

Ooops!

On Feb. 16, this piece of forest harvesting equipment was recovered from a gully on the Elderbank Back Road.

Attention private woodlot owners

The Central Woodland Owners Conference is going to be held in Middle Musquodoboit this year at the Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre on April 4. This will be a full-day conference.

Participants will hear experts and other woodland owners talk about woodland issues and resources that can help you manage your land sustainability. Whether you want to harvest timber, provide wildlife habitat, explore non-timber forest uses or just keep your forest healthy, plan to attend.

Anyone who pre-registers, qualifies to win a GPS unit. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and a chance to win door prizes. For more information or to register, call toll-free: 1-866-477-2494 or register online at www.woodlotinfoshop.ca.

Subscriptions available

The TownCryer makes a great gift for anyone who may not be receiving it in the mail. If there is someone living away, or even locally, give the gift from home! Annual subscriptions are available for only \$12 per year (anywhere in Canada). International mail rates apply to subscriptions mailed elsewhere. Email: info@towncryernews.ca or call 384-2413.

Energy rebate program

Anyone who purchases wood, wood pellets, kerosene, propane or oil to heat their home, qualifies to receive the eight per cent provincial portion of the HST paid on the product.

If homeowners have an account with an oil company or if they heat by electricity, NSPC and/or the oil company automatically applies this rebate to their monthly bill. However, if homeowners pay for heating products as a cash purchase and have the receipt, they can complete the Consumer Application for Energy Rebate, and Service Nova Scotia will send a cheque for the provincial portion (eight per cent) of the HST paid.

Receipts and/or invoices must be included with the application. Any receipts dated on or after Dec. 1, 2006 qualify although, application for the rebate must be received within 24 months from the date of purchase. The Consumer Application for Energy Rebate can be downloaded at: www.gov.ns.ca/snsnr/rep/applications.asp



Give 'er

Colin Castle, of Middle Musquodoboit, test drives a wheelchair on skis, a contraption assembled by him and his buds, Nick Rogers and Jessie Risser, assisted by Jim Higgins.

March is literacy month

Scrabble for Literacy is an annual event. Scrabble enthusiasts get together for a day of fun and competition to raise money for a worthy cause at the same time.

Literacy Nova Scotia defines literacy as: “the ability to use printed information to function in society, at work and in the family. It is the combination of thinking and social skills we need, to analyze and use information to control our lives, achieve our goals, and develop our knowledge and potential.”

According to Statistics Canada, 30 per cent of Nova Scotians do not have a high school diploma.

In 2004, The International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey reports that nearly four in ten Nova Scotians have difficulty reading, understanding, and using print materials.

Half of Nova Scotians have difficulty with numeracy, the skill set they need to work with numbers in daily situations like balancing an account or filling out an order form.

We, in the Musquodoboit Valley, are very fortunate to have programs in place. Our financial support can help Nova Scotians access quality literacy programs. It also ensures instructors and volunteers have the skills they need to support adult learners' participation and promote the value of literacy to all Nova Scotians.

The second annual Scrabble for Literacy will be held at Middleton United Church on March 21 (storm date: March 28), starting at 10 a.m. Entry fees are a free will offering, with all proceeds going to our local branch of Literacy Nova Scotia.

There will be snacks and prizes. Please bring a Scrabble game if you have one. Pre-registration is required.

Contact Silvana Redden at 384-3330 or e-mail silvana.white@ns.sympatico.ca to register or for more information.

Sing a song for Ireland

Even if you're not Irish, you'll want to be on March 14.

Book now for an evening of fun and fellowship in true Irish style at the Holy Cross Church, Middle Musquodoboit.

A leprechaun happy half hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by an Irish appetite-satisfying meal at 6:30 p.m.

Phone 384-2836 to reserve your spot. Musical entertainment and door prizes round off the night.



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Seniors Day Academy

The North Central RCMP will be hosting a Seniors Day Academy. This event is to promote the Safe Seniors Program, that provides information to Senior Citizens on how to protect themselves and allow emergency personnel to assist with their needs. There will be four presenters, talking on a number of relative topics of interest and the safety and security of Seniors in the area.

The event will take place March 25 from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Enterprisers Hall, 12248 Highway 224. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required: Contact Jami Smith in person at the Office, 12090 Highway 224 or by phone 384-3401.

Sold! to the highest bidder!

Tri-County Area Scouting will be holding an auction on April 2 at Curly Portables in Enfield. Tickets are only \$5 and are redeemable when you buy a meal. Tickets are available from any of your local Scouting groups. The auction starts at 6:30 p.m.

The Tri-County Area includes eight local groups: Enfield, Shubie, Milford, Gays River, Lantz, Maitland, Middle Musquodoboit and Upper Musquodoboit. All proceeds from the auction help the area to provide programming for the youth involved in Scouting. It is a fun night out and there are lots of great items to bid on. For more info, contact Ronalda Fisher: 568-2679 or Sharon White: 261-2323 (auction coordinators).

100 Club Lottery

The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club still has lottery tickets available for the Spring 2009 100 Club Lottery. There will be three draws for ten consecutive weeks for \$25, \$15, and \$10, beginning on April 15. A final draw for the **\$500 Grand Prize** will be held on June 17. There will be a total of 31 draws and each of the 100 tickets sold will be entered for ALL draws. Tickets are available from members of the Lions Club at \$20 each. Net proceeds will be used for a variety of community service projects carried out by the Lions Club.



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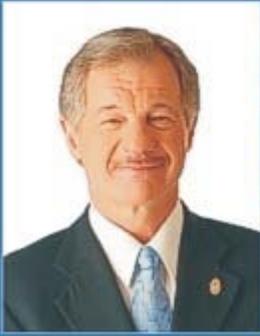
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Dog gone

The following story was told by Donald McFetridge, of Middle Musquodoboit, to Musquodoboit Rural High School student, Dom Larkin, as part of the Musquodoboit Valley Millennium Project.

John Sedgewick was a lawyer who lived in the old white farmhouse behind the new Pharmasave with his family and dog. A man with a horse and buggy would come around with his wagon selling and delivering meat to people.

One day, the meat man left a roast on the porch of a man who was friends with John Sedgewick. Sedgewick's dog got to the meat first and ran away with it.

The man went to see John Sedgewick one day to ask him for advice. The man asked, "John, you're a lawyer. What would you do if someone's dog took your roast from your porch and ran away with it?"

John quickly replied, "I would sue him for the cost of the roast." The man thanked John and went home. He wrote a letter to John stating he was suing him for the cost of a roast that his dog stole.

A couple of days later, the man received a letter in the mail from John Sedgewick. It was a letter stating the amount he was charging him for legal services!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Karen, you and Ellen did an excellent job with February's Town Cryer. Keep up the good work.
Ken Burrows



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: Marilyn Higgins, Victoria Dickie, Ross and Jean Dares, and Sharon Arsenault on behalf of the Healthy Connections Wellness Show.

The TownCryer is a free, monthly publication. If you wish to make a donation to help offset printing and distribution costs, your financial support is gratefully accepted.

Please forward your donation, made payable to: The TownCryer, Box 10, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

What's YOUR Business?

The TownCryer thanks all businesses that support this community newspaper through display advertising.

Your ads appear throughout the Musquodoboit Valley in the printed TownCryer, at www.towncryernews.ca for one month, and in our on-line version which is delivered to each email subscriber's inbox the first of the month.

Each display ad purchased qualifies your business for our annual random draw in December. The business name drawn is welcome to a complimentary 1/4-page Display Ad or 1/4-page Ad Feature as an extra 'thank you' for your ongoing support.

ADVERTISING RATES - Save up to 30% by booking consecutive ads. Visit www.towncryernews.ca for our Ad Rate Card. If you don't have a prepared ad, put our Graphic Artist to work for you. Submission deadline: 15th of each month.



NEW BUSINESSES!

Beginning this month, if you are a 'new' business to our Valley, we want to help you share your good news. Purchase a 1/4-page display ad and we'll top it up with a complimentary 1/4-page Ad Feature to help you introduce your new business venture and ensure folks are aware of what you have to offer our community.

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

WANTED: Middleton United Church is looking for an organist for Sunday and special services. Even if you can only play on an occasional basis please give it your consideration and call the church office at 384-2520.

WANTED: used folding treadmill, elliptical or combination bike and elliptical exercise machine reasonably priced. Phone 384-2548.

FOR SALE: One Kenmore electric range. Excellent condition. Asking \$150. One McClary refrigerator. Fair condition. Good beer fridge! Asking \$50. One GE microwave oven. Like new! Asking \$75. One 3-cycle portable Hitachi washer. Asking \$150. Phone 384-2413.

NOTICE: Buy Natural Beef Direct from the farm. \$100 barbeque boxes (steak & hamburger), \$100 mix boxes, sides & split sides \$2.45/lb. For more info visit www.willowpondfarm.ca. Call Larry & Pat Ward (902) 384-2878.

Thank you

Thanks to the staff at the Musquodoboit Valley Employment Development Program & Job Search Centre for taking their time to contact www.getmehome.ca on Feb. 11. Because of their effort, a wandering family pet was safely returned home.

Bit of a giggle

A passer-by watched two Irishmen in a park. One was digging holes and the other was immediately filling them in again.

"Tell me", said the passer-by, "What on earth are you doing?"

"Well", said the digger, "Usually there are three of us. I dig, Fergal plants the tree, and Sean fills in the hole. Today Fergal is away unwell, but that doesn't mean Sean and I have to take the day off, does it?"

They're at it again!

Musquodoboit Valley will be turned into the Emerald City later this spring.

Students from Musquodoboit Rural High School (MRHS) and volunteers from the community come together to present a musical production of The Wizard of Oz at the Bicentennial Theatre in Middle Musquodoboit between April 27 and May 2.

Through the 4Cs (Creative Connections between Children and their Communities) program, an initiative in the Halifax Regional Municipality to promote the interaction between schools and the community, students are encouraged to explore their artistic potential.

Since 1999, funding has been available to applicants to this program. MRHS, the Bicentennial Theatre, and community volunteers have made a commitment to create an environment conducive to artistic development.

Through their involvement, students will have first-hand experience in all aspects of a theatrical production including: stage management, sound production, lighting, costume and set design. Actors under the direction of Ryan Sadler, and musicians conducted by Diane Clarke, will ensure the audience of a top-notch performance.

This exciting, energetic and new approach to learning creates a positive interaction with the community. Be sure to book your tickets early to witness Dorothy, along with the Tin Man, Lion and Scarecrow as they seek out the all-knowing, all-powerful Wizard of Oz.



Recognize this?

Last summer, a traveller stopped by the Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre (VIC), Middle Musquodoboit, and left this picture to be identified.

After much research, staff and volunteers at the VIC are unable to positively identify this landscape.

Can you? If so, please contact MVTA: 384-2006 or email: info@mvta.net

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Heat the Hall - March 1. A musical Sunday afternoon of Country, Ol' Time, Bluegrass, and Gospel from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Funds raised will help to heat the Theatre.

Coffee House - March 21, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Wizard of Oz: April 27 - May 2. Matinees are April 27 and 28 at 10 a.m. and April 29 at 9:30 a.m. with evening performances on April 30, May 1, and May 2 at 7 pm.

**For ticket info or details
about these and other Theatre events
call 384-2819 or email
bicentennial.theatre@ns.sympatico.ca**

Any individual or group willing to head up a committee that would organize new activities or events at the MVBT, anything from card parties to dinner theatre, is asked to contact Jim Higgins at 384-2715.

Mobile public library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Sat. March 14 and 28

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. March 12 and 26

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. March 5 and 19

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: 11:45 a.m.

St. James United, Upper Musq.: 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.

March 1 and 15: St. Paul's, Antrim

March 8 and 22: St. James', Meagher's Grant

March 29: St. Paul's, Antrim

Upcoming Events

March 3: Arimathea Funeral Cooperative is holding its 15th Annual General Meeting on Mar. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral co-op building, Upper Musquodoboit.

March 6: Teen Dance (13-18 yrs) at the Carrolls Corner Community Centre, featuring JD Clarke and Johnny Rock from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Advanced tickets: \$8 - Door: \$10.

March 7: Potluck Supper/Games Night - basement of Middleton United Church at 5:30 p.m. Come join us for fellowship and good vittles followed by board or card games of your choice.

March 7: The Carrolls Corner Community Centre is hosting a Pre-Teen Karaoke Dance. Canteen, fun and games. Adm. \$3 for Grades 2 to 6.

March 8: The Upper Musquodoboit Community Association is having a Merchandise Bingo between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Canteen open. This Bingo is to raise funds to send our Taekwondo Group to a tournament in Fredericton to fight to keep the Cup! We hope everyone will come out and support our team!

March 10: Joint Session Meeting followed by an Official Board Meeting at Middleton United Church - 7 p.m.

March 14: Sing a Song for Ireland, Holy Cross Church (see article on page 2)

March 15: Gospel Concert - 2 p.m. Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit. Good will offering with light lunch being served. Contact Ross Dares 384-2039 for more information.

March 15: Submission deadline for April TownCryer

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 18-19: March Break Camp at Natural Resources Education Centre, Middle Musquodoboit. Call 384-3420.

March 20: First day of Spring! Woo hoo!

March 21: The Second Annual Scrabble for Literacy (see article on page 2).

March 25: Seniors Day Academy (see article on page 2).

April 5: The Carrolls Corner Community Centre is organizing a Spring Fashion Show. If you'd like to volunteer as a model or crew, please contact: 758-2680.

April 18: The Upper Musquodoboit Community Association is having a Spring Dance - Music by: DJ Craig Cole. Tunes will be spinning from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission is \$7 per person at the door.

April 25: Casserole supper at the Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit between 4:30 p.m. And 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$7 adults, \$4 for youth 6-12 years; Free for children 5 years and under.

Carrolls Corner Community Centre

Some time in March, we are planning a Karaoke Idol Contest. If you are interested, please call Robert at 384-2456.

Anyone interested in taking a Non-Violent Intervention Course at the hall, please call Jackie at 758-2680.

Sable Island

Submitted by: Lyle Bates

According to some sources, Sable Island is part of a large submarine sand-bed, which may be over a hundred miles in length from east to west. The apex of this sand-bed, which is raised above the water, forms Sable Island, long a terror to shipping.

During my stay, the Island was some 16 miles long above high tide and at its widest point, hardly one mile. Except on the beaches surrounding the isle, the sand was light gray, soft and held from blowing into the surrounding sea by the deep rooted marram grass, the chief food of the wild horses. The hooves of these horses were as large as small dinner plates to aid them in their travel over the ever-shifting sands. Walking was difficult, as one always seemed to be ankle deep in the soft sand unless you used the surf hardened beach strips.

One evening, before I was due on watch at midnight, in the middle of a howling gale of wind, I decided to walk the half-mile to visit the meteorological (weather) station using the well-worn bare sand roadway. Soon, I realized the folly of this trip, as sand was flying at such force that eyes had to be kept closed. I laid down with my back to the wind, as I had observed the wild horses do under similar conditions. Soon, it began to rain, the sand storm subsided and I decided to visit the weather guys another time!

The gale howled all night, only subsiding at daybreak. On my way back to the radio quarters after my watch ended, I saw, with unbelieving eyes, the remains of wrecked ships that had not been visible the previous day. The violent gale of the past few hours had once again revealed the bones of some of the more than 500 recorded ships that had ended their final voyage in the boiling surf of the surrounding shoals. In the distance I could make out the engine room structure of a long dead cargo vessel. The shifting sands, after another early spring gale on passing this same location, had reburied all several days later.

In the next issue, horse history and round-up. Sable Island style!

Spring ahead!

**Remember to
set your clocks ahead
one hour on March 8
at 2 a.m.**



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Legion news

Submitted by: Ken Burrows

Our Valley Branch Legion 147, in Upper Musquodoboit, is undergoing some serious interior renovations. The hall looks fantastic. I invite all residents to drop in and have a look for yourself. It is a perfect place for any occasion and the rental rates are extremely reasonable.

The first Friday of each month is meeting night for members and guests. March also marks the beginning of our extended hours. As you may or may not be aware, we are open on Wednesday and Thursday nights for cribbage and darts.

For the month of March, the Legion will be open Saturday nights from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., in addition to its regular Wednesday and Thursday hours. There will be a hot meal available on Saturday nights and the pool is free from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Legion will not be open Friday nights during the month of March.

So, come on out and see the upgraded facilities. It is your Legion and we encourage everyone to support it by simply using it. It couldn't be much easier than that.

Take care and all the very best as we anxiously await the arrival of spring and all those glorious black flies.

Caring for Austin

Besides the joy, parents also know the demands a new baby brings in to their lives. Chris and Amy Cleveland, of Shubenacadie East, know more than most young couples.

Their son, Austin David Cleveland, was born approximately 14 weeks prematurely on Aug. 30. At birth, he weighed only one pound, three ounces. Since, he has spent his new life in the neo-natal intensive care unit at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax.

"I've only missed three days of going in since he was born," says Amy.

Life-saving medical procedures and two surgeries have so far addressed Austin's multiple health issues. A picture, taken of Austin at one month, shows Chris' wedding band slipped up the child's arm, almost to his shoulder. At five weeks of age, Austin was held for the very first time by his mother.

"It was our fifth wedding anniversary," says Amy. "It was a pretty special moment."

In January, Austin's most recent surgery, a tracheostomy (a surgically created opening in the neck leading directly to the trachea: the breathing tube) enables him to be on a portable ventilator.

"He's now able to take trips out of neo-natal," explains Amy. "We go to the parent room. It's a space provided that allows us to room-in for a day."

The trach has also let Austin feed from a bottle. "He drank 35 ml. out of the bottle the first time and hasn't looked back since," says the proud mother.

In time, Amy and Chris look forward to taking their son outside the hospital environment. "Whenever it gets warm enough, we want to make his first trip to the Public Gardens. We also want to get to the point where we can have a day pass and have Austin baptized," says Amy.

But, before that happens, Chris and Amy have to continue to learn the health-care procedures that are involved in caring for their son. "We have Level 2 trach- training now but, we need Level 3 before we can have a day pass," explains Amy. "We do most of his care now when we're there. Always, before we leave the hospital, we get a smile out of him. We just need to learn more about how to take care of the medical stuff."

Amy and Chris continue to drive RR #2, Shubenacadie and RR #3, Middle Musquodoboit. Daily, after work, they travel to the city to be with their son.

"Chris and I want to thank everybody for their support and generosity throughout this whole thing," says Amy. "We hope to bring Austin home by his first birthday."

When asked where they get their strength, Amy says, "He's doing it. If a little guy that size can do it, we have to."

Donations to help Amy and Chris offset their expenses are being graciously accepted at the Canada Post Offices in Middle Musquodoboit and Shubenacadie.

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Originally published in The Ladies' Home Journal, June 1916

Press on!

International Women's Day has been observed annually on March 8, since in the early 1900s. Thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. Here's a quick look back at Canadian history.

1900 - A woman in an "insane asylum" (because she claimed her husband abused her) was given a gynecological operation to "cure" her - a common practice.

1909 - The Criminal Code was amended to criminalize the abduction of women. Before this, the abduction of any woman over 16 was legal, except if she was an heiress. The maximum penalty for stealing a cow was much higher than for kidnapping an heiress.

1955 - Restrictions on married women in the federal public service were removed. In the past, women public service employees were fired upon marriage.

1982 - Bertha Wilson became the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada. When she had first applied to law school, a professor told her to go home and take up knitting.