

THE CENTRE POST

Issue 69, December 2022

Next issue: March 2023
Submissions due: March 1, 2023

We'll Miss You!

by Gail Salmon

***"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night
stays these couriers
from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."***

And our postmaster worked through the scary threat of COVID for two years and made sure we received our bills, cheques, and letters.

Mary Ellen MacDuff started working at our post office in 1992, helping Postmaster Susan Jollimore. In 2006, Mary Ellen became acting postmaster until October 2009, when her position became permanent. In October, she decided to retire after 30 years of service. Mary Ellen says, "I loved working at the post office and looking after all my peeps." She also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming newcomers to the community and informing them of all Centreville has to offer its residents. Working alone in the building allowed her to meet and get to know all the customers. She certainly brought sunshine to many people, which I noticed many times when I picked up my mail. She always had a smile and a "hello."

We are so lucky to have our own post office here in Centreville and such wonderful postmasters who make sure we receive our mail and are helpful in mailing letters and parcels, especially with the Christmas Season upon us.

We have had a few new faces filling in from time to time. Betty Harper is a familiar face. Betty worked as a casual part-time postal worker with Susan Jollimore in 1999. She worked in the Centreville and Canning Post Offices until 2013 when she was hired by the Port Williams Post Office as a permanent part-time employee. Betty is now the postmaster at the Centreville Post Office and has Jeanne Sheffield as a part-time employee. She has lived in Centreville in the subdivision behind the post office for 36 years, so snowstorms will not be a problem. Please feel free to join me in congratulating Betty on her new position.

Our post office has fundraisers throughout the year. Mary Ellen believes residents should know that the money donated is given back to the community. Read about the recent donation further along in this issue..



Local Area Supervisor for Canada Post, John Gumbley, is shown presenting Mary Ellen with a pin and a plaque in recognition of her 30 years of service.



***May your retirement be everything you hope it will be.
Thank you for your many years of service to the
community as our postmaster and as an
extraordinary volunteer. You will be missed.***

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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Centreville Hall Rental

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902-678-0041
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Editor's Note

As most of you likely know by now, Mary Ellen has retired as our postmaster. Not only did she look after all our postal needs, some of you may not be aware of some of the other jobs she did: organizing the Annual Pig Roast of years ago, the CDCDA's main fundraiser; the Annual Fuel Supper to heat the Community Hall, and the Good Neighbour Club's Big Breakfasts. She had many loyal helpers over the years but thanks, Mary Ellen, for all you've done for our community.

Welcome to Betty Harper, our new postmaster.

With the easing of COVID restrictions, there has been some return to a sense of normalcy. The Community Hall is open for bookings, and some groups have resumed meetings. Unfortunately, an increase in cases and a rampant 'flu season are raising concerns again for some. I'm sure we're all good neighbours and respect each individual's choices regarding masks and other personal protection measures.

Speaking of safety, you'll read about a new AED that is located in the park. As not everyone reads this newsletter, please spread the word: it could save someone's life.

Thanks to our contributors and advertisers, who continue to make this newsletter possible.

Anne-Marie

Note: *Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity.*

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In case of emergency,
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(AEDs)
are located inside the main
entrances of the
Centreville Community Hall
and **Centreville Baptist Church**
and attached to the side of the
Centreville Park Building

Seeing Royalty

by Dave Ward

My mother, a staunch royalist, was born in London in 1893. I was born in Moncton in 1936. My first brush with the Royals was just three years later, in 1939, when King George and Queen Elizabeth, the late Queen's parents, toured Canada by train. While I don't remember actually seeing the Royal couple at the train station in Moncton, I do remember the flags and the crowds of people and my mother saying they were there to see the King and Queen.

Fast forward to 1951, when then Princess Elizabeth and her husband, Philip, toured Canada. I had a clear view of them leaving the Moncton train station in a Lincoln coupe with a plastic bubble top.

From 1950 to 1954, I had a daily paper route in the Town of Sunny Brae, now part of Moncton. One day in 1952, my bundle of papers was very late in arriving because a new headline for the front page had to be printed. When my papers arrived, the ink was still damp on the big headline: **THE KING IS DEAD!** That sad news turned my fingers black as I delivered the papers. Now we had a new Queen, the princess I had seen only one year earlier.

