

THE CENTRE POST

December 2021, Issue 65

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The Red Hat Society

by Gail Salmon

The Red Hat Society has a distinguished and sophisticated air that stands out in any crowd. As a longtime resident of this community, I was aware of the group, having witnessed their presence at various events throughout the Valley. I was delighted when I went to lunch with a friend at the cafe in Centreville, as it was full of chatting and laughing women, with many familiar faces from our community. The Red Hats were in my neighbourhood!

This society was founded in California in 1998 by Sue Ellen Cooper, with the headquarters called "Hatquarters". She was inspired by the poem Warning, the first line of which reads, "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me." The original red hat, purchased at a thrift shop, is in the Smithsonian Museum. An international group, there are over 20,000 supporting members in 31 countries. There is even a Red Hat Society Day, held each year on April 25th. The yearly membership fee is \$30 in U.S. funds.



Nova Scotia has approximately 75 chapters: the local chapter is named the Red Hat Apple Blossoms. It began on February 28, 2005, and has 18 supporting members. Their chapter has made up 'play names' for their members: Donna is Queen Bee, and others include Lady Butterfly, Countess of Coin, and Countess of Quilting. The women come from Windsor to Waterville, and one is from Bedford. If you have seen these women on an outing, you know they have a dress code. Women over 50 years old wear a red hat with a purple outfit; women under 50 wear a pink hat and a lavender outfit. Donna says, "For our birthday month, we reverse the colours."



Donna Quigley is their queen and was happy to sit down to talk. The Red Hat Society is a unique playgroup for women. It promotes their passion for fun, friendship, fitness, the freedom to express themselves in positive ways, and a dedication to the fulfilment of lifelong dreams gained through the power of fun. They celebrate life at any age and solidify and expand the bonds of sisterhood. They discuss and explore new interests to realize personal potentials.

Due to COVID-19, the Red Hat Apple Blossoms suspended their activities for the last couple of years, and it was a positive sign to see them. They just restarted their monthly coffee get-togethers, held at the New Horizons Club in Kentville on the first Wednesday of the month, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. They plan events, such as their Christmas party on December 8, 2021, and a donation of money to charity. This year, they

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Editor's Note

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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For the second year, the holiday season will come and go with some of us having children and grandchildren who are unable to celebrate with us. Zoom and FaceTime are better than nothing, but they certainly don't take the place of hugs. Maybe next year...

As always, thank you to the businesses, local and other, that continue to advertise with us and allow this newsletter to be available to our readers at no cost. And, of course, thanks to our contributors — without you, the *Centre Post* wouldn't exist.

We welcome any submissions and/or feedback regarding the newsletter—just be sure to include your name and contact information.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable holiday season
however you celebrate,

Anne-Marie

**A special thanks to the elves who put
the Christmas tree up in front of the
Community Hall and strung the lights.
It's beautiful...**



Just in case...

Centreville Hall Rental

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What's Inside...

The Red Hat Society	Gail Salmon	1,3
From the Editor		2
News from the Legislature	John Lohr MLA	4
Ties of Love	Pastor Steve Hopper	5
News from the Municipality	Lexi Burgess Misner	6
Recipe from Country Magic	Margie Brown	7
Bently Built	Gail Salmon	8
Community News: Park, 50+-Club,		9
Update from the Marsh	Gren Jones	10,11
Story from the Family Farm	Mack Frail	12,13
Christmas poem, Mary Ellen; Trivia		14
Remembering ... November	Sylvia Gard	15
Community Organizations		16

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Red Hatters-con't

will be donating to the Salvation Army. Also, on December 22, 2021, they will be having a singsong at the Shannex in Kentville.

Past outings included a Halloween scavenger hunt, Oakland Farm and lunch, Farmer's Golf, Frenchy-shopping road trip, Centre Stage, and many others. Some members have attended Red Hat conventions in New Orleans, Las Vegas, Ottawa, Oshawa, and Collingwood, California. They also get discounts for being Red Hat members.

Government officials, prominent community leaders, and doctors have praised the value of joining a group like this. The empowerment of friendship, fitness, freedom to express ourselves, and the power of fun is healing: it will get us all the power of fulfilment.

