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However you helped, wherever you helped... *our community thanks you*

A message from Pat Rodee, President, Seniors Association of St Margaret's Bay

The wildfires in our area are now contained, and many people have returned to their homes and businesses. We know, though, that uncertainty will be part of life for some time, and that the recovery process will be a long and often challenging one, particularly for those personally affected.

Our thoughts continue to be with all those who are confronting those challenges.

It is heartening to see how our community has rallied to support local wildfire relief efforts, and ideas are already underway to provide longer term recovery support.

Bay Seniors will be participating in this local support, and we will keep you informed about how we will do so through this newsletter and our Facebook page. You'll see, for example, the story in this newsletter about our Bay Seniors Flea Market and Silent Auction.

We will soon be sending out a very brief member survey to learn how you have been affected by the wildfires and evacuation, as our association considers how we can be of most help to our members and the wider community at this time.

As always, we're grateful to be part of such a caring community.

We offer special thanks to the firefighters and other first responders, who have shown such dedication and heroism during this crisis.

Pat Rodee, President



This crew from Enfield Fire Department joined firefighters from near and far to battle the wildfires.

Friendly Neighbour Program roll-out delayed

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Member Outreach earlier in the spring.

Some of you expressed an interest in our Friendly Neighbour Program phone visits and home visits. We are looking forward to beginning those visits soon, but the planned start date of June 1 has been delayed by the wildfires.

If you know of someone in our area who would be interested in receiving a phone or home visit, please let us know.

Email outreach@bayseniors.ca or call 902-820-3334.

How evacuees can get financial help

The Canadian Red Cross will be distributing one-time financial assistance of \$500 per eligible household from the provincial government.

The assistance is for households that have been ordered to leave their primary residence by emergency officials.

Eligible households can register for financial assistance by:

Calling 1-800-863-6582
(8am-8pm)

You can register online at
<https://tinyurl.com/2wde233p>

Open fires still banned

Remember, there is still a province-wide ban on open fires; the fine has been increased to \$25,000 for breaking the burn ban.



Just a couple of the classic items you can find at the flea market.

Bay Expo cancelled; flea market, silent auction still on for local wildfire support

With Estabrooks Community Hall serving as a supply location for evacuees until Friday June 9, Bay Seniors has made the difficult decision to cancel Bay Expo, scheduled for Saturday, June 10.

But you can still support the Bay Seniors Flea Market and Silent Auction planned for Bay Expo. Because of the generosity of our donors, we have a lot of items, and they cannot remain in their current storage locations.

The Bay Seniors Flea Market and Silent Auction will still take place on Saturday, June 10, 9am to noon, with all proceeds going to local wildfire recovery efforts.

Our Flea Market will be held simultaneously at two locations: St. Peter's Anglican Church, 10030 Peggy's Cove Road, Hackett's Cove, and William Black Community Hall, 10507 Peggy's Cove Road, Glen Margaret. All silent auction items will be at St. Peter's.

Come to both locations (they're just 2km apart) to check out our selection of new, gently used, and vintage items – everything from sports equipment to kitchen items, to kids' toys, to vintage china and glassware, and much more. And all priced to sell.

A big thank you to our Silent Auction donors for their ongoing support, and to St. Peter's Anglican Church and William Black Memorial United Church for offering us space.

Note that we are joining a previously planned yard sale at William Black United Church, with the church also donating its sale proceeds to local wildfire recovery.

Thank you, we don't need any more donations of items, but we would love to see you at the Flea Market on Saturday morning.

June monthly members' meeting cancelled

We have made the difficult decision to cancel our Monthly Members' Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 15, at the St. Margaret Sailing Club.

Many of our members are directly affected by the wildfire and evacuation, so it doesn't feel like the right time for a celebration.

Our pre-summer barbecue is a well-loved tradition, and we look forward to having an end-of-summer barbecue in September, with food, music, and a chance to reconnect.

Thank you for your support this year of our Monthly Members' Meetings.

Bay Seniors sewn items always available at the CEC

If you were looking forward to choosing from the array of new quilted eyeglasses pouches, tote bags, car trash bags, tissue holders, and fabric storage boxes at Bay Expo, don't despair. The Bay Seniors sewing team want you to know you can see and buy their handiwork at the SMB Community Enterprise Centre.

Saturday Sparkle postponed

The Saturday Sparkle in-person jewellery sale, which was to have been at Bay Expo on June 10, will not be part of the Flea Market and Silent Auction at St. Peter's and William Black. Instead, an in-person Saturday Sparkle will take place sometime during the summer. Details will be announced on Facebook and in a summer newsletter. As always, sales will benefit the SMB Food Bank.



Nancy LaPaix, Dawn Hanley, Adrienne Harris, and Colleen Paton at our dry felting class.

Dry felting class produces art - and a lot of smiles

Submitted by the Drop-in Program team

Shy grins turned into confident smiles as participants learned dry felting techniques at the Drop-in Program's workshop.

Their instructor, Greer Kelley, brought the supplies, great ideas and best of all, encouragement to explore and have fun. Thank you, Greer.

From sheep to jellyfish, each participant left with a beautiful piece ready for framing.

Calling art lovers: volunteers needed for art show and sale

The annual Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts is happening in July.

The CEC will again serve as the Information Centre and Stop One on the event's studio tour for both festival weekends, July 7-9 and 14-16. There is also a PCAFA Members' Show at the CEC throughout the month of July.

A number of the participating artists and volunteers are Bay Seniors members. If you would enjoy volunteering for a 3-hour daytime shift staffing the CEC during festival weekends, organizers would love to hear from you. Non-artist volunteers are paired with an artist. The job involves greeting visitors, handing out Studio Tour maps, and accepting completed draw prize ballots. Many of the visitors to the event come from outside St. Margaret's Bay, so this volunteer job is also a chance to serve as a friendly ambassador for our area.

If you're interested, please email outreach.smbcec@gmail.com.



Black Point continues as a comfort centre, but donations collected there have been moved to Estabrooks Hall.

Wildfires prompt suspension of Drop-in Program at Black Point

Submitted by the Drop-in Program team: Nancy LaPaix, Heather Thompson, Joan Redmond, Pat Rodee, Karen Damtoft

Our hearts have been heavy with compassion for our neighbours affected by the wildfire. Generous supports have sprung up over the St. Margaret's Bay area, including the Black Point & Area Community Centre, where we hold our Drop-in Program.

The centre immediately opened their doors as a comfort centre, and will continue in that role until the need for their services subsides. Under the circumstances, we have decided to suspend our Drop-in Program, both the morning program and afternoon pickleball, until September. This includes our last two sessions, including the card-making workshop scheduled for June 6.

The Drop-in Program will resume on September 26. We thank all of you who have participated. You are the program, and you have made it special, with your contributions and collaborations.

Special thanks to our volunteers who support the program: Beverley Kenyon, our knitting and crocheting lead; Rita Jenkins, our rug-hooking lead; Brian Wilmshurst, our set-up volunteer, games pro and carpenter; and Sharon Campbell, our refreshments volunteer.

Thanks to Black Point & Area Community Centre for being an excellent partner, and for their unfailing support of the Drop-in Program and Bay Seniors' work. We thank especially Ethel Marshall, our liaison with the centre, who has continuously encouraged and supported our efforts.

Ongoing assistance for those affected by the wildfires

- The Black Point & Area Community Centre remains open as a comfort centre, 9am-7.30pm, until further notice.
- Estabrooks Community Hall is stocked with donated clothes, toiletries, pet supplies, toys, books, games, and more, until further notice.
- NS Mental Health Crisis Line: 1-888-429-8167
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- See www.halifax.ca for ongoing updates about evacuation orders and where you can get help for specific needs.
- For information about the safety of well water after a wildfire, visit: www.facebook.com/ruralwaterwatch
- The province is waiving well-water testing fees for residents affected by the wildfires. Testing kits can be picked up at the fire station at 2050 Hammonds Plains Rd.

Evacuees must register

Residents required to evacuate must register with 311. You can register by calling 1-800-835-6428 or online at <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/emergency-management/fires-tantallon-hammonds-plains/wildfires-evacuee-registration>

Established in 2009, the Seniors Association of St. Margaret's Bay (Bay Seniors) is a not-for-profit registered society whose purpose is to promote and participate in the development of wellness living for seniors; to research and represent the interests of seniors living in the greater St. Margaret's Bay area; and to provide housing and accommodation options for seniors. For more information about any of the topics in this newsletter, visit our website www.bayseniors.ca or contact the Seniors Information Centre: email centre@bayseniors.ca telephone 902-820-3334. The centre is located at Unit 1 – 5229 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Upper Tantallon, NS, B3Z 4R5. It's open 10 am - 2 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.