

TownCryer



www.towncryernews.ca

Volume 2 Issue 1

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Chaswood Co-housing project

By: Roberta McGinn

You may have met some of the members of the Chaswood Green Co-housing and Farm Group at the Festival of Trees over Christmas. We had a booth set up there, introducing our co-housing project to the community.

Next time you go by the Belzer's farm in Chaswood, (you know the place where you often see Ed Belzer with his horses, working the land, and bringing in the hay). Well, look up on the south-facing hill. You won't see anything built there yet, but that is where we hope to begin building by late summer/fall this year.

We have come a long way even since Christmas. We have our Stage-1 application completed and into HRM. We are now on Stage-2, working with a designer, and allowing our imaginations full reign, as we consider how we will create our co-housing community. The intention is to build a cluster of four individual private homes, along with a common house.

The long-term plan is for no more than twenty homes, in five clusters of houses. We are committed to environmentally sustainable housing, closely integrated with the existing farm, and committed to the continuation of the farm, in this farming community.

Co-housing is a well-established housing option with many existing and proposed projects in Denmark, Sweden, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S. and Canada.

Co-housing is a cluster-housing concept that can be found in urban, suburban or rural settings. Please visit our website at www.chaswoodcohousing.ca

Musquodoboit Valley celebrates Earth Day

This year, the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association has organized a community Earth Day. We're starting small this year but hope to grow annually as awareness of the important concept of "living green" expands. Many thanks to Musquodoboit Valley Co-Op for their donation of paper bags, which will be given to all elementary students (at Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre and Upper Musquodoboit Elementary Consolidated School) to decorate with an Earth Day theme. Customers who shop at the Co-Op grocery store on or near Earth Day (April 22) will have their purchases packed in these decorative bags.

In appreciation for the students' artful participation, MVTA has arranged for each student to receive a growing kit. Many thanks are extended to Nancy Murchy for donating sunflower seeds, Castle Gardens for their contribution of planting trays, and Bakers' Greenhouses for their donation of planting soil. We look forward to seeing these sunflowers at this year's King of the Garden Contest on Oct. 5!

Note: Murchy's Field Grown Perennials (583 Conrod Rd. 384-2157) opens Apr. 15 for the growing season. Shop early for best selection of healthy field-grown perennials.

Tribute to Willie Nelson

If you are a fan of *the redheaded stranger*, be sure to drop by the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit on April 26. Honeysuckle Rose features Alex Madsen singing many of Willie Nelson's songs in honour of his 75th

birthday. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Put it on your calendar now and get your tickets early.

Advance tickets are \$20 each and are available now until April 20 for this show. After that, all tickets will be \$25. You can pick them up at Reid's Restaurant or phone the theatre: 384-2819. If no one is in the office, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Fire safety tips

By: Debbie MacDonald
Fire Prevention Officer, Zone 3

What is the Vial of Life?

A program to assist emergency personnel to be aware of important medical details during a crisis in the home.

How can this save a life?

Ambulance attendants and other emergency personnel will look for the Vial of Life symbol. This symbol will indicate that vital information is recorded and can assist them to begin treatment immediately.

Medical emergencies *do* happen and *can* happen to anyone, at any time. The Vial of Life is recognized and effective. Even being aware that you may not have any chronic medical conditions or, you may not be taking any medications, allows paramedics to eliminate a number of possible treatments and therefore results in saving valuable time.

When do you need a Vial of Life kit?

- living alone
- high blood pressure, stroke or heart disease
- taking prescription(s) or over the counter medication(s)
- chronic/disabling conditions
- frail
- elderly

For more information on the Vial of Life you can call any of these numbers:

- Fire Prevention Officer: Debbie MacDonald: 568-0178
- Station #38, Middle Musquodoboit, (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) 384-2071
- Civic Numbers information: 568-0026
- your local fire station

I would like to send a special thank you for the nice welcome we received at Splash of Colour day care. Sparky enjoyed the children, along with Cst. James Stapleford and myself. We had a lot of fun! Thank you.

Bit of a giggle

Man who run in front of car get tired.
Man who run behind car get exhausted.
Man with one chopstick go hungry.
Man who drive like hell, bound to get there.
Man who live in glass house should change clothes in basement.

Do you have a burning permit?

The burning permit season will soon be upon us. Unless otherwise imposed, burning permits will be required from April 15 to October 15 (all dates inclusive). For the past two seasons, due to an early spring, the fire season came early and permits were required as early as April 1.

With the absence of snow, we may be in for the same situation within the next few weeks. April and May are the highest risk months for wild land fires because they fall between the spring snowmelt and the green-up of woodlands, which can result in tinder-dry conditions. Anyone who wants to light a fire in or within 1000 ft. (304 metres) of the woods in Nova Scotia requires a permit from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. Some municipalities (or parts thereof) require an additional permit or may even prohibit any burning.

Permits can be obtained from your local DNR area office (12086, Hwy. 224, Middle Musquodoboit Phone: 384-2290) If a wildfire occurs: call 911! Figures from 2007 indicate an increase in arson-related fires with the next leading cause being residential sources (ignited by residents burning garbage, brush piles or grasslands). Burning grasslands is a dangerous practice. This traditional right-of-spring is extremely harmful to the environment (plant and animal life). Information on the following can be viewed on the Department's website: www.gov.ne.ca/natr/protection/wildfire/prevention/prev.htm

- Burning permits
- Safe brush burning checklist
- Is your home fire smart?
- Winter brush burning
- If wildfire occurs
- How to protect your home from wildfire

Adopt-a-highway

For the past several years, the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club has arranged for volunteers to clean along the roads and highways throughout the Musquodoboit Valley. If you are interested in participating this year, please contact info@towncryernews.ca or call 384-2751 or touch base with your local Lion.

Riverside public speaking and demonstration day

By: Rita Cole

Our club held its annual public speaking and demonstration competition on March 1, at the Forestry Education Complex, Middle Musquodoboit.

Allyson Cole, club hostess for 2007-2008 chaired the events of the day, assisted by Holly Mosher, Chelsey Dean, Briana Dillman and Lisa Conrad.

A huge crowd was on hand to start the day when the four cloverbuds and 25 junior speakers presented their speeches. They held their audience captivated and entertained!

The day was rounded out with intermediate and senior speakers, and single and double demonstration competitors as well as the hostess competition. Competitors were capably judged by Melissa Reid, Janette Archibald, Bob Collings, Esther MacDonald and Joe Fisher.

Members who are moving on to compete at the County Rally at St. Bridget's Church Hall in Shubenacadie on April 5 are:

Hostess – Lisa Conrad

Jr. Speaker – Daniel Flemming

Jr. Introducer – Kaitlyn Flemming

Jr. Thanker – Danielle Day

Intermediate Speaker – Christopher Holman

Senior Speaker – Lisa Conrad

Jr. Single Demonstration – Dennis Euloth

Sr. Single Demonstration – Allyson Cole

Sr. Double Demonstration – Shelby Cole and
Briana Dillman

They are sure to do a great job representing our club. Good luck to all!!

Thank you!

The TownCryer extends a sincere thank you to Helen Jenson for making possible printing of the March issue of The TownCryer .

Also, thank you to the following for your generous cash donations: Brenda Hughes, Lewis Hartlin, Margaret Hamilton, Middle Musquodoboit Volunteer Fire Department, CBDC, Ross and Jean Dares, the Lower Musquodoboit Pastoral Charge, and the individual who made a donation, but wishes to remain anonymous.

Fishing season is here

April 1 marks the start of our fishing season here in Nova Scotia. Contact your local Dept. of Natural Resources office for licensing information.

Flyer fury or flyer fluff?

An article in the Jan. 23 issue of the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, written by City Hall Reporter Amy Pugsley Fraser, reported that City Hall wants to stop the presses on newspaper flyers. It's either ban flyer distribution or draft a new bylaw to prohibit littering altogether says Councilor Krista Snow (Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank). She went on to say the weekly flyers and community newspapers distributed by the publishers of the Chronicle-Herald make a mess when they're not delivered properly. Len MacLean, the Herald's distribution services manager, outlined 16 points of company procedure to make every effort to provide a clean and environmentally friendly service to all households receiving flyer service. They include product placement and, as well, delivery tubes are offered free of charge for any homeowners with a large lot or long driveway in rural and suburban areas.

And it's not just our local newspaper delivering flyers; it's also Canada Post. Whether large corporations, or local businesses and non-profit organizations, flyers are big business to Canada Post. Almost daily, flyers are distributed by mail carriers, too. However, even this flyer distribution is being challenged by a new website started by Vancouver's Beth Ringdahl. Ringdahl's website, www.reddotcampaign.ca spells out a simple two-step process to block junk mail. It's as easy as filling out a downloaded form and leaving it with a note on your mailbox.

For more than a decade, Canada Post has been quietly acknowledging such requests, halting junk mail deliveries and marking a homeowner's internal file with a red dot - hence the name of Ringdahl's campaign. So next time you receive flyers, it's up to you if you want to continue receiving them or not.

Employment Development news

The Musquodoboit Valley Employment Development and Job Search Centre is located at 10 Elm Drive, Middle Musquodoboit. During the month of April, the following programs are being offered:

- Basic Computer
- Resume Writing
- Interview Skills

To learn more about these sessions, please drop by the office or phone: 384-2390 to register.

NOTE: We are very excited to announce that we now have Aliant High Speed Internet Service which is proving to be very fast! By the way, students are encouraged to start looking for summer employment now! It's like your grandparents always said, "The early bird gets the worm!!" Visit us at www.myjobsearch.ca

Loonie drive

By: Mary Cook

The Loonie Drive was started in May 1994, by the Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary to replace the annual Turkey and Smorgasbord Suppers and the Sale Tables at the Halifax County Exhibition.

Receipts for the past 14 years have totaled more than \$60,000. This money has been used to pay for equipment for Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital and Braeside Home for Special Care. Such things as: a refrigerator, ice machines, patient lift and slings, a door key pad system and bed monitor system for Braeside, lab equipment, pagers, an electric stryker bed, security cameras, ultrasound equipment, an outpatient work cart and physio equipment. The Administration Office orders the equipment and we, the Auxiliary, reimburse them.

The May 2007 results for the Loonie Drive totaled \$6408. This money was used to pay for chair sensor pads and alarms (\$1716), hip protectors (\$1081), cast removal saw (\$4400) and the postage on Wellness Clinic flyers (\$220). We have committed to pay for four replacement slings for the patient lift machine at a cost of approximately \$1020.

Canvassers try to visit each home in the Musquodoboit Valley during May. We hope for donations of at least one dollar per family member. Receipts are issued promptly for donations of \$10 and over.

Maple syrup festival

If you're someone who enjoys being out in the fresh air, the taste of good food and the sound of great music, be sure to attend this year's Dean Maple Syrup Festival, 1880 Hwy 336, Dean.

On April 12, (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) enjoy the opportunity to tour the sugar woods and visit a sugar shack. It's here that the sap is collected and then boiled down and made into syrup or other maple products.

After, enjoy pancakes, sausages, homemade bread and rolls with copious amounts of maple syrup. Throughout the day, there are musicians playing ol' time music, alongside craft and pantry tables and, of course, the sale of maple products.

Admission only \$6 - adults, \$3 - 12 yrs. and under, preschoolers free! Call: 568-2578 for more info.

Looking for farm or home with land

Planning a move to the Musquodoboit Valley and looking for property to rent, lease-to-own, or purchase. Willing to consider a handy-man special. Please call Rhonda: Tel: (902) 657-0092 or email: rholang@inbox.com

Icelandic Memorial Society AGM

The Icelandic Memorial Society will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday Apr. 20 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Natural Resources Education Center in Middle Musquodoboit. Following the meeting (2:00 to 4:00 p.m.), the public is invited to join us for a reception and special presentation of the Markland documentary.

This reception is in honour of our late Chairperson and Society founder, Dolly Belmore, without whose dedicated efforts, the Society and the Markland Settlement would not be what they are today.

What will your kids do this summer?

Summer is a long two-month period when our kids are often in need of a special experience and something to keep them busy. We're looking for summer camp information for our May issue. If you know of any summer camp opportunities in the Musquodoboit Valley, please send details (by April 15) to info@towncryernews.ca

Help our Lions support CNIB

The annual CNIB Special Names Campaign is under way in the Musquodoboit Valley. Donations are used to promote the vision health and vision hope of those who live in our community. CNIB staff and volunteers work with those challenged by serious vision loss. Services include: counseling, low vision testing, the provision of magnification, orientation and mobility instruction, daily living skills instruction, and assistive technology training. Over 1,200 consumer products are made available by telephone and computer from an online technology store.



Through the CNIB Library for the Blind, clients receive free library service, including access to reading through talking books, magazines, newspapers, and Braille items. CNIB supported research has led to major advances in the treatment of open angle glaucoma and the "Right to Sight Campaign" supports those with macular degeneration. Donors receive a receipt for taxation purposes.

To make a donation (large or small), please contact:

John Macdonald
CNIB Special Names Campaign Chair
Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club
Tel: 384-2267

Congratulations!

Former Musquodoboit Rural High (MRHS) graduate, Corey Kelly, of Middle Musquodoboit, was the recipient of a Provincial Volunteer of the Year Award and a Life Time Achievement Award on April 10, 2007.

On April 18 of last year, Kelly was honoured with a Municipality Volunteer Award. Since graduating from MRHS, Kelly has been attending Memorial University, St. John's Nfld. There, he is on the Dean's list for the school year 2006-2007.

Currently, this young man is in his third year taking an honours degree in physics.

Clarification: In the last issue it was reported that Lance Miller, of Chaswood, received the MVTA Bursary. In fact, he received the MRHS Reunion Bursary that is managed by MVTA.

You're invited!

The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club wants you to join them as they celebrate their 35th Anniversary on April 12 at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit. Happy Half Hour starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by a baked ham dinner at 7:00. After dinner, enjoy the music of "Big Deal". Tickets (\$30/couple, \$15/single) are available from: John MacDonald: 384-2267, Boyde Stewart: 384-3003, Tom Hunter: 568-2526 or Meredith Baird: 384-2313

Braeside presents concert

The Braeside Annual Variety Concert is scheduled for April 20, 7 p.m. at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit. Please, join us for an evening of first class entertainment and talent. There will be door prizes and great food.

All proceeds go to Braeside's Recreation Department. Admission is only: \$7 adult, \$20 family, \$5 seniors and students. For more info call 384-4118.

Can you help?

The Middleton United Church is in need of bookshelves for the church. If you can donate, please contact Claire Castle at 384-2520.

Calling all musicians

Musicians Wanted for Jam Night! Join us for jam night at the Royal Canadian Legion in Upper Mus-

quodoboit on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30 p.m. Upcoming dates: April 12 & May 10.

House band "Soulshine" invites musicians of all levels (whatever instrument you play, whatever style of music) to come and jam with the band. If you just want to sit back and hear the entertainment, admission is \$5 at the door (19 yrs and over).

Phone Dave 568-2266 for more information.

Happy anniversary!

On April 5, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., the public is invited to drop by 693 Meadow Road, Elderbank, to join Alvin and Doreen Blades and their family as they celebrate fifty years of marital bliss! Congratulations, Alvin and Doreen.

Looking for donations

A Summer Sale & Auction is scheduled for Aug. 2. Volunteers for the Middleton United Church are now collecting for this summer fundraising event. Keep this in mind during your spring-cleaning! Donations of dishes, furniture, clothing, etc. will be accepted. Phone Ross at 384-2039.

Church supper

The Annual Church Supper at the Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit will be held on April 26, from 4:30 – 6:30. Baked beans, brown bread, ham, potato scallop, casseroles, pies and more. Adults \$7, Under 12 yrs. \$4, Preschoolers: Free! Local take out and delivery available.

Wanted

A frost-free fridge is required for the Enterprisers Hall. If anyone is upgrading their kitchen with a new fridge and are willing to donate their old one, please call 384-2088.

Upcoming events

Apr. 1	Fishing Season begins
Apr. 12 10am-2pm	Middle Musquodoboit Girl Guide cookie sale at Haverstock Pharmacy
10am-6pm	Dean Maple Syrup Festival. Pancakes! Maple Syrup! Music! Tour!
6:30pm	Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club 35th Anniversary Charter Night - Bicentennial Theatre
8pm	Jam Session Night - Upper Musq. Legion - \$5 at the door. 19 years & older
Apr. 15	Submission Deadline for May Town-Cryer.
Apr. 19 10:30 am	Ken McCarthy Dart Tournament - Upper Musq. Legion - Open doubles. \$25/team.
4:30-6:30	Roast Beef Supper - Gays River United Church Hall, Gays River
9pm-1am	Spring Dance - Upper Musq Community Hall. Advance tickets or pay at the door. Call 568-2329 or 568-2644 - info or tickets.
Apr. 20	Icelandic Society AGM (1-2pm) & public reception (2-4pm)
2pm	Bluegrass/Gospel Concert @ Middleton United Church. Lunch. Good will offering.
7pm	Braeside Concert
Apr. 21	UCW Used Clothing Drive: the UCW will be collecting good used clothing at Middleton United Church, Middle Musq. (1-3 pm)
Apr. 22	International Earth Day - Co-Op grocery bag program
Apr. 25	Citizens on Patrol Meeting @ Dean Church Hall, 7 pm
Apr. 26 1:30pm	Crib Tournament Upper Musq. Legion - \$10 per team of two. Info: 568-2113.
4:30-6:30	Middleton United Church Supper, Middle Musquodoboit
7:30pm	Willie Nelson Tribute Concert - Bicentennial Theatre
Apr. 28	Joint Emergency Measures Team meeting at Middle Musquodoboit Fire Hall - 3pm
May 1	May TownCryer distribution

See you in church

Sharon Presbyterian Church (Dean)
Service begins at 11:45 a.m. each Sunday

St. James United (Upper Musquodoboit)
Service begins at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday

Higginsville United Church (Higginsville) and
Riverside United Church (Elmsvale)
Winter Schedule - These churches combine their congregations and have 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday at Riverside Church.

Spring Schedule - On alternate Sundays Higginsville United and Riverside United hold services at 10 a.m.

Middleton United Church (Middle Musquodoboit)
Service begins at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Sunday School: The Middleton United church offers a weekly multi-aged (ages 4-18) Sunday school class from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. We teach through activities, songs and stories. Stories about God/Jesus help children learn to make good choices. We invite you to come every week or once a month, come when you can. Why not try it? You're sure to have fun!

Holy Cross Catholic Church (Elmsvale)
Service begins at 9 a.m.

Wittenburg Baptist Church (Wittenburg) Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's United (Elderbank)
Apr. 6 & 27 - 10 a.m. service

St. James United (Meagher's Grant)
Apr. 20 - 10 a.m. service

St. Paul's United Church (Antrim)
Apr. 13 - 10 a.m. service

Mobile Public Library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Saturday April 5 & 19

10:45-12:00 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy
1:30-3:30 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy

Thursday April 3 & 17

10:45-12:30 Middle Musq, MVEC parking lot
2:00-3:30 Middle Musq, Valley View Villa
4:50-7:30 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy

Thursday April 10 & 24

11:00-12:15 Upper Musq, school parking lot
2:10-4:00 Dean, Sharon Presbyterian Church
5:30-7:15 Upper Musq, Fire Hall

Contact: 1-800-565-4414 to request materials

Valley Weeders news

The Valley Weeders Club was started in 1972. We still have two founding members active in the club: the first president, Roberta Annand and Bertha Ross. We now have about 16 members who meet on the fourth Monday of each month at Enterprisers Hall, Middle Musquodoboit, 7 p.m.

Our main objectives are beautifying our community and learning all we can about gardening. Our main project for the summer is the flower show at the Halifax County Exhibition. This show was mentioned as one of the best in Canada in the Canadian Gardening Magazine. We are very proud of our flower exhibits. This show features a large Dahlia exhibit, children's entries, many perennials, annuals, and floral arrangements. The large room is filled with the scent and sight of the best flowers in the Musquodoboit Valley and surrounding areas.

Other activities we do include: gardens at Braeside Home for Special Care, the Bicentennial Theatre, and containers at the Exhibition Grounds. The Cornerstone Park is a joint project with the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association. We have entered a Christmas tree in the Festival of Trees for many years. The past two years members have allowed the public to view their gardens as a Garden Tour with all proceeds going to the local Food Bank.



You have probably noticed the welcome sign by the exhibition grounds. This sign was designed and painted by Roberta Annand with help from Wanda Bellefontaine and Bonnie and Gordon Sears. The sign was erected with the help of Dennis Bellefontaine.

We have entered the exhibition parade and the Santa Claus parade often winning recognition for our efforts. Each spring we have a plant sale at the exhibition grounds toward the end of May with members sharing the surplus from their gardens with the community. The

Valley Weeders are very active in the Provincial Garden club as well. Several years ago we sponsored the annual meeting at the Bicentennial Theatre.

Our meetings usually include a program such as information on Rhododendrons, Daylilies, Rock Gardens, ferns and many other topics. We have taken trips to the Rock Garden at the Agricultural College, viewed gardens in other areas, to mention a few. We are planning a trip to the Public Gardens and West River Greenhouses in the coming year.

Often, we enjoy speakers on garden related topics. Crafts are featured as well, with the making of living wreaths and Christmas centerpieces last year. In December our meeting is a special supper catered by the ladies at the Holy Cross Church with a Yankee Gift exchange after. In July, we enjoy a barbecue at the home of Eric and Joyce Higgins. Each regular meeting features a lunch which is much enjoyed by all.

New members are always welcome. Come and be part of our active group and enjoy the fun. For more info call Pat Ward 384-2878, Lynn Poole 384-2964 or Sheila Fisher 384-2279 or any members of the Garden Club.

Nature in the Musquodoboit Valley

By: Verna Higgins

No matter what the weather brings, April sees the return of a few of our migratory birds and the start of nesting for a number of our over-wintering birds. Indeed, birds such as Bald Eagles, Ravens, and Great Horned Owls are already mating by mid-March. Now is the time to slip out the door after dusk to listen for owls calling. Barred Owls, which are nesting in hollow hardwood trees by early April, are quite common in the valley and their "*Who cooks for you, Who cooks for you-all!*" is quite distinctive. Great Horned Owls, which reuse eagle and crow nests, are generally less common here but their "*Hoo, hoo- hooo...hoo .. hoooh*" is also easily recognized. Eagles, ravens and owls have quite large territories so their nests are less numerous than those of our songbirds and, despite the large size of these nests, they can be difficult to find. As a participant in the 2nd Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas (see www.mba-aom.ca/), I am attempting to "map" these early breeders in an area that covers Higginsville, Middle Musquodoboit, Elderbank and Glenmore.

If you discover a nest of any of these early nesters, I would appreciate the information for the Atlas records. Verna Higgins (384-2286)

Looking for locally grown food

We're so hungry we're eating everything within 100 miles!

Well, not really *eating* that much, but we try to ensure a majority of the food we consume is locally grown. When the average North American sits down to eat, each ingredient has typically traveled at least 1,500 miles. That's a long way when much of the foods we enjoy may be produced near our homes. Consumption of locally grown food is the spirit for the 100-Mile-Diet <http://100milediet.org/>

Since moving to the Musquodoboit Valley last July, we have found local suppliers of meats, eggs, milk, honey and some vegetables. But, we want to know who else is out there!

If you are a local producer of any raw food product, we want to know about *you!* If you want to know more about the 100-Mile-Diet, please check out their website or contact us. The Heatleys, Scott Road. Phone: 384 -2137.

Community history

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

In the early 1900's, Little River boasted many stores. One store, which stood beside the Leedham property, was owned in succession by Mr. Gladwin, W. Bain, John Killen and then Victor Dares. Another store located in the village centre, at the bottom of the Elderbank Back Road, was built and owned by Mr. Burris, followed by Norm Cole, Merlin Myers and Victor Dares. After Dares' death, it was operated by his widow and then a succession of owners until it finally closed in 1977. At least once, a horse and pun went through this store's door and front windows, coming off the slippery hill from the station.

Other stores were operated on the Elderbank Back Road by Gordie Conrod and Cassy McMullin. A garage beside the store was operated by the store owners. This garage had fuel pumps, did repairs and operated a successful car dealership (Bob Dares). Claude Morash also operated a garage and pumps.

In the 1930s to 50s, N.A. Dares ran a bus line from Elderbank. It traveled to Halifax and another

bus traveled a Truro-Stewiacke route. These buses ran every second day and were especially full on Friday and Sunday nights.

In 1912, the railway was built through Musquodoboit to Dartmouth. It left Elderbank about 6:30 - 7:00 a.m. and provided freight and passenger service. One of the first regular shipments by train was milk. The first milk shipped from Elderbank was in 1917, from the farms of Harvey Cole, A.J. Keddy, and Johnny Ogilvie.

Book of the month

Available for purchase at the Tourism Office Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit

Recollections of Little River-Elderbank (1783-1983)



A grant, made available through New Horizons, enabled Friendly Neighbours (an Elderbank seniors' club) to publish this 96-page book that successfully captures what life was like in rural Nova Scotia. Not only does this publication offer a detailed account of the settlement's history, but it also includes personal accounts from diaries of some of the early pioneers, poetry and photos.

First-hand accounts of tragedies and successes keeps the reader interested in learning more. Typical of rural communities at the time, Little River, later known as Elderbank, was a self-sufficient, vibrant village that included a number of small businesses, services, churches and a school.

This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to gain insight to this community's proud history.

Tarot Connections

By: Mary Boutilier

*Mary: This question is for both my husband and I...
Do you think our finances will ever improve?*

Fortunately, you already know the answer to your own question. Unfortunately, no. I see your money continues to go up and down for the next few years.

You have been working so hard and can't seem to get ahead. There's a pattern that surrounds you. It's always for the kids and husband first and never for yourself.

Your selflessness however, is praised and you and your family are blessed with good health. You come from a long line of labourers and it's in your nature to always put yourself last. Once you put your foot down and stop working two jobs, then yes, your finances will improve because your peace of mind will.

As long as you keep letting others depend on you financially, THEY WILL... and I think we both know who I am referring to... Peace, Mary

If you have a question you would like answered, please contact: tarotconnections@yahoo.ca

Volunteers for the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism and The TownCryer wish Mary a speedy recovery! Get better soon!

Anniversary of disaster

No matter what future mining endeavours bring to the Musquodoboit Valley, the disaster at Moose River on April 12, 1936 must be remembered.

It was on this day that Dr. David Robertson, his lawyer and business partner, Hermin Magill and Alf Scadding, time keeper and supplies controller were trapped 144 feet below the earth's surface. Initially, miners from nearby Caribou Mines were on scene to help in the rescue effort. Over the following days, support was offered from outside agencies.

But, it was the persistence of Billy Bell, a diamond drill operator, who eventually led to the men's recovery on April 23, ten days after they were entombed. Regrettably, Magill had died only three days before. The Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission sent reporter Frank Willis to cover the news story.

For the first time in radio history, live updates went out to the world every half hour. Listeners to these broadcasts stayed close to their radios to hear each installment as the drama unfolded.

Recommended reading for more detailed information about the Moose River Disaster: Moose River Disaster Cave-In '36 by James Brown, or Behind the Headlines by Ralph Morton

April workshops at the Bicentennial Theatre

"The Music Man" 2003

"Sing & Swing" 2004

"Annie" 2005

"The Sound of Music" 2007



If you saw any of these productions at the Bicentennial Theatre, you might be surprised to know that most of those who worked to make it happen and those who you saw on stage were "first timers". They became musicians, actors, set builders, designers, choreographers, stage managers, set painters, sound and lighting designers and technicians, props finders and managers, hair and makeup artists, costume designers and managers, and stage crew.

Join us at the Bicentennial theatre on Thursday afternoons and/or evenings during the month of April for some fun and healthy exercise with dance movement, improvisation and theatrical exercises with Marion Newlands and Sharon McLeod. Snacks will be provided and workshops are FREE.

Sharon Meadows will join us at a date to be announced later for a couple of further workshops on stage production and direction. We would love to get a community theatre group started again and these would be great workshops to introduce you to the theatre. No previous experience needed to do these introductory workshops.

Workshops will be offered at 3:30 and 7:00. You can take only one or both, if you wish.

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"Enriching the interest and appreciation of art, culture, and recreation within Eastern HRM through the preservation and use of our historical theatre."