

# Bass River Fire Hall Notes

## HOT TIMES IN THE SUMMER TIME!

By Peter Christensen

A great summer song, but it has two meanings tonight. I have been listening on my pager of a fire being fought by a couple local brigades with the help of a department of natural resources helicopter.

This summer has been dry and the forests are beginning to show the effects of little rain, as well as being dry on top of the ground, the roots sometimes dry out and act as a fuse and sends the fire going underground to create another fire again.

Brigades fighting a fire in the heat of the day face a whole different scene, than a house fire. Winds created by the fires sometimes help create very dangerous conditions. The range of land types can be a formidable problem as well.

Sometimes a fire is in a flat land forest, or in a slash cut over, where you can not see where the drops or holes in the land elevations are because of the forest waste left by the folks who cut it. A forest or brush fire is not a fire to go into without trained firefighters.

This is why training is just as critical for an outside fire as it is for a house or structure fire. So please be safe with your flames, and as of now the province is an open fire desert. No open fires are allowed due to the extreme fire rating of the province. We hope for some precipitation soon.

And the dry times have the rivers getting low as well. And

this has some members of the brigade worried about the arrival of the SMALL SHIPS on Aug 4th. As part of the Bass River Heritage Day celebrations, the annual small ships race or as we call it the Annual Wooden Boat Race will happen at 2 pm on August 4th. The river should have plenty of water left in it. Although stones and bushes create a race course of fairness and hopelessness for the owners of the wooden boats. The boats are numbered to the number on the tickets. Tickets are for sale at the company store at five dollars per ticket. And boats will be for sale on the day of the event. So get your boat tickets, have a fun filled day at the Heritage Day Events, and watch your boats go on down the river.

We are now hoping the proceeds from the Wooden Boat Races will help us get closer in our funding drive for new survival suits for the water rescue team.

Training is ongoing at the hall during the summer months. Fire training as well as MFR scenarios continue on Monday evenings.

Lots of folks are busy getting their wood for the winter and with the dry summer we are having that spells dry wood for the winter. And make sure those flues and those elbows are clean when you light your first fire this fall.

I have heard and read today the accident rate for four wheelers is up this summer, not just in our area but over Nova Scotia. A

great summer past time is going for a drive on the wheeler. But when you add different factors like speed and time of day and conditions of both the road and the driver, trouble is just around the corner.

The best thing you can do for your self is to wear that helmet. I have personally seen dads with their kids driving down the roads with NO helmets, or with helmets on the kids but the adults are not wearing any. That reminds me of a chat I had with a relative last week from the United States, where the story was, the family was on a lake in a paddle boat when a parent got out and the weight shifted the boat, thus flinging everyone else into the lake. Only the children had life jackets on, but the parents did not, I suggested to them if the kids were safe, where would that leave the parents in the middle of a lake? The same with a helmet on the child, but none on the driver. Helmets are meant for one thing, to save your brain, or at least cushion your brain when it hits the ground or trees.

So please think about your safety as well as your children, and the helmet goes good with a bicycle too.

Well time for me to go count some small ships, and get them ready for their big day. Hope to see you at the Heritage Day Events on AUG 4th. It will be FUNN.

**Fireman Pete saying BE SAFE, and dry that wood!**

## Londonderry Community Council News

By Sally Richard

There is nothing quite as enjoyable for a Nova Scotian than a sunny warm summer. The weather this season brings to memory the song lyrics "lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer." From the shores of Parrsboro to River John and all the lakes and streams in between, cottages are overflowing with vacationers enjoying the easy life that we so often wish for during the harsh winter months.

The list of events and festivals on our local calendar is impressive as there is usually entertainment or a supper fairly handy with no worries of traffic hassle. How fortunate we are to have this lifestyle that visitors "from away" envy.

Wednesday nights are busy in Londonderry this summer. The ball games are very well attended and zumba classes are being offered at the Community Centre for those who want a vigorous workout. The Council would like to thank Patrick O'Brien for keeping our grounds so well groomed and the same to Dave Spencer and Vernon Nelson for pressure-washing the front of the Community Centre building. Cory Spencer does a great job keeping the grounds mowed at Managers Park and also deserves a thank you.