If you are interested in joining, you can contact Donna at 902-582-7879 or email donna@valleytire.ca

The Red Hat Society took their inspiration from *Warning*, a poem about aging, twice chosen Britain's favourite poem.

WARNING

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

Jenny Joseph, 1932-2018

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News from the Legislature

John Lohr, MLA



Dear Friends,

As I write this, the weather has just begun to get colder in what farmers will long remember as one of the best growing seasons ever. The apple crop exceeded expectations, and our corn was ahead of and better than southern Ontario's. The long warm summer with frequent rain made everything grow well. Even the trees looked constantly fresh and green and will, almost certainly, have massive growth rings this year.

The past few months saw two elections. Our own provincial election defied the polls and has installed our Progressive Conservative (PC) Government. Plus, the federal election seemed to result in little change, with the Canadian voter endorsing the status quo. I wish to express my thanks for being returned as your provincial representative for a third term.

It is a double honour to be part of our government. Two very old sayings about being in government have already proven true to me. The first: your worst day in government is better than your best day in opposition. The second: being in government is like drinking out of a fire hose. Both feel true...The vast amount of information to take in is truly staggering, and the opportunity to actually affect change makes even a bad day feel great.

I am very pleased that we are taking concrete steps to fulfil our campaign promises. We have brought about fixed election dates and have already taken many steps in healthcare. Those steps will take time to produce results, but I am optimistic.

I also want to express my appreciation for the effort we have all put into the fight against COVID. While it's hard to say exactly when normalcy will return, I feel we are getting close. Thanks for all your efforts.

Also, Heather and I do want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It is a time to express our appreciation of family and friends by exchanging greetings and gifts. Plus, we celebrate the gift of a child born in a manger 2000 years ago who changed our world.

I remain committed to serving the people of Kings North both in the Legislature and through my office, regardless of whose lawn sign appeared on your lawn! Please do not hesitate to call if you require help navigating government services.

Thanks,

John Lohr, MLA Kings North

Merry Christmas

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News from the Municipality
Lexie Burgess Misner
Councillor District 2



Hello Centreville, it has only been a few short months since I last submitted an update on behalf of the county. This time, I have so much to cover. After a brief summer hiatus, minus a few special council meetings, we have hit the ground running this fall.

This summer, a solar connector system was installed on the roof of the Municipality of Kings' administrative building. The municipality entered a 20-year power purchase agreement with Nova Scotia Power: We will sell power generated back to the grid at a rate of \$0.22 per kWh. The system is expected to start by generating approximately 50% of the energy consumed by the administrative building each year. Our public works building, which is adjacent to the municipal administrative building, is nearly complete. It is expected to be a 'net-zero' building, that is, one with net-zero energy consumption. This building is expected to use an equal amount of energy as the energy produced on-site. This development, along with the solar array on the administrative building, is evidence of the commitment to climate change that the Municipality of Kings has identified in our strategic plan.

In November, the council adopted a new diversity policy called "Toward Equity and Diversity: A Strategy for Belonging in the Municipality of the County of Kings". This strategy, presented to the council by our Diversity Specialist, Kenisha Gordon, is the result of a year-long consultation project spearheaded by Manager of Community Development, Brittany Mastroianni. This strategy included consultations with numerous community partners and key stakeholders. The Strategy for Belonging directly aligns with the Municipality of Kings' strategic priority of strong communities and will be essential in guiding the Municipality of Kings in being a place all people choose to be.

Also, in November, the Municipality of the County of Kings, the Town of Kentville, and the Town of Wolfville announced phase one of a feasibility study to identify the potential of a multi-use recreation facility. This facility would serve the residents and businesses of Kings County, Annapolis Valley First Nations, Glooscap First

Nations, and visitors to our area. This study is intended to have a second phase that will further develop the design and details of such a facility. Phase 1 is anticipated to be complete by March 2022. Stakeholder meetings will be taking place over the coming months to build a vision of what such a building should entail. Residents can have their say virtually by visiting the Town of Wolfville website. This is excellent news for recreation in our area, as the third-largest municipality in Nova Scotia.

This fall, a Joint Accessibility Committee was implemented with the County of Kings and the seven villages within its boundaries. This accessibility committee has worked diligently with a consulting firm based in Calgary, Intelligent Futures. The Municipality of the County of Kings is expected to have an accessibility plan submitted to the province by spring 2022. In October, Intelligent Futures came to the municipality and hosted break-out sessions for residents. They also hosted an online survey, for residents to submit information to the team virtually.

This is only a small summary of some really awesome things happening in Kings right now. We have just released a new interactive mapping system, we are moving toward live video streaming of meetings, and we just nominated new citizen appointments to our committees, to name a few. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our district meetings with the mayor for now. I'll be walking in communities of District 2 with my gaggle of children and our sheepadoodle to be more approachable to everyone. I'd love to share what we're up to—if you see me, please say hi!

As we move into the holiday season, we're unrolling our interactive holiday lights map on our website. Check it out to vote for your favourite or add your home to the list.

Have a wonderful holiday season!





Buttermilk Blueberry Breakfast Cake

Margie Brown, My Country Magic



½ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
zest from 1 large lemon
1 cup sugar (set aside 1 tbsp. for sprinkling)
1 egg, room temperature
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour (set aside ¼ cup of this to
toss with blueberries)
2 tsp. baking powder
1 to 1¼ tsp. kosher salt
2 cups fresh blueberries, or unfrozen frozen
½ cup buttermilk

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cream the butter, lemon zest, and the 1 cup minus 1 tablespoon sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Add the egg and vanilla and beat until combined.
3. Meanwhile, toss the blueberries with the ¼ cup of flour, then whisk together the remaining flour, baking powder, and salt.
4. Add half of the flour mixture to the batter, and stir with spatula to incorporate. Add all of the buttermilk. Stir. Add remaining flour, and stir until flour is absorbed.
5. Fold in the blueberries. (Do not use the flour from the blueberries.)
6. Grease an 8- or 9-inch-square baking pan (or something similar) with butter or non-stick spray. If you have parchment paper, line the pan with it on top of the butter. Spread the batter into the pan. Sprinkle the batter with the remaining tablespoon of sugar.
7. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes—a 9-inch pan will be done in closer to 35 minutes; an 8-inch pan usually needs 40 to 45 minutes. Check with a toothpick for doneness. If necessary, return pan to oven for a couple of more minutes. (Note: Baking for as long as 10 minutes more might be necessary, especially if you're using a smaller pan such as an 8x8-inch, as the batter will be thicker. It's not unusual for this cake to take 50 minutes, so just be patient—especially if using frozen berries.
8. Let cool at least 15 minutes before serving.

Batter can be made ahead of time: Prepare the batter, spread it into the prepared baking pan, cover it with plastic wrap, and store in the fridge. In the morning, if time permits, bring it to room temperature for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with the sugar, then bake as directed. It may need more time if the batter isn't brought to room temperature.

Replacement for buttermilk: Use 2% or whole milk or make your own buttermilk: place 2 teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice in a liquid measuring cup. Fill cup with milk until it reaches the ½ cup line. Let stand for five minutes.

from Alexandra's Kitchen, <https://alexandracooks.com>



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Christmas

Steve Hopper, Pastor
Centreville Baptist Church

No matter when Christmas the First falls on your calendar, whether it's November 1, November 12, December 1, or later (or earlier!), the early days of Christmas preparation are always a rush of excitement. There are meals to plan, cookies to bake, parties to schedule, and guests to invite. The anticipation of family reunions and experiencing long-held traditions fill us with a sense of joyful expectation.

It seems like the very moment that Daylight Savings Time ends, the night is filled with coloured lights in our effort to push back the darkness and let in the light of the season. Then, our pantries begin to fill up with ingredients, Christmas tins are filled and hidden away in expectation of the day we can open them and enjoy the tasty treats inside. The tree is chosen and tied to the roof of the car or dug out of the basement. Hours are spent in toy stores or with knitting needles in hand, choosing or making gifts we are certain will bring a smile to the faces of those we love best. The air in our homes and in all the places we visit is filled with the familiar strains of Christmas carols.

Then, all at once, that moment we have worked diligently toward arrives. We sit with our family or friends to the feast so carefully prepared; a table spread with the best china, the most delicious foods, the brightest candlelight, all to light up our senses in the same way our homes light up the darkness outside.

