

Santa Arrives at Bass River Hall, Dec. 14TH

By Peter Christensen

Hello from the hall on this the month before Santa arrives.

We have just finished cleaning up from the last dance of the year. An awesome band and a real appreciative crowd, not a large one, but it was the biggest kitchen party I have ever been to. Although the band was great, I think like any good band they feed off the crowd, but at that dance I believe they had to fast, and they left a little thinner. Heck of a way to try to eat. A big thank you to all those members who have given their time and energy to support the dance fundraising efforts.

On that note we have some members getting ready for Santa Claus, he is arriving at the hall on DEC.14. He will be at the fire hall at 1 pm and will be leaving to go back to the North Pole at 1:30 pm.

He is a very busy person at this time of year, so he can just squeeze the fire hall in from 1 pm until 1:30 pm on Sat Dec 14. Santa and his Elves will be in full character, so be prepared for some fun, food and festive happiness, and Allan will be there as well. Come for some warm Apple Cider and treats as well.

We have some new members at the hall this month.

Austin Hankey, along with Brandon Vance, have joined the ranks. Welcome to the hall men.

Snow is flying through the air this evening, and the fire places and wood stoves are being started with the dry wood from the summer splitting jobs we all had to do. I hope all of you have checked your flues and pipes, before you have to call your fire brigade for that flue fire.

And just a reminder of the cooler weather coming our way. The roads have the ability to change rapidly in both appearance and grip, so



keep an eye out for these conditions. Things can change in a degree or two anytime on the road.

Training continues at the hall. Last evening we enjoyed strapping E.J., a fire member, to the Back Board, then when he was secured we wrapped him up in the S.K.E.D., which is the same as a big plastic toboggan, but with a few added features. Thank you to E.J. for his calm demeanor, could have been worse.

Fireman Alex took a trip this past weekend to his first meeting of the Coast Guard Aux, which the brigade is a part of since the summer. He arrived back at the hall with lots of information and a brand new Coast Guard life vest. Way to go Alex. I believe this coming week we will go over the information from the meetings.

We must get to the fire hall and check on the Christmas decorations for the hall. We will see all the children, old and young at the Hall on Dec 14 from 1 pm until 1:30 pm. Stay safe out there and be aware of the weather conditions. Watch if you begin to shovel your snow piles, take it slow and easy, take breaks as often as you need to. See you at the hall for Santa and his Elves and Allan as well.

Debert Legion Notes

By Danny Martell

The Branch held its Remembrance Day Church Service (Parade) at the United Church in Debert on Sunday the 3rd of November and there was a pretty good crowd of Legion Members in attendance, which was very good to see. The chowder, etc. which followed was second to none. A very special thank you is passed along to the Minister, Carol Gillard and the members of the Debert United Church for the hospitality they showed the members of Branch 106.

Although the weather wasn't so good, there was a very large crowd on hand at the Cenotaph for the November 11th Parade and laying of the wreaths and crosses. The only negative reports were about the Public Address system. If anyone is going to the landfill site in Kempton please take it with you and put it at the bottom of the pile.

There was an excellent crowd at the Branch after the Parade to enjoy the soup, chowder and finger foods and the comradeship. Sorry folks there was no moose milk, the finances would not allow any.

Following is a list of Branch Members who are eligible for their Years of Service Pins: Be they ordinary, associate or affiliate voting- Robert Hill (45-0), Dan Martell (35-0), Wallace Johnson (30-0), George Cooke (25-0), Susan Taylor (15-0), Michael Taylor (15-0), Harold Barclay (40-A), Jack Kaulback (40-A), Bobby Pash (40-A), Donny Totten (40-A), Eugene Adshade (35-A), Linda Dykens (30-A), Phyllis Wilson (30-A), Sharon Kyle (25-A), Ralph Turner (25-A), Craig Turner (20-A), Jennifer MacDougall (15-A), Julia Taylor (15-A), Joanne Griffon (5-A), Dorothy Adams (15-AV), David Chisholm (15-AV), Art Fisher (15-AV), Alfred Matthews (15-AV), Glen McNutt (15-AV), Doug Simpson (15-AV), Myles Eagles (10-AV), Jason

MacNeil (10-AV), Doug Morris (5-AV), Robert Putnam (5-AV), Terry Slack (5-AV).

For those members who did not get presented with their pins at the supper, you may pick them up at the Bar. (Thanks, Dave).

A tip of the hat and a very special thank you is passed along to Joan Currie, who donated a lazy boy lift chair, a toilet seat and a shower chair to our Branch. Joan, thank you very much for your generosity.

The winner of the hand-made quilt that the Debert Military History Society was selling tickets on was Gordie Martell, from South Bar over in Cape Breton. Congratulations Gordon. To all the people who sold tickets on the quilt and all those who bought tickets, thank you very, very much. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A look at the Dart League standings after week eight shows Team 5 with Chris McLean, Mike Hamilton and Dawn Hatt, doubling along in first place with 38 points. In second spot with 36 points is Team 3 with Craig Fraser, Dave MacPhee and Debbie Buchanan. In 3rd place, one point back with 35 points is Team 4, with Skippy Dawson, Deanna Martell and Larry Hatt.

There has been two 180's so far with Dawn Hatt and Bill Hawker hitting the big numbers. High Start- Skippy Dawson (160), High Finish- Ron Eastcott (105), High Score- Deanna Martell, Mike Hamilton, Skippy Dawson, Bill Hawker, Craig Fraser, Ken Smith all have 140's. Most Starts- Bill Hawker and Craig Fraser with 39 each. Most Finishes- Craig Fraser with 34. (Thanks, Skip).

The Crib League standings as of the 19th of November are as follows: Tied for 1st place are Jo-Ann Bartlett/Irene Blenkhorn along with Yvon Thuot/Joe Rohback, holding down sec-

ond spot is the team of Ron Eastcott and Debbie Cock. Rounding out the top three is Marilyn Dykens and Lauchie Rector.

High Hand so far is 24 and eleven different players have one each. Irene and Jo-Ann have the most winning nights with 2.

Players are reminded that the Crib League's Christmas Supper will be held on the 18th of December. (Thanks, Earl)

Well folks, hunting season is in full swing here in Colchester County and parts of Cape Breton (moose) and from all reports the freezers are getting filled up quickly with deer, moose, bear and a great variety of game birds.

A few weeks ago I took in a hunter's breakfast in Londonderry and had a very nice chat with Jimmy McMullen. Jimmy was telling me his good friend Bernie Lewis finally shot a deer, and was Bernie excited. You bet he was, he had a deuce of a job getting his tag cut out. Luck was with him, he didn't get any fingers. Congratulations Bernie. (Jim, thank you).

Bernie, maybe Jimmy needs a lesson on how it is done. Oh yes, at the same breakfast did Judy Crossman get a huffy on? Just because Gerry (Bear) Dykens got served first!

Because of the Christmas Holidays the December General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 17th of December. All voting members are urged to attend this meeting, as the future of Branch 106 is at stake. Please come out and have your say, the Branch needs your input.

Happy Birthday wishes for November are passed along to Robert Hill, Deanna Martell, Skip Dawson, Betty Crossman, Harold Barclay, Yvon Thuot, Shelly Vincent, Mary Jane Elliott, Darrell Cock and Steve Williams.

Happy Anniversary wishes are passed along to Marilyn and Jim Dykens, Bev and Lee McCulloch, Helen and Ron Eastcott.

Gardening for Butterflies

By Sarah Adams

Where have all the butterflies gone? This question kept coming up around the office this summer, but when you work with biologists you sometimes notice things that the public often overlook. However, through speaking with family and friends from across Nova Scotia, it became apparent everyone was wondering why butterfly sightings were not as abundant as in years past.

Butterflies are becoming more widely used as indicator species within the environmental field. Plants, insects, birds and other animal species which are quick to be impacted by slight changes in their habitat are considered indicator species. As a result, the lack of butterflies suggests greater changes are afoot within our regional landscapes.

These changes may eventually impact more than just the insects within these landscapes; humans could also see direct and indirect impacts. Climate change, invasive species and habitat loss are a few possible explanations for lowered butterfly numbers. Trying to tackle these sprawling environmental issues seems beyond the capacity of an individual, but there are several things you can do to improve butterfly habitat.

Within the urban landscape improving and connecting existing green spaces helps to provide habitat for butterflies. Corridors also need to be developed to allow for movement of butterflies (and other species) from in town green spaces to the regional landscape as a whole. The creation of improved butterfly habitat in town green spaces and corridors is something both municipalities and individuals can do by using a few simple steps.

Criteria when gardening for butterflies are basic - butterflies need a variety of plants, a few wet spots and plenty of sun. Most important is the use of native plants in your gardens, as many butterflies rely on native plants as food and larval host sources. Using native plants also requires less maintenance as these plant species are adapted to our climate, soils and seasons, resulting in less energy inputs for a beautiful garden.

Examples of these plants are Purple Joe Pye Weed, Daisies and Turtlehead. Meanwhile some non-native, but butterfly loving plant species are: Swamp Milkweed, Black Eyed Susan, and Green Headed Coneflowers. The next step is to leave the pesticides and herbicides in the garden shed; your lawn may not look perfect without its annual dandelion removal, but the caterpillars will thank you!

If the urge to wage war in the garden does strike though, the manual removal and prevention of invasive species should be the property owner's mission. Invasive non-native plants harm native plant species by crowding them out by competing for nutrients and sunlight. In Nova Scotia, Glossy Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard are two such plants that are very hard to get rid of once they arrive on your property.

Garlic Mustard in particular is of threat to butterfly species as this plant produces chemicals that are poisonous to the butterfly larvae, while its structure imitates native host plants thus drawing unwitting butterflies in! Though



Sarah Adams - MerseyRiver

currently not found in Cumberland county, this plant has been found in Colchester so keep your eyes peeled!

These are just a few things to mull over in the coming months of cold and the occasional nor-easter, but, when the weather begins to hint of spring, keep these tips in mind for your gardens. Involve your children or grandchildren when planting, thus starting the next generation of green thumbs.

Watching a seed turn into a pretty flower never gets boring and for the more adventurous, grab a butterfly net and see how many species of butterfly you can find in your garden! Get your neighbours involved in butterfly gardening; a pretty garden on its own can become isolated in the middle of a suburb, where the organisms that come in may not be able to get out!

Visit <http://www.ecologyaction.ca/> for more information on butterfly gardens; the Ecology Action Center is based in Halifax and provides information specific to our region. Check out the Maritime Butterfly Atlas, <http://www.accdc.com/butterflyatlas.html>, to see what types of butterflies have been spotted in your area or to record your own sightings and help other citizen scientists discover what butterflies call the Maritimes home. Keep an eye out for butterfly gardening and counting events on your town or counties calendar of events!

Sarah Adams grew up in Athol, NS and is now an Ecosystem Management Technologist student at Fleming College in Lindsay, ON.

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The **Shoreline** Journal Deadline for the December issue of is December 10



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