

# Highland News

An Occasional Compilation of Events  
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Hilary R. Amit, Publisher & Editor

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## The Corn Boil Special Coverage Edition.

### HCRS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Corn Boil a Succes

The second annual community corn boil was once again organized by that dynamic duo Debbie & Donna, last years winners of the Highland News Extra Mile Award. This year Debbie Brooks and Donna Longmire were assisted by Darlene Greening, Cindi Sutherland, Gail MacDonald, Wanda Brooks, Tracey Woods and several others too numerous to mention, including the ever cheerful Ann Urquhart and Aaron Smith.

This year's event was once again held at Powells Point Picnic Park on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. The Corn Boil was also fortunate to be graced by the company of many family members and past Board Chair Lesley Sobey.

These pictures tell the story of the HCRS community celebrating and enjoying each other. Whether it is with a coffee - courtesy of Board

Vice Chair Terry Curley and Tim Hortons, or.....  
....just enjoying a chat in the shade, the corn boil brings us all together to reconnect at the end of the summer. Because of its beliefs and values about the individual, HCRS does not regularly assert its sense of community or connectedness. Therefore, the Corn Boil, the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas reception are occasions in which to celebrate our connection to each other through HCRS.

This year the HCRS Foundation sponsored the Corn Boil. Their financial contribution helped with the cost of food and drink. Thank you HCRS Foundation - all of us appreciate your support through the years.

### HCRS Staff Mark Service Anniversaries

Each year HCRS recognizes staff who have reached a service anniversary of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. These are significant long term relationships that are valued by everyone who is involved with HCRS.

This year's presentations were made during the HCRS Corn Boil at Powell's Point. The Board of Director's was represented by Past Chair Lesley Anne Sobey. She presented staff with their service awards and is picture below with Mary Clare MacIntosh and Wendy Campbell, who were marking their tenth anniversary. Missing from the picture is Elaine Farrell, who also marked her tenth anniversary this year.

HCRS marks staff anniversaries with an HCRS Pin for five years of service, an engraved pen set for 10 years of service, a \$75.00 Gift Certificate from a jewelry store picked by the staff person for 15 years and gift certificates of increasing value for each additional five year anniversary. This year two staff - Sherri Murdock and Rocklyn Dorrington marked their fifteenth anniversary with HCRS.

Staff marking their five year anniversary are pictured at right with HCRS Board member Lesley

**Collective Bargaining heads to Conciliation.**

HCRS and CUPE Local 2330, representing Residential Counselors have been engaged in negotiations to renew the Collective Agreement. Significant progress has been made on many of the issues. However, negotiations have reached an impasse, requiring the services of a conciliator. We anticipate that these negotiations can and will be brought to a successful conclusion with a conciliator's intervention.

### Pension Plan

All staff who are members of the HCRS Pension Plan should make an appointment with Robert Morton to review their investments. By November of this year members who joined in 2003 will have two full years of contributions at 5% and at 10% of gross wage

Anne Sobey: Back row from l to r - Hilary Amit, Shelley Maldre Sullivan, Chris Thompson, front row l to r Maureen McIvor, Debbie Bannister, John James and Debbie Brooks.

### United Way Hosts Millionaires Lunch

United Way of Pictou County hosted a Millionaire's Lunch to kick off its fund raising for the next year. HCRS Executive Director Hilary Amit and Respite Coordinator Sheri Scott dined on Macaroni and Cheese, with United Way Board Member Angus Gibbon along with representatives of the Y's men and Senior's Outreach. There were many such agencies present at the lunch to acknowledge the support of United Way Contributors large and small. The United Way of Pictou County has for the past several years supported the HCRS Summer Respite Program and the Northern Region Respite Service. Please consider making a financial commitment to the good works supported throughout Pictou County through United Way Grants. A dollar a pay would mean a \$26.00 annual donation that comes right off your pay cheque.

respectively. Please take the time to consider your investment options, educate your self and take responsibility for your retirement planning, as no one else will.

### HCRS, Riverview Homes and SSI Collaborate

HCRS Exec. Director - Hilary Amit, Riverview Homes Exec. Director - Nancy Clarke and Summer Street Industries Exec. Director - Bob Bennet, have met and agreed to begin working collaboratively on projects of mutual benefit to the three agencies and their clients. The first project is to collaborate on advertising for casual staff. This may result in an opportunity to collaborate on training to ensure new staff meet the Department of Community Services minimum training standard. The second project under consideration is a sponsored advertising feature page focusing on

services to persons with disabilities and our three agencies. We are also considering the possibilities of making joint presentations to the Community College programs and jointly recruiting volunteers

**Parents Group Actively Advocating for Changes**  
Local Parents Advocacy Group - PRCR, Coordinator Joan Boivin, hosted a meeting on September 02, 2005 to review progress on the relocation of residents from 304 Temperance Street. HCRS Exec. Director was pleased to inform this Advocacy group that meetings had been held with the Department of Community Services which indicated a healthy commitment to this project. Also that the Department will be evaluating all the options available to them in relation to relocation. The Parents Group was very clear in expressing a preference for smaller groupings of residents and neighborhood homes to be completed in a timely manner. HCRS Exec. Director committed this agency to the same preference, while noting that on some matters the Department of Community Services will be making the final decision. It was also noted

### Long Term Staff Retires

during this meeting that the Department's Housing Division will be involved in supporting this relocation.

### **Pictou County Special Olympians Named to join Team Nova Scotia at the Nationals**

Pictou County Special Olympics Soccer B Squad has been picked to represent Nova Scotia at the 2006 Special Olympics National Games. Our intrepid Olympians will be traveling to Brandon, Manitoba and we are all expecting the team to enjoy themselves immensely.

Also named to Team Nova Scotia was local athlete Stacy Cunningham. We wish all Pictou County athletes every success and share in their pride at being selected to represent our Province.

Congratulations athletes and thank you coaches Melissa Moser, Roxanne MacDonald, Cathy L. Mason and volunteers.

This year we also mark the retirement of Louise Hollingsworth, who was one of the founding members of the staff team that opened 304 Temperance Street in 1977. HCRS was enriched by Louise over the years. On September 8, 2005 we celebrated Louise's retirement at the Stellarton Fire Hall. Louise was pleased to see her mother, sister and daughter in attendance along with many of the rest of the HCRS community. We will all miss Louise and

the feeling is mutual as evidenced in the letter that was received recently. It is reproduced with Louise's permission. Good Luck Louise, we all wish you a wonderful time in Arizona and look forward to your return.