



# The Centre Post

Issue Five June 21, 2006

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!

One year ago a few people sat around a table at the Centreville Hall to discuss the possibility of bringing together a newsletter that would be for the community by the community. Our goal was initially just to see if it could work. Plans were laid, people stepped up for volunteer positions, and an agreement that we would try to get it off the ground was in place. Over the past year we have seen committee members fade to the background due to work commitments, some moved, some had children and some had "life happen". Through it all we have managed to maintain our commitment and produce and distribute our issues of The Centre Post.

We realize that a community newsletter would not be possible without the help of those it is here to serve. I would like to thank those that support this endeavor through not only past advertising contributions but who have continued to support us in our new year. Each and every edition has had contributions of arts and crafts, financial advice, historical stories, letters, and many more. Without these contributions and the time that the authors took to submit them, your newsletter would be a shell without the critter that keeps it alive.

As one of the editors of this project, it is my job to put the pieces of the puzzle together and try to fit as much as I can in each edition. Terry-Lee, from Creative Diversions Pottery Studio, takes time from her busy schedule to go over the whole edition with a fine tooth comb. She provides the massive spell check, grammar check and design check before sending it to the printer. Mike Sweeney, keeps the project rolling with his enthusiasm and gentle prodding to make sure it comes out on time. He also works tirelessly to gather contributions in the form of advertising, and articles.

So if you will all join me in a warm round of "Happy Birthday to The Centre Post" and have a piece of cake in celebration. For without you the dear reader, all of this work would be for naught and just a project that a few people a year ago had a meeting about. Have a great summer everyone and I will see you in the fall.

In Celebration!  
Shari McKenzie-Ramsay



## Centreville District Community Development Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

**Where:** Centreville Hall

**When:** Fourth Thursday of the Month

**Time:** 7.00 P.M.

**Exceptions:** JULY, AUGUST & DECEMBER  
BY NOTIFICATION

*All meetings are open to the public come out to support your community development!*

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## Grant Boosts Centreville Hall Upgrade Project

A sizeable grant will help provide a sorely-needed boost for the Centreville community hall. Supporters say it's like CPR for an ailing heart.

"This hall actually is the heart of the community," says Mike Sweeney, who adds, "This hall really needed to be upgraded." Sweeney was one of several committee members who were on hand when MLA Mark Parent arrived at the hall last week to present a check for \$12,000 to assist with improvements. Since April 2004, the community has spent \$39,000 on the project. The grant represents the government's contribution of one-third of that total, up to \$12,000.

The recreation facility development grant, says upgrade committee chair Mervin Steadman, was made possible through the efforts of Parent and Mike Trinacty, regional rep for the Nova Scotia Sports and Recreation Commission. Steadman says the money will allow work to continue.



Mervin Steadman accepts a \$12,000 check from Mark Parent on the steps of the Centreville Community Hall in the company of committee members Mike Sweeney, Pauline Harris,

So far, new electrical panels, emergency exit doors, new front steps, a barrier-free ramp, a new basement entry, repairs to the foundation and other improvements have been made.

The building, which dates back to 1917, "was a school house originally, then it was turned over to the community about 1964," says Steadman.

The hall has survived largely thanks to the ongoing fundraising efforts of the Good Neighbour Club, a determined ladies' group which has been active since

1947. The club has so far pitched in \$10,000 toward the project.

Longtime member Minnie Sheffield, who is also president of the Centreville Hall Association, says, "I think without the club we wouldn't have a hall. We've been the backbone."

Year-round, the hall plays an important role. It is the site of community meetings and fundraisers and, to bring in additional income, it is rented out to various organizations, from local sports groups to craft and rug-hooking clubs. The

county uses it for occasional public forums and it serves as a poling station at election time. It is currently being looked at seriously as a public emergency comfort station. The Good Neighbour Club, which marks its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, pays the hall's phone and power bills, and holds an annual fuel supper each fall to keep the building heated. The women hold monthly suppers and recently began serving full breakfasts on the third Saturday of each month. "They're very popular," says Sheffield. As well, club members are in the midst of their annual door-to-door charity drive for various causes including cancer, heart and stroke, the Red Cross and the CNIB.

"The funds will be put back in the community," says Steadman, who notes that a tax receipt can now be issued to anyone who would like to make a donation to the hall to be used for further upgrades.

