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Mark July 2nd on your calendar, as that is when the Gathering of the Clans Canada Day celebrations will be held. July 1st falls on a Sunday this year, so most events (Grand Parade, Highland Games, Piping & Drumming, Highland Dancing, entertainment and fireworks) will be held on Monday. Plans are well under way for this year's Gathering which will also celebrate the 200th anniversary of the building of the first house in Pugwash, and the 50th anniversary of the first Thinker's Conference. So call your family and friends and bring your clan to the Gathering and help us celebrate our history and culture.

On Sunday, July 1st, at Eaton Park, a free Gospel Music service will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Local groups will provide the entertainment and some food services will be on hand to keep hunger at bay. During this event, a collection will be held in support of our local hospital, so throw a couple of loonies and twonies in your pocket for this cause.

New to the Gathering this year is the Pugwash "Idol" contest on the main stage Sunday at 6:30pm. This free event, sponsored by Ron MacNutt, will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of our young people and we encourage all to come and see the show.

We are pleased to announce that Nova Scotia blues/rock legend Matt Minglewood and the ECMA-nominated group Banshee have been booked as our main stage entertainers for Monday night. These very accomplished performers are sure to provide a great show that you will not want to miss. Not only will Banshee be performing in the evening, they will also present a special children's performance in the afternoon that is sure to please young and old alike.

A complete list and times of all events and activities will be published when booking and scheduling are concluded.

The 2007 Gathering of the Clans is looking good and should provide a great start to the summer season. See you in Pugwash July 1st & 2nd! Cliff Hutchinson, '07 Chair

HarbourFest — Pugwash's Summer Party!

Summer nights will be hotter than ever in Pugwash with three days and nights of family-oriented activities and entertainment on **July 27, 28, 29th**. The spectacular summertime celebration of HarbourFest — featuring a variety of water and land-based activities, as well as food, arts and crafts, live entertainment and dancing — returns to Pugwash for its second season. Chair Ron Urquhart says "I couldn't be more pleased at how well plans are both unfolding and shaping up." From seashell painting and beach volleyball games to seaside dances and boat races, Pugwash is going to be the centre of excitement. This year the Pugwash HarbourFest Committee and core volunteers are working hard to ensure that the second annual Pugwash HarbourFest is bigger and better than last. Don't worry...many of the same activities will be held again this year as well as many exhilarating new ones. So if you missed out on any of the various boat races or would like to take that estuary tour again this year, mark your calendars.

We are also pleased to announce that The Palmer Girls (five sisters from Newfoundland) will be featured entertainers this year. Between them they play over ten different folk and traditional instruments; each sister playing three to four and sometimes switching mid-song. They sing, they chime and transport you effortlessly through the folk history of Atlantic Canada with the purest of voices. A real delight!

A full list of events will be made available in the June edition of *It Takes A Village* newsletter. For more information, please contact the Pugwash Village Commission at **(902) 243-2946**.



It Takes a Village Newsletter is published quarterly — the first Tuesday of June, September, December and March. The deadline for our next issue is **May 15, 2007**. Maximum word count of 250. We reserve the right to edit for length and readability. Photos or graphics will be used as space allows. Send articles by email to:

villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com

For more info call:
902-243-2946.



Great food begins here.
À la source des aliments.

Pugwash Co-Op User Survey, 2006

In the fall of 2006, the Pugwash Co-Op mailed out a user survey to households in the geographical area served by the Co-Op. 144 questionnaires, (deemed a significant response) were returned, and many patterns of usage emerged when the data was analyzed.

Over 80% of respondents use the Co-Op for 80% of their grocery purchases. 70% of respondents indicated that the Co-Op is vital to Pugwash – the “heart of the village.” The survey showed a high level of shopper loyalty, with 70% of respondents indicating they spend over 80% of their food budget at the Co-Op, buying many small orders each week.

Satisfaction with the store's different departments was judged satisfactory or very satisfactory: groceries 94%, produce 86%, meat/deli 91%, bakery 91%, frozen food 95%. The Co-Op board and store management will keep working to make our members' shopping experiences even better.

The survey rated store cleanliness at 97% positive and satisfaction with staff was rated at 98%. Bravo to our employees!

The questions on pricing produced the following levels of satisfaction: frozen foods 92%, groceries 90%, meat/deli 88%, produce 86%, bakery 89%. Though the big box store prices cannot always be matched, the Co-Op tries to provide the best products at the best prices. As well, the needs of our community change radically with the seasons. Spring/summer sees the demand swell with the influx of seasonal residents and product availability can be a daily problem. In the winter, the population contracts causing challenges in stocking desired products.

Because the Pugwash Co-Op is part of the much larger Co-Op network, general merchandise, like furniture and appliances, can be ordered on-line at www.homeatco-op.com, then delivered to the store for pickup at no charge. Local members are encouraged to check out the website!

The Board and management of the Co-Op thank all who completed the survey. With your continuing support, we will keep the heart of our community beating strongly.

Friends Of the Pugwash Estuary

In December, the Friends of the Pugwash Estuary co-hosted, with the Ecology Action Centre, the showing of *An Inconvenient Truth*. This film, narrated by Al Gore, deals with global warming, climate change and how human behaviour has changed the earth. More than seventy people attended and a lively discussion followed the viewing.

In January, the Shell Environmental Fund Project was reported as complete. The Friends now have two power point presentations about the Pugwash River Estuary, beautiful posters, information pamphlets, a 2.5 by 3.5 foot banner and a wealth of knowledge to share. Members of the group are available to make presentations to interested organizations.

Several members of the Friends attended the 3-day conference *Communities Choosing Change* in Tatamagouche. Presentations and discussions covered a range of

topics, from water quality to food security to sustainable energy. The Friends are also involved in helping plan a 3-day workshop entitled *Sustainable Communities*. This workshop will be in New Glasgow in late May and will include presenters at all levels, from local communities to international organizations.

In February, the Friends brainstormed and drew up plans for the future. The immediate focus will be the watershed of the Pugwash River and how streams can be enhanced to improve habitat for marine life, especially salmon and trout. Application has been made for funding to employ two students to continue the work on the Pugwash River and Estuary.

The **March 6th** meeting (7pm at the Pugwash Village Hall) will present guest speaker Renée Y. Bernier, Aquatic Ecosystem Section, (DFO) speaking on *Invasive Species, including the Green Crab*.

Calling All Past Queens of the Gathering!

The Queen's Pageant has been an integral part of the Gathering of the Clans since the first Queen, Carol Graf, was crowned in 1968. Since then, hundreds of young women have participated in this much-loved pageant. This year, to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Village, a special reunion luncheon is planned. Organizer **Marsha Allen** has been digging into the archives to create a comprehensive list of all Queens from 1968 to 2006. If you know of any past Queens, please contact Marsha at **243-2936** or marshaallen@ns.sympatico.ca.

PUGWASH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Here we are in the middle of a cold winter and the Department continues with its training and service to the community. A very large fire on one of the coldest nights recently needs some special thanks given. The local Co-Op (with Steve and Sherry Arkens) was instrumental in providing food and nutrition for the several departments that were involved in that fire. We also appreciated the hot soup sent to us at noon the next day as we were still on scene and frozen. This was provided by Sunset Community. Thank you. The support that comes when a community is dealing with an emergency situation cannot be downplayed.

The Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department continues to look for new fundraising initiatives to support our goal of a new fire hall. We have a St. Patrick's Day Beer Garden and Dance scheduled for **March 17th**. From 2 - 6 at the hall we will be having Irish entertainment, Irish stew, burgers and hot dogs and of course refreshments. The evening dance, with DJ Dave, will start at 9:00 p.m. and end at 1:00 a.m. There is no cost for the afternoon and entrance to the dance is \$6.00. Plans for the May open day are being discussed, as well as Canada Day, our Annual Mackerel Tournament, etc. Look for us as well during our MD (muscular dystrophy) campaign in the early spring. Once again, thank you for the tremendous support shown to us over many years.

The North Cumberland Community Health Foundation

meets **March 8th** to continue plans for the third annual golf tournament. This is part of their fundraising toward the pledge for a new x-ray machine. It is understood the new unit has been ordered and will complement the new PAC system already in place.

The Foundation extends best wishes to Mrs. Beryl MacLean, site manager, on her retirement December 31, 2006.

The Pugwash Five Year Strategic Planning Committee

has been meeting regularly for the past several months. The committee, guided by Ron Robinson of CREDA, is comprised of commissioners Bill Church and Kevin Polley, residents Sue McFarlane and John Caraberis and business reps Bernadette Carini and Earl Chase. In the next months an action plan will be finalized, and the first public meeting will be held. This is an opportunity for community members to share their vision through the same process that committee members have undergone. The committee is pleased to share its vision statement:

“As a village famous for peace throughout the world, we are committed to working together in the spirit of cooperation and consensus building to shape Pugwash into a vibrant and caring community that provides ample opportunities for all residents to thrive and prosper.”

