



Children at the Lower Onslow Playschool are getting ready for warmer weather by planting their garden. Pictured left to right are: Danika, Emma, Josh, Charley, Hailee, Bekah, Morgen, Benjamin and Ethan (Joann Michelin Photo).

## "Patter from the Playschool"

By Joann Michelin.

We are now into our last couple of months of Playschool. It is a busy time of year. We are very glad to see sunny days and hope we can soon go out and enjoy our yard. As you can see in our picture, we are getting our gardens ready hoping for beautiful flowers and good vegetables.

We are selling tickets on a Spring Basket and two Adirondack chairs donated by

Benjamin's grandfather, Page Baird.

We are accepting registrations for next year. Anyone who would like to visit us and check out our program is more than welcome to drop by and visit a while. For more information you can call Joann at 662-4075.

Enjoy the spring weather and remember to jump into any puddles you see... it is great therapy.

## History of Great Village to be reprinted



Karen Casey presented the Great Village Historical Society with a \$2,000.00 cheque for the reprinting of the history of Great Village. Pictured left to right are: Logan Spencer (President of Great Village Historical Society), Richard Akerman (Vice-President), Honourable Karen Casey, Linda Shears, Meredith Layton (Secretary-Treasurer). (submitted photo)

By Linda Shears

The April 1st meeting of the Great Village Historical Society was an eventful one. Karen Casey, our M.L.A., was on hand to present a grant from the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. This \$2000 grant will enable us to proceed immediately with the re-printing of the History of Great Village. The sale of these history books will in turn provide funding for the printing of the up-dated history book which is being written. We are very appreciative of this support from both Honourable Karen Casey and Honourable Bill Dooks.

Since this was our annual meeting, the slate of officers for the upcoming year was presented and approved. President: Logan Spencer, Secretary-Treasurer: Meredith Layton, Vice-President: Richard Akerman, directors: Arnold Hatfield and James Peppard.

Arnold Hatfield introduced the guest speaker for the evening, George Flemming of Truro. George is the son of William A. Flemming, who owned and operated many acres of farmland in Great Village during the three decades from 1933 to 1962. William Flemming's property included the Balamore Farm, which is still known by that name today. He also owned Parkwood, which was located

at the end of Mill Lane where the telecommunications site was built in the 1960's.

A third acreage on Scrabble Hill included a storage barn and large orchard. George Flemming read from a Truro newspaper dated 1947 which referred to his father as the "Potato King" due to the Great Village-grown potatoes which had won first prize at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. William A., with the assistance of his herdsman, Lloyd Pineo, also raised champion Maritime Shorthorn cattle on the farms.

Although the Flemming family always lived on a farm property in Truro, George noted that his father always had a special fondness for his Village farms and the Village people. Mr. Flemming was thanked for providing such an interesting glimpse into our farming history.

The re-print of the History of Great Village is progressing well, with the original copy left with the publishers, who will have the order completed in May. The re-print will be very similar to the original book in appearance (cover and binding) and the cost will be \$20. If you wish to reserve a copy, you may do so by contacting our e-mail address: gvhistorical@gmail.com. We plan to have the history books available for sale at the Great Village Farmers' Market this summer.

## Nature Notes

by Fran Spalding • 647-2837



The tiny insects I mentioned last month on the snow banks by the Economy River appear to belong to the order of stoneflies, all but one or two to its family of small winter stoneflies, the others to the family of winter stoneflies.

Peterson's A Field Guide To The Insects led me that far and looking them up on Google provided photos and text that pretty well clinches it. It's most impressive (at least for senior citizens) that such an out-of-the-way subject is only a click or two away on the internet.

I predicted that by the time this month's issue went to press our early migrants would all have arrived. Most of them have, seen by the column's regular reporters (Tom & Val Meredith, Bobby McLaughlin, Keith & Nelda Chisholm, and yours truly).

First were a few robins March 15 (lots on the 19th), then red-winged blackbirds March 17, grackles on the 20th, and lots of song sparrows by March 23. The other sparrows and finches (except goldfinches) have been in short supply - a fox sparrow or two, one siskin, a very few purple finches and evening grosbeaks.

No one has reported whitethroats, savannahs or chipping sparrows as of April 20th. Among birds of prey an osprey was at its Truro nest by March 26, an eagle at its Economy River nest on the 29th, a harrier over the fields at Highland Village, and a kestrel on the power lines April 4th in Economy. Both barred and great horned owls have been heard calling at Ross Cameron's place in Montrose.

In the stormy weather at

the end of March there were still a few redpolls around, including a rarely seen hoary. By the end of the first week of April coltsfoot was showing itself at the Dugway, where it always appears first. The river banks have taken quite a beating there and elsewhere this winter. I've only ventured as far as the Beaver Meadow Bridge, but they say the road itself is in terrible shape further on.

A couple of years ago Matt Martin took pictures of ring-necked ducks at the Bermuda North pond; again this year, so Corinne Martin tells me, the species has paused there on its way to one of our larger freshwater lakes or ponds. On April 11th a common loon was back on the pond at Little Dyke, only a few days after its surface thawed.

The beautiful male wood

duck made a brief appearance in the Economy marsh April 15, on its way to one of our woodland ponds (or beaver dam ponds). Best reports of the period are the return of the turkey vultures to Lower Economy, seen there by George Faulkner in mid-April. They must remember the good pickings they found there last year.

At Bass River, Irene Cooke reports a pair of indigo buntings that visited her feeder during throughout the second week of April. Almost every year the species passes through here, but as a rule only the males are noticed, the female being a drab little brown bird that could easily pass for a sparrow.

The species has only nested in Nova Scotia once, at Westport at the end of Digby Neck, but keep your eyes open for one still here in late May, by which time it will have settled down for the summer.

## Onslow Belmont Notes

by Debbie Weatherby

Saw a multitude of geese in two different fields and what struck me the most wasn't the number of geese I saw but the silence!!! Not one sound were they making. Also saw a much smaller bird giving chase to a hawk and that was funny to see, the hawk could have had it for one bite. Not seeing as many deer lately as I used to either, they must have moved on to other places.

Church services are held at the Wesley United Church in Belmont the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 a.m. and the rest of the month they are held in Lower Onslow at 9:30 a.m. and Onslow at 11:00 a.m.

45's card party is held every Tuesday evening at the Onslow United Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. with lunch and prizes provided. All are welcome to come for an enjoyable evening.

There will be an evening of Bluegrass Music featuring

"Harmony Ridge" at the Lower Onslow United Church on Sunday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. A free will offering will be taken and light lunch provided. This is sponsored by the Lower Onslow United Church Women with proceeds for church purposes. All are welcome.

Church services for the Belmont Baptist Church are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m. On Wednesday evenings there is a Prayer Meeting held at 7 p.m.

Congratulations go out to Lenore Kenney and George Chapman of Central Onslow on the arrival of their baby girl on March 21, weighing in at 8 lbs. 10.9 ozs; Pamela and Joey Rushton of Central Onslow on the arrival of their baby boy on April 1, weighing in at 7 lbs. 10 ozs; Alicia and Matthew MacDonald of Belmont on the arrival of their baby boy on April 3, weighing

in at 7 lbs. 7 ozs.

Condolences go out to Carol MacPhee of Central Onslow and the families on the loss of her mother Betty Rankoussy (MacPhee) on March 26; William "Butch" (Audrey) Hughes of Lower Onslow and the families on the loss of his sister Sharon Anne Hughes on March 29; Ardith (Dale) Lambourne of Masstown and the families on the loss of her mother Clariaissa "Clara" Johnstone on April 1, and Timothy (Sue) Crowe and the families on the loss of his mother Jane Arlene Crowe on April 8.

## Highway #2 - Five Islands to county line - to be paved

In mid-April Karen Casey, MLA announced tenders have been called for the last phase of repaving and reconstruction of Highway # 2 from

Five Islands to the Cumberland County line. This multi-year project started in 2000 at an estimated cost for completion of \$12-13 million.

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