

THE CENTRE POST

Issue 27, December 2011

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The Copper Fox & Chicken Coop Folk Art Galleries

by Gail Salmon

In September, I was invited to attend the Open House of the Copper Fox Gallery atop of the Hall's Harbour Mountain Road. It was a gorgeous evening and the view from the gallery was breath-taking. Fabienne Leydecker and her husband, Ted, purchased Dave Lacey's home and studios two years ago and have begun a new era of their lives. The studio allows Fabienne to display not only her work, but that of many Atlantic artisans as well. The tour of the Chicken Coop Folk Art Gallery and the Copper Fox Gallery filled my soul with paintings, wood and stone carvings, pottery, sculptures, wool art and crafts, rug hooking, hand-painted Adirondack chairs, and Folk Art - in colours, textures and talent to impress and please every sense. Fabienne works mostly in acrylics, but loves working on Folk Art.

Fabienne is a self-taught artist. She was born in the little town of Bayonne, in the Pays Basque region of France. At an early age she became fascinated with nature, and began drawing wildlife. At 14, she attended college in Chantilly for equine studies. Her love of horses played an important part in her artistry, and riding led her to be the first female jockey in France. She later moved to Canada, where she raced at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto, Ontario, and she and Ted owned a horse farm. Fabienne said, "My passion for art eventually became too hard to resist, and I pursued a full-time career as an artist."

One of the most notable art collections was *The Trail of Painted Ponies*. Time did not allow me to view the intricate artwork in these beautiful reproductions, but I did see the four that Fabienne had painted. She had the privilege of having her painted ponies accepted by *The Trail of Painted Ponies*: 'Simply Home' (2011 Holiday Release), 'Song of Angel', 'Country Christmas', and a tribute to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 'Standing on Guard'. 'Standing on Guard' is a tribute to the RCMP Musical Ride: a personal tribute, as Fabienne's father-in-law, Dr. Harry Palmer, was the principal veterinarian for the RCMP and the Royal Winter Fair for 30 years.



The Chicken Coop Folk Art Gallery has whimsical animals, colourful pictures, and Maritime themes; Fabienne has 'found' materials of driftwood and transformed them into art. One can only be drawn into the menagerie and fun and reminisce about such artists as Maud Lewis.

The Copper Fox Gallery includes art from well over thirty artists: Greg Dickie, Dick Vander Eyk, Heather Alex-Porter, David Lacey, Twila Robar, Ed Corkum, and Peter Sheldon. The list goes on and on and, though I wish I could mention them all, I am sure that I would miss someone. While at the Open House I was able to talk to two of the artists: Tracy Horseman, who works with pottery, and Angela Melanson, whose painting of an owl struck the chord in me. Fabienne also takes in personal art collections, which make for even more interesting viewing.

It has been a busy year for The Copper Fox Gallery and Fabienne Leydecker. The Gallery was nominated for New Business of the Year. Fabienne is still excited about having had her horses reproduced by *The Trail of Painted Ponies*. She has been busy with the Acadia Art Gallery and is in charge of art displays at the Designer Café in Kentville. She also

Can't p3

The Centre Post is published four times a year: September, December, March and June.

The deadline for news items, etc., is the 1st day of these months, with the newsletter at the outlets by the 21st. It is always good to get your information in before the deadline.

For announcements, stories, ads or information, contact one of the following:

Set-up of newsletter:

Suzanne Trudeau Gormley at 678-7769

E-mail: centrepostlady@hotmail.com

To place an advertisement:

Mike Sweeney at 679-2780.

Associate Editor's Note

As I prepare this newsletter for print, remnants of the recent snowstorm are still visible in the ditch out front, bright sunshine is sparkling on the neighbours' outdoor Christmas lights, and new leaves are opening on the hydrangea by my front door. Although Mother Nature seems a bit confused, there is no doubt in any of our minds that this is a season of celebration - for many religions around the world. My hope is that those of us who are lucky enough to have family and friends share our good fortune with those who do not.

All involved in the production of the *Centre Post* would like to thank those who make this newsletter possible, either by contributing articles or by financial support though advertising. We couldn't do it without you.

Happy Holidays to all from the Centre Post

Anne-Marie Waterbury

PS: The *Centre Post* is now available at TJ's Convenience Store, Hwy 359, and Tan Café, Main Street, Kentville.

Submissions may be edited due to space limitations or for clarity purposes. Context will not be changed.

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A professional juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police.

"What are you doing with these matches and lighter fluid in your car?" asks the police officer.

"I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act."

"Oh yeah? Let's see you do it," says the officer.

So the juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"

"Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year." Victor Borge

Dates to Remember

Grab a pencil (or whatever) and put these events on your calendar:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 22 | WINTER BEGINS |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |
| January 1 | New Years Day |
| January 6 | Little Christmas |
| January 4 | '50-Plus' resumes |
| January 18 | Park Association Meeting |
| January 19 | GNC resumes |
| January 21 | GNC Big Breakfast |
| January 25 | CDCDA Board of Directors Meeting |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| February 15 | Park Association Meeting |
| February 18 | GNC Big Breakfast |
| February 23 | CDCDA Board of Directors Meeting |
| March 20 | SPRING! |

Galleries - con't from p1

donated a painting to the Halifax Physicians Philanthropic Gala for Medical Research, which was auctioned off for \$1700. Fabienne and Ted are now busy painting and organizing their home and gallery. Though the gallery will close on December 24th, Fabienne has already started plans for her opening in the spring. The Copper Fox Gallery is open from around May 6th until December 24th, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is located at 4092 Rte 359, Hall's Harbour. If you can make it up before Christmas, it is worth a viewing. Otherwise, put it on your agenda for the spring. You may reach Fabienne at 902-679-7073. I have also included the website and blog to whet your appetite! Have a great holiday season!

<http://chickencoopfolkartgallery.blogspot.com>

<http://copperfoxgallery.blogspot.com>



Tracy Horseman, Fabienne Leydecker and Angela Melanson.

Editor's note: for those of you who are unfamiliar with The Trail of Painted Ponies, this from their website:

"The Trail of Painted Ponies is one of the premier fine art and collectibles companies in the world, crafting one of the most beloved collectibles in America. These miniature works of art are prized by collectors who appreciate artistry and fine craftsmanship."

"We are passionate about creativity and quality and we are also committed to crafting collectibles that pay tribute to the beauty and majesty of the horse and the time-honoured tradition of storytelling."

"While The Trail of Painted Ponies is known for creating stunning collectible figurines, companion collections and best-selling books, we are also dedicated to supporting the arts, education, animals and the environment."

Can you help solve the mystery?

Mack Frail contributed this picture, which he thinks was taken around 1938. The teacher is Nellie (Ogilvie) Ells. He is able to name a few of the children - can you help? Perhaps you see yourself there...If so, please forward any information to Mack at macksheilafrail@eastlink.ca.



Community Organizations

Centreville Hall Building Committee

by Bud Murphy

It has been a while since having any news regarding changes to our hall; however, the Centreville Hall Building Committee has been busy.

Recently a new furnace was installed in the hall, along with a new water heater. Reports are that both are working fine and the constant supply of hot water is particularly pleasing for the folks working the Big Breakfasts, the Fuel Supper, and any other function where large quantities of hot water are needed.

In keeping with changes that see long-term planning for the hall, a new high-end oil tank was installed that has a 30-year warranty.

I would like to thank the Municipality and in particular our councillor, Dick Killam, for the financial support through the Community Hall Assistance Program. This program provides 50% assistance, up to \$5000.00.



The Community and surrounding area greatly benefit from improvements to the hall through the hard work of the folks who help raise money and run the hall. In particular, the Big Breakfast workers should be recognized for their support.

Thank you to all those who make our hall a better place.

Centreville Hall Association

by Marj Taylor

Season's Greetings on behalf of the Centreville Hall Association. Thank you for your support - you have made a meeting place possible for many groups and family functions this year.

The Centreville Hall Fuel Supper Committee would like to thank all those who donated supplies to and attended the Fuel Supper, held October 29, 2011. A special thanks to the Good Neighbour Club, who prepared and served a delicious turkey meal. This year's event was the most successful ever, with 350 served. Proceeds are sufficient to pay the hall's fuel bill for the winter.

As we enter this winter season, remember to prepare for emergencies. Every Canadian household should have a plan and, at a minimum, a 72-hour emergency kit. When the Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO)/Red Cross announce on the radio that there is a designated emergency for the Centreville and District Area, the **Centreville Hall, when staffed, can be used as a Warming Station** for the health, safety, or welfare of people in need. See www.GetPrepared.ca for more information on keeping your household safe.

If you would like to volunteer, please watch for a meeting date to be announced in the new year.

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Park Association News

by Betty Harper

The park gate is now closed for the winter. Please continue to enjoy the park, but remember to pick up after your pets and put your pet's 'business' in the new bins provided for this purpose. Thanks to all volunteers who have helped in any way this past season. We could not keep the park as beautiful as it is without the few dedicated volunteers we have. All bills have been paid and we look forward to a new season of ball and soccer in 2012.

We are still working on the proposal for an area rate and should have things in place to present to the public by the first part of the new year. Please come out to the meeting and support us in our endeavour to keep the park growing and improving.

We would like to have our golf tournament in 2012. We appreciate the support of the teams and sponsors and it is a good fundraiser for the park, but we do need a few volunteers to help organize this venture. If you are interested, please contact Troy at troyharris33@hotmail.com. If a few people work together it makes the work much easier. Thanks in advance .

A reminder that you can leave your refundable items at the former Fritz's Enviro Depot in New Minas for the park, or call Betty at 678-0041 for pick-up.



Darrell Spurr with a 'dog waste disposal' bin he built and installed (Spurr photo).



The Centreville '50'-Plus Association 'Friends Enjoying Friends'

by Darrell Spurr, President

The Centreville "50"-Plus Association is a group of Centreville and area seniors. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 - 4:00. As winter is fast approaching, our outdoor games have been packed away and our activities have moved inside. Our group enjoys musical entertainment, card games (bridge, cribbage, 45's, skip-bo, etc.), and board games such as Crokinole and Aggravation. On the third Wednesday we have cake and celebrate the birthdays for that month. Recently, the seniors group from Canning visited our group. We had a delicious lunch followed by music, games and cake. Our Christmas social will be held on December 14, and we will collect donations for the Canning Food Bank. We will be cancelling our meetings after December 14, 2011, and resuming on January 4, 2012. All Centreville and area seniors - young and old - are invited to join our group. Come and bring a friend. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Battery Recycling in Centreville

Used batteries can be dropped off at the Centreville Community Hall on Thursdays, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, as well as at the monthly Big Breakfast.

All batteries can be turned in **except** car batteries.

Good Neighbour Club News

by Susan Wood



The Good Neighbour Club has been a busy spot, with another great breakfast held in November. The hall is all decorated for the season, with the tree up and the cozy fireplace in its spot. The entryway looks as if the stars are out and the hockey players and skaters are all set to start out onto the ice. Although there is no ice as yet, I am sure that by the end of the winter there will be. The GNC closing this year was December 1, 2011, and we will be going back in the new year on January 19, 2012. There will be no Big Breakfast in December, as everyone has a busy schedule: the next one will be on January 21, 2012. The Good Neighbour Club would like to thank everyone for their support. Have a great holiday and see you in the new year.

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A Christmas Pet

by Isabel Tait

The children had finally worn my husband and me down, so we decided it was time to get them a dog. Our friends warned us not to get a pup for Christmas and told us of many family disasters that had happened to them and their friends. "The pup got sick all over the carpet just before Christmas dinner"; "The pup made a mess on the kitchen floor and someone stepped in it and tracked it through the house"; "The pup howled all night and kept everyone awake"; "The pup bit Granddad when he went to pick him up and gramps needed stitches", etc. We got the message and decided to get a pup the first week in December 1971. Hopefully by Christmas the dog would be accustomed to the new surroundings and food, and maybe partly trained.

We planned to go the Edmonton Animal Shelter, which was run by the SPCA, just as soon as our children left for school. This was going to be a surprise for them - *if* we found a dog that we wanted. My husband was skeptical about finding a dog, and also about keeping a dog in the city. When he was a boy, he had a dog that had gotten killed on the street; he was afraid this would happen to a new dog. I had convinced him that, with the fenced-in yard and me an 'at home' mom, nothing would happen to the dog. We were looking for a small breed - one that would be good with children and not too temperamental.

We arrived at the shelter at 10 am; they had just opened for the day. The lady in charge was pleased to show us around. The shelter was clean; the animals were in small individual cages and most were crying for food or attention. We walked down the aisles of cages checking out the dogs and some of the cats. There were small yappy dogs, large hairy ones and, in one cage, a black, white and tan pup. We took him out of the cage and I held him in my arms. He licked my face and I fell in love. He was gorgeous and lively; I could tell he loved people, as he wasn't afraid. I looked at Bill and he said,

"It says here that this is a Border Collie x Spaniel cross. He will grow quite big. I thought we were looking for a small dog."

I put him back in the cage and we looked around some more.

"Bill," I said, "I think the collie pup is the right one. Let's take him."

"Ok," he said, "you get the pup and I'll talk to the receptionist."

We actually signed papers adopting him.

"Should you find you don't want to keep the pup, you are to return him to this shelter," she said. "The pup is the smallest in his litter and can't be used as a farm dog, so

the owners placed him with the SPCA to be adopted. He is in good health and has had all his shots for now."

We bought a collar, food and dish; I carried him out to the car and wrapped an old blanket around him just in case of an accident, then we headed for home.

I blocked off the kitchen doors with a chair and the ironing board and started to prepare lunch for the children, who would be returning from morning classes in a few minutes. First to arrive was our daughter; a grin spread across her face when she saw the pup. She sat on the floor and he came to her. Then our eldest boy came in and wanted his turn to hold him. Finally our youngest boy came and the pup went to him, licked his face, curled up in his arms, and went to sleep.

"What are we going to call him?" I said.

Names were tossed about until we settled on 'Scamp', and even the pup seemed to like it.

We fixed a basket with a blanket for the pup's bed. The rule "No dogs in your bed" was made. The children accepted it with little problem, leaving no doubt in our minds that this was exactly where they wanted him.

That night we put a warm hot water bottle under his blanket as well as a ticking alarm clock, and placed the basket in the corner of the kitchen. Scamp whimpered a bit but slept most of the night. Ross took him out to the yard in the morning, and the pup soon learned to use a corner of the back yard for his bathroom. Between them the children petted and fed him; when they went to school the pup was put into his basket, where he slept until they came home at noon.

Scamp was easy to train and he loved to be out in the yard playing with the children: they would throw a ball and he would fetch it. He grew to be a medium-size dog, just right for children to play with. He had a good disposition, but didn't like strangers around until he learned they were a part of the family or friends. He was a good watchdog and would warn when strangers came around.

Every summer we went camping - first in a tent, then we bought a tent trailer. Scamp went with us as well; he loved to travel and camp. In fact, as long as he was with his family he was happy. He would swim with the children and stay nearby when we were in camp. He also warned us if there were animals nearby, which was great except when a skunk should wander by.

Scamp was there for the children when their father died and was a comfort to us all. He lived to be 17 years old. By this time the children were grown up and had moved away from home. It was hard to say goodbye, because he had become a member of the family.



Christmas Traditions

by Marc Potvin

The Christmas season is loaded with traditions. We associate it with bright colours, delicious baked goods, friendly gatherings, exchange of gifts, and singing. Most of these traditions are ancient.

Take, for example, the tradition of singing carols. It is said that Mummers in Medieval England were among the first to sing carols. These were groups of wandering actors who travelled from town to town acting out Bible stories for the population that could not read. They found that the best way to tell the stories was through songs, also called carols. It became quite the event when Mummers came to town. The cry, "Wassail! Wassail!" brought forth pennies, sweetmeats, red apples, mince pie and handfuls of nuts for the singers. Did you know that this tradition of singing for reward lives on through neighbourhood carolling?



Another tradition has to do with our Christmas lights. In the early history, people would make fires and offer them up to deities, hoping these gods would make the sun reappear. With the coming of science and Christianity this festival took on a deeper significance. Lights were no longer put onto trees to remind the deities to bring back the sun: They were used to celebrate the fact that the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, had come.

Whatever traditions we carry on at Christmas, the message that we spread is one of joy. However, exchanging gifts, gathering with family and friends, and putting up bright decorations never bring lasting joy. The gifts soon lose their newness; friends and families return home, and the decorations return to their boxes.

I suggest to you that there is only one gift that can bring a joy that lasts forever – and that is the gift of true love found in God; there is only one friend who will never leave us, God Himself; there is only one light that shines all year long, God's presence in Jesus Christ. That is the Good News: that God has come to be with us in Jesus Christ to tell us He is for us. God is more than a tradition. He is life.

As you carry on with your own traditions of this festive season, may the Light of Christmas illuminate your heart and may your rejoicing continue on though the year, knowing you are loved and cared about.

"I am the light of the world; those who follow me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8: 12)



Christmas Tree Lighting

The Centreville and District Community Development Association's 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place November 28, 2011 at the Centreville Hall. Special thanks to Kennie Morse for his donation of a beautiful tree. The tree was lit by Ashley Muise, daughter of Wes and Darlene. Approximately 100 people - most of them children or children at heart - joined in the carolling and refreshments that followed.



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Reverend Gloria Churchill
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Canard and Trinity (Canning) United Church are pleased to welcome Reverend Gloria Churchill as our new minister, as we come together as one congregation through an amalgamation process. These are exciting and challenging times for our congregations, as we are also involved in the consultation process looking to the future of all the United Churches in the Central Kings area. Gloria comes to us from the Bedeque Pastoral Charge in PEI after serving there for over five years. She and her family look forward to ministry with the good people in Canard-Trinity, as well as to being part of the larger community here in the beautiful Annapolis Valley. Worship services take place at 10 am on Sunday mornings, with an active Sunday School program and Tiny Tots during worship. A new initiative began on November 16: called 'Family, Food, Fun, and Faith', it is focused on our younger families. Families of all ages and descriptions are welcome to come Wednesday evenings around 5:30 to the Canard United Church, 1315 Highway 341, for a simple supper meal (provided by others in the congregation), singing, games or crafts, and family time of sharing faith through storytelling and fun - perhaps outings, hiking, stargazing, etc., to learn about and appreciate God's gift of creation. After work just drop off the briefcase and laptop, pick up the kids, and make this a part of your family time for the week. Just imagine: no cooking, no dishes, just relax and enjoy as we share our time and our faith with each other.

Centreville Baptist Church

Murray Drive, Centreville

Sunday Service - 10:30 am
with children and nursery programs

Children's Program Grades 1 to 5: Monday evenings
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Wetlands and Their Impact on the Agricultural Community

by Gren Jones, Senior Provincial Director, Ducks Unlimited Canada



On November 5th, I had the pleasure of attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Lamb's Dairy Farm in Somerset. It was a moment of great pride, as I witnessed the amount of hard work and dedication of the members of the Cornwallis Headwaters Society and representatives from Agriculture Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Financial support also came from several other sources, including the NSLC Adopt-a-Stream Project.

The Lambs have a milking herd of 300 cattle and their farm, like so many others, is located adjacent to a brook that feeds into the Cornwallis River. As the milking takes place daily, thousands of gallons of wash water leave the milking parlour and settle into the wetland beside the brook. Before 2007, this water settled into two ponds that didn't adequately treat the water as it passed into the tributary and, ultimately, into the river.

In 2007, Ducks Unlimited became involved. One large wetland was created to extend retention time and create habitat for nesting waterfowl. From this time forward, studies were done on water quality and it was decided that better management practices could be achieved.

The main goal was to reduce the effects of the chemicals and bacteria that were entering the watershed. By improving water quality through a series of ponds, the local groundwater would be healthier for people and animals.



With this goal, long-range planning and financing took place. The single pond became a series of smaller ponds with different depths and vegetation. Grasses and cattails were added to help cover and filter the wash water passing through the ponds. In addition, fencing to prevent the cattle from entering the stream and the new ponds was implemented. A water station for the animals was built on top of the passage over the brook. This means that the cows can move about quite freely, but they are not disturbing the brook or the flow of the water through the ponds.

This project is a wonderful model that can be adapted to the needs of our agricultural community. If there are landowners who have similar needs, I encourage them to contact Mr. Tom Duffy at the DU Eastern Regional Office in Amherst at 902-667-8726 or contact me directly at 679-6691.

www.ducks.ca

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Building a Balanced Future

by Jim Morton, MLA KingsNorth

I hope you are enjoying this holiday season.

As we approach year's end our government is pursuing its plan to return the province to fiscal balance, using a wide range of options to grow our economy and create better jobs. We've also continued to reduce spending in every department and agency funded by government. I'm acutely aware that we're making these changes in the midst of a struggling global economy and I thank you for your cooperation and for your appreciation of the importance of the job at hand.

Recently Moody's Investors Services, in rating our progress, said the plan "...displays strong governance and management characteristics... and careful management of the debt profile during the recession and recent recovery." At the same time, we're investing to make life better. Here are a few examples.

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) is available again this year. HARP can provide a rebate of up to \$200 to low- and modest-income Nova Scotians who heat their home with oil, electricity, wood, propane, wood pellets, natural gas or coal. Application forms are available at our office or call 1(800) 670-4357.

In a related area, Efficiency Nova Scotia has a range of programs designed to help homeowners and businesses, including those with low incomes, conserve energy and save money. To see if Efficiency Nova Scotia can help you, simply call 1-877-999-6035 or visit www.efficiencyns.ca. We're also moving, step-by-step, to make life more affordable. In November, for example, the Minister of Community Services announced changes that will allow more families to access assistance when they are caring for children with disabilities.

Our government's *jobsHere* strategy encourages innovation and is designed to increase business productivity and competitiveness in the global economy. Two of many tools in the *jobsHere* kit include the Productivity Investment Program (PIP) and the Work Place Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive (WIPSI). If you'd like to know more about how these and other programs might help your business I'd be pleased to get you started.



Some of you may not know that I've been sharing information like this in a weekly e-mail. To subscribe, send me a note or call the office to ask for our easy-to-use **Weekly Update**. I believe it's essential to keep you informed.

It's also important to engage everyone in building Nova Scotia's future. We've encouraged participation by consulting often and widely. This fall the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage made it still easier to contribute when he launched the innovative *Nova Scotia Online Forum*. The *Forum* is a straight-forward way for citizens from all walks of life to provide opinions and advice directly to government. It's available now. Check out the *Forum* at www.forumns.ca. Be one of Nova Scotia's advisors.

Consulting, either through the *Online Forum* or at breakfast, is critical because, as I rediscover daily, each one of you is a source of ideas and possibilities. Creativity pops up everywhere, like the run-away success of your Good Neighbour Breakfasts. On the literary front, poet Jacob Mooney, formerly from Port Williams, was short listed for this year's Dylan Thomas prize for *Folk*, and acclaimed local author Amy MacKay has just launched her new novel, *The Virgin Cure*.

We are capable of everything.

Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas! May you and your family enjoy a safe, healthy, successful and prosperous New Year.

Jim Morton is the MLA for Kings North. Visit his website at www.kingsnorthmla.ca or contact him at 902-678-6880 or at jimmorton@kingsnorthmla.ca



Winter arrives early...

Once again we were subjected to an early winter storm - though the heavy snowfall we received November 23, 2011 certainly did not wreak the havoc that last December's wind storm did. I'm sure that many of you would have been happy to do without the treacherous driving conditions but - lets admit it - it did make for some beautiful scenery. This picture of the Halifax Public Gardens gate was taken by Myra and Darrell Spurr's daughter, Krista, who lives in Halifax. Peter Coade featured it on Peter's Pic following the CBC Evening News.



Santa visits...

The Good Neighbour Club held its Christmas Party December 1, 2011. Shown with Santa, who distributed gifts to all present, is Mary Ellen MacDuff. She, along with the other members of the Entertainment Committee, prepared a delicious roast beef dinner for the members. Secret Pals exchanged gifts and were revealed - ending a year of guessing on the parts of many. The Christmas Basket which was drawn for was won by Anne-Marie Waterbury, who was delighted with her cache. A great time was had by all.

(Waterbury Photo)



Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will
avoid you.
Winston Churchill




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Story from the Family Farm

by Mack Frail



During the Christmas season my thoughts go back to when I was a young boy growing up in Centreville. A lot of changes have taken place since those days when Centreville was a close-knit farming community. Horse-drawn means of transportation were still in use, and there were not as many automobiles on the roads.

I began traveling to Kentville on the train from an early age, when I went with my mother to do her errands and shopping at the many stores in the town. The train began operating between Kentville and Kingsport in 1890, and its last run was in 1961. The train was known as *The Blueberry Special*, and it made seven stops on its journey. The early morning trip from Kingsport picked up and delivered the Kings County Academy students to Kentville in time for classes. The train returned to Kingsport before 12:00 p.m., and shortly after noon was on its way back to Kentville. It was the early afternoon train that was used by those traveling to Kentville for the afternoon.

Christmas was a special time for me, with the excitement of going into Kentville on *The Blueberry Special*. The people traveling on the train were friendly to each other, and they were more sociable when feeling the spirit of Christmas. The stores in Kentville were decorated for the Christmas season. Many of the Kentville stores that were crowded with shoppers have since closed their doors for lack of business.

On a cold wintery day, the ten-minute walk from our home to catch the train was enough distance that we welcomed the heat from the coal stove in the Centreville Train Station waiting room. Prescott Neville was the Centreville Station Agent for forty years, and he became a necessary part of anything to do with the train station. The Centreville station house smelled of his cigar smoke, and from an early age I was fond of the smell of his cigars.

The winter weather began earlier, and by the time the Christmas season arrived we had experienced about two months of cold wintery weather. The closed-in Centreville 'skating rink' that relied on the freezing temperatures for making ice was opened for public skating about the middle of November. The 'lily pond' that is near our home was a popular pond for outdoor skating. Each winter we were anxious to go skating on the lily pond ice by Christmas Day. My father, Wallace, would not allow children on the pond until there was a foot of ice. He would cut a hole through the ice with his axe and measure its thickness. I do not remember any years during the 1940s when the ice thickness prevented us from skating on the lily pond.

My father cut blocks of ice on the lily pond, which he sold to supply the icehouses. Before refrigeration was in use there were a lot of icehouses. The larger part of an icehouse was built deep into the ground, with rock or concrete walls as foundations.



We did not have an icehouse on our small family farm, but I recall many of them in Centreville. The dairy farmers required icehouses to store their milk and cream during the period before it was delivered or picked up by the dairy.

It was later in the winter that ice was cut on the lily pond, and the area where it had been cut was restricted from skaters. The ice was of a thickness to support teams of horses pulling large bobsleds loaded with heavy blocks of ice. The blocks of ice were about two feet square. They were cut from the pond with an ice saw and they were grappled with ice tongs. Getting them out of the water was a difficult task, and required experience and skill. It was not wise to cut ice alone because of the risk of sliding on the wet slippery ice into the water. After the blocks of ice were in the icehouse they were covered with sawdust. I have my father's ice saw and ice tongs. They are a reminder of when he cut and sold the lily pond ice.

When visiting with children on a farm in Centreville, we would go into the icehouse and put our bare feet on the blocks of ice. My experience with an icehouse is that it was a great place for children to cool off on a hot summer day.

I sometimes have a feeling of nostalgia for the days of growing up on the family farm, and the lifestyle that was experienced living in the rural community of Centreville.

Recipes from Between the Bushes Restaurant



Submitted by Margie Brown

The Nova Agri Group of Companies

Streusel Topped Blueberry Muffins

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 1/2 T all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups fresh Blueberry Acres blueberries
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp lemon zest
1/2 cup milk
2 T all-purpose flour
5 T white sugar
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
2 T butter, diced

Preparation

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper muffin liners.

Combine 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in medium bowl. In a small bowl, sprinkle 1 to 2 tablespoons flour over blueberries, and set aside. (This simple trick will keep you from having "purple" batter)

In a large bowl, beat 1/2 cup butter with 3/4 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, and stir in vanilla and lemon zest. Fold in dry ingredients alternately with milk. Fold in blueberries. Remember, fold gently — don't stir. Spoon batter into prepared cups.

Combine 2 tablespoons flour, 5 tablespoons sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon in a small bowl. Cut in 2 tablespoons butter with fork or pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over batter in muffin cups.

Bake in the preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in centre of a muffin comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire rack.

Makes 1 dozen muffins (serving size: 1 muffin)

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Mark Twain



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A man is stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and is asked where he is going at this time of night.

The man replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse, smoking and staying out late and the effects it has on the human body."

The officer then asks, "Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "That would be my wife."

On the web ...

Pictures of Centreville District and Surrounding Area

Did you know that the Centreville website has an e-mail address where you can send pictures? 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 historical, nature, business, or people - anything that you think others would be interested in seeing. Pictures received will be posted on the Centreville website:

www.centreville-kings-county.com

Annapolis Valley Events Calendar : Postings for music, film, theatrical, educational, and just plain entertaining events throughout the Valley, from Windsor to Annapolis Royal. <http://valleyevents.ca/>

Centreville 'Events' Website

Do you have an up-coming event? Do you want it seen on the Centreville Website, www.centreville-kings-county.com? If so, send the information to:

events@centreville-kings-county.com

Continuing Ed ... <http://all.acadiau.ca>

Acadia Lifelong Learning Centre (ALL)

The Acadia Lifelong Learning Centre (ALL) provides courses, seminars, outings and special events for those aged 50 and over, in literature, science, fine arts, writing, and more.

ALL membership benefits include free Acadia credit course audits; access to the Vaughan Memorial Library; free ALL seminars, lectures, and readings; reduced ALL course fees; special events and outings, and e-mail notices of ALL and community events. The annual membership fee is \$25.00.

To view courses offered through ALL, Acadia University calendars will be available at the Centreville Post Office or from our website.



For more information or to register, call 585-1434 or 1-800-565-6568, or e-mail all@acadiau.ca

Brown Baggers Program

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 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 e-mail of upcoming programs.

Comments and questions: mike@seatalk.info

<http://all.acadiau.ca>

Tips for cooks:

- * Don't throw out that leftover wine: freeze it in ice cube trays for use in casseroles and sauces.
- * Wrap celery in aluminium foil before putting it in the fridge and it will last for weeks.
- * When a cake recipes calls for flouring the baking tin, use a bit of dry cake mix instead and there won't be a white mess on the cake.
- * To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.



In Our Community

Groups

Good Neighbour Club

The Good Neighbour Club (GNC) meets at the Centreville Hall at 7:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month (except June, July and August). All Centreville women are welcome to attend and join the Club.

'50-Plus Fun Group

The '50 Plus' Fun Group meets at the Centreville Hall every Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. New members are welcome.

Sheffield Mills & District Women's Institute - third Monday, 2 pm.

Pins and Needles



Anyone is welcome to join us at the Community Hall on Thursdays. Bring along a craft you are currently working on and a paper bag lunch, and stay for the day. Tea and coffee are available. We also get together once a month to work on 'comfort quilts': These are made with donated fabric and are sewn and tied, then given to organizations to provide comfort to those in need.

For further information call Ada MacDuff at 678-4483.

TOPS

TOPS meets at the Centreville Baptist Church, Murray Drive, on Monday evenings. Weigh-in is from 6:00 to 6:30 pm, followed by a short meeting. 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 Esther Peterson at 538-9051 or Madeline Sheffield at 678-7584.

Al-Anon

Are you affected by someone else's addictions? If so, Al-Anon is for you. Al-Anon is a support group for families and friends whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking, drugs, etc. Our meetings are held every Tuesday at 10:00 am at the Baptist Church here in Centreville. For more information, please contact Beverley at 678-4798.

Associations

Centreville Park Association

The Centreville Park Association meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Centreville Hall. Anyone interested in becoming involved or wishing to share ideas or concerns is welcome to attend. Centreville community members are those who will make the park a success.

Next meeting - January 18, 2012

Centreville District Community Development Association (CDCDA) Board of Directors' Meetings

Where: Centreville Hall

When: Fourth Thursday of the month

Time: 7:00 pm

Exceptions: July, August and September by notification

All meetings are open to the public — come out and support your community's development!

Next meeting: January 26, 2012

GNC's BIG BREAKFAST is held at the Centreville Hall on the third Saturday of the month, 7:00-10:30 am, *except in July, August, and December*. Choices include eggs, bacon, sausages, baked beans, hash browns, toast, tea, coffee, and juice.

Free-will Offering

Next breakfast is on January 21, 2012

"Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences; all events are blessings given to us to learn from."

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross