

# Oxford Newsletter

*Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada*

November/December 2018

## **Bargain Bonanza Day in Oxford!**

### **Saturday, December 1**

**Amanda's Pizza & Grill**

**- 2 of Chinese Combo #1: \$13.99**

**- 12" Pizza (3 Toppings) + Garlic Fingers \$20.00**

**Days Gone By: Antiques & Collectibles 25% off.  
Open 10-4**

**Ewe-nique Boutique Fibre Arts Emporium  
No tax on select items. See in store for details.  
Open 9-5**

**GJDE Enterprises Ltd (Alphabet Store) 15% off  
(also Thurs. & Friday, Nov. 29 & 30).  
Open 10-5**

**Oxford PharmaChoice. Giftware 15% off  
Boxed Chocolates 20% off. Open 9-1**

**Pizza L'Amore: 9" Pizza (works) + Garlic  
Fingers \$13.99**

**Scott's Independent Grocer: Quality Street Tins  
725g \$10.99; PC Candy Cane Ice Cream 1.5 l.  
\$4.99**

**Sunset Thrift Store – 15% off all Thrift Store  
items (Open 8-4)**

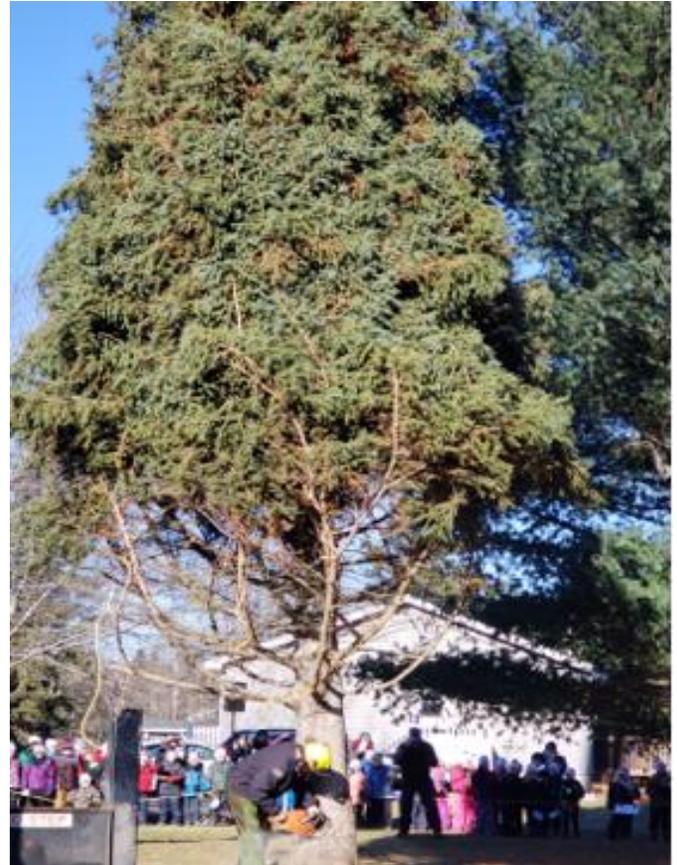
**Oxford Area Lionettes Craft Sale & Quiche &  
Dessert Café. Open 10-2 (Trinity United Church)**

### **Oxford Photo Contest...Cash Prizes!**

Do you have photos of the Boston Tree, Oxford rivers or other landscapes? The gazebo? OREC? Town Hall, arena or ball field? Walking bridge? Other aspects of life in Oxford including work, play and events? **We want them!!** **Deadline is December 31, 2018.** Find the Rules and Online Entry Form at [www.town.oxford.ns.ca](http://www.town.oxford.ns.ca).

### **Tree for Boston**

November 15 was a great day in Oxford...children singing, hot chocolate and cookies (thanks to so many generous people). We represented Nova Scotia well as we sent a beautiful Oxford tree on its' way to Boston to say THANK YOU.



