

THE CENTRE POST

June 2021, Issue 63

Next issue September 2021
Submissions due September 1, 2021

Ametora Supply *by Gail Salmon*

The old Ward's Store has new occupants. Ametora Supply opened its doors the first week of April. I was able to go into the store then, pre-COVID-19 lockdown, to have a look. I was greeted by Alex and Margaret Pearson, the owners, who were still sorting clothing and setting up. Alex explained they took the name **Ametora** from a Japanese term meaning American Traditional. The Japanese love American fashion and this term describes a trend that mimics styles from the 1960s and beyond. W. David Marx wrote a book on the fashion styles, saying that if America disappeared, their fashion would live on in Japan.

Alex and Margaret moved to Lunenburg in 2017 and opened Ametora Supply in 2018. When Covid hit last year, the store was required to close. Small businesses have suffered through the Covid lockdowns. Alex and Margaret saw Ward's store was for rent; it was perfect for their vintage store, and they jumped at the chance to move to the Valley. They have recently found a place to live in Canning.

My daughter looked through the \$5 trunk and found a couple of items for herself. She bought me a Ralph Lauren cotton paisley-print t-shirt and a long blue vest made from the softest wood-fibre material. (yes, 'wood': made from cellulose.) They fit well and, as she says in a way only a millennial would, "They look styling". Unfortunately, while the shutdown was in effect, I could only look through the windows at all the unique, interesting, and vintage stock.



Before COVID-19, Alex and Margaret drove to Ontario and Montreal to purchase clothing and are looking forward to a time when they can make another trip. Alex has been buying and selling clothing for several years and has an eye for good-quality, vintage clothing made in Canada and the United States. He told me he was a 'denim whisperer' and could fit anyone in 'perfect fit' jeans. The store considers clothes as non-gender and inclusive, in sizes from extra small to XXXL. Alex likes to find out what his customers are looking for, is glad to help, and encourages them to look around the store.



Besides clothes, Ametora has vintage jewellery, hats, and footwear. I was looking at the collectables, knickknacks and all sorts of interesting pieces that sparked memories. "All those are conversation starters," says Alex. So is the beautiful Beauce pottery, which shares its own amazing story and is unique and magical.

con'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.

For submissions, contact:

Suzanne Trudeau, Lead Editor
902-678-7769

E-mail: centrepostlady@hotmail.com

To place an advertisement, contact:

Geof Turner
902-300-0947

geofturner2020@gmail.com

Editor's Note

As Joni Mitchell wrote, "...the seasons, they go round and round". Here we are, summer again—though its arrival has seemed to be more erratic than on a specific date on the calendar. And although it's hard for some not to look behind and wish we could go back to the way things were, it may not be too far off...

In our last issue, we introduced and welcomed two new businesses to the community. This issue, we introduce two more, and also the new owner of a well-established B & B. Centreville seems to be booming!! Gail Salmon, our roving reporter has once again done a great job of telling us all about what's new. Welcome to the community, and we wish you every success.

Speaking of the business community, thank you to our loyal supporters who continue to advertise with us. They cover the printing costs of this newsletter, allowing us to distribute it at no cost to readers.

As always, a thanks to our talented contributors who make this newsletter possible - we appreciate your submissions and support more than you'll ever know! NB: Several of the articles were written while the lockdown was still in effect, so may not reflect current restrictions. As I'm sure you all know, it can be difficult to keep current with the changes...

Here's hoping for better times ahead,
Anne-Marie

What's Inside...

Ametora Supply Gail Salmon.....	1,3
From the Editor.....	2
Flrst Light Sylvia Gard.....	3
Fox Brae Wind Chime Company Gail Salmon.....	4,5
Welcome to COVID-19...Amy McCormick, RMT.....	6
Community News: Park, 50+-Club, Thank You.....	7
News from the Legislature John Lohr MLA.....	8
News from the Municipality Lexi Burgess Misner.....	9
Recipe from Country Magic Margie Brown.....	10
Delft Haus B&B Gail Salmon.....	11
Story from the Family Farm Mack Frail.....	12,13
Hello Centreville! Nigel Butterfield.....	14
Charles Macdonald MuseumTerry Drahos.....	15
Update from the Marsh Gren Jones.....	16,17
Ode to Conglomerates Gail Salmon.....	18
Community Organizations	19

Website: www.centreville-kings-county.com

Email: info@centreville-kings-county.com

Centre Post Staff:

Suzanne Trudeau - Lead Editor
Anne-Marie Waterbury - Editor
Geof Turner - Advertising
Madeline Sheffield - Distribution
Gail Salmon - Roving Reporter



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Ametora - con't from pg 1

The Ametora clothes have their own sense of comfort and style. As Alex says, when you wear clothes that make you feel awesome, you will look awesome. He told the story of a man who came into the store and gave him a jacket because it did not fit anymore. The man said that he'd had the jacket for years, and it carried the stories of children, family, and love. Many pieces of clothing and objects in the store have a unique story he is willing to share.

