

# Celtic Concert at Lower Onslow Community Hall



“Finnan Haddie” will perform at the Lower Onslow Community Hall on April 1st at 7:30PM. Jim Bell, Greg Simm, Maggie Jane MacDonald, Cassie Anne MacDonald and Thomas Harrington (left to right) will have your toes tapping as they present and evening of traditional celtic music. (submitted)

“Finnan Haddie” will take to the stage at the Lower Onslow Community Hall on April 1st for their first in a series of three concerts, with performances following in Halifax and Bridgewater on April 2nd and 3rd.

Traditional celtic and folk-roots music will be per-

formed on a complimentary blend of instruments ranging from highland bagpipes and fiddles to the eloquent hammered dulcimer, accompanied by guitar, bass, piano and whistles. There might even be a step dance or two.

Band members include local musician Thomas Harrington, sisters Cassie

Anne and Maggie Jane MacDonald, Greg Simm and Jim Bell.

The Lower Onslow Community Hall is located at 2391 Highway #2, Lower Onslow (near the Fire Hall). Tickets are \$10 each. Concert begins at 7:30. Phone 662-3710 for more details.

# WWII Living History Re-enactment Coming to Debert Military Museum



LCPL John Benoit (left) and Private David Crocker, members of the Atlantic Canada WWII Living History Association stopped by a meeting of the Debert Military History Society recently to discuss plans to set up a re-enactment camp at this year's Debert Military Museum Opening on May 27th to 29th. They shared a photo album filled with photos from other re-enactment events. (Harrington Photo)

**By Linda Harrington**

This year the Debert Military Museum Official Opening will offer something special - an opportunity to experience a working WWII camp onsite.

The Atlantic Canada WWII Living History Association, based out of Shearwater Aviation Museum, is going to be setting up camp at the Debert Military Museum from May 27th to 29th. The 31 member volunteer group has a common goal of preserving WWII history. “We feel Remembrance Day is something year round, not just on Nov. 11th,” says Association member LCPL John Benoit.

LCPL Benoit and Private David Crocker came to a recent meeting of the Debert Military Historical Society to discuss plans for a re-enactment unit to be set up at the Military Museum’s Opening Weekend. “We will set up an L-shape working WW II camp with several encampments including Canadian, American, Russian and German,” says

Benoit.

All the volunteer members of the WWII Living History Association may not have military backgrounds but they all share a keen interest in preserving this important part of our history. LCPL Benoit is presently a Union Representative but was formerly a Medic in the Military, followed by 14 years as a Paramedic in the Province. Private Crocker works as a Maintenance Supervisor but says he is a former “Navy bratt” and he has done some re-enacting with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Benoit and Crocker say this is the second year for the WWII Living History Association and their popularity is increasing. “We have been getting many more bookings from out of the

Halifax area, such as the PEI Airshow and events in Cape Breton. The demand is growing and we are already booking for next year,” says Benoit.

The Debert Military Historical Society will celebrate their 13th Anniversary with the Official Opening of the Military Museum on Saturday, May 28th. They hope the re-enactment camp will encourage the public to stop by for a very unique experience, especially local school children. The Museum will be open all weekend, with a Flag Raising Ceremony held on Saturday afternoon.

LCPL Benoit and Private Crocker say they are looking forward to setting up camp at the former Debert Military Base and hope to have the opportunity to chat with many local Veterans.

# Onslow Fire Brigade Dances

**By Walter McElhinney**

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, two special dances are scheduled. To get ahead of summer vacations they are being held on April 9th and May 7th.

The April 9th dance at the Onslow school will feature the “Working Class” band

from Antigonish. This is a six piece band with rhythm section, keyboard, sax, trombone and three vocalists. Details of the group can be found at [www.workingclassband.com](http://www.workingclassband.com)

Tickets are \$25.00 per couple and will be available at Mingo Music and Onslow Market or members of the Onslow Belmont Fire

Brigade. Wine and cheese at 8:30, gifts and prizes.

On May 7th Ivan and Vivian Hicks and the Berry Hill Band will be returning to the Onslow school. This dance will also feature wine and cheese at 8:30 pm along with gifts and prizes. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and will be available at the door.

# This Bird Not Flying the Coop

**By Linda Harrington**

For some people it is just natural to adopt stray cats when they wonder into their yards but stray chickens?

Don and Ann Geldart, of Debert, were quite surprised when they looked out at their bird feeders last October and there among the flocks of regular songbirds was a white Leghorn chicken.

They had no idea where it came from, and figured it would just pass on through, but when they looked out the next morning the chicken was still there.

“Being animal lovers we couldn’t turn her way,” says Don. “The chicken continued to hang around, I guess because it was getting lots of feed from the feeders. It would follow me around the yard like a dog.”

One day it was pouring rain and Don looked out to see the chicken in quite a panic running around trying to find a spot to get out of the rain. “I got a cardboard box, with some straw and put it up on the doorstep under the eave,” he says. “About an hour later the chicken had moved into the box, where it continued to live for about 2 weeks.”

The weather was starting to get cold and the chicken didn’t appear to have any intention of leaving. Don built a chicken coop for her in the garage and kept a wood fire going for warmth. She was able to come and go as she pleased but continued to live in the coop.

It appeared she had decided to stay with the Geldarts, so Ann decided to give her a name, Myrtle.

“By January it was getting really cold, and so we decided to build her a coop in the basement,” Don says. “Myrtle loved to be cuddled and would even fall asleep in your arms. If Myrtle wanted attention she would bang her dish for us to come.”

Now that the weather is warming up again, Myrtle has been moved back to the garage. She is free to wander around the yard, or even leave if she wants, but she always goes back into her coop at night.

Don recalls one time he was working in the garage and she started clucking loudly and when he went to her, she lead him right to the door of the coop, which was closed. She stood by the door clucking until he opened it, then she went right in and laid an egg.

A daily, fresh egg is Myrtle’s thank you gift for her new family. “She didn’t start laying eggs until February, so we figure she must be a fairly young bird,” says Don.

Myrtle is lucky to have wandered into the Geldart’s yard last fall and it looks like she is here to stay.



Meet Myrtle! She wandered into Don Geldart’s yard last fall and seems quite happy to stick around. She follows him around like a pet dog and loves to cuddle. (Harrington photo)

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