



Sorrow shared

It's been said that eyes are mirrors to a person's soul. If that's the case, a community newspaper reveals what's important to its readership. It's our 'need to know' that connects each of us to one another. It's a paper's role to provide a forum for us to express ourselves.

To share knowledge, to inform and entertain are primary goals of any community publication. Besides, in small communities especially, a local paper provides people the opportunity to celebrate their successes and collectively share their losses.

At this time, our sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton, of Upper Musquodoboit, who died in the line of duty while serving in Afghanistan.

Keep it in the community

It's been noted the current economic times smack of 1929 and the stock market is reminiscent of 1932. However, during the 2008 tourist season, visitors to our region (Antigonish, Eastern Shore, Musquodoboit Valley) were up two percent over the rest of the province.

In recent years, consumers have been encouraged to shop locally and support area businesses. With the cooperation of consumers, businesses, and non-profit groups, the Musquodoboit Valley could enjoy the benefits of supporting the local economy.

This is your chance to heighten your profile in the community and demonstrate your support for your community paper. This month, The TownCryer thanks those businesses that purchased ad space in this issue. Take advantage of our reasonable advertising rates! Visit: www.towncryernews.ca to learn more.



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Damage done

Several years ago, Myrtle Guild donated this Nativity scene to the Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit, in remembrance of her husband, Ronald Guild.

It was repainted by Arleigh Cornelius and Robin Fulton along with some friends this summer. On Dec. 7, volunteers took time to install the Nativity scene in front of the church. It appears that it was deliberately driven in to on Dec. 14. The damaged pieces had to be removed. One sheep was totally destroyed and two had to be repaired.

If anyone has any information about who may be responsible, please contact Rev. Marjorie Cornelius.

Winter hours

J&J's Country Grill & Greco Xpress, Upper Musquodoboit, wants to advise their customers of their winter hours. As of Jan. 2, the restaurant hours will be: Mondays and Tuesdays CLOSED; Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (steak night with Mel the music man); Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, please phone: 568-2233.

Heat the hall

Submitted by: Charlie Dillman

Sometime in February or early March, we are looking forward to a musical Sunday afternoon of Country, Ol' Time, Bluegrass and Gospel at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit.

Besides enjoying good musical entertainment, it'll raise some money for heating the Theatre. Except for some gas expenses, performers are volunteering their time and talent.

Please plan to attend and hear: Bob MacFarlane & The Eastern Ridge Bluegrass Group; Susan Eisan with five of her violin students playing five part harmony and my group: The Standard Brand Band.

For more information, please contact: 384-2819 or email: bicentennial.theatre@ns.sympatico.ca

Thank you

Submitted by: Pat Greenfield

The Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital Health Care Auxiliary would like to thank, most sincerely, all those who contributed their time and skills in preparing and donating baked goods for the Healthcare Auxiliary table at the December 2008 Festival of Trees and Crafts.

Also, we want to thank all those visitors to our table and trust their purchases were as delightful in taste as they were attractive.

Thank you one and all for helping to make this event so successful.



Ditched kittens

One week before Christmas, four abandoned kittens were found freezing in the snow on the John Grant Back Rd. Since, two lucky kittens have found a home... two are still looking for a responsible pet owner who cares. Contact 384-2413.



Bill Casey, M.P.
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Toll-Free in the Riding 1-888-752-0552
Email: caseyb@parl.gc.ca

Input wanted

OTTAWA – The federal government is preparing *Budget 2009* and Bill Casey, MP, is requesting the input of all constituents so the concerns and ideas specific to our area make an effective impact on the budget.

“We are living in extraordinary economic times and the budget being prepared by the federal government is one of the most important in our history,” says Casey. To make sure we are clearly heard, the Finance Minister requests information on the specific economic issues and concerns facing our riding. “This is why I am calling on everyone, including business owners, community groups and individuals to tell me what they would like to see in *Budget 2009*,” says the local Member of Parliament.

Casey also advises constituents that the federal Finance Minister has requested a written submission from him no later than Jan 10. The MP is requesting that any ideas from the riding be into his office by Dec. 31 so a proper written submission can be prepared.

Casey adds, “My staff and I have already begun making direct calls to business owners and community groups and we are tracking all of the budget input we have received to date. I encourage everyone to provide us with your budget priorities.”

To ensure your ideas will be received, the MP suggests emailing him at caseyb@parl.gc.ca, faxing him at (613) 992-7220, or by calling one of his local riding offices: (902) 667-8679 in Amherst and (902) 893-2455 in Truro.

Agricultural Society Meeting

Submitted by: Helena Cole

The Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society (MMAS) encourages members of the public to attend its annual general meeting. This is an opportunity to learn more about the MMAS and its role in the community. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Forestry Education Complex on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Mudo Martial Arts Taekwondo

We would like to extend a BIG congratulations to all the Mudo Martial Arts Taekwondo students of Upper Musquodoboit who attended a tournament on Nov. 29, at the Chung Won Institute of Taekwondo in Moncton.

All their hard training in the past 18 months paid off as they succeeded in bringing home the Gold Cup! This is a remarkable achievement as they were competing against many well-established schools who have attended many more tournaments. This was only the second time attending a tournament and in some cases first! All this is possible because of the commitment the students continue to have in the Taekwondo Club. Instructor Keys and Assistant Instructors couldn't be more proud! Way to go!!

Thanks to all

The Musquodoboit Valley Lions would like to thank all those who donated to the Food Bank at the recent Festival of Trees. Thanks to your generosity, some 20 boxes of groceries and over \$180 was raised for the local Food Bank.

To learn more about the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club, visit www.musquodoboitvalleylions.com. New members are always welcome. Contact a local Lion if you would like to attend a meeting to see what the Lions do in our community. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Bicentennial Theatre in Middle Musquodoboit.



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Councillor Steve Streach

Eastern Shore - Musquodoboit Valley




Eastern Shore Office:	889-4050
Musquodoboit Valley Office:	384-2109
Fax:	384-3900
HRM Toll-free Number:	1-800-835-6428
E-mail:	streach@halifax.ca
Mailing Address:	6756 Old Guysborough Rd. Elderbank, NS B0N 1K0

www.stevestreach.com

Wishing you happiness and prosperity
as we begin a new year!

And the winner is...

Arleigh Cornelius, of Middle Musquodoboit, will have fun scratching \$200 worth of lottery tickets that decorated a Lotto Tree, a fundraiser organized by the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA).

The winning ticket was drawn on Dec. 7 at the Festival of Trees and Crafts held at the Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit.

Volunteers for MVTA thank everyone who purchased tickets and extend sincere congratulations to the winner!

Parade well supported

Submitted by: Meredith Baird

I would like to thank everyone who helped in lighting up the community by participating in the Lions Parade of Lights and making it a safe parade. You sure out-did yourselves: a job well done!

Trophy winners are: Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre - Best Group; Musquodoboit Rural High School - Best Youth Group; Chelsea Scallion - Best Individual; Valley Weeders - Most Humorous; Parkers Esso - Best Commercial; and Wittenberg Baptist Church - Best Theme.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good job

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for all the continued, great work you are doing with regards to The TownCryer. I enjoy hearing all the local news of the Musquodoboit Valley whilst living on the other side of the world.

I meant to give a donation while I was in NS recently, but I just didn't get around to it. I have some Canadian money left over from that trip and I am sending a donation through the post. Being the time of year it is, I don't expect my letter to arrive until after Christmas, but stranger things have happened.

I have been watching your weather and am glad we left when we did. The temperature here today is a lovely 30 C. Stop drooling on your keyboard!! Thanks again for all your good work.

Sincerely yours, Carl Milne (Waterfall, AU)

Editor's note: Thanks, Carl! Your generous donation arrived in the mail on Dec. 4.

Correction

To the Editor:

Ellen Higgins asked me to ensure that you knew that the photograph in the December issue labelled as Rev. Robert Sedgewick was actually a photo of Rev. John Sprott (see page 764 in Jenny Reid's "Musquodoboit Pioneers"). Not a happy looking man, no matter who it was!

Cheers, Verna Higgins

Editor's note: Thanks, Verna and Ellen, for bringing this to our attention. Duly noted!



If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about anything you see in The TownCryer, we want to hear from you! Log on to www.towncryernews.ca and send your letter to the editor.



TownCryer donations

Sincere thanks are extended to the following readers of The TownCryer for their generous donations: Ruth Higgins and Carl Milne.

The TownCryer is a free monthly publication distributed via email to on-line subscribers, through Canada Post, and available for pick-up at J&J's Country Diner and Greco Xpress, Reid's Restaurant and Bakery, Horton's Convenience Store and Haverstock Pharmacy.

If you wish to make a donation to help offset production costs please forward it to: The TownCryer, P.O. Box 144, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

CLASSIFIEDS

Martha phoned The TownCryer to place an obituary. When asked what she wanted to appear in print, Martha replied, "John's dead."

The editor told Martha she could have up to 30 words for only five dollars. To that Martha said, "Okay! Put this in: 'John's dead. One Ford truck for sale!'"

The TownCryer is now accepting classified advertising. If you have something to buy, sell, or trade or if you are looking for something to purchase, consider placing an ad for only \$5 (\$10 with a photo). Ads will also appear on our web site for one month. Your advertising dollars help pay for printing and distribution of next month's issue. Send your submission and cheque (by the 15th of each month) to: The TownCryer, PO Box 10, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0 or submit your ad by email: info@towncryernews.ca and mail your payment.

FOR SALE: Construction rack custom-built for full size Dodge half-ton truck. Can be altered to suit other makes. \$250 Call (902) 477-2400.

FOR SALE: Exercise/Walking Machine - \$125 new, will sell for \$25. Call (902) 384-2630.

WANTED: Roland U-20 Keyboard in good working condition. Contact: (902) 384-2413.



FOR SALE: Persian Gelding, 16 yrs old, wt 1600-1700 lbs. Will work single or double. Good yard horse. Call (902) 384-2629.

Bit of a giggle

A pregnant woman was in a bad car accident, which caused her to fall in to a deep coma. After nearly six months, she awakens and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins: a boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother came in and named them."

The woman thinks to herself, "Oh, no! Not Mike - he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?"

"Denise," the doctor answers.

The new mother thinks, "Wow! That's a beautiful name. Maybe I was wrong about my brother. I really like the name Denise. What's the boy's name?"

The doctor replies, "Denephew."



Ho! Ho! Ho!

The Middle Musquodoboit Volunteer Fire Department invited kids of all ages to their 3rd Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 14. Children enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon decorating cookies, dancing with Sparky the fire dog, and reminding Santa what to leave under the tree.

Is your business listed on the Musquodoboit Valley Business Directory? Let Valley residents know what you have to offer with a FREE listing at: www.musquodoboitvalley.karsibgraphics.com



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TODAY IS A GOOD DAY

TO REMEMBER WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year.



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Cell 902-758-5384
thomas.dillman@sunlife.com



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Something to consider

There's an old expression that says, "Many hands make little work." Each spring, after the snow has melted, unsightly garbage that has collected along the roadside is revealed. What if volunteers from Upper Musquodoboit to Meagher's Grant and all the communities in between start plans now for a clean up day in April?

This is an opportunity for responsible adults to involve youth and demonstrate the importance of pride in our communities.

Why not mention this idea at the next meeting of whatever group you support? Together, we can make this happen! Email: info@towncryernews.ca or call 384-2413 and let others know what your group can do to help.

Happy New Year 2009!

The school bells are ringing and classes are about to begin for the *Musquodoboit Valley Adult Literacy Network*. Our Level II enhanced class will prepare students to write their Grade 12 equivalency (GED) test or, to further their education. It will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Natural Resources Education Complex. Classes will run from Jan. 5 to May 6. Thank you to those who have agreed to participate. If anyone else would like to join, that would be great!

There will be a free Tutor Training session every Thur. night on Wyse Rd. in Dartmouth from Jan. 8 to March 12 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. We have a few people registered from the Valley and we would like to take more in our carpool. Tutors must be 19 years of age. Mileage will be provided.

We are also looking for interest in a Literacy Night in which people could gather for tutoring and literacy sharing.

We will be celebrating Family Literacy Day on Jan. 27, hopefully with some reading circles. All programs are free of charge. Please call or email with ideas and look for notices for more details. Thank you very much for your kindness and support.

Alanna Jones 568-0448 (please leave your name on the voicemail) or email: adjones@ns.sympatico.ca



Monday night Bingo at the Bicentennial, 7 p.m. Mini-bingo every Mon. night prior to regular bingo

Wednesday night Bingo at the Bicentennial: 7 p.m. Mini-bingo prior to regular bingo

Jan. 24: Robert Burns Night at the Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre, Middle Musquodoboit, at 6:30 p.m. Be part of the fun and enjoy an evening celebrating Scottish poet Robbie Burns. For more information, please call 384-2819.

Mobile public library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Sat. Jan. 3, 17 and 31

10:45 a.m. - 12 noon Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy

Thur. Jan. 15 and 29

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Upper Musq., school parking lot

2:10 - 4 p.m. Dean, Sharon Presbyterian Church

5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Upper Musq., Fire Hall

Thur. Jan. 8 and 22

10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Middle Musq., MVEC parking lot

2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Valley View Villa

4:50 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy

See you in church

Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean - Service 11:45 a.m.

St. James United, Upper Musq - Service at 10:15 a.m.

Riverside United Church Service at 9 a.m. for the months of Dec, Jan, Feb, and March.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, Elmsvale - Service is Saturday at 4 pm.

Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit - Service begins at 11 a.m.

Wittenburg Baptist Church, Wittenburg - Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship begins at 11 a.m.

January 4 - St. Paul's Antrim

January 11 - St James' Meagher's Grant

January 18- St. Andrew's Elderbank

January 25 - St. Paul's Antrim

Upcoming events

Jan. 9: Youth Group resumes at Carrolls Corner Community Centre. Phone: 758-2680.

Jan. 10: Pre-teen karaoke dance at Carrolls Corner Community Centre.

Jan. 24: The Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre will be presenting its annual Robbie Burns Night at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening celebrating Scottish poet Robbie Burns. For more info please call 384-2819.

Feb 24: Drop by the Holy Cross Catholic Church, Middle Musquodoboit, and enjoy a plateful of pancakes, amongst other delicacies, in celebration of Shrove Tuesday, otherwise known as Pancake Day.

Ongoing events

Every Tuesday at the Carrolls Corner Community Centre: Majorettes. Phone: 384-3253 for information.

Every Wednesday at the Carrolls Corner Community Centre: Yoga classes: \$55 Phone Kelly at: 883-1033 for more information.

Every Friday at the Carrolls Corner Community Centre: Games Night for youth. Membership is available. Per night admission: \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members.

Third Sunday of each month at the Middleton United Church: Gospel and Bluegrass Concert, 2 p.m.

First Monday of each month: Auction 45s Card Party at St. Paul's United Church Hall, 117 Lake Egmont Rd. 10 a.m. Adm. \$6 (includes hot lunch and prizes).

Each Tuesday: Lions Radio Bingo. Tune in to 99.5 FM radio at 7 p.m. Bingo cards available at: Reid's, J&J's and Laba's.

Each Wednesday: Open Crib Night at the Royal Canadian Legion, Caribou Rd. Bring a partner. Adm. \$5 per couple. Fun begins at 7:30 p.m.

Each Thursday: Darts at the Royal Canadian Legion, Caribou Rd. Adm. \$3 Starts at: 7:30 p.m.

What's he thinking?

We need your help!
Send along your suggestions
to fill in the bubble!

Email (by Jan. 15):
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Most creative entry
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front page of our web site: www.towncryernews.ca



The graveyard of the Atlantic - Sable Island re-visited

Submitted by: Lyle Bates

Recently, I read and observed publicity about a man who, having been born on Sable Island some eighty odd years ago, was given the opportunity to pay an actual visit to this seemingly mystical island. Mysterious: at least in the minds of many. As I listened to his account of this recent visit, my mind went back to a time too many years ago, Apr. 6, 1957 to be more exact, when I first sighted this fabled island.

While still in my late teens, I had graduated from the Radio Officer College in Saint John, N.B. in 1956 and, along with most of my successful classmates, was immediately hired by the federal Department of Transport (DOT) to be posted to various government owned ships or marine coastal stations. After a few voyages on the CSS Baffin (Canadian Survey Ship), I received a radiogram at sea informing me that I was being posted (or sentenced) to Sable Island for one year. The OIC (officer in charge) of my particular section had a rather unique sense of humour.

His description of Sable was complete with palm trees, warm breezes and all the luxuries the Canadian government could provide. I found out much later that he had never been there.

Setting sail from the Dartmouth marine slip of DOT on the CGS Edward Cornwallis, we arrived off Sable, some 300 kilometers (180 miles) southeast of Halifax harbour, about 18 hours later. There was a moderate swell at sea that early morning as we dropped anchor some two miles off the Island. The water is very shallow on all approaches to Sable. I noticed as we had approached anchorage it was, at first, difficult to discern the outline of this low lying island. Later, I would discover that the highest sand dune was only some 20 feet (6 meters) above sea level at high tide.

Anyway, as I gazed toward my new home and surroundings for the next 12 months I didn't like what I was seeing. In front of us were many lines of breaking, roaring surf, over shallow sand bars. The LCT (a motorized WWII craft used for landing troops on shallow shores) was readied on deck, loaded with supplies and a half dozen or so of fellow relief workers and myself squeezed aboard, life jackets attached. Included in this relief bunch were a light keeper, a weather observer, and several new guys for the island maintenance crew.

We were swung over the leeward side by the ship's davits - with a Newfoundlander at the ship's stern manning the steering rudder, two crewmembers, one from Ostrea Lake in the bow watching for dangerous projections from long ago sunken ships, and a young lad from West Jeddore

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manning a water pump. Was this old LCT leaking already? No, but I soon found out its purpose.

It seemed we were almost instantly into the roaring surf and flying spray, being swung sideways as we struck shallow sandbars with water pouring in over the sides. I was a good swimmer at that time and figured I could make shore if we capsized. The purpose of the hard working pump was now obvious. One glance at the Newfie in the steering position was reassuring. He could have been at home in his bathtub for his expression was of complete calmness. Later, I would learn he was all but raised in a fishing dory and had made this run, or similar ones, in the past.

As we approached shore, I could see several wagons, each with a four-pony hitch, a dozen or so people, even a child or two. One person did stand out, as he was running back and forth on the shore. In a few minutes I would learn that he was Don Matthews, the radio officer I was relieving. We landed abruptly and helping hands lifted us to shore over the piles of supplies as the water ran off us; we were all totally soaked.

Greeted warmly by dawn, the first load of supplies was quickly unloaded, his huge duffel bag thrown aboard; after a year of isolation duty he was all smiles to be on his way home. What was in store for me? I could never have guessed. For now, it was off to the radio staff house, dry clothes, a good meal and little time to rest as I was due to take the evening radio watch at 4 p.m., just three hours away.

Next time - a ghost too near.

Robert Burns Night

As the last strains of Auld Lang Syne fade into the memory of another year past, many people take time to credit Scottish laureate, Robert Burns, for penning this tune. On Jan. 24, the Bicentennial Theatre will pay homage to Robert Burns. Typically, a Burns Night includes musical entertainment, a delicious meal of mashed 'nips, potatoes and of course, haggis (an alternative to haggis is also offered). Besides, there are plenty of saucy spots through-out the evening that prompt peals of laughter. If the winter blues are starting to settle in, plan to attend Robert Burns Night at the Bicentennial Theatre. Phone: 384-2819 for more info.

Shubenacadie Sam

By Feb. 2, many people have had enough of dark days, snow and sub-zero temperatures. They need to know if they can anticipate an early spring or have to hunker-down for more wintry weather.

Shubenacadie Sam, a respected member of the rodent family, who resides at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, is a reliable predictor. Annually, this little guy garners media attention and crowds of witnesses as he steps out of his little abode. On Feb. 2, be part of the fun! Drop by the park before sunrise to share Shubenacadie Sam's moment of glory and see what's in store for the remaining weeks of winter.

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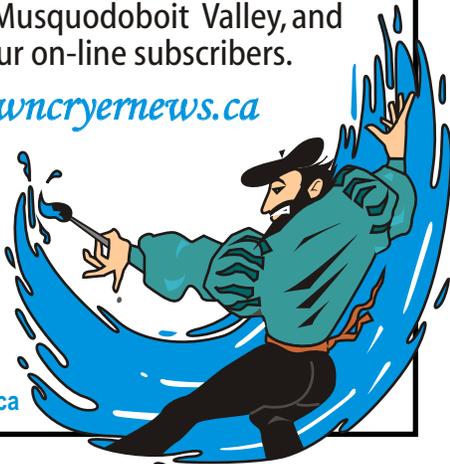
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Cuttin' corners

Given the prediction of hard times to come, The TownCryer invites readers to submit their suggestions for cutting corners. Maybe you have a tip you can share about meal preparation or grocery shopping or how to save energy. Let others know your cost-saving secrets. Send along your suggestions to: info@towncryernews.ca or mail: PO Box 10, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0

Once in a while, shoppers can find a deal in the meat section. For just over \$5, you can purchase six chicken legs with thighs attached. From that, you can make a modest fried chicken dinner, a chicken stew with dumplings and a pot of chicken soup. It can be done!

First, detach the legs from the thighs and after removing the skin, toss the legs in to a bag with: ¼ cup flour, ½ tsp. onion powder, ½ tsp. garlic powder and 1 tbsp. of summer savory. Place legs in a fry pan of heated oil to brown. Reduce heat, cover and cook thoroughly. Remove from pan and keep warm in 200C oven. Don't wash the fry pan... at least, not yet!

While the chicken is cooking, peel a pot full of potatoes. Bring to a quick boil. Reduce heat and cook 20 mins. or until done. A few slices of turnip may be added to cook with the potatoes or cook turnip separately.

Peel and wash 2 carrots to go along with the potatoes. Slice thin. Bring to a quick boil, reduce heat. When tender crisp, add frozen peas. Continue cooking until done: about 5 min.

On the side, shred ¼ cabbage. Shred ½ carrot and combine with cabbage. Add 1 tsp. green relish (optional), 1 tbsp. minced onion (optional), 1 tsp. sugar, fingerful of garlic powder and onion powder. Add enough coleslaw dressing to moisten.

Now, about that fry pan... Drain the liquid from the potatoes, turnip, carrots and peas in to the frying pan. If it's not a cup or so of liquid, add water to make it measure a cup and bring to a boil. Place 1 tbsp. of flour into a glass; add water to just about fill the glass and stir until a smooth texture. Pour into fry pan, stirring constantly. If gravy appears to light in colour, sprinkle a few grains of instant coffee in. Nobody will ever know! As well, add about 1 tbsp. of beef bouillon, some salt and pepper to taste. There ya go... fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings'.

Watch in future issues for the Chicken Stew and Chicken Soup recipes that were made with the remaining pieces of chicken.

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