

Debert Elementary School Notes



Debert Elementary students Brody Shearer, Nina Green, Keiran Singer (l to r) look over some of the wonderful books generously donated by residents and friends at Debert Court. (Harrington Photo)



Grade Six Debert Elementary students Chris Adshade (left) and Charlie Barnhill (right) share some reading time with their Grade One Reading Buddies Cole Alexander and Emily Hepburn. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Thank you to Mr. Black, PTG, parents, teachers and students for their efforts last month putting on the Christmas Concert, at the school and again at Debert Court. Well done!

Thank you to all who helped with the Shopping Blitz. Your support was greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to Debi and helpers for the delicious turkey dinner.

On Wed., Dec. 15th Grade Four students enjoyed a visit

from three members of the T. Litzen Nova Scotia Privateers, a NS Provincial senior Lacrosse team. Lee Davidson, Thomas Hunt and Scott Johnson showed the equipment they use and gave an explanation on how the game is played.

A huge thank you to residents and friends of Debert Court for the donation of books to each classroom and to Debert Garden Club for the donation of books to the Library.

Great Village & Area Notes

By Florence Adams

There was no snow for Christmas, but we have plenty now. More than enough for those, who don't enjoy winter sports.

Wheels to Meals was held in on January 4th and 18th in the Legion hall as usual with the same people attending. The Legion hall is also being used on Sunday mornings with the congregation of St James United Church using

the hall for the winter months. At this time of writing, I have been told that Courtland Graham of Ontario is visiting the family home on his way to visit his uncle, Edgar, in the valley. We hope he finds his uncle in good health.

Alan Peppard and son, Cole, returned to Alberta on January 4th, after spending the holidays with Alan's mother, Marie Peppard. Robert and Natalie Adams spent Christmas week

Grade Six students have Reading Buddies from Grade 1. They have been enjoying reading time with the older students acting as mentors for the younger students.

The school is also taking part in the Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) program over the next few months.

Winter Carnival activities will take place the week of Feb. 14th to the 18th. The whole school will go skating on Thursday, Feb. 17th (helmets are required) and there will be a family dance on Friday, the 18th. Many more activities are being planned for this week.

The week of February 21st to 25th is Boys Active Healthy Living Week. Debert Elementary will be holding several activities for the whole school to promote healthy living.

Primary Registration will be held on Feb. 24th, no school for Primary students on this day. Anyone with a child in the Debert school district, who will turn 5 before the end of the year, please contact the school for an appointment. Your child will need a birth certificate.

Second Term report cards will go home on March 7th. Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on March 10th from 6:30 - 8:00. There is no school for students on March 11th, with an in-service for staff in the morning and Parent-Teacher Interviews from 1:00-2:00PM.

March Break is March 14th to the 18th.

with their daughter, Natalie and family in Toronto.

I enjoyed spending Christmas Day with my daughter, Judi Leeman and family. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren made it a very enjoyable day. Valerie and David Austin and son, William, spent Christmas with Valerie's parents, Doug and Louise Crossman in Sussex, NB. Meanwhile, Gertie Miller and daughter, Tracey, had Christmas with Gertie's mother, Helen Miller in Truro.

Lower Onslow Community Centre

By Ann Fiddes

Happy New Year to everyone, hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

The Community Centre has been busy, with birthday parties, baby showers, family parties and children's parties. Our Monday night card parties and Thursday night open mic have continued to be popular and draw great crowds. 4H continues to meet once a month at the centre.

A work day was held last Saturday when work was done on the upstairs bathroom, work on the platform and organizing, purging and cleaning was done by the ladies. A productive day all in all made much easier by many hands and a wonderful lunch provided by one of our board members.

Our next big financial project will be replacing the roof on the building, and a special account has been set up for this purpose.

Bass River Historical Society News

By Denise Gilley

Happy New Year everyone and I hope you all had a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!" Our latest meetings have been filled with plans for the new year, both activities and projects. We're continuing with upgrades to the museum itself and we're in the planning stages of adding some out-buildings for both storage and displays.

We're very pleased to say that our membership is growing as several new members have joined us and we welcome anyone who is interested to come out to a meeting. Our next meeting will be February 14th at 6:30.

News From the Past
Business Booming in Bass River - January 23, 1947

The News bumped into Percy G. Smith of Bass River recently, and Mr. Smith had a good story to tell of the immense volume of industry and business the chair town experienced during 1946. The Dominion Chair Company had a bumper year, with a large number of orders yet to be filled. The lumber industry is booming with trucks bringing in timber from a radius of 25 miles, keeping the mills going steadily.

A change was made in working hours at the Dominion Chair Company factory and store during the year. In addition to a nine hour day, the factory employees get Saturday afternoons off, and the store employees Thursday afternoons off.

H. J. Lewis has made an addition to his factory in an attempt to cope with the vast amount of orders piled up ahead.

Harry K. Fulton and Harland Fulton have made an extensive fill in around their garage and hope to enlarge their premises this year.

Mrs. Arnard Rutherford, who is ticket agent for the McKenzie Coach Lines, in addition to her restaurant business, reports a good year.

Wyman S. McLellan reports a good year in his mercantile line.

Stanley Fulton, this community's top poultry raiser, has in the vicinity of 2000 laying hens. There are many others in the poultry business in the Portapique Mountain area: Davidson Bros., David Brotherson, Roosevelt Bungalow, and others.

To be continued...next month!

Theodore Woodrow Wilson celebrates his 91ST

By Linda Harrington

Theodore Woodrow Wilson celebrated his 91st birthday with friends and family at the Five Islands Senior Centre on January 15th. Theodore was born in Montrose, Colchester County, NS on January 19th, 1920, the second son of parent's Daisy Bell (McLellan) and Lester Page Wilson.

There were 10 children in the Wilson family, three siblings are still living- the eldest Isabelle (Tiny) McCully lives in Oshawa, June Chipman lives in Falmouth, Maine and Jeanette MacKinnon lives in Hilden, NS.

Theodore lives in Lower Five Islands with companion Helen Yorke and he has four children- Edna Mae (California), Ruby (Bridgewater), Theadora, known as Teddy (Upper Rawdon) and Jeffrey (New Germany); five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

When Theodore was four years old his family moved from Bass River to Londonderry Station, where his father worked for Dominion Chair Company (the building that just burned down last month). He went to school there and one October day, on his way home from school, a man asked him if he wanted a job. "I spent my 16th birthday in the lumber woods of East Folly Mountain," says Theodore. During the Depression years he says he worked at every job there was and then on Feb. 1st, 1941 he went to work for the Canadian National Railway. He spent 5 years in Truro, 35 years in Bridgewater and then 5 years in Halifax before he retired on Dec. 31st, 1980.

"I retired to Lower Five Islands and have been making flower beds for the last 31 years," laughs Theodore, "and I am not finished yet!" He says the land behind the house was nothing but hay field when he arrived and he has turned it into beautiful flower beds and a huge vegetable garden. "I am in my 31st year of retirement and I have enjoyed every minute of it."

Two hip replacements and two knee replacements have done little to slow him down, in fact his daughter says the latest knee replacement a year ago December has made a big difference in her father's mobility. "He is back gardening and making more flower beds," says Teddy.

Theodore keeps busy in the kitchen as well, baking fruit cakes and puddings for all his family at Christmas. He even baked both cakes for his birthday party.

"Dad has been catering to his



A celebration of Theodore Wilson's 91st birthday took place at the Senior's Centre in Five Islands on Jan. 15th. Some family members sharing in the celebration were (l to r) daughter Ruby Baker, grandson Devon Baker, granddaughter Sarah Baker-MacNeil, birthday boy Theodore Wilson, companion Helen Yorke and daughter Theodora MacPhee. (Harrington Photo)

own birthday since he was 70," says daughter Ruby. "Last year, when he turned 90, the family was allowed to cater but that was the only year. He bakes the cakes, and makes seafood chowder and baked beans."

Perhaps his cooking skills come from his youth, growing up in the Depression. He says you never knew how many were coming for supper in those days, "Dad would bring home 2 or 3 extras, what we called hobos, for a hot meal." He recalls seeing men walk out of the hay barn in the morning and being offered breakfast before moving on. It was just what you did to help others.

Theodore is known to be very generous with the beautiful flowers and vegetables from his gardens. He often gives bouquets to people in the community or drops them off at the Parrsboro Hospital or bank. The vegetables he gives to anyone who can use them.

Theodore's cooking talents were often enjoyed by his crew mates when he worked for CN. He remembers working on the South Shore putting gravel along the tracks, "When we neared Port Mouton, I told them to stop and I ran down to the fish plant. I brought back a huge salt Pollock and cooked it up for dinner. I

asked them to leave enough to make fish cakes for supper, but by the time they were finished lunch there was not a scrap left, so no fish cakes."

Sarah Baker-MacNeil says one of the greatest memories she has of coming to visit her grandfather are the long hikes, through the woods and to waterfalls. She says they would walk forever and she remembers getting tired from walking long before he would be.

Theodore keeps very active even today, along with gardening he still loves going for walks. He reads a great deal and he is quite the card player, taking part in Crib Tournaments and weekly card parties at the Senior's Centre each week. He enjoys travelling and has been to White Horse twice, out to California to visit his daughter and last November he took a road trip to Maine.

Daughter Ruby says he is very precise about what he does and paces himself with his work. She feels this has helped him to continue to be so active at 91 years of age.

Theodore Wilson is already looking ahead to his next birthday. "I have booked the Five Islands Bazaar for my 92nd birthday," he laughs, "I'll see you there next year!"

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Merry Christmas To One And All.

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