By Patty Mintz  
Courtesy of The Advertiser



Construction of a ramp to make the hall accessible to all is a highlight of the renovations, say Mike Steadman and Minnie Sheffield  
Patty Mintz photo.

## Community Announcements

**Centreville's 6th Annual Pig Roast** held on May 13, 2006 at the Centreville Hall was a huge success with 212 people being served.

The Association wishes to thank all those who supported this year's event. Funds raised by this annual event are used for community development.

### Community Food Bank Drive

On July 10th there will be a community food drive throughout Centreville. The drive will be performed by youth of the Tidal Impact Christian Youth Rally.

The youth will proceed house to house gathering food, delivering a household information package, and an invitation for all community youth grades one to six to the Centreville Park on the afternoon of Thursday July 13 for various activities. For more information, contact Bob Johnston @ 679-2852. All food gathered will be donated to the Canning and Area Inter-church Food Bank.

### Tidal Impact is Coming

For the week of July 8th –14th, one of the largest gatherings of Christian youth in Eastern Canada will be coming to the Metro Valley area of Nova Scotia. The youth will be participating in various projects and activities. There will be between 40 and 50 visiting youth being billeted in the Centreville area partaking in various activities in our community. First starting in the mid 1980's, this year Tidal Impact will involve over 1300 youth from across the maritime provinces. For more information please contact Bob Johnston @ 679-2852 or see our web page at [www.tidalimpact.ca](http://www.tidalimpact.ca).

### 1st Canning Scouting Movement

To the residents of Centreville,  
We, the 1st Canning Group Committee, would like to thank you for your most generous donation of scouting equipment. We would also like to let you know that any of your youth or adults that would like to continue scouting, we are more than happy to have you in our group. For more information you can contact Cecil @ 582-3931 or Dawn @ 582-1382.

Yours in Scouting,  
*Dawn E. Keddy*



### Pins and Needles Group

Ladies— don't throw out those unfinished projects you have in the back of your closet, bring them and come along to the Centreville Hall in September. A group of friendly ladies meet there on Thursdays and work on their various projects. Come and join us on Sept. 14th. For more information call Ada MacDuff at 678-4483.

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## Centreville Hall Update

As many of you are aware, work continues on the Centreville Hall. The building committee, a group made up of Hall Association members, Centreville District Community Development Association members and Good Neighbour Club members is still active raising money through donations and grants.

Recently the building committee held a meeting with members of the Hall Association, The Good Neighbour Club and Centreville District Community Development Association. Merv Steadman (committee chair) presented a financial statement of money procured and spent to date. Through volunteer labour and donations from the above listed organizations \$39,000 has been spent to date with an additional \$12,000 coming from the Provincial Government. We had to spend at least \$36,000 to get a 1/3 grant of \$12,000.

Approximately \$8,000 of the \$12,000 grant is needed to pay for finishing the repair to the basement walls and required landscaping/drainage around the hall.

Future plans for the Hall include but are not limited to a new roof, siding with fascia and soffit and floor re-finishing.

The building committee will prepare a financial plan and present it along with the future building plans to the above listed stakeholders for discussion/approval.

The Centreville Hall Association can issue tax receipts for donations.

 Submitted by Budd Murphy

**Next Issue:**

**September 21, 2006**

**Submissions due by September 1.**

## From the Councilor's Corner

We will soon experience the sounds of summer, with children home from school, soccer games in the park and the many days of enjoyment on the golf course. This year may see a new long awaited "clubhouse" at Eagle Crest, which will be a welcomed addition to the community of Centreville. As well, the community will host a "comfort station" thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers who have developed an emergency preparedness plan (EPP) for the community. Public meetings were held and volunteers offered their time and expertise to make this a reality. If an emergency should occur your community hall will have the necessary resources to assist those residents who need help. Kings County council will give final approval on June 6<sup>th</sup> for a grant of \$5222.40 to complete the necessary funding for a community generator. This will be a valuable asset not only to the community of Centreville but the surrounding areas as well. Again congratulations to all who worked to make this happen. Once again Centreville has taken the leadership role in helping the county develop a policy for comfort stations in communities throughout our region.

It has been said that our volunteers are the glue that holds our community together and the energy that takes us into the future. As we head into the summer months, I want to leave you with a sincere thank you from Kings County for your initiatives in helping all of us to make Kings County one of the best places to live. To all those of you who volunteer your time for your community, church, children and friends a sincere Thank you with the following poem.....

### To Our Volunteers - by Lisa Ellinwood

**V** is for the Very special people that you are  
**O** is for the Overwhelming support & compassion you offer others during their time of need  
**L** is for the Little things you do that make such a difference in someone's life  
**U** is for the Unspoken words that sometimes mean just as much  
**N** is for the Need you fill when others aren't able  
**T** is for the Time you give of yourselves on top of your own busy schedules  
**E** is for the Emotional support you continually give  
**E** is also for the Endless energy you all seem to possess  
**R** is for the Responsibility you have taken on & never once complained  
**S** is for the Smiles you bring to patients & families by just being you

✍️ **Madonna Spinazola**



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**-A.J. McClane "Song of the Angler" (1967)**

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## News from Centreville Baptist Church

There is a red roof rising over Centreville Baptist Church. The church is growing, and this has led to an expansion of our facilities. As exciting as it is to see the new construction take shape, more exciting is how we came to this point in the life of our church and the future we see ahead.

Centreville Baptist Church moved from the original church opposite the post office to the new location on Murray Drive less than 10 years ago and over two years ago we realised that we were rapidly outgrowing the new church. Sunday school classrooms were crowded and the sanctuary was consistently over 80% of seating capacity for Sunday worship services. As we examined the situation, and prayed for God's guidance, it became clear we had new challenges to meet. It was clear we were being called to expand our ministries, to reach out and meet the spiritual needs of the wider community.

This culminated with the decision last year to embark on a stewardship campaign, which we entitled "*Growing in Faith towards God's Vision.*" Through this campaign the church family committed \$575,000 over a three year period towards the capital costs of expansion. This provided the basis to move forward and the result is the bigger, red-roofed church taking shape on Murray Drive.

This building project has been a labour of love and it is an inspiration to see how so many people have given their time and talents to the planning and construction work.

Now that we have expanded our facilities we are excited about the many opportunities to serve you better. We will have a new multi-purpose auditorium, larger and more classrooms and meeting rooms, dedicated Youth Group space, expanded office and kitchen areas, and a new sanctuary.

This summer two exciting events taking place are Tidal Impact and Vacation Bible School. Tidal Impact runs from July 8<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting over 50 youth who will be conducting Backyard Bible Clubs and undertaking other mission work in the community; watch for further details of this event. Vacation Bible School will be held the last full week of July and will be advertised in the community. This is an annual event that is open to all children and is free. It is always successful as it provides a week for children to come together to play and celebrate.

Join us for worship any Sunday morning all summer. We begin with contemporary songs of worship, led by our worship band at 10:55. During the summer our senior choir takes a well-deserved break and we have special music

every Sunday provided by various members of our church family and guests – come and hear how awesomely talented some of your neighbours are.

Some weekly ministries take a hiatus over the summer, schedules for all can be found by dropping by the church or calling us at 678-1946. Current weekly ministries include Youth Group (grades 7-12), Team Kid (grades 4-6), Search the Word Bible Study, Mom's Morning Out and Early Morning Prayer.

As we look towards the fall we will be dedicating our new facilities in September, resuming our weekly ministries and building new programs. One area we are currently exploring is a pre-school program. Other ministries we see on the horizon are recreation programs for children and adults, and seniors activity programs. Please help us shape these new directions to serve you. You can direct your ideas to Pastor Marc Potvin, our senior pastor; Pastor David Woodworth, our director of youth and children's ministries; or any other member of the church family.

Please come and fellowship with us – we want to learn how we can meet your spiritual needs and serve our community in the fullest expression of God's love.

 By Angus Ells

## In Your Community: Centreville Good Neighbour Club

In the early 1940's, the Centreville community consisted of approximately eighty families.

The ladies of the community met every Wednesday evening at the old schoolhouse on the corner of Billtown and Centreville road. They worked faithfully for the Red Cross, as well as for the men overseas during World War II, by sewing, knitting and making bandages for cancer patients. They also worked on projects to support the Blanchard Frasier Memorial Hospital in Kentville.

In 1946, the group decided they would form a Non-Political, Non-Racial and Non-Denominational club for school and community projects. Hence, the Good Neighbour Club was formed.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Lois Manson on January 8, 1947, with 12 members present. Mrs. Eva Wood was elected President and the name "Good Neighbour Club" was proposed by Mrs. Blanche Kidston. The object of the club was to help the local school and any community projects they could assist with.

Each member was given a Maple Leaf Pin with Black, Yellow, and Mauve ribbons. This signified the Club symbol and colours. The Club ode was submitted by Mrs. Eva Wood.

