

Halloween Fire Prompts Warning from Land Owner



The charred remains of a mobile home belonging to Blois Boyd. The fire took place Halloween Night on Montrose Rd., Portapique. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Someone torched a 60 ft mobile home on Montrose Rd., on Halloween night, and owner Blois Boyd is not happy.

"Two years ago I was told it would be burned on Halloween night but I was

able to keep an eye on it that year. This year I was away and it was set on fire," says Mr. Boyd.

The unoccupied trailer was located on Mr. Blois's property, just a few hundred feet up Montrose Rd., off Hwy #2, in Portapique. According

to Peter (Fireman Pete) Christensen, the Bass River Fire Brigade was on the fire scene for about four hours, with Great Village and District Brigade called in for support.

Blois Boyd says he is certain it was arson and this is not the first time it has happened to buildings on his property. Fifteen years ago, a barn he owned near the church was burned to the ground. He says the RCMP linked this fire to two underage teenagers, who could not be charged. A few years later a house on the same property burned and he says the Halifax Fire Marshall told him it was arson, as well.

RCMP Sergeant Al Affleck says the fire has been investigated but there have been no leads in the case. "No one saw the fire and no evidence was located at the scene," he said.

Mr. Boyd reported the Halloween fire to the RCMP but says he understands there

is not much they can do. He thinks the public should be aware of what is happening in this community. "I wanted to let people know this is happening, so they can keep watch on their own properties. There are quite a few unoccupied buildings in the community," he says. "Portapique is very important to me. The store on the corner was run by my aunt, then my uncle. The house across the road was owned by another aunt and I used to stop in there on my way home from school. My mother ran the post office and my brother Ivan, who just recently passed away, lived in Portapique."

Mr. Boyd currently lives in Enfield and he was in PEI for Halloween night. "I stopped in to check the property on the way home Sunday and discovered the fire," he says. "The trailer was not insured, so I won't even get any money for the clean up."



Monica George Punke, directed the Trinitarian Choir during their performance at Saint James United Church on Oct. 25th. The concert was sponsored by the Great Village Royal Canadian Legion Branch #72, commemorating the 65th Anniversary of D-Day & the Battle of Normandy. (Harrington Photo)



The Trinitarians, a 70 plus member choir from New Glasgow, performed at Saint James United Church on Oct. 25th, sponsored by the Great Village Royal Canadian Legion Branch #72. The concert was commemorative of the 65th Anniversary of D-Day & the Battle of Normandy. (Harrington Photo)

Mother Christmas, Written By Author With Local Connection



Author Norine Trenholm and her publisher Laura Michaels celebrate the printing of her book Mother Christmas. (Submitted Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Norine (Pash) Trenholm, grew up in Glenholme, the daughter of Frances and Ernie Pash. She later married Calvin Trenholm and they raised three children in the local communities of Glenholme, Masstown and Crowes Mills before moving to British Columbia in 1997. Norine says they still have a cottage in Portapique which she calls her little piece of "home". She returns to Nova Scotia each summer to visit her mother, who is living at Parkland Estates in Truro, and many other family and friends in the area.

Norine is a self-published author and a year ago she became an incorporated company known as Norine's Notions Ink Inc. Her first published book is called Mother Christmas, which came about quite by accident. "Five years ago as I sat down to write my annual Christmas letter to family and

friends back home and for some reason, I felt the urge to write a funny Christmas poem in lieu of a letter," she says. "It was simply my story of what Christmas had been to me over the years but I soon discovered that it was the story of MOST women during this often frantic and work-filled holiday."

Norine's sister, Marilyn Benjamin, upon hearing the Christmas story, convinced her to save it for publication as an illustrated book. Marilyn even recommended the title of "Mother Christmas". Norine says her sister is her sales promoter for Atlantic Canada and her biggest fan by far!

It was a three year journey before Norine actually received a printed copy of her book. She found a gifted illustrator, Rolf Isberg, quite by chance. "He was a man in his late sixties who loved the

story from the beginning. Rolf was quickly able to bring Mother Christmas to life for us all to enjoy," says Norine. "The most difficult thing I had to deal with in the making of this book was the sudden death of Rolf, just several weeks after finding him and before the illustrations were completely finished. Things came to a halt until I found West Pro Publishing Inc., who cleverly managed to pull the whole thing together."

The book seems to appeal

to women of all ages. Norine says daughters buy it for their mothers and mothers buy it for their daughters, many women buy it for their friends and for themselves. Men enjoy the humour and appreciate the truth in it as well. They are buying copies for their wives.

"I have had some really funny comments from women who have read the book," she says. "They find a verse or an illustration that they identify with and they can't wait to tell me about

it." Norine feels this is the key to the success of the book, "Women totally identify with the Mother Christmas character."

Norine has a second book, The 50's Club, in the final stages of completion. "In fact, I have an entire series in the Women's Satire category that I plan to publish over the next few years," she says. She has also written a children's book called The Queen of Halloween, which is awaiting illustration.

Mother Christmas can be found locally in the gift department at the Masstown Market and the Nova Scotian

Emporium, Truro. Norine is also selling the book in New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia and orders can be placed on her website: www.norinesnotionsink.com

She says a newly signed contract will result in the book being available in the US this Christmas season.

Norine donates a portion of her book profits to Basics For Babies, a Vancouver based charity for babies in need. "I will continue to do this at the end of each year. The "mother" and "grandmother" in me feels the need to give back some of what I receive to this worthy cause," she says.

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