Though the lockdown had temporarily closed the store, restrictions have eased recently. At least for now, anyway, they can reopen. Alex and Margaret look forward to meeting their new community members as they wander around Ametora. The clothing and other things will spark memories, and they will find treasures of their own. I am sure Alex and Margaret's Lunenburg clients will be anxious to visit their new store, too, and reconnect with them.

Alex and Margaret would like to thank Kim and Kaylee, their landlords, who have shown them kindness and compassion during the pandemic. We welcome this new business to our community and wish them every success.

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First light

*It's early
night lingers at the edges.*

*Sun slides across the unfurling land
slipping into leaves
barely out of their bud-wombs.*

Little leaves filling with light

*Little leaves becoming
little leaves becoming
beings infused with light
remembering who they are.*



*Tis but a few moments tethered to mother
tree*

*a tender heart smiles these little beings
while an eye-hand holds the newborns
close to the cheek.*

A tear slides over the uneven skin.

*Tomorrow
when the sun comes exploring
it may find these leafy beings
grown stronger and larger
dancing in joy
dancing the why of being here.*

*Today
today I linger
today I linger in the first light.*

Sylvia Gard

**Old Centreville Dodge Building
Attracts Another New Business**



by Gail Salmon

Wind chimes are thought to be good luck in parts of Asia and are used in Feng Shui, a practice of placing pieces in spaces in such a way as to create balance in the natural world. The Romans believed wind chimes would ward off malevolent spirits and bring good luck. And, we have the luck of Fox Brae Wind Chime Company's setting up its business in the south bay of the Centreville Dodge building.



The Fox Brae Wind Chime Company is a third-generation, twenty-five-year-old family business that Chris purchased from his dad in 2016. The company has grown since then. Chris says his sons helped upgrade the website for online ordering, which substantially increased sales. People from all across Canada, every state in the USA, and countries throughout the world order their chimes.

Though the COVID-19 shutdown had prevented them from opening to the public, they will have their storefront refurbished and running soon, and their hours will be posted. You can go to the website and order online now.

I was able to peek at the chime manufacturing area. Chris stated that, though the space they have is much smaller than the footage in their Falmouth operation, they have made the construction and creative areas efficient. The chimes are of high quality: they are hand-made with precision engineering, from the cutting of the wood into specific lengths to the tone and sound of the chimes.



Gail Salmon photos

Chris Fleming, his wife and co-owner Heather, and their sons Luke and Will are in the midst of getting organized. It has taken them some time to move their business from Falmouth, Nova Scotia, to Centreville, but they are ready for production.

The wind chimes are made from Canadian raw materials: the high-quality pine is hand-picked and comes from Windsor, Nova Scotia, they use braided stainless steel wire purchased from Quebec, and the rods and tubing are heavy-gauge recycled

aluminium. The environmentally friendly stain is from Ben-Mor and made from natural ingredients: sustainable resins and gums that give long-lasting protection. Each piece has two coats. Some customers still marvel at how lovely their chimes look, even after years of hanging outdoors.

The 'wind catcher' comes in two shapes, a circle or oval. They can be engraved to commemorate any event, including corporate and memorial, or with personal sentiments. Shawna Porter, of Porter's Custom Trophy and Engraving in Kentville, does the engraving. They make excellent housewarming, anniversary, and birthday gifts. Fox Brae is the only Canadian company to handmade personalized chimes with all these custom extras. They also make forged and fired wall mounts to hang your chimes and have been selling wind chimes and hangers to Wheaton's stores for over fifteen years.

All wind chime tubes come in two colours, have individually hand-tuned melodic, pentatonic tuning, and are rustproof. The tubes and rods are precision cut and hand-rubbed, and the wood is cut, sanded, and finished by hand.

There are five different chime sizes, nine stain colours, six different sounds, and 108 variations. Their website lets you listen to the different chimes and displays the colour options and styles. You can

go on their website and order now or wait until their store opens. www.FoxBraeWindchimes.com

Chris and Heather have purchased a home in the Valley and an RV; they hope to retire and do some travelling once the pandemic is over. Luke and Will manage the company, and their parents will offer them guidance and support when necessary. Luke and Will have all the skills to carry on the business of making beautiful, well-crafted wind chimes, "Assembled by Hand, Made with Heart" with "Old Fashioned Hand-Made Canadian Quality".



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Welcome to COVID-19, Round Three ***Amy McCormick RMT, Valley Massage Therapy Clinic***

Oh yes! I hear the groans, see the eyes rolling and the slump in your shoulders. Whether it was an evil genius setting his predator free from the petri dish, or an intragalactic microbe riding on the tail of a meteorite, or a Zoonotic disease passed on from a bat to a human, COVID-19 has evaded capture at least three times. No matter how brutal COVID-19 fights, the storm is closing in, with vaccinations flying in left, right, and centre. There is a level of frustration building as people start throwing their masks down, demanding time go faster. What? Wait! No, we need to have faith in the process, my friends. Hindsight is 20/20. Our numbers had flattened last fall. **DO NOT** lose sight of the finish line.

Over the past 2,021 years, approximately seventeen viruses and diseases washed over the world, including COVID-19. Each time a new virus appeared, people had to adapt to tragedy, lifestyle changes, new laws or rules to abide by, and facial garments like masks.

Most of us lost work at the beginning of last year, which resulted in more outstanding debt. We had to redefine our place of work and become creative, or nothing would have changed at all. Long of the short, adaptation was not a choice. We had to survive.

Now, you may be wondering why I'm babbling on about the history of viruses and diseases. Everywhere we go, that's all we hear. Right? Unfortunately, this is our norm and—like any virus, disease, or parasite—we need to adapt to our environment. We humans—yes, that's you—have resistance to change. The struggle is real, but perhaps it's time to learn from those infectious nuisances. Are we not the most superior species on the planet?!? Viruses thrive in their environment; no

matter how much you fight them off, viruses will succeed if we let them!

At Valley Massage Therapy Clinic, we have adapted to the new norm. Our clinic is in pristine condition. You could even tag us obsessed with sanitizing, with a cloth in hand and spray bottle at an arm's reach. From the day we opened last June, tip-toeing toward our first anniversary, we have strictly followed the protocols and procedures set by our association in keeping with Dr. Strang's orders.

Don't get me wrong: while I criticize our society about change, I'll point the finger at myself, jabbing at my shoulder to prove a point. I have a nerve condition that affects the right side of my face: a light breeze over my skin sends shocks and burning pain. No, I do not enjoy wearing the mask. Searching for one has been brutal but, if I still get to work, do what I love to do, and do it behind a mask, pain or not, I will endure it. Enough about me.

Long story short, I want everyone to know that Valley Massage Therapy Clinic is open. And because we have held our standards high, nothing has changed except that our circle is shrinking. We respect that everyone needs to work. Unfortunately, because of our commitment to the health and safety of our clients and staff, we are not booking anyone outside of Kings County at this moment (month of May). However, we are **still open to King's County residents**. To book an appointment, please call 902-679-0999 and **please** leave a message: our receptionist will be monitoring the phones from home.

Please stay safe and be respectful. We're all in a petri dish, trying to survive.

Community News

Centreville Park and Recreation Report *by George Graves, President*

- Recent activities include: baseball registration was held on June 3rd and 9th at the park; two new basketball hoops were installed; the garbage disposals were painted, and a large sign for the walking trails was installed in the parking lot area.
- Park cleanup was held every Wednesday in May, from 6-8 pm. We raked leaves, removed pine cones from the playground area, and mowed. The cleanups will continue, but only on the 3rd Wednesday of the summer months instead of holding meetings.
- The bathrooms will be open from 12 – 5 pm until our summer student starts working in July.
- If you use items from the new toy box, please put them back when you have finished playing with them and close the lid and the gate.
- Netting will be installed at the new baseball field within the next month.
- There will be a burn for branches and shrubs in the fall with the help of Hugh Whittie.
- If you have any refundables (pop cans, wine bottles, beer bottles or cans, etc.), please consider donating them to the park. We use the funds to purchase gas for the lawn tractor. Please contact George Graves at 902-678-8136 for pick-up or delivery.

Thank you in advance for your support!

In Memorium...

On May 26, we gathered to honour Olivia MacDonald, who lost her battle with cancer. At her request, as she was so fond of dogs, we planted a dogwood bush near the swings. Michelin employees are collecting money to have a bench put in the park in Olivia's name.



Lexi Burgess Misner Photo

Thank You ***from Susan Wood and Family***

Susan, Threna, Hans, Kohl, and Broc would like to send a thank you to the community for meals, cards and phone calls on the recent passing of husband, Dad and Pa, Randy Wood.

Centreville 50-Plus Club *Friends Enjoying Friends*

As we continue to be plagued by COVID-19 and its variants, our members are wondering if and when we will be having our regular Wednesday sessions. We last met on March 11, 2020, and we wait for permission to start up again.

Several members are suffering from a variety of illnesses. We wish all a fast and complete recovery. In the meantime, get tested often and, when able, get your vaccine shot, and we will be back in business soon. Otherwise, "Stay the blazes home."

Darrell E. Spurr, President



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News from the Legislature and a Very Special Thank You

The COVID-19 pandemic has now been affecting all our lives for 14 months. With the continuing vaccine rollout, we must surely be near the end of this. I am optimistic that there will be a return to a new normal sometime this summer. In particular, I have missed the Good Neighbor Club breakfasts at the Community Hall. I look forward to being greeted by Doug Brown at the door and to putting in my order again with all the great servers.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has served to bring focus to what is important and what is not. Part of that has been the renewed appreciation for everyone involved in the production, distribution, and sale of food. During the recent sitting of the legislature, I had the opportunity to acknowledge the great job done by Foote's Farm Market. Here is a copy of my words:

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Available on the internet at <http://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/hansard-debates/>

Third Session

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

***THE SPEAKER** « »:* The honourable member for Kings North.

***JOHN LOHR** « »:* Mr. Speaker, it is an honour today to rise to express my appreciation to Brad Foote and his staff of the Foote Family Farm Market. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was great concern about grocery shopping, the Foote Family Market offered a food delivery service to the residents of Centreville. This service was greatly appreciated by the community, especially by those who were at greater risk of COVID-19. By meeting this need, they demonstrated how important small, local farm markets are in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Brad Foote and his staff for their commitment to the community and their thoughtful actions.

Small businesses like Foote's are incredibly important to our community, and it is a wonderful privilege to be able to acknowledge their contribution. Thank you, Brad and staff!

Thanks

John Lohr
MLA Kings North



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"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."
Franklin D. Roosevelt



News from the Municipality Lexi Burgess Misner Councillor District 2

What a whirlwind of a spring it has been. The consensus of those I've been interacting with is that this third wave of COVID-19 has been much different from the previous

two. With the rapidly inflating case counts and the swift changes we have had to make, it has been a challenge for many. Our children were once again settling into virtual learning, but have now returned to in-school classes to finish the year. I commend the staff at Aldershot Elementary School for their ability to implement these changes and maintain consistency for their students while ensuring all the events we look forward to will still happen, even if that means virtually. June will be a month to look forward to, from Grade 5 celebrations to the AVRCE's Pride Week celebrations. Aldershot Elementary will also be saying so long to the fabulous, friendly face that has greeted many students for years. Mary-Ann Adshade will be wrapping up her final school year, as she has chosen 2021 as her year to retire. Mary-Ann, your welcoming presence, positive personality, and endless kindness will be missed.

It has been no secret that small businesses have been wearing the weight of the world on their shoulders during this lockdown. Here in Centreville, we welcomed a wonderful new social enterprise, Ametora Supply, only for them to have to close their doors soon after. We can continue to support these small business champions in our community in many ways. Many small businesses that are closed to incoming customers have made the transition to online storefronts and curbside pick up. It is not necessary to purchase products to support them: liking their Facebook pages, entering their contests, and sharing their posts are also key components in keeping these businesses afloat.

Here in the County of Kings, we are beyond blessed to live in such an agriculturally rich and self-sustainable place in the province. There are so many local options for many of our necessities. We have wonderful creators of self-care products, large-and small-scale producers of fruits and vegetables, microbreweries, craftspeople, sustainable meat

products, and a delicious abundance of unique cuisine for takeout. The vast majority of our daily needs can be found in this bountiful place we call home. I hope, if you're able, you'll choose local for your needs.

I can't speak about local without acknowledging the struggle that many in our local area continue to face. It has been impossible to roll with the punches with no opportunity to rebound after each hit. These are unprecedented times of struggle for so many of our friends and families. Taproots Farms in Port Williams is once again running its food-box donation program, with delivery around Kings County. Feed Nova Scotia is also curating food boxes for home delivery for those who are in need. If you or someone you know could benefit from either of these programs, you can reach out to Patricia at Taproots or contact the navigators at Feed Nova Scotia by texting or calling 211.

In the world of the municipality, we have shifted a bit to ensure health and safety. Our offices were closed to the public, with many staff working from home, and have only recently reopened. Our meetings are held virtually through WebEx for both council and committees. We still have some wonderful positions posted on our website for anyone looking to make a career change. Our recreation team is busy behind the scenes working to get everything in place when we're finally able to kick off summer. It may not be business as usual, but we're still here, working diligently to meet the needs of our constituents. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I'm only a phone call away and happy to help. Have a happy and healthy summer, District 2!

"And when this has passed, may they say love spread more quickly than any virus ever could."

**Dr. Robert Strang,
Chief Medical Officer of Nova Scotia**





Country Magic

Recipe from Margie Brown

Glazed Lemon Blueberry Bundt Cake

Cake: 3 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups sugar
2 tsp baking powder
¾ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
4 large eggs
¾ cup buttermilk
¾ cup canola oil
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
2 tsp lemon extract
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup fresh blueberries

Glaze: 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar
2 tbsp + 2 tsp buttermilk

Preheat oven to 350 F. Brush a 9.5-inch fluted cake mould with melted butter and dust lightly with flour.

Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer and mix at low speed. Combine the eggs, buttermilk, oil, lemon juice, lemon extract, and vanilla extract in a separate bowl. With the mixer running, add the egg mixture and beat on low for two (2) minutes until well combined. Pour batter into the prepared cake mould. Sprinkle blueberries evenly over the batter and set in the centre of the oven. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean, about 38-40 minutes. Cool in the mould on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Remove cake from the mould and cool completely on a rack, for about 30 minutes.


For the glaze, combine the confectioners' sugar and buttermilk in a small bowl. Stir with a spoon until smooth, then spoon glaze over cake. Let sit for 30 minutes before slicing.



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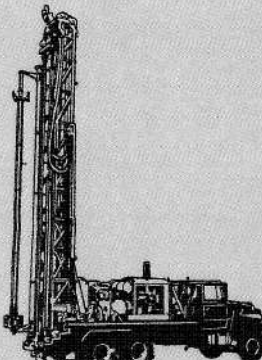
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Delft Haus Bed & Breakfast **by Gail Salmon**

Delft Haus Bed and Breakfast has new owners. I met Mark Milligan, a pleasant gentleman, and his friend, Sarah, when they finished their quarantine after arriving here from Hamilton, Ontario. Mark and his sister, who is still in Ontario, are the new co-owners. I was able to chat with Sarah for a bit and interrupted Mark, who was scraping paint. There has been a fair bit of work for him to do.

