

## **"Will 7 days make one weak?" Tatamagouche men to find out when Week the Women Went empties village"**

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TATAMAGOUCHE — What do men do when all the women leave town?

The men of Tatamagouche will have a chance to find out in September when season 2 of the CBC series *The Week the Women Went* is filmed in the Colchester County village.

It's a good bet the men won't party all the time. The Vancouver production company, Paperny Films, will whisk some 200 women to a resort for a week of pampering, leaving behind all the children, pets, businesses and volunteer positions in the care of the village men.

"Our big concern is what are they going to eat," said Jennifer Langille, who looks forward to taking off from Sept. 7 to 13 and leaving her husband Mark in charge of their five- and eight-year-old children, their home and the family fuel business.

School will just be starting, so her husband will have to make school lunches at the same time of year when demands for home heating fuel deliveries increase, she noted.

"My husband can make toast and coffee," she said, adding that the Langille children may learn to like frozen pizzas in her absence.

Usually, if she goes away for a few days, she stocks the freezer beforehand and calls on female relatives for child care. But this time, she's too busy to stock up, and potential female babysitters, except for younger teenagers, will run away with her.

Some women in essential services or those who can't leave their jobs will be left behind, but "any woman from Tatamagouche who wants to go can go," senior story producer Peter Waal said.

"Practically speaking, we can't take everyone, but we'll try," he said.

The women's destination hasn't been decided, he added.

"It will be someplace nice."

A community project to be under-taken by the men also remains a secret in order to surprise the women upon their return, he said.

Last year, when the show filmed families in Hardisty, Alta., the men started out with an air of confidence but within a few days began to sweat and some even panicked, Mr. Waal said.

"A lot of these guys never looked after their kids before," he said. "No doubt the men of Tatamagouche will enjoy the experience but maybe more on reflection than in the moment. It makes better TV if they struggle."

"I think the men are pretty good here and I think we'll cope," said Jimmy LeFresne, a county councillor and businessman. "I may have to eat my words, though."

As an illustration of community spirit, he described how some men jokingly wore women's clothes to a pre-production town meeting so they could run away with the women, but the film people saw through the ploy.

Mr. LeFresne is most excited about the show's impact on the community of 650. About 70 film production workers will be in Tatamagouche at the end of this month and again in September when the women leave. When the show's eight one-hour episodes begin Jan. 19, the exposure will promote the village nationally, he said.

Tatamagouche and Mabou were both potential sites for the series. Producers made their choice earlier this week.

"It was choosing between charm and charm," Mr. Waal said. "They're both great communities and it was a tough choice."

Producers allow events to unfold rather than engineering them, so just as it did in Alberta last year, the show will offer a window into the life and culture of Nova Scotia that local people take for granted, he said.

"I think Canada will be entertained," Ms. Langille said, adding that she intends to do "nothing, nothing, nothing for a week."

She's not even going to worry about her husband.

"Figure it out, buddy," she said. "You can do it."

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JENNIFER LANGILLE Tatamagouche mother of two