Presents are unwrapped, smiles shining on every face, the thoughtfulness of our loved ones warming our hearts. We are brimming with delight.

For many, Christmas, and everything it brings, is a bright spot amid the dark of winter. For others, the picture of anticipation I have illustrated fails to materialise, and Christmas Day feels just as dark as the rest of the year. But even those whose hearts are full of joy and expectation feel the darkness beginning to creep in after the wrapping paper has been collected in garbage bags, the kitchen is cleaned out, and families have departed. We begin to feel the January Blues as winter clutches us in its heavy grip, and the nights are long and dark.

But the miracle of Christ's birth—the reason for the season—is something we can experience all year long, not just for one day. It is a light in the season of

Christmas and continues to be a light for us in the darkest days of winter and all through the year. The prophet Isaiah said:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (9:2)

Friends, Christmas is the dawn, not the sunset, and that light is available to everyone who is walking in darkness. Leading up to Christmas Day we can anticipate – and celebrate – the light that shines in the darkness every day of the year.

Join us at Centreville Baptist for our Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm. The music, candle lighting, and readings will lift your spirit and fill you with hope.

This article was written in collaboration with my eldest daughter, Carlie VanAmerongen.

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Bently Built

by Gail Salmon

When my husband and I moved to Centreville 40 years ago, one of the first people we met was Kaye Slipp. A long-time resident, she represented the local Welcome Wagon group. Kaye's house on Highway 221 has undergone a number of changes since it was purchased in 2010. I was excited to visit that house again to meet the new owners and welcome Nick and Jaclyn Bentley to the community.

Nick Bentley is a founding shareholder of Bentley Built. This community-oriented construction business has taken up residence in Centreville. They moved from the little red house, now used as storage and a workshop, to the old Winkelman Windows building on Highway 221. They are still renovating and hope to be finished in the new year. As a new resident, Nick is pleased to live and be based in Centreville.

Nick grew up in Berwick and went to Central Kings High School. He started doing foundations at 15 years old and "held a position ever since." In 2004, he worked full-time as a Project Manager at A.W. Allen's in Middleton while taking courses. He studied at Mount Allison University, the Agricultural College in Truro, and the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology in the Engineering Technology Program.

He and Jaclyn designed and constructed their first new home in Berwick. Once they moved in, Nick continued designing houses and drafting their second home; they moved in 2007. Nick continued to work in construction, but he was laid off in 2008 due to the recession. A few days later, he received a call to add a large addition to a house on the Bay of Fundy, and Bentley Built Homes was born.

In 2009, Bentley Built Homes was contracted by John Nichols to build an entire neighbourhood, 32 quality rental duplexes on Beckwith Drive in Berwick. The subdivision is called Apple Valley Acres. Nick had five dedicated full-time employees. After retirement, John Nichols joined the crew.

Since then, the company has grown. It went from a one-man, one-machine excavation crew in 2011 to a full-scale construction team that gives them control of the whole project. Other past projects include the community of Benjamin Grove and building houses in Canaan Heights.

In 2014, Bentley Built Homes won Annapolis Valley awards for Top Rated Builder and Achieving Top Energy and Efficiency Ratings in New Home Construction. Nick was quite modest about their awards, which include Best Contractor 2015, 2017 and 2019, Atlantic Choice for Customer Warrantee 2019, and a Sharp Sustainable Housing Award.

In 2017, Nick set up a partnership with A.W. Allen, his long-time employer, and joined with old friends. This was to be a five-year plan, at which time Bentley Built would take over the G.W. Allen operations. This included Allen's Homes, the Allen's Home Hardware Building Centre store and cabinet shop, and Allen's mill. In 2020, the business went through a rebranding with new goals and visions, restructuring with their customers in mind. It was fitting to make a name change to Bentley Built.

Bentley Built has worked on projects from Mount Uniacke to Digby. They do renovations and, like most construction firms, they are busy building new homes. They are finishing up a project of 29 townhouses on Leaside Court in Port Williams and a project in Kentville. The Bentley Built team is a dedicated, diverse group of men and women, both Red-Seal schooled and apprentices. For larger projects, he hires other crews. He has reliable tradespeople, including two electricians, plumbers, and speciality carpenters, for all aspects of any job.

