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It Takes a Village Newsletter

is published quarterly – the first Tuesday of June, September, December and March. The deadline for our next issue is **August 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.

New Village Commission Getting Down To Business



Front Row: Mary Lou Trenholm (Vice Chair), Katheryne Langille (Chair), Randy Thompson (Clerk)
Back Row, Commissioners: Kevin Polley, Linda Langille, Jim Whitman

"2007 is certainly going to be a busy and productive year for the village commission. We truly look forward to working with everyone for the betterment of our beautiful Village."
- Katheryne Langille, Village Commission Chair.



Counting Down To The 56th!

The organizing committee of the 56th **Gathering of the Clans** is thrilled to announce that **Monday July 2nd** will see the culmination of their year long planning for this premier Pugwash festival. Special thanks goes to the members of this festival planning team who gave and continue to give their time and energy selflessly and to the many sub-committee members. To organize and run a festival for over 5000 people, takes months of work, tons of creative ideas, and the cooperation of dozens of folks who volunteer their time and talents. It also takes money, lots of money to pay for a party for 5000. A sincere thanks to all the businesses and government departments who have dug dig and found funds to help sponsor The Gathering of the Clans once more. I salute all who have or will play roles in the success of PUGWASH 200.

This year will see the return of the Queen's Pageant on Wednesday June 27, at 7:00 at PDRH auditorium. Admission is FREE. Marsha Allen, the pageant coordinator, is thrilled with nearly ten contestants signed up by press time. Her greatest coup is the Home Coming of former queens. Marsha managed to contact all 36 former queens and nearly two-thirds plan to attend a reunion on the day of the pageant and many will be on a special float in the Grand Parade. Bravo, Marsha!

The line up of entertainers on the Eaton stage beginning at three o'clock will be: The Banshee Children's Show, Eric Fresia and the Offspring, Ryan McGrath and Wooden House, Mark Stevens Band, Banshee, and finally Matt Minglewood. What a deal for a mere five dollars at the gate!

Mark **Monday July 2** on your calendar and bring your big clan to Pugwash. Make sure to enter the "Biggest Clan Contest" and take home the trophy.

- Cliff Hutchinson, '07 Chair



Schedule of Festival Events (Partial)

(June 27-July 2)

See special insert for complete list

June 27

7-9pm: GOTC QUEEN PAGEANT at PDHS, reunion of former Queens from 1967, FREE admission, collection for Pugwash's new fire hall

June 30

9pm-1: am: Adult DANCE at Pugwash fire hall

July 1

1:30-3pm: GOTC OPENING CEREMONIES, Eaton Stage Pugwash waterfront, Local GOSPEL MUSIC groups perform, collection for hospital

July 1

6:30-8:30: Pugwash's first TEEN IDOL CONTEST

July 2

7-10am: Sausage and pancake BREAKFAST at the Pugwash fire hall

July 2

8am-11pm: THE GATHERING OF THE CLANS FESTIVAL

THANK YOU!
To
Cliff Hutchinson

2007 Gathering of the Clans Committee Chair,
For your countless hours of work, your patience, your expertise and your devotion to continuing the tradition of the Gathering in the best maritime tradition!

HarbourFest - Pugwash's Summer Party!

HarbourFest will be filled with these fun sporting events:

-**Exciting Yacht Races** sanctioned by the Northumberland Strait Yachting Association on Saturday July 28 and Sunday July 29.

-**Raft Races** Saturday evening 4:00pm to 6:00pm across the harbour.

Sunday afternoon 3:00pm to 5:00pm across the harbour.

-**Canoe/Kayak** racing Saturday afternoon 1:30 pm to 3:00pm

-**Beach volleyball** (Eaton Park)

Saturday 9:00 am until 4:00pm all ages

Sunday 9:00 am until 3:00pm.

-**Across The Harbour Golf Challenge** (Location TBA): Saturday 1:00pm until 5:00pm.

-**Sand Castles/Sculptures Contest** (Crescent Beach): Saturday 9:30 until 12:00 noon.

Here is our outstanding entertainment schedule for the Eaton Stage, all entertainment is FREE

Friday evening July 27

-Public opening reception hosted by the **Pugwash Peace Exchange**

6:30pm to 8:30pm: The Putnam Family (Traditional music) in Eaton Park

-The Royal Canadian Legion Pugwash branch will host a 50's & 60's dance at the Legion from 9:00pm to 12:00pm.

