

TownCryer



www.towncryernews.ca

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Summer sale and auction

This is your opportunity to pick up some excellent deals! The Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit, is holding a summer sale and auction on Aug. 4 between 9 am and 2 pm. Fresh garden produce, fancy work, fudge, baked goods, crafts, toys, furniture and lots more will be for sale. Keep in mind, at noon, the larger items will be auctioned. As well, organizers are offering the following lunch menu: hot dog & drink: \$1.50, hamburger & drink: \$2.00, cheeseburger & drink: \$2.25 and sandwiches: \$1.00. Juice and water are also available. If you wish to donate items for this event, please contact Ross Dares: 384-2039. If it happens to rain, the summer sale and auction will be held in the church basement.

The TownCryer is on-line

By visiting The TownCryer's web site at www.towncryernews.ca people are now able to read and subscribe to The TownCryer. This is a great opportunity for anyone living away from home to keep in touch with life in the Musquodoboit Valley. Donations to offset the cost of producing the TownCryer are gratefully accepted.

5th Annual Musquodoboit Valley Bluegrass Festival

If you want to hear some of the best bluegrass musicians in Atlantic Canada, be sure to drop by the Exhibition Grounds, Middle Musquodoboit, between Aug. 3 and 5. Besides a phenomenal line-up of entertainers this year, patrons have the opportunity to participate in an open mic session on Aug. 4, from 10am to 11:30am. As well,

organizers are encouraging folks to take part in a workshop on Aug. 4. On stage will be: Close to Home, A New Shade of Blue, Birch Mountain, Dark Hollow, The Pioneers, Grassworks and Laura Lynds and Blue After All.

Admission for the entire weekend is only \$35 per person. If you wish to attend on Friday evening only, it'll be \$10 per person. All-day Saturday will be \$20 per person but, if you show up after 5pm, admission is \$10. And, Sunday's show is also \$10 per person. Please note, children 14 years and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted FREE! There will be supervised activities on Aug. 4 between 1pm and 5pm for children aged 4 to 12 years. Phone: 384-2894 for more info.

Blueberries now available

For the first time, Glenmore Industries has partnered with the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association to sell blueberries. If you wish to place an order for a 5-lb or 10-lb box, or for more information, please phone: 384-2006.

Also available this season at the Visitor Information Centre, are Glenmore Industries maple syrup products.

Employment opportunity

A six-week VIC staff position is available at the Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit, beginning in August. The successful candidate will need WHIMIS training and First Aid. SuperHost training will be provided. For more information please contact: 384-2006.

What's your story?

One of Musquodoboit Valley's landmarks is slated for demolition. Musquodoboit Rural High School (MRHS) has been a focal point in this community for more than half a century. Even though the building may no longer be part of the landscape in another year or so, memories of life at MRHS will always remain.

One way to ensure those school stories are carried forward is to send your contribution to The TownCryer. Perhaps you have a particular memory about being on one of the school's sports teams. Or, were you ever a member of the glee club? Did you ever participate in the music festivals that used to be held in the school gym? Were you one of the students who traveled to Expo '67? Maybe you have fond memories of some of the school dances. Were you at the dance April Wine played? Can you remember students being expelled because of the length of their hair?

If so, please, don't be shy. Share those memories with others. The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association wishes to compile a collection of memories of school life at MRHS for the past 50 plus years. Please submit your contribution to: MVTA@ns.sympatico.ca. In future issues of this publication, readers will be able to share their personal remembrances of school days gone by.

A sheep or two and a kangaroo

Since I last wrote things have changed. It rained. After seven or more years, it's rained. This probably doesn't mean too much in a land where there is more water than sunshine but, over here in Aus, it's been the other way around. Just when we thought that God has forgotten all about us, he turned around and smiled. In many places in Australia we went from dust to deluge in the blink of an eye. Drought is acceptable on the area east of the Great Dividing Range as we have massive dams to quench our thirst but, to the west, well, that is farming land. I tell you possums, you have to be an incredible human to be a farmer. However, things are looking up. The rains came just at the right time and we might have some bumper crops this year and because of rationalism caused by the drought, our wine vintages could be the best in living memory. And, it is still raining. Many of our dams have been nothing more than puddles, literally. In Goulburn, which is about a two-hour drive SW from my place, they were on Level 5 water restrictions, the severest in Australia. But, all of a sudden two of the dams were over flowing and the third was coming along nicely. The

words of an old poem ring out: I love a sun burnt country, A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of droughts and flooding rains. I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea, Her beauty and her terror - The wide brown land for me!

~ R.B.

Upcoming events

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| Aug 3-5 | Musq. Valley Bluegrass Festival |
| Aug 4 | Middleton United Church Annual Yard Sale |
| Aug 15-18 | Halifax County Exhibition |
| Aug 29 | Mike Cowie & Water Babies at the Bicentennial Theatre (FREE CONCERT!)
Blueberry Social at the Theatre prior to the concert (\$5) |
| Sept 8 | Dammien Alexander at the Bicentennial Theatre |
| Sept 8-9 | 50-Mile Yard Sale |
| Sept 22 | Hot Turkey Supper, St. Andrews United Church, Elderbank |
| Sept 28 | Joel Plaskett at the Bicentennial Theatre |
| Sept. 29 | Kirk Logan Old Time Fiddling Contest at the Bicentennial Theatre |
| Sept 30 | Rally in The Valley |

For details about any of the above, or to see further into the fall for what's going on in our Valley, go to: www.mvta.net and click on UPCOMING EVENTS.

Contact info@towncervernews.ca to submit your contribution to Upcoming Events! NOTE: The DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE of THE TOWN CRYER is AUGUST 15. Printed copies of The TownCryer are distributed through: Reid's, Haverstock's, Horton's Convenience Store, and J&J's Restaurant. You can sign up to receive the TownCryer by email at: www.mvta.net. Subscriptions are FREE!!

It pays to advertise!

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association will now promote community events on the marquis located at the exhibition grounds parking area.

Please forward your information to mvta.net or phone: 384-2006.

Rock on

Please help support the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association by participating in a Rock-a-Thon on Aug. 7, between 10 am and 2:30 pm at the Bicentennial Theatre. If you are unable to take part, please consider sponsoring someone who is. The general public is invited to drop by during the day to say hello and cheer on the participants.

Dean General Store

Following, is one of the stories found in the Community History of Dean.

One of the earliest merchants in the Dean area was David Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton's store was located near his home which is now (1983) owned by Leon and Nellie Cox. In addition to keeping store, Mr. Hamilton was a shoemaker by trade. A later shop was owned by Mrs. Campbell Cox, who started in business by making and selling homemade ice cream. Mrs. Cox later married Colin Gammell and together they decided to expand their business, renovate their home and build on a small section to use as a store. They also bought the former David Hamilton store and attached it to their own building. In addition to the homemade ice cream, they gradually decided to add staple items – one of the first being a puncheon of molasses. Mr. and Mrs. Gammell continued to keep shop and serve the public for many years until they sold their business in May, 1948, to Clarence and Hazel MacLean, who at that time were living in Halifax. During their many years of serving the community, the MacLeans further renovated the building. Their renovations included sufficient changes to convert part of their shop into a lunch counter and diner. When retirement time arrived, the MacLeans, originally native to PEI, decided to return to their native island. They sold their business to Homer and Babel Loughhead in 1973. The Loughheads kept store here for about three years, until they closed shop in 1976 and moved away from the area. The building is now used as a summer home by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Keddy, of Toronto.

Community histories available

As part of the celebrations of the bicentennial of the settlement of the Musquodoboit Valley, a collection of community histories was compiled in 1983. Copies of individual community histories, as well as a complete

collection, are available at the Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit.

Individual community histories vary in price but, for only \$50 you may order the complete collection. Please drop by the VIC or phone: 384-2006 for more information.

Lions say Thank You!

The Big Bike Ride for Heart and Stroke was held on July 15, and raised more than \$2700. The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club members wish to thank all the people on the ride and those who assisted in any way. The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association organized the first ride in 1998. Kay West, Meredith Baird and David Castle were recognized as having ridden the Big Bike for ten consecutive years. The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club has been organizing the event for the past five years. Again, many thanks to all participants who helped fill the Big Bike (27 riders). A great ride!

Tacky! Tacky! Tacky!

Shame on the person or persons responsible for removing the plaques placed by plants, in memory of loved ones, at Corner Stone Park, Middle Musquodoboit. This is your chance to do the right thing. Please return the plaques or pay to have them replaced. If you know who's responsible or may help in any way to replace the plaques, please contact: MVTA – 384-2006.

Bit of a giggle

An elderly parish priest was tending his garden near a convent when a passer-by stopped to inquire after the priest's much-loved roses. "Not bad," said the priest, "but they suffer from a disease peculiar to this area known as the black death." "What on earth is that?" asked the passer-by, anxious to increase his garden knowledge. "Nuns with scissors!"

It's still a family Exhibition

Since the Halifax County Exhibition relocated to Middle Musquodoboit in 1884 from Cole Harbour, (under the sponsorship of the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society), it has consistently been an opportunity for families to have fun and learn about rural living.

This year, the Halifax County Exhibition is scheduled from Aug 15 -18. Through the efforts of dedicated

volunteers, this agricultural celebration continues to take pride in being a family event. Over the four days, organizers have planned a little something for everyone. A street parade, children's day and 4-H day are all part of the fun on Aug. 15. Other attractions include one of the largest non-competitive Dahlia shows east of Montreal, vegetable, flower and craft displays.

If you wish to learn more about the history of this popular annual event, copies of "Reflections of the Halifax County Exhibition" are available at the Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit and the Exhibition Grounds office. For a detailed schedule of this year's exhibition, please phone: 384-2894.

Fast facts about the Exhibition

- The first exhibition took place in the vicinity of where Reid's store and residence are now
- In 1921, a policeman, in uniform, was hired for \$2 a day to provide security during the exhibition
- The original exhibition parade only made two trips around the grounds

It's a boy!

Raynes Ivan Verge Castle, born July 16 and weighing 4lb 1.2oz is welcomed by his family River and Rielly, Grampie and Grammie and proud parents Darren and Candace Castle.

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