Their website is very informative if you are interested in building a new home. It provides information on energy efficiency and environmentally friendly homes. They have an eight-step plan—from consulting to finding land, securing permits, financing, and construction—which ends with moving in and a warrantee.

After the interview, Nick showed me the living room, dining room, and dream kitchen. I was impressed by the expert work and attention to detail: He kept the integrity of the old pine plank floors and made it both modern and quaint. Kaye Slipp would be proud.

Bentley Built website and contact information: <https://bentleybuilt.ca/>
1-902-375-2666
info@bentleybuilt.ca

Community Groups and Associations



Centreville

Park and Recreation Association

by George Graves

- It has been a busy fall, working on the road around the outside parameter of the park with crusher rock and crusher dust. We are about 50 feet from the new parking lot. The weather has hampered our progress.
- We had a busy night in October, burning brush from 4 pm to 10 pm. There is another pile to burn, which may have to wait until the spring.
- Hugh Whitty contributed to the clearing of the roadway and the burning job. We thank him very much for his efforts in accomplishing these tasks.
- We would like to thank all those who participated in our projects this fall—whipper snipping, mowing, cleaning the bathrooms, picking up brush, etc.
- As of December 1st, all of the garbage boxes have been locked. This includes the one for the doggy doo, so please take your bags home with you. The garbage units will be opened come March of next year.
- If you want more information about the park activities, please look us up on Facebook and type in "Centreville Park".

***A big thank you to our community
for the continued support!***



Centreville 50-Plus Club **"Friends Enjoying Friends"**

by Darrell Spurr, President

OK!! THATS' IT!! No More Predictions! Since March 2019, I have made predictions every few months that COVID-19 restrictions would ease, and we would be able to resume our weekly 50-Plus sessions. At the last meeting of the Community Hall directors, it was decided that the hall would remain closed until at least January 2022. When it opens, and gatherings of 30 or more are allowed, we will notify our members, and 50-Plus sessions will resume.

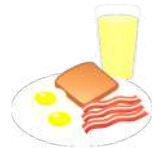
As 2021 draws to a close, all club members wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hoping for a Better 2022



The Good Neighbour Club

by Susan Wood



The Good Neighbour Club (GNC) is awaiting 2022, in hopes the Community Hall will open and we will be able to meet again.

***Wishing Everyone a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.***



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We Care

Update from the Marsh

by Gren Jones



NS Senior Provincial Director
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Citizen Science, Practical Advice, and the Loss of a Great Conservationist

Dear Readers,

As November draws to a close, I happened to witness a special moment in the sky over Canning. As I waited in line at the Village Meat Market, I watched flock after flock of Canada Geese arriving from their northern summer nesting grounds. At first, I thought the geese were perhaps locals, but there were too many flocks. They were definitely looking for a spot to rest and refresh on a windy day, and they all seemed to be heading to the same field in the direction of Baines Road.

The fall edition of CONSERVATOR magazine had arrived in the mail when I returned home. It's an award-winning magazine that inspires me and thousands of other Canadians who support the conservation mission of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). In an article on the migration habits of birds, I learned something special. Have you ever heard geese flying at night? How do they and other migratory species know where they are heading? In daylight, they follow the sun. However, it's safer for them to fly at night as predators are much less likely to pursue their prey in the dark. According to scientists at the Institute for Wetland & Waterfowl Research (IWWR), birds focus on the North Star and surrounding constellations. Scientists have discovered ducks and geese have tiny particles of magnetite in their nostrils that act as a compass. When the sky is overcast, they actually 'tune in' to magnetic north.

Give a Duck!

As a means of raising funds and awareness, on Giving Tuesday, November 30th, DUC invited supporters to an opportunity to learn the significance of this simple fundraiser. A study based on nesting mallards and three other species was initiated in the Prairie Pothole Region. The "ask" is for a donation of \$20.00 (or more). The results are fascinating:

- * Most ducks require 400 acres of mixed habitat, including wetlands and upland, to meet their needs during the breeding season. The 400 acres will support 22 breeding duck pairs.

- * On average, 22 pairs of ducks will produce 40 young from 11 nests, considering predation. Counting the 22 pairs, this adds up to about 84 ducks annually.

- * Over a 30-year span, that's \$80 per duck.

Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a tax receipt, and you can donate to DUC whenever! Please note that this particular research is important for understanding the breeding habits in one of North America's most important waterfowl nesting areas.

In our area, as an example, Miner's Marsh supports nesting geese and ducks on a 20-acre wetland surrounded by hundreds of acres of farmland and "upland" along the river. I believe that at least seven broods of geese, mallards, teal, and wood ducks were produced this year.

On the local scene, the wetlands are in excellent health and are very stable. Fall inspections showed wetlands with fishways, formerly called ladders, are also in good shape. These passages are important for fish that enter the wetlands for the winter. Beavers are often present and try to block the water-control structures to flood the wetlands. Habitat Manager Rob Fraser and I had to clean out a structure on a private wetland near Berwick, and it took us well over an hour. All 2,000 DUC wetlands in Atlantic Canada are inspected annually. Those with fishways must be inspected twice a year, in spring and fall. There are 160 of these in Atlantic Canada!

The End of an Era...

In our lives, we are influenced by family, friends, teachers, and other community leaders. In my case, when I entered Acadia University in 1968, I met Hugh Fair, who I was related to by marriage. When I visited his father's home, known today as the Tattingstone Inn, Hugh was working with his father. At age 93, he was the oldest practising architect in North America. Hugh and I became friends instantly. We shared a passion for the outdoors and, in the 1980s, we established the Valley Chapter of DUC. Hugh was a director, and, over time, he became my mentor as I stepped up through the ranks, from volunteer to a Nova Scotia (NS) director in 2009. Hugh was a natural teacher and humanitarian and was involved in many other organizations, including the Rotary Club and the NS Wildlife Federation.

In 2013, DUC celebrated 75 years of conservation in Canada, and every director was encouraged to raise funds and create awareness. I decided that it would be most fitting to recognize Hugh for his tremendous contribution, and I started jumping through hoops! I knew that dedications were made, across the country, for individuals who deserved recognition. When I approached the good folks who worked out of the Amherst Regional Office, they were very supportive. I had expected to raise a certain amount of money to pay for the cairn, located at the west end of the Sheffield

Update from the Marsh-con't

Mills Marsh. I asked the manager of major projects how much it would cost. Her reply really surprised me! She said, "Gren, it's going to cost \$100,000." I nearly fainted! She explained that volunteer recognition required some serious fundraising. At that time, I reached out to one of Hugh's college friends at Acadia, Mr. Arthur Irving. It wasn't long before I had numerous supporters for the project. It is located beside the fishway and is on the snowmobile / 4x4 / recreational hiking trail. You can reach it by walking or driving on the farm road off Middle Dyke Road along the field before the bridge beside the Hennigar warehouse. There is a DU sign right beside the farm road, and I highly recommend parking off the farm road and then walking to the site. It's a nice walk that might require 10 minutes—bring your binoculars and camera!

The inscription on the stone states: *Outdoorsman, Conservationist, Gentleman*. Hugh's family and I agree, along with the 100 people who turned out on that beautiful day in 2013. I will never forget what Hugh accomplished in his life, and I hope that he will continue to influence my work.

Yours in conservation,
Gren



From right to left:

Geoff Harding, Manager of Special Projects, Fredericton, NB; *John Waugh*, 1st Manager of DU in Atlantic Canada, Amherst Regional Office, NS (recently deceased); *Joseph Hickman*, QC, past Director of DU, New Minas, NS; *Hugh D. Fairm*, past Director & Director Emeritus of DU, Kentville, NS; *Arthur Irving*, Former President of DU Canada & Honorary Director, Saint John, NB; *Gren Jones*, NS Senior Provincial Director, Centreville, NS

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Story from The Family Farm

By Mack Frail



In my *Centre Post* story for September, I mentioned some of the businesses that were in Centreville. I also mentioned that Centreville was where people came to make use of the various services that were in the community. I feel that it is important to preserve historical information. I wrote "History of Centreville Kings County", realizing that more research could be done. Centreville played an important part in Cornwallis Township and Kings County. I am interested in finding out more about its history. I think of the Irish that settled here and built the first church, which was a Catholic Church. I think of the French Acadians that settled here and more information about them and their millpond. I would like to know the mystery of the community of Atlanta before it became a part of Centreville. There is more recent history that will soon be forgotten. Residential development has destroyed many of the historical properties and older homes. The generations that lived on these properties should be included as part of Centreville history. Before Centreville became a bedroom community, it was a vibrant self-sufficient community. Preserving the history of the early families is the least that can be done to remember their part in the community. Considering the challenging work and the research required, the community would benefit if volunteers would step forward and become a part of an independent historical group. Centreville history is presently centred on one family, and the remainder is either ignored or forgotten. It would be a disappointment if little concern or interest was expressed.