Congratulations to Stephen McDow and Linda Lewis who were married at the Community Centre on July 7. Their doberman "Fubar" was ring bearer. Following their ceremony a reception and dance was enjoyed by their guests.

On July 14-15, the Bird family held their annual family reunion at the Community Centre. It was well attended and plans are already being made for next year. A large crowd attended the ded-

ication of the piano at the Thirsty Church on July 22.

Condolences to Phyllis McLean and Ralph Cooke and families on the passing of their brother Kenneth Cooke of Pickering, Ontario on June 22. Phyllis and her son Robbie attended his funeral. Also our sympathy to the family of the late Dale Geldart, Sutherlands Lake.

Some visitors to Londonderry were Jean Nappi. Jean attended the Matheson reunion while home hosted by her nephew Randy Matheson, Brooklyn, Hants County. Rose Gamble, Truro spent some time at her home accompanied by her son Glenn and grandson Grayson of Toronto. Emily Potter is currently visiting her grandparents Barb and Bev Potter. Emily's father Douglas drove Emily to Nova Scotia from Toronto for her annual country vacation.

Charles Nelson and Debbie Richard of Toronto are visiting family and friends in Londonderry and Glenholme. Jonathan Richard and family of Oromocto, NB, spent a week in July visiting his parents Sally and John Richard. Margaret Barnes visited with her son Ross and family in PEI recently.

A very heart touching ceremony was held at the Bass River Veterans Memorial Park on July 1, 2012. A large crowd assembled to witness the unveiling of a monument honouring our 'Forgotten Heroes' - the animals that served in wartime beside our military. This was a long overdue recognition from the stories that were told and an added asset to Veterans Memorial Park as it is a first.

But the most amazing part was that an eleven year old boy,

Noah Tremblay, Bass River, had a vision after a school project on the subject and was able to achieve his dream. To raise the funds needed he was successful at bringing together the support of the federal, provincial and municipal governments, veterans groups, police groups, businesses and communities to accomplish his goal. Not an easy task but Noah did it. Thank you Noah for re-introducing us to the power of positive thinking.

It is reassuring to know that our future will be in good hands with today's youth. On that note, congratulations to Marla McNutt for receiving the highest academic standing in grade nine as well as other awards at Central Colchester Junior High. Marla is the granddaughter of Maxine and Dan Richard.

There will be no Community Council meetings until September. Contact Amanda Langille for hall rental inquiries (668-2300).

## Historic Sites

Along The Shore - John M. Blaikie

The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.



By Dick Akerman

The arrow pointer on map # 302 locates, on the corner of Wharf Road and # 2 highway in Great Village, the house built in the early 1870's by John M. Blaikie, (1837/1929) which exists today as the "Blaikie House Bed & Breakfast". John M., was the son of Harris Blaikie, who came to Great Village from Pictou County via Stewiacke and Maitland, to practice his tailoring trade. As a young man John went to work as a clerk in the general store of Gloud Wilson McLelan. McLelan at that time was a sitting member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly. Upon McLelan's death in 1858, John M. went into partnership in the store business with G. W.'s son, Archibald Woodberry McLelan, who took over his father's seat in the Legislature, and went on to become a member of Sir John A. MacDonald's first government in 1867, a senator in the 1870's, back in Parliament in the 1880's, and died, in office, as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, in 1890.

In the meantime, back in Great Village, John M. married his partner's sister, Adelaide, and, in the early 1860's went into the shipbuilding business with McLelan. Their shipyard was located just off "Wharf Road", on the banks of



the Great Village River. In addition to his mercantile and shipbuilding endeavors, Blaikie was heavily involved in the buying and selling of land. As part of the Archives collection of Great Village material we have a small pocket notebook of Blaikie's, in which he describes the measurement of a potential land purchase, by using the rotations of his buggy wheel. The accompanying photos shows him in his buggy in 1922, and the picture of the house is about the same vintage. Many Cobequid Shore villages had outstanding men of Mr. Blaikie's caliber. Their entrepreneurial spirit created wealth in their time both for themselves and their communities, and left a legacy of their "work" ethic behind.

Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, which will be published as a monthly column in the Shoreline Journal.

### From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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For further information, contact my office.

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