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You came, you saw, you supported... and we are so grateful

When one of our longest-serving volunteers suggested holding a spring flea market, we liked the idea for a few reasons.

First, it would be a chance for many of our members to continue the process all seniors are familiar with—winnowing down belongings we've accumulated over decades. We'd also be offering our neighbours a chance to buy a variety of useful, fun, and beautiful things at excellent prices. Finally, we hoped to make some money to help fund the programs and services we offer in our community.

We're happy and grateful to have met all three of those goals.

But something else happened that we didn't expect, and that was a spirit of generosity that was positively magical.

In addition to contributing to the event with a wonderful number and variety of donations, our community came out in the hundreds on May 9 to shop and show support. Everywhere we looked, people were smiling, laughing, hugging, and having fun, patient with the long line-ups to pay, appreciating the bargains they were finding, and thanking us for making it happen.

When we closed the doors at 2pm,



Bay Seniors President Pat Rodee, who also served as lead for the Giant Flea Market committee, is flanked by student volunteers Luke (left) and Quinn.

the bake sale had sold out, and there wasn't much left of everything else.

In the end, the Bay Seniors Giant Flea Market welcomed over 500 community members, and raised nearly \$5,000 for our programs and services and just over \$1,000 for the St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank, a result better than we dreamed of. We're so grateful for that support, and the wonderful atmosphere our friends and neighbours brought to the day.

Thank you to...

- Our generous donors, who contributed so many items for the sale.
- Our hardworking volunteers, many of whom spent weeks working on the event, including

receiving, sorting, and pricing items, marketing the event, baking, sewing, setting up, working on-site, and cleaning up.

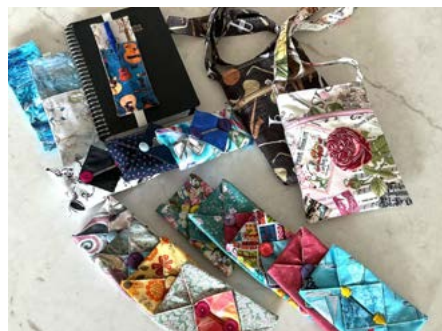
- Our Bay Seniors members and the wider community, who came out to offer such amazingly generous and cheerful support.

Pat Rodee
President

See photos on pages 2 and 3.

Help that moved us

Moving all the flea market items from the sorting location to the Legion was made much easier thanks to Ryer's, which provided us with a big truck and a helpful and hardworking driver, Kenny.





Students and Bay Seniors volunteers working together

Two students from Five Bridges Junior High School offered their time to Bay Seniors at just the right moment.

Deep into preparation for our Giant Flea Market, we were looking for volunteers to help when it was time to transport donations from the sorting location to the sales location. Luke and Quinn (see photo, page 1) approached us to meet a community engagement requirement for

their Grade 9 citizenship course.

When we asked them why they had contacted Bay Seniors, we were delighted to learn they know some of our volunteers.

A giant thank you to Quinn and Luke for being great company and lending some muscle when we needed it most.

May Monthly Members' Meeting

Speaker shares extra ways to help in wildlife baby season

George Ryan, senior education coordinator with Hope for Wildlife, provided a wonderful review of the work and history of the Seaforth wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility at our meeting on May 21.

We learned about many situations that can lead to wildlife being injured and needing rescue and care. There are extra considerations during wildlife baby season.

For example, we should sometimes “resist the immediate urge to rescue a baby animal,” explained George.

“There are many ways for a mom to raise a baby,” he said. “For example, a fawn alone in the grass is often not abandoned. Mom keeps them safe by staying away.”

He also said that not all baby birds on the ground need help. A nestling, which has no feathers but possibly just fuzz, does merit a call to Hope for Wildlife. But fledglings, which are starting to get plumage, may be seen on the ground when they’re learning to fly, and that’s normal. George explained that it’s best to retreat and watch: “As long as mom is still around and helping them out, they’re okay.”

He encourages us to call Hope for Wildlife with any concerns, and they will determine if a youngster needs help.

June Monthly Members' Meeting

Get ready to welcome summer at our annual BBQ

Join the fun at our annual June BBQ on Thursday, June 18, 1:00-3:30pm, at the St. Margaret's Bay Legion #116, 11169 Peggy's Cove Road in Seabright.

There will be good food, good friends, and good music with our own Kevin McGrath. It's a rain-or-

shine event—we'll be indoors, and our BBQ chefs say they can handle any rain!

Our Sewing Team and Saturday Sparkle Jewellery Team will also be there to tempt you with their lovely offerings at great prices in support of Bay Seniors and the St. Margaret's

Bay Food Bank.

Don't forget to make a note of the earlier start time of 1pm.

This will be our last Monthly Members' Meeting until September, so don't miss out!



Guess Arielle's weight

Guest speaker George Ryan (above) told us at the May meeting how much his presenting partner Arielle, a Barred Owl, weighs. Take a guess, and see the answer on page 8.

Members in attendance were thrilled when George presented Arielle, a beautiful Barred Owl. George walked around with her on his arm, providing us with a close-up look at this beautiful bird.

Interest Groups

The Birders' group and the case of the mysterious duck



Our Birders' group co-leads, Suzanne and Beth, on the group's May warbler walk.

Identifying the birds they see is a skill even seasoned birders are always working on. Our Birders' interest group got to practice that skill when 14 members headed out on April 21 for a walk on Whynacht's

Point, where they encountered a hard-to-identify bird that inspired a lot of discussion.

"The morning was chilly, but the birds didn't mind," says Beth, the group's co-lead. Our birders didn't mind either. They were pleased to see and hear a fine assortment of avian life, including Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, and others.

Lots of ducks were there, too, including American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, American Widgeon, and both Common and Hooded Merganser.

And then there was a mystery duck.

On sighting it, the group thought it could have been a Ring-necked Duck. After the walk, one member, Cathy, suggested it might have been a Scaup. Email discussions between group members and co-leads Beth and Suzanne raised the idea of a Tufted Duck, and Scaup—either Greater or Lesser—was still in the



The mystery bird in question. Photo credit: Robert Moore

running.

Birding resources and apps were consulted, more discussion followed, group member Robert shared the above photo, and Suzanne asked a bird expert to weigh in.

The collective verdict?

Probably a female Scaup.

"This duck has stirred up a lot of controversy," said Suzanne, in an email to the group. "I'm impressed with all the research you've done."

In the end, the duck has retained a little of her mystery, with the identification still tentative. And that gives our dedicated birders a chance to keep talking about it, a very birder thing to do.

The Solo group enjoys a day of beauty and fun

Four members of the Solo interest group took in the Centreville Quilt Show on May 8.

"We were awed at the beautiful quilts," says group lead Peggy. "So much imagination."

The group enjoyed lunch together, with a menu that included "a turkey burger with real turkey," Peggy notes.

After that, there was time to check out the fashions at Pinneys in Kentville and make a stop on the way home at Withrow's Farm Market in Elmsdale for veggies and, for Peggy, some pansy transplants to brighten the garden.

Right: Elizabeth, Peggy, Barb, and Vicki at the quilt show.



Bay Seniors is a proud partner



Conversations for Life group still seeking members

The Conversation for Life interest group is still seeking members who are interested in conversations that go beyond the superficial. There are

more than 50 topics to be explored, including happiness, masculinity and the manosphere, the art of listening, trust, and many more.

If you think you might be interested in participating in this group, but would like more information, email interests@bayseniors.ca.

Sew Far, Sew Good group gives Bay-Seniors-made thanks to hosts

Every second Friday, the Sew Far, Sew Good machine-sewing interest group meets in the basement of St. James Church, which makes the renovated space available to the community for a wide variety of activities. The first group members to arrive set up two ironing boards, one or two large tables for cutting, and move smaller tables and chairs around to create stations for members to set up their sewing machines and get to work.

Mary and John Stone, the group's contacts with the church, always come in to say hi, check out everyone's work in progress, make sure the temperature of the space is

just right—it always is, because John comes by ahead of time to ensure it's warm enough in winter and cool enough in summer—and make everyone feel extra welcome.

Last month, the group made the Stones honorary members, giving them a small token of appreciation: a loaf of homemade sourdough bread baked by a group member, a jar of cherry-crabapple jelly made by the Well Preserved home canning interest group, and a tote bag made by the Bay Seniors Sewing Team.

"This doesn't mean Mary and I have to start bringing a sewing machine, does it?" quipped John.



Mary and John Stone with their thank-you gifts from the Sew Far, Sew Good group.

Sewing Team

Does Bay Seniors have two sewing groups?

Yes, there are two sewing groups, but they don't do the same things.

The Bay Seniors Sewing Team consists of volunteers who sew specific items from donated fabrics to sell in support of Bay Seniors

programs and services. The sewing volunteers work from home on their own machines and are provided with pre-cut materials and instructions.

Sew Far, Sew Good is a Bay Seniors interest group. Members

get together every second Friday afternoon to work on their own machine-sewing projects, offering one another advice, support, and companionship while sewing.

The Sewing Team answers your questions

Did you know...

- Our tote bags are reversible? Thanks to complementary fabrics and hidden seams, it's like having two bags for the price of one.
- Dignity scarves are like bibs for older children and adults? They catch spilled food when eating or being assisted to eat. Made in

lovely fabrics, they have an easy Velcro front closure.

- New phone totes and fabric bookmarks are our latest top-selling items? New ones are continuing to be made with new fabrics for lots of choice.
- How the Sewing Team keeps prices so low? Our fabric is donated and all our sewists are volunteers.

Check out lots of the Bay Seniors Sewing Team's sewn items at the June BBQ.

Items are also always available at the SMB Community Enterprise Centre (CEC). Thank you to the CEC volunteers for their kind assistance with this program.

Drop-in Program

Fantastic Drop-in season winds up on June 9

The last day before the Drop-in Program's summer hiatus is June 9. The program will resume on September 22.

It's been another fantastic season for the program, thanks to our

wonderful volunteers, participants, and program lead, Nancy LaPaix.

This season was the Drop-in's busiest ever. Just a few years ago, we wondered how we could garner more interest in the program. Now,

about 50 people join us each Tuesday to have fun and develop friendships.

Before we go on summer hiatus, we hope you'll join in for our two June sessions!

Acrylic painting workshop highlights nature

Participants at the acrylic painting workshop on May 19 put nature on canvas, with glorious results. With instructor Nancy's guidance, trees and flowers bloomed in all shapes and colours.



Above: Acrylic painting workshop participants were all smiles showing their work.



Left: Pat, Linda and Donna at the acrylic painting workshop in May.

Patient and persistent puzzlers were up for the challenge

On May 19, the Drop-in Program's puzzlers celebrated placing the last piece in the most difficult puzzle of the season. In fact, it may be the most difficult puzzle ever tackled at the Drop-in Program. The puzzlers worked on it every Tuesday since February and estimate it took about 25 hours.



Our puzzle champs are (standing, from left) Richard and Jerry, and (seated, from left) Anara and Dianne.

Home Maintenance and Brush and Tree programs

Helping our members when weather permits

Both the Home Maintenance and Brush and Tree programs are currently active for the 2026 season.

Brush and Tree will continue until early July and then go on summer hiatus, as the weather becomes too warm. The Brush and Tree program will resume in early September.

Home Maintenance follows a similar approach to avoid the hottest part of the summer, but program leads will assess any urgent requests on a case-by-case basis.

To request assistance from either program, visit our website and complete the application form.

Questions? Email brushandtree@bayseniors.ca or homemaintenance@bayseniors.ca, or call 902-820-3334 and leave a message, asking to be put in touch with the relevant program lead.

Summer hours and breaks for Bay Seniors programs and services

A number of our programs and services either go on hiatus during the summer or have reduced hours or offerings. Please check the monthly calendars from June to September for more details.

On hiatus for the summer

Drop-in Program (morning activities and pickleball): Last session is June 9; resuming September 22.

Monthly Members' Meetings: No meetings in July or August.

Technology for Seniors: Not available in July and August. See "Technology training through the summer" below for information about a comparable program available in July and August.

Reduced hours or offerings for the summer

Seniors Information Office: Still available during July and August on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but from 10am to noon instead of 10am to 1pm.

Chair aerobics: One class a week on Mondays. The Thursday class is not available in July and August.

Aerobics: One class a week on Wednesdays. The Friday class is not available in July and August.

Line dancing: Finished for the season, resuming in September.

Brush and Tree and Home Maintenance programs: Reduced availability during the summer to protect volunteers from the heat.

Unchanged for the summer

The monthly newsletter and calendar, Grocery Shopping Program, and most interest groups continue as usual through the summer. Interest group leads will contact group members as usual regarding meetings and activities.

Arielle's weight

Despite her impressive size, Arielle weighs just 1½ pounds, or 680 grams.



Other community events and programs

Confidential household document shredding: Thursday, June 11, 10am-noon. Shredding event for householders looking for a secure way to dispose of paper records and documents. In the parking area adjacent to the SMB Community Enterprise Centre, which is sponsoring the event. Cost is \$5/box. Rain date is Wednesday, June 17, 10am-noon.

Family Summer Fayre: Saturday, June 27, noon-3pm. Live music, pantry table, strawberry tea, BBQ, ice cream truck, games. St. James Church (the Yellow Church), 6991 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Boutilier's Point.

Planting with Pride contest: June 1 to July 10. Residents and businesses are invited to show their pride or support through their gardening abilities. Design and plant a pride-themed display, then snap a photo and submit it. Presented by St. Margaret's Bay Pride and the St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club. More details and submission form [here](#).

Technology training through the summer: July and August. @NS Community Technology, in partnership with the SMB Community Enterprise Centre, offers personalized one-to-one device training, available free of charge to everyone in the community. Call 902-826-1680 or email reception@smbcec.org for more information or to book a session.