

This Issue:

Gathering of the Clans 2006	1
Northumberland Curling Club	1
Communities in Bloom	2
Pugwash C@Psite	2
North Cumberland Community Health Foundation	2
Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department	2
Friends Of the Pugwash Estuary	3
Pugwash RCMP Update	3
North Cumberland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary	3
Pugwash Peace Exchange	4
Pugwash HarbourFest	4
Editor's Corner	4

Starting April 1st, the Commission office will be on its Spring/Summer schedule:
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30 pm and closed noon to 1:00 pm for lunch.
243-2946

- Current Commissioners:**
- Allan MacEachern (Chair)
 - Paolo Brenciaglia
 - Bill Church
 - Claire McKim
 - Ray Jamison
- Village Administrator:**
- Lee Fleming

GATHERING OF THE CLANS

Have you ever spent Canada Day in Pugwash? If the answer is "Yes!" we're saving your spot again this year. If your answer is "No" read on to find out why Pugwash is **the** place to be. Every July 1st, Pugwash comes alive as throngs of people descend upon our village for the annual Gathering of the Clans, the unique Canada Day celebration held in Pugwash for the past 55 years. This much loved festival promotes our heritage, our community spirit and, of course, our national pride. The Gathering of the Clans has day-long activities to be enjoyed by all ages. There is our Grand Street Parade in the morning featuring the winners of our Queen' pageant and prizes in many categories for the creative floats and rousing bands. For thrill seekers and gamers, there's a midway that goes all day. Food booths, tables of crafts, and antiques line Water Street. There are Piping and Drumming competitions and Highland Heavyweight games such as the caber toss. Main stage entertainment in Eaton Park goes on all day, beginning with the Highland Dance competitions. These lead to family-focused acts that do not stop until eight o'clock when our featured evening entertainers take the stage. The day's celebration concludes with a spectacular fireworks display over the harbour.

The Gathering of the Clans is not just a day-long summer party. The fun had on July 1st helps support the well-being of Pugwash and area all year long. This event, hosted by the Village Commission, uses funds raised through the small entrance fee to support our community's local hospital, Ground Search and Rescue, the Pugwash Fire Department, the library and local school projects.

The secret of the Gathering of the Clans is the broad-based support it receives from the entire community. Local business and sponsors provide much needed financial support and village residents help with their patience in dealing with traffic, closed streets and the crowds that make for a successful festival. Volunteers give freely of their time, energy and creative ideas in bringing a fabulous day of family fun to those who make Pugwash their July 1st destination. When we ask you next year, "Have you ever spent Canada Day in Pugwash?" your answer will be "Of course. I was there in 2006 and plan to be back every year from now on."

Northumberland Curling Club

...doesn't that sound great? Well, confidence is high that by January of 2007 this will be a reality and, to loosely quote the television advertisement, "kids will be throwing rocks at houses."

Where are we now? Most of you will have seen the sign "Future Home of the Northumberland Curling Club" on Highway 6 in South Pugwash. There is an agreement to buy the land. A well, showing great water flow, has been drilled, and the water will be tested soon to ensure the quality is good for drinking and, more importantly, for making great ice. The building plans have the required engineer's stamp, discussions are continuing with environmental people about sewage system requirements, the driveway location has been approved, and most permits have been acquired or are in the process.

What else needs to happen? The funds need to fall into place. All the applications to government agencies have been carefully completed, presentations made and relevant contacts lobbied. Private individuals and area businesses have already pledged a substantial amount of financial support. This canvassing is continuing but if you or your business hasn't been contacted and you would like to become involved in this exciting project, contact John van de Wiel at 243-3155 or Clarence Felderhof at 257-2772. Non-financial support - volunteer labour, donated equipment or expertise - will also be vital once construction has begun.

Who will curl? Everyone! It's a game that is open to all ages (mini rocks can accommodate children as young as 5 years) and all levels of ability. It is relatively inexpensive, is a physical as well as a social activity, lends itself to family participation and is an indoor winter activity.

Communities In Bloom

“People, Plants and
Pride...Growing
Together”

Pugwash Communities in Bloom is excited about the arrival of spring and the planting season. Our volunteer-based, non-profit organization is committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation.

To that end, blueprints for the train station Peace Garden are finished and plans for baskets, banners and gardens are in place. Proven Winners, the license holder of local Ken Lander's *Supertunia Bordeaux* petunia, is allowing the Pugwash Communities in Bloom committee to name the flower the *Pugwash Peace Supertunia*. This flower will be used extensively throughout the village.

The Communities in Bloom project is not just for gardeners. It is for all people interested in beautifying the Pugwash area. Watch for information on how you can participate in the upcoming contest that awards prizes for the best residential and the best commercial garden / beautification display. Prizes will be awarded during HarbourFest, Saturday, July 29th.

To learn more about the national and local Communities in Bloom organization, plan to attend our Open House on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm. at the Village Hall. Volunteers will answer questions and have information on how to participate. Drawings showing planned beautification stages will be on display. For further information please contact Chair Marilyn Horton at 243-

WELCOME TO THE PUGWASH C@PSITE!

Pugwash is very fortunate indeed. We have a place where we can use computers for only \$2.00 a day or buy a membership for \$15.00 per year. Student rates are \$1.00 per day and \$7.50 per year. With this comes high-speed, wireless internet, the use of many



**Pugwash C@Psite
can improve your
connections!**

software programs, courses on how to use a computer or program and help from the on-duty volunteer. The CAPsite also offers photo-quality printers, faxing, copying and laminating. A digital camera is available to rent. We can also download photos from your camera card.

C@Psite hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to noon and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Appointments may be made for other times. For more information contact Chair Ray Jamison at 243-2088 or pugwashcap@hotmail.com.

North Cumberland Community Health Foundation

(our hospital's foundation) will hold its annual public meeting at the Pugwash Village Hall on Thursday, June 8th at 7 pm. Directors of the foundation are presently busy with preparations for the second annual golf tournament to be held Friday, June 16th at the Northumberland Links. Funds raised from this event will go toward the purchase of a new diagnostic imaging machine for our hospital. Come “tee off for health.” For more information, contact Brian Gordon, at 243-2702.

PUGWASH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department is busy organizing fundraising events of interest to the community. Firefighting can be very challenging, and so the Pugwash District Fire Department strives to keep up-to-date on member training, and ensure that we provide the services needed and expected by the Village of Pugwash and surrounding areas. Our fundraising efforts assist us with this. Many of these activities are supported by local businesses, whose support we count on and appreciate.

Upcoming events:

April 22 - Dart tournament - Registration begins at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person. 19 years and older welcome. 50/50 draw. Snacks available.

May 20 - Open House - Firefighters will be on hand to guide you on a tour of the station, trucks and emergency equipment. Members are providing a BBQ and carwash, and civic number signs can be ordered. And by donating to our Fire Hall building fund, you will receive a commemorative inscribed brick or plaque.

June 3 - Adult dance upstairs in the hall from 9 pm to 1 am.

June 17 - Pancake Breakfast at Fire hall 7 to 11 am. Sponsored by Pugwash Home Hardware, who continues to be a major supporter of the Department. Come out and see just how well our members can create a breakfast meal.

For July and August we are planning activities that include the Gathering of the Clans, HarbourFest and the Department's annual fishing Mackerel Tournament. Watch for details in the June newsletter.

It is very important for our team to take part in community-planned functions and to show our commitment to providing a safer community. As a volunteer organization, we encourage the Village to continue its support of our activities.



Go paperless!



Would you be interested in receiving this newsletter electronically? It's a great way to forward local news to your own global village! Drop us an email requesting that you be added to our e-list: villagecommission@

MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CUMBERLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ARE BUSY PLANNING A SERIES OF FUNDRAISERS FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. THEY ARE HOPING FOR THE CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY TO HELP THEM MEET THEIR PLEDGE OF TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO REPLACE AND UPGRADE THE EKG MACHINE AT OUR HOSPITAL.

Friends Of the Pugwash Estuary

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with salty seawater. Estuarine environments are among the most productive in the world. The inaugural meetings of the Friends of the Pugwash Estuary were held in the spring of 2004 and developed the following mission statement: "The Friends of the Pugwash Estuary are committed to enhancing our coastal and river environments through increased understanding of their ecology. With community partnerships, we promote wise stewardship of these vital resources throughout the local region." Membership in the group includes retired people, gainfully employed people, people who have lived here all their lives, recent arrivals and students.

In the interest of increasing knowledge, the Friends have hosted a variety of guest speakers, including but not limited to, the NS Museum of Natural History, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Nature Conservancy of Canada. These speakers have emphasized the importance of healthy estuaries in the richness of their organic matter, in providing shelter for young fish, in supporting an abundance of wildlife, in providing a water filtration system and in preventing erosion.

The Friends employed two students in the summer of 2005. The students explored the river and estuary, producing a report that included land ownership, identification of historical and other sites of interest and some identification of flora and fauna. They also researched pollution levels and sources. It seems the main pollution sources have been addressed and the river is cleaning, albeit slowly because of its mud bottom. Depending on funding, this summer's focus will be species currently inhabiting the area and what can be done to help their recovery.

The Friends have also built up a network of contacts via provincial and inter provincial associations. We are currently members of Coastal Communities Network (NS), the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (an eastern Canada group that includes various levels of government as well as community organizations).

Meetings of the Friends of the Pugwash Estuary are usually held at the Village Commission at 7p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome. The current contact person is Alice Power at m.apower@ns.sympatico.ca or 243-3580.

Visit our renovated and updated Village website:

www.pugwashvillage.com

Thanks go to

Paolo Brenciaglia

Elaine Graham Cook

and Les Emslie for the

great revamp.



THE PUGWASH OFFICE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Hello, I'm Constable Paul Bouchere, and for those not familiar with the RCMP in the Pugwash area, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about our team. The Pugwash office is an integral part of the Cumberland County District. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are responsible for policing all of Cumberland County except for the towns of Amherst and Springhill. Four offices are located in the county to meet the policing needs of the community. These are located in Pugwash, Parrsboro, Oxford, and Amherst – the last functions as district headquarters. Corporal John Chlow leads his Pugwash team of Constables Tony Dolan, Terry Burrige, and myself, and detachment assistant Rachael McLellan. We bring a variety of skills and experience, further enhanced by the District policing resources and the relationships that have been developed with our other police partners in Amherst and Springhill. It is important for area residents to realize that the Pugwash members are part of the larger team for Cumberland County.

The Strategic Goal of the RCMP is: "Working towards safe homes and safe communities for Canadians." We believe that information sharing and gathering methods like the newsletter will contribute to this goal. As such, we will be submitting articles regularly on a variety of topics that will enhance safety and security for the residents in and around Pugwash. We are very interested in community input. Our initial goal is to provide information on the following: Seniors Safety, RCMP programs, internet safety and community events.

We hope that we will continue to grow and develop with the newsletter so that we can make the community stronger and safer.

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 15th**. Maximum word count of 350. We reserve the right to edit for length and readability. Photos or graphics will be used as space allows.

Editor's Corner

Many of us know the expression "It takes a village to raise a child." It seemed apt to borrow part of this phrase and apply it to our very own world famous village. Peace requires cooperation, compromise, and respect for others. As the new Village Administrator, I am seeing plenty of these qualities in action on a daily basis. There is an optimism and a vitality in the air. Long-planned and anticipated projects are coming to fruition even as new projects emerge. The Commission has an important role to play in it all, and is working diligently to represent the interests of Pugwash and to use our tax allocation wisely. This fall, with the expert guidance of the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association (CREDA) we'll be undertaking a five-year strategic plan. We'll let you know more about that and other Commission priorities in our next newsletter. This issue is already bursting at the seams with contributions from a variety of community groups. If your organization has information to share, our June issue deadline is May 15th. Give me a call at 243-2946 or email me at: villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com

Lee Fleming

Calling All Citizens!

