

What's Happening in Oxford?

An Occasional Newsletter from the Town of Oxford

February 2018

For a little town, Oxford is abuzz with activities.

The Town's Recreation Department provides a variety of opportunities that you may not automatically connect with recreation. For example, Recreation Director Corey Skinner is working with counterparts in the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of Cumberland to offer fifteen different learning opportunities open to "anyone who wants to better themselves as a leader: volunteers, parents, leaders, coaches, youth, everyone". You may not consider yourself a leader but still find some of the workshops beneficial. I've signed up for the "Social Media for Community Organizations". Workshops are being held throughout the county with little or no registration fee. Advance registration is required. For more information contact Corey, or pick up the *Learn 2 Lead* brochure at the Oxford Town Hall, Oxford Library, and other locations around town and the county.

This has been a great winter to get outside but I see that there are still some snowshoes (and other equipment) available for loan at the Town Hall. This is part of the Town's exercise and sports equipment free lending program through the Recreation Dept. Take advantage!

Have you noticed that we have at least four new businesses in Oxford in the past few months? *His and Her Supplements* is located in the same building at *The Paper Weight Fitness Centre*; Tim Ellis has started a *Portable Welding* business, and *Nicole's Tattoo Studio* has moved to Oxford. Many residents are looking forward to the *Sunset Community Thrift Store and Laundry* tentatively opening in March.

In the last Community Calendar, Mayor Stewart drew attention to battery recycling. Old batteries from your smoke detectors, etc. are not permitted in the regular garbage. Our local environmental depot, *Moore Nickels & Dimes For You Recycling* and our *Home Hardware Building Centre* are drop off locations for these batteries. Take them in and they will be disposed of properly and kept out of our landfill.

The Oxford Library has started a book club for the first time that I'm aware of, and it meets the last Thursday evening of the month. Drop in and ask Megan or Helen all about it.

The Town has arranged to support those looking for work and businesses who need employees by hosting Barry Patriquin, a representative of CANSA: NS Works, on Thursdays in January and February. CANSA will then assess this outreach and decide whether to continue. Feel free to drop in or call Barry in advance to make an appointment.

Oxford's *International Women's Day* Event will be held on March 10, 2 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre and you can look forward to a great afternoon of entertainment. This event is always free but you have the option of making a donation at the door, or buying tickets on a basket, all to assist the *Girls World* program to be offered in Oxford next summer. The draw for the basket will take place at the event. This is the fifth anniversary of the Oxford event. And, did you know, that 2018 marks 100 years since Nova Scotia women won the right to vote in provincial elections.

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If you're wondering what's going on at the Oxford Arena, check out the *Arena schedule* by clicking on *Calendars* on the top menu of the Town's website: www.town.oxford.ns.ca. There is free skating four times a week, the Firemen's Carnival on Feb. 24, and lots more. The *Community Events calendar*, also available on the website under *Calendars*, is being updated more often. You can look ahead to see what you'd like to attend. This calendar may be more up to date than the paper calendar which comes out monthly. The Oxford Legion has a Mega Bingo coming up on March 4 and the first Exhibit of 2018 opens March 30 at the Oxford Riverside Gallery. There's lots more -these are just a few events to spike your interest.

"If we offer it, they will come." With planning well underway, this is the hope of the Oxford Poetry Event Committee. They have scheduled two days (April 21 and 22) of various events that will include poetry readings by award-winning poets, aspiring poets, and those that write and/or read poetry just for the fun of it. Expect to hear poetry (and perhaps *see* poetry) where you least expect it! Stay tuned.

If you're a runner, remember the *Oxford Strawberry Run* is still on. It will be held Saturday, July 7. The Strawberry Festival has been cancelled.

When I surveyed residents of Oxford and area last Fall, it was clear that there's work to be done to raise more awareness of Oxford as the *Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada*. This is something we can all do whether it's through Face book posts, or serving foods made with wild blueberries at home and chatting about the fact that wild blueberries are a Super Food, or offering wild blueberry foods at events that include refreshments or a meal, or using the terms *Wild Blueberry* or *Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada* in your event advertising (Ex.: Wild Blueberry Show & Shine, Oxford Arena, May 26). If you have little ones who like to color, print off wild blueberry colouring pages and talk about the connection to where we live and healthy foods. I have lots of other ideas for you – just ask me.

Check out great videos about Oxford area wild blueberries by entering *Oxford Wild Blueberries YouTube* in your Internet search bar. You may find videos similar to the ads that have been running on TV lately, for which we can thank Oxford Frozen Foods. Not only do these videos promote wild blueberries but they draw attention to our Town.

The *Town's Recreation, Leisure Services & Events Committee*, assisted by *Community Economic Development*, are spearheading plans for the *Oxford Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival*, beginning August 17. If all goes well you can expect to see many more activities in Oxford for this regional festival, compared to the past few years. In addition to Town-sponsored events, we're asking local organizations to plan special events and fundraisers during the festival. It's all about working together for success. Think about what you can do.

Did you know that it's the skin of the blueberries that is believed to hold most of its' nutritional properties and benefits. Choose wild blueberries, the original super fruit, and you'll be eating more skin per pound combined to the larger high bush better. Wild blueberries taste better too. That's why I eat them nearly every morning for breakfast.

Ruthie Patriquin,

Community Economic Development Officer