

t | Hear?

Tantramar residents focusing on future priorities for the region

About 40 Tantramar residents participated in the second Tantramar 2040 workshop 'Focusing on Priorities' last month at the Swisscot Tea Rooms in Dorchester.

Facilitated by EOS Eco-Energy and the Tantramar Planning District Commission, participants took part in discussions on eight topics that were identified as regional priorities.

The priority topics were developed through input from the first workshop (held in September) and refined with help from the Tantramar 2040 steering committee and a review of ongoing sustainability planning and green planning initiatives in the participating communities.

The eight topics were: food, local business development, energy, social supports, water, bioregional planning, infrastructure and transportation.

"We recognize that these are not the only issues; for example, education, health, climate change and culture are also key concerns. However, we hope to see these overarching concerns covered within some of the priority topics," explains Katie Friars, executive director of EOS Eco-Energy.

"And it is important to note that the priority topics are not standalone issues, but are integrated and overlapping."

The workshop included two rounds of four small group discussions on the topics identified, which gave each participant a chance to join in two discussions. As well, a resource person, whose role it was to answer questions to the best of their experience, was invited to

sit in on each discussion topic.

"The goal of these discussions was to determine: where we are today and what are we doing right? Where do we want to be in 2040 and what could be improved?" Friars explains.

The Tantramar 2040 steering committee decided to offset some of the carbon produced as a result of these workshops by purchasing trees to be planted in community areas in the Tantramar region.

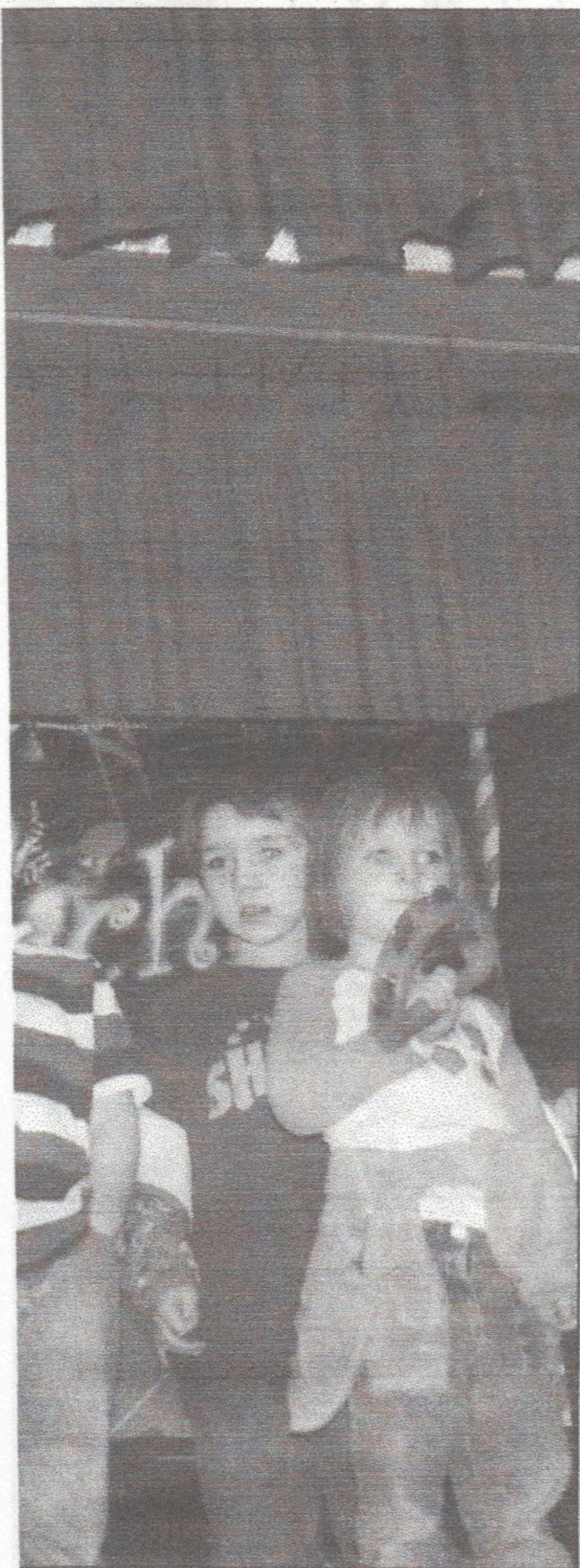
Renaissance Sackville has agreed to donate trees matching the amount of money donated by workshop participants.

In terms of next steps, "we are already starting to plan the final phase of Tantramar 2040 for late January," notes Tracey Wade, a planner with the Tantramar Planning District Commission.

"These will be a series of shorter discussions that will detail action plans on the priority topics such as identifying next steps, key players, timing and resources required."

"Through this process, Tantramar 2040 will identify various opportunities for people and communities in the Tantramar region to create a more sustainable future economically, socio-culturally, and environmentally," says Friars.

If you are interested in getting involved or providing input, please contact Katie Friars of EOS Eco-Energy at (506) 536-4487 or tantramar2040@gmail.com. For more information about Tantramar 2040, please visit www.tantramar2040.ca or join us on Facebook (Tantramar 2040).



Students up on stage to perform with
afternoon. The bilingual perform-
ed by instruments such as the accor-
OTO

nstruction