

Aspotogan Recreation Association

Community Newsletter

Vol. 53 Issue 4 April 2026

Aspotogan ~ Bayswater ~ Blandford ~ Deep Cove ~ Northwest Cove

ARA UPDATE APRIL 2026

Children's Easter Egg Hunt: Friday April 3rd 1:30pm Community Centre. Join us for some fun entertainment, egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny! All egg hunters must register by 2pm.

ARA Spring Bottle Drive: Saturday, May 9 starting at 9:30 am. 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.

Games Night: Mondays 7:00-9:00 Community Centre Multipurpose Room. Any game that can be played on a table. (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).

Chair Yoga: Fridays, 10:00-11:00 in the Community Centre. Drop-in fee is \$7/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 & bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Drop-in Pickleball: Thursdays 6-7:30 in the Community Centre gym. \$3/player. Beginner and experienced players are welcome, age 13+. Cancellations will be posted on the community centre facebook page by 3:00 pm on Thursdays. (<https://www.facebook.com/blandfordcommunitycentre>) All equipment is provided, please wear non-marking sneakers. Questions? Email: Pickleball@BellAliant.com.

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)

COMMUNITY NEWS

DISTRICT # 1 COMMUNITY CENTRE

DISTRICT #1 BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



LOOKING TO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY?



We are looking for volunteers!

We are looking for help with fundraising, events, catering, grant writing, etc!

Interested?? Email – blandfordns@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS –

1. **FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST** – Saturday, April 18th, 9 – 11 am. Eat in or Take Out. Includes eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, beans, hashbrowns, coffee, tea & juice. \$12 for adults, \$5 kids 10 & under, FREE kids under 3. Cash or debit available.



Next Board of Directors Meeting is Wednesday, April 1st at 7 pm. All meetings are open to the public!

Welcome to our new 2026-2027 Volunteer BOD!

Thank you for your time and everything that you do!

Board of Directors for 2026/2027 -

Kelly Fitzgerald, Chair	902-222-1046	kahfitzgerald@gmail.com
Wendy Clark, Vice Chair	902-877-4871	wendyl.clark@gmail.com
Treasurer - TBD		
Karen Overholt, Secretary	519-567-1591	francis_karen@hotmail.com

Board Members (2026/2027)

Samantha Murphy, Joanne Walton, Eric Miller, Mary Norwood, Tami Clarke, Edward Burdon

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 13, 2026 @7pm

Blandford Community Centre in the Lodge
(Entrance through side door – training tower side)

Ratepayers are welcome to view meetings

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

BLANDFORD & AREA FIRE RESCUE

EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2026

OUTDOOR FIRES

Before having ANY outdoor fire; brush fire, grass fire, in a fire pit(camp fire) or any open flame please check the website or call:

www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe

1-855-564-2876

updated daily at 2pm for that day burning restrictions.

For any questions please contact Shelley Hartley via
email: blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com

www.blandfordfire.ca

COMMUNITY EVENTS



ATHENÆUM SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA

www.athenaeumns.org

The Challenge of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Presented by
Hanlon, McIntyre and Scully Panel

Jim Hanlon, businessman and engineer, will address the promise of AI; Defence scientist Dr. Mark McIntyre will address the water, electrical and computing challenges AI presents; and education and workforce expert, Dr. Sherry Scully will give her assessment of the potential effects on people and the workforce in particular.

Our panel will briefly address the range of issues regarding AI, open the discussion and answer your questions.

Sunday, April 19, at 2:30pm
Ocean Swells Community Centre
Northwest Cove, 2726 Hwy 329 (Hwy 103 Exit 6)

All are welcome. Q & A. following.
For more information, go to www.athenaeumns.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Seasiders News – A Room Full of Clues and Cake March Update from Claudia Zinck

The **Blandford Seasiders Seniors** gathered again this week, and let me tell you, it was a lively afternoon. Sixteen folks came out, including **three brand-new members**. We always say we're a friendly group... but now there are witnesses.

Our main entertainment was a spirited round of **"Who Am I?"** The executive bravely had names of famous people—living or not—ready for the rest of us to guess. Let's just say some guesses were brilliant, and some were... very creative. A few historical figures probably rolled over in their graves at what we called them, but it kept us laughing.

There was also birthday cake (which, let's be honest, is a very important part of any meeting). We celebrated **Mabel W.** and **Dale's wife**, whose name I promise to have properly recorded next time before I start eating the cake. Priorities, you know.



Lunch was served, conversations were lively, and there was plenty of the usual **good-natured tormenting** that proves we're all quite fond of each other. If you can't tease your friends a little, what's the point of belonging to a club?

All in all, it was a very good afternoon, lots of laughter, a few day trips discussed, a few mysteries solved, a few not, and everyone left well fed and smiling. Just the way the Seasiders like it. The next Seasiders meeting is on Friday, April 17th at 7 pm.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Watch for these programs and more in
your Spring Explore Life Brochure!

Nature Playdates

Outdoor fun for little ones (birth to Age 5)
and their grown-ups!

Thursday April 16
Hubbards Barn Park,
Hubbards
9:30 - 11 am

Thursday April 30
District 1 Community
Center Trail, Blandford
9:30 - 11 am

Little Kickers Soccer

A playful introduction to soccer that's all
about movement, connection and community!

Ages 18-36 months
Sundays 10:00 - 10:45 am
May 3 - June 14, \$15

Registration opens April 8 with The
Municipality of Chester Recreation &
Parks Department.



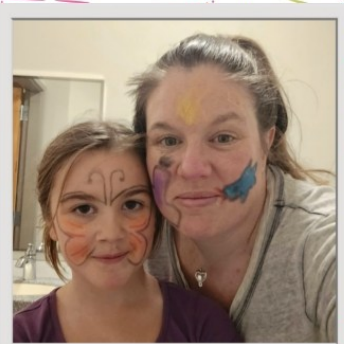
COMMUNITY NOTICES...(continued)

Congratulations Volunteers!

Compassionate leadership, unwavering commitment to helping others!



LISA KENNIE



STEPHANIE TANNER

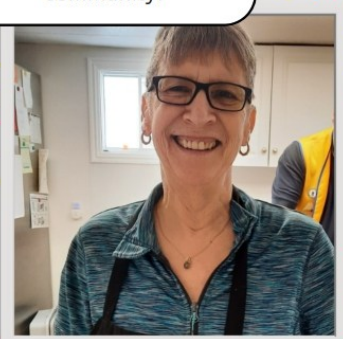
Deep compassion for animals, nature and humans, her heart belongs to everyone she meets!



ERVIN BROOME

Kind, comical and easy-going, he is one of the best!

Integral part of the organization and the community!



CORINNE MANUEL



RHONDA BUFFET



PAULETTE HARNISH BENIGHT

Superheroes United!
It's not just a program - it's a community!
Extraordinary dedication, advocacy, compassion, and meaningful connections, always with inclusivity at the forefront.

COMMUNITY NOTICES...(continued)

Strengthens the community through kindness, leadership and action!



ABI JOHNSTON



BARB LEGGE

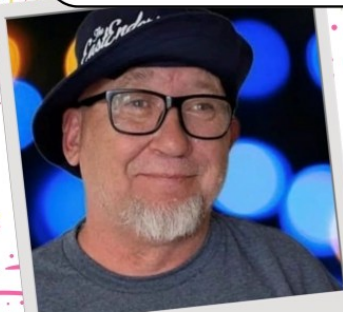
Always goes above and beyond to welcome and support families in the community!

A group of 30 selfless fire fighters who dedicate countless hours to the community!



HUBBARDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lifts spirits and brings people together across generations with generosity, humor and dedication!



FIRMAN YOUNG



CHARLOTTE BUTLER

Volunteering for 15+ years, always the first to sign up!

Phenomenal asset, takes on all roles with a positive attitude!



GABRIELA LEITCH

Let's Celebrate!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENTS

Monday, April 20
10:00 to 12:00 pm
Hearth Room, New Ross

Wednesday, April 22
5:00 to 7:00 pm
Hubbards Area Lions Club

Friday, April 24
10:00 to 12:00 pm
Rec & Parks Office, Chester

Everyone welcome! Please RSVP by calling (902) 275-3490 by Friday April 10 to reserve your spot!

COMMUNITY NOTICES...(continued)



OPEN HOUSE

To celebrate the 80th birthday of Lawson (Bubby) Miller.

At Ocean Swells Hall
North West Cove
On Saturday April 25, 2026
From 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Drop by to reminisce, hear a few songs, eat some birthday cake.

Everyone welcome!
Best wishes only.

COMMUNITY NOTICES...(continued)

**Do you need help doing your taxes?
We can help!**



Blandford Community Centre is hosting a free tax-help clinic on April 23rd! If you have modest-to-no income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program may be able to do your taxes for free and help you claim qualifying benefits and credits.

DATE AND TIME: April 23, 2 to 6 pm
LOCATION: Blandford Community Centre,
 30 Firehall Rd., Blandford

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Contact Sandra at (902) 817-9906 if you have questions or to book your appointment. Be sure to bring your tax information slips, receipts, social insurance number and government-issued identification. For eligibility and details, visit Canada.ca/taxes-help or call: 1-855-516-4405.

OHC Same Day Clinic Schedule for APRIL 2026

Call 1-902-273-2098 for a same-day appt. Phone lines open 8:00 am each clinic day.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 CLOSED	2 9:30 AM TO 1 PM	3 CLOSED
7 CLOSED	8 CLOSED	9 9:30 AM TO 1 PM	10 CLOSED
14 9 AM TO 5 PM	15 9 AM TO 3 PM	16 9 AM TO 3 PM	17 9 AM TO 1 PM
21 9 AM TO 5 PM	22 9 AM TO 3 PM	23 9 AM TO 3 PM	24 9 AM TO 1 PM
28 9 AM to 5 PM	29 9 AM TO 3 PM	30 9 AM TO 3 PM	

You must make an appointment to come to the 2nd floor Same Day clinic.
 Address: 3769 Hwy #3 PO Box 74 Chester NS B0J 1J0

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Matt Langley 902-277-0677

mlangley0677@gmail.com

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BUSINESS SERVICES



**ASPOTOGAN
RIDGE
GOLF CLUB**

Staff and golfers are once again excited and anxious to get out in the fresh air and start golfing. The greens are being prepared and staff are looking forward to opening for the season. As always, keep an eye out for specials and promotions. **Golfer or not, you are welcome anytime!**

Aspotogan Ridge Golf Club is gearing up for the 2026 season!



376 Parkwood Drive, Mill Cove (1 km beyond Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School)
 play@aspotoganridge.com 902-857-1333 www.aspotoganridge.com



Aspotogan Heritage Trust

“Investing in Community Visions”

A reminder to 2026 High School Graduates

from Forest Heights Community School or Bay View High
 living within the BOJ 1T0 postal code

deadline for the Aspotogan Heritage Trust Bursary is May 1, 2026

Applications are available online at www.aspotogan.org/grants
 or from the school guidance department

Phone: 902-857-1133
 Fax: 902-857-1117
 E-mail: admin@aspotogan.org
 Website: www.aspotogan.org
 Civic: 10 Pte. Richard Green Lane, Hubbards



BUSINESS SERVICES



WE ARE HIRING DRIVERS



Drivers wanted for our Community Transportation Service.
Are you looking for a rewarding part-time job? Chester Community Wheels needs you!

Requirements:

- Minimum of Class 4 Drivers Licence (unrestricted)
- Clear Criminal Record & Vulnerable Sector check
- Clear driver's abstract from the Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Proof of current First Aid and CPR or a commitment to obtain
- Experience transporting passengers considered an asset.

Benefits:

- Paid Hourly
- 4% Vacation Pay
- Flexible, Part-Time Schedule
- Shift premiums for hours worked in the evening, on weekends and on Holidays.

If you are interested in this job opportunity, please send your resume to:

Courtney Covey-Keefe- Executive Director
courtney@communitywheels.ca

We look forward to hearing from you!



BUS FOR SALE!

\$9000 Or Best Offer

- KMS 209,774
- Engine: 6.8L V10
- No mechanical issues
- Inspected with a 6 commercial inspection in October 2025
- New battery installed in September 2025
- Seats up to 14 + 3 wheelchairs (fold up seating to allow for different seating/ wheelchair capacities).
- All of the wheelchair ramp/ systems are in working condition.
- We are happy to include all of the required commercial safety gear with it (fire extinguisher, first aid kit, seat belt cutter, and triangle kit) if this is of interest to the buyer.
- Happy to include 2 extra leather two-seater bench seats if this is of interest to the buyer.

Works well, is ready to go and be driven away, has been well maintained and can be continued to be used as a commercial vehicle.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact:

Courtney Covey-Keefe
courtney@communitywheels.ca
902-277-1441

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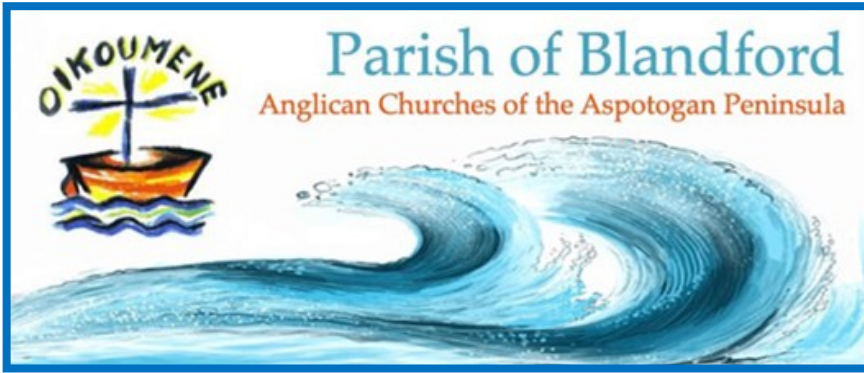
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 Owner

villageemporium@yahoo.ca
 www.villageemporiumns.com
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 Chester, Nova Scotia B0J 1J0

PARISH SCHEDULE / COMMUNITY NOTICES



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

April 2026 Worship Schedule

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

April 3	Good Friday	10:00 am	All Saints
April 5	Easter Sunday	9:30 am	St. Barnabas
April 12	Eucharist Service	10:00 am	St. Cuthberts
April 19	Morning Prayer	10:00 am	All Saints
April 26	Eucharist Service	10:00 am	St. Barnabas

Ocean Swells Community Association

NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday April 26, 2026, 10:00 am

#2726, Highway 329

EVERYONE WELCOME!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 AND NOMINATE A NEW BOARD

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING??

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHAPING THE FUTURE??

COME AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS!!



*FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: Ocean Swells Hall
 QUESTIONS??*

EMAIL: o.s.communityassoc@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BCC = Blandford Community Centre	OS = Ocean Swells Community Centre		1 Board Mtg BCC 7 pm 45's cards OS 7 pm	2 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	3 Good Friday Service 10 am All Saints Egg Hunt BCC 1:30 pm 45's cards OS 7 pm	4
5 Easter Sunday Service 9:30 am St. Barnabas	6 Monday Games Night BCC 7 pm	7 Fire Trg 7 pm	8 45's cards OS 7 pm	9 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	10 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am 45's cards OS 7 pm	11
12 Eucharist Service 10 am St. Cuthberts	13 Fire Mtg BCC 7 pm Monday Games Night BCC 7 pm	14 Fire Trg 7 pm	15 45's cards OS 7 pm	16 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	17 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am Seasiders BCC 7 pm 45's cards OS 7 pm	18 Breakfast BCC 9 am
19 Morning Prayer 10 am All Saints Athenæum OS 2:30 pm	20 Monday Games Night BCC 7 pm MAY 2026 Newsletter Deadline	21 Fire Trg 7 pm	22 45's cards OS 7 pm	23 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	24 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am 45's cards OS 7 pm	25
26 Eucharist Service 10 am St. Barnabas OS AGM 10 am	27 Monday Games Night BCC 7 pm	28 Fire Trg 7 pm	29 45's cards OS 7 pm	30 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 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

1/4 Page \$ 8.00
1/2 Page \$12.00
Full Page \$23.00

Business Ads and Community Groups

Business Card Size \$ 8.00
1/4 Page \$12.00
1/2 Page \$18.00
Full Page \$35.00

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE
CONTACT EDITOR FOR MORE INFO
\$36.00 per year**

Editor Information

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Phone: 902-817-9906



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER:
APRIL 20, 2026**