

Surprise Birthday Party for Jean Mooring



Sharon Miller organizes a surprise birthday party for her mother, Jean Mooring at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Standing in the background is Bill Baker. (Joel Miller Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

At the Wentworth Recreation Centre recently, a capacity crowd were in suspense. When would Jean Mooring come in the door and how would she react to the surprise birthday party arranged for her by her daughters, Sharon Miller and Sharon Goode? Not everyone wishes the world to know that the 80th birthday has arrived for him or her. Jean Mooring, fed a fib by her daughters, thought she was driving in to Truro for a family restaurant meal as her birthday celebration. Instead, her daughter, Sandra Goode, drove into the Recreation Centre where the parking lot was crowded with cars.

Instead of 15 family members honouring her 80th birthday, Jean Mooring was facing a large community crowd ready to sing "Happy Birthday" to her in a standing ovation. Jean Mooring's two daughters, Sharon Miller and Sandra Goode, had notified the Wentworth community and friends beyond, invited people to come to the party and told them to keep it secret. Somehow the secret surprise was kept from Jean Mooring, and this in itself is a surprise when one thinks how fast all kinds of news travels in a country community.

At last Jean Mooring came in the door, and fortunately the youthful-looking Jean took the surprise with good humour and, even more, was touched emotionally by all this regard for her by all these people. Jean Mooring went around to each table where the people sat and thanked them for coming to the party. All ages were represented, and young children dashed about on the large open area of hardwood floor while chasing one another in the sheer joy of running about.

Older adults talked and laughed at tables until there was a call by Sharon Miller that the food treats were up front on side tables and

punch, tea and coffee were available in the kitchen. Sharon Miller, relatives and friends spent time earlier that day at home preparing meats, salads, rolls and sweets, and, after lining up for the food and drinks, people gathered at tables for a time of socializing. Afterwards, three of Jean Mooring's children, Sharon Miller, Sandra Goode and Ashley Baker took the stage to express complementary birthday wishes to their mother, as well, two of Jean's grandchildren, Mitchell Baker, aged seven, and Max Baker, aged six, sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Jean's daughter-in law, Carmen Baker, announced on stage that federal M.P. for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit, Scott Armstrong, and provincial MLA for Cumberland South, Jamie Baillie, had sent birthday congratulations to her.

Time was taken on stage to remember Pearl Crowley who is in hospital and unable to attend her sister's birthday party. Jocelyn Morris, Sandra Goode, Carmen Baker and Jean Mooring sang a song of hope and love to her.

At 9 p.m., Ashley Baker, Ronnie Ruston, Wayne Reid, and Jim Mosher were on stage to begin a music session lasting until 11:30 p.m. All kinds of musical traditions were represented: rock and roll, older and current songs, hymns, Don Messer old-time style and singing interspersed with the instrumental.

In addition to the four musicians previously mentioned, other performers were Sharon Miller, Sandra Goode, Charley Patriquin, Jocelyn Morris, Hilton Patriquin, Natalie DeCoste, Faye Henderson, Aubrey Giffin and Paul Merlin. Later, even Jean Mooring at the piano joined in the music tribute to herself.

Finally, a huge birthday cake was shown around and then cut into pieces for everyone present. In total, this event was a splendid way to celebrate a birthday.

Out and About with Ken

(Editors's Note: Ken submitted this article for the January issue, however due to an error on my part, publication did not occur. Apologies for the lateness)

By Ken Kennedy

Wow! That was quite a wind-storm we had here last night (Dec. 13). It fair shook the house and I was expecting to hear trees falling but luckily only a few branches fell as far as I can tell. The lights flickered four or five times around midnight but we had no sustained outages - except for the phones; they were out most of the day.

I haven't been out and about too much lately but Velma has been invited out to ladies parties all over the place. She was out to Priscilla

Jennings' Women's Missionary Society one day last week and a good time was had by all, I hear. She met some ladies she hadn't seen in a while, including Pauline McCulloch who seems to get out and about quite a bit these days. I see someone has moved into Garth's old house in Debert and trying to fix it up.

Vel was also invited to the Debert UCC ladies Christmas party and had a ball. Those UCC ladies are great cooks you know - and good actors too, I hear. The skit they put on was hilarious and the costumes were quite "unique" to say the least.

Have you ever tried to make home-made bread with one of those electronic gad-

gets? We did, and by golly it worked. We had heard some bad press on those things but a while back we bought a used one at Value Village in Halifax and just last week we decided to try it out. I went on the internet and downloaded the B&D recipe book and went out and bought up the ingredients.

One thing the book said was that the measurements must be exact and must use the Canadian (Imperial) measuring scale. The book list dozens of fancy recipes but we just stuck with the basic bread one. We poured in the ingredients and set the clock and 3-1/2 hours later we had a nice 2-lb loaf of bread - all for less than a dollar. The biggest problem we found was slicing it. Wish they would make and electronic slicer. So now, we

can set the bread-maker on the timer to come on around 3:00 a.m and we can have fresh bread for breakfast - with molasses, of course.

