



Aspotogan Recreation Association

# Community Newsletter

Vol. 53 Issue 6 June 2026

Aspotogan ~ Bayswater ~ Blandford ~ Deep Cove ~ Northwest Cove

## **ARA UPDATE JUNE 2026**

Thanks to our community for your continued support of our bottle drives, which keeps our programs going!

**Chair Yoga: 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.

**Drop-in Pickleball: Thursdays 6:00—7:30** in the Community Centre gym. \$3.00/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](mailto: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](mailto:vicki.schnare@bellaliant.net)), Nancy Webb 902-225-2915 ([n.webb@dal.ca](mailto:n.webb@dal.ca)), Wendy Clark 902-877-4871 ([wendyl.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wendyl.clark@gmail.com)), and Emily Woodworth ([emilylwoodworth@live.com](mailto:emilylwoodworth@live.com))

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

# DISTRICT # 1 COMMUNITY CENTRE

## DISTRICT #1 BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



Did you know that the Community Centre has event items for rent?? For example...

- Tables and chairs
  - Large coffee/tea percolators
  - Lattice work, screened tents etc
- All rentals by donation!



Contact Mary Norwood at 902-228-2453 for more info!

### UPCOMING EVENTS –

1. FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST – Saturday, June 20th, 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.

**Final breakfast before we break for the summer!**



**REMINDER** – Please enjoy the CC trails at your own risk and respect the rules of pet use indicated on the signage. Dogs must be on leash at all times and unauthorized motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. All meetings are open to the public!

### 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
Britlee Harnish, Treasurer		britleeharnish@gmail.com
Karen Overholt, Secretary	519-567-1591	francis_karen@hotmail.com

### **Board Members (2026/2027)**

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

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

# NOTICE OF MEETING

**THE FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSIONERS  
FOR DISTRICT#1 BLANDFORD**

## **ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING**

**June 1, 2026 at 7:30PM**

**BLANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**In the Lodge Room (side entrance will be open)**

Every year 2 Commission positions are open for nominations, a Commissioner must be a ratepayer of Fire District #1 Blandford. A "ratepayer" is someone who resides in our fire district and pays property taxes with their name on the tax bill to the Municipality of Chester. The Fire Commission is the governing body for the Blandford & Area Fire Rescue, they over see the monies collected from taxes for fire service and policies. If you would like more information, please reach each out to any Commissioner or Shelley Hartley (contact below). All Ratepayer are encouraged to attend.

### **Agenda for Ratepayers Meeting 2026**

Introductions & Adoption of the Agenda

1. Minutes
  - Approval of the June 2025 Ratepayers Meeting Minutes
  - Business arising from the minutes
2. Finances
  - 2025/2026 Financial Report
  - 2026/2027 Proposed Budget
  - 2026/2027 Area Fire Tax Rate
3. Reports
  - Annual Operations Report - Blandford and Area Fire Rescue Chief
  - Annual Commission Report – Commission Chair
  - Discussion from the floor/ratepayers
4. Election of Commissioners
  - Nominating and Election of 2 Commissioners
  - Recognition of outgoing Commissioners (if any)
5. Adjournment

**Copy of the Draft Minutes from the 2025 Ratepayers meeting are available by contacting Shelley Hartley via email [blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com](mailto:blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com)**

30-A Firehall Rd, Hubbards, NS B0J 1T0  
Email [blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com](mailto:blandfordcommission@bellaliant.com)  
[www.blandfordfire.ca](http://www.blandfordfire.ca)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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# ATHENÆUM SOCIETY

OF NOVA SCOTIA

[www.athenaeumns.org](http://www.athenaeumns.org)

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## **Parkinson's Demystified: A Journey of Awareness and Hope**

Presented by

### **Jon Denman**

Born in Yorkshire, Jon Denman emigrated to Canada in 1973 after a career in shipping. In Canada he started his own business which he ran for 30 years. He continues to work in small business after being diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2019. He now is involved with a Parkinson's research organization and a global support group. Jon will present his own research activities and share experiences with his support group.

**Sunday, June 14 at 2:30 pm**

**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](http://www.athenaeumns.org)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# HISTORY OF THE BLUES

## WITH MORGAN DAVIS

HISTORY OF THE BLUES IS AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLUES FROM PRE-CIVIL WAR TO MODERN TIMES, WITH 40 EXAMPLES OF MUSIC GLEANED FROM MORGAN'S COLLECTION. THE MUSIC IS FOLLOWED FROM AFRICAN CHANTS TO FIELD HOLLERS, GOSPEL MUSIC, AND EARLY BALLADS TO THE FIRST ERA OF RECORDED BLUES ALL THE WAY TO THE 1960'S.

MORGAN WILL BE ILLUSTRATING GUITAR TECHNIQUES AND STYLES THROUGH THE YEARS.

### SUNDAY | JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> | 1 PM

**OCEAN SWELLS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
2726 HIGHWAY 329 | NORTHWEST COVE**

**\$15 EARLY BIRD**

**\$20 AT THE DOOR**

FOR TICKETS  
CONTACT ERIN  
782-414-0204



## COMMUNITY NOTICES



**Nova Scotia Regulatory  
and Appeals Board**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**GEORGE HARALABAKOS** has made an appeal to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board from a decision of Chester Municipal Council refusing a development agreement and rezoning request from Settlement Residential 2 Zone to Mixed Use Zone affecting property at Highway 3, Simms Settlement (PID: 60082401). This matter will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

**Hearing starts:** **Monday, July 13, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**(Continuing Tuesday, July 14, 2026, if necessary)**

**Evening Session:** **Monday, July 13, 2026**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Hearing Location:** **Council Chambers**  
**Municipality of the District of Chester**  
**151 King Street**  
**Chester, Nova Scotia**

**Board Hearings are open to the public and you may participate as follows:**

- You may speak at the hearing. You must notify the Board by **Wednesday, June 10, 2026**.
- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by using our secure file transfer service at: <https://board.titanfile.com/NSRAB/>, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Thursday, July 2, 2026**.
- You may request formal standing as an Intervenor, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Friday, May 29, 2026**, and a copy of your written evidence by **Monday, June 8, 2026**, for Intervenors supporting the Appellants, and by **Monday, June 22, 2026**, for Intervenors supporting the Municipality.
- You may request a copy of the audio file for the proceeding after the hearing by contacting the Clerk of the Board.

A copy of the appeal and any timetable applying to this matter may be viewed on the Board's online database at <https://uarb.novascotia.ca/fmi/webd/UARB15> by entering **M12824** in the "Go Directly to Matter" search box, or at the offices of **Municipality of the District of Chester**.

**To support respectful and inclusive communication during hearings and in its decision, the Board encourages all participants to share their preferred pronouns and forms of address, if comfortable doing so. There is no requirement to provide this information.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Seasiders – Update from May Meeting

Eighteen members and friends gathered for the Blandford Seasiders meeting on Friday, May 15th, and it was wonderful to see both familiar faces and a few new ones around the tables.

The evening's activity was Bingo, and seldom has the hall been so quiet as everyone listened carefully for the next number to be called. Bonnie seemed to be enjoying an especially lucky night and kept everyone smiling.

Following the games, members shared a lovely lunch together, and Maureen Zinck blew out the candles on the birthday cake as everyone joined in celebrating.

Plans were also discussed for upcoming bus trips and summer activities, giving everyone something to look forward to in the warmer months ahead.

Of course, no spring gathering would be complete without garden talk. Members happily compared notes on how their gardens are progressing this year — or, in some cases, how they have decided to scale back a little after last summer's drought conditions.

As always, the evening was filled with laughter, conversation, and the simple pleasure of neighbours enjoying one another's company. Next meeting, Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 7PM.



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

# Tick Safety

Make sure you, your family and pets are protected against tick bites.

There are several kinds of ticks that can be found across Nova Scotia, but only the blacklegged tick carries the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.

Ticks are commonly found in tall grass, bushes, wooded areas, urban parks and gardens. There are simple precautions you can take while spending time outdoors.



*Left to right: Female black legged tick, groundhog tick, dog tick*



*Top to bottom: engorged female dog tick, engorged female black legged tick*

- Wear light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants, and light-coloured socks with enclosed shoes (this makes ticks more visible)
- Tuck in your shirt and pull your socks up over pant legs
- Spray clothing and exposed skin with an insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin (make sure you follow directions on the label)
- Check your clothing and body carefully for ticks after working or playing outside. Pay special attention to armpits, the back of the knees, and the groin or pelvic region
- Keep grass cut and remove leaves from your yard
- Put outdoor clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill any remaining ticks
- Always check yourself, your children, and pets for ticks after spending time outside



## Be Tick Aware

To learn more about ticks and tick safety, visit:  
<https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety/>

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## OHC Same Day Clinic Services Calendar for **JUNE 2026**

Phone Lines for the Same Day Clinic Open **8:00am** Each Clinic Day

Call (902) 273-2098 for a Same-Day Appointment

(We **DO NOT** offer walk-in service; you must have an appt.)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b> 9 am to 5 pm – Same Day Clinic 1 pm to 5 pm – Dr. Kelland (Pre-Booked/Referral) -Pain Clinic	<b>3</b> 9 am to 3 pm – Same Day Clinic 9 am to 5 pm – Dr. Morissette (Pre-Booked/Referral) - Psychiatry 8:30 am to 12 pm – Dr. O’Neil (Pre-Booked) - Forms	<b>4</b> 9 AM to 3 PM Same Day Clinic	<b>5</b> 9 AM to 1 PM Same Day Clinic
<b>9</b> 9 am to 5 pm – Same Day Clinic 1 pm to 5 pm – Dr. Kelland (Pre-Booked/Referral) -Pain Clinic	<b>10</b> 9 am to 3 pm – Same Day Clinic 9 am to 5 pm – Dr. Morissette (Pre-Booked/Referral) - Psychiatry	<b>11</b> 9 AM to 3 PM Same Day Clinic	<b>12</b> 9 AM to 1 PM Same Day Clinic
<b>16</b> 9 am to 5 pm – Same Day Clinic 1 pm to 5 pm – Dr. Kelland (Pre-Booked/Referral) – Pain Clinic 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm – Dr. O’Neil (Pre-Booked) – Metabolic & Weight Management Clinic	<b>17</b> 9 am to 3 pm – Same Day Clinic 9 am to 5 pm – Dr. Morissette (Pre-Booked/Referral) - Psychiatry	<b>18</b> 9 AM to 3 PM Same Day Clinic	<b>19</b> 9 AM to 1 PM Same Day Clinic
<b>23</b> 9 am to 5 pm – Same Day Clinic 1 pm to 5 pm – Dr. Kelland (Pre-Booked/Referral) -Pain Clinic	<b>24</b> 9 am to 3 pm – Same Day Clinic 9 am to 5 pm – Dr. Morissette (Pre-Booked/Referral) - Psychiatry 8:30 am to 12 pm – Dr. O’Neil (Pre-Booked) – Metabolic & Weight Management Clinic	<b>25</b> 9 AM to 3 PM Same Day Clinic	<b>26</b> 9 AM to 1 PM Same Day Clinic
<b>30</b> 9 am to 5 pm – Same Day Clinic 1 pm to 5 pm – Dr. Kelland (Pre-Booked/Referral) – Pain Clinic			

**\*\*\*Pre-Booked (Referral) means you must have a referral from your Family GP/NP, Pre-Booked appts mean that you can call anytime Tuesday to Friday to book an appt\*\*\***

## THANK-YOUs / BUSINESS SERVICES

### Thank-You!

I would like to thank my family, friends and neighbours who came to Ocean Swells on April 25 to help me celebrate my 80th birthday.

I appreciate it so much and I had a wonderful time!

Thank you everyone for the gifts, cards, and best wishes.

*Lawson Miller*

KEVIN BRALOVICH

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Matt Langley 902-277-0677  
 mlangle0677@gmail.com

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## 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
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- Experience transporting passengers considered an asset.

**Benefits:**

- Paid Hourly
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- 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- Executive Director  
courtney@communitywheels.ca

We look forward to hearing from you!



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Co-working spaces (hourly/daily/weekly rates) and boardroom access are available

Grant information and support services for community groups

For more information, contact the Aspotogan Heritage Trust (AHT) at

902-857-1133 or via email at [info@aspotogan.org](mailto:info@aspotogan.org)

# BUSINESS SERVICES

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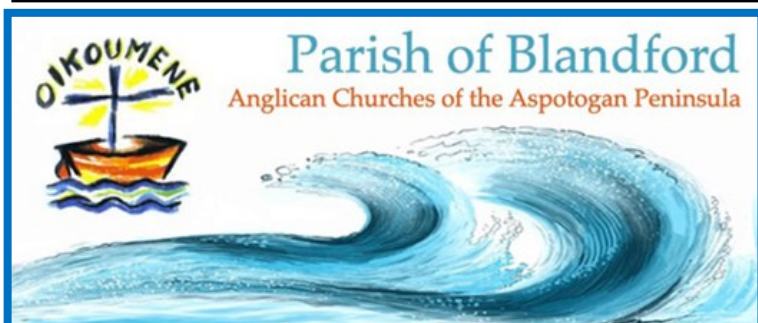
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## PARISH SCHEDULE / COMMUNITY NOTICES



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

### June 2026 Worship Schedule

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

June 7	Morning Prayer	10:00 am All Saints, Bayswater
June 14	Eucharist Service	10:00 am St. Barnabas, Blandford
June 21	Morning Prayer	10:00 am St. Cuthberts, Northwest Cove
June 28	Eucharist Service	10:00 am All Saints, Bayswater

### Local Volunteers Make Communities Grow

Sometimes the most important community work begins around a kitchen table with ordinary people willing to lend a hand.

This spring, volunteers from both the Parish and the wider community gathered on two separate occasions to help assemble pollinator seed packets for the Diocesan Seed Share program. Tables filled with seeds, envelopes, labels, laughter, and plenty of conversation as people of all ages worked side by side.

To date, more than 5,000 seed packets have already been distributed across our region, with nearly another 1,000 prepared and waiting for their new homes to pick them up. These little packets of wildflower and pollinator seeds are finding their way into church yards, gardens, farms, schools, community groups, and road-side corners, helping feed the pollinators that quietly sustain our food system.

The Seed Share project has become far more than simply handing out seeds. It has become a reminder that small acts, multiplied by many willing hands, can spread beauty, hope, and environmental care far beyond what any one person could accomplish alone.

The same spirit has been growing in our community gardens. Parish members and community volunteers came together to build new raised beds, prepare garden spaces, organize seed and plant swaps, and distribute seeds generously donated by five different seed companies. The gardens are becoming places not only for growing food and flowers, but for growing friendships and shared purpose as well.

A special thank you goes to the Community Centre Board of Directors for continuing to support the community garden project so enthusiastically — including helping us secure a new water barrel for the gardens this season.

In a world that often feels rushed and divided, these projects remind us that communities still grow best when people gather together, share what they have, and plant something hopeful for the future.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

## JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ratepayers Meeting BCC 7:30 pm	2 Fire Trg 7 pm	3 BCC Board Mtg 7 pm 45's cards OS 7 pm	4 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	5 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am 45's cards OS 7 pm	6
7 10:00 am All Saints	8	9 Fire Trg 7 pm	10 45's cards OS 7 pm	11 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	12 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am 45's cards OS 7 pm	13
14 10 am St. Barnabas Athenæum OS 2:30 pm	15	16 Fire Trg 7 pm	17 45's cards OS 7 pm	18 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	19 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am Seasiders BCC 7 pm 45's cards OS 7 pm	20 Breakfast BCC 9 am <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">JULY 2026 Newsletter Deadline</div>
21 10 am St. Cuthberts	22	23 Fire Trg 7 pm	24 45's cards OS 7 pm	25 Pickleball BCC 6 pm Darts Pumpers 7:30 pm	26 Chair Yoga BCC 10 am 45's cards OS 7 pm	27
28 10 am All Saints History of the Blues OS 1:30 pm	29	30 Fire Trg 7 pm			BCC = Blandford Community Centre	OS = Ocean Swells Community Centre

Please 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

#### SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

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Phone: 902-817-9906



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER:**  
**JUNE 20, 2026**