

# What's Happening in Oxford? June 2018

## *Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada*

"Oxford is experiencing a resurgence," said long-time local entrepreneur, Eric Mosher, last week when I dropped into GJDE Enterprises Ltd. with a "We Have Wild Blueberry Products" sign for his store window. We chatted about the six new business openings in the last nine months, the many shows at the Capitol Theatre, the April Poetry Festival and the development of Wild Blueberry Corner.

**Wild Blueberry Corner** is a green space downtown at the corner of Water and Main and across from the Town Hall. Everyone seems to be enjoying the two new additions: A Big Blue Chair decorated with wild blueberry designs and a Face in the Hole Photo Board celebrating wild blueberries. Through a great partnership with OREC, the Town provided the supplies and Tyler Fraser's *Construction 10 and Home Trades 12 class* built the chair. As the daughter of a carpenter, I think I'm qualified to say that they did an amazing job. Janelle Tattrie designed and painted the Photo Board and we love her idea of adding fun facts and tidbits on the back – be sure to check it out. With lots of colour, and a bit of whimsy we hope these new additions will attract tourists downtown and provide enjoyment for Oxford and area residents; and **what a great place for prom and graduation pictures!**



It's great to see OREC youth coming into the **Oxford Riverside Gallery** to view the current photography exhibit by local artists, ***My Nova Scotia*** which runs until **June 22**. Why don't you drop in too! It will be followed by **the OREC Summer Exhibition 2018, opening Wednesday evening, June 27** and running until August 22. This exhibit features artwork of OREC students and I'm sure we're in for a treat. Admission is **free so drop in 6-8 p.m.** on Opening Night and support these talented individuals.

Residents are starting to adjust to the change in traffic flow resulting from the new “No Left Turn” sign located on James Street at the Main Street intersection. This has been implemented to aid in public safety and help prevent pedestrian and motor vehicle accidents at an already busy intersection.

My mother always used to say, “A change is as good as a rest”. Another change we’re happily adjusting to is sorting paper recyclables in separate bags from container recyclables. I’m also trying to make an extra effort to remember to take my cloth shopping bags into stores since it’s been hit and miss in the past. Travelling outside of the province, I’m proud to be a Nova Scotian when I’m reminded that we’re such good recyclers compared to many other locations.

Here’s another reason to be proud. On Wednesday evening, June 13, at 6:00 p.m., the Town will host the first **Oxford Pride Flag Raising** in partnership with Cumberland Pride. Join us at the flag pole at Wild Blueberry Corner. In the event of a downpour, we will raise the flag and speeches will take place in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

This event is part of Cumberland Pride Week celebrations for which this year’s theme is “Diversity Builds Community”. Check out the Cumberland Pride face book site to learn more about other activities celebrating the LGBTQ... community, including the Pride Parade in Amherst on June 16.

The new *Oxford Boxing Club*, open to people of all ages, already has 32 members, mostly children and youth. What a great addition to our Town. Coordinator, Bob Ward, has put a lot of work into establishing a not-for-profit club, engaging volunteers, applying for potential grants and requesting donations but there is an immediate need for financial assistance to cover rent and sponsorships for children who can’t afford membership fees. To help, contact Bob at 902 277-1406 or drop in to *His & Her Supplements*.

Plans are well underway for an exciting **Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival** week in Oxford. It’s great to see community organizations stepping forward to offer new events and this means there is something happening nearly every day, August 17-25. While activities in the past few years focused on children, this year there is something for everyone. Check out the Town’s website **Community Events Calendar** for August to see confirmed events and watch for more to be added. We can’t put them on this calendar until the times are confirmed.

The Town Council approved the 2018-19 budget at its’ May meeting and highlights are posted on the website’s main page and Official face book site, available at the Town Hall and Oxford Library Town Bulletin Board.

Attention:

**Due to budget constraints I will be laid off June 14 and September 14 inclusive.** I hope you have a great summer, enjoying Oxford’s parks, trails and rivers, participating in activities offered by the Town’s Recreation Dept., attending community events including the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival and the 100<sup>th</sup> Cumberland County Exhibition, shopping in our Downtown, getting some sun in the Big Blue Chair, and offering a welcoming smile and friendly “Hello” to visitors to the Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada.

Thank you for helping to keep our Town clean!!

Ruthie Patriquin

Community Economic Development Officer,

Town of Oxford, Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada