

Highland News

An Occasional Compendium of News
December 2013

HCRS moves Main Office to Stellarton

June 24, 2013 marked a new beginning for HCRS with a move of the main office from New Glasgow to Stellarton. The new office is located at 276 Foord Street, Stellarton. It is fully accessible on the main floor via a ramp from the parking lot in the rear of the building.

COMMUNITY GARDENS AT HCRS

We had a late start to the planting season this year. Despite the delay the 2012 pilot project of 4 gardens expanded this year to twice that number. The largest expansion was made possible by the hard work of Mike Kelly and David Hughes. Together they built 8 new box beds. Most of which were located at 14 Viggo Holm Rd.



These beds were available to any group of HCRS participants wanting to have a fresh vegetable garden for the summer and fall months. The shed at Viggo Holm Road has basic gardening tools, a wheel barrow and a watering hose.



HCRS NEW MAIN OFFICE AT 276 FOORD STREET, STELLARTON.



FROM THE GARDEN TO THE STOVE TOP AT VIGGO HOLM ROAD

So with a little planning and effort, anyone can have access to a hobby garden that will nourish your body and mind. We are very grateful to Mr. (Babe) Mason for sharing his garden with the guys at St. Bernard Street, and to Mrs. Angie Dorrington for tending the garden at MacBeth Rd. The staff at Washington St., 297 Dalcrombie, Spring Garden Rd., and Viggo Holm Rd., did a great job supporting people to plant, tend, gather and eat the produce.

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NEWS AND STORIES

DECEMBER 2013

DOCUMENT STORAGE PROJECTS DRAWING TO A CLOSE

A Great BIG Thank you is extended to everyone who helped get 35 years of HCRS records and documents organized and under control.

HCRS developed and implemented a Document Retention Policy in the spring of 2013. We hired two summer students – Emily Dicks in June and Nathan Beck in August to help HCRS staff to organize the contents of several hundred boxes of records and documents. With all of our combined efforts HCRS was able to send approximately 250 file boxes of material for shredding at Summer Street Industries and an equivalent number to a shredding company. The net result is that HCRS file retention will be done according to a clear policy that identifies what is to be kept and for how long. We have also been able to organize the file storage lockers so that information can be easily retrieved.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in completing this mammoth task.



NEAT ROWS OF FILE BOXES



MORE NEAT ROWS OF FILE BOXES

Short Snappers

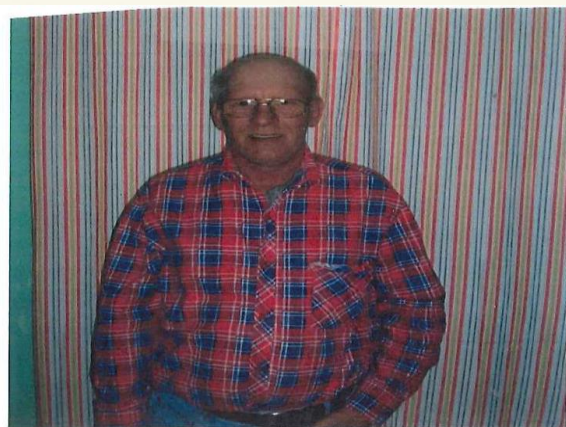
- HCRS and CUPE 2330 will be heading into 2014 with hopes of concluding the bargaining process to renew the Collective Agreement.
- We are all deeply saddened by Kim Turner's decision to leave the administrative team at HCRS. Kim is relocating to Alberta and we wish her well in her new life.
- COMVIDA project – Despite the software glitches that created significant challenges, we hope to have a successful launch of the computer based scheduling system within the next three months.
- HCRS bid farewell to two long terms members of our community- Linda Ross and Marie Lowery. Both ladies moved to Glen Haven nursing home due to increases in their health support needs. Marion Lee is also moving to live in a nursing home.
- HCRS welcomed two new members to our community – Valerie Vacherasse moved into Washington Street and Brittany Tiebbert moved into Emmanuel Street.
- HCRS Community Celebration was held in November as a Halloween themed Karaoke party. We also marked staff service anniversaries. Thanks to the HCRS Community Council for the outstanding job organizing the celebration.

HCRS HOUSING PROPOSAL APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES. .

A significant housing proposal to improve the living situations of several participants was developed by HCRS Administrative staff. The proposal calls for the acquisition of two new homes to meet the needs of people living in housing that is need of replacement.

The new homes are planned as 4 bedroom homes with apartments and storage in the basement level.

The new homes create space for new people to join the HCRS Community of participants. This is an exciting and challenging period of improving the services offered by our agency. Details of these two projects will be shared as they develop over the next several weeks and months.



*ROBERT W. EBSARY
FEB 01, 1954- OCT 25, 2013.
DEEPLY MISSED BY ALL OF US AT
H.C.R.S.*

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Province announces transformation of Services to Persons with Disability Program.

On August 29, 2013 The Government of the Province of Nova Scotia announced acceptance in full of a report entitled:

Choice, Equality and Good Lives in Inclusive Communities

A Roadmap for Transforming the Nova Scotia Services to Persons with Disabilities Program.

The report was prepared by the Nova Scotia Joint Community-Government Advisory Committee on Transforming the Services to Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Program and submitted to The Honorable Denise Peterson-Rafuse, Minister of Community Services in July 2013. This report marks a turning point, moving away from traditional support programs and towards a future that embraces the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Honorable Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services has announced the new Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the report.

HCRS adoption of *Personal Outcome Measures* as a service model positions it to adapt to the changes envisioned by this report. The full text of the report is available on line at the Department of Community Services website.

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