

# TownCryer



[www.towncryernews.ca](http://www.towncryernews.ca)

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## The Aussie connection

Several years ago, Carl Milne, of Waterfall, Australia and formerly of Middle Musquodoboit, recruited Mike McFetridge and his sister, Ellen, to submit articles to Waterfall's newspaper: The TownCryer. For the past several years, people in Waterfall have been able to learn about the Musquodoboit Valley and its residents through the McFetridges' submissions. In Mike's column, dubbed Snowbirds, and Ellen's Maple Leaves, people in Australia look forward to reading about our way of life.

Now that the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association has started its own Town Cryer, it is hoped that through our papers, readers will be able to get a glimpse of what life is like in our respective communities.

Waterfall, Australia is similar to the Musquodoboit Valley in many respects. It's a rural area and the community is faced with similar challenges as we are. Russell Benn, editor of The Waterfall TownCryer, has generously offered to submit articles to our paper. Be sure to take the time to read his column: A Sheep or Two and a Kangaroo.

## New RCMP location

The RCMP office is now located at: 12090 Hwy 224. Phone: 384-3401.

## Mother's Day Tea

Eliz's Kitchen, located at 152 Sibley Road, Middle Musquodoboit, is hosting My Fair Lady Mother's Day Tea on May 12 and 13 at 2:30pm. Make your mother the center of this celebration by arranging an afternoon tea in her honour. Reservations are required to attend this popular event. Please phone: 384-2972 for more information.

## International Trail Day

On June 2, celebrate International Trail Day in Markland (located off the Moose River Road). The Icelandic Memorial Society encourages anyone interested in participating in a 10km walk to meet at the Memorial Cairn, located at the mouth of the road leading to Markland, at 10am.

Donald Redden will provide information about the early Icelandic pioneers as walkers travel through this historic settlement. At the end of the trek, the Icelandic Memorial Society will provide a lunch. As well, the Dog Lake Club will be on hand to entertain.

It is advised that participants pack fly dope and sunscreen before heading out on the trail.

## Valley Weeders Garden Club

The Valley Weeders Garden Club meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 7pm at the Enterprisers Hall, Middle Musquodoboit. The club occasionally has guest speakers, visits gardens outside the Musquodoboit Valley, and attends tours and regional meetings.

Members enjoy participating in projects which have been established by the club over the past several years, such as planting flowers at Braeside, the Bicentennial Theatre, and the Exhibition Grounds. Annually, the club erects and lights a Christmas tree in front of the Valley View Villa, hosts a plant sale, and arranges a local garden tour during the summer. Club members and volunteers set up and look after all the flower exhibits at the Halifax County Exhibition and sponsor the children's competition. As well, the Valley Weeders Garden Club provides a \$500 bursary for Musquodoboit Rural High School.

Last year, club members assisted the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association with the construction of Corner Stone Park, located on the corner of Hwy 224 and Elm Drive. For more info, phone 384-2878 or 384-2279.

## New Internet directory

Karen Sibley, of Middle Musquodoboit, is currently developing a new Musquodoboit Valley Internet Directory. Based on a directory created by staff at the Middle Musquodoboit CAP Site several years ago, Karen has been updating contact information and the status of businesses, groups, and organizations within the area.

"My new directory is taking shape and I'm amassing lots of info and contacts for it," she says. "I have changed the format. What started out as simply an alphabetical listing by company/organization name has now become an index of categories, which makes searching for a particular type of business much easier. I am also going to add a search feature to the site, so someone can type in key words and quickly find what they are looking for."

Anyone interested to see first hand what the new Musquodoboit Valley Internet Directory looks like, or wishes to have their business, group, or organization listed (all listings are FREE!), please visit: [www.musquodoboitvalley.karsibgraphics.com](http://www.musquodoboitvalley.karsibgraphics.com).

## Upcoming events

- May 7-12** Sound of Music presented by MRHS and community at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit
- May 19** Jason MacDonald with Stephanie Hardy at the Bicentennial
- May 19** Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre opens!
- June 8** Matt Minglewood at the Bicentennial
- June 10** CBC's Stan Carew at the Bicentennial
- July 7** Bill Stevenson at the Bicentennial

Contact [info@towncryernews.ca](mailto:info@towncryernews.ca) to submit your contribution to Upcoming Events!