Starting April 1st, the Pugwash Village Commission administration office will go to full time hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm
 (closed noon to 1pm)
 Administrator: Lee Fleming
 Phone: **902 243-2946**
 Email: villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com
 124 Water Street
 PO Box 220, Pugwash, NS
 BOK 1L0
www.pugwashvillage.com

The Commissioners of the Village of Pugwash meet each 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 1pm.
 Current Commissioners:
Bill Church
Ray Jamison (Chair)
Kevin Polley
Mary Lou Trenholm

The North Cumberland Memorial Hospital

resumes their monthly meetings **March 5th**, after a two month break. On January 3rd, we were very pleased to receive a donation of \$1000.00 from “The North Shore Country” to go towards our pledge for a new EKG machine. The new machine has arrived and training staff in its use has begun.



Auxiliary members were informed of the retirement of our site manager Mrs. Beryl MacLean to be effective December 31, 2006. Best wishes are extended to Beryl for the future. No replacement has yet been found for her position.

The Northumberland Community Curling Club



Something for the kids – of all ages – curling! The Northumberland Community Curling Club is sliding nicely towards its goal of throwing rocks in Pugwash by November, 2007. Have you noticed heavy machinery working on Church Street? A road and a sewer line are now completed to the NCCC property. The power line is next.

Much is happening behind the scenes. On December 15, 2006 a contract was signed with CIMCO, the ice plant provider and installation company from Moncton, NB. Also, many volunteer professionals are busy fine tuning the building plans and deciding how they will best fit the site. Structural engineer, George Brandys; surveyor, Brandon MacDonald; electrical technologist, Aubrey Reynolds; construction overseer, Mike Cunningham; design consultant, David Rickard and our lawyer are contributing many hours to the project. When their work is complete, hopefully by the end of February, the NCCC will be in a position to apply to the County for a build-

ing permit. The pledges from individuals and businesses keep coming in. To date \$167,200 has been pledged and of this \$133,200 has been received.

And local curlers are making ready. Norval Benjamin, Alice Power, Vic Matheson, Margie Hoganson and Jerry Baycroft recently attended a Level 1 coaching clinic in Moncton. There, they honed their skills and began the qualification process necessary to teach beginning curlers. On Feb. 4, thirty Pugwash and area residents rented the curling ice in St. Andrews's, Antigonish County for a fun-filled day of practice and curling. Contact has been made with both of the Pugwash schools reminding program planners to put curling on the schedule for next fall. All area schools will be re-contacted over the next few weeks. Contact has also been made with a Special Olympics trainer who is open to setting up a clinic for Sunset residents.

Do you have questions, desire input, want to volunteer? Plan to attend our next General Meeting, tentatively to be held at the Northumberland Golf Course, 7:00 pm, **April 10, 2007.**

Communities in Bloom



is starting their second year with many plans: completing the second stage of the Peace Garden, updating established and planting new gardens, more banners, baskets and planters for Water Street. A huge clean up is planned for Earth Day in April. If you feel like pulling a weed or two and tidying the village helping hands are always welcome. In May CIB is drawing for a “Spring Time” basket filled with gardening goodies. Tickets are available from any member of CIB and at the Co-op in May.

CIB appointed a new slate of officers. They are: Past Chair - Marilyn Horton, Chair - John Mills, Secretary - Mary Maron, Treasurer - Bill Church, Project Coordinators - Karma Reid and John Mills,

Publicity - Elaine Cook.
 Want to become a member of CIB? No need to be a gardener to join this organization, only a desire to keep Pugwash beautiful. Non-gardeners receive information and hands-on experience. Knowledgeable gardeners are valued for their ability and input. Communities In Bloom volunteers keep the village attractive, interact with residents and other organizations and have fun while benefiting the area.

To volunteer and/or join the CIB committee call **Elaine Cook** at **243-2616**, any of the above officers, or just come to a meeting. The next two meetings are **March 14 and March 28**. Meetings are every other Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Village Hall.

East Preston Black Revival Choir to perform

Join us for an exciting & uplifting gospel concert featuring The East Preston Black Revival Choir from Halifax, N.S.

March 10th – 7:00 p.m.

Wallace River Baptist Church, #2441 - Hwy # 368

Come and bring someone with you.

The Pugwash C@Psite

is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm (closed for lunch noon to 1pm) as well as Tuesday evening from 6 to 8 pm. Yearly memberships are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for students per annum or \$2 per day for adults and \$1 for students. There is high speed on 8 computers as well as wireless for those who wish to connect their laptops outside the building. Other services include faxing, digital camera rental, laminating, scanning and colour printers. For more info call: **243-2088**.

The Pugwash Farmers' Market Cooperative



will be holding its first Annual General Meeting on **April 2, 2007**. After a successful first season, the members of the co-op will be meeting to review last year's progress and make plans for the summer of 2007. Individuals and groups with an interest in selling at the market or supporting the market in any way are more than welcome to attend. The time and venue of the AGM are yet to be chosen. For more information, call Kirsteen at **243-2684**.

Shopping Bags

Did you know that 500 billion plastic shopping bags are given out in the world every year? In Canada almost 15 billion bags are used, that is about one bag per day per Canadian. In Pugwash the Co-Op uses over 400,000 bags per year so it is probable that between all the businesses every year about one bags are given out in this village.

Consider the useful life of a plastic shopping bag – it is often just a few minutes. It is used to carry products from the store to the car and from the car to the house and then the bag's life is over. These bags are an oil based product, they require energy to manufacture them, energy to transport them to the store and then they are a cost to the store. When they are recycled energy is used to transport them back to a processing plant where more energy is used to shred them to be used and combined with new plastic to make more bags.

Consider the cloth shopping bag – It is made once, can be used hundreds of times, produces no waste, saves a great of energy, and saves money because the store does not have to cover its cost (the Co-Op offers a rebate). We all have to consider our impact on the environment. Using a cloth shopping bag is a simple way to be environmentally responsible.

It takes a little effort at the beginning to get into the habit of taking bags with you when you shop but after a while it easily becomes second nature. Challenge yourself to acquire as few plastic bags as you can. If you reuse bags for other things just collect the number of bags you require.

Submitted by Vivian Godfree

Pugwash District High School



Some Highlights from the February '07 PDHS Newsletter

- PDHS welcomes Mr. Matthew Fullerton, who is teaching grade 7 to 9 core French and Mrs. Amelia Tully-Knockwood who has joined PDHS as program support teacher. As well, Coleen Cooley has joined PDHS staff as program support teacher.
- On Thursday, **March 8, 2007**, the grade 12 Safe Grad will be hosting a potluck supper from 5 to 8 pm in the school cafeteria. Entertainment!
- The PDHS Home & School continues to meet the first Monday of each month. Plans are underway for the annual "Fashion Show." If you're interested in getting involved, call JoAnne Craib at 257-2488 or Karen Jost at 257-2894.
- Sports: New PDHS Athletic Director Jeff Lewis is very impressed with the success, and professionalism that all the PDHS athletic teams have shown this past season. Upcoming this semester: Basketball Regionals, Qualifiers and Provincial Tournaments; Badminton; Softball; and Track & Field.
- The Pugwash Youth Peace Exchange recently sent school supplies to Ethiopia through Project Love.
- Congrats to Christiane Jost, (gr. 11) who has been chosen to attend Chignecto-Campeche International Leadership Camp in Mexico for two weeks in March.
- Upcoming: March break, **March 12–16**; Empowering Youth Conference, **March 27**; Badminton District Championship, **March 30–31**.

Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading 4th Annual "Spread the Word" Writers' Café



Mark Saturday, **May 5th, 2007** on your calendar and plan to attend the 4th annual CAN-U fundraiser "Spread the Word" Writers' Café. Some of the best Atlantic authors will share readings from their latest publications. Linda Little returns by popular demand and will be joined by Frank Macdonald, Catherine Safer, and Sue Goyette, who will also facilitate the Writers Workshop that afternoon. All proceeds from the event will support adult literacy programs in Cumberland County.

For more information please contact the CAN-U office at **661-0153** or 141 Victoria Street, in downtown Amherst.

CAN-U Adult Upgrading offers classes on Monday & Wednesday at the Pugwash Village Hall. For more information or to register contact: Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading, 141 Victoria Street East, Amherst, NS B4H 1X9 **661-0153**

Pugwash & Area Community Health Board

had a number of successful applications for Wellness Fund projects last fall. Among them are the following: Maggie's Place "Pop-up" program which serves families throughout the County; Sunset Community's "New Life Balance", serving residents through fitness and smoking cessation programming; "Creative Aging", for seniors, and, "Jump", for students at Pugwash District High, two very popular programs offered by Mary Purdy.

An exciting new program that found CHB support other than through Wellness Funds is "The Gathering Place." Each month, Maggie Werry, the inspiration for the program, and a group of volunteers, offer lunch and an afternoon of card playing and information on health-related topics to seniors and those living alone. These gatherings take place at the St. Thomas More Parish Hall in Pugwash. The program has received heaps of praise from its participants.

The new Community Health Care Plan, which community members throughout the County had input through a series of town halls, is now ready for the printer. Watch for the opportunity to hear more about it through local media outlets.

The Pugwash and Area Community Health Board will be participating again this year in the Safe Well Water program in March. The collection date in Pugwash is **March 27th**. Watch for posters outlining details in March.

As a volunteer community board, your local CHB is constantly recruiting new members. If you have an interest in serving a term on your local board, please contact **Todd Benson** at **661-1464**.



The Pugwash Peace Exchange is having a busy quarter! Our Winter edition of "The Olive Branch" is now available on our website. Copies of this newsletter will also be available around town, so keep an eye out, so that you can read about some upcoming July '07 events, the announcement of two new Advisory Council members, the results of our Operating Campaign, an update on the Pugwash Youth Peace Exchange, and much more!

Our business plan, prepared by top economic firm Gardner Pinfold, is now complete. At various meetings throughout the month, the PPE has given a presentation of our business plan, showing a roadmap of how the PPE will operate, the financial viability of the project, and the substantial economic benefits that this project will have for our village and for the entire North Shore region. If you were not able to come to our February 28th public meeting or our March 5th Annual General Meeting, and would like to see this presentation, it is available for viewing at our office, and will also be available on our website after March 7th.

As always, we would be delighted to hear from the local community. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please do not hesitate to contact **Ann or Krista** at **243-2328**, or via email at mail@pugwashpeaceexchange.org.

... Calling All Writers ...

Do you want to be included in a book about Pugwash that will leave a legacy to future readers? Pugwash native **Edith Croft**, now living in Calgary, has published several books with Pugwash themes. And now she is creating a new book to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Pugwash – with your help. She would love stories from you about Pugwash or your family or local history. Write it as prose, poetry, biography or yarn. Submission deadline: **May 31, 2007**. Send your written ideas by email to Edith at: nicky21@shaw.ca or write her at: B4, 4515 Varsity Drive N.W., Calgary, AB, T3A 0Z8. Her previous books, all available at the Pugwash Library include: *A Letter To Henry*, about growing up in Pugwash in the '50s and '60s, including accounts of school activities at the old one-room school house in South Pugwash; *Reflecting Life* is a free flow, brief sharing about life, including Pugwash; *Recipes & Other Gems* contains light humour, plus her father's desperate efforts at trying to get her a man!; *Pugwash, Nova Scotia: Home, Sweet Home*, a collection of stories and pictures of the people of Pugwash; *Romance On The Prairies* is a love story. Some personalities and namesakes are borrowed from local Pugwash folk (can you guess who they were?)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CUMBERLAND DISTRICT R.C.M.P., AMHERST, NS



The Cumberland District RCMP is hoping to re-establish a county-wide Crime Prevention Association. The goal of such an organization will be to raise awareness and improve the quality of life throughout Cumberland County by creating safer communities through education and reduction of crime opportunities.

Residents of the towns and rural communities will work with the police to provide unified crime prevention programs to meet the demands of all the communities in Cumberland County. Each area will have its own sub-committee which will form an equal part of a greater Cumberland County Crime Prevention Association. This will insure that membership across the county will have input into whatever activities are undertaken and any concerns that may be raised.

A Crime Prevention Association in Cumberland County could be involved with programs such as Neighbourhood Watch, Vial

of Life, Home Security Check, Cottage/Camp/Trailer Security Checks, Vehicle Security Checks, Operation Identification, Combat Auto Theft; to name a few.

Additionally, members of Crime Prevention Associations help to collect and pass along tips and information dealing with Frauds and Scams, Personal Safety at Home, Business Security, Vandalism, Elder Abuse, Seasonal Safety Issues, Travel Tips and Drug Awareness.

If you think you would be interested in belonging to such an association in your community, and would like to know more about it, call or drop by the RCMP Office in your community or area and leave your contact information. You will be notified about any upcoming steps toward establishing a Cumberland Crime Prevention Association.

