

Local Service Board Buzzer



NEWSLETTER 2023 - 4 PUBLISHED BY LSB OF REDBRIDGE EDITED BY A. WARDELL DECEMBER 2023

PHELPS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Another year has come and gone and we can all give ourselves a pat on the back for everything we've accomplished as a community. We had some really amazing events this year which will help so many people in our community. To finish off this year's events, we were able to host another wonderful Christmas Tree Lighting with a very special visit from the one and only Santa Claus. Thank you to the Women's Institute for bringing snacks, the Rec Center for their snacks, drinks and their gorgeous Christmas Ornament sale, AR Donuts for their delicious treats, and a HUGE thank you to Aultman Rentals for putting up our new Christmas Tree Lights.

Enjoy a fire safe holiday season by following these tips:

- > Always stay in the kitchen when something is cooking on the stove;
- > Place lit candles away from anything that can burn and out of the reach of children and pets where they can't be knocked over. Remember to snuff out candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles;
- > Drink responsibly. Attempting to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol is too often a contributing factor in fatal fires;
- > Make sure the base of real Christmas trees are immersed in water at all times, to prevent them from getting too dry;
- > Check all sets of decorative lights before putting them up and discard any sets that are damaged;
- > Develop and practice a home fire escape plan so that everyone in your home knows what to do if the smoke or CO alarms sound.

We wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday. See you in the New Year and remember, only WORKING smoke alarms save lives.

Merry
Christmas



PHELPS LOCAL ROADS BOARD

As we navigate through a prolonged winter driving season, it's an opportune moment to delve into the specifics of our community's winter road maintenance.

The side roads in our area fall under the category of low-traffic routes and adhere to the maintenance standards for cottage roads established by the province. Following a snowfall, it takes an average of 10 hours to clear the 52km of side roads. When the plows get sent out, they do not just plow the Phelps area, they also clear townships along Highway 11 north and the Highway 63 corridor reaching Wyse Township. This comprehensive approach involves only three pieces of equipment: one grader and two plow trucks.

When the plows set out, the roads on the right side of the highway are cleared first as the team progresses through our area. Subsequently, the roads on the left side of the highway receive attention on the return journey.

As we navigate these wintry conditions, it's imperative to exercise caution while driving.

Wishing you all safe travels and joyous holidays.

Justin, Tyler, Larry and Deb



*Best Wishes Are
On The Way!*

Phelps Golden Age Club

Winter has arrived; hopefully we won't get too much snow!

I would like to thank the community, family and friends for all the support that I have received. Harvey's death was a terrible shock and we are all dealing with it the best we can. The outpouring of love and support has been incredible! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

A big thank you goes out to Steve Chenier for helping us out with the plowing again this year.

Thank you to all the members that stepped up and helped with the Craft Sale. Ilene and I picked a rotten time to come down with Covid, but the Craft Sale was a big success!

The winner of the Birdhouse was Bev Robinson and the winner of the Stained Glass Horse was Mary Bradley.

Dec. 12th we held our Members Christmas Dinner. This is a member Pot Luck Christmas Dinner. People sign up to bring specific items to make up a wonderful Christmas Dinner. The hall is always beautifully decorated by Bev. There is a door prize and some goodies as well.

On Dec. 16th we held our second annual Breakfast with Santa. This idea was thought up by Ilene last year. I think Santa enjoys it as much as the kids do!

The Golden Age Club hosts a Yoga class put on by the V.O.N. on Monday's from 9:45 – 10:45. There is no charge but the V.O.N. has stated that only people 60 and over are eligible. A \$2 donation each would be greatly appreciated.

The Foot Care clinics are held at the Golden Age Club the last Wednesday of the month. For more information or to make an appointment call Amanda Ostrowski at 249-358-4347 or email coreholisticfc@gmail.com.