### **From the Desk of Rachel Jones, CAO:**

Here in the Town of Oxford, partnerships, collaboration, and working together form the basis to strive for good customer service and excellence in services. We take advantage of partnerships and shared services wherever possible to provide services for residents and businesses, and to ensure financial responsibility to our taxpayers.

One important partnership is with the Province of Nova Scotia (PNS) and the shared funding position for the Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL). This position is held by our staff member Corey Skinner. To staff the MPAL position, PNS contributes \$15,000 and the Town must provide a minimum of \$10,000. With this partnership, there are specific deliverables that must be accomplished. A comprehensive plan on how to increase and improve active living within all the groups in our community is required, along with an implementation plan and

annual reports on achievements as they relate to the plan.

Town Council has also determined a service level to include other recreation services and programs. These duties also fall to Corey to plan and implement. As a department of one person, Corey plans and develops programs, coordinates the delivery of these programs, and many times is the person who actually puts on the program for participants. He helps to manage the Town's recreation facilities, as well as coordinates many special events.

Filling two roles is challenging and takes a good deal of time to meet expectations of Town Council and our residents. It's a service level that Town Council has decided upon, although recreation services and facilities are not a mandated service for municipal governments. Every effort is made to offset costs through user fees and registration costs for our programs and facilities, at the same time as trying to make sure that those costs aren't barriers to our community to participate. It's definitely a balancing act to try to meet the needs of our community with one person in two roles. Next time you see Corey running from place to place, say hi and thank him for all he does to keep everyone active in our community.

### Small Business Supper Series

The Town is partnering with the *Cumberland Business Connector* to support small businesses and budding entrepreneurs by offering three FREE events. "Effective Small Business Promotion" was held Nov. 21. Register now for one or both of the following: "**Business Start-up Information**" (Jan.16) and "**Social Media Marketing**" (Feb.20). They are open to anyone in Cumberland County. For more information and registration details contact Ruthie Patriquin, CEDO (902-447-2250; Email [rpatriquin@town.oxford.ns.ca](mailto:rpatriquin@town.oxford.ns.ca)) and see the poster on the main page of the Town's website.

### Christmas Parade: "It's a Blue Christmas"

Join us for the parade at 6:30 pm, Friday, Nov. 30, followed by letters to Santa and treats bags for the kiddies at Heritage Square. Enjoy the free skate and hot chocolate at the arena from 7-8:30 pm.



*A huge thank you to those who make Free Skates possible with their kind donations!*

### Support the Arena!

Please considering supporting the Oxford Arena by **advertising** your business or organization. Contact Corey Skinner for more information: 902-447-2798, Email: [reclisure@town.oxford.ns.ca](mailto:reclisure@town.oxford.ns.ca).

### Sinkhole Update

The Oxford sinkhole continues to be monitored with respect to public safety and the protection of public infrastructure and private businesses. The ground penetrating radar (GPR) did not penetrate to the 10m depth we required to determine what probability of risk there may be to public safety and infrastructure.

Geophysicists at NRCan (federal natural resources department) have assisted in determining some of our next steps. The Province of Nova Scotia has been extremely supportive, working closely with us around financial burdens that are too much for the Town or the Lions Club.

Currently, the Town is negotiating a contract with a firm to become the project manager to engage in additional geophysical testing methods to evaluate the Lions Club property to determine any further risk to the area around the existing sinkhole, if there are other voids under the surface on that property, and if so, are they a threat to the road, power lines, underground infrastructure of water and sewer lines, local businesses, or the general public. We expect to have the testing program completed by December 31.

Our ultimate goal, if possible, is to ensure the safety of the property for public use and hopefully have it restored to its prior status of a community park, playground, and meeting space.

### Don't Forget – Dual Stream Recycling

**Effective December 1, you must sort your recycling into two bags or it will be rejected.** Paper products go in one bag and all the rest of your recycling goes in another bag (plastics, cans, bottles, etc.). With your garbage and compost, this adds up to four bags.

### Town Hall Closing for Holiday

The Town Hall will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1, inclusive. **Mayor Stewart, Council and Town Staff wish you a new year filled with peace and happiness.**

**Editor:** Ruthie Patriquin  
Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO)