<u>Aspotogan Recreation Association</u>



Community Newsletter

Vol. 52 Issue 10 October 2025

Aspotogan ~ Bayswater ~ Blandford ~ Deep Cove ~ Northwest Cove

ARA UPDATE OCTOBER 2025

Twisted Fairy Tales! A freaky flashback to childhood on the <u>Halloween Haunted Trail!</u> <u>Friday, October 24 at 7:00-9:00 pm.</u> Rain date October 25. Come check out the *twisted side* of the community centre trail. Entrance at the upper field of the Blandford Community Centre. Admission is by donation. *No lining up early.* Event may not be suitable for the very young. *To ensure that all enjoy the experience, <u>please</u> keep your flashlights and cellphone lights to an absolute minimum; and <u>please</u> no touching of props! For the safety of our guests and props, motorized vehicles are not permitted. The trail will be closed for public walking that afternoon.*

<u>Kids Halloween Party:</u> <u>Sunday, October 19 at 2:00—4:00</u> in the Lodge room (entrance to side of community centre). Come and dance to some scary tunes – wear your favourite costume (*with non-marking footware*), have some treats and lots of fun!

<u>Annual ARA Fall Bottle Drive: Saturday, November 8 starting at 9:30 am.</u> Please leave your refundable bottle donations outside near your house (not near the road) as we will not be coming to your door. If we miss your donations along the way, please contact us for a pickup. Thanks to all who continue to generously support the bottle drives, and who take refundables to our bin between drives.

<u>Tabletop Gaming</u>: Mondays 7:00—9:00; Community Centre Multipurpose Room. Any game that can be played on a table, e.g., board games, card games, dexterity games, dice games, paper and pencil games, roleplaying games, strategy games, and tile-based games. Participants are encouraged to bring their favourite game and hopefully others will join the fun. The person who sets the game up will be responsible for ensuring everyone playing understands how to play. Cost is \$2.00/person. You may bring snacks and drinks (alcohol excluded).

<u>Chair Yoga:</u> Fridays, 10:00—11:00 in the Community Centre. Drop-in fee is \$7.00/class – please bring exact change if possible. All are welcome to this fun and 'user-friendly' class. No previous experience is necessary. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one.

<u>Pickleball:</u> Thursdays 6:00—7:30 in the Community Centre. Beginner and experienced players are welcome, age 13+. Email Pickleball@BellAliant.com if you have questions or plan to play. If pickleball must be cancelled, players will be notified by email and a notice will be posted on the Community Centre Facebook page. Watch the community center Facebook page on Thursday afternoon to see if we are playing. \$3.00 drop in. All equipment is provided, please wear non-marking sneakers.

PLEASE WATCH BLANDFORD AND COMMUNITY CENTRE FACEBOOK PAGES FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES TO ACTIVITIES. If any community members have ideas for programs, please contact a member of the Executive – we welcome your ideas and feedback!

ARA executive: Carly LeBlanc 902-277-1269; Mary Norwood 902-228-2453, Vicki Schnare 902-228-2234 (vicki.schnare@bellaliant.net), Nancy Webb 902-225-2915 (n.webb@dal.ca), Wendy Clark 902-877-4871 (wendyl.clark@gmail.com), and Emily Woodworth (emilylwoodworth@live.com).

DISTRICT # 1 COMMUNITY CENTRE

BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



The 35th Annual Blandford Arts and Crafts Fair is scheduled for Sunday, November 9th, 10 am to 3 pm.

Vendor spaces still available in the **Lodge Room ONLY**. Email <u>blandfordns@gmail.com</u> to book!



UPCOMING EVENTS -

<u>Fundraiser Breakfast</u> - Saturday, October 18th, 9 – 11 am. Eat in or Take Out. Includes eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, beans, hashbrowns, coffee, tea & juice. \$12 each, \$5 kids 10 & under, FREE kids under 3. Cash or debit available.







<u>Halloween Dance</u> — Saturday, November 1st, 9 pm to 1 am, \$10 at the door. 19+ only, ID required.

Dance to Kevin Koloff and the Gypsy Minstrels.

SEE FULL PAGE AD FOR DETAILS!

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Wednesday, November 5TH at 7 pm. All meetings are open to the public!

Board of Directors for 2025/2026 -

Kelly Fitzgerald, Chair 902-222-1046 kahfitzgerald@gmail.com
Odessa Bezanson, Vice Chair 902-277-1969 obezanson@hotmail.com
Wendy Chase, Treasurer 902-980-0012 wendychase.ns@gmail.com
Karen Overholt, Secretary 519-567-1591 francis_karen@hotmail.com

Board Members (2025/2026)

Samantha Murphy, Joanne Walton, Eric Miller, Mary Norwood, Julie Day, Amanda Mordeen and Wendy Clark

District 1 Blandford Community Centre - 30 Firehall Rd, Blandford, NS BOJ 1TO

THE FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD

Regular Monthly Meeting October 20, 2025, 7pm

Blandford Community Centre in the Lodge All Ratepayers are welcome to view meetings

Watch our Facebook page for any updates or changes at "BLANDFORD & AREA FIRE RESCUE"

BLANDFORD & AREA FIRE RESCUE

Fire Prevention Week October 5-11



Fun fire safety online games, coloring sheets, interactive www.sparky.org



www.firefighters5050.com/277
In support of Blandford & Area Fire Rescue

For any questions please contact Alfred Vouk Email: alfred.vouk@gmail.com

www.blandfordfire.ca

FIRE PREVENTION

October 5-11 2025



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BLANDFORD & AREA FIRE RESCUE

SHIDFORD & APPLEADED

Sea Glass Tree Class

Tuesday October 14th - 6:30 to 8:30 At the East River Union Hall 7216 Hwy 329 East River

Join us to learn how to make an 8" sea glass tree with lights!

The class fee is \$40 / payable at the class, that includes all supplies,
But you are required to bring a mini glue gun, glue sticks will be provided.

Pre- Registration required by Friday Oct. 10th, recommended for ages 12 and up.

To Register please contact Sheila Hirtle at the hirtles@yahoo.ca or 275-5720



OCEAN SWELLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

A HISTORY OF NORTHWEST COVE AND THE ASPOTOGAN PENINSULA

DARYL GRAY'S 50 MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH THE LATE PROFESSOR ALAN WILSON, FILMED IN 2007



Alan and Budge Wilson lived in Northwest Cove for over 60 years. In this interview, Alan tells of the fascinating history of the area and his years spent living among, what he describes as, 'real people'.

A must see for those new to the area and those interested in this community's rich history.

Sunday, October 19th at 2:30pm Ocean Swells Community Centre, HWY 329, Northwest Cove

DONATIONS WELCOME

NOTICE

Regarding the Blandford Community Centre Monthly Fundraiser Breakfasts!

The price of our monthly fundraiser breakfasts has increased from \$10 to \$12.



We understand that times are challenging and money is tight for many, but due to rising costs of supplies, this change is necessary in order to continue hosting these breakfasts.

These breakfasts are an important fundraiser that helps us keep the Community Centre open and serving our community. We truly appreciate your understanding and ongoing support, and we hope to see you at our monthly breakfasts!

Thank you, Blandford CC Board of Directors

DISTRICT #1 BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

30 Firehall Rd. Blandford, NS BOJ 1T0

INVITATION TO TENDER

Snow Removal

Project: The Blandford Community Centre is inviting interested parties to submit a bid for Snow Removal and salting for a two year period.

Description: The area for snow removal would include Firehall Road from Highway 329 to the Community Centre parking lot, the parking lot as a whole, as well as a roadway around the back and sides of the Community Centre. Salting of the area would also be required. Shovelling out and salting of all doorways and entrances to the Community Centre. A walk around with a board member when tender is awarded to ensure understanding of areas.

NOTE: It is important that the roadway and front of the building be a priority for snow removal or salting (if ice storm) due to the need of Blandford & Area Fire Rescue having access to the 329 for emergencies.

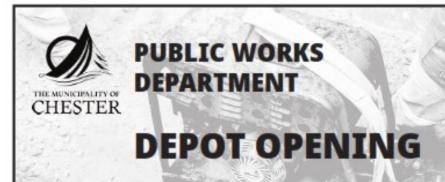
Duration: Year 1: Start date of Dec 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 Year 2: Start date of Dec 1, 2026 to April 2027

Proof of Insurance: Required to submit letter from insurance along with tender to show snow removal coverage

Billing: Invoices to be submitted to Board of Directors treasurer monthly for payment.

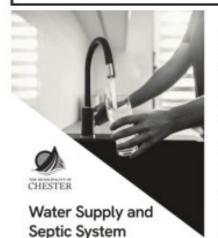
Terms of payment: Net 30 days

Interested parties should submit their bid no later than November 1, 2025 to the Board of Directors at the above address or email blandfordns@gmail.com. Any questions please contact Karen Overholt at (519) 567-1591



Public Works Department 902-275-1312 | publicworks@chester.ca | www.chester.ca

The Municipality of Chester is pleased to announce the opening of its Public Works Depot at 643 Highway 14, Windsor Road. Visit https://chester.ca/news/public-works-depot-opening for information.



No one should have to worry about the quantity and quality of their water supply. Yet longer periods of drought are causing wells to run dry, and failing septic systems risk contaminating already stressed groundwater and surface water sources.

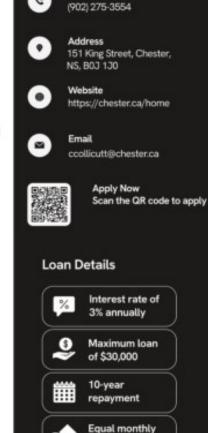
To help manage the cost of improving these on-site services, the Municipality of Chester has created the Water Supply and Septic System Upgrades Program. This program provides eligible property owners with low-interest loans to improve their on-site systems and ensure access to a clean and reliable water supply.

Who Qualifies

You qualify to participate in this program if you are:

- An owner of a one-unit or two-unit residential property within the Municipality of the District of Chester (it must be your primary residence); or
- A registered not-for-profit organization within the municipality.

New construction, properties without an existing water supply or septic system, and properties exempt from paying property taxes are ineligible for this program.



installments

Eligible Upgrades

Upgrades Program

If the upgrade repairs or replaces an existing water supply or septic system that's not performing as it should, it's likely covered through this program. Examples of eligible upgrades include:

- · Installing a drilled well
- Replacing a failing septic system
- Repairing a well pump
- Upgrading a water treatment system

ESSENTRICS IN BLANDFORD

WITH BETH LENCO

Essentrics draws on the flowing movements of tai chi which create health and balance, the strengthening theories behind ballet which create long, lean, flexible muscles and the healing principles of physiotherapy which create a pain free body! This workout simultaneously lengthens and strengthens every muscle in the body, resulting in greater joint mobility and lean long muscles.

TUESDAYS 10:00 - 11:00AM
OCTOBER 7TH - NOVEMBER 25TH
DISTRICT NO.1 COMMUNITY CENTER
\$105 PER PERSON, AGES 35+

To Register, call The Municipality of Chester Recreation Department at (902) 275-3490, or see our Explore Life Brochure for more details!





10 Benefits of Walking!



- Walking is great for your heart
- It helps you burn calories
- It helps with joint pain
- Strengthens bones and muscles
- Improves balance and coordination
- Encourages other forms of exercise
- Walking can increase your energy
- Can relieve stress and anxiety
- **Encourages social connections**
- Walking can make you happy

All great reasons to join the Indoor Walking Group in Blandford!

Mondays October 27th - December 1st 10:00 - 11:00am District No.1 Community Center \$2 Drop - In

COMMUNITY EVENTS



www.athenaeumns.org

Mindfulness and the Evolution of Consciousness

Presented by Dr. Timothy Walker

Recent evidence shows that the brain can grow and improve. This is called Neuroplasticity, meaning our brains change with experience and training. Anxiety, depression, addictions, obsessive-compulsive issues, emotionalvolatility, as well as many stress-related health problems, can betransformed gradually and improved with mindfulness practice.

For thirty years, Dr. Timothy Walker, Ph D has worked to integrate mindfulness and the psychology of meditation into psychotherapy, education, and healthcare. Co-founder of the Healing and Cancer Foundation, he has worked with the Nova Scotia Department of Health, taught at Dalhousie University, Acadia University, the Counselor Training Institute and within the Shambhala community.

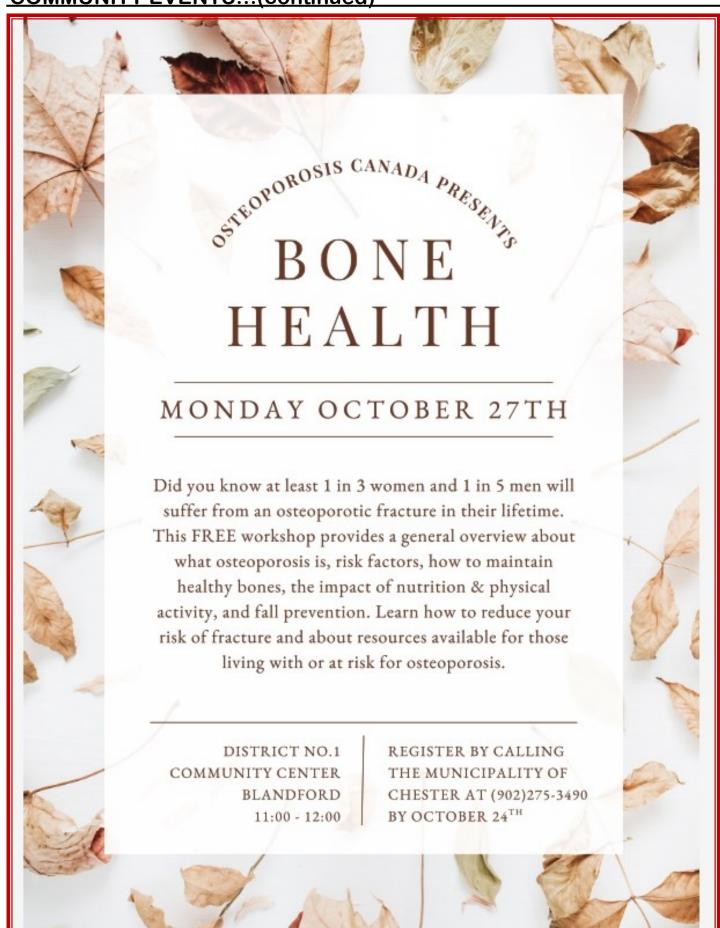
Sunday, October 26, at 2:30pm

Ocean Swells Community Centre

Northwest Cove, 2726 Hwy 329 (Hwy 103 Exit 6)

All are welcome. Q & A. following.

For more info, call: (902) 476-4465



Slandford Community Centre Fundraise, November 1st

9 pm to 1 am
HALLONCEN
DANCE

DANCE TO KEVIN KOLOFF AND THE GYPSY MINSTRELS

\$10 at the door



Must be 19 and over, ID required

Volunteer Summit

Learning together. Leading together. Thriving together.

Sat, Nov 8, 2025, 8:30-4:00 NSCC, Bridgewater

Join other volunteers for a day of interactive workshops and group sessions, a keynote speaker, networking opportunities, lunch, door prizes and the **chance to win \$500** for your organization!

Summit Highlights







Keynote: The Power of Local - Reigniting Volunteerism in Rural Communities **Summit Session #1**: Don't Just Recruit Volunteers, Let's Build a Community **Breakout #1** - Pre-register for one of the following four sessions:

- Grant Writing #101
- Community Halls Revitalization
- · Fun-Fueled Fundraising
- Social Media and Basic Marketing & Promotion

Breakout #2 - Pre-register for one of the following four sessions:

- Grant Writing #101
- Community Halls Revitalization
- Fun-Fueled Fundraising
- Social Media and Basic Marketing & Promotion

Summit Session #2: Welcoming Newcomers - Engaging through Volunteerism

For full details, please visit: www.modl.ca/volunteersummit

Registration open: Oct 1 to 31

To register - Call 902-275-3490 or Email: recreation@chester.ca

Cost \$15* (lunch included)

*Subsidized spots may be available, enquire at registration

















COMMUNITY NEWS

Update from Seasiders by Claudia Zinck

There wasn't a Seasiders Seniors meeting in September, apparently, even seniors deserve a little summer holiday! But not to worry, we're making up for lost time by jumping right into our fall session this October.

Mark your calendars for **October 17th**, when we'll kick things off with a good old-fashioned **potluck supper.** We've even invited the fine folks from East Chester Seniors Club to join us, so bring your best dish because you never know who will show up with a casserole to outshine yours. And yes, it will also be our **Annual General Meeting**, but don't let that scare you off. We promise to sprinkle in a few activities to keep everyone smiling and moving (or at least bouncing in our chairs).

As we start a brand-new year together, why not consider joining our social group? It's not just about meetings. We plan **bus trips** throughout the year, enjoy a **Christmas dinner mid December**, and put together all kinds of **themed programs**. Honestly though, the real favorite is something much simpler, **chatting with whoever happens to sit nearby**. You'll hear the hum of conversation across the room, like a beehive full of happy bees, only with more stories about grandchildren and less honey.

So come visit us at a meeting! If you're nervous about walking in alone, we've got you covered, call me (Claudia) at 902-228-2091 or drop me an email at claudiaazinck@gmail.com. I'll happily be your "first-night chum". After all, everything's easier when you've got a friend to sit with, especially when the dessert table is calling your name.

See you in October!





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Where would YOU like to go?

Appointments? Shopping? School or work? Visit a friend, or even a group outing, **We can help with that**. Community Wheels is an affordable transportation service for all residents of the Municipality of the District of Chester.

Book in advance, arrange a day, time, pick-up location and destination, and we'll be there.



A service tailored to serve YOU

Where would YOU like to go? A job interview, shopping, social visit, school, an appointment, out for fun, need a break from winter driving — We can help with that. Fares? Pay us what you can afford for rides within the Municipality of Chester. For rides outside of the MOC, talk with our dispatcher about suggested minimum donations.. Book in advance and we'll be at your door. Call for our DOOR-TO DOOR SERVICE.

Where would YOU like to go? Do you need assistance getting there? We can help with that. We have accessible vehicles for those with limited mobility and/or seniors. Book in advance and we'll be at your door. Call for our ACCESSIBLE SERVICE.

Where would YOU like to go? Planning an event or a group outing? We can help with that. Perfect for any time a group may want to travel to a destination together. It's a safe, enjoyable way to reach where you need to go. Call for our CHARTER SERVICE.





For more details on all our services, please visit our website at www.communitywheels.ca or please contact us:

- For booking rides, please contact our Dispatcher, Julie at 902-273-2440 or julie@communitywheels.ca
- For general inquiries, please contact our Executive Director, Courtney at 902-277-1441 or courtney@communitywheels.ca

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Northwest Cove, NS



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& RENOVATIONS

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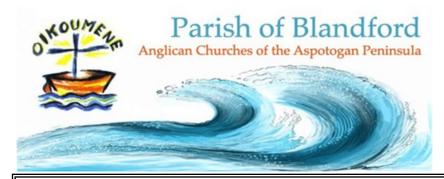
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Ministry@ParishofBlandford.ca https://parishofblandford.ca

October 2025 Worship Schedule

For latest updates, go to: https://parishofblandford.ca/service-schedule/

October 5	10:00am	St. Barnabas, Blandford
	10:00am	St. Cuthberts, Northwest Cove
October 19	10:00am	All Saints, Bayswater ~ Café Church
October 26	10:00am	St. Barnabas, Blandford







OHC Same Day Clinic Schedule for OCTOBER 2025

Call 1-902-273-2098. Phone lines open 30 MINS before clinic start time.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	1	2	3	
	8 AM TO 3 PM	9:30 AM TO 1 PM	CLOSED	
7	8	9	10	
9 AM TO 7 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 2 PM	
14	15	16	17	
9 AM TO 7 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 2 PM	
21	22	23	24	
9 AM TO 7 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	9:30 AM TO 1 PM	CLOSED	
28	29	30	31	
9 AM TO 7 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 3 PM	8 AM TO 2 PM	

You must have an appointment to come to the 2nd floor Same Day clinic Address: 3769 Hwy #3 PO Box 74 Chester NS BOJ 1J0

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tug	Wød	Thu	Fri	Sat
BCC = Blandford Community Cen- tre	OS = Ocean Swells Communi- ty Centre		1 BCC Board Mtg 7 pm	2 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	3 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	4
5 St. Barnabas 10 am	6 Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	7 Fire Trg 7 pm	8	9 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	10 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	11 Fall Scram- ble Aspotogan Ridge 8:30 am
12 St. Cuthberts 10 am	13 Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm Happy Thanksgiving!	14 Fire Trg 7 pm Sea Glass Tree workshop East River Un- ion Hall 6:30 pm	15	16 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	17 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am Seasiders pot- luck and mtg BCC 5 pm TBC	18 Breakfast BCC 9 am
19 All Saints 10 am Kids' Halloween party BCC 2 pm Film OS 2:30 pm	Fire Mtg BCC 7pm Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm NOV 2025 Newsletter Deadline	21 Fire Trg 7 pm	22	23 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	24 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am Haunted Trail 7 pm	25
26 St. Barnabas 10 am Athenæum OS 2:30 pm	27 Indoor walking BCC 10 am Bone Health BCC 11 am Tabletop Gaming BCC 7-9 pm	28 Fire Trg 7 pm	29	30 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	31 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am	Nov 1 Halloween Dance BCC 7 pm

Note: The address for the newsletter indicated below is a mailbox only, not a physical address.

Newsletter Advertisement Rates

Personal Ads and Thank you Notices Business Ads and Community Groups

 1/4 Page
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Editor Information

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

Sandra McFadyen EDITOR ARA Newsletter 54 Upper Blandford Wharf Rd Blandford, NS B0J 1T0

E-mail: aspotogan329@gmail.com

Phone: 902-817-9906



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NOV NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 20, 2025