

THE CENTRE POST

Issue Six September 21, 2006

FRIENDS FOREVER...

They say that if we treated our loved ones like we treat our pets, we would have better relationships. That is of course if you are like many pet owners that give unconditional love, lots of hugs and kisses to your pet. We can then liken this statement to treating the environment like we would treat our best friend making our world a better place to live. That is of course if we nurture and care for our friends, try to have a positive impact on them and use our relationship to set an example for our kids to follow.

This summer I was fortunate to visit my best childhood friend in Alberta. Our friendship has withstood the test of time (over thirty years), distance, and change. While sitting with her, we were discussing how many other people we know have had a friendship like ours and why ours has survived against all odds. It came back to those three things: nurture and care, positive impact and setting an example.

Nurturing and caring for your friends, means helping them to grow as a person, and cleaning up your messes when they happen. It

means being responsible to the Affect that you have on them. With the environment, this is also true. If we can help our environment grow by protecting green space and wildlife, caring about the impact of the whole rather than that of our selves, we enable the environment to become sustainable. We make conscious decisions not to pollute with noise, garbage or chemicals that may benefit ourselves but leave a bruise on the earth that regardless of how small have much greater impacts than sometimes we are aware.

This leads me to making positive impacts on your friendships, consciously trying to do what is right for them. Toward the environment this is where we make conscious decisions to create positive impacts. For example, the next time you are at the grocery store and shopping, look in your cart at some of the stuff you are buying and add up all of the packaging that comes with it. Once you have unwrapped all of that – where does it go? If you are creating more garbage for convenience you may want to make another decision. Just like friendships, the less garbage the better.

Our children watch and model our behaviour.

We create a legacy with our actions. With your relationships, what kind of legacy are you creating with your children? When we make decisions to throw that Tim Horton's cup out the window, and our child sees that, what kind of behaviour are we passing on? If we can show our children that we respect each other and the environment, not only will they learn to do the same but they just might learn from our mistakes to make their world a better place.

The next time you are enjoying the natural world around you, enjoying that crisp air that you breathe and the sky that you can see, watching the birds flutter around and dragonflies dancing in your yard, please think of this as your best friend. Make decisions that make their world a better place to be too, so that you will have this relationship around for a very long time. Friends can be forever.

Enjoy the fall and all it has to offer. Be kind to your friends and even kinder to the earth. Both give back tenfold what you put into it.

See you when the snow flies,
Shari McKenzie-Ramsay
Editor



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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SURVEY KINGS TRANSIT SERVICE TO CENTREVILLE?

Many of the Centre Post readers and other members of the Community will remember a couple of years ago the Kings Transit services that were provided to Centreville. It took hours to travel to and from shopping and service locations because of the circuitous route that the bus took.

One had to travel from Kentville via Canning in order to return to Centreville. As a result, ridership was low and the services were eventually withdrawn.

However this is not to say that there cannot be a service for Centreville. What it will take is a sensible route that promotes an adequate ridership.

Centreville has grown significantly over the past three decades and this growth will continue. This growth is related to retired people who to a large

extent wish to age in place. There are also numerous new young families moving into our community who have young children and both parents may be working outside the home. A bus service for their children would be most attractive allowing the children to take part in extra circular activities

outside our community. Then there are community members who have lived here for a very long time and are determined to retire and age in place in their community. Add to this the price of gasoline and the need to protect our environment and a bus service makes logical sense.

However, it is important to first determine what the general interest level of community members is in having Kings Transit provide a bus service to Centreville. **Therefore, community members are asked to telephone one of the individuals listed below**

and state their interest in such a service and whether they would be prepared to work as part of a community group to try to achieve such a service.

The individual you elect to speak with is a member of the executive of the Centreville District Community Development Association board of directors. The individuals are:

Mike Sweeney, President:
679-2780

David Briggs, Vice President:
678-5420

Peggy Sheffield, Secretary:
678-5522

Marilyn Kennedy, Treasurer:
678-8033

Your interest and participation in this survey on the need for this service is essential in determining whether the community should proceed in this matter. Please provide your input prior to **October 26, 2006.**

"Add this to the price of gasoline and the need to protect the environment...logical sense."

Community Development News

The Centreville District Community Development Association (CDCDA) at their June 22, 2006 Board Of Directors meeting approved funds for the following projects:

Centreville Hall: New Chairs

The Board of Directors approved the expenditure of up to \$1000.00 for the purchase of new chairs for the Centreville Hall. The Centreville Hall Association are to select the chairs for purchase.