In the early '60s, I saw the Queen and Philip when they visited Charlottetown in the Royal Yacht Britannia. Then in 1978, we were living in Edmonton when the Commonwealth Games were hosted there, officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II. Five years later, Edmonton hosted the 1983

Summer Universiade, opened by Prince Charles, who was accompanied by Princess Diana. My family and I were there to see them. Sometime in the 1980s, the then Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth's mother and Prince Charles's grandmother, was on tour of a number of Canadian cities, including Edmonton. I was curbside as her car passed by.

As it happened, the military doctor attending the Queen Mother on her tour had completed his studies in internal medicine a few years earlier at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and lived in the same community we did. Meeting him and his wife at White Point Lodge at Christmas a number of years ago, my wife and I had a great time recalling our Edmonton days, and he told us of the time spent with our late Queen's mother.

On top of all these fleeting glimpses of the Royals in person, I faithfully watched Queen Elizabeth II's annual Christmas message. My daughter remembers that being a special family Christmas tradition. We would always watch to the end, when the Queen would invariably give a small smile at the end of her carefully scripted message.

*This, of course,
will be the first Christmas
we don't see that smile.*



Blueberry Oatmeal Breakfast Cake

Margie Brown, My Country Magic



1-1/3 cups flour
3/4 cup quick-cooking oats
1/3 cup sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoons salt
3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 egg
1 cup frozen blueberries
(should be firmly frozen when used in baking)

- * Preheat oven to 400°F.
- * Grease an 8-inch round baking pan; set aside.
- * In a medium mixing bowl combine flour, oats, sugar, baking powder and salt.
- * In a 1-cup measure stir milk, oil, and egg; pour all at once into flour mixture. Stir just until moistened (batter will be lumpy).
- * Fold in blueberries; spoon batter into prepared pan.
- * Bake until cake is golden and pulls away from sides of pan, 20 to 25 minutes.

Cool on a rack, 5 to 10 minutes; serve warm.

Want a little extra spoiling? Warm some milk with a bit of sugar and cinnamon; pour over slice just before serving.



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Centreville 50-Plus Club "Friends Enjoying Friends"

Submitted by **Darrell E. Spurr**,

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy, Healthy, & Prosperous New Year
from the Centreville 50-Plus Club

We will be starting our new year on January 4, 2023.

Community members and area residents are all welcome. Come and check us out!! We meet **every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00** at the Centreville Hall.



Good Neighbour Club

Submitted by
Susan Wood



The Good Neighbour Club (GNC) has been in operation for 75 years, as Gail Salmon wrote in her news report in the last *Centre Post*. Some GNC members have made an ornament to give each member for Christmas to commemorate the anniversary.



We continue to support the community, and we are hoping to have "The Big Breakfast" start again in February. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the club's undertakings or join the GNC, please call:

Susan: 902-678-3266, Ann: 902-678-4472,
Liz: 902-681-2010, or Heather: 902-582-1399

The Good Neighbour Club meets on the **third Thursday of the month** at the Community Hall at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is on January 19, 2023.

All women are welcome.



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Story from the Family Farm

By Mack Frail

As I write it is the tenth day of November. Tomorrow, my wife Sheila and I will be taking in events that mark Remembrance Day. The presence and being near military members in uniform revives certain memories. I grew up with four older brothers who were members of the Canadian Armed Forces. I was ten years old when World War Two ended, and memories of those years remain with me.

My long-term memory is good, and I remember many things beginning before I commenced school at age five. During the 1930s, my father, Wallace, was postmaster in the old post office on Centreville corner. In those days, the way of life for most residents of the area was connected to the family farm or forestry. Centreville was a busy community with a very active merchant business located on Centreville corner. There were several cooperages where barrels were made and five large warehouses located near the railroad station, where apples and potatoes were packed and stored for shipments by rail. The rotary sawmill located on the north side of Lydiard Road (previously Mill Road) provided employment for a lot of men. With about one-third of the population that it presently has, Centreville was a progressive, active community.

When my father was postmaster, I was the youngest of seven children. When my mother helped, I was taken to the post office to be cared for. A lot of my early memories are connected to the old Centreville Post Office. I remember the people who came there. Many were seniors when I was a young child, but I have memories of them. During the early days, the postal service was of more importance to the public. I am not mentioning all that the post office provided during those early days, but for many, it was their connection to the outside. When my father was postmaster, he provided services that were not required of him. There were those with little education who owned and managed large

farming operations. They purchased money orders and used their receipts to keep accounts of their payments to their creditors. My father was expected to help them with their system of bookkeeping. As a young boy I was excited when day-old chicks arrived at the post office. They were shipped to farmers on the train from hatcheries.

During the years of World War Two, there were a lot of military personnel in Kentville and surrounding communities. Most were army soldiers who were stationed at Aldershot Military Camp. I recall going to Kentville on the train with my mother, and the large numbers of the military, especially when the train stopped at Aldershot Station. Soldiers were the majority, but it was not unusual for air force and navy members to be seen walking the streets in Kentville.

History records that residents of Centreville served in wars that were fought a long time ago. The Honour Roll on the wall of the Centreville Baptist Church lists names of those from Centreville who served in World War Two. I knew all of those mentioned: Patrick Barlow, Margaret Desborough, Alexander Fillmore, Frank Fillmore, Richard Fillmore, Donald Foley, John Frail, Ronald Frail, Ainley Hiscoe, Roland Hiscoe, Willis Keizer, Major Kennickle, Alfred Burgess, Winnie Kinsman, John Kynock, Lawrence Langille, Joseph Lockhart, Ernest Margeson, Garnet Neville, Laurie Neville, Carl Ogilvie, Lester Pineo, Albert Porter, Clifford Porter, Harold Porter, Dean Rogers, Wallis Simpson, Gordon Spinney, Fred Veinott, Jack Veinott, Robert Ward, and George West. Joseph Lockhart was killed in action and is mentioned as paying the supreme sacrifice for his country. Joseph Lockhart's father, Joseph Senior, received wounds from German bullets during World War One. Earl Eaton was a regular visitor to our home before television when radio was our source of entertainment. Earl suffered from the effects of the gas that the Germans used on their enemies.

As a young boy, I remember Captain Harold Wall, who visited our home. He was a British Army captain and fought in the Boer War (October 1, 1899, to May 3, 1902). He was taken prisoner by the Boers and suffered

con't from previous page

from the effects of the injuries they inflicted when he was their prisoner. Captain Cyril Collard also served in the British Army. He was a veteran of World War One. He lived in the last house at the base of Centreville Mountain. Captain Wall and Captain Collard were bachelors and gentlemen farmers. My father, Wallace Frail, was a veteran of World War One. He served in battles fought in France, that include the front lines at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It was when fighting in different battles that he was wounded by German bullets in his hip and in his shoulder. A close call was when shrapnel went through his right ear. He suffered the effects of shell shock. I am the only one of his five sons who did not enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Besides having acquaintance with those mentioned on the Centreville Honour Roll, I include the following names of those who served in World War Two and settled in Centreville. They are: Lieutenant Colonel Went Roscoe, his son Lieutenant Colonel Barry Roscoe, Commander Bredin Delap, who served in the British Royal Navy, Lieutenant Ronald Hockley, Flight Lieutenant George Frail, and Dan MacDonald. I have not included the many names of those from Centreville who have served their country during peacetime.

Since the population of Centreville has rapidly increased, from less than 500 to close to 2000, it is more difficult to keep a history of families living in the community. The large increase in population has contributed to Centreville's becoming a bedroom community. Becoming aware of early local residents who have served in wars long ago gives me a feeling of pride for the community I grew up in and am acquainted with. I am aware of those who settled here after fighting for Britain during the American Revolution, from April 19, 1775, to September 3, 1783. Included among those brave men were the United Empire Loyalists and New England Planters. Also among the brave men are those who served in the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, which was fought in North America.

I have read that at least 100 men from Nova Scotia served in the American Civil War, from April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865. I know of three men who served and had connections to Centreville: two were Kinsmans, and one was married to a Kinsman. William Martin Kinsman was born in the Kinsman home, located at the end of the long lane below the first hill on Highway 221 East. He was born on April 2, 1839, and died in Centreville in 1881. William's health was affected by the terrible conditions during the battles of the American Civil War. Returning to Centreville, he began farming, but his health failed, and he died at age forty-two. His son wrote a lovely poem about his passing.

