday Worship 10:30am

website: [wayfarerschurch.ca](http://wayfarerschurch.ca)

email: [friends@wayfarerschurch.ca](mailto:friends@wayfarerschurch.ca)

# LOCAL OBITUARIES

Courtesy of J. Albert Walker Funeral Homes Ltd. 902-477-5601

## Donald "Donny" Howard Raftus

- Age 80 It is with broken hearts that we are writing that Donald "Donny" Howard Raftus was born on January 18, 1943, in Halifax, he was the late son of Howard and Dinah (Rogers) Raftus. Donny passed away on November 3, 2023, at the QEII Halifax Infirmary. Donnie worked as a laborer for many years at the Department of National Defence before retiring. He was a legion member and loved spending time there listening to country music, especially Charlie Pride, and playing bingo. Donnie loved his time spent in L'Ardoise, Cape Breton on vacations, and sitting and chatting with family and friends, with a good cup of tea or coffee, and a sweet to go with it. "Tea and crumpets," we used to say.

Donnie is survived by his loving wife, Anette Raftus; children, Joey, Raftus, and Christopher Raftus, stepchildren, Debbie Allen, and Denine Richard; sister, Nancy (Barry) McDonald; many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Donny was predeceased by his stepson Anthony Richard; sister, Audrey (Donald) Redmond, Norma (Harold) Royal; brother, Bobby (Virginia), and Gary Raftus.

## Diane Rosalee (Harnish) MacKinnon

of Halifax, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Born in Halifax, she was the daughter of the late Irvin and Gladys (Pope) Harnish. She is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Robert) and stepson, Brian (Debbie) Bond, granddaughters Courtney and Ally Garand, sisters, Dorothy (Sissy) Gibson and June Niederstrasser. She was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Thomas MacKinnon, her "Irish twin" sister, Joyce Majcan and brothers, Reginald and Ronald Harnish. Mom was a tomboy at heart, she loved fishing, hunting and gardening. She was happiest when she and Dad were in their small boat trolling around Lake Frederick for trout or stopping on the shore to pick berries. She was a hard worker and "homebody", she put her all into everything she did from refinishing furniture for the house to maintaining her garden and property. Mom was not one to go visiting others, but she truly enjoyed visits from others at her home and was especially fond of visits from Karen and Kathy Russell

## Vincent Patrick Devereaux Junior

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Vincent Patrick Junior Devereaux, 53 of Halifax, on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the QEII Halifax Infirmary Site with family by his side, holding his hand, while he entered Heaven. Born in Halifax, he was the son of the late Vincent and Jean (Pittman) Devereaux.

In his early childhood, he enjoyed playing various sports such as baseball, basketball, and hockey. To this day he watched them and many other sports on T.V. He was a die-hard Montreal Canadian Fan. He also enjoyed going to wrestling matches with his mom. He lived in Spryfield his entire life and was a true Spryfielder, who was so loveable and with a great sense of humor. He could dish out smart remarks that certainly made you laugh.

The love of his life survives him, Margot Dechenne; her daughters, Alicia and Gabbi, whom he thought the world of; brother, Terrance; sister, Lynn; nephew, John; niece, Tayrn; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends whom he loved dearly. He will also be missed by his special Dog, Moose. His grandparents, Patrick and Elizabeth Devereaux, and Ralph and Susanne Pittman, predeceased him.

## Constance "Connie" Marie Tone

72 of Halifax. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye, yet celebrate the life of Constance "Connie" Marie (Flemming) Tone. She was the beloved wife of Basil Tone, her husband of 54 years and partner in crime for almost sixty years; loving mother to Paula (David) Snow, and Carren (Scott) Heartley; a "different kind of Nana" to Sheridan (Ian Monks) Taylor, Zachary Taylor, Madison (William Holland) Heartley, and Emma

Heartley. She is also survived by her siblings, Jean (Clinton) Ryer, Claire (John) Marryatt, Beth (Frank) Smith, Terry (Maureen) Flemming, Chris Flemming, and Sharon (Robert) Gannon; sister-in-law, Kathleen Bennett; many, many nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Basil and Helen Flemming; her brothers, Richard (Margaret Rose), Paul, and Brian (Donna).