It was sad to hear of Keith Baas' passing, last week. He certainly was a strong voice at council meetings for improvements in the Masstown area. He was a founding member of the Debert Military History Society and fought hard to keep it viable.

Lots of lovely Christmas lights along the shore with some homes having thousands of lights, I am sure. It's worth your while to drive around at night and don't forget to take the back roads as well.

So that's it for another year. We hope and pray you will enjoy a blessed holiday season and don't forget to keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas.

Masstown News

By Chris Urquhart

As it gets colder and snowier as days go by, don't forget to feed the birds. They really need all the food they can get this time of year. I have as many as 50 birds coming to my feeders every day. They are great entertainment and with just a little work you can have lots of birds at your feeders too! For those cardinal lovers you will be pleased to hear that Linda Stevenson who lives in the Gamble house on the shore road has both a male and female cardinal coming to her feeders!

Speaking of things in our back yards, Marina Fisher was surprised to find pussy willow's on her pussy willow bush the second week of January. Sheila Fisher still has some pansy's blooming in the snow at her place. What's in your back yard? (in mine it's just pheasants!)

The Masstown Stewards & Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped out in any way with a recent refundable drive. The next one is scheduled for June 4th. Please keep saving your refundables for our Masstown United Church. They are greatly appreciated.

The Masstown Community Association met Tuesday January 18th and have set Tuesday March 22nd, 7pm, for our next meeting at the Masstown Market. They are looking at some fundraisers and an Easter Egg Hunt. For more information come to our next meeting!

Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday February 3rd, 2pm at the Masstown Church. All ladies welcome. We meet in the afternoons for the months of January, February and March to make it easier for our older members to be able to attend. Come April it is once again light enough to drive in the evenings.

Truro Presbyterial UCW Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 8th at Brunswick St. United Church, Truro with a storm date of February 15th. Theme is "Love Like You Mean It". Program for

the morning will include Don Reid and his wife talking about their trip to The Holy Land with a slide presentation. The afternoon will include a short business meeting and a memorial service for past UCW members that we have lost this past year. Names will be read during this service. A book display will be available as well. Bring a bag lunch. All ladies welcome! Registration is from 9:30 - 10am.

The DGM Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday February 5th, 8am, at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome.

Church services for February are: 9am every Sunday at Erskine United, Glenholme. Rotating services between Masstown and Debert at 10:15am with Sunday School: February 6th - Masstown, February 13th - Debert, February 20th - Masstown and February 27th - Debert. Everyone Welcome!

There will be a Valentine Coffee Party on Wednesday February 9th, 2pm at the Masstown Church. Bake table, play room for the children. Everyone Welcome!

The area has some visitors since my last article. Barbie Fisher was home over the

Christmas holidays from Calgary visiting her parents, Jerry and Marina Fisher. Calvin Trenholme was home from BC visiting his mother, Rosemary Baas. Ron and I were down to Kentville to visit friends, Brenton and Denise Smith. Marina Fisher has been visiting with Ev Jenex in Tatamagouche weekly since she has been at the Willow Lodge there.

Many of our ladies visit Audrey Smith in at Townsview Estates in Truro. She welcomes them and loves to have visitors so drop in on her if you get a chance!

I would like to personally welcome Robert Warning and Linda Stevenson to our community. They live in Verna

Gamble's house on Shore Road.

Condolences go out this month to: Bruce Currie and family on the death of his mother Ada Spidle; Gwendolyn McKay and family on the death of her husband, Donald McKay; Jim Eisses and family on the death of his sister-in-law, Dorothy Eisses; and Pat and Donna Guilderson and family on the death of their god-daughter, Jenna Byranton. I would also like to extend my condolences to Jenna's mother Pat Murchinson who lives in Little Dyke.

May the solitude and peace of the quiet snowy evenings enter into your soul and give you a revived spirit.

Great Village Historical Society Notes

By Linda Shears

The first meeting of the year was held on January 5. Meredith Layton shared a clipping from an old newspaper describing a lumber mill which produced shingles at what is today Bowers' Pond. The evening produced numerous "I remember when" stories and concluded as usual with refreshments.

Interested people are invited to attend the February meeting to hear guest speaker Mark Wood speak about his Great Village business, Instrument Concepts. Mr. Wood will explain

how he became involved with the unique instruments he designs and works with. You may pass by the historic old A.A. Hill building every day and not realize it is humming with activity.

Join us on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:30 PM in the Legion Hall to learn more about this local business.

Copies of the reprinted "History of Great Village" are still available for \$20.00. The Historical Society can be contacted by e-mail: gvhistorical@gmail.com.

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