

Great Village Historical Society Notes



Helen MacLachlan, Logan Spenser and Vernon McCully examine a quilt made by Zillah MacLachlan. Zillah served as a nurse in the Boer War and after she returned home to Great Village, she made a quilt from nurses' uniforms which had been worn during that war. (Linda Shears Photo)

By Linda Shears

The Great Village Historical Society met on Wednesday, November 30, at the Legion Hall with thirteen members present. The new panel for the pergola, on the topic of the 1889 Currie map of Great Village, is ready for its final proofreading.

The metal hardware supporting the colourful flower pots which hung in our communities during the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary celebrations is still in place. This hardware is available for use, should individual homeowners wish to hang their own flower pots from these poles next summer.

In the May edition of The Shoreline Journal, we made a request that any descendants of Captain James Wilbur Johnston

contact our Historical Society regarding publication of a book about Captain Johnston's life. During the summer, Richard Akerman was delighted to receive an e-mail from Captain Johnston's granddaughter who lives in Arizona. She has been able to provide Richard with much useful information as well as photos. She had happened upon the Shoreline article while researching her family tree. There's proof that the Shoreline has a far-flung readership.

The evening's program was provided by Richard Akerman on the topic of wartime letters. Correspondence from both world wars has been donated to the Colchester Museum and Archives; it has been carefully

catalogued, summarized and filed for storage. Richard read excerpts from some of the hundred letters written by John Chisholm while serving in England and France during the First World War. John grew up on the same farm to which Elizabeth Bishop walked her Jersey cow. In his letters, he talks of meeting other men from the area and of being entertained by the Dumbells.

During the social time following the meeting, Helen MacLachlin was told that for several people the highlight of the Elizabeth Bishop Festival this past summer was seeing her drive Gordon Lewis's team through the village. The sudden clatter of hoofs and jingling of harness bells caught the attention of everyone at the Farmers' Market that morning. Unfortunately, there were no photos of that event; even people who had cameras were too awestruck by the sight of Helen perched beside Gordon with reins in her hands and a grin on her face, guiding the smartly trotting horses towards the stop sign.

At our next meeting, on February 1, at 7:30 PM, Vernon McCully will present the story of a World War II airman. Please join us if you have an interest in history. The Society's e-mail address is: gvhistorical@gmail.com.



Collector Robert Henley holds a Fenian War Medal from 1866, the oldest medal on display at the Great Village Military Show. The inset of the medal shows the red ensign of Canada surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves.

Story and photos by Linda Harrington

The Great Village Legion was bustling with military memorabilia recently as avid collectors, and others with a curious interest including MP Scott Armstrong, came together for the Military Show and Sale.

Tables were lined with intriguing items and sellers behind the tables were more than happy to chat about their collections.

Allan Penman, from Weldford, NB had an interesting WWII dress uniform on display. It belonged to a Lieutenant in the 135 Infantry of the German Army, one of the 1st units to go into Poland in 1939. Alongside his collection was a large framed reproduction of a German SS Recruiting Poster. He said an original poster sells for \$3-4000.

One of the earliest medals on display was a Fenian Raid Medal featuring a red ensign of Canada surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves on one side and the head of Queen Victoria on the back. Collector Robert Henley said the medal was given out across Canada for duties related to the Fenian raids between 1866 and 1871.

War medals have sometimes been the subject of controversy in the past when they have been sold for money. Local collector Walter Millen had a few WW I and II medals on display and says he has tried to return medals to families of Veterans whenever possible. "Lots of times families do not even know the medals exist. The Veterans often did not talk about their medals, and years after they pass away, families will come looking for their medals," he says. Walter has been able to

help a few people find medals through his contacts, especially since sellers always try to get the history behind items they are selling. He says it is harder with WWII medals as they are not named.

MP Scott Armstrong stopped by the Military Show and chatted with collectors. He says his grandfather was a WWI Veteran and much of his education was involved with military history, so he enjoys visiting events like these. Several people were asking for information on a popular topic. "A lot of people have been approaching me, asking about abolishing the long-gun registry. We are voting on this right after we go back in the New Year. It is going to happen; it is just a matter of time," says Armstrong.

Walter Millen says this is great news for military collectors as it will make it easier for those who wish to trade guns. "It will also save the tax payers a lot of money. The \$2 billion would be much better spent on hospitals," says Millen.

The Military Show attracted about a dozen collectors this time around, and Millen is hopeful there will be a better turn out at the next Show in January. All proceeds go to the Great Village Legion Branch #72.



Allan Penman, of Weldford, NB displays a unique WWII German tunic, along with a SS recruiting poster. The Militaty Show was held Dec. 3rd at the Great Village Legion. Another Show will be held in January, 2012.



Walter Millen shows Hugh Muir, of Stellarton, his collection of WW I and II medals at the Military Show, held Dec. 3rd at the Great Village Legion. Walter chatted with MP Scott Armstrong about the long-gun registry and he was pleased to hear it will soon be abolished.

Londonderry Community Council News



Winner of the 50/50 draw at the hunter's breakfasts in Londonderry on December 3 was Ruth Thompson, Great Village. Pictured in the center is Ruth accepting a cheque for \$323.50 from President of the Londonderry Community Council, Peggy Mattix (left) and Sally Richard, Treasurer (right). (MacVicar Photo)

By Sally Richard

Hunter's breakfasts were well attended this Fall exceeding all expectations. The last breakfast on December 3 recorded 158 sales, the largest ever. Over a six week period the average attendance was 119 people per week. This has become our largest fundraiser and the support from our community and surrounding area was just phenomenal. A very special thank you to all the volunteers, who worked so hard to make it happen and to all our hungry customers. The lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Ruth Thompson, Great Village. Ruth won a jackpot of \$323.50.

Our condolences to the family of the late Helen Lane, formerly of Londonderry Station. Helen passed away in the Truro hospital on November 25 and is sadly missed by her five daughters and son as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Congratulations to Ray Langille, Londonderry Station who recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Best wishes to Helen Patriquin who is a patient in the hospital and to Bill Dawson who is not well. We would also pass on good wishes to Bertha Smith, Londonderry Station. Although Bertha is often house-bound she enjoys life and has a great spirit which is uplifting to visitors. A warm welcome to new residents of Londonderry. Todd Cameron and family recently purchased the Matheson house on Delaney's Hill and Matthew MacMasters the new

house built a year ago next to the Mattix property on Westchester Road (North End).

On behalf of the Londonderry Community Council, Merry Christmas and a happy 2012. We appreciate the support shown to us throughout the past year. All the funds raised are used to operate the Community Centre and to maintain a good facility for social events within our community. It is estimated that during a twelve month period (December-December) over two thousand people have come to the Centre for receptions, birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, fundraiser/yard sale, banquets, card parties, dance, suppers and breakfasts. This would not be

possible without your continued support and the many volunteers who are the foundation of our community. It is hoped that the future will bring us more members and volunteers so this "gem of a place" will continue to be the focal place for everyone to enjoy for years to come.

I do enjoy keeping you up-to-date on the Londonderry news. It is really a joint effort between Maxine Richard and myself. Between the two of us we manage to come up with a monthly column. From Arisaig to Advocate and all places in between and as far away as British Columbia and some places in the United States, we too wish our readers a wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year. Of course, seasons' greeting to Maurice and his wife Dorothy for enabling the folks of West Colchester an opportunity to share community news and events in the best little newspaper around - The Shoreline Journal.

There will be not card party on December 26 but will resume on January 2, 2012. Keep Christ in Christmas and remember our military who are separated from their loved ones at this time of year.

Contact Amanda Langille for hall rental inquiries at 668-2300.



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