Mark needed a change from Hamilton and city living and looked around at real estate in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Delft House B & B was one property that sparked his interest, and he made the lovely Delft Haus with its tea room his ultimate choice. We sat down in the cafe to chat. When I entered the space, I noticed the stained-glass work that I learned he had made, hanging in the windows and behind the counter. Mark is a skilled artisan and has set up a workshop on the third floor of the house. The shelves had a collection of vintage tins that he had accumulated over the years.



Mark owned a Mexican restaurant in Hamilton called Papagayo, which means parrot. The colourful name enticed him to create colourful meals. His restaurant had the usual Mexican food like nachos and quesadillas but was more upscale with lamb, alligator, seafood, and interesting spices and sides. He sold the restaurant, and it kept going for twenty years.

Mark was excited about the teahouse. He has been working on a menu for the cafe with the help of Sarah, who is a chef. Mark hopes to open in early summer. He is waiting for permits to build a ramp in front of the cafe and for a food license. Though



there may be changes and additions to the menu, Mark plans to have sandwiches, tuna melts, veggie Paninis with goat cheese, quiche, and burritos. He will have a continental breakfast in the cafe for the guests staying at the Delft Haus, and there will also be an assortment of pastries and muffins to go with coffee and tea. The menu will change as the weather gets colder and will include soups, chilli, and daily specials. The Delft Haus Facebook page will keep you informed on opening dates and menu.

<https://www.facebook.com/delfthausbedbreakfast/>

The Victorian 4.5-star Canada Select Bed and Breakfast is open for business and is the perfect spot to spend an in-province vacation in the Annapolis Valley. The Centreville location is in a great spot to visit all the wonderful local events and experience the beauty of the Valley's scenery, including the wineries, breweries, and restaurants that will be reopening as the COVID-19 restrictions ease. The guestrooms are decorated in classic, 18th-century boudoir style. The gardens are lovely, and the fire pit is the perfect way to end your day. If you are walking by and see Mark outside puttering, be sure to say 'hi'.

<https://www.delfthaus.com/>



ERIN PATTERSON
for Kings North

ERIN.PATTERSON@NSNDP.CA

📞 902-365-2884
🌐 ErinPattersonNDP
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Story from the Family Farm

Visiting Neighbours

by Mack Frail



I sometimes think of the changes during my lifetime. My memories begin from the pre-World War Two years. One of my earliest memories is when neighbours visited each other in their homes. As a young boy, my father would take me with him on his visits. I expect that the main reason was because I wanted to go with him. Three of the homes that I was very fond of visiting with my father were the Perry and Bessie Wheaton, Harold and Carrie Shankel, and Sam and Dolly Ogilvie homes. They were our friends and our neighbours.

The Wheatons lived on Sherman Belcher Road. Before the early 1960s, it was known as the Upper Dyke Road. Perry and Bessie Wheaton lived on the south side of Sherman Belcher, next to the last house before the low area known as Martin's Hollow. They did not have children of their own. A boy named Joe Green had lived with them, but he was a grown man living on his own before I visited their home. They were fond of children, and I liked going there. One of the reasons was that Bessie was generous with her cookies or anything she had to offer. In 1940, Bessie was injured from a fall and was an invalid for the remaining years of her life. She would spend her days on a couch, next to a window where she had a clear view of the Upper Dyke Road. Bessie would wave a friendly greeting to her neighbours as they walked past her home. Despite renovations to the house by later owners, the window where she sat remains in the same location. When passing by the home, it often becomes natural for me to look towards the window, expecting to see Bessie's friendly wave.

Perry kept a good fire in the old kitchen cookstove, and I became comfortable sitting in the big chair with their family cat on my lap. My father and Perry enjoyed their visits, and they had lots to talk about. Bessie provided me with attention, but after a few hours, she became aware that I was struggling to stay awake. A large brass spittoon sat on the kitchen floor in a convenient location. Perry chewed tobacco, and my father also enjoyed a chew. I noticed that their aim was not the best when they spit out their chewing

tobacco. During most of the earlier visits that I made to the neighbour homes with my father, I had fallen asleep and was not aware of leaving. Before we reached home, I would usually awaken being carried over my father's shoulder. I recall hearing the deafening sounds from the frogs from the lily pond and, not wanting to walk, I remained quiet.

Harold and Carrie Shankel moved to Centreville in 1908, after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Carrie was employed in California as a school teacher, and Harold was a cook in a large lumber camp in the San Francisco area at the time of the earthquake and fire. Becoming separated during the earthquake was an experience that they never forgot. During their many days of separation, they each thought the other was among the 3000 killed in the terrible disaster. It was a terrifying and distressing experience for them. They vowed never to return to San Francisco, and they settled in their home in Centreville. The Shankel home is the house north of Murray Drive when entering from Highway 359. A lot of the early Centreville history is connected to the home. The house was built in about 1855 and was first occupied by Enoch Arnold and his wife, Ester Jean Foot. Descendants of Enoch and Ester continued to live in the home, and it remained the Arnold home until after the 1900s. The Arnold's Store was situated near Highway 359 where Murry Drive is located. A lot of recent renovations have changed the appearance of the home.