Connie volunteered countless hours in her home Parish in Ketch Harbour in service to St. Peter's Church. She carried on a six-decade-long tradition of serving the best seafood chowder at their annual church picnic. She took pride in preparing the Alter every week for service and woe to you if you blew out those candles and got wax on the Alter cloth. She was accomplished in baking, cooking, sewing, knitting, and many types of needle crafts. She would gladly take on any sewing or knitting project in offering to a friend. All you had to do was mention that you liked something and she would make it for you. From cross-stitch to quilts, she did it all. Walking and hiking were great pastimes for her and one of her favorite hikes was along the rocky shore from Chebucto Head, Duncan's Cove, to Ketch Harbour. Golf started out as something she would do because Basil liked to go. It wasn't long before she was going on her own to Lady's Night golf and competing in club tournaments. She was fiercely competitive, loved to have the longest drive in her group, and always insisted on keeping an "accurate" score. She greatly enjoyed her time with a close-knit group

of friends we called the "Bramble 8". Semi-annual trips spanning nineteen years and one trip to Scotland produced many laughs and beloved memories for the whole group. She took great pride in her twenty-three-year career with Nova Scotia Health as a billing clerk and supervisor and worked there until her 70th year.

Her wit and often-cutting sarcasm will be forever missed but lives on in her daughters and grandchildren. She loved to tell funny stories, often repeatedly. Statler will certainly be missing her Waldorf. Connie died as she always lived, brave and on her own terms.

## Shirley Marlita Schnare

80, of Sambro, NS. Sadly, but peacefully, Shirley passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2023 in Halifax, following an all-too-short battle with cancer. Born in Middle Musquodoboit, NS, she was a daughter of the late Guy and Margaret Tanner. She is survived by her devoted husband of 54 years, Allan Schnare, son, Andrew (Trisha Gray), daughter, Allana Itani (Nadi), and 3 grandchildren Madison Schnare, Tanner Itani and Hannah Itani. As well, Trisha's son, Grayson Blackburn was like a grandson to Shirley. Shirley is also survived by her sisters, Marlene (Tanner) MacLellan and June Tanner, her brother, Ray Tanner, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her parents, Guy and Margaret (Reid) Tanner, sister Janet Tanner, and brother, Vernon Tanner.

## Remembrance Day from JL Ilsley

by Gibson Deveau

JL Ilsley High School hosted a Remembrance Day Ceremony for students on November 9th in commemoration of those who have served in the defense of this country. The local Spryfield Legion attended to provide a Flag Party. This Flag Party was accompanied by three students in their Royal Canadian Army and Air Cadet uniforms. The school's band played Oh Canada and God Save the King during the ceremony. Students from the Leadership 12 class, as well as Student Council spoke at the ceremony. On behalf of JL Ilsley, we thank all active and former service members for their duty to the country.



Photo by Gibson Deveau, courtesy of the JL Ilsley yearbook

## Rotary

(continued from page 8)

representing local disadvantaged individuals. Anyone wanting to grant a wish can select any of the decorations on the tree, purchase the desired item and take it to the Customer Service counter. Rotary "elves" will pick up the purchased items and deliver them to community-minded organizations for distribution to deserving individuals. The campaign runs to 13 December. Please help us spread the joy and share the feeling of giving with

Rotarians!

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest welcomes everyone to explore community service with us! We pride ourselves on being diverse and inclusive – and we're friendly! We currently meet in person every Tuesday from 1145 to 1 pm. at Smitty's at 362 Lacewood Drive. For more information contact Roger Chiasson at rogerchiasson305@gmail.com or 782 234 9408.



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# Spryfield's Santa Claus Parade 2023

PHOTOS BY SAM RAMSAY



# Store Closing SALE



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