The last 50-50 Lucky Lotto was won by Ryan and was claimed by his sister Liz Taft. This draw is ongoing; you can buy a square for \$2 anytime you are at the Golden Age Club. When all the squares are filled the draw is made. The winner gets \$100 and the Club gets \$100

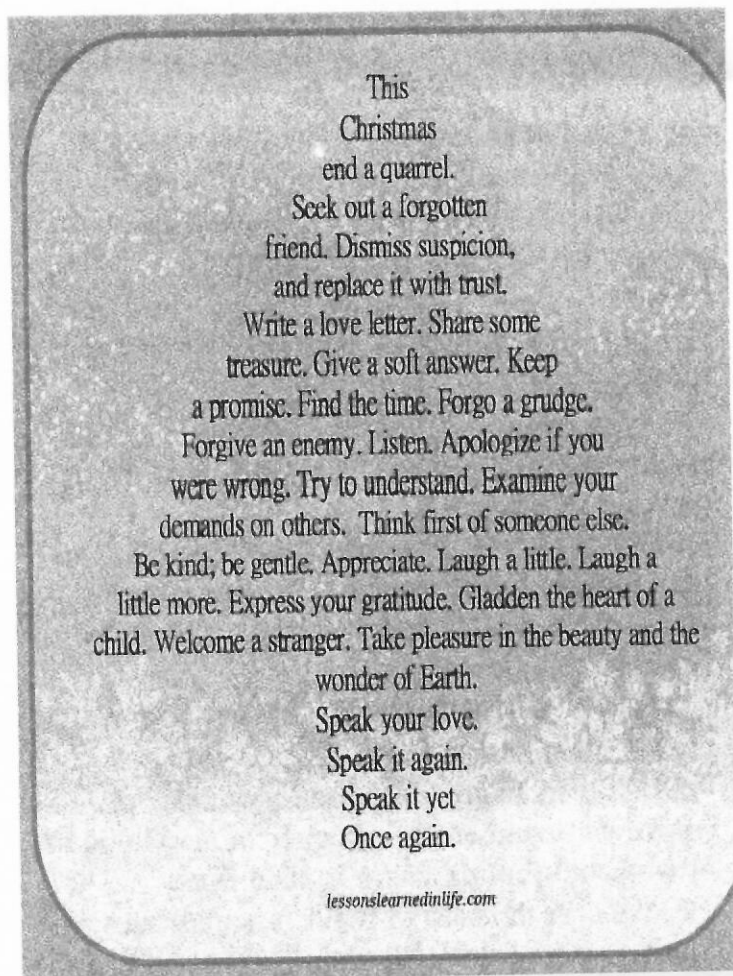
Membership is \$10 annually. This entitles you to our pot luck suppers; held the last Tuesday of the month, our members' only luncheons on special occasions, the use of the hall once a year for private functions (you must be a member in good standing for a year), our library, and many other perks. All this and you only have to be 50 to join in the fun.

Pay your membership before December 31st and your name is entered into a draw for a free membership.

Pancake/French Toast Breakfasts are held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Take-out is available by calling 663-2082.

If you are interested in becoming a member or want any other information regarding the club, please call Dorothy Jessup, President 705-495-6841, Karin Sandula, Vice President, 663-2696, Ilene Ranger, Secretary, 663-2238 or Ellen Boulet, Treasurer at 663-2218

In the spirit of the season I opted for the following instead of a joke. Hope you don't mind!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Dorothy Jessup, President

PHELPS PUBLIC LIBRARY

As you probably remember, the library will be closed between Christmas and New Years. The last open time is December 21 and we reopen on January 4. Hopefully you'll be able to get all your reading materials, DVD's, etc.

I've been starting these articles with histories of local families and this time I'd like to feature the Hummels. The Tweedsmuir article didn't give me a lot of info but I'll give you what I can.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hummel came to Phelps Township in July 1928. They worked in camps for three years. In 1930 they moved into their first house on the North River Road near the mill. It was cottage style - 2 bedrooms, large kitchen and dining room. They lived there for 13 years. After having five children, their "long" term home was built on Highway 63. Two more children were born there - seven in all. Gerwin, Melvin, Janet, Sheila, Merrill, Wayne and Marlene. A couple of the kids later built homes for their families on that highway as well as other places in the community. Mr. Hummel worked for the Dept. of Highways. They have been a well respected, important family in the area all these years, involved in many aspects of the community and still are. Read more stories like this on the computers at the library.

Are you looking for new books? The big metal shelves just in front of the desk are loaded. Try these!

Scoundrel's Honor - Rosemary Rogers
- Filled with adventure, excitement and romance

The Wife Between Us - Greer Hendricks
& Sarah Pekkanen
- a mind-bending novel about marriage and betrayal - gripping plot - will keep you turning pages and guessing until the very end.

Finding the Mother Tree - Suzanne Simard
- discovering the wisdom of the forest - elegantly detailed - deeply personal - revolutionary and controversial.

Daylight - David Baldacci
- thriller extraordinaire

The Eagle Has Flown - Jack Higgins
- remember the Eagle has Landed - more of the same!!

Five Little Indians - Michelle Good
- for those interested in reading about residential schools.

Also, don't forget the endless number of DVD's and magazines at your disposal.

We are still having problems with the library being closed when it shouldn't be. We are looking for more volunteers over the holidays. Until we get this problem sorted out perhaps you could call the library (phone number is 663-2220) before you venture out. Hopefully you won't have to do this for much longer.

Maybe you'd like to volunteer - especially for Saturday mornings? Something to think about.

Hopefully we'll see you at the library!

Bev Reynolds, CEO



**GOD BLESS ALL
LIVING CREATURES
at
CHRISTMASTIME**

When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

VETS CLUB

We hope this busy season finds you well, and able to share a wonderful season with family and friends!

The Vets Club held our Christmas Potluck Supper on Saturday, December 9, followed by our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elections. The current Board members remain in effect and Ervil Boreland from True Country Boys has agreed to join the Board - welcome Ervil!

We also agreed to reestablish regular Members Meetings - quarterly in March, June, September and December (AGM). The Board itself will meet on the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m.

The Vets continue with some great events for all. The True Country Boys play a Sunday matinee each month, which is appreciated and enjoyed by a large group of folks many from out of town, usually with a full homemade dinner at \$10/plate! Thank you so much to the band and to Judy Wardell for providing the supper to help our Club!

We also continue to host a 'Paint the Town Redbridge' paint night fundraiser, also well attended (usually 20 - 30 excited creative people out of a maximum of 30). Our recent paint night in November raised \$546! Our next paint night will be in March and we'll paint something suitable to herald a long awaited spring!

Also in the new year we will be hosting a full day Darts Tournament with the participation of several darts groups in our region - so watch for the ads on store signs and Facebook, and plan on joining for a super fun day complete with delicious food!

We do plan on hosting a Trivia Night to see how much interest there is; and if so we can host several a year. That should be a lot of fun - especially for you trivia experts out there!

Our Accessibility Projects are in the planning stage. Due to the winter months, the complexities of the outdoor ramp and associated potential risks re insurance, etc. We have reprioritized the projects to maximize indoor time during the winter. Our focus is to renovate the main floor of the Club for accessibility and also to increase usable space where the woodstove is (by popular demand). So we will be widening the entranceways, renovating one washroom on the main floor to make it fully accessible by those requiring wheelchairs, rollators or canes, etc. Also, along with that, we will open up the space more, add new insulation and wall repairs, etc, as required and freshen up the space. Regarding access to the upper floor (hall and kitchen) we are exploring indoor options such as a Stair Chairlift for next year.

Tis the season, and many find themselves struggling financially especially with the rising cost of food for Christmas! This year, following suggestions from folks, we are again providing Christmas Food Hampers to families in need; and we have asked for donations from our local businesses, groups and individual persons. The Hampers with the makings of a full Christmas Dinner (and then some) will be available through a draw. At the time of this writing the # of Hampers is unknown (dependent on donations); in past years we've been able to provide 10 Christmas Food Hampers. This is basically an opportunity to help some local families in need to enjoy a bit merrier Christmas and dinner, and we thank those folks and businesses who have so graciously and generously donated to this cause! The Hamper applications and donations will close on Wednesday, December 20 at end of day. Draws will be held on Thursday, December 21 followed by (a lot of) grocery shopping and packing; those receiving Hampers will be notified Friday, December 22! We ask that folks only complete one application per family to help ensure some of our families really hurting can have a better chance of being a recipient.

And some good news - we have been able to setup a new email account for the Club: phelpsvetsclub@gmail.com - and enabled etransfer capability with auto deposit (so you don't have to worry about a security question/answer)! This should help folks who wish to support the Club by becoming members (\$25/year which buys \$4 beers and free use of the hall once/year) - and of course with donations for the Christmas Hampers and our other fundraising events and activities!

Keep your calendars open for the Annual Snowshoe Golf event, usually held around the end of February or early March! This has been wildly successful in recent years (except during Covid), and is organized and run by a great volunteer committee. Where else can you go for a day of fun in the snow, hit a tennis ball through a 'course', enjoy time and laughs and your refreshments with friends and family, and then enjoy a home cooked meal along with some acknowledgements and prizes back at the Club! It is such a fun time for all! So this is just a placeholder til we hear from the organizing committee.

Memberships are due at the end of the year so please consider helping to support our Club. It is the only large hall in our community, available to rent for personal family gettogethers, etc - and we are solely funded through membership dues and fundraising activities.

It can be challenging trying to communicate events and such in our community, especially changes and dates (we so appreciate the Buzzer and the volunteers who work so diligently to collect, edit and publish it!!). So please keep an eye on the store signs (with thanks to the Rec Center) and on Facebook - and those on Facebook, please help spread the word to those not able to access it.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season with family and friends, and hugs to those missing loved ones!



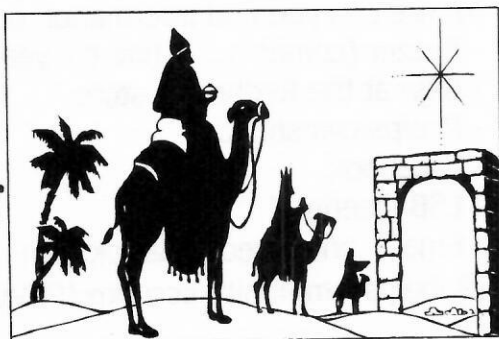
Your Vets Club Board
Clinton Clark, President
Judy Wardell, Treasurer
Sandy Mannering, Board Chair
Gord Mulcahey / Ab Depencier
Sheila Jessup / Lynn Wilson
Ervil Boreland (new member)
Natasha Holmes and
Elise Thomas (our much
appreciated Bartender)

PHELPS UNITED CHURCH

By the time you read this, the apple peelers and pastry rollers at Phelps United Church will be almost recovered from their annual apple pie fundraiser. It took four intense days of effort, with a rotating crew of volunteers, eighteen bushels of apples, and sixty-two batches of pastry. All told, there were about 600 pies made, most of which were delivered by our amazing crew of pie salespeople. A big thank you to everyone in the community who supported us, either by purchasing pies or by lending a hand with the mammoth job!

The congregation is planning a Christmas Eve Service for December 23 at 2 p.m. Hot cider and cookies will be served, and everyone is welcome. Music will be provided by Licensed Lay Worship Leader Brenda McLay. Come and join in singing your favourite Christmas carols!

*A
Child Is
Born*



PHELPS COMMUNITY REC CENTRE

Happy holidays to everyone! As things wind down and we come to the closure of another great year we want to say how thankful we are to everyone who continues to come out and support us at the Rec. Lots of great fundraisers, events and projects were completed this year at the Rec and we are so excited to see what 2024 has in store!

New Committee Business:

The Rec Committee is currently planning for spring/summer 2024. The Rec committee meets quarterly to discuss future events, Rec maintenance and community planning projects.

The LSB's budget meeting was held near the end of October 2023. The Rec Centre submitted a proposed budget to the LSB for the upcoming 2023/2024 year. Our proposed budget was evaluated, adjusted and approved. Thank you to the LSB for their hard work! Just a reminder to everyone that the budget meeting and election meeting held by the LSB are both public meetings open to all community members. It's a great time to come out and see how our community works.

The Rec Committee continues its application process for funding to make seriously needed improvements to the rink. The rink has been at the top of our project list for a few years now. We have in the past few years acquired or purchased some new equipment to help with rink maintenance and continue to look for opportunities to make bigger financial improvements. The rink is an integral part of our community and is used by many.

Past Events:

Halloween Spooktacular Drive Thru:

Thank you to the Phelps Fire Dept. for once again having their Halloween Drive Thru this year and letting us at the Rec be a part of it. We had a great time despite the VERY snowy weather and as always look forward to next year. Thank you to everyone at the Phelps Fire Dept!

Rec-Enroll Yoga:

Thank you so much to Julie Robinson for providing such an amazing opportunity to our community and leading the two yoga sessions this fall/winter. This has been such a great and successful class that we are hopeful to hold more in the future. Please stay tuned to our Facebook, store sign and Buzzer for more registration opportunities. Again, thank you so much to Julie!

Current Rec Events:

Holiday Ornaments:

Get your ornament today just in time for the holidays! If you'd like one call/text 705-358-8073 or email phelpsrec@outlook.com

These ornaments make great gifts, keepsakes for your family or kids and support Rec programing. You can see what they look like on our Facebook page, you can also contact us on Facebook to get yours! Each ornament is \$8. We will have the ornaments available until January. Thank you to everyone who has purchased one so far.

T'was the Lights Before Christmas Lights Contest:

T'was the lights before Christmas, and all through Phelps, friends and families were planning to light up their house! The judges were ready to choose a winner with care, in hopes everyone would decorate with holiday flair! So, show us your best, to give us all a great sight, enjoy our holiday lights contest and light up the night! That's right - it's back! Decorate your house, garage, shed, etc. and send us a photo of your lights. The closing date to enter is December 21st so be sure to email, PM or text us your photos to be entered. Judges will announce the winners on December 22nd, 2023 on our Facebook!

We'll be judging on creativity, presentation and Christmas spirit!

So, text your photos to 705-358-8073 or email them to phelpsrec@outlook.com (If you are unable to text or email photos call the number above and a judge will come by to take pictures of your display).

Happy holidays to all and to all a light and bright night!

The EarlyOn Program:

The EarlyOn program continues at Phelps School on Thursdays from 9:30 am till 11:30 am. This program is FREE and is offered to children from birth to age 6. The program will be taking a holiday break so there will be no class on Thursday, December 28th. You can see the full schedule on the EarlyOn North Bay and area's Facebook page, or you can contact them at 705-474-8910.

Winter Reminders:

Please remember in the winter to stay safe and be cautious around the pond and creek area at the Rec.

We want everyone to enjoy the grounds at the Rec, it's a safe and great place for snow shoeing, walking and more. The Rec is there for everyone to enjoy. We just want folks to be cautious, never leave children unattended and be cautious for fast moving water in the river. Also, just a reminder there is no overnight parking on Rec grounds.

Volunteer Opportunities:

The Rec Centre is 100% operated and maintained by volunteers. We need more help to keep events going. If you are interested in volunteering at the Rec, or within our community in some capacity, please reach out. We will find something for you to do that you are comfortable doing. In this section we will be posting volunteer positions that are available at the Rec as you will see below. If you are interested in more information, you can see the Rec's Facebook page. We will have a photo album with all the positions available and additional information about the jobs. If you don't have Facebook, please email phelpsrec@outlook.com and we will send the information to you. These positions will be updated as they become filled or available. We hope this will also help us communicate better with parents or students who need volunteer hours. PLEASE email us at the above address if you'd like to help.

Breakfast Prep Crew

- 3 to 4 hours, once a month, evenings

Rec Organization & Cleaning Crew

- 2 to 3 hours, every other week, evenings (flexible)

Farmers Market Coordinators

7 to 12 hours per month, Jan to Oct

Rec Event Photographer

- 4 to 5 hours per month (depending on events)

Community Breakfast Crew

- 5 hours, once a month,
Saturdays 7 am til 12 pm

Bottle Drive Fundraiser (drivers & deliveries)

- 4 - 6 hours per month, Saturdays

Rink Volunteers - (Ice Makers & Maintenance)

- 6 - 7 hours per month. Jan to March

Again, we can never thank our volunteers enough for everything they do! The Rec is a labour of love, and you all have shown how much you love our community through your service; we couldn't do this without you.

Community Info Resources:

Where can you find information on events?

- Buzzer (comes out 4 times a year)
- Sign at the Redbridge store
- Phelps township.ca
- Facebook
- LSB Meetings
- Email phelpsrec@outlook.com
[@phelpscommunityreccentre\(PCRC\)](mailto:@phelpscommunityreccentre(PCRC))

That's it from all of us at the Rec for 2023!
We truly want to thank everyone for all their support and participation in the last year. We love providing opportunities, events and more at the Rec and we couldn't do it without all of you, our wonderful community members. Have the most wonderful holiday season, always remember to check the sign at the store for ALL events, our Facebook, AND the Phelps Township website!

Stay safe out there and have a Happy New Year!!!!

See you all in 2024.

**Put Your
Best Foot
Forward
This
Christmas**



*Carols and candles aglow in the night,
Hearth fires blazing all cozy and bright,
Red-leaved poinsettia, white Christmas rose,
Ice skaters whirling on ice as it snows,
Sleigh bells and Santas,
Tinsel-trimmed trees,
Mistletoe magic and warm memories,
Angels all bringing glad tidings anew,
Season's best wishes from us to you!*

Getting Old!

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down: I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Why do I have to press 1 for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

Have Yourself
A Merry
Little Christmas

A
Joyous
Noel

FELIZ NAVIDAD

BUON NATALE

HAVSKAAJOULUA

BOAS FESTAS

FROEHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN