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE TOWN CRYER IS JULY 15.**

**The TownCryer is distributed through: Reid's, Haverstock's, Horton's Convenience Store, and J&J's Restaurant.**

## Visitor Information Centre opens

The Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre (VIC), located within the Bicentennial Theatre, has a new look and new hours this year. The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association, manager of the VIC, invites the public to drop by on opening day, May 19, to pick up travel information, meet the staff, and help celebrate the beginning of the 2007 tourist season. New hours: 9am to 5pm seven days a week!

## Bit of a giggle

A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says, "You've been brought in here for drinking". The drunk says, "Okay, let's get started!"

## Jeopardy

Volunteers for the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA) hosted Jeopardy at the Meagher's Grant Recreation Centre on April 14. Three teams of two answered skill-testing questions related to tourism in the Musquodoboit Valley and Nova Scotia. Myra Thieman and husband Lorne, earned first place position over Vickie and Gina Dickie and Judith Thompson and Janet Moulton. The 11 audience members were given the opportunity to participate when teams were unable to answer.

The next day, April 15, Jeopardy was played at the Community Hall in Upper Musquodoboit. Vincent Fleming and team mate Troy Smith beat out Tom Hunter and Julie Higgins and Heather Smith and Karen MacKay. The two members of the audience, along with volunteers for the community hall, enjoyed the opportunity to answer questions missed by the teams.

At the Jeopardy Play-Off, held on April 21 at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit, winning teams from Meagher's Grant and Upper Musquodoboit squared off against returning Jeopardy champs, Dave Taylor and Trevor Smith. Even though the Meagher's Grant and Upper Musquodoboit teams gave Dave and Trevor a run for their money, they were declared winners, once again, in the final round of the game.

The MVTA thanks everyone who was involved with this fundraiser. After expenses, a total of \$75 was raised to help offset the operating expenses of the Visitor Information Centre this tourist season.

## Heritage property needs help

The Harrison House, located on the Halifax County Exhibition Grounds, Middle Musquodoboit, was originally built in the 1800s and was the private residence of Dr. William Harrison.

Joe Howe, premier of Nova Scotia from 1860 to 1863, is remembered for delivering a speech to area residents from the widow's walk on the west end of Harrison House. In recent years, the building has fallen into disrepair and deemed unsafe for public use. At a public meeting held Feb 15, the Harrison House Preservation Society was formed to work with the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society to offer suggested uses and means to generate funds to restore and maintain the building for the future.

The Harrison House is the second oldest building in the community and designated as a HRM Heritage Property.

## Spring Fling

The Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre will be having its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Fling on Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the school, from 6:00pm - 8:30pm. There will be a bounce tent, games of chance, face painting, helium balloons, a plant sale, sucker pull, a cake walk, fish pond, penny auction, and much more. Food and drinks will also be available to purchase.

This event is open to anyone and everyone, so come out for an evening of fun, and support your local elementary school. Volunteers are also needed to work various shifts at the spring fling, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact Melissa Reid or Tanya Black at the school at 384-2555.

## A sheep or two and a kangaroo

For a little while, I will be writing a column from Australia to let at least one part of Canada know what it is like to live in the land of the gum trees.

I think at this point I had better tell you about Waterfall (please, don't get too jealous). Waterfall started way back in 1886 and was planned to be the end of the railway line from Sydney. There were a couple of routes proposed and due to some very generous land deals, the route we now have was

settled on. Waterfall has always been a railway town and about the early sixties we doubled the town with the 'new subdivision'. Funnily, after all these years, the old folks (that probably includes me) still call it the 'new subdivision'.

We had our first school in 1901, electricity in about 1936, water in the early 60s, and the sewer in the early 80s. About 5 kms from us and to the south is the Garrawarra Hospital, which is now a dementia specific hospital, but it started out as a TB hospital.

Our town is surrounded on the east side by the Royal National Park and the Heathcote State Park on the west side. It looks very serene most of the time, except when the bushfires start. Then, it can look like a horror painting.

Our town is now a terminus for Sydney trains and a quick stop for trains to the south coast going all the way to Bomaderry. Already, I can tell you're jealous! Such is life.

Til next time... see ya, Russ Benn.

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