The Shankels owned all of the property that includes where the Baptist Church and the other buildings are situated. Harold made use of the land to keep a few cows and to grow a large vegetable garden. He supplied certain residents of the community with milk and also sold vegetables from his garden. Harold and Carrie loved and doted on each other, and they were very much loved by the residents of Centreville. They had no children of their own and had a special love for the children in the community. Carrie's name for her husband Harold was Hal, and his name for her was Kit. Carrie Marie Hawbolt was born in Chester, Nova Scotia, in 1871. She was the eldest of seven children born to David and Mary (Hennigar) Hawbolt. Her brother, Foreman Hawbolt, designed and built the popular Hawbolt engines that were manufactured in the Hawbolt foundry in Chester. con't next page

In 1947, the Shankels sold their home and property to Don and Muriel Ogilvie. The Shankels purchased and moved into a house on the Upper Dyke Road (now known as Sherman Belcher Road). The house is located on the north side of the road, just before the long lane opposite the Lydiard Road intersection. It has undergone a lot of renovations that have changed its appearance from the days when they lived in the house. The house is presently part of an apartment building. Carrie Shankel died in 1955, and Harold died the following year. His friends and neighbours said that he died from a broken heart.

When I was a boy, the first house north of the Community Centre was the Sam and Dolly Ogilvie home. It was one of the three homes I enjoyed visiting with my father. Sam Ogilvie owned and operated a blacksmith shop close to his house and next to the Community Centre. In those early days, the Community Centre was the Centreville School. Before 1920, my father's brother Walter and his wife, Georgie, lived in the home. Together with the help of his father, George Frail (my grandfather) and brothers, he operated a cooperage business there. The building used as a part of the cooperage and the blacksmith shop was the Charles Crookshank Dry Goods and Grocery Store from 1860 to 1875.

I have more memories connected to the people that I visited in their homes as a child. I have special memories of visiting Miss Maud Kinsman. If space would permit, I could mention many more of the wonderful people who lived in Centreville.

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Hello Centreville!

by Nigel Butterfield

My name is Nigel Butterfield, and I am the Next Generation Pastor at the Centreville Baptist Church. I have been serving at the church for almost two years now. This is my first time writing in the *Centre Post*, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute! Let me introduce myself a bit.

My wife and I moved to the Valley from New Brunswick just about two years ago so I could go to the Acadia Divinity College. We lived in Kentville when we first came and loved the area. I began serving at the Centreville Baptist Church that summer, which started my introduction to Centreville and the surrounding area. I remember talking with someone who had also recently moved here last summer, who shared how they loved living in this community. Their enthusiasm was contagious. We wanted to be a part of Centreville, too! As I was welcomed into the church and spent time in this fantastic community, my wife and I began to fall in love with the area. Last August, we were blessed to be able to move to Centreville and actually finally live here!

Uncertainty. When we moved here, things did not go as planned for me initially, and I sort of felt like I had made a mistake asking my wife to leave her home and our families to come to a new place. However, we continued to pray and trust that we were doing our best to follow God's guidance. We have made so many unexpected friends and connections, and have been blessed to live in such a beautiful place in Canada.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly been a time of uncertainty for both individuals and organizations. At the beginning of the pandemic, we again felt a sense

of uncertainty and loss of control: not only us but also almost the whole world! At the beginning of the pandemic, we wondered about safety and how we would respond to this crisis. Things have not been easy for our community and for communities across Canada. In this time of uncertainty, we have trusted that God is with us and cares for us and our neighbours more than we could ever imagine. Ultimately, regardless of the outcome, we have seen how God gives us the strength and courage to meet these uncertainties and challenges, and to develop more into the people He has created us to be. We have seen incredible bravery, sacrifice for others, giving to support those in need, and a sense of unity as we try to tackle this pandemic together.

We know that, regardless of the particular circumstances, everyone is experiencing change and uncertainty these days. The result of this can be isolation, anxiety, loss of connections, and just a general sense of disruption, and not to overlook all of the practical changes that this pandemic has had. Emily and I have found encouragement and support in unexpected conversations with new neighbours, prayer with people we trust, and getting together by video call and in-person when possible. And, as we do our best to cope, resting in faith that God is with us and will continue to give us the strength and perseverance to make it through this time of uncertainty well.

If you or someone you love is experiencing difficulties resulting from this pandemic, please reach out to someone you trust. We would be honoured to provide you with support from the church: someone to speak with, either in person or by phone; a group to be a part of for encouragement, and other ways, according to your needs.

I look forward to meeting you at the park, on the sidewalk, or maybe at the church!

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Charles Macdonald Concrete House Museum

by Terry Drahos



Last year, It was identified that the Concrete House is in dire need of extensive maintenance, or it will be lost forever. For the past year, the volunteer board of directors has spent countless hours trying to figure out a way to save it. Here is where we are so far.