For more info contact **Const. Paul Calder** at **667-3859**.

Camp Pagweak is waiting for YOU!

Many a laugh, shout and a YAHOO have been heard coming across the Pugwash Harbour from children who have attended Camp Pagweak. This camp, owned by the Baptist Churches of Cumberland-Colchester & Pictou Counties has been part of the history of Pugwash since 1944. Located on 18½ acres of prime, oceanfront property, its purpose is to give young people an opportunity to experience God's love by having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This year Camp Pagweak has taken on a stronger spiritual focus offering 8 weeks of camp, under the council leadership of Pastor David Young of Pugwash Baptist. From July 2nd – Aug. 24th, camps include Music & Drama led by Belinda Adshade, a well known voice and piano teacher from Springhill, Introductory Guitar led by Angela Trenholm of Pugwash and a Craft Camp led by Margaret Hansen of Wallace Bay, Carla Black from Oxford and Nancy Morris from Springhill. Teens will be able to participate in a Paintball Camp. A Sports Camp adds another dimension to our camping season with soccer, basketball & badminton. Younger campers ages 6 – 9 can participate in Day Camp. A Variety Camp, where campers can experience various hobbies such as woodworking, cooking and gardening is also planned. There is something for every age group all centered around experiencing God's love.

Kids can't wait to return to Pagweak and play Capture the Flag, participate in water games, the ropes course or get reacquainted with Ed's Alley!

Many of the camps are expected to fill up quickly, so why not get your registration in early! ~ Memories, great friendships, fun and God's love are all experienced at Camp Pagweak! ~ For further information contact: **Coleen Dearman, 667-1857** or coleen_trenholm@hotmail.com. Visit our Web Site: www.camppagweak.org

Pugwash Village Commission Seeks Interested Residents to Fill Commissioner Vacancies

Special Elector's Meeting: Due to a recent Commissioner resignation, a Special Elector's meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 20th**, to elect a Commissioner to complete this 14 month term. This election will be held directly after the regular Commission meeting, starting at 1pm, is completed.

Annual General Meeting: The Pugwash Village Commission will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, May 15th, 2007**, at 2pm immediately following the regular monthly Commission meeting. At this time, two new volunteer Commissioners (3 year term) will be elected.

To be considered eligible to serve as a Commissioner, you must be a resident of the Village of Pugwash (ie: live within the village boundaries) for the past six months. Please consider volunteering for this very important role in your village. For more information, call the Commission office at **243-2946**.

Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce

The newly formed Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce held its first luncheon meeting on Tuesday, February 20th from noon until 1pm at the Pugwash Village Hall with 24 people from the area attending.

Guest speakers for the event were representatives Sheila Allan and Bob Dickson from the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. One of the key benefits of membership in the local chamber of commerce is the opportunity to apply for group insurance benefits regardless of the size of your business. Sheila and Bob presented the benefits of the insurance program as well as pointing to the success of other chambers of commerce in our area. A brief presentation was also given to the group

on the objectives of the Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce along with information on becoming a member.

The Chamber of Commerce executive will be meeting in March to establish projects for the coming year. The next luncheon meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 17th** at noon at the Pugwash Village Hall. Watch for notices regarding the guest speaker for this event.

For information on membership or any inquiry regarding the Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact **Melanie Lowe at 243-2138, Arnold MacEwan at 243-2085, or Harry Moore at 243-2818**.

Pandemic Influenza Planning

On September 12, 2006 a joint meeting of representatives from East Cumberland Lodge, Sunset Adult Residential Center, Pugwash Village Commission and North Cumberland Memorial Hospital was held to discuss issues of common interest in the event of an outbreak of a Pandemic Influenza within our area. A Pandemic Flu is caused by a virus that no immunization currently exists to prevent. The basis of a Pandemic Plan for our area is to maintain the resources necessary to provide our citizens with the food, supplies, shelter and care needs required for a period of four months. These four organizations are keeping current on events in the world and how it will affect our area if and when a Pandemic occurs. For more information, please contact **Rosemary Donkin**, East Cumberland Lodge Administrator at **243-2504**.

Free Tax Preparation Service

Volunteer Income Tax preparer, **Gerald Hoganson**, working under the auspices and authority of the Canada Revenue Agency, is again offering his services to the general public in preparing Income Tax returns. This free of charge service will be offered on March 9, March 16, and March 23, 2007 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Village Hall. For more information, contact Gerald at **243-3667**.