

THE CENTRE POST

Charles W. Macdonald

EDITOR'S NOTE

By Suzanne Trudeau Gormley
(a.k.a. Centre Post Lady)

News from the Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum



(photo can be viewed in colour at www.novamaz.blogspot.com/)

The Wisteria At the Macdonald Concrete House June Blooms/August Seeds

Charlie and Mabel Macdonald, the builders of the concrete house on Saxon Street and highway 359, left quite a legacy to Centreville. It's not just the art inside or sculptures around the building, or even the architecture of the buildings they produced in the area; they helped to make their community a better place to live in many ways.

The Wisteria at the front of the museum's yard has been growing there for as long as most here can remember. It grows clockwise, or counterclockwise around poles, trees or whatever it can climb on. The world's largest known Wisteria vine is found in California, covering more than an acre and weighing in at 250 tons! One specimen in Japan is 140 years old. Some think of it as an invasive plant, but here in Nova Scotia it is appreciated by many for its blossoms.

"Centreville – A great place to live and grow." This statement must be so, since my husband and I moved here almost eight years ago. This is the longest time I have lived in one place. We love it here. I'm especially envious of people who have grown up here and know so many people in this community.

My sister-in-law claims that in order to be a fully-fledged Nova Scotian, you need to have lived here eight years! Shall I expect my certificate in the mail this spring?

Speaking of spring, let's all breathe a huge sigh of relief at having survived another winter! Wishing you a splendid Spring!

The Centre Post is published four times a year:

**September, December,
March and June.**

DEADLINES for news items, etc. are due by the 1st day of these months, with the Newsletter at the outlets by the 21st. It is always good to get your information in earlier than the deadline.

Thank you to all our current contributors and I encourage anyone in the community to submit your ideas, recipes, crafts, etc. for our June issue.

Centreville District Community Development Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Where: Centreville Hall

When: Fourth Thursday of the Month

Time: 7:00 PM

Exceptions: JULY, AUGUST & DECEMBER

BY NOTIFICATION – *All meetings are open to the public — come out to support your community development!*

FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, STORIES, ADS or INFORMATION CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Set-up of newsletter, contact:

Suzanne Trudeau Gormley at 678-7769

E-mail: centrepostlady@hotmail.com

To place an **advertisement**, call:
Mike Sweeney at 679-2780.



Storms

Marc Potvin



I write these words on yet another stormy day. I have heard more than one winter weary person wonder aloud, "When will it ever end?" This I know is just a rhetorical question for we all know that soon enough we will be in the midst of a heat wave. It still remains that we have had blustery winter.

Blustery winters happen in life too. But unlike seasonal weather, we do not know when or how the storm will pass. It is not easy to make sense of those storms or understand why they happen when we are in the thick of it. It is often in those moments that we pray in earnest and sometimes even plead with God to take the turmoil, pain and uncertainty away just as Jesus miraculously quieted the sky and water one night in Galilee. But when all our prayers for relief go unanswered, we can easily become bitter towards God, life, others and even ourselves. We are then confronted with a greater problem, for such bitterness renders us miserable even long after the storm may have dissipated.

Natalie Sleeth wrote a beautiful song two decades ago that reminds us that we do not have to live without hope. As she wrote, "There is a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me." When we feel the darkness all around us often the best thing to do is to remember that God has not abandoned us. He is there, "unrevealed, until its season. Something God alone can see."

Speaking to His people during a dark time God said through Isaiah: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See I have engraved you on the palm of my hands." (Isaiah 49: 15- 16)

Marc Potvin
Senior Pastor
Centreville Baptist Church
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News from the Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum (continued from P. 1)

Wisteria blooms in early June and the seeds can be harvested later in the summer. If you would like to collect some seeds for planting, check later in the summer with the museum guides, or by phoning 678-3177. Best to put your name in with the guide when the museum opens in July ... and then keep your eye on them through the month as when the seeds begin to mature they will explode from their casings. Wisteria is also propagated by cuttings, best done in the early spring or in the fall, so if interested, keep in touch with the museum for when they might be pruning.

The wisteria draped over the gate at the Macdonald's driveway was likely given to them by their friend and neighbour, local master gardener Roscoe Fillmore. The Fillmores lived in the concrete house immediately north of the Macdonalds on Saxon Street. [read Mack Frail's article elsewhere in this issue] In his 1957 book, *The Growing Question*, Fillmore notes that wisteria seeds "may be planted in the fall or kept dry and planted in the spring. As a vine, Roscoe wrote that it was "hardy and useful on fence, trellis or rough bank."