Thanks to grants from the province's Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Municipality of the County of Kings, we were able to hire a heritage architect to investigate both the problems and possible solutions needed to save the Concrete House. This report was finished last fall and can be found on our website, concretehouse.ca.

Using that report as a playbook, we have been talking to architects, engineers, and materials specialists, locally and abroad, looking for sustainable, reasonable, and affordable solutions. In March, we assembled a team of builders, engineers, and tradespeople who worked with us to develop a work plan and budget to rehabilitate the Concrete House over the next 3 years. The overall budget is \$640,000.

We have been in constant conversation with the federal, provincial and county governments about funding. We have filed all the requested paperwork and are now waiting for their decisions. This is an important building, and we will need all three levels of government and the community to get on board to help. The Charles Macdonald Society will be responsible for raising 15% of the budget, \$90,000, over the 3-year project (\$30,000 per year).

While we are waiting for answers from the government, we are looking for pledges of financial assistance from elsewhere, including community members. Any financial commitment we can secure will help with our formal applications. If you are in a position to give, please email us at info@concretehouse.ca, and someone from the board will get back to you.

If you have just a little to give, consider becoming a member. You can find out about membership on our website, concretehouse.ca. If money is tight, but you have time and talent to give, please consider volunteering. The following are things we need help with:

- **Public Relations:** The more people who know about Charlie and Mabel, the better. We need someone to take this on as their own and spread the word about this great place. For information and content, email Terry Drahos at tdrahos@mac.com

- **Gardening:** The Concrete House is a beautiful property, and the gardens have a lot of potential. If you like digging in the dirt, come and help. For information, contact Alison Scott Butler at ascottbutler@gmail.com.

- **Fundraising:** This is the hardest part of any non-profit charity: we need to raise money to help save the Concrete House. to join our fundraising team, contact Geof Turner at geofturner2020@gmail.com

- **The Blue Cottage:** Each summer, we make the Blue Cottage at Huntington's Point available to members. It is a charming spot. However, like every cottage, it requires seasonal upkeep, maintenance, and management. If you are interested in helping with this, the person to contact is Fred Macdonald at fredmacdonald08@gmail.com.

- **Board Members:** Are you interested in getting involved with one of the most unique properties and museums in Nova Scotia? Join our board! We are hands-on and casual, like Charlie and Mabel Macdonald. Contact our Chairperson, Kevin West, at nomadfh69@gmail.com, to meet with a current board member and get to know us.

- **Summer Programming:** Do you have an art-related project that you would like to share? We have a beautiful property and would be happy to help facilitate any outdoor events. To talk about how we can work together, contact Terry Drahos at tdrahos@mac.com.



Update from the Marsh

by Gren Jones

NS Senior Provincial Director, DUC

Nesting Season, DU Trivia, and North Brook Marsh

This spring has been very good for water levels in wetlands across the Atlantic Region. Lots of migrating ducks and geese have been seen as they head to their preferred nesting areas.

Locally, the geese put on quite a display around the Habitant River, from Sheffield Mills to Kingsport. I noticed that social distancing was not even being considered, especially with the geese. Many are nesting in farm ponds and on Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) wetlands in places like Sheffield Mills and Rockland Brook. At Miner's Marsh, a brood hatched in early May, and someone noted on the Facebook site that one gosling became separated from its family that decided to take the youngsters out on the river. However, the gosling imprinted on another goose, and it took the little one—literally—under its wings. The best viewing spot for geese, other than Miner's Marsh, is the Church Street property on the right as you make your way to Chipman Corner. There are two nests on the island, and there is a resident drake mallard who seems to be on guard with the parents. Many other geese that are hanging around would be offspring, living their teenage years. On one occasion, I witnessed the changing of the guard as the male goose was moving onto one of the nests, thus giving his mate a well-deserved health break!

Nesting and Brood Parasitism

Ducks nest on the ground or in tree cavities. When a mother leaves the nest to feed and stretch her wings, sometimes another duck will drop an egg in her nest. This practice is common among certain species that have difficulty finding the right spot to nest safely. In our area, it is very prevalent with those species that nest in tree cavities or nesting boxes. The culprits include wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and goldeneyes. All three species are in this area. Wetlands, such as Miner's Marsh, are better suited to hooded mergansers and wood ducks. The goldeneyes are visible in the Cornwallis River around Coldbrook, for example.

Nesting boxes are popular and support population growth but, in most situations, are highly visible: it's not always easy to put a box 10 meters up in a tree! If the boxes are set in a cluster, birds can observe when opportunity knocks. As an example, a farmer in Somerset found an owl's egg in one of his boxes.

Here's an interesting news update from the Wetland Centre in Fredericton. John Johnston, a senior volunteer with DUC, has boxes near the Centre and near a pond where he lives. The Saint John River is a high-density area for waterfowl nesting. The box near the Centre was equipped with a camera and showed the hen wood duck on her nest. As she moved the eggs around, it was evident that one of the eggs wasn't like the others. It was blue while her clutch was off-white. Recently, the ducklings hatched, and, within 24 hours, all the ducks were out on the river except one—a goldeneye duckling. She was unable to leave the nest with the others and, by the time she was out, the family was gone. The poor duckling was lost and in danger of being devoured by a predator. Since there weren't any goldeneye nests in the area, John was able to convince the Atlantic Wildlife Institute to raise the youngster on one of their properties, with the intent to release it into the wild during the summer. DUC will select a site for the release.

NB: You can find this story on Global News: "Conservation group finds new home for orphan duckling found near Saint John River." In addition, if you visit the DUC website www.ducks.ca you can enjoy John's video.

The Conservation Centre in Fredericton is located on Union Street across the river from downtown. It is a wonderful place to visit, and it has indoor and outdoor classrooms used for school trips. If you have a student at UNB who likes to volunteer, here's a great opportunity for post-secondary students studying science or doing a CO-OP.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Trivia...

Did you know:

* All types of ducks, geese, and swans are members of the *Anatidae* family. Every continent has ducks except Antarctica, and the mallard is one of the most common ducks in the world.

* The total number of (wild) duck species in North America is 34.

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DU Trivia con't from previous page

* When jumping from a nesting cavity, day-old ducklings can survive falls of over 30 yards as they 'hit and roll' en route to the water. All ducklings can swim as soon as their initial fluffy down has dried, and they can travel quite a distance with their momma duck to reach her preferred spot.

* Attention! Feeding ducks bread is a serious problem, and it is not at all healthy. Ducks cannot tolerate carbohydrates, which is junk food to them. It's a source of malnutrition that can seriously affect their life cycle. Wetlands offer a real buffet for all birds.

* Nova Scotia's native duck is the black duck, and it often breeds with mallards. As they make the transition, these birds make at least one significant trip to the top of the flyway, which is Newfoundland and Labrador. Several things will happen during their voyage. First, they grow larger, their legs become reddish, and they will mate, but not for life. (Geese tend to do this.) Locally, it is customary for black ducks to make their way inland in the spring and return to saltwater in the fall as temperatures cool off. Lots of ducks are nesting across NS. Incidentally, the black duck population has continued to grow stronger each year after the ban on DDT poisoning, used in the 60s and 70s in forestry practices.

Source: Ducks Unlimited Inc & Ducks Unlimited Canada

North Brook Marsh

In April, a dozen volunteers of the Kings County Wildlife Association (KCWA) volunteered to clean up the trail at North Brook Marsh in Sheffield Mills. It was completely overgrown with alders. The trees were removed within three hours, and the trail is now accessible. Please note that this wetland is on private land: the east end is cultivated farmland, while the west end is on private property. It is located behind the Sheffield Mills Community Hall: the water flows from the North Mountain into the Habitant River watershed in 'the Mills' at the intersection of Highway 221. It is teeming with all sorts of wildlife and is well protected. Ducks Unlimited Canada and KCWA work together locally to preserve and protect our natural areas.

Finally, I'm proud to say that 2021 is my 40th year as a member and supporter of DUC!

Gren Jones



Volunteers at work at North Brook Marsh



View of the Spillway

Contact information:

www.ducks.ca

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Ode to Conglomerates

I see you sitting quietly
In your special hiding place,
A glimpse of downy whites and greys,
I cannot see your face.
I kneel down to see you there,
To check if you're alone
And there all cuddled 'round you
Is a family of your own!

As I get down to see up close
My breath almost blows you away
You take a few steps in retreat
I guess I am the prey.
For in my hand I have a wand
Attached to a machine
The purpose of my actions
Is to keep my wood floors clean.

And tho I am quite saddened
To do what I must do
The truth is that both you and kin
Will soon have to say, "Adieu".
The wand goes down to floor level
I push that button on
And just like that the motor roars
You Dust Bunnies are gone.

Gail Salmon

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other one.*

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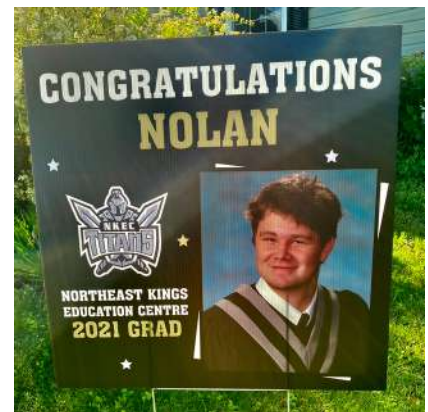
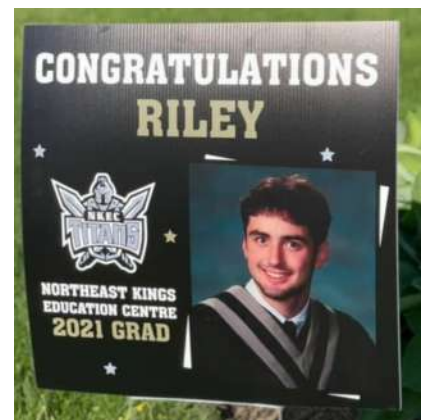
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Community Groups

Centreville Hall Rental is not available at this time. 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.

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: 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 Anne-Marie Waterbury at 902-678-5700
or email annemariewaterbury@gmail.com 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



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