

THE CENTRE POST

Issue 66: March 2022

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DK Fairn Farm Market...



...a Work in Progress

by Gail Salmon

My usual drive down Sherman Belcher Road has changed recently, as an interesting building slowly appeared at the edge of one of the fields. Trenches were dug to reroute the water flow and driveway on Sherman Belcher South Branch and Sherman Belcher Roads, and a parking area surrounds the new construction. The mystery was solved when I was invited to see the new building, the DK Fairn Farm Market, and meet the owners, Devin and Katrina Fairn. Construction has been a slow process. They waited months for building supplies and are finally nearing the end. The pandemic has not been kind to builders. They had hoped the building would be finished last Labour Day.

Katrina and Devin have farmed this land since moving to the area in 2011. Katrina said they leased the farm from her parents until they got things up and running, and in 2019 they became the owners. Devin grew up in Annapolis Royal. His parents were not involved in agriculture, but he had farming relatives. He was working in accounting but realized farming was what he wanted to do. He also honed his building skills and was challenged to write the Red Seal exam in carpentry. This has allowed Devin to do most of the building himself and reduce costs.

Katrina's parents owned Hutten Farm on Highway 221, and she grew up in Centreville. At the Fairn Farm on Sherman Belcher Road, she is responsible for the produce. They have two greenhouses so they can start seedlings early in the season; most of the greens can be

ready in a month after the initial planting. Before the new construction, they sold their produce next to their house. They look forward to switching the operation to the market. In the new building, Katrina has a room for washing the vegetables and a place to display their goods.

Devin and Katrina are committed to offering fresh, quality products while preserving the environment through sustainable farming. They use the manure from their livestock for fertilizer, and their produce is free from sprays and man-made fertilizers. They feed the animals homegrown vegetables, including the composted vegetables and their leaves and stems.

They had been selling their wares at the Kentville Farm Market but have not been there for the last two years. They have been selling at the Hubbards Farmers' Market, on the South Shore, for over eight years. In the winter months, they take boxes of winter root vegetables down to Hubbards every other Saturday.

They offer their customers a Community Support Agriculture (CSA) opportunity from June to December. A CSA allows customers to purchase a share from an organic farm before the season starts. They then have a day to pick up their box of produce. You can be put on an email list and receive an order every week. There is no set cost or type of vegetables or meat on these orders. Customers will soon be able to purchase their wide array of vegetables at the store, too. Last year, they grew: cabbage, napa cabbage, Romanesco, swiss chard, cilantro, fennel, peppers, eggplant, rutabaga, leeks, parsnips, garlic, lettuce, kale spinach, arugula, radicchio, onions, shallots, parsley, basil, tomatoes (field, cherry, and Roma), squash (the usual kinds as well as delicata, wintersweet, amercup, carnival, etc.), and Asian greens such as bok choy and tatsoi.

They raise cattle, pigs (ten sows and a boar), and chickens. The building has a separate room to cut and package the meat. Devin had been paying to have the livestock processed at a butcher shop, but it was quite expensive. He has hired a butcher to do the cutting on-site when the market is ready to open. There is a smoking

can't pg 3

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.

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Editor's Note

At last!! The sign most of us have been wishing for!!



When I drove by the community hall recently, what a welcome surprise it was to see this sign. I know many residents—from quilters to hookers to card players—have been looking forward to getting together with their social groups after two long years' absence. I suspect phone calls and emails will be rampant as members are notified about restart plans and getting back to friends enjoying friends.

Once again, our roving reporter Gail has managed to answer the question many of us no doubt have had: Just what is the new building on Sherman Belcher Road? Yet *another* new business in the area! Welcome to the DK Fairn Farm Market. I'm sure, after reading about the vast array of products they will offer, many are looking forward to their opening.

As always, thanks to our talented contributors who make this newsletter possible - we appreciate your submissions and support more than you'll ever know! And of course to our advertisers, who allow us to distribute it at no cost to our readers.