For more on Roscoe Fillmore visit the Charles Macdonald Concrete House museum's web site: www.concretehouse.ca/uncommon/RoscoeFillmore.pdf

(continued on P. 10)



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your
back, may the sun shine warm
upon your face, the rain fall soft
upon your fields, and until we
meet again, may God hold you
in the hollow of his hand.



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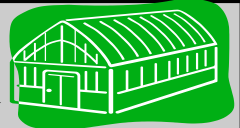
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Story from the Family Farm

By Mack Frail



Fillmore's Family Nursery played an important part in the Centreville community. The nursery was located on Highway 359 north, next to the Charles Macdonald Concrete House and Museum. After moving to Centreville from Burton, New Brunswick, Roscoe and his wife Margaret Fillmore founded the nursery in 1926. It would be difficult for me to explain how the nursery began without including some of the early background concerning the founder, Roscoe Fillmore.

Mr. Fillmore rose from the backwoods life in Lumsden, Albert County, New Brunswick to become one of the most recognized authorities on horticulture in Canada. Roscoe was born July 10, 1887 in a pioneer home. His father, William, had cleared the land and built the home on the family land grant. Roscoe's mother, Maud, made his clothes and moccasins for his footwear. When Roscoe was six years old his mother died of tuberculosis. Roscoe was required to help out at home and he went out to work at age fifteen. He was intelligent and his desire to learn encouraged him to read whatever books were available. He showed symptoms of tuberculosis during his late teens and was unable to work. He used this opportunity to finish his high school education. While still in his teens Roscoe worked at a nursery in New Brunswick. He worked in the United States and on the harvest excursions in Alberta as well as the railway line through the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia. He experienced the abuse and the unfair treatment from his employers. Roscoe wanted to do something about the system and when he was working in the United States in 1904, he joined the Socialist Party of America. In the early 1920s, Roscoe joined the Communist Party of Canada that was formed in 1921.

He was an eloquent speaker and when he spoke concerning the mistreatment and the abuse with no protection for the ordinary citizen the audience were engaged by him. Roscoe went to Russia in 1923, as head gardener for an experimental project.

Roscoe's grandson, Nicholas Fillmore the author of "Maritime Radical", covers the complete story concerning Roscoe. "Maritime Radical" explains Roscoe's political views, and his realization, later in his life, that some of his views were wrong. The public benefited from many of his ideas and political wisdom. I had come to respect Roscoe and Margaret Fillmore from the early 1950s when I was in my early teens and working at the Fillmore's Valley Nursery.

Roscoe and Margaret moved to Centreville in 1924, with their three children Dick, Rosa, and Alex. The last of their children, Frank was born during the same year they arrived in Centreville. Dick, the oldest, helped Roscoe with starting his apple tree seedlings. When the root stock was large enough they made hundreds of root grafts. They planted them in the nursery fields to grow into small fruit trees. In 1926, the trees began to mature and become large enough to sell to the local fruit growers. Roscoe's plans to establish a family fruit tree nursery business and supply the local fruit growers suddenly changed when the large export market for apples being sent to Europe came to an end. With little sales for their apple trees, Roscoe and Dick built a small greenhouse on the side of their home. Together they began growing vegetable

plants that they sold to the local residents. The following year they expanded into growing annuals and perennials.

With Roscoe's experience as a horticulturist and the help of his family, the Fillmore Valley Nursery was becoming established. During the terrible depression of the 1930s the nursery struggled to survive. There was little money to purchase unnecessary items and plants fell into this category. Roscoe was familiar with hard times and he would do whatever he could to provide for his family. They set up a miniature golf course across the road from the nursery but the project did not profit and was abandoned. Early on Friday morning's Roscoe would load his half ton truck with plants and nursery stock and go to the Halifax city market. His two older daughters, Rosa and Ruth, would go door to door to the homes in Kentville and sell cut flowers from the nursery. During the winter months Roscoe managed the Centreville rink. The oldest son Dick was employed with the Dominion Atlantic Railway as caretaker for their parks and gardens. In 1938, Dick was offered an opportunity to further his education by attending Acadia University in Wolfville. Included with his attendance at Acadia, was a position as gardener and caretaker for the university grounds. Dick later moved to the United States and continued his education and received his Masters in Horticulture. Dick Fillmore became one of the most respected plant propagators in North America.

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Story from the Family Farm

By Mack Frail



After Dick resigned as caretaker for the Dominion Atlantic Railway, the position was offered to his father Roscoe. It was under Roscoe's supervision for the Dominion Atlantic Railway parks and gardens that improvements were made. Roscoe is responsible for many of the plantings and borders at Grand Pré- National Park. Roscoe operated the greenhouses located near the Kentville railway station, where he started his plants for the D.A.R. He continued as head gardener for the D.A.R. until 1953, when he retired.

The Roscoe and Margaret Fillmore home caught fire in 1938 and was completely gutted with a hole burnt through the roof. The damage to the home was two thousand and five hundred dollars, a lot of money then and with no insurance to cover their loss. The Fillmore family managed to continue living in their home.

Alex known as (Allie) joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1939, when world war two began she was eighteen years old. Frank, the youngest of the family, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942, when he was eighteen years old. Frank was discharged from the Air Force in 1945, after the war had ended. Frank and his father Roscoe went into partnership and Fillmore's Valley Nursery was once more a family business. The economy had improved after world war two and by 1950, Fillmore's Valley Nursery grew to become the largest nursery east of Montreal, selling more plants than all of the maritime nurseries combined.

Frank married Irene Cunningham when he joined the Canadian Air Force and their son Nicholas was born October 12, 1943. Fillmore's Nursery continued to remain a family business with family members living nearby working at the nursery. Irene Fillmore's parents, the Cunningham's, worked at the nursery. Roscoe and Margaret were very much involved as was their daughter Rosa, and husband Jerry Skinner, who also had a day job. Frank and Irene were busy at the nursery all day and late in the evenings during the busy seasons. It was a thriving business with customers coming from a long distance to purchase at Fillmore's Valley Nursery. It was described by a member of the Fillmore family as "a little gold mine". The business was very successful and the fields that were planted in nursery stock including all of that which is now the Centreville soccer field and north to include most of Park Side Estates Subdivision.


The concrete house north of the Charles MacDonald museum was the Roscoe and Margaret Fillmore home. The next house north was the Frank and Irene Fillmore home.

Fillmore's Valley Nursery price list was sent out to customers in all of the Maritime Provinces. The company established a large mail order business and the Fillmore nursery stock was shipped by freight to far away locations. Roscoe's knowledge and experience in horticulture was a big asset to the business as well as Frank's aggressive style in advertising and locating markets for their product. One of the big attractions was the

large field of pansies which were set out in the fall and wintered with a covering of straw for protection. In 1955, Fillmore's Nursery grew one hundred and eighty thousand pansies in one field; it was believed to be the largest crop grown in North America. The pansies were a beautiful sight in early May when they were out in bloom. Mothers Day weekend, which falls on the second Sunday in May, was advertised as Pansy Day. This brought hundreds of people to Fillmore's Valley Nursery. I was one of the boys hired to serve the customers by digging their selection of pansies. With a trowel in hand and a container for the pansies, our job was to dig the required pansy plant the customer wished to purchase. Most of the purchases were for a dozen plants; Fillmore's Nursery dozen was thirteen plants or referred to as a baker's dozen. In a mixed field of pansies there are a lot of shades and colors to choose from. Having good eyesight and being nimble-of-foot were required to fill some of the orders for customers who would select and point to particular shades of pansies some distance away.

When I first worked at Fillmore's Nursery in 1949, I was fourteen years old and their bedding plants were grown in wooden flats. The soil was a mixture of soil sand and peat moss with ingredients added for fertility and sterilization. The soil was sifted through a large screen and mixed with a shovel all done by hand. The larger nursery stock to be sold was dug by hand and balled and bailed. Smaller plants were sold with the roots packed in sphagnum moss and packaged. The Fillmore's hardened their bedding plants off by growing them in cold frames during

(continued on P. 7)



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5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm (or eat desert first!)
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally paying off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.



Introducing Scuff & Buff Shoe Repairs to Centreville
By Debra Ridley

Many of you will remember Scuff & Buff Shoe Repairs in the County Fair Mall, New Minas, and you will probably also know that since Dave Thompson closed there, we have been without a shoe repair shop nearby. Having spent some time trying to find a quality shoe repairer ourselves, we were delighted to learn that Dave was prepared to sell his business to us, and to help establish the shop here in Centreville. We are absolutely delighted to be able to keep this valuable service locally, especially in these financially troubled times, when you can have much loved, comfortable shoes repaired, rather than discard them.

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(See ad on P. 10)

Squash Casserole

Submitted by Margie

Brown

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds *Country Magic™* squash
- 1 ½ cups *Country Magic™* diced yellow onion
- 1 cup water
- 1 can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs

DIRECTIONS

1. Dice the squash, put in a pan with chopped onion, and cover with water. Cook at medium heat until squash is tender.
2. Put squash mixture with liquid in a 2 1/2 quart casserole dish. Stir in chicken soup, sour cream, and melted butter (the liquid from the cooked squash should be enough so that mixture is slightly soupy). Add the bread crumbs on top.
3. Bake at 350°F until lightly browned and bubbly, approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

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Tuesday - Sunday: Lunch: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday - Sunday: Dinner: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Reservations recommended



Thoughts and Concerns Regarding Issues in Kings County

By Dick Killam

First of all, I want to thank all of you who took the time to vote in the past Municipal Election. As usual the turnout was low but Council is looking at ways to encourage more voters to participate in the next Municipal Election in four years. i.e. possibly electronic voting, better signage outside voting stations, more advertising letting you know the date and location and electing the Warden from the voting public versus the present system of having Councillors select the position.