Phillip and Margaret Paul were upstanding and valued members of Centreville for over forty years. Both Phillip and Margaret were proud descendants of the native Mi'kmaq people. Phillip was a full-blood Mi'kmaq, and he would describe his visits to Centreville with his nomadic people. Phillip's memories of visiting Centreville begin when he was a boy, in the late 1880s. Phillips stories from his Mi'kmaq people and their annual visits establish that they had made their first visit to the area a very long time ago.

History states that the first French Acadians settled near the headwaters of the Canard and Habitant Rivers. They were attracted to meadowland that was void of trees and bush. For this reason, the French Acadians were attracted to the area that became Centreville. They left evidence of their presence that included the remains of building foundations. The drainage ditches that they dug to drain the meadowland for agriculture crops are visible. There is more evidence that provides proof of their presence in Centreville.

The Benjamin and Elizabeth Kinsman family was one of the first New England Planter families to arrive in Nova Scotia's Cornwallis Township from Massachusetts. Four of their children settled in Centreville on the original Kinsman family land grants. The Kinsman families were the largest property owners in Centreville. Names of the New England Planter grantees that had lived in Centreville are Kinsman, Eaton, Wheaton, Roscoe, Porter, Newcomb, Coldwell, Strong, Masters, North, Lowden, Brewster, and Margeson. Other early Centreville settlers that were not grantees are Bowles, Lord, Arnold, Ward, Cunningham, and Sarsfield.

The community of Centreville was a leader in agriculture, beginning from when the French Acadians farmed the lands. The Town House was built in Centreville in about 1830, where the Community Centre is now located. Its purpose was for meetings of the House of Assembly members and the public to discuss issues concerning the Cornwallis Township. In 1854, the residents of Centreville built a community hall. The building soon became an important part of the community, affectionately referred to by most people as simply 'the hall'. The hall was also used as a school from 1864 until 1920 when the new school was built. The hall had a long and interesting history of social functions, church services, concerts, political meetings, Farmers Grange meetings, and more events than I have space to mention. When the old hall was demolished on September 1, 1997, it was the end of another important part of Centreville history. The first church was built on Sherman Belcher Road in about 1857. The community has an early history of education. Its first school opened in 1824, and the last Centreville School closed in 1964.

con't next page

Family Farm—con't

From the early French Acadian times, Centreville has had a history of industry and manufacturing, including grist mills, sawmills, tanneries, blacksmiths, merchants, cooperages, and many more. In 1820, William Roscoe opened the first blacksmith shop in Centreville. There was a continuous blacksmithing service in Centreville from 1820 until Sam Ogilvie closed his shop in 1955. From about 1850 until 1900, various types of horse-drawn vehicles were manufactured in Centreville. The community has a history of barrel manufacturing. Included with the Centreville agriculture industry are the five large warehouses that were next to the railway. Apples and potatoes were packed, stored, and shipped by railway. Centreville was the junction for the North Mountain Railway. The merchant business began in Centreville about 1778 and expanded to the extent that the community became a busy shopping centre.

I could continue describing the history, progress, and importance of Centreville. It is the people that live in the community and the early residents that are deserving of the credit for Centreville's becoming an outstanding community. History should be preserved and residents properly remembered for their contributions to the community.