Anne-Marie

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*Happy
Spring!*



DK Fairn Farm—con't from pg 1

room, and they plan to make chicken jerky, sausages, bacon, and other tasty items. It is necessary to secure a Ready to Eat (RTE) permit for this processing. They have a licence to have free-range chickens: you will probably see them when you visit the market. The cattle are in a pen in the barn and, while grazing, they're surrounded by an electric fence to alleviate concerns that they could escape to the greener grass at the golf course across the road.

Devin and Katrina have been slowly growing their farm and their family. They have two children and are carefully developing the farmland at a moderate pace. They will most likely introduce new types of produce in future years. They employ one full-time person and a summer student. Hopefully, the market will be opening soon, but winter storms and building-supply delays have slowed the process such that times and dates are still up in the air. You can find information on their Facebook page. If you are interested in Community Support Agriculture shares, you can email them.

dkfairnfarms@live.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/DK-Fairn-Farm-Market-619398371749985/>

Another Trip

by David Ward

Albert Polycarp LeBlanc was one of the last of the hard-working, multi-talented Acadian farmers/fishermen in East Margaree, Cape Breton. I got to know Albert, his wife Elizabeth, and nine of their ten children through one of their sons, Leo. He was a classmate of mine at the Agriculture College in Truro; that was back in '56. Leo and I both got our Bachelor of Science degrees in agriculture from McGill. He got a job with Agriculture Canada in Moncton, and I joined the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture in Charlottetown.

I think it was in '59 that Leo and I spent a week's holiday with the LeBlanc family, helping Albert finish haying. I remember forking the loose hay on the wagon while Albert built the load; his horse was named Jack.

As the years went by, all of the LeBlanc children finished their schooling and went on to further training in various trades. They all earned their own living. I remember the oldest, Andrew, had a position with CN in Montreal, and one of the daughters became a flight attendant with Air Canada. These two were responsible for the only holiday their parents ever had.

Anytime we holidayed in Cape Breton during our PEI days, my family and I always stopped to visit with Albert and Elizabeth. After our move to Alberta in '72, return visits to the Maritimes took us to Cape Breton a couple of times. One visit I remember well, and that was when Albert told Trudy and me about his trip.

The son in Montreal and the flight-attendant daughter, together with some of their siblings, gifted their parents a flight to Montreal. Albert agreed to go, but only if he paid for their 'outings' while on holiday. An aged Albert took great delight in telling Trudy and me all about this holiday--where they went, etc. When they got home, Albert wondered just what this trip had cost. He said he knew how much money was in his wallet when they left, so he counted what was in his wallet when they returned—and found more! Unknown to Albert was that the children were putting money in his wallet from time to time while away.

Albert looked at us with a twinkle in his eye and said, "I'd like to take another trip like that."



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Update from the Marsh **by Gren Jones**

NS Senior Provincial Director,
Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)

Photo credit: Jacques Giard
Wildlife Photographer, Kentville,
taken at Miner's Marsh

Lessons We Can Learn from Geese



As spring arrives following a particularly challenging winter, we will be anxious and ready to get out of our homes and take stock of what needs to be done to clean up the yard and prepare for the growing season. The Annapolis Valley comes alive in many ways, including the annual spring migration.

At the same time, millions of birds will be migrating along the flyways from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is a known fact that around 330 species of birds will be heading north in the annual ritual on this route, the Atlantic Flyway that stretches from Greenland to South America.

Our flyway is perhaps one of the less challenging for migratory birds, as the flight path is coastal. There are fewer obstacles, such as mountains and highly populated areas. There are plenty of wetlands where birds can feed and rest. For example, studies show that the average flock of Canada geese, flying in their well-known V formation, can cover 1500 miles/2400 km in 24 hours!

Geese are also the most abundant waterfowl population on the Atlantic Flyway. With climate change, Canada geese have evolved into a more residential group. In the 1970s, 10% of geese were "residential." They were quite content to remain in coastal states where food and fresh water are readily available, along with parks and golf courses. Jump ahead 50 years, and the numbers have changed considerably to 60%! Although we don't tend to think much about the residential geese who have chosen to stay put in the USA, this is also happening literally in our backyards.

From mid-March into April, migratory geese will fly through the Annapolis Valley, with stops along the way. Our area is a very popular resting place, and it's exciting to observe them while they feed and rest. Perhaps some local birds will join a flock and start their own families. Canning seems to be a favourite spot, with fields and fresh water, before heading toward other traditional rest stops around Truro, Wallace Bay, and PEI.

When I was growing up, my family lived in Liverpool. My father, like most men who came home from the war, completed his education, found a job, settled down, and hunted wild game each fall. He stopped big game hunting soon after I was born, but he enjoyed duck hunting and fished trout and salmon through the spring and summer. At the tender age of 8 years, he would take me out on Saturdays to hunt grouse or waterfowl, usually around the Mersey River or Port-Joli and Sable River. He was a forester at Bowater Mersey, and he knew the woodlands and the coast. I learned so much from him.

In 1998, several years after my father passed away, I was hunting with Ayla, my faithful companion, on a very stormy day in Port-Joli, Queens County. This harbour has one of the three migratory bird sanctuaries in the area west of Liverpool. It was raining very hard, the winds were westerly, the tide was coming in, and it was an ideal day to be out. I hid on the shore about a kilometre past the sanctuary under some spruce trees. I heard a honk, responded in kind, and, all of a sudden, a small flock of geese dropped down just to my left. I

con't next page

DUC—can't from previous page

managed to take the shot and a bird dropped from the flock. Ayla was on her leash, and she saw the birds. This was the moment when I observed something I've only seen once: As the goose fell into the water, several geese in the flock of 6–7 quickly landed beside it. After a moment, they lifted off and headed towards the sanctuary. About 60 meters offshore, a large wave rolled the goose over within minutes, and it was dead. The current and the winds were in my favour. I released the dog, and she ran to a spot where she could retrieve the goose, heading out at full steam. My heart was pounding, and I was praying for her safety. I was very proud of her. When we returned to the parking lot, several hunters were sitting in the comfort of their vehicles, watching what happened. To say the least, they were very impressed. The meal was delicious!

Several months ago, a close friend gave me a copy of an article about geese, and I want to share it with you. We have been through difficult times, and we all need a break.

Fact:

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

Lesson learned:

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the strength of one another.

Fact: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels drag and resistance when trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson learned: *If we have as much sense as geese, we will stay in formation with those who are ahead of where we want to go and be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to others.*

Fact: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson learned: *It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership.*

Fact: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

Lesson learned: *We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and NOT something else.*

Fact: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot, two geese drop out of the formation and follow it down to help or protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly or dies. Then they launch out on their own, find another formation or catch up with their flock.

Lesson learned: *If we have as much sense as geese do, we too will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.*

Author unknown

(In my case, they left together. They were the only geese I saw flying in that storm.)

Ducks Unlimited Canada Updates: (www.ducks.ca)

Contact me: gc_jones@yahoo.ca / 902.670.4967 (cell)

Local event: July 8, 2022—DUC Golf Tournament at Eagle Crest Golf Course (contact me for more information).

The DUC Scorecard:

- *Habitat acres influenced—201.8 million acres of protected area around wetlands;
- *Habitat acres conserved—6.5 million acres (wetlands across Canada);
- *Annual economic value—\$5.4 billion; and
- *Supporter Members in Canada—111,025.

Phone App: MyDUC—a fun way to learn about science and the environment, citizen science, find local wetlands, prizes, etc.

Donations—DUC is a charitable not-for-profit organization. Income tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more are issued. Legacy gifts of land are always welcome! Tax credits!

