

comment

jim hatt

New ideas always happening

Every year there is a part of the Fun Fest held at Sadler's Park. It isn't nearly as well attended as the beer tent but it is still a very worthwhile part of the festival. Those who attend every year nearly always come back the next year. It is such a quiet, tranquil place where one can worship and give praise to God. We have been having a community worship service as part of the festival for over twenty years.

We take time to offer thanks to our Creator at 8

a.m. on the Sunday morning of the festival. We have an opportunity to worship together as a community and with people whom we do not see every Sunday.

This year we had special music offered by a barber-shop octet, Some Old Guys Who Like To Sing, bringing their gift of voice and song to our service. Carolyn Barnett as usual played at the keyboard offering her special talent. Arleen Hatt, assisted by Ann Ellis, prepared coffee for us to have before, during or after the

service. Dan Proctor and Bob Ellis helped with the physical set up. The Legion lent us their PA system. The town staff brought us chairs as they always do. Sarah Humphrey once again lent us her keyboard.

A new addition to the service this year was having the Citizen of the Year partake. Sean McGivern read a passage, The Emanating Flame. It was good to have Sean with us.

Many thanks also go to Sam Cornett and Bob Garrett, octet members, who

did readings in the service. Mayor Ron McDermott and Councillor Morley Bowman also shared in the reading of scripture.

I brought the message, which related to the theme of the festival this year, "Mardi Gras". Just as Mardi Gras is a celebration just before Lent begins, our Essex Mardi Gras is the time we take out to have fun with our families, enjoy fireworks, ride the rides and just generally relax before all the work of elections and choosing the people who

will be leading us municipally. We closed with a prayer asking that all those who are leaders lead with love and hopefully try to build communities based on love. Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love your neighbour as yourself.

Major Paul Gilbert gave the benediction to end the service.

We ask that the community to keep the Rev. George Cox and his wife Reitta in your prayers. George worked for many years with this worship service.

George and Reitta are now living in London.

The offering this year was very generous and was given to the Salvation Army for their food bank.

Yes, we worshipped as a community in a beautiful setting beside the pond where we could admire God's handiwork. May we continue to face the future as a faith community! And may we always have time to share together as a community based on love for one another.

Spill shuts down part of Talbot Street

A diesel spill closed Talbot Street North to motorists July 22.

According to Essex Fire Chief Ed Pillon, firefighters were called by Essex Police Service at 11:13 a.m. Saturday to assist officers with a diesel spill between Victoria Avenue and Centre Street. Pillon said the spill

was cleaned up by the town's road department and there was no need for HAZMAT personnel.

Pillon did not know the reason for the spill. Sgt. Rick Maling from Essex Police Service said the incident was not the result of a motor vehicle accident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Family grateful for respect

On Saturday, July 22, 2006 we drove through Essex in a funeral procession for my grandmother, Rhoda Myers. My family was touched by the number of cars that pulled over and waited until the funeral procession had passed.

I also want to thank a

gentleman from Fairview Ave. I don't know his name and we may never meet, but as we drove by his home he stopped cutting his grass, removed his baseball cap and stood at attention while we passed by.

It touched our hearts to know that people will still take the time to pull over

in their cars or stop whatever activity they are doing as a sign of respect for both the grieving and the dead.

Thanks again to all who showed their respect to my grandma and our families

Leigh Ann VanderVecht
Cottam

Horseshow Raffle Winners

The Cottam Rotary Club Horseshow raffle winners on Sunday, July 16 were first Cheryl Nikita of Essex, second Linda Lepain of Cottam and third Cathy Casporowicz of Kingsville.

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