**"...by sewing, knitting and making bandages for cancer patients."**

The Club provided many items for the local schools before the schools became consolidated. After the schools closed, the group decided to maintain one school building for a Community Centre, which the Hall Association purchased.

The Good Neighbour Club, assisted by a grant, remodelled the Hall and continued to purchase other necessities such as tables, chairs, dishes and other items as time went on.

Each year, the Club heads up their Annual Charity Campaign in May, as well as the Turkey Supper in October. The monies realized from this supper goes towards the winter fuel expenses for the Community Centre.

The Good Neighbour Club is still active with approximately 38 members. The Club meets every first and third Thursday of the month at the Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

Next year the Club will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

This is just a small sampling of our Club history. We will be writing more for upcoming issues of the Centre Post with further details of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

 Submitted by Suzanne Trudeau

## Eagle Crest Expansion Plans Clear Municipal Hurdle

The Eagle Crest Golf Course in Centreville is a large step closer to a long-awaited new clubhouse and other planned improvements.

Course owner-operator Osbourne Ward confirmed last week that his application to rezone part of his property has been given approval by municipal council as part of the Secondary Planning Strategy for the hamlet of Centreville.

"It took longer than I thought it would," Ward said. On the other

hand, he admitted, "I expected some hurdles and delays. I live in Kings County, I'm used to that." At the same time, the process "seemed to go fairly smoothly the last while. And even though it took two-and-a-half to three years to resolve, I'm happy it's done, and we can now move on."

Ward's goal now is to have the parking lot area and the roadway access north from Lakewood Road completed in the spring.

"We were hoping to be able to do it this fall," he said, "but the weather hasn't cooperated." He expects his new driving range to be open in May, and to start work on the new clubhouse in July or August "with the aim of having it open for the 2007 season." He is actually aiming to have the clubhouse open next winter, so he can fulfill his other goal of offering cross-country skiing during the winter months.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Vegetarian Stuffed Red Pepper

Serves 4

Submitted by: Steve Riley Chef, Between the Bushes Restaurant

### Ingredients:

Butter	4 Tbsp
Onion (Diced)	1 Large
Red Pepper	2
Garlic	2 Tbsp
Apricot (Dried)	4 Tbsp
Pine Nuts	2 Tbsp
Broccoli	1 Bunch (Cut up in small spears)
Cauliflower	1 Head (Cut up in small spears)
Raisins	1 Cup
Apple Juice	1 Cup
Salt and Pepper	To Taste



### Method:

1. Cut pepper in half length wise and remove the seeds. Put in boiling water and cool until tender (approx 5-8 minutes)
2. Sauté onion, garlic and pine nuts in butter. Add broccoli, cauliflower and raisins and cook for 3.5 minutes then add apricot and apple juice and reduce temperature until liquid is gone.
3. Spoon mixture into red pepper halves then place on a bed of Rice or Pasta

"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

-Harriet Beecher Stowe

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The next issue, he said, will be to explore further the possibility of heating the clubhouse by means of solar and wind power "in order to make it more energy efficient. "We've started looking at going that route during the last year," he said, adding, "the delays we experienced have actually worked out well for us in that regard." He is working with a company called Second Source Energy based in Windsor. Overall, "it seems like a more energy-friendly way to go," he said, adding that he also plans to install solar energy panels on his fleet of golf carts to allow them to run by solar-powered electricity

rather than gasoline. "It might be a bit pricier to begin with, but in the long run, I expect it will save us a lot," he said. "These days, people are kind of at the mercy of the price of oil."

Ward was pleased that the re-zoning application "ended up going through without a development agreement," even though the amount of land that was re-zoned was less than he had originally planned. He stressed, "this was what the community wanted," and there had been a lot of community input into the process. "Because it was an existing piece of land, we were able to get the boundary changes we

wanted through the Secondary Planning Strategy."

To help repay the community for its support, Ward plans to offer golf days next summer for local residents, and also plans to hold a fundraiser to help raise money for badly-needed upgrades to the Community Centre.

All in all, it's likely to be a fairly busy next year or so, but Ward is happy it can finally proceed as planned. "It's going to be a pretty exciting time," he said.

By John DeCoste

This story originally appeared in the Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005 edition of The Advertiser.

## **Half an RRSP.....???**

In my last article, I discussed the pros and cons of investing in each of RRSP (registered) accounts and non-registered (open) accounts. This month's all about what's been referred by some as "half an RRSP".

There are several types of life insurance products available and just like investment choices, each of these products are designed to cover a particular need or mix of concerns/desires for the policy's owner.

The *Universal Life* policy, provided by virtually all the major life insurers, actually has some features of the RRSP but also avoids a few of the RRSP's less attractive restrictions.

The Universal Life (UL) policy has two components. The first of which is the insurance amount. This is referred to as the *face value*, which is the initial amount of coverage purchased. I say "initial" because, over the life of the policy, it can change.

The second part of the UL policy is what I refer to as the *investment component*. This is where all the premiums are deposited. After all the policy's charges (cost of insurance, provincial taxes and a small policy fee) are deducted

from the investment component, any amount left over remains in the investment component. The policy owner, with the help of a qualified insurance advisor, can select from a list of investment options available for the investment component. The amount of money left over, after each month's deductions, is exposed to the performance of the investment option (s) selected or "linked" to this component.

A UL policy is a long-term financial planning tool so let's say you linked to the S&P/TSX because you feel the Canadian stock market will perform well over at least the next 10-15 years. Over that period, the value of the money in the investment component, referred to as the "account value", will fluctuate daily with every deposit made plus how ever the S&P/TSX performs. Now, if you think about this, you'll realize the account value could decrease as well as increase. The range of the increasing and decreasing will depend not only your choice of investment options but how they perform as well. This one of the reasons it's important to work with a trusted advisor who deeply understands the mechanics

of a UL policy and how these, and other choices that must be made, can affect the outcome of your efforts and thus your overall financial security.

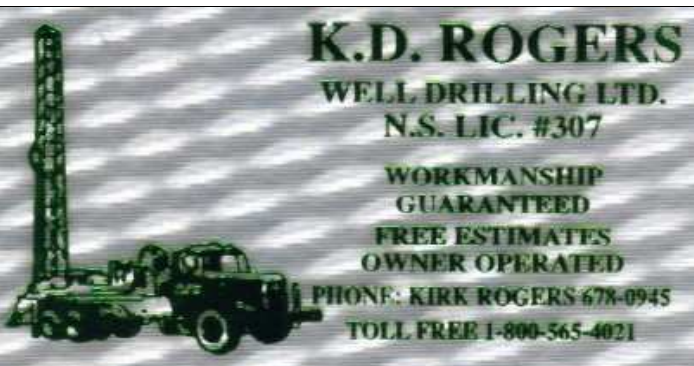
There a couple of ways the UL policy mirrors the RRSP. First, like an RRSP, the account value is tax-sheltered while in the investment component. Second there are no foreign content restrictions and third, like an RRSP, you can change your investment mix periodically without triggering capital gains taxes. Unlike an RRSP, there's no income deduction for tax purposes but there's also no contribution limit. Provided there is enough coverage on the insurance side of the policy, you can "deposit"

as much as you'd like. So, if you've run out of RRSP contribution room but still have money you'd like to see invested, a UL policy may be the ticket.


**"...you can change your  
investments mix periodically  
without triggering capital  
gains taxes."**

Another reason to consider the UL approach, is if you're concerned about taxes that may be payable on money you want to leave to a charity or your children. I know.....sometimes our children can seem like a charity, can't they J. You see.....the *death benefit*, from any life insurance

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 8)

ance policy, is always paid out to the beneficiary(ies) *tax-free*. But this is even more attractive with a UL policy because the death benefit is always equal to the face value, mentioned early, plus the account value.....all tax-free. Just think of the possibilities.

Consider the case of a client of mine. A 55 year-old, non-smoking female. She has four mature children. She's also earmarked today about \$50,000.00, that if she passed away tomorrow, would like each of the children to receive, with as little tax payable as possible. In this case, she's also comfortable paying the minimum premium (there's a range of minimum and maximum premium to be paid into a UL policy. This determines whether all of the account value can be tax-sheltered or not). As I mentioned earlier, there must be enough insurance coverage in place in order to shelter the monies in the investment component. She needs \$350,000.00 of insurance. This carries a monthly pre-

mium of \$360.00. She's prepared to pay this for the first ten years of the policy plus she will deposit the additional \$50,000.00 into the policy immediately after it's issued. With some very conservative investment return expectations, if she passes away right after the policy is issued the kids will receive a total of \$400,000.00, tax-free. After just tens years, the total death benefit is \$445,871.00 all tax-free. Not bad, considering she only contributed the \$50,000.00 plus \$360/mth for 10 years. That's only \$93,200.00 for a return to her children of almost 5 times that amount.....tax-free!

The UL policy is a tool that is in every trusted financial advisor's belt. In reality, only he or she can know for sure, after gathering all the pertinent financial and emotional information required from you, whether it's *appropriate* to use or not. There are additional aspects of the UL strategy, beyond this article, that you'll need to understand in order to make a *properly informed* decision.

If you're concerned about taxes on your investments and/or the planning of your estate, the UL policy may be the tool for you. Talk to a trusted advisor today.

I look forward to providing financial planning articles in the future, but for now have a wonderful and safe summer.

*Steve E. Peverill* PFP

*Steve E. Peverill is an independent Professional Financial Planner living with his family in Centreville. He practises throughout Kings, Hants and Halifax Co.*

## BRINGING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

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## Story From The Family Farm: Part Two

I am pleased that I have been asked to write down some of my memories about the old Centreville Post Office that is located on the north corner of 359 and 221 East Highways. It is a part of the community that holds a lot of happy memories for me from when I was growing up here in Centreville.

The intersection where the Post Office and the old General Store are located was referred to as 'The Corner' and it was the hub of the community.

When traveling north and approaching the corner on certain days when the traffic is light, I will often recall life as it was in this area so many years ago. The horses tied to the hitching posts in front of Thorpe's General Store and the rural route mail driver's horses and buggies tied to the white picket fence in front of the Roscoe house and near the old Post Office. Some of the many people that were familiar around The Corner years ago can be remembered without too much difficulty, thanks to the Roscoe family that they have over the years maintained and preserved the house property and Post Office building as I remember them. The big white house and General Store appear on the outside about the same as

they were when they were the original Ruben Thorpe home and General Store. For me, this area is often a step back in time. It is a wonderful part of Centreville that I hope remains as it is.

I have previously written an article for the November 2002 issue of The Centreville Voice. In this article I have included some of the early history of the old Centreville Post Office and the names of those who served as

**"For me, this area is often a step back in time. It is a wonderful part of Centreville that I hope remains as it is."**

Postmasters. I have also included the name of several of those people who worked in the Post Office under these various Post Masters. The names of the rural route mail drivers are also included in this previous article. The information that I have concerning the old Post Office is that it was moved to its present location and that it was previously a store. It could be seen on the walls where the store shelves had been removed. If I had asked my father Wallace, he could have supplied me with information concerning this post

office building that fits the description of a small store that was operated by his great Uncle Henry Frail and located where the Centreville Community Centre is.

The building was first used as a post office in 1868. James Martin was the first Post Master and served until 1879 when J.M. Roscoe was Postmaster from 1879 to 1888. The Post Office was in Ruben Thorpe's General Store from 1888 to 1930. Ruben Thorpe held the position as Postmaster after Ruben Thorpe's son William served as Postmaster until 1930. In 1930 the Post Office was returned to its previous location and it remained there until 1966

when it was moved to a new building at its present location on the corner of 359 Hwy and Sherman Belcher Road.

My father Wallace was Postmaster beginning in 1930 to 1940. I was born about midway during the period that my father served as Postmaster. My own memories begin at a very early age. I can remember a lot about those early years at the old Post Office, they are memories that I cherish. There were certain times when my mother would help out at the Post Office. With

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no one at home to look after me, I was required to spend a lot of time there. I can remember playing with my toys on the steps that lead to the trap door and the room upstairs. I would look out the window facing the road and watch the activities, there were lots of teams of horses and yokes of oxen.

I could look up the road and see the mail being brought down on a cart or sled from the railway station. It was a very different era when my father was Postmaster. It was a period during a terrible depression known as the Dirty Thirties. There were not many automobiles on the road, most people could not afford one, and travel was at a minimum. Horses were still a common means of transportation. There were only a few telephones in this area.

The Post Office was a link to the outside world, correspondence was sent through the Post Office messages and information of various descriptions were delivered through the old Centreville Post Office. Those people being served by the rural route mail service were closely connected to the old Post Office. A lot of business transactions were done through the Post Office, accounts and payment were paid by money order and sent through the mail. It was an era when the nearest large department store

for this area was in Halifax. Shopping Malls were unheard of. Those wonderful items that were illustrated and described in catalogues and magazines were ordered through the mail. These orders were waited for with anxiety to arrive at the old Centreville Post Office. Items of various descriptions arrived through the mail. The farming families depended on the old Post Office for most items required on the farm, even baby chicks. I can recall that most of our Christmas presents arrived from Eaton's mail order catalogue department store. When the order had not arrived the week before Christmas it was an anxious wait for both children and parents.

My father's duties as Postmaster were much different from today's. He was expected to open up after hours Sundays and Holidays for Post Office business that was considered important.

As far as I know, my Dad always obliged the public. In later years he would share some of his experiences and amusing stories about his years serving as Postmaster. I can remember some of those people that in later years my father would speak about. Some of them had character traits that made them a little different than the ordinary person. The old Post Office was where they came to hang out and socialize. I have asked Mrs. Lenora Murphy to share some of

her memories with me about the old Post Office. There are others that have memories to share as well. I believe that Lenora's memories go back to a period beyond those of the others.

Lenora Murphy lives in her home on Bain's Road. The district of Centreville known as Atlanta. She had helped my father in the Post Office for six years, five of these years before I was born. In those days she was Lenora Rockwell and living on the Family Farm of her parents, Charles and Gladys Rockwell located on Bain's road and about two kilometers west of her present home.

Lenora would walk from her home to work at the Post Office. She would walk the old familiar footpath that went cross-country from Atlanta to the Centreville Corner. The distance traveling this route is about three kilometers and it is less than half the distance by road.

Winter travel was often difficult walking through the deep snow, but my father could depend on Lenora to arrive. The names of some of those people that Lenora was familiar with when working at the old Centreville Post Office are; Ruben Thorpe family, his two sons Percy and William. Sam and Dollie Olgivie and family, Harold and Carrie Shankel, Clyde and Edith Whalen and family, Andrew

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Neville and family, Boey Porter family, Edith Beckwith, Rita Bowles, Charlie Arnold, Bill Cogswell family, Perry Wheaton family and many more familiar names that Lenora can recall that I do not have space to mention them all in this article.

The large old Maple tree that is in front of the Post Office was shade to the horses and also to those people who would gather to socialize near the Post Office steps. On warm summer evenings some of the young people in the community would gather in this area. Robie Roscoe was Postmaster after my Father and he remained in this position until it closed in 1966 and was moved into the present building on Sherman Belcher Road.

During the period that Robie Roscoe was Postmaster he hired several different people to take charge of the Post Office. Those in charge were good with the public. The one that I recall with a pleasant manner and a great sense of humor was Ida Crandall. Her brother Jim was rural route mail driver for over twenty-five years and he also possessed these humorous traits.

The wicket for mail service was closed during mail sorting and the public would wait for it to open again. After all these years I still smile when I re-

call the roars of laughter that could often be heard from those sorting the mail. It was usually Ida or Jim Crandall that were responsible. There were also others working there who were very capable of making one laugh. I have more memories that I could share, but for now at least I will conclude with the joyful memories of laughter coming from the old Centreville Post Office.

I am grateful to Pam Bezanson for typing and arranging my hasty hand written pages

✍ By Mack Frail

Please note the following correction from the last issue of "from the Family Farm." "The house on Sherman Belcher road where the Shankle lived is now the home of Don and Myrtle Comeau. This house has been remodelled and is much larger than when the Shankles lived there."



## Grass Friends



### Materials:

- Old beige nylon stocking
- Pair of scissors
- Grass seeds
- Sawdust
- Elastic band
- Bowl of water
- Plastic eyes
- Red felt
- Pipe cleaners (optional) - to make a pair of glasses
- PVA glue

### Method:

- Cut out a 30cm (12in) strip from one leg of a pair of beige nylon stockings.
- Tie a knot at one end and turn it inside out.
- Place a handful of grass seed inside. This will eventually become the hair.
- Fill the rest of the stocking up with sawdust or cotton wool or potting soil. Leave room to tie another knot at the top.
- Pinch out a nose from the middle of the head and tie it with an elastic band.
- Place the head into cold water and let it soak until it is completely wet through.
- Now put the head onto a dish. Remember the grass seeds are now at the top, as it will grow and become the hair. The nose should be in the middle.
- Glue eyes onto the head, just above the nose.
- Cut out and stick on the mouth, using the red felt.
- If you want to be creative, you can always add a pair of glasses made out of pipe cleaners.
- Water sparingly every day.
- Enjoy watching his hair grow.