The Village Commission will be holding its Annual General Meeting this June. Have you thought about serving as a Commissioner?...

Pugwash Peace Exchange Annual Meeting a Success

On Tuesday, March 7, the Pugwash Peace Exchange Society held its first Annual General Meeting at the St. Thomas Moore church hall in Pugwash. Well over 50 members were able to attend, and many new members signed up at the door. The Pugwash Peace Exchange now has over 300 members, from all over Canada and the U.S, but the majority come from the local area.

Prior to the official business, members enjoyed delicious food and refreshments provided by the Hidden Jewel Café. A book table, provided by Hidden Jewel Gifts, featured "Shake Hands With the Devil" — a powerful account of the experiences of the PPE's Honorary Patron, Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire during his command of the UN Peacekeeping mission in Rwanda, and the genocide that took place during that time.

President Stephen Leahey, updated members on the remarkable progress that the PPE has achieved to date. He also announced that the society's website will launch in the next month or so. An election was held, with all existing board members returned for the next year.

The evening concluded with a screening of the powerful documentary, "Shake Hands With the Devil." This dramatic and unflinching look at the Rwandan genocide left attendees visibly moved, and strengthened their resolve to help the PPE work towards a more peaceful society. This movie will be shown again in Pugwash on July 7 and will be open to the public.

The Pugwash Peace Exchange Society thanks all of those members who were able to attend the meeting, as well as all those there in spirit. Thanks as well to Rob Assels and Lesley Longhorn of Tatamagouche's "Friday Night at the Movies" for arranging the viewing of the documentary.

For more information about the Pugwash Peace Exchange Society, or to become a member, please contact Krista or Ann at 243-2328 or mail@pugwashpeaceexchange.org



PUGWASH HARBOURFEST



An exciting new summertime festival is being planned for the week-end of July 28, 29 and 30th on and around our harbour. The idea, originated by members of the Pugwash Yacht Club, was met with enthusiastic support by the Cumberland East Recreational and Development Association, the Pugwash Harbour Authority and the Pugwash Village Commission. Subsequent meetings were held and commitments made by other organizations, businesses and individuals associated with our community. The number of events has grown with each new participant.

Much remains to be done. Financial support has been received from the Municipality of Cumberland County, Canadian Salt Company Ltd, Surette Battery Co. Ltd, and Jost Wines. A sound accounting and evaluation process is being developed to ensure profitability and financial and organizational capability for a future event.

Here is a sampling of events and sponsoring community participants:

- Opening Wine and Cheese "Meet and Greet" – Pugwash Peace Exchange • '50-'60's Dance – Royal Canadian Legion • Pancake Maple Syrup Breakfast – Pugwash Fire Department • Yacht Racing – Pugwash Yacht Club • Canoe and Kayak Racing – North Shore Adventure Club • Out-of-doors Refreshments – Northumberland Curling and ATV Clubs • Tall Ships Displays and Tours – Harbour Pilots and PWYC • Sculling Relay Races – Pugwash Yacht Club • Comedy Fest – Village Commission • Communities in Bloom Contest – Pugwash Communities in Bloom Association • Regatta/Beach Party Dance – Pugwash Fire Department • Seaside Luncheon – St. George's Anglican Church • Dress Ships Sail Pass – Pugwash Yacht Club • Raft Building and Rowing Race – Cunningham Construction • Kids Kastle Kontest (Sand) – Alvina Nix • Free Estuary Tours – Friends of the Estuary Association •

Plans must be finalized very soon, so please do not hesitate if you feel you have something to contribute to the festivities. For further information please contact Chair Bill Kempt at 243-3456, Vice Chair Ron Urquhart at 243-2851 or the Village Administrator at 243-2946.