

Community baby shower in urgent need of support

by Lindsey Burbridge
MILFORD

The Heritage Credit Union Milford branch would like to encourage East Hants residents to make donations to the community baby shower in support of SHYM.

The credit union has partnered with SHYM (Supportive Housing for Young Mothers) to act as a drop point to collect items or money donated by members of the community.

"SHYM is a housing program for young single mothers ages 16 to 21 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or who have insecure housing. Eligibility criteria includes age, that they be actively parenting their children, that they're on income assistance and that they have insecure housing," said Amy LeChance, child development coordinator with SHYM.

However, unlike inner city branches, the Milford branch has not seen the level of participation as had been anticipated when the incentive began in early May.

"The total is not as wonderful as we had hoped for this area. We had only

received a couple items from the community. I'm not sure that people really understand what it's about or maybe they haven't heard much about it. Even though the location is in Dartmouth, single, young mothers from this area would be using this particular service if they needed the assistance. It's something that is very important, and I'd like to see more involvement," said Milford branch Manager Tammy Reid.

The Milford location will still accept donations from residents during the months of July in preparation for the grand opening of the supportive housing units.

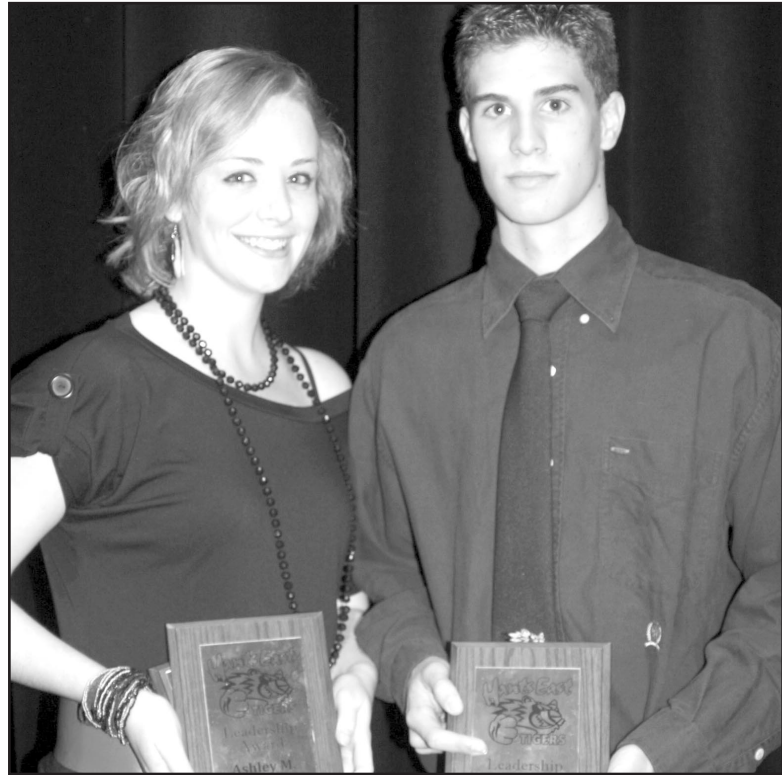
"We're preparing to open to families in about a month. We're located in the Woodside area of Dartmouth, next to the Dartmouth General Hospital," LeChance explained, "The building, formally the Woodside Child Care Centre, recently won a Lieutenant Governors design award, which is really exciting for us. Our architect is Anne Sinclair. The building was gutted and completely redesigned inside. The

apartments are very efficiently designed. Two on the top floor are slightly smaller one bedroom units for mom's who might be pregnant or have newborns. The bottom floor also has some office space, a program room and a child development room. That's where the supportive element comes in, so the mom's living in the apartments can have access to this space for any type of need, when planning for their futures, whether it be for assistance with parenting, returning to school or going back to work."

SHYM is also seeking corporate donations to help furnish the 12 one and two bedroom units, which are available at a minimal, affordable rent to the mother for up to two years.

The non-profit charitable organization receives funding from a variety of sources, including the federal government, the United Way, and the Department of Community Services.

Young mother's looking for information can visit www.SHYM.ca, call the SHYM main office at 465-2212.



Ashley M. Ettinger and Chris Doyle were presented with the Hants East Rural High leadership awards during the school's athletic awards ceremony on June 12. (Curwin photo)



Colton Worr takes aim in the shooting gallery located at Hnatiuk's Hunting and Fishing in Lantz. Colton was one of many who was in attendance for the grand opening events held June 2 at the new location. The young Lantz resident had no problems finding the target. His hits included a bullseye. (Gill photo)



Dr. Andrew Webber and Dr. Mark Chute held the ribbon while Dr. Andrea Hawkins cut it for the official opening at Elmsdale Vision Centre on June 9. (Curwin photo)



The staff of Elmsdale Vision all gathered together to cut the cake when they held an open house on June 9. The staff were celebrating the grand opening of their new facility. The doctors at Elmsdale Vision Centre are Andrew Webber, Mark Chute and Andrea Hawkins. (Curwin photo)

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