Welcome to Centreville Signs

The Board of Directors approved the expenditure of up to \$1500.00 for the construction and erection of three (3) welcome to Centreville signs. The signs will be similar to the one currently erected on Hwy 359, just South of Footes Farm Market. The three signs approved for funding will be located on Hwy 221 East, Sherman Belcher Rd at Saxon Rd, and the third either on Hwy 221 West or Hwy 359, North of the growth center.

Baptist Church

The Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$100.00 total to the Baptist Church for the use of their photo copying machine in 2005 and 2006.

Community Announcements

The 7th Annual Christmas Craft Crawl

Saturday, November 25th, 2006 10 am to 4 pm
Local Crafters in Centreville, Upper Canada and North Alton.
Maps will be posted in the Newspaper and at www.creativediversion.com.

Signs marking the Craft Crawl route will be posted in the neighbourhood a week before the sale.

Adult Pottery Wheel Classes

Start the week of September 19th at Creative Diversion Pottery Studio. Phone 679-0777 to Register or check out www.creativediversion.com for details.

1st Canning Scouting Movement

Any youth or adults that would like to join 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.

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. For more information call Ada MacDuff at 678-4483.

BRINGING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

Newsletter Committee

Editors: Shari McKenzie-Ramsay & Terry-Lee Bourgeois-King

Advertisements: Mike Sweeney

Articles Mail To: Shari McKenzie-Ramsay 1135 Pine Crest Drive, RR#2 Centreville, NS BOP 1J0

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AN ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMY

The environment is hot right now as evidenced by the success of Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. Millions have flocked into movie theatres to see this film outlining Gore's concern over the impact of climate change. And, once it comes out in video at the beginning of October, I have no doubt that it will be one of the top video rentals in both Canada and the United States.

Meanwhile, in New Brunswick, the Lord government recently appointed a cabinet minister for the environment both to respond to the growing environmental awareness and to capitalize on it. Here, in Nova Scotia, the fledgling Green Party ran more candidates than the venerable Liberal party in the last provincial election.

Even businesses have climbed on board the environmental movement. Cotton Ginny has launched a new series of garments made from organically grown cotton, while, in Kings County, one of our most successful new businesses has been Just Us Coffee which sells coffee produced in an environmentally sensitive manner.

As Nova Scotia's minister of Environment and Labour, I am acutely aware of the growing interest, which individuals have, in environmental issues. From large-scale projects such as the proposed Digby Quarry to smaller issues such as the decision of EFR to relocate their garbage trucks, people are voicing concerns to me.

These concerns are seldom easy to respond to due to competing interests such as the desire for job creation or the differ-

ent views of individuals as to what is the correct course of action. At times, it feels that one must have the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job to operate effectively. However, in spite of the many challenges posed by the growing awareness and concern for our environment I welcome this cultural and social shift for at least two reasons.

The first reason is because we depend on a healthy environment in which to live. Without clean water and air -- without uncontaminated soil -- we cannot live. We sicken and we die both as individuals and as cultures, as Jared Diamond points out in his best selling book, *Collapse: how Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*.

The second reason is because in Nova Scotia we are uniquely positioned to make concern for the environment the key mark of our province and by doing so create an environmental economy which will reverse our have not status and give us a sustainable and vibrant economy.

Lest you think this is simply idealistic talk by the new minister of environment, I point to the recent report by the President's Council on Innovation. Chaired by Dr. Kelvin Ogilvie, this report calls for Nova Scotia to have the healthiest environment in Canada by the year 2020 and to use this concern for the environment to attract environmentally friendly industries and companies. The export of the products and the expertise that such companies produce, according to this

report, will transform the Nova Scotian economy and move us forward to a place where we no longer have to depend on federal equalization payments in order to support the public institutions which we cherish and which are necessary for the sustenance of our society.

"We sicken and we die both as individuals and as cultures,..."

mission to the Caribbean where our expertise in waste management is a coveted commodity. Acadia and Dalhousie Universities are attracting global attention for their research in the environment. This research has economic spin offs as companies use it to produce needed technological products which help improve the environment.

Approximately 10,000 jobs in Nova Scotia depend upon this new found concern for the environment. As nations throughout the globe reach a certain level of economic wealth they begin to realize that they cannot ignore the environment and so turn to countries and economies such as our own for help.

While we may be a small community of slightly less than one million people, by leveraging and expanding upon our concern for the environment we can clean up our environment and grow our economy through services and products which are essential for a world which for too long has taken the environment for granted.