Already information is fast coming in on a variety of issues and concerns. All Councillors have been given their various boards and sub committees to represent along with regular Council work. For example I will be sitting on Planning and Advisory, Kings Rehabilitation Centre, Grand View Manor, Valley Waste and Recovery, Municipal Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Joint Fire Services Committee. Serving as a Municipal Councillor is a very busy job and can be exciting as well as stressful at times. Dealing with the issues and not allowing personality conflicts, lobby groups and politics to influence decision making is always a challenge.

Since I was elected in November, many phone calls and e-mails regarding the preservation of agricultural lands have come my way. I do believe we should do our best to preserve agricultural land for future food production. However, I also believe that areas surrounding growth centers that have infrastructure in place should be considered for some residential subdivision development. At the same time policies must be also adopted to ensure that unlimited urban growth does not take place in these areas.

The question always arises as to how much growth and development we want and how much we can safely sustain without depleting our water supplies and exceeding capacity at our sewer treatment facilities which further pollutes our air and water. We need to preserve the delicate relationship between our agricultural lands for food production and our population. A long range study needs to be done to determine where and what Kings County will and wants to look like in the next 50, 75 and 100 years. This will be very interesting to do as we will have catastrophic climate changes in this period which could put large sections of our Valley floor and prime agricultural land under water. The

future may show us the real enemy to our Agricultural Strategy will not necessarily be development but it will be Mother Nature in this region. Keeping this in mind special planning policies need to be put in place around flood plains and low lying areas along with increasing the heights of our important dyke systems that hold back the ocean.

The agricultural zoning map has been painted with a broad brush which includes many pieces of land not suitable for farming and never will be farmed. Since the planning strategy was put in place in the late 1970's there has been only between 250-300 acres taken out of agriculture for development in Kings County, of which the majority of acres was to accommodate two schools in Kings Co.

Our municipal planning strategy has worked well and I believe it will continue to do its job but there has to be some give and take. It is not fair and it is easy for non-farmers and lobby groups to advocate zero development on any type of agricultural land located under the broad brush of our planning maps without a firm plan to ensure that family farms have financial protection to continue farming for future generations. Many farmers are under great financial pressures at present and if they soon don't see a plan to get through the hard times they will quit or be forced to declare bankruptcy.

Will our future farms be run by civil servants? If the heart and soul of our true farmers are ripped apart by stress and bankruptcy, our future food production here in the Valley will certainly be in jeopardy. We either have to look at ways to free up land that exists on most farms to allow for some building lots located along the highway to be sold to help the farmer survive or adopt policies regarding land banking or purchase of development rights. The latter is a good plan to implement but it will take strong leadership on behalf of our Municipal, Provincial and Federal politicians. Our local Cabinet Minister Mark Parent has just been given the Agricultural Post. Just recently Minister Hulbert rejected the policy allowing a retired farmer to build a retirement home on his farm.

(continued on P. 7)

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Story from the Family Farm

(continued from P. 4)

their last growing stage. They grew very good plants and their product was in demand. I did not work at Fillmore's nursery after 1952, but I know that it was a growing business until 1956.

It was in 1956, that the nursery suffered a loss to two thirds of the pansy crop after a chemical which was supposed to be safe to use for weed control but unfortunately, it also destroyed the pansy plants. During the spring of 1958, Fillmore's Valley Nursery moved to West Park Street in Kentville.

Frank Fillmore was a good hockey player and he played for the Kentville Wild Cats hockey team for many years. In January 1955, Frank was playing for the Wild Cats in Wolfville when he was hit in the face by the puck. He lost the sight of his left eye. Fillmore's Valley Nursery continued to experience bad luck and in 1961, the nursery closed its doors for good.

Evergreen trees, with packing rooms, greenhouses and residences in the background



Photo credits given to Harold Bailey, from *GREEN THUMBS*, by Roscoe Fillmore, published June 1953 by Ryerson Press

Roscoe Fillmore is the author of four books on gardening. "Green Thumbs" was published in 1953, "The Growing Question" published in 1957, "Roses for Canadian Gardens" published in 1959, and "The Perennial Border and Rock Garden" was published in 1961. Roscoe's books received outstanding reviews for his knowledge and information on gardening. His books were recognized as the most complete set of books on Canadian gardening to become available. In 1967, as a part of the Canadian Centennial celebration, the Canadian Nurseryman Centennial Yearbook and under a section titled "Great Canadians in Horticulture", Roscoe Fillmore's name was among the twenty-four Canadians honored who made an outstanding contribution to horticulture in Canada. He was the only one in Atlantic Canada to receive this honor. Roscoe was not only recognized for his skills and ability in horticulture. He was also recognized for his principles, his willingness and ability to speak out against injustice. Roscoe Fillmore died November 20, 1968. His son Frank moved to Halifax with his son Nick, where they continued to speak out and to publish in their newspapers the injustices which were brought to their attention.



...issues in Kings County

By Dick Killam

(continued from P. 6)

This I believe is a philosophical attack on farmer's rights. We look forward to reconsideration on this policy and to other agricultural issues.

The land banking meeting that took place at the Old Orchard Inn this fall provided a good framework to get this sort of plan underway so maybe MLA Mark Parent and our MP Scott Brison along with this Council will lead the charge to help ensure the preservation of our agricultural land here in Kings County and at the same time provide hope to save the family farms. This would certainly relieve the pressures that many farmers are feeling right now and could offer that necessary incentive to keep farming. Certainly it is a fair resolution between the farmer and the ideal of preserving farm land without exception.



There has been an enormous amount of work and commitment from members of the organization to save all farmland here in Kings County. This lobby group and that of our Planning Strategy are very important to help ensure that our rural farming municipality indeed remains a rural municipality. Land banking through purchase of development rights would certainly help to provide a good environment for our farmers to produce food for our tables, make them a good living and would preserve farmland for future generations. No one wants to see our Valley floor look like Lower Sackville or any other high density housing area.

I will continue to be supportive of the main thrust of our Agricultural Planning Strategy and as applications dealing with farmland development make their way to Council floor I will attempt to make balanced decisions based on all of the above.

Yours Truly,

Dick Killam Councillor for District 3

Email: councillor.killam@county.king.ns.ca



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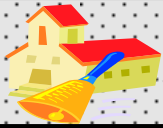


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Good Neighbour Club Report

By Charlotte Legge

Editor's note: *Charlotte Legge has volunteered to provide GNC news, replacing Gail Salmon. She will be featuring snippets from the origins of the Club as well as current events.*

The Good Neighbour Club is 62 years old; pretty good for 12 ambitious ladies in a community when times were hard and World War II was still going on.

Only one of the Charter Members, Mrs. Zilpha Farnsworth is living and resides at Orchard Villa, Berwick.

Our members range in age from 40-95. We would love to have anyone come and join. We have a great time and it's a great way to get to know our neighbours.

The Club has various fundraising functions. Our most lucrative one is The Big Breakfast, held the third Saturday of each month, September to June. Saturday, February 28, we catered an Open House to celebrate our oldest member's 95th birthday – Leonora Murphy.

As a result of our recent Hall renovations, we lost our coat hanging space. Since then, we are very grateful to Everett Mac Duff who has provided us with two portable coat racks!

The Charity Drive, which was done annually by the GNC for 30+ years, has been discontinued.

A Look at GNC's Past

First meeting – January 8, 1947

Met at the home of Mrs. Vernon Manson to form an organization to help in various community projects.

There were twelve ladies present. Mrs. Kidston called the meeting to order to elect a president. After nominations and a vote by ballot, Mrs. Wood was elected President with Mrs. Kidston and Mrs. Manson as Vice Presidents, Mrs. Clarke secretary, Mrs. J. Hiscoe, Treasurer.

Work Committee: Mrs. Manson and Mrs. Pineo

Temporary Entertainment Committee: Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Hiscoe

They agreed to meet every Wednesday evenings as well as hold a 15¢ tea once a month.

Present at the first meeting: Eva Wood, Blanche Kidston, Lois Manson, Mrs. Wm. Hiscoe, Jessie Hiscoe, Anne Clarke, Ruby Pineo, Mrs. Trueman Eaton, Babe Sweet, Florence Jess, Zilpha Farnsworth, Winnie Kinsman.

January 15, 1947 The business of selecting a name was brought up and suggestions presented. These are discussed and finally it was unanimously agreed that we select Good Neighbour Club.

It was suggested and agreed by all that anyone attending become a member and roll call at each meeting.

January 22, 1947 Fourteen members attended the meeting.

January 29, 1947 Eleven new members had their names added to the list.

Miss Winnie Kinsman was the first Advertiser correspondent.

It was decided that the first Wednesday evening of each month be devoted to school activities. The school teachers, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Atson, were invited to attend to determine how the Good Neighbour Club could best assist.



Centreville Park and Recreation News

By Betty Harper & John Dekoe

The Centreville Park and Recreation recently met at the Centreville Hall. The meeting was very well attended. Two public meetings have been held in the last two months to discuss the future of your park. Various items were discussed dealing with Park cleanup, the fixing up of existing soccer fields and ball field, the possible creation of a new soccer field.

An upgraded playground was also mentioned as a priority. The possibility of reviving Centreville Day was brought forward as well.

The main goal will be to organize and install a "Plan". First and foremost on this plan will be to get the existing facilities (grounds, fields, trails, etc.) back to where they were and go from there. It was hoped that a new group of people would be willing to become part of the Park Board of Directors. As a result of these meetings at least two people have accepted this challenge, which was encouraging.

The Park is yours to enjoy, the trails are well kept but we need your help and input. If you have an interest in the Park, outdoor activities or would just like to see our youth more active, we would love to hear from you. For more information on how to become active and volunteer, check out posters in various locations around our community. Anyone who would like more info please e-mail Betty at timharper@eastlink.ca



CANARD UNITED CHURCH NEWS

1314 Hwy, 341, Centreville
(Upper Canard), N.S.

The Canard United Church family is pleased to welcome Linda Townsend, Lay Minister, who will be leading Sunday Worship for the next several months. We thank The Rev. Waldo Elliott for the giving of his time as Supervising Minister, as we continue our search.

Best wishes are extended to the Rev. Waldo Elliott who is going to be married in the very near future.

Canard United Church joined with Cornwallis Baptist Church for a successful Lenten Lunch; always a pleasure to work together.



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WATER

By Gren & Gail Jones



In the past decade or so we have become very preoccupied with the consumption of water, especially bottled water. What was once quite rare in Canada is now a commodity that one can find everywhere.

More recently, environmental groups have spoken of the negative impact bottled water has on our environmental footprint, especially if the water in question has been imported from sources outside our country.

I remember when Evian became one of the first bottled waters to hit the shelves in Nova Scotia. One day in one of my classes, a group of 12 Entrepreneurship students were doing a project involving bottled water. During their presentation, they took a swipe at this popular product by asking the following question, "Did you know that Evian spells "naive" backwards?"

Their classmates thought this was interesting until I pointed out to them that it was not a message (subliminal), but simply the name of the town where the water has its source. In fact, Evian is located in the French Alps, near the Swiss border.

In Europe, millions of people consume bottled water daily. It is a major business and has been for centuries. In the 1700s, the King of France, Louis XVI, was informed by his personal physician that a certain water should be consumed at court every day. It was a spring water that came from a town in the Loire Valley- it was a sparkling water with a light mineral content and the physician guaranteed the King that

daily consumption of this water would lead to good dietary health. And so the popularity and importance of sparkling mineral water stems from this historic moment. The name of this particular water is Badoit and it is one of the most popular of the sparkling mineral waters bottled in France since the 18th century.

In restaurants in France, water is never brought to the table unless the client requests it. Being the gastronomic capital of the world, the choice



of beverage is most often wine. However, I have noticed the increasing popularity of bottled water on restaurant tables. In fact, one can order sparkling or 'flat' water. Sparkling water is very popular with meals, as it enhances the digestive process. There are a great variety of bottled waters that are better known in Europe than here. For instance, the only sparkling waters that can be found on Nova Scotia tables are either Perrier or San Pellegrino. Both of these are excellent mineral waters and are very popular. In France, my favorite flat water is Vittel. I have seen it in several Halifax hotels, but it

is difficult to find in restaurants, supermarkets or corner stores. For sparkling, I prefer Badoit following dinner and Perrier with lemon or lime as a refreshment. While travelling in France, I order Vittel for my clients along with wine.

In France, bottled water consumed in restaurants, bars and cafés is served in glass bottles, not plastic. I have always believed that glass is better than plastic and of course there have been many changes in the types of plastic containers for beverages. However, I always try to find glass bottles when buying water as well as other drinks.

I have done some research into mineral water and have been intrigued by the results. I would like to share some of the information with you about a commodity that we often take for granted.

Badoit: since 1778

Source: Saint-Galmier, Loire Valley

Qualities: very rich in magnesium and calcium

1848: 1st bottles were sold

1858: 1.5 million bottles sold

1967: 57 million bottles annually

2008: 300 million bottles annually = 16% of all sparkling water in France

Owned by: Danone

Evian: since 1790

Source: Évian-les-Bains, Haute Savoie

Qualities: rich in calcium

1829: 2 million bottles sold

1965: bottling 4 million litres per day

1970: purchased by Danone

2007: 1.5 billion bottles annually

Market: 125 countries

(continued on P. 11)

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News from the Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum

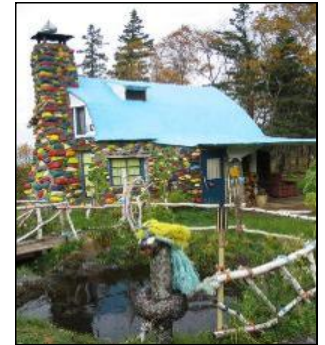
(continued from P. 2)

The Blue Cottage at Huntington Point

Many of the people in the area are familiar with the charming stone & concrete buildings up at Huntington Point. The so-called Fairie Cottages that Charlie Macdonald built in the 1930s have been a favourite spot for many lovers, astronomers and partiers through the decades. In recent years there have been art days at the cottage, sponsored by the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society (CMHCS).

Huntington Point has a special place in my life, and my family's. In 1942 my parents had their honeymoon there in one of the cottages Charlie built. Dad, being a Drill Sergeant at Aldershot in those days, was visited by some of his pals from the base, coming into shore under cover of the early morning fog, and then setting off some thunderflashes and scaring my Mom—and Dad—in a manner she still laughs about!

One of my brothers helped to get Charlie's first (posthumous) exhibit at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in the early 1980s. Steven was also involved in getting the Society going in the mid 1990s, along with my Mom, a longtime friend of Mabel Macdonald's. Another brother proposed to his wife there on Valentine's Day a few years back. And it's always been one of my favourite places to watch the stars, a passing whale or fishing vessel, or have a summer's night bonfire or weenie roast. (It needs to be noted, however, that you should take your own wood with you after the beginning of July, as a lot of the driftwood arriving over the winter gets burnt in large bonfires on Canada Day.)



Kaye Slipp with Betty & Lucy Fuller at the Blue Cottage circa 1943

The Blue Cottage was built in the summer of 1937 by the workers at the Kentville Concrete Products. Charlie Macdonald established this enterprise in 1912, a factory where he included the workers as partners more than employees, fitting in neatly with his philosophy of life. During the Depression, instead of not employing the men during slack times, he had them build the so-called "Fairie cottages" at the Point.

Initially the Blue Cottage was a youth hostel, renting for as little as twenty-five cents per night. It passed through a couple of hands before the CMHCS bought it in 1996. It is now a Provincially Registered Heritage Property.

One of the benefits of being a member of the Society is that it allows you to book a stay at the Blue Cottage. If interested, please inquire at the address below. Annual fees remain unchanged at \$10 per year. Forms can be obtained on the 'Contact' page at the museum's web site at www.concretehouse.ca/ or by emailing info@concretehouse.ca

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Check it out: Annapolis Valley Events Calendar

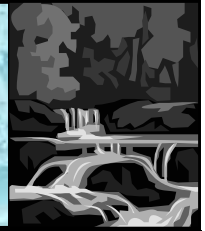
There's a relatively new calendar available online for people looking for what's happening in the Valley. James Skinner has developed a wonderful site, Annapolis Valley Events, available by going to the website at: <http://valleyevents.ca/>

On the site you will find postings for all sorts of music, film, theatrical, educational and just plain entertaining events throughout the Valley; from Windsor to Annapolis Royal. You can have it come to you weekly, or by subscribing to it through email or a variety of other cyber methods. A great source of information.



WATER

(Continued from p. 9)



Perrier: Since 1769

Source: Vergèze, Languedoc (near the city of Nîmes)

Qualities: rich in calcium

Origin of brand name: Owner, Dr. Louis Perrier, 1894

1903: First served to the King at Buckingham Palace

1908: 5 million bottles annually

1988: 300 million bottles annually

1992: Owner: Nestlé

2008: 600 million bottles annually

MARKET: 46% is exported to 114 countries

Vittel: since 1857

Source: Contrexéville, Vosges

Qualities: rich in calcium

1921: 14 million bottles

1951: 100 million bottles

1990: the 1 billion mark is reached in sales

1992: Owner: Nestlé

2008: 2 billion bottles annually

MARKET: OFFICIAL WATER of Le Tour de France and exported to 100 countries

QUIZ: In the last issue, I wrote about Leonardo da Vinci who lived in Amboise in the Loire Valley for the last 4 years of his life. He is buried there and his

home, le Clos Lucé attracts many thousands of visitors each year.

Since no one answered, I wish to repeat the question for readers, and the first person over the age of 18 with the correct answer will receive a bottle of wine from Vouvray, a lovely town near Amboise. This white (medium dry) wine is very popular and can be purchased in local LC's.

Da Vinci's writings- over 15,000 pages of notes were kept in a series of CODEX, the most famous of which is the Leicester. It was purchased in an auction by Bill Gates in 1994 from the family of the Earl of Leicester who owned it for 200 years!