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Story From the Family Farm

by Mack Frail

I am pleased that spring has arrived. After an old fashion winter, I am looking forward to nicer weather. I recall winters from the past when teams of horses pulling large sleds would break roads. I would scrape the frost from our farmhouse window and watch the teams as they passed close to our home. We would often be snowed-in for several days, and no generators to supply electricity in those days. One advantage was that most homes were heated by wood-fired stoves.

There have been many Centreville residents who, for various reasons, have been outstanding. I can think of only two former residents that most of the people presently living in Centreville are familiar with or have an interest in. They have their names on signs in locations where they are visible to the public. Charles Macdonald is the name that has become most prominent to the community; he could be described as the most celebrated person in Centreville. The Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum is at the intersection of Highway 359 and Saxon Street. The other name that is familiar to the residents of Centreville is Percy Lydiard. His name is on a sign when entering Percy Lydiard Park.

Charlie Macdonald and Percy Lydiard were neighbours and friends. Charlie was aware that Percy gave the forest area to the community to be maintained as a nature park. With the use of stone and concrete, Charlie constructed an attractive and convenient structure. He built it for the public to use as a picnic area and enjoy the natural environment. Several years after, it was mostly destroyed by vandals.

Without space in The Centre Post to write about both of them, I was undecided which one to begin with. I have previously written concerning Percy Lydiard and not about Charlie Macdonald.

The Centre Post readers would be familiar with Charlie Macdonald from the many articles published about him and his achievements. I write concerning my memories and association with him and his wife, Mabel. Charles Macdonald was born in Steam Mill, Kings County, in 1874, and died May 28, 1967. My earliest memories of Charlie and Mabel are from when Centreville arranged annual community picnics. Huntington Point was the most popular location for the special outings. In those days, most families did not own a vehicle for transportation. We were allowed to ride on the backs of trucks, and a large truck was provided for transportation to Huntington Point. It was Don Ogilvie, with his truck that was equipped with side racks, who provided transportation. He is one of

those many outstanding Centreville residents who only a few older residents are familiar with. A lot of parents and children rode on the back of the truck, and it was lots of fun for everyone involved. I have a lot of wonderful memories of the family picnics at Huntington Point. Charlie and Mabel appeared as our hosts and did everything possible to welcome us.

I would often see Charlie and Mabel in the community and at the general store on Centreville corner. He appeared as an ordinary resident of the community. It was not until more recent years that I realized he was the most celebrated person in Centreville. Both Charlie and Mabel were kind and considerate, and children were attracted to them. From the many years when I was a young boy, I remember details about them. I recall being at Thorpe's General Store with other children, deciding on our choices of penny candies, and Charlie joining us to purchase licorice candy that he was fond of. I would often go to Kentville on the train with my mother. After stopping at the Aldershot station, the train continued at a slower pace, and passed very close to the Kentville Concrete Plant. I recall my interest when seeing the men at work, and would often pick out Charlie working among them.

The concrete cottages at Huntington Point are very nice and so quaint. I miss the mushroom cottage that was located near the beach. It was popular with the younger generation, and in demand by them as a place to stay for a vacation. I have special memories of when I stayed there with my friend John Legge. There are not many left of the generation that I have mentioned, and those who remain may enjoy reading about Centreville when it was a close-knit community.

The concrete sculptures of animals are nice. I especially liked the life-sized moose that was located in front of the Charlie Macdonald concrete house. A lot of photographs have been taken of it. It was a popular background for those wanting their photograph to appear as if it was a real moose. I was about fifteen and working at Fillmore's Nursery when a drunk driver with a large truck struck the moose. He continued through the intersection, coming to a stop in the ditch on the opposite side of Highway 359. Charlie and Mabel were not at home when the mishap occurred. It was upsetting to see the Centreville landmark destroyed and laying there in many fragments. Frank Fillmore was in partnership with his father, Roscoe, in their large nursery business next to the Macdonald home. He was very upset and expressed his anger to the man who caused the destruction.

con't on next page

Story from the Family Farm—con't

Charlie, Mable, and the concrete moose.

Photo:

The Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society



I have enjoyed the work of others done with concrete and stone. I have thought that Charlie's concrete

sculptures are particularly well constructed. I am very fond of the watercolour painting that my brother John did of one of the Macdonald cottages and gave to me. My acquaintance with Charlie Macdonald was mostly before and during my teenage years. When I worked at Fillmores Nursery, Roscoe Fillmore would often have me working with him. He was the senior partner in the business. I always liked being with Roscoe and was fond of him and his wife, Margaret. Charlie, being a close friend and neighbour, would often stop by where we were working. I am relieved that I was never involved in their conversations. Charlie and Roscoe held Communist and Socialist views, and their discussions were concerning their beliefs. It was after Charlie had died that I had the opportunity to become more acquainted with Mabel. Mabel (Misner) Macdonald had many talents, and gardening was one of them. She would come to my nursery for plants. We often had a conversation, and I remember her as a person who made a great impression. When I admire the lovely cottages at Huntington Point, I think of her. I feel that she played a big part in their construction and wonderful designs. Mabel Macdonald deserves part of the recognition and fame connected to them.

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<http://reciperebels.blogspot.com/2014/09/microwave-blueberry-pudding-with.html>

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ALOHA

by Sylvia Gard

In the depths and cold of a winter's night, under a mound of downy puffs, a dreamer dreams a voice saying, "ALOHA."

Rising in the morning light to snow, sleet, slush surrounding the house, the waking one ponders why the dreamer may have sent this word, 'ALOHA.' Was it a suggestion to escape to Hawaii? Like a snowflake on the tongue, it melts before it fully arrives.

The waking one tucks the word, ALOHA, in the pocket, much like Perry Como used to sing, "Catch a falling star and tuck it in your pocket, save it for a rainy day." Shortly, the walk into town commences, too soon, really, for the snow on the shoulders has not been winged back as well as it might be later. The waking one decides to push through. Dodging traffic by sidestepping into the snowbanks, muttering unpleasantries when slush sprays too close. O yes, a couple of kind offers to receive a ride are declined. This walking and complaining is apparently a choice. 'ALOHA' is all but forgotten.

Hours later, the stay in town is over, the slush is gone, the snow on the shoulders has been winged back. The waking one relaxes into the return walk. This time, gladly stepping off the asphalt to respect the mutual safety concerns, even waving to some familiar drivers.

"Remember me?" ALOHA pops out of the pocket.

O yes. Now I do. I had forgotten you were there.

"I come as your brother. Tell me, what is changing for you?"

Long silence. Many steps later.

Slush is messy. I regret uttering unpleasantries.

"So tomorrow?"

Walking is easier when I remember we are all moving

thru slush, in the way we know how.

"And the next day?"

Kindness changes the weather along the road.

Snowflakes, large and fluttering, like summer moths, hover softly, as if singing "a thousand kisses deep" right along with Leonard Cohen.

**News from the
Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly
Hon. John Lohr, MLA Kings North**



This winter reminds me of the tough winters of my youth. Back then, we usually had a snowdrift in our farmyard which could have easily covered a car. It was excellent for sledding and building snow forts. This year there seems to be a snowstorm nearly every weekend. In my new role as the Minister of the Emergency Measures Organization I now have a much deeper appreciation for the people and effort that these storms affect.

Each storm sees the activation of the Provincial Control Centre or PCC. The provincial head of EMO coordinates with Municipal EMO's, police, fire departments, weather

forecasters, Nova Scotia Power and provincial communications staff. That effort is to coordinate our response on the ground and make sure resources are where they are most needed.

Very recently that effort was directed at the surprise rainfall and snow melt which caused localized flooding across the province. Centreville was no exception and there was localized flooding in several areas on Hwy 221. Snow packed in around homes also caused water to flow in unexpected directions and may have caused some wet basements too.

My concern is that we need to build our roads and drainage systems to a higher standard to deal with future expected weather events. Climate change will lead to more severe storms. As the Centreville area is quite flat, the drainage issues are compounded by the fact that the water doesn't always have somewhere to go. We need to have a good look at the entire area to determine how best to solve the drainage issue. I am working on that.

I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your MLA. Please contact me at 902-365-3420 if you have an issue or concern.

Hon. John Lohr, MLA Kings North

A banner advertisement for Pineo's Pet Spaw & Dogs Day Inn. It features a cartoon dog in a bathtub on the left. The text in the center reads: "Pineo's Pet Spaw & Dogs Day Inn", "Grooming, Daycare and Kenneling", "Large, Small, We Groom them All...and Cats too!", "2044 Hwy 359, Centreville", and "(902) 697-3647". On the right, there is a Facebook logo with the text "Like us on Facebook" and the website "www.pineospetspaw.com".

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**News from the
County of Kings
Lexi Misner
Councillor District 2**

Spring is just around the corner in District 2, though March roared in like a lion on a weather rollercoaster!

In February, African Heritage Month with the theme "Through Our Eyes" was a wonderful celebration. Municipality of Kings Diversity Specialist Kenisha Gordon had an awesome calendar of events, kicked off with a virtual launch featuring the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine. Diversity Kings County held a round-table discussion about African Heritage Month. For our last event, Robert French led us through a forum on African Diaspora, Anti-Black Racism, and Reparations. African Nova Scotian businesses, diverse employers, opportunities for educational advancement, and non-government organizations supporting African Nova Scotians were featured throughout the month. Along with all these outstanding virtual events, notable African Nova Scotians in the Kings County region were highlighted. One of my favourite events was a tour of Gibson Woods Church and Heritage Annex with the fabulous Geraldine Browning (aka 'Mrs.B') and Craig Gibson. The month's events and highlights can be found on our Facebook page and the YouTube channel, KingsCountyNS. The County's March 2022 tax sale is also on this YouTube channel.

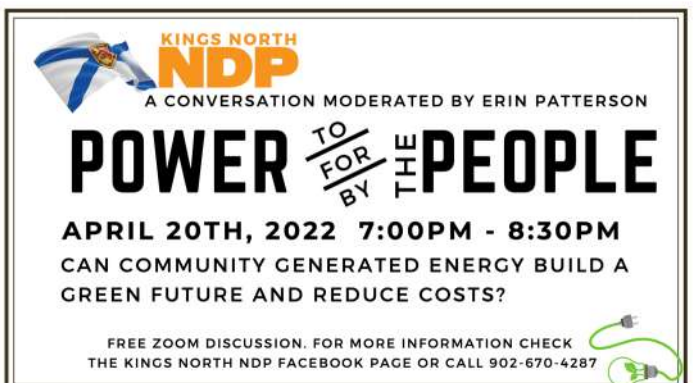
Grant applications are open for the 22-23 fiscal year. Applications for Community Hall Assistance, the Kings Vision Grant, the Youth Travel Assistance Program, and Park, Playground, and Trail Maintenance & Development Grants are due April 1. Community Recreation Programming Assistance and Community Festivals and Special Events applications are due May 1, and Councillor Grants to Organizations applications are due June 1. All information about these grants can be found on our website in the drop-down menu under Living in Kings.

County staff have been working on some exciting new policies. The Strategy of Belonging was recently adopted and highlighted during African Heritage Month. On February 15, an Active Transportation Strategy and a Communications Strategy were presented to Council by Ashley Brooker, Active Living Coordinator, and Ashley Thompson, Communications Specialist. Both strategies will be before the council for recommended adoption in March. The Kings County Joint Accessibility Committee will finalize the Accessibility Plan by May 1,

as the province requires. These policies directly align with the Strategic Priority: Strong Communities. We also begin budget presentations and deliberations in March.

In February, I participated in Stepping Up: A Learning Journey for Settler Canadians, presented by Horizons Community Development Associates. This 25-hour course focuses on the accountability of Settler Canadians and taking action in the reconciliation process. It was an extremely informative, thought-provoking, and emotional course to navigate. I highly recommend it to non-Indigenous people who identify as allies. This month, I will be taking Women's Leadership for Community Development through the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. I am excited to be working on this course—one of 25 women from 21 countries. Along with this course, I will be on a steering committee through Piers Lab, named Taking Care of the Valley, which focuses on creating initiatives for caregivers in the Annapolis Valley. Our community will benefit from this initiative in terms of economic recovery and challenges identified by those in caregiving roles during the pandemic.

This spring is shaping up to be a bustling one! Longer days and warmer weather are just around the corner. My crew is looking forward to adventures, park days, and picnics. If you see us around, please say hello and feel free to join us for snacks! Have a safe March break, a happy Easter, and a wonderful spring! 'See' you again in June!





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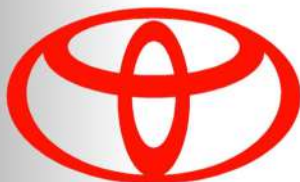
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9097 Commercial St.	New Minas
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451 Main St.	Kentville
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We Care

**Proceeds from John Neville Painting at Secord
Gallery to go to the Charles Macdonald House
Rehabilitation Fund**



Originally from Hall's Harbour, renowned folk artist and master printmaker John Neville has close ties to the Centreville community. He remembers walking along by weirs on the Bay of Fundy as a child and then wandering by the "fairy cottages" at Huntington Point and marvelling at their bright colours and unique architecture. Charles Macdonald built them in the 1930s. He also remembers passing through Centreville in the 1950s, on his way from Hall's Harbour to Kentville, and being in awe of the tiger, the many deer, the bathing lady in the garden of the fascinating concrete house.

Hearing about the repairs needed for the Charles Macdonald Concrete House, John visited the house in November 2021 to tour the building and see the damage firsthand. He remembered visiting it in the 1970s when Mabel Macdonald still lived there after Charlie's death. Back then, Charlie's paintings hung on the walls, Mabel's rug hooking decorated the floors, and cement sculptures could be seen all around the place. Now it's clear there is much work needed to restore the roof, fight the effects of water leaks, and correct structural issues.

When fundraising efforts of the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society began in December 2021, John wanted to contribute. He painted "Lucky Catch"--a 24 x 36 inch oil painting depicting two triumphant fishermen heading home with their successful catch and

a fiery-haired mermaid in the bow of the boat. This brightly coloured painting will be on display at the Secord Gallery, located upstairs at 6301 Quinpool Road in Halifax, beginning this March. John will donate the proceeds from its sale to the Charles Macdonald Concrete House's rehabilitation project. The Secord Gallery has also kindly agreed to waive their commission, so all proceeds from the sale will go directly to help save the concrete house.

If you're interested in seeing the painting or would like to be the lucky one to acquire it and support a local cause, the Secord Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am–5:30 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am–5 pm. You can also give them a call at 902-423-6644.

To learn more about the rehabilitation project and other ways you can contribute to saving the concrete house, please take a look at our website:

<https://www.concretehouse.ca/what-s-happening>.

Submitted by:
Isabel Luce, Board Member
The Charles Macdonald
House of Centreville Society

Community Groups



Centreville Park and Recreation Association by George W. Graves, President

We have been and are still experiencing a snowy winter. Therefore, the only activities at the park have been the occasional snowshoers, skiers, and dog walkers.

The garbage receptacles will remain locked until April 1, 2022.

We held our directors-only meeting on March 9 at the Baptist Church to go over this year's business and the trails to be completed this summer. The annual area rate remains the same as last year, at \$26.00 per dwelling.

The baseball president will be getting ready for registration in April or May. Check the Facebook site for further information.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of this winter. If you wish to rent snowshoes for free, contact Joy Acker at 902-679-1133.

Have a great spring, and look us up on Facebook for more information.

I wish to thank our community for its continued support!



Centreville 50-Plus Club **"Friends Enjoying Friends"** by Darrell E. Spurr, President

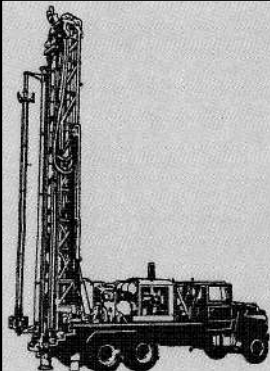


The Centreville 50-Plus group last met on March 17, 2019. Three years later, we still don't know when we will be active again. When COVID regulations are relaxed—and our Community Hall has reopened—we will be restarting our weekly sessions. Until then, get vaccinated, continue social distancing, wear a mask, and try to stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you soon.



Good Neighbour Club by Susan Wood

Everyone in the community is hoping that things will work out as the government eases COVID restrictions. When the Centreville Hall reopens, activities will resume.



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Going Home

by Gail Salmon

I want to go home, she says, three weeks
into her hospital stay,
Home to assisted living?
Home to our old place?
She sighs and closes her eyes,
I understand.
Four weeks in she pulls out her IV,
Our lifeline to hope.
Do you want it put back?
No, I don't think so.
She won't eat,
Weakening, she knows.
Voice faint, exhausted,
Small, childlike.
Past hurts and words erased
Negatives pushed away
Love, family, warmth.

I sit close,
Smooth her thin grey hair.
You don't have to be strong,
You raised me well.
You lived, you loved.
I walk her through my
Memories of her life.
We'll be fine,
You can go home
Freezes in my throat.
Caressing her forehead,
Wiping my tears.
Talking slowly and soft,
Listening to her breathe,
Slow, weak, silent,
Kissing her cheek
I love you Mom,
You are home.

*Youth is the gift of nature, but
age is a work of art.*

Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Community Groups

Centreville Hall is opening March 21st and rentals are now available. Contacts are provided for several groups and organizations, and may be able to provide additional information regarding the restart of programs.

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. For further information call Ann Steadman at 902-678-4472.

Comfort Quilts

Quilters meet at the hall on the **first Tuesday of the month** to work on 'comfort quilts'. These are made from donated fabric and are sewn and tied, then given to organizations to provide comfort to those in need.

TOPS

TOPS meets at the Centreville Baptist Church, Murray Drive, on **Monday evenings at 5 pm**. We are open to new members at the cost of **\$59.00 yearly**, which includes a magazine from headquarters with "Eating Sensibly" ideas and recipes. You can drop by for one free meeting. For more information contact Madeline Sheffield at 902-678-7584. **Please note changes to time and cost.**

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 Sue at 902-681-6446.

Good Neighbour Club

The Good Neighbour Club meets at the Centreville Hall at 7:00 pm on the **third Thursday of the month** (except June, July, August, and December). All Centreville women are welcome to attend and join the club.

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

Where: Centreville Community Hall
When: **Fourth Wednesday** of the month
Time: 7:00 pm

Exceptions: June, July, August, and December
by notification

All meetings are open to the public.

Cancer Support Group

For women with or recovering from any type of cancer. Meetings are held the **second Thursday of each month** at 1:00 pm at alternating locations.

Info:

Dorothy 902-538-3374 msalsman@xcountry.tv
Pat 902-678-9100 patmutch@hotmail.com
Margot 902-542-1466 margotwithat@hotmail.com



In case of emergency, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are located inside the main entrances of the Centreville Community Hall and Centreville Baptist Church

Centreville Hall Rental

Contact Betty Harper
902-678-0041
timharper@eastlink.ca