✍ Submitted by Mark Parent

Jeffery Best

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 Web: www.besttoyotasales.com
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840 PARK STREET, KENTVILLE, N.S. B4N 3X9

WASTE MANAGEMENT CHECK-UP

If you are one of the many Valley residents who keenly sort waste and follow waste management rules, you may wonder how we're doing as a community with respect to waste management. The really good news is that here in the Valley Region each year since 1999 there has been an increase in the amount of material recycled and composted. The not so good news is that as a Region we are also throwing away more than ever. Why is that?

There are lots of theories, from "there's too much packaging", to "recycling is too complicated", to "a growing economy means more waste", and many more. All these theories have some merit. However an audit conducted at our Management Centres in 2005 showed that about 40% of materials in garbage bags were in fact recyclable or compostable. This tells us there is still much we can do on an individual level to keep banned materials (recyclables and compostables) out of the garbage.

In the end, our shortcomings should not overshadow our achievements. Check out some of these figures that demonstrate why we should be proud of our efforts:

- Nova Scotians dispose of almost 50% less garbage than the average Canadian
- Last year Valley residents recycled more than 27,000 litres of paint, about 82, 000 tires and nearly 19 million beverage containers

Annually the Valley Region sends approximately 7000 tonnes of organics for composting. This is material collected through the green cart collection system alone and doesn't account for all the materials composted in backyard composters throughout the Region.

Did you know?

All rigid plastic containers are recyclable. You don't have to look for a specific number in the recycling symbol, simply remember that if it's a rigid plastic container, it's recyclable.

Our waste management system is second to none; it enables us to divert 1000's of tonnes of material away from landfill each year, which adds up to environmental and economic savings. But the system is only as good as the citizens who use it. When the community buys-in and participates in recycling and composting, we all win. So be proud of your efforts and keep on reducing, reusing, recycling and composting!

Reminder: Fall Cleanup is not far off. Residents in the Centreville area are part

of Zone B, so Cleanup takes place on your regular collection day between Oct 9-20.

Questions about the waste management program? Contact Valley Waste. Telephone: 679-1325 Online: vwrm.com

✉ Submitted by Denise Young,
 Communications Officer
 Valley Waste-Resource Management
 PO Box 895, Kentville, NS. B4N 4H8



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Mark Parent, MLA
 Kings North

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FREECYCLEKINGS-- JUNK OR TREASURES?

Want to get rid of that old dryer in your basement ... or how about that refrigerator that just isn't worth it to you anymore? A set of old tires that still have some life in them? What about that collection of old National Geographics that you just can't bear to put in the garbage? Well, there's a new way to recycle that's caught a lot of people's eyes. It's called FreeCycle.

If you have access to a computer you can keep your eyes peeled for the above objects ... plus many others being offer. Lumber, clothing, toys and tools. Windows, cutlery, doors and dishes. It's all there, even if it does come at an irregular rhythm.

FreeCycle is a new phenomenon that's taking hold around the world. There's thousands of these groups on the planet and Kings County has its very own. The goal? *"To keep usable items out of the landfill,"* say their guidelines.

It all started in 2003 in Tucson, Arizona and has grown quickly from there. In order for you to join you will need to get a Yahoo email address. This gives you access to the various Yahoo groups, not to mention a free email address.

Once you have a username you will be asked to provide a reason to the group moderator as to why you'd like to join FreeCycleKings. As long as you aren't reselling, or want to sell things in the forum, you are welcome to participate. You are also ask not to trade nor barter for items in this group. It is strictly for giving away things that you would otherwise keep around as clutter or toss into the landfill or the Cleanup Day pile.

When you join up there's an etiquette email that guides you through the basic operations: how to post, safety factors (don't give your phone number or address when initially posting), general netiquette formats (don't type everything in capital letters) ... and even a bit of tongue-in-cheek to think about. *"No offering yourself or your children,"* it states. *"Posting oneself (or one's shy friends) is not allowed. Posting your kids is not on the menu either, no matter how crazy they make you sometimes. Try getting them involved in after-school band practice."*

One of the first postings I saw was someone looking for an accordion for a friend of theirs. Apparently an older woman's joy came from playing the accordion and she had none to practice on. I'm not sure whether one was given or not, as some of the etiquette presented doesn't always get followed. When you ask for something the idea is to note it has been received. When something is offered it is suggested to note it taken and that the recipient note it received once picked up.

There are 4 main subject line postings:

OFFER: Thingamajig (Your General Location).

TAKEN: Thingamajig.

WANTED: Thingamajig, any condition. Don't ask for an extravagant item like a diamond ring which we'd all like to have or the "strike rule" will kick in. (You're allowed 3 strikes before being denied access to the group.)

RECEIVED: Thingamajig (once picked up)

And there are a couple of different ways to find out what's going on. If you are online all the time you can just get the emails as they arrive at the group site. Or you can get a once-a-day digest of all the activity that takes place. Both are useful for different reasons. You will get the hang of it shortly after beginning as to which way works best for you at a given time.

To learn more about the FreeCycleKings group, please visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleKings> And remember the old adage: *One person's junk in another person's treasure.*
✂ Submitted by Marke Slipp

Update an old pair of jeans with a personal design

What a great way to let kids design their own jeans!

Submitted by: Pamela E. Peverill



Materials:

Pencil
Paper
2 brown grocery bags
Jeans
Bleach pen (I used Clorox gel bleach pen)

Directions:

First sketch out a fun design on the paper. Next, place the folded bags inside the part you're working on, to keep the bleach from bleeding through. With the pen, re-create the design on the side of the jeans, on the back pockets, front pockets, around the bottom hem or anywhere else you feel like being creative! Allow the bleach to set for 30 minutes before rinsing well with water.



HELP SECURE THEIR FUTURE

In June of 2005, I wrote about the RESP as a tool for education savings. As you may remember and hopefully have found, it's a fantastic vehicle for its intended purpose. Like anything though, it does have its cons as well its pros. One in particular is the RESP's contribution limit. The maximum amount that can be contributed, for any one beneficiary (the future student) per year is \$4,000.00. This also means that even if there are multiple RESP accounts for anyone beneficiary, the total that can be contributed per year, over all of them, is still \$4,000.00. As well, keep in mind that the 20% CESG is made only on the first \$2,000.00 contributed, to a maximum of \$400.00/yr. It is possible to make up any missed contributions you may have, but still the maximum grant available in any one year, in that case, would be \$800.00 (20% of \$4,000.00).

We know that even an average 4-year college education will be quite an expensive undertaking, no matter how old/young the child or grandchild is now. I was chatting with a

fellow yesterday and he told me it will cost \$10,400.00 to send his daughter to university for the first year. By the way, that does not include residency.

Let's face it, for the bulk of parents, amassing upwards of \$25 - \$40,000.00 over just the next 10 to 15 years is going to be quite a stretch. Even with those wonderful aspects of the Canadian-made RESP, most parents will still find there's a shortfall of funding, especially since college tuition has been inflating, year over year, much quicker than our national inflation rate. It's right up there with the price of oil.



You may have picked up on my using the term "grandchild" a little earlier. If, in fact, the child has grandparents, they too, may also be able to contribute enough so the RESP at least receives the maximum CESG, make up for any missed contributions and thus uncollected CESG or even make up the difference between whatever the parents are able to contribute and the \$4,000.00 maximum per year.

I find that lots of grandparents are look-

ing for ways, other than Nintendo DS, Sony PS-2 and X-Box machines to make the grandchild's life happier. Those things are immediate gratification items; great for goals or achievements the grandchild has met and thus should be immediately rewarded, to some extent, for. What about rewards that can take care of their long-term life and personality-shaping goals, like a solid education. Most of the grandparents that I've approached and I know have been approached by the grandchild's parent(s), have embraced the idea of helping

financially with education savings. So, be confident in asking if they would like to kick in \$50.00/mth or more for the Billy's and/or Betsy's college fund.

What if your family is fortunate enough to still have discretionary cash left after the RESP and the CESG has been maximized to the point where no more deposits can be made and no more CESG can be received?

There's product that I wrote about in June's Centre Post...the Universal Life (UL) insurance policy. Clients of mine that are fortunate to have those extra

(Continued on page 7)

"What about rewards that can take care of their long-term life and personality-shaping goals, like a solid education."


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(Continued from page 6)

funds available, from the parents and/or grandparents, even siblings, for that matter, have had great success in using the UL policy as a means to build tax-deferred savings for the future student's education or even things beyond or instead education, like a business start-up or their first home.

The UL policy is a vehicle that builds up a cash value over time that can be extracted or borrowed against on favourable terms when the time comes. As a tax planner I like to use UL policies where appropriate, because the earnings and growth in the investment component is tax-deferred. Plus, withdrawals are not as onerous tax-wise, because these policies are governed by a separate group of rules in the Income Tax Act.

The UL policy can be set up to accept any amount of one-time, up front deposit or ongoing funding with no penal-



ties. Also, since it is an insurance policy the owner (say the parents or grandparents) can have more control over the assets while at the same time

locking in insurability and low premiums for the insured (future student) early on. Let's not forget this child is probably going to grow into someone that is financially significant to someone else, as they enter their career, after completing their education and therefore should have a solid footing of life insurance protection or their loved-ones.

If the child doesn't use the policy's cash for his/her education or anything else before retirement, that cash value may be large enough to self-fund the premiums well into their golden years. As well, UL policies are great for contributors who might be too old (over the age of 69) to roll the accumulated gains in the RESP into their RRSPs, in the event the child doesn't go to school, thus exposing the assets to

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onerous taxation, and possibly affecting OAS payments.

These policies can also be used to set up a fund, naming the child as the beneficiary, with the parents or grandparents retaining control and ownership of the policy, so the money can't be touched if troubled relations with parents or ex-spouses develop.

The UL policy is vehicle that requires a deep understanding of its complexities. It's vital to seek the guidance of a licensed insurance advisor, to work with you, before it can be known for sure whether it will fit well into your plans for the future betterment of your child(ren) and/or grandchild(ren). Properly applied it can dramatically change the landscape of your child's(ren's) or grandchild's(ren's) financial future(s).

✂ Submitted by Steve E. Peverill

Steve E. Peverill PFP, is an independent Professional Financial Planner, living with his family here in Centreville and practises throughout Kings, Hants and Halifax counties.

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Centreville, Kings Co., Nova Scotia B0P 1J0
Office: 902-679-0018
Fax: 902-679-0001
stevepeverill@eastlink.ca

A PIECE OF HISTORY: CENTREVILLE ROOTS

The following notice appeared in a Kentville newspaper in July 1900:

"Mr. E Deering (incorrect spelling of Doering) who purchased the place in Centreville owned by the late Mr. Frith is constructing buildings thereon. The barn is already completed and a house will soon be commenced. The buildings belonging to the farm burned some time ago." Another note in a local newspaper printing the same information added that "he is living meanwhile in the late E.J. Cogswell home, Kentville" The papers continued to follow his progress at the farm from time to time spelling his name in a variety of different ways but never correctly.

This gentleman was my grandfather. He was born in Bombay, India and brought up in England, Switzerland and Florida. His mother was a daughter of an old British family who had served as officers in the British Army in India for three generations as well as served as Colonial Government Administrators.

His father who was born in Java of Prussian and Dutch parents was a naturalized British Subject. His was a wealthy family with merchant banking interests in several countries and a country house in the Thames Valley in England as well as a substantial house in Kensington. He died while my grandfather was only a baby and his widow went back to England and married Dr. Wakley the co-founder and editor of The Lancet, a British Medical Journal. My gr. Grandmother stayed in England for only a few years and then moved to Switzerland where she resided for the rest of her life apart from brief periods at the The Fort, an Orange plantation that she owned in Florida.

Orlando in the 1880's was not the city it is today but a small humid cattle town

with a lot of orange plantations in the surrounding countryside. The plantation itself was a very attractive property with a large house and gardens, tennis courts and croquet lawn and lake in which my grandfather regularly went swimming and which was large enough for hosting sailing parties. When he was 21 my grandfather took over the management of the plantation for his Mother and under the guidance of the overseer learned a great deal about growing oranges. His letters back to an uncle in England boasted that only a few growers could match the quality and sweetness of his oranges. He was so proud of his prod-

"...what prompted him to buy what appears to be a burnt out farm in Nova Scotia and bring it back to life."

uct that with youthful enthusiasm he wanted to stamp every orange with our family Coat of Arms. His uncle discouraged him but gave him lots of good advice particularly in the management of the business. With frequent trips to England and Switzerland he developed a steady and loyal market in London for this fruit which was to serve him well later on and may have been the key to his move to Nova Scotia. His letters to his Mother give an interesting picture of life for a young man with money in Orlando in the 1890's.

He hunted for deer and fished in his lake. His friends came to The Fort for tennis and card parties and his great passion appeared not to be a young lady, but his polo pony, Lassie. The Polo Club seemed to be a centre of social life and he was an enthusiastic player. Sunday was a day for church in town and social visits, at least so he writes in his letters to his Mother and gives her all the latest gossip. In 1899 that stage of his life came to an end as he married a childhood sweetheart in England and took her back to Florida.

Looking back at the life pictured in his letters it is hard to understand what prompted him to buy what appears to be a burnt out farm in Nova Scotia and bring it

back to life. Perhaps his English customers told him that what they wanted was apples from Nova Scotia. My father always said that his Mother didn't take to Florida at all. She was without doubt a transplanted English rose with very, very deep roots in the land, church and state in England. Probably due to her ties to family and the English way of life long periods were spent in England before the 1st World War. Nevertheless they built up the farm and orchards and for 14 years shipped their apples to the UK.

There were four children all born in the early days of the last century and baptized in St. James Anglican Church in Kentville, then on Church Street. My father and his siblings were all educated firstly by a governess and then sent to Kings College School and to Edgehill in Windsor. My grandfather was I believe moderately successful with his apples.

1904 appeared to be a good year as a newspaper clipping of April 15th reported "Mr. E.S. Doering of Centreville has shipped a large quantity of his fruit this year to the English market in boxes. His late returns give him eight shillings per box or twenty-four shillings per barrel. The freight on three boxes is the same as on one barrel. Mr. Doering has realized fully four shillings per barrel more for his fruit sent in this way than sent in barrels."

My grandmothers role was that of a busy farm wife and with four children had much to occupy her time. Prior to her marriage her main interest was in music. A graduate of The Royal College of Music in Kensington, she was an accomplished pianist, organist and soprano. She made many concert appearances in the London area and produced a number of concerts herself in aid of charities. My grandfather shared her interest and had a good voice and played the mandolin. In 1901 a newspaper clipping reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Derring will be heard for the first time in Kentville Friday evening next. Their mandolin selection will be an innovation to our people" Later the Orchardist

of June 18, 1901 gave a detailed account of a Kentville Band Benefit Concert at Margeson's Hall. "Messrs. Doering and Norris made their first appearance before the Kentville public. Their selection showed that they were masters of their instrument and were heartily applauded." Where my grandmother was for that performance is not reported however it is clear that in 1901 the paper still hadn't grasped the correct spelling of our name.

To give the reporter credit he spelled it as it sounds.

In 1908 my grandfather was appointed a Justice of the Peace for

Kings County and photos of about that time show him behind the wheel of a motorcar. There are photos of the farm, of Florida, England and Switzerland recording their trips abroad. In 1914 he retired from farming and moved to Windsor where he was commissioned in the Army and "commanded to recruit 56 non-commissioned officers and men for the 81st Hants Regiment." He also recruited men for the 28th Overseas Battery of Field Artillery and 40th Infantry Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was also a Justice for Hants County and died in Windsor in 1928.

My grandmother also died not long after my immediate family moved up from Bermuda after the 2nd World War. My memory of her was more of style than substance. Tall, slim and of stately bearing she seemed rather remote and of a different world. Her house was full of pictures and beautiful things from the past, portraits of ancestors and evi-

dence of a former life and times in India. My grandfathers' room was called the Smoking Room and his interests and ancestors appeared in the pictures. The furniture and chests were typical of an Officers campaign kit from the Crimea, 1st Fagan War and the Indian Mutiny. Ghastly-framed battle scenes hung from the picture rail and above the rail his polo mallets and spurs dangled forever suspended over pocket doors that led to the Drawing

Room. His mandolin was put away in the attic along with his guns, fishing tackle, trays of fishing flies and a wide assortment of odds and ends from his

life. Years later when my father and uncle had passed away I came into possession of a large collection of letters and pictures of my forbearers life in Java, India, England Switzerland and Florida. From those letters I can get a little sense of the character of some of those whose DNA I carry.

When I retired and moved to the Valley in 1999 I was, I suppose, attempting to reconnect with roots tenuously planted by my grandparents one hundred years before. I became a Canadian citizen in 1970 and my wife is English as is the distaff side of my family tree.

My son was born in Nova Scotia but has lived in a number of different countries for extended periods of time and now lives in Toronto. At the end of August, a day after his Mother and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary, he wed his English born bride at St Johns' Anglican Church in Port Williams. The reception was held at the Sheffield Village Hall, which is only a few

miles from the place where his great grandparents came to farm. Relatives on both sides from England and friends from the US, Sweden and other far away places came to celebrate the marriage. For many of them it was their first glimpse of Nova Scotia. The weather was perfect, the garden groomed and bountiful, the pool and deck recently renewed and the water still warm. Our guests were captivated by the rural beauty of the Valley and perhaps saw something in the land and its people that first attracted my grandparents to this place.

The original house in Centreville I am told burned down many years ago but there might be someone who is still living and remembers where it was along the road to the North Mt. Certainly the village has changed greatly in the last one hundred years as has agriculture and the apple markets that brought farmers to the valley.

However, quality of life and the warmth of the people who live here attract the "come from aways" and make even the worst of winter weather bearable. By coming back to the Valley to celebrate his marriage my son recognizes those values and affirms what we already feel for this small part of a very big world. We are surrounded by families who have been here for 250 years. Their roots here are firmly planted and their histories shaped the land. We are still newcomers but perhaps my son will also return to this place. He has already taken the first step.

✂ Submitted by John Doering

(John Doering is a retired Agri-Business executive and Artist who moved to Port Williams in 1999)

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planted and their histories
shaped the land."***

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CHARLES MACDONALD -- CENTREVILLE COMMUNALIST

Sometimes the ideas of one era can get mixed up with the rhetoric of another age. Charlie Macdonald was a communalist. I know it's unlikely that he ever called himself that. And I suspect he was called a lot worse. But his words and actions were certainly clear evidence of the love and high regard he had for the community he grew up in – a community he returned to after years away traveling the world – then married, lived, worked and eventually died in.



Headstone located in Elm Grove Cemetery

Charlie was a bit of an eccentric – there's no doubt about it. And he wasn't for everyone. There were people that took exception to his Communist sympathies. One needs to remember that Communism's rise in the world was at the same time that the United States of America was establishing itself as a global power. The frictions of the Cold War, however, were evident years before – certainly by the 1930s when Charlie was unabashed about his political leanings. Charlie and his friends – the so-called Centreville Socialists – were scrutinized regularly by the local office of the RCMP.

Although his neighbour and friend, Roscoe Fillmore, eventually toned down his activities in the 1950s (Roscoe had been an active Communist in Canada, involved himself in setting up fishing & mining unions, ran for office as a Communist, and had even gone to Russia to

work on a Kibbutz in the 1920s), Charlie remained firm in his convictions throughout his life.

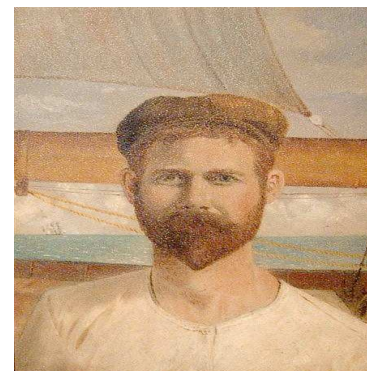
Apparently Charlie was known to be a bit of a stubborn fellow, not to mention a bit abrasive at times. Winnie Sheffield (Centreville's unofficial Mayor) recalls Charlie coming to her after the liberation of Italy in WWII and saying, "So *what do you think of my comrades now?*" Minnie's brother had fought in Italy under punishing conditions and Minnie was not amused by Charlie's flippancy. However, she did think fondly of Mable and was friends with her – and even Mr. Fillmore. But Charlie himself didn't always fit neatly into the community he cared so much about.

In his will, however, Charlie stated that when Mable passed the *"rest and residue of my property both real and personal [be] for the benefit of the community of Centreville, Kings County, with the power to expend the income therefrom upon the maintenance of my real estate and for community purposes of the Village of Centreville."*

In addition, he instructed that he wished, *"to convey, transfer and turn over absolutely to the Village of Centreville at such as the said community of Centreville becomes incorporated as a Village, all the rest and remainder of my estate then remaining."*

This was the act of a generous and community-spirited person. One could say he embodied and practiced the very virtues of the Christian community he lived within but did not partake of. He certainly *"walked the talk"* during his life and his Last Will & Testament ensured it would continue long after his death.

The money Charlie left to Centreville became a reality in 1985, after Mable passed away. She had left some of the property – the red cottage at Huntington Point as well as some of her household goods to fam-



Self portrait from when he sailed the seas during the turn of the 20th century.

ily – but the bulk of the estate went to the trust fund Charlie requested be set up.

Charlie's lawyer proposed to a committee set up to receive these funds that the house on Saxon Street be set up as a museum. Alternately, he suggested the community incorporate as a Village. A response from this committee stated, *"These were discussed with other Centreville residents, following this the correspondents [Alex MacAulay, Claire Spinney and Lois Manson] met briefly to review the opinions received."*

Their conclusions were, *"There is no support for the proposal to make the MacDonald house into a museum. Lack of funds, proximity to Kentville etc. were cited as reasons."* There was also no support indicated for incorporating Centreville as a village. They did think that selling the house and *"invest[ing] the proceeds for the benefit of Centreville"* was a good idea.

"There is now a body corporate, "The Centreville Community Hall Association" which could be a vehicle to receive and disburse income from the MacDonald Trust." Although they suggested at the time that the Hall Association be deemed *"to maintain the capital of the MacDonald Trust investments in it's own right"* there was another group, The Charles Macdonald Benefit Association that was eventually created to distribute the interest

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)
derived from this fund.

Buster Best has administered the fund for the past 3 years. He said that when originally invested (in Canadian Government Bonds), the per annum interest rate of 12.5% "was a wonderful legacy, a wonderful gift to have. It has been distributed equally between the Hall Association and the Centreville Park Association."

When asked what type of undertakings the funds have been used for, Mr. Best said, "I know that one year the money was expended on a new roof for the hall. There's been many years of fixing things that broke[using the investment interest] but there's been little spent on preventative maintenance." He suggested I speak with Merv Steadman, Past President of the Park Association.

Merv said "The money that [Charles Macdonald] generated through his generosity was really helpful in the day-to-day operations of both associations." He noted that the park had had the tennis courts installed and, along with some government funding, the fencing erected, washrooms put in, and various other facilities improved over the years due to the influx of this invested money.

"In the early 90s the money went towards the development of the soccer and baseball fields. In recent years there was a

need for hall improvements ... so the money was saved up and applied to the hall upgrades." Although the park isn't very active these days, Merv says, "It still needs to pay for insurance and utilities. That's what the money goes to now."

So Charlie Macdonald's legacy lives on in Centreville. He asked for no recognition by putting his name on things. He just wanted to see the community benefit from what little he could give. And what he could give was derived from the sale of his life's work: for one, his unique and charming concrete home on Saxon Street. It is a legacy that has returned to


the community's hands through the efforts of the group that was created to purchase the building back – the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society. It must be noted that none of the Charles

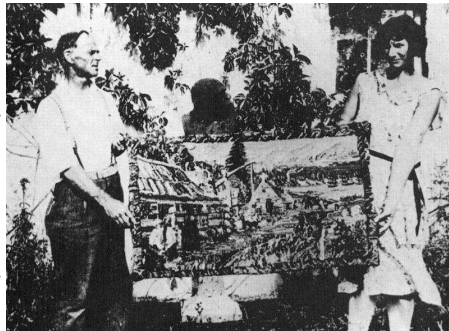
Macdonald Benefit Association's investment income has gone to this society, who also owns out the Blue Cottage at Huntington Point.

As well, there are the many paintings he created – eventually sold off after Mable's death to a dealer in Quebec, then Ontario and then rescued and brought back to Centreville (more on that in a future article) – and on display at the museum gallery. Add to that the shares he had left in Kentville Concrete Products and it all

sums up to quite a legacy he left to the community of Centreville in the form of a benefit fund.


Perhaps Buster says it best: "He may not of endeared himself to some people in the community and Communism was getting a bad rap in the US [during the McCarthy era]; but I don't think people understood Charlie's concept of communalism – which was simply people helping each other."

It's a concept we could all benefit from applying a little bit more these days. There is still a need for people to participate in the various associations that keep the activities in Centreville alive ... and make it a good place to live in. Even a little bit of your time will help lighten the load of those who have kept the hall and park associations going through the years. It's certainly worthy of your interest.  Submitted by Marke Slipp



Charlie and Mable display her rug hooking of "The Expulsion Of The Acadians"

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SINGLE FILE ALL THE WHILE...

It's kind of a hokey verse: "Single file, Indian-style, facing traffic all the while." But that little jingle, drummed into us in elementary school by none other than Elmer the Elephant (courtesy of the local police service), was enough to keep me and many others walking safely on the correct side of country roads to this day.

It is not an unusual sight these days to see a couple of people -- or more -- walking down the pavement facing away from the traffic. And amazingly, they don't even turn to see who or what is coming down the street behind them. Trusting? More like foolish. And it would be tragic if they lost their life over something so easily prevented.

Walking on rural streets and roads when there's no sidewalks available means walking facing the oncoming traffic. It's as simple as that. And when there's traffic present, it is best to be in a single file, not four abreast as though walking down Spring Garden Road or some other wide sidewalk in a city. It's just a bit of common sense to give as much room to the cars and trucks as possible.

There is a bit of paradox in all of this. Look at it this way: the right side of the road is the wrong side to walk on. The left side of the road is the right side. But all semantic play aside, it is a serious matter -- and it could be a matter of life or death.

There is little information provided from the provincial or municipal governments regarding this. One person I spoke to there said "*There simply isn't the money.*" That said, there is money for vehicular safety programs. And paving. And workplace safety. But it would seem that pedestrian safety is not as big of a concern.

The local police do have a program that goes around to some of the Kentville schools, using Elmer the Elephant to make students aware of proper safety on the streets. But that's the only place one finds such a program.

So parents need to take the responsibility upon themselves to teach &/or remind their children that when walking on

streets with no sidewalks, they walk on the left side of the road and face the oncoming traffic. And even though most cars will slow down or go out and around the pedestrians it is a good practice to step off the pavement and walk on the shoulder while a vehicle is going past them.

✎ Submitted by Marke Slipp

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