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas



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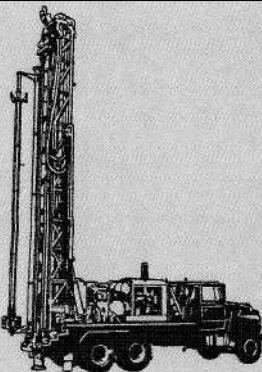
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Christmas Trivia



The Week Before Christmas

by Mary Ellen MacDuff

T'was the week before Christmas,
And all through the house
Momma was scurrying just like a mouse,
Baking the treats each one would like
Trimming the tree 'til she got it just right
Preparing the cards to deliver by post
Deciding which gift they would like most.
The shopping was done by a list she had made
Wrapping with care not to mix up the tag!
Preparing for guests who come from away,
Hoping that they will enjoy their stay.

"Did I buy this? Did I buy that?

Did I remember each one, including the cat?

Will it be right or will it be wrong?

Will it be short or will it be long?

Did I get the right size?

Will it light up their eyes?

When will we eat? What will I bake?

Will they enjoy everything that I make?"

It's all overwhelming and rushed for time

But she'll put it together and it will be fine!



Christmas Trivia Answers

1. Eggnog 2. Four 3. Macy's 4. Stink, stank, stunk
5. Ebenezer 6. Kiss 7. Eight maids a milking 8. 364
9. "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby 10. "Jingle Bells" 11. Coca-Cola, in 1931 12. Thomas Edison in 1880
13. Canada 14. The Brothers Grimm "Hansel and Gretel" 15. The first Christmas card was sent in 1843 and was designed by John Horsley. 16. Germany
17. Canada 18. 16th Century 19. Fruitcake 20. True

1. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called "milk punch"?
2. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
3. The movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on which real-life department store?
4. In the classic Christmas movie, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?
5. In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
6. What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe?
7. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
8. How many gifts in total were given in The Twelve Days of Christmas song?
9. What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
10. What popular Christmas song was actually written for the American Thanksgiving?
11. What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?
12. Who invented electric Christmas lights?
13. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
14. What fairy tale inspired gingerbread houses?
15. When was the first Christmas card sent, and who designed it?
16. Which country was the first to use the tradition of Christmas trees?
17. Which was the first country to issue a Christmas postage stamp?
18. When did the tradition of Christmas cookies begin?
19. What food has a long shelf life but many people don't like it?
20. True or false: Before turkey, the traditional English Christmas dinner included a pig's head smothered in mustard.



Remembering a Golden November

by

Sylvia Gard

*During the thin veil of October's ending and November's beginning, light floods
mountain and valley. Brilliant yellow leaves dance and shimmer
under the adoring blue skies.*

Were you enchanted? Or bewitched, perhaps?

*The golden leaves of the trembling aspen are determined to hold on a bit longer,
to not yield to their trembling. Isn't that tenacity simply amazing!*

*The field of golden squash and deeply orange pumpkins offering themselves as
feasts to the hungry, to the seekers of winter stores.*

*The young at heart waving to the exuberant feather grasses, their plumes flying
white gold though in a certain light, they become pure gold.*

*Resting under the sheltering arms of a magnificent spruce tree are two retired
Jack O'Lanterns. Their glowing smiles invite a warm response.*

*Surely you have paused by the tree bearing full moons? Russets that thrive during
the frosty nights, their firm roundnesses resplendent in the light.*

*The orderly piles of firewood, their butt ends glowing golden in the light, hinting
of the warmth they will yield to the hearth's fire.*

*Surely, surely, you have passed by the willow tree, its leaves like golden feathers
floating across the grassy path as if to prepare a way for you?*

*Oh, not to forget the layers and layers of oak leaves, quilts of peaks and valleys.
Come now. Rest. For the winter is nigh.*

May comfort and protection be with you the whole winter through.

*Be sure to gather some of those red berries that can be found along roadways and
gardens. The berries will sustain you during the darker nights
and the crystalline snow days that are sure to come.*

Community Organizations

Centreville Hall Rental is not available as of this writing. Most meetings are cancelled until further notice. Contacts are provided for several groups and organizations and may be able to provide additional information.

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.

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.

'50-Plus' Club

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



TOPS

TOPS meets at the Centreville Baptist Church, Murray Drive, on **Monday evenings at 6 pm**. We are open to new members at the cost of **\$48.00 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 contacts.**

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.

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

Where: Zoom

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 —
Contact Nigel Butterfield at 902-989-1053
or email nigel@cbckc.ca for the link to the meeting.

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