Saturday afternoon July 28

-2:00pm to 4:00pm: Saunders Brothers Show (East Coast Music/comedy) Eaton Park

Saturday evening July 28

-4:00pm to 6:00pm: Youth bands in Eaton Park

-6:30pm to 8:30pm: Putnum Family in Eaton Park

-The Pugwash Fire Department will host a Beach Party dance at the Fire Hall from 9:00pm to 12:00pm.

Sunday afternoon July 29

-1:00pm to 5:00pm: The Palmer Girls from Newfoundland and Labrador (Traditional East Coast music/dancing) at Eaton Park



PUGWASH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department continues to be very busy. The article in the Oxford Journal dated 16 May indicated the commitment our group has to ensure the continuous, reliable response of the team to emergencies. We work very closely with other professional agencies and continue to train, learn and refresh skills to provide you, the community, with the emergency response that is necessary in a situation. We are looking forward to a busy summer of fundraising and participating in our community functions. June will find us involved in the annual Pancake breakfast sponsored by Pugwash

Home Hardware on 16th. We will introduce a teen dance this year during the Gathering of the Clans weekend. Being held on Friday 29 June '07 from 8 pm - 11 pm with DJ Dave. The adult dance for the Gathering of the clans will be held on Sat 30 June '07 from 9 pm - 1 am, DJ Dave providing the music. We are looking at hosting a pancake breakfast on the July 2 morning, prior to the street parade from 8 am - 10 am, we of course will be in full force during the parade with our bells and whistles. The Fireworks display will (as always) be magnificent at the end of the evening. We are also proud to sponsor one of our Jr. Firefighters in the Gatherings Queens Pageant

The Department has also committed to help with the Pugwash Peace exchange banquet on the 7th July. Harbourfest weekend is also on our agenda with an adult dance being held on 28 Jul '07. We have begun our plans for the annual Mackerel Fishing tournament being held 25 and 26 Aug '07.

The new fire hall plans are moving forward, we hope to see electricity and a storage shed at the new site in the very near future.

Pugwash Village Commission administration office hours:

Monday to Friday

8:30am to 4:30pm

(closed noon to 1pm)

Clerk/Treasurer:

Randy Thompson

Phone: **902 243-2946**

Email: villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com

124 Water Street

PO Box 220, Pugwash, NS

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The Northumberland Community Curling Club



The Northumberland Community Curling Club proudly displays its logo designed by recent graduate of Pugwash District High, Nathan MacLeod. The logo uses the school colours and emphasizes the theme that curling is for all ages. Thanks go to Nathan and also to art teacher Louise Cloutier who instructed her class in this project.

Every week NCCC moves one step closer to its goal of curling in Pugwash by November 2007. The power poles are in and Bernie Tuttle has been driving his bulldozer over the property creating ditches to encourage drainage and drying of the land. Levelling and compacting of the earth will begin when the ground is sufficiently dry. Route 6 Ready-Mix is prepared to pour the foundation when given the go-ahead.

A successful meeting of the NCCC was held on April 10th in the Northumberland Golf Club with

40 interested persons in attendance. A detailed financial report was presented by treasurer Dick Gray. \$171,700 has been pledged by individuals and of this 90.5 % has been honoured. Congratulations all pledgers!

Individuals or businesses are invited to purchase curling stones @ \$500 per stone. The donor's name or and "in memory" can be engraved on each handle. To date, 30 out of the 50 stones needed have been pledged.

Money and work are still needed to make this dream a reality. An application has been made to ACOA which, if granted, would turn a 6 month curling facility into a 12 month community facility. We are keeping our fingers crossed. Also, when construction begins we will be looking for volunteers. So far 16 people have signed up for jobs as diverse as "hammering" to "water boy."

To get your name on the list call Nellie Van de Wiel or Hazel Felderhof.



CAMP PAGWEAK

CAMPS FOR ALL AGES!!!!

Camp Pagweak is located just outside the Village of Pugwash on the Sunrise Trail. We enjoy 18 ½ acres overlooking Pugwash Harbour. Camp Pagweak offers programs for children ages 6 - 15.

We provide a varied and active day at Camp Pagweak. We strive to serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our campers. Bible study and respect for God and others is an important part of the camp. Making new friends and experiencing new activities fill our days.

Visit our Web site: www.camppagweak.org

Camp Pagweak Schedule

Date	Camp Pagweak 2007	Ages	FEE
July 2 - 6	Day Camp - A great way to introduce camp - campers are dropped off and picked up each day. Lunch is provided.	6 - 9	\$75.
July 8 - 13	Variety Venture - Everything from gardening, cooking, crafts, photography, woodworking you name it!	10-12	\$175
July 15 -	Explorer - a regular camp for 7 - 9 year olds who just enjoy camp to the fullest!	7-9	\$150
July 22 -	Teen - BLAST- an exciting week designed just for teens!	13-15	\$175
July 29 -	Venture - Guitar - Come and strum! Enjoy introductory guitar led by Angela Trenholm of Pugwash - guitars and	10-12	\$175
Aug. 5 - 10	Explorer - Crafts - A whole week of crafts - scrap booking, cards, a woodland one, something to appeal to everyone - led by Margaret Hansen of Wallace Bay, Carla Black from Oxford and Nancy Morris of Springhill.	7-9	\$175
Aug. 12 - 17	Venture - Sports Camp - If you like sports this one is all yours - basketball, soccer, badminton, water sports, you name it - all packed into one week	10-12	\$175
Aug. 19 - 24	Music & Drama Camp - Led by Belinda Adshade of Springhill - a well known piano and voice teacher who can take a week of camp and make it into a special production!!! This is so exciting and something you will always remember.	11-14	\$175

To Register: Contact Coleen Dearman 667-1857 or Ruth Rushton 597-8583 or... contact the Camp after July 1st at: 243-226

Gospel Services in Eaton Park

We are looking forward to an exciting summer at Eaton Park,

Pugwash, Nova Scotia . One of the features will be FREE Gospel

Concerts at the bandstand on the following Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

sponsored by the Wallace River Baptist Church. 2441 - Hwy 368.

JULY 22 - GOSPEL HARMONY from Jeddore (Bluegrass Gospel)

AUGUST 5 - Local Talent

AUGUST 12 - FOR THE MASTER QUARTET from Pugwash

Come and bring your lawn chair and enjoy the sunshine, music & ministry.

In the event of inclement weather the Concert will be at the Wallace River

Baptist Church - 2441 - Hwy 368.

The Pugwash Framers' Market Cooperative



Pugwash Farmers' Market vendors are busy planning their produce and products for the summer 2007 market. The first market day will be Saturday, July 7. The venue will be the same as last year, just off Route 6 at the Sunset Community Industries building. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Kirsteen Thomson at 243-2684, or Brian Stevens at 447-3339. If you prefer to e-mail, you can contact Kirsteen at:

loukir@ns.sympatico.ca or Brian at bstevens@ns.sympatico.ca.

Village Commission Brings Back Popular Summer Recreation Program



Danny McAloney

This summer welcomes a host of new members to the Pugwash Village Commission. Amongst those, is the returning Recreation Director, Danny McAloney. While being raised in Springhill, he has always spent his summers in Pugwash and says that he is ecstatic to be returning to this blooming Village once again. After completing his second year of studies at Laurentian University, Danny is looking forward to another successful summer recreation program. So come on out and enjoy the summer, and most of all have fun.

For information on activities - drop by the Village Hall Summer Recreation Programs run from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm throughout the summer

The Pugwash C@Psite

As the C@P moves into another busy summer we welcome the new and energetic **Lindsay Lepper** to Pugwash. Lindsay comes from Tatamagouche and has just finished her 1st year of business at the NSCC in Truro. Lindsay is taking her second year in Springhill and will be able to give assistance with the computers, using the internet, faxing and much more when you drop by this summer.

**Summer Hours for the C@P site are:
Monday to Friday: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 pm**



Lindsay Lepper

Festivals & Events Assistant Coordinator



Jaclyn Shortt

Last year, **Jaclyn Shortt** spent the summer working in the Clerk's office, this year, Jaclyn will be working with the Gathering of the Clans, HarbourFest, and other groups in the Village coordinating events and providing administrative support to the committees. Jaclyn is an 18 year old native of Pugwash, graduating from Pugwash District High School this year. Jaclyn plans to attend the Nova Scotia Community College in Springhill this September where she will be studying Human Services to eventually become a councillor for children and youth. "I look forward to working within the community this summer and helping to show Pugwash's beauty to others" says Jaclyn. We are pleased to have her back with us.

Music Theatre Camp

"Showcase Productions is running a musical theatre camp, under the direction of Beth Weatherbee, for children aged 6 - 13 in Pugwash at the open stage on the waterfront. The camp will run from July 16th to July 27th, 9 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday, with a free public performance on the last day. The camp fee is \$60 (\$50 for Showcase members) If you are interested in registering, or have any questions, please contact Laura Bonang at 667-8680, or e-mail laurabonang@hotmail.com."

Pugwash & Area Community Health Board



Busy Summer for Pugwash Peace Exchange

Your local health board will soon take a two-month hiatus before starting up with their monthly meetings in September. Members are, however, active in the community during the summer months. One activity, the Skin Cancer Awareness project undertaken last year during the Gathering of the Clans parade will be repeated for summer 2007.

If you are 55 or over, you might also want to be on the lookout for a "Drive Alive 55" program being planned for Pugwash during the summer. This retraining program provides an opportunity for experienced drivers to revisit their driving habits and skills and to pick up useful tips for continued safe driving.

Mary Purdy's Creative Aging program will continue its very successful chair yoga classes during the summer months. Community Health Board members are constantly being reminded of the great asset this program and its teacher are to this community.

The three community health boards in the region are constantly looking for community-minded individuals to serve on their boards. For more information on how the community health boards function or how to apply to serve on your local board, please contact Todd Benson, Community Health Board co-ordinator at 661-1464.

Commission Meetings

The Commissioners of the Village of Pugwash meet each 3rd Monday of the month at the Village Hall at 7 pm.

Current Commissioners:

Katheryne Langille (Chair)

Linda Langille

Kevin Polley

Mary Lou Trenholm (Vice Chair)

Jim Whitman

With the arrival of the warm weather, the Pugwash Peace Exchange has ramped into high gear! We are in the midst of plans for our biggest event yet. From July 5-7th, we will be hosting nuclear disarmament experts from all across the globe, for the 2007 Extraordinary Workshop, "Revitalizing Nuclear Disarmament: Like-Minded States Working Together for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World." Pugwash will see the arrival of experts from the US, the UK, China, Iran, Mexico, New Zealand and Israel, to name but a few. The goal of this workshop will be to develop an international framework for like-minded states to work toward global nuclear disarmament. This event will also put our village in the global spotlight, showcasing the natural beauty and incredible history of which we are all so proud. Everybody will get a chance to hear and meet some of these experts as well. On Thursday, July 5th, at 7:30pm, an open forum discussion will be held at Pugwash District High School. The forum participants will be Lieutenant-General the Honourable Romeo Dallaire, who many here will remember from his inspiring talk at our public dinner last year; Jayantha Dhanapala, who is a former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and a former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the UN Office in Geneva; and Marian Hobbs, the Minister of Nuclear Disarmament of New Zealand. This event is open to the public, and there will be no charge for attending. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear some of the world's foremost experts discussing the future of peace. On July 7th, we'll be hosting our second annual Dinner of Peace. This event will be truly memorable, as we welcome our guest speakers: Foreign Affairs Minister the Honourable Peter MacKay, and the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, Tadatashi Akiba. The event will start at 5:30 with a reception and silent auction, prior to a traditional maritime lobster buffet. Tickets cost \$35 for existing PPE members, and \$45 for non-members (includes cost of 12-month membership). Tickets go on sale for the general public on June 1st, so be sure to mark your calendars. From July 7-9, the Canadian Pugwash Group will also be paying us a visit. On May 8th, starting at 9am, they will be hosting an all-day open forum at the high school, discussing peace and Canada's role in nuclear disarmament. All are welcome to this open, free-of-charge event.

For more information, please contact us at 243-2328 or visit our website at www.pugwashpeaceexchange.org

What's New @ The Library

Calling all kids! The Library's annual Summer Reading Club is set to begin on Monday, June 25th. Kids ages 5-12 will keep a logbook of all the library books they read this summer and win cool prizes. The more you read, the more you win! Preschoolers ages 3-5 can enter with a reading buddy (mom, dad, babysitter, etc) who promises to read to them. Teens can enter the Teen Reading Club and keep track of how many hours they read this summer. This year's Reading Club theme is "Lost Worlds" so go ahead and get lost in a book this summer!



Pugwash Library

Several fundraisers were held in April to raise money for the Pugwash Library Capital Campaign. Scotiabank generously co-sponsored several fundraisers and matched the monies raised through a used book sale, raffles, and a bake sale. Over \$1,800 was raised during the month. The winner of the 50/50 draw was Jim Saunders and the winner of the Duncan's Pub raffle was Wendy Herrett. The Pugwash Co-op also held a round-up day on April 28th where customers were asked to round-up their order to the nearest dollar. The Library sincerely thanks all its sponsors and supporters.

An official "Friends of the Pugwash Library" group has been established. Elaine Cook will serve as Chair, Paolo Brenciaglia as Vice-chair/ public relations, Sue Black and Vivian Godfrey are sharing the role of Secretary/Treasurer, Carolyn Thompson is Project Manager and Jaclyn Shortt is the Youth Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer with the Friends of the Pugwash Library please call the library at 243-3331.

Visitor Information Centre

The Pugwash Tourism Visitor Information Centre will open on June 25th. Returning this year are Megan Matthews and Cheryl Bonnyman for another busy summer.



Cheryl Bonnyman

I am 19 years old and from Pugwash and have lived here all my life. This is my 3rd summer working at the Pugwash Visitor Information Centre. I am attending Nova Scotia Community College, Kingstec Campus in Kentville, NS for the Funeral and Allied Health Services course. I hope to graduate next April and become a Funeral Director and Embalmer. I am looking forward to another summer at the VIC and I hope to help many, many visitors enjoy their time in Pugwash.



Megan Matthews

Megan Matthews is a second year student at Mount Allison University. She is enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program as a Piano major and plans to obtain a French minor. She is tentatively planning on going on to pursue an education degree. Her interests include sports and reading.

Pugwash Planning and Advisory Committee

The Pugwash Planning Advisory Committee was established by the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to consult with local residents on current land use issues and future development priorities for the village. The committee will advise County Council on how these issues and priorities should be addressed by the County in a secondary planning strategy and land use bylaw for the village.

The committee is composed of 3 Councillors: Kathy Langille, Committee Chair, Kathy Redmond and Gerald Langille; 3 citizens: Marylou Trenholm, Kevin Polley and Paolo Brenciaglia; and County staff. It has held 3 working meetings and 2 public participation events – an open house and an on-line survey. Committee meetings are advertised and are open to the public.

The committee has progressed towards preparing the village's planning policies and land use regulations by approving a work plan/planning process and a land use planning vision statement and a set of priorities and goals. These have been based on the comments received from residents and will provide the foundation for the preparation of the village's secondary planning strategy and land use bylaw. Residents have put a high priority on measures that will protect the character of the community and coastal areas, revitalize the village centre and concentrate new development in the village proper.

The next stage of the committee's work will be to prepare a first draft of the planning documents and make a presentation to the Village Commission and public for comments. These should take place over the next few months. This will be followed by a final recommendation for approval of the secondary planning strategy and land use bylaw by County Council.

For further information contact Kathy Langille, Chair, Pugwash Planning Advisory Committee, at 243-2642, klangille@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca or Jim Coughlin, Director of Planning, at 667-2313, jcoughlin@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce

One of the key objectives of the Chamber of Commerce is to identify, encourage and promote all activities in the community pertaining to trade, commerce and services. We strive to be a positive voice for the business community, promoting our area for the qualities and opportunities that exist here.

Did you know that there are well over 100 businesses in this area providing goods and services?

The Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce has begun a **Shop Local** campaign. Over the next couple of weeks there will be window posters presented to every local business in the area from Northport to Malagash and we hope this will encourage and foster the shop local message for area residents and summer residents alike. Shopping locally benefits everyone – the business owners, their employees, the community in general and the environment. Local businesses return approximately 80% of each dollar spent back into the local community.

The Chamber's next project will be to produce a directory of services and businesses. The brochure will list all businesses and services in the area as well as special events and festivals.

The Chamber of Commerce June luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19th with guest speaker Clair Peers. Please watch for advertising for this event on the time and location.

For more information on the Shop Local campaign or to receive a window poster (in case we've missed your business) or for general information on the Pugwash & Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact Harry at 243-2818 or Melanie at 243-2138.

Grand Parade Be sure to come to Pugwash on **July 2nd** to enjoy the annual Gathering of the Clans Grand Parade which starts at 10 AM and runs along these streets: Church, Durham, Water, and King.

Win Big When You Gather Your Clan in Pugwash

"PUGWASH 200" is the theme of this year's Gathering of the Clans Festival set for Monday July 2, 2007, and we are hoping that 200 clans will find their way to Pugwash to celebrate this fabulous Nova Scotia festival.

A contest looking for the biggest clan has been created but who will win the "2007 Biggest Clan" trophy?

You don't have to be a MacEachern or a MacAulay, a Fraser or a Sinclair. Your clan can be an Allen, a Patriquin, a Jamieson, a Williams, a Ferdinand, a Trenholm, or a Mundle, a Reid or a Murray. I might even invite my Atkinson or Hutchinson clan members up for the day.

Rules for the contest are very simple. If you're not feeling Scottish nor connected to the Celtic Isle, you can now relax for the word "Clan" is defined in "The Oxford English Dictionary" as "a family with a common ancestor, or a social group, or a gang, a brotherhood or tribe or fraternity. Well, with this broad definition, any group that has a tie that binds them should consider themselves a "clan", at least for July 2nd. All Clans must sign up and have their photo taken between 12 and 2 pm near the Eaton Stage. Signs will direct you to the place. So come and make this first time ever, Biggest Clan trophy yours with all the bragging rights that it entails.

Do you think that 200 clans will arrive to help Pugwash celebrate 200 years of our village's history and culture on July 2nd? Plan on winning by starting to gather your clan right now.

By: Donna Hutchinson, Clan Reporter



Communities In Bloom



One of the first signs of spring happened when, on Earth Day, twenty-four Communities in Bloom volunteers, wearing bright orange tee shirts, jumped into action, picking up the winter's collection of litter. At day's end they had filled 50 big bags. Thank you volunteers. This is the first step toward helping Pugwash and area residents keep our environment litter free.

The Meeting Place donated their facilities for CIB's Spring Garden Seminar. Speakers Nancy Levo and Jeff Morton addressed a full house. Landscaping, soil preparation and the use of plant materials were the main topics. The most often heard comments were "enjoyed it immensely" and "when are you having another one?"

Pugwash will soon blossom with banners and hanging baskets. Barrels, filled with flowers, will be placed throughout the Village. Work is continuing on the Peace Garden and new gardens are in the planning stages. CIB is holding a second annual gardening contest. Watch for details on village bulletin boards and local newspapers.

Two significant events occur this year: the 200th anniversary of Pugwash and the 50th anniversary of the Pugwash Peace Conferences. CIB plans to participate in some way to mark these important events.

Great news! CIB is entering the Provincial Communities in Bloom contest. We need help. Some ways to contribute are: picking up litter, keeping lawns mowed and of course, planting flowers and/or trees. We are asking everyone to pitch in and show how proud we are to live in Pugwash.

Communities in Bloom thanks all those who purchased tickets on our garden basket. Your support is greatly appreciated.

By Elaine Cook

Feeding Wild Animals - A Bad Idea

It starts innocently enough – first a bird feeder or two for the finches and robins. Then the hummingbirds appear and you add a feeder for them too. And that's where it ends for most people but for a few, putting dinner out for racoons and foxes seems a helpful even kind thing to do. Before they know it they have a mini wild life park in their backyard. Although this may sound like a harmless hobby the fact is that a lot of harm can come from these apparent acts of kindness.

We have a problem here in the Village with many foxes roaming around looking for their dinner. And while a handful of residents enjoy seeing these wild, even exotic visitors, the foxes are causing problems for others whose pets are going missing – ending up guests at a fox buffet!

Feeding Wild animals does two things; first, it causes the normally wild foxes to lose their fear of humans and therefore emboldens them to roam freely through populated areas and second it causes these resourceful creatures to lose their natural ability to find food in the wild – why chase rabbits in the woods when a bowl of food is being set out for them. And if not bowls of food then the neighbourhood pets will do just as well.

Enticing wild animals to hang around the village will ultimately lead to disaster for the foxes. Be it from starvation when they are no longer able to fend for themselves and their offspring or when measures are taken to remove them from the village which will separate mothers and their pups, making survival very unlikely.

Be kind to nature and leave it in the wild !

This baby can have babies of her own!



Most people don't know that a cat can have her first litter at the age of five months, and just one litter means that five more good homes must be found! That is why there are so many strays, and why our shelters are full of cats. The Humane Society of Canada says that over 400,000 animals are put to death every year in this country. Do your cat, and everyone, a favour...

**SPAY YOUR CAT BY THE AGE OF FIVE MONTHS ~
BEFORE HER FIRST LITTER!**