

# TownCryer

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

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



### T'was the night before Christmas

*(Another version: Contributed by: Cooks to lyricsplayground.com)*

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.

Instructions were studied and we were inspired, In hopes we could manage, "Some Assembly Required".

The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, While Dad and I faced the evening with dread: A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot! And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot!

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat... Let no pieces be missing or parts incomplete!

Too late for last-minute returns or replacement; If we can't get it right, it goes down in the basement!

When what to my worrying eyes should appear, But 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear,

With each part numbered and every slot named, So if there was failure, only we could be blamed.

More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out, All over the carpet they were scattered about.

"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there!"

Slide on the seats, and staple the stair!

Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand." "Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact, That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact.

To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night, With "assembly required" til morning's first light.

We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work, Til our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt.

The coffee went cold and the night it wore thin,

Before we attached the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest, We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.

But I said to my husband just before I passed out,

"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.

Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring. And not have to run to the store for a thing!

We did it! We did it! The toys are all set For the perfect, most perfectest Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland, at last sweet repose I gratefully went, although I suppose

There's something to say for those self-deluded, I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!

### Just a reminder

This Holiday Season, please take time to remember others who may be less fortunate. Volunteers for the Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank work year-round ensuring that families in need receive the basic

necessities. This year, please show your support by donating non-perishable food items to the food bank, or offer to volunteer your time. Call 384-3009 or visit the Food Bank web site at

[www.grandane.com/Foodbank/](http://www.grandane.com/Foodbank/)

## Be careful with candles

### From the Canadian Safety Council Website

Candles provide festive decor for the holiday season. They are part of worship ceremonies. They can scent the air with mood-enhancing aromas. And if the power goes out, candles may become an alternative to electric lights. However, home fires caused by candles are on the rise.

#### Fast Facts About Candles:

Canada-wide, 500 fires were caused by taper candles in 2000, resulting in five fatalities. The leading factor in candle fires is leaving the candle unattended. Put out all candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Over 40 percent of candle-related fires start in the bedroom. During December, more candle fires start in the family room or dining room, many of them when decorations are ignited.

## Welcome Tarot Connections!

This month The TownCryer welcomes a new contributor: Mary Boutilier, of Tarot Connections. Mary is described as a spiritual counselor and medium. She is willing to share her knowledge and skills by answering readers' questions about their personal life. To learn more, please visit [www.maryboutilier.piczo.com](http://www.maryboutilier.piczo.com)

## Tarot Connections

*By: Mary Boutilier*

To put a new spin on things, for our little paper, I'm happy to say that I'll be a regular contributor. I may do "one-question readings" once a month, depending on the readers' interest. I encourage anyone to email me at [tarotconnections@yahoo.ca](mailto:tarotconnections@yahoo.ca) with a question. The question, as well as the answer, would be printed in next month's issue of The TownCryer. Be assured that all names will be withheld and only three questions a month will be answered. Total confidentiality is promised!

**Superstition or old wives' tales:** Most of us have heard about throwing spilled salt over the shoulder. Ever wonder where or how that came about? Legend links it to Judas, who at the Last Supper overturned the saltcellar. The tossing of salt over the left shoulder is said to be the antidote of ill luck or misfortune. Fishermen are said never to use the word salt while at sea, while boat builders have traditionally spilled salt between the planks of a craft under construction in order to safeguard the crew on a long voyage. Throwing salt after unwanted company leaves is said to ensure that they do not return for a long time. (Listen! Do not actually throw the salt or the salt shaker AT them!... as it is said to work only AFTER they leave). Too much salt in the food is also a sign that the cook is in LOVE! Have a safe and very Merry Christmas! Blessings, Mary.

## Employment Development news

Staff at the Employment Development Program and Job Search Centre in Middle Musquodoboit would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. We wish to thank our Sponsors: The Musquodoboit Valley and Area Business Association, Service Canada, and the Department of Community Services for their continuous support. Also, ADAPT Participants (you know who you are)... may you enjoy continuous success in any future endeavours.

#### Holiday Office Hours:

December 24/07	9:00-12:00
December 25/07	Closed
<b>December 26/07</b>	<b>Closed</b>
December 27/07	9:00-4:30
December 28/07	9:00-4:30
December 31/07	9:00-12:00
January 1/08	Closed
January 2/08	9:00 – 4:30

#### Workshops in December:

Motivation & Attitude	Dec. 5 from 1pm - 4 pm
Putting the Pieces Together	Dec. 6 from 1pm – 4pm
Resume Writing	Dec. 11 from 1pm – 4pm
Interview Skills	Dec. 12 from 1pm – 4pm
Basic Job Searching on the Internet	Dec. 18, 19 and 20 from 1pm - 4pm

## Upcoming events

- Nov 30–Dec 2 Christmas Festival of Trees and Crafts @ Natural Resources Education Complex and Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre
- Dec 1 Potluck Supper @Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean (4-6:30pm)
- Dec 1 Gays River Christmas Tea and Sale – Gays River United Church
- Dec 2 Bicentennial Country Supper @ Bicentennial Theatre, Mid. Musq.
- Dec 8 John Gracie in Concert @ Bicentennial Theatre, Mid. Musq. (7:30pm)
- Dec 9 Santa Claus Parade, Mid. Musq. @ 1 pm
- Jan 20 Gospel Concert @ Middleton United Church, Mid. Musq.

## Ongoing events

- Mondays Bingo, Bicentennial Theatre, Mid. Musq. (6:30pm mini bingo, 7pm regular bingo)
- Tuesdays Radio Bingo (99.5 FM at 7pm, get your bingo cards at Reid's in Middle or JJ's in Upper)
- Thursdays Auction 45s - Gays River United Church Hall (8pm)
- Sundays Gospel Concert - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, Middleton United Church, Mid. Musq. (2pm)

For details about any of the above, or to see further into the winter and spring for what's going on in our Valley, go to: [www.mvta.net](http://www.mvta.net) and click on UPCOMING EVENTS.

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 **DECEMBER 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 or read current and past issues on-line at: [www.towncryernews.ca](http://www.towncryernews.ca). Subscriptions are FREE!!

## Bit of a giggle

A woman went into a Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.  
“What denomination?” asked the clerk.  
“Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?” said the woman.  
“Well, give me 30 Catholic, 10 Baptist, 20 Lutheran, and 40 Presbyterian!”

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- Q. Did you hear about the robbery in the laundry room?  
A. Two clothespins held up a pair of pants!

## Community histories

Following is an excerpt from the community history of Middle Musquodoboit, compiled in 1983.

### MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT

The first Reid store was built in 1883 by A. J. Reid who sold it to Daniel Reid in March of 1885. After he was married in 1886, they lived in a small kitchen built on and upstairs over the main store. A back shop for feed, etc., was added to the main store in the early 1900's. This store was burned Aug. 1958. The present store was built in the fall of 1958 by Frank Holman. Since 1983, it has been operated by Jim Reid, grandson of Daniel Reid. Other early stores were owned by John Higgins, Sidney Lindsay (home of Ronald Guild, 1983) and Charles D. Archibald specialized in the flour and feed business on the present exhibition grounds. The Co-Op Store is owned and operated by members since 1983. Ira J. McFetridge purchased his store Feb. 1, 1914; later his son, Donald, operated it and then sold it to Haverstock's Pharmacy. Originally, it was built by Sam Hanna in 1898 for Ainslie Shaw. Mr. Hanna also built the house for Mr. Shaw (Robert and Robin Fulton) across from the Pharmacy. The first bank was in the room built on the side of Hugh Kaulback's home. The second bank was built in 1920 by Joseph Holman; it was sold in 1982 and converted to a funeral home. The third bank was opened Oct. 18, 1982 situated beside the present Post Office. The Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital, a Red Cross outpost hospital, opened its doors Mar. 29, 1948. Dr. J. R. Cameron was the physician. A dedication ceremony took place Oct. 1976 to officially open the new hospital.

## MVTA gift suggestions

If you're looking for something special with a Musquodoboit Valley connection, contact 384-2006 or email [mvta@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:mvta@ns.sympatico.ca). Selection of clothing at various prices. Support local authors and musicians! Celebrate the holidays this season with a gift from the Musquodoboit Valley. Listed below are items available for sale:

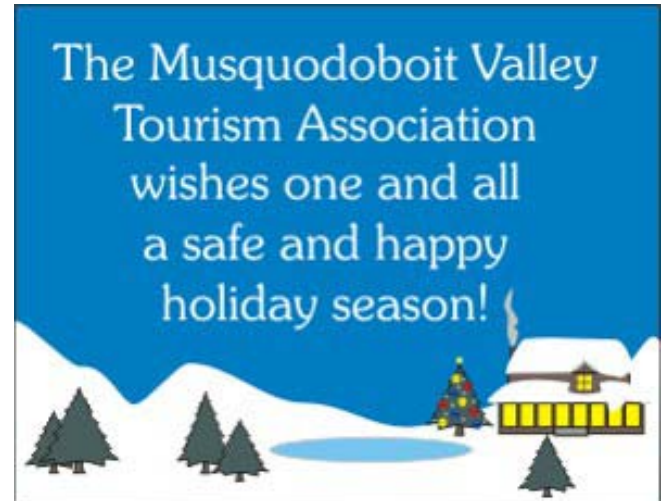
A Collection of Nova Scotia Firsts	\$15	Musquodoboit Family Album	\$8
A History of Moose River Gold Mines	\$25	Musquodoboit Pioneers	\$55.50
Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills	\$20	Musquodoboit Valley Assorted Histories	various prices
Complete set of Musquodoboit Valley Histories	\$54	Musquodoboit Valley Calendars	\$5
Halifax County Exhibition Spoons	\$2	Nova Scotia Bags	\$1.25
History Along the Old Guysborough Road	\$15	Nova Scotia Cherubs	\$4
History Disc or CD	\$29	Nova Scotia Pins	\$1 or \$2.25
Is It Just Me...	\$8.50	Nova Scotia Tartan Pins	\$4
Markland Books	\$15	Post Cards	.75
Markland CD	\$12	Recollections of Little River	\$5
Memories	\$30	Reflections of the Halifax County Exhibition	\$15
Millennium Calendar or Flags	\$1	MRHS Reunion Pins	.50
MRHS Reunion Books	\$5	Selection of CDs by various local musicians	@ \$20

## Sale of cranberries a success!

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association's board of directors wishes to thank everyone who purchased cranberries this fall. Sincere thanks are also extended to Sunberry Cranberries for supplying a great product.

## Holiday wishes

At this time, Ellen McFetridge (editor of the TownCryer) and Karen Sibley (editor of the online version of The TownCryer) extend holiday wishes to our readers. With your participation, we look forward to making this publication bigger and better in the new year. Merry Christmas!



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