QUESTION: How much did he pay??

- A) \$5,000.
- B) \$50,000.
- C) \$10,000,000.
- D) \$30,000,000.

If you would like to email or call with your answer and inquire about our tours, here is my contact info:

We are currently booking for the spring, summer and fall tours, including Battlefields in June.

Gren Jones, Nova Languages Inc. 679-6691 / novalang@ns.sympatico.ca

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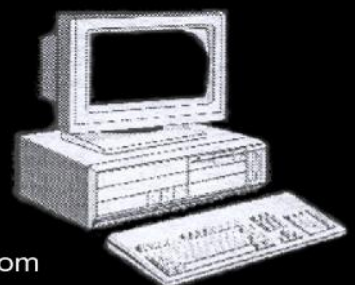
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

**CENTREVILLE'S 9th ANNUAL
PIG ROAST - MAY 2, 2009**
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
At the Centreville Hall

Adults: \$10.00 Children: \$5.00
Sponsored by the Centreville District



Community Development Association
(tickets available from either:
Peggy - 678-5522 or
Doug - 678-7166)
Takeouts available

New Centreville "Events" Website

Do you have an upcoming event? Do you want it seen on the Centreville Website, www.centreville-kings-county.com? If you do, send the information to: events@centreville-kings-county.com

GNC's BIG BREAKFAST
Monthly—3rd Saturday
(**Except for July and August**)

Sheffield Mills & District Women's Institute - 3rd Monday, 2 p.m.

Canard United Church - Sunday Worship Service - **9:45 a.m.**
www.canardunitedchurch.org

TOPS: - Mondays 6:00 – 7:00 PM

TOPS meet at Centreville Baptist Church on Murray Drive. (In the nursery room)

Monday evening:
Weigh in from 6:00 to 6:30 PM with a short meeting to follow.

We are open to new members at the cost of \$30.00 yearly which includes a magazine from headquarters with "Eating Sensibly" ideas and recipes. You can drop by for one free night.

For more information contact Leader Jean Bond at 679-1284 or Madeline Sheffield at 678-7584.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR CLUB (GNC) meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall (**Except for July and August**).

All ladies of Centreville are welcome to attend and join the Club.

Between the Bushes Restaurant - Fundraiser Brunch

Please join us at Between the Bushes Restaurant, Sheffield Mills, for our annual MS and Alzheimer fundraiser brunch on March 28th. For further information, please call Cathy at 582-1445 or check our website www.betweenthebushes.com

Each year, our Nova Agri Group of Companies is proud to be able to provide the venue for our two annual fundraisers...supporting local MS and Alzheimer chapters in March, and two other worthy local causes at an evening dinner in October.

Pictures of Centreville District and Surrounding Area



Did you know that the Centreville website has an email address you may send pictures to? If you have pictures you want to share with others you can send them to:

centrevillepictures@centreville-kings-county.com

Pictures of interest could be Old Historical, Nature, Business or People, whatever you think others would be interested in. The pictures sent will be put on the Centreville website:

www.centreville-kings-county.com.

ACADIA LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE (ALL)

The ALL Centre provides courses, seminars, outings and special events for adults 50+ in environmental science, fine arts, writing, and more.

ALL membership benefits include free Acadia credit course audits and access to the Vaughan Memorial Library; reduced course and special event fees; and free seminars, lectures and readings. The annual membership fee is \$20.

The ALL Centre now has a new phone information option. For course updates, cancellations, room changes and ALL announcements call 902-585-1434 or 1-800-565-6568, at the prompt press 1. This is a recorded message that will be changed daily. If you want to join ALL or sign up for a course call the same number but press 4 at the prompt to speak to a client service specialist. When you call our office our voice message will guide you through these options. Or you can simply email all@acadiau.ca. We will continue to update our membership through our website all.acadiau.ca and via emails.



To view Spring courses offered through ALL, Acadia University Calendars will be available from the Centreville Post Office or through the following website: all.acadiau.ca

ALL Brown Baggers

A program of Acadia Lifelong Learning

The ALL Brown Baggers program is intended to fill our need for discussion of some of the important, and perhaps not-so-important developments in our world. This is a truly informal time, when we can meet some new people who are lively and interesting, and who love learning every day; and we actually do eat lunch during the presentation.

The baggers meet every Thursday at noon in the beautiful Sheldon L. Fountain Learning Commons located right in the middle of the Acadia University campus.

Please mark your calendar: Every Thursday at noon. We will advise you by email of upcoming programs.

Comments and questions: mike@seataalk.info
<http://www.acadiau.ca/fountaincommons/>
<http://all.acadiau.ca>