One of the most admired heroes of the American Civil War was a cousin of William Martin Kinsman. He is mentioned as being born in Cornwallis Township before names of separate communities were in common use. His name was William Henry Kinsman, born on July 11, 1832. He was known as Will Kinsman. During the American Civil War, he was promoted to colonel and in command of the Iowa Volunteers. Will was killed in action on May 17, 1863, while leading his regiment in the Battle of Black River Bayou. His remains were located where they were buried on the battlefield, and reburied in Fairview Cemetery, Council Bluff, Iowa. A very large, impressive monument was built in honour of his bravery. Additional information concerning Will H. Kinsman is available online. Annie Olivia Kinsman, born in Centreville in 1846, was William Martin Kinsman's sister. Annie's husband, Watson Porter, served in the American Civil War as a medical aide. Space does not allow mentioning others who have been outstanding and who had connections to Centreville.

***Sheila and I wish a
Merry Christmas
to all.***



**Congratulations
to the
Charles Macdonald
Concrete House Museum**

Anyone who drives through Centreville regularly can't help but notice all the activity at the Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum. We at the newsletter—and probably some of our readers, too—were wondering what was going on. Suzanne, the Centre Post Lady, visited their website, and this is what she found.

www.concretehouse.ca

Phase 1 of our three-part restoration begins in October 2022. This fall we will complete the most important part of the restoration of the Concrete House by repairing and replacing the entire ceiling, roof, and drainage system. Years of water leaks have rapidly deteriorated the Concrete House and this fall we put an end to this on going problem. Thank you to all of our government partners and donors.



PHASE 1 BUDGET \$200,00
Canada Cultural Spaces \$75,000
2021 and 2022 Kings County Vision Grant \$38,000
Community In Kind Help \$35,000
2020 Kings County Vision Grant \$10,400
Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, & Heritage \$10,000
Charles Macdonald House contribution \$10,000
Proceeds from the sale of John Neville Painting \$8,000
Membership and Private donations \$6300
100 Who Care Giving Group \$5600
Labour of Love Raffle \$1900

Stay tuned for Phase 2!



*The Charles Macdonald Concrete House
is surrounded with staging. A.M. Waterbury photo*




Working on the roof. M. Sheffield photo




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News from the Nova Scotia Legislature



Hon. John A. Lohr
MLA Kings North

Phone: 902-365-3420
Email: johnlohrmla@gmail.com



As I reflect on the year 2022, I am in wonder of the growing changes in our area and the challenges that face us in the year ahead.

As your MLA, I continue to seek local improvements, and I am happy to report that over 5 km of Highway 359 will be resurfaced next year. This should make the path to Kentville much smoother. The current state of the road has been of great concern to me and was the topic of many discussions with highway officials over the last few years. Ongoing water issues in the area continue to be another topic of discussion with local and provincial officials. These need to be addressed before a long-term plan for Highway 221 can move forward.

We had very few effects from Hurricane Fiona compared to many areas of the province. My role as Minister of the Emergency Management Office (EMO) has kept me busier than expected this fall because of Fiona. My continuing message in this role is: *be prepared, with at least 72 hours of supplies, in the event of a storm.* Let's hope we don't see a major event again anytime soon.

As another busy year passes and we think of those who will not be with us this Christmas, take solace in the memories and gifts of time and talents in days past. We have much to be grateful for in this part of the country. The harvest was bountiful, and the summer and fall were superb. It is now time to prepare for the shorter days and rest in the coolness of longer evenings indoors.

My wish for each of you is health and happiness in the days ahead. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas, and may 2023 find us in touch to continue to make our communities warm, welcoming, and a great place to live.

Thanks,
John Lohr


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Update from the Marsh

by Gren Jones

*NS Senior Provincial Director
Ducks Unlimited Canada*

Wallace Bay National Wildlife Area and the Impact of Fiona

I spent last week in the Malagash area near Tatamagouche. Most people would recognize Fox Harbour Golf Resort and the Jost Winery, but what you may not know is that this part of Cumberland County is a haven for migratory birds, especially waterfowl. My friends from the South Shore and I spent four nights in an Air BNB near "Tata." Travelling from Truro, we crossed Nuttby Mountain and witnessed the tremendous destruction in the woodlands. Hurricane Fiona didn't take survivors! As we arrived at our accommodations, we drove through an area where shoreline cottages suffered tremendous losses. Most of them were heavily damaged. We saw homes and farms that also had damage. It was very sad to witness what looked like a war zone.

On Monday, my hunting partner, Sherm, my lab Sal, and I went hunting on a salt marsh. There was a strong NW wind and a clear sky. The tide was high, with lots of slush ice along the shore. Black ducks, Canada geese, and teal were everywhere except near our blind. After a few hours in the cold, we decided to drive to the Wallace Bay aboiteau. I knew that our DUC engineer and project manager, Rob Fraser, was doing a major renovation.

This National Wildlife Area is located between Pugwash and Wallace, at the upper limit of Wallace Harbour. It is 783 hectares in size and consists of marine and freshwater wetlands, forested uplands, and fields. There are a lot of pasturelands and tidal wetlands where indigenous peoples harvest sweetgrass and wild rice.

The aboiteau road, which crosses the Wallace River, divides the river from the bay. Years ago, lands drained for agricultural use were not very sustainable. DUC was brought into a partnership to create buffer zones that still exist today.

What are the benefits of protecting this area? Nearly 200 bird species use this beautiful area to nest and stage during migration. For those who travel on two feet, there are several excellent hiking trails, two boat launches, and lots of recreational activities, including fishing and hunting.

For additional information: Canadian Wildlife Service, 17 Waterfowl Lane, Sackville, NB E4L 4N1

National Recognition from Canadian Parks and Wilderness

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and responsible for Parks Canada, commemorated the national historic significance of Ducks Unlimited Canada. On October 5/22, a special ceremony was held to unveil a plaque at Oak Hammock Marsh in Stonewall, Manitoba, where National Headquarters are located. The ceremony was attended by DUC staff, members of the Board of Directors, students, teachers and local residents.



Unveiling in Manitoba, where it all began 84 years ago.

KCA Elementary Students' Project

KCA Science Studies: On the local scene, I was invited to join three teachers who are working with their Grade 7 students to learn the science of wetlands and invasive plant species. On a very gusty November morning, 99 students, teachers, and I went to Miner's Marsh. I was invited by my neighbour, Tracy Webb, who teaches at Northeast Kings Education Centre (NKEC). The students were appreciative and enthusiastic.

Following a brief talk about Miner's Marsh and how it was restored about 15 years ago, they moved about the marsh in teams. Their mission was to see what the vegetation was like in the fall. They will return in the spring to compare notes. I hope Centreville resident Kristen Noel, who manages the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council, will accompany the group to identify plants harmful to wildlife habitats.

Along with Tracy, I would like to thank Sheila Parsons, Danielle LeBlanc, and their students for their commitment to the science of wetlands.

con't next page

Update from the Marsh-con't from previous page

Wallace Bay Aboiteau Rebuild



After a two-year hiatus, the annual Atlantic Experience was held in Beaubassin/Aulac, New Brunswick. Ducks Unlimited Inc. supporters from the Atlantic Flyway attend for three days and nights to see work being done in the region. This year was a great success: Everyone renewed their pledge to Atlantic Canada, which contributed funding for our Conservation projects. For example, the aboiteau rebuild at Wallace Bay will cost about \$800,000.

*In closing, I wish everyone a peaceful
Etawey Wli-Newelewin/
Joyeux Noël/
Merry Christmas!*

Yours in conservation,
Gren
Contact: gc_jones@yahoo.ca



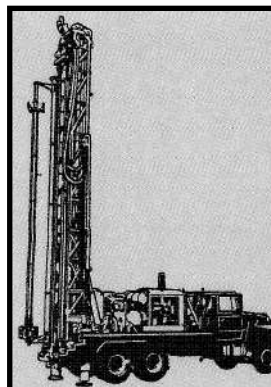
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**Centreville District Park and
Recreation Association
(CDPRA)**

Submitted by Joy Acker, Secretary

Our Annual General Meeting was held on November 15th, and Bruce Wood was elected president. Welcome aboard! Our heartfelt thanks go to our Past-President, George Graves, for his many volunteer hours and years of faithful and dedicated work at the park.



President Park Bruce Wood and Treasurer Neil Prince present George Graves with a plaque of appreciation from the CDPRA Board of Directors.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a grant from Canada Post to purchase an AED/Defibrillator, which has been installed on the side of the park building. A demonstration was held on November 14th by Roger Owen, who gave us the necessary information on how to use it. It is accessible 24/7 and is heated, so it will also be available throughout the winter. Security cameras have been installed on the park building, and the AED/Defibrillator is alarmed. It is also registered on the AED map for Nova Scotia so 911 can direct people to it if an emergency should present itself.



We also received grants from NS Chicken Growers, WestFor Communications, and the Municipality of Kings to purchase and install a Bike Fix-It Station. Many residents have already used this to pump up tires and adjust their bikes. In the spring, we will be installing 2-3 bike racks for children and adults alike to stand up their bikes when they come to the park.

Three plasma cars were purchased this year. When volunteers are on site, these will be put out on the tennis court for children from 3 to 7 years of age.

We are upgrading the #4 ballfield's playing surface and the pathway to the gazebo area. Graffiti was noted on the picnic tables in that area, so they have been sanded down and refinished.

The garbage boxes and pet-dropping receptacles will be closed for the winter once the snow comes on a regular basis. Please take your garbage and pet droppings home during the winter months. Thank you.

The play box in the tennis court has been taken back to the Municipality of Kings for the winter months. It will be restocked with new gear and returned in the spring.

Snowshoes will be available to borrow once we get a good covering of snow: Message us on Facebook or call 902-679-1133 to arrange for pickup.

We have many fallen branches along the trails and will be holding a few cleanup days/nights in the spring. Keep a watch on Facebook for dates and times!

We LOVE new VOLUNTEERS, so just show up at a meeting or send your email address to:

centrevilleparkrecreation@gmail.com

We will add your name to the list for meetings and park volunteer events – no obligation, just come when you can. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We meet at the Centreville Hall during the winter and at the park building during the warmer months.



Canada Post Community Foundation Grant **submitted by Joy Acker**

Each year, Canada Post designs and puts out a community-minded stamp. The proceeds from the sale of that particular stamp go to fund the Canada Post Community Foundation Grants. Canada Post is proud to help organizations and projects that make a difference in the lives of Canadian children and youth. Through the generosity of its customers, the Canada Post Community Foundation can fund programs in communities across the country every year.

In the spring of 2022, Centreville Park applied for a grant through the program to purchase an AED/Defibrillator. They were fortunate to be approved and received a cheque for \$3661.60 in October 2022 at a presentation ceremony at the Centreville Post Office.

The AED is a Lifepak CR2 USB fully automatic Outdoor AED. Thank you to Blake Orman, who installed it, free of charge, on the outside of the park building. This will provide park users and residents with peace of mind knowing that, if an emergency arises, we are equipped with a life-saving device accessible 24/7.



Centreville Park is thrilled to have received the support of the Canada Post Community Foundation. We are confident the AED will be a welcome addition to our park.



Canada Post and Park Representatives, left to right: Local Area Supervisor for Canada Post John Gumbley, Suzanne Trudeau, Marg Kaizer, George Graves, Bruce Wood, Joy Acker, Mary Ellen MacDuff, Mike Foote.

Turner's Handyman



&



Snow Removal

Eric Turner

1007 Marie Cres.
Kentville NS B4N 4K4
902-670-3759

eric_turner39@hotmail.com
www.nslocal.ca/turnershandyman

Submitted by

Pastor Carol Anne Janzen



At Centreville Baptist Church, we've had a busy fall season as we restarted a number of our pre-pandemic programs, services, and special events. We've found that people are anxious to reconnect, and we've worked to make that happen. However, we're also very mindful of the fact that flu, cold, and COVID viruses are circulating and try our best to function with sensible health practices in mind.

We began the Advent season on Sunday, November 27th, with a beautiful **Hanging of the Greens** service as we decorated our sanctuary to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. Each Sunday through December will include special musical selections, traditional carols, and the lighting of the Advent

Wreath candles. The Christmas season doesn't end until January 6th, so the Magi and their camels won't arrive at the manger until then!

A service for all ages will be held on **Christmas Eve** at 6:00 pm to celebrate the arrival of the Christ-Child—Emmanuel, God-with-us. Candlelight, music, and the telling of the Story will mark this holy night. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We'll celebrate at 10:30 am on Sunday, **Christmas Day**, as we give thanks for God's greatest gift to humankind. This shortened but joyful and relaxed service will be 'come as you are'—children are welcome to bring a favourite present for show-and-tell!

The family of Centreville Baptist is conscious of the needs of the local community as well as the global community. Some of our **caring ministries** include the Christmas Hamper program overseen by the Canning and Area Inter-Church Council, the breakfast program at Glooscap Elementary School, and individual benevolent aid. To help support the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon, people are invited to add a white-and-gold ornament, with a donation made in honour or memory of a loved one, to our Christmas tree. You're invited to drop in and see the beautiful tree that graces the sanctuary.

Our **After School Program for Grades P—5** will hold its final session on December 1st with a pizza party for children, parents, siblings, and leaders. A new session will begin on January 19, 2023, 2:30—5:00 pm; activities include gym time, science/craft activities, homework help, storytime, and snacks. To register, call 902-678-1946, or email nigel@cbckc.ca.

Centreville Baptist Church wishes everyone in the Centreville community a blessed, joyful, and safe Christmas season and a New Year of peace and security. In a world that seems dark and dangerous, we offer these words from the Gospel of John:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

May that Light illuminate our world in 2023.



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softly ring the bells of winter

Sylvia Gard

*running, twirling, chasing snowflakes
as if to catch every single one*

*catching snowflakes with her tongue, laughing
the snowflakes laugh and dance with her
swirling into a new dance move, then
pausing*

*more snowflakes cluster about
this lover of the fresh and newly arrived
this visionary seeing already through the fluff of flakes
snow-people hatted and buttoned up, snowballs and forts*

O, I am so glad you have come, she breathes

*snowflakes drifting slowly around her, she turns
as if to check - who else sees the magic here?
this lover, keeper of magic, sparkles and laughter
is undaunted by cold snow or the ashes of fires gone cold*

*what do we do when the fire in the hearth goes out?
doesn't take a lot of magic to start a fire
that licks and warms the caverns of the hearth*

but what, we ask, if the inner fire goes out, cooling that warmth and vitality?

*the lover says:
wrap yourself in dark clothing, go out into the cold white snow and wait
at the edge of the forest for the red fox
be still stay alert
eventually, even as you grow colder, a red fox
slips from the forest's edge into the expanse of white before you
fox's dainty black feet bounding to a low mound
turning to sit facing you
not far away at all*

*So soften your eyes. Let a smile begin wayyyy down in the bottom of your belly.
Feel it grow ever so slowly, up your belly, through your heart, through your throat and into your eyes.
Show yourself to the fox. Feel your chest warm while this red fox is observing you.
This perfectness, this beauty, this lustrous fur. This a-live-ness.*

*Thank you, your eyes whisper.
Thank you for showing me you.
Thank you for seeing me.
I am here now. Warm. Like you.*

May warmth, joy and laughter find each and every being this winter season!

Community Groups



In case of emergency, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are located inside the main entrances of the **Centreville Community Hall** and **Centreville Baptist Church** and attached to the side of the **Centreville Park Building**

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 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.

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 Hall

When: **Fourth Thursday** of the month

Time: 7:00 pm

Exceptions: June, July, August and December by notification

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

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

'50-Plus' Club

The '50-Plus' Club meets at the Centreville Hall **every Wednesday, 1:30 - 4:00 pm**, except in July and August.

Meetings will resume in September.



Centreville District Park and Recreation Association

The Centreville District Park & Recreation Association meets the **third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm** at Centreville Hall. **Please note the change in meeting day.** Anyone interested in becoming involved or wishing to share ideas or concerns is welcome. Reach out to us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/Centreville-Park-441549315950211>