## **Out And About With Ken**

By Ken Kennedy

Whew! Just got back from the monthly Legion meeting in Great Village. It ended with the customary lunch but because it is so close to Christmas the ladies went all out with the goodies. (I wish they wouldn't make me eat all those cakes and cookies!)

The other highlight of the evening was the swearing in of three new members. They were, Gary Rogers, Lynn MacMasters, and Jim Hudson (transfer from Debert). Also a new slate of officers for 2012 was announced. All incumbents hold their previous positions except for the president's position which will be filled by the 1st Vice, Joan Richard. Logan now becomes the past-president. The swearing-in ritual will be conducted by the Zone Commander at the January 11th meeting.

Not really too much going on so far this month. I managed to get a few lights installed on the trees and some candles in the windows.

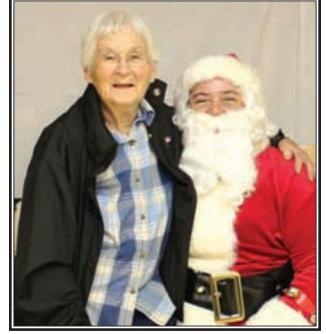
Some of the area homes are spectacular in their splendor of lights and ornaments. Debert UCC has a beautiful Nativity scene outside their church - the only one I've seen so far.

We will be staying home for Christmas with Pamela and Olivia (her first Christmas) and then heading out on Boxing Day for Toronto to visit Greg and family in Newmarket

for New Years. A few notable birthdays and anniversaries around Debert in December. Jan Sitser had a birthday on Dec. 1st, Rick Cox on the 15th, Reg McCabe on Dec. 30 and Lena Davidson on Dec. 31st. Also my neighbour Blaise Smith turned 50 on Dec. 3rd.

That's about all for this year. Don't forget to keep God in Christmas. After all, Emanuel means "God with us."

Maybe we should all start saying "Merry Godmass" from now on. So Merry Godmass everyone. (OK, preachers, explain that one!)



We had to convince Fran Forman that ninety-two isn't too old to sit on Santa's knee and she was not too old for a candy cane either! (Harrington Photo)



Only Santa knows if Bernice and George Deal are on the naughty or nice list! But since Santa seems to be smiling, it must be good news. (Harrington photo)

## **Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge Schedule**

By Chris Urquhart

Church services for the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge will be: Christmas Eve 7pm at Erskine United, in Glenholme. No services on Christmas Day or on New Years' Day. We encourage all our parishioners to visit other Churches on Jan. 1st, making this a visitation

As we enter January our services will be: January 8th, Masstown 10am,

January 15th Debert 10am, January 22 Erskine United, Glenholme 10am,

January 29th Masstown 10am.

We welcome you to each of

## "The Night Before Christmas" **DENIED BY AUTHOR**



By Chris Urquhart

I am sure you know the story "The Night Before Christmas" but did you know that it was written by a Dr. Clement Clarke Moore a Professor of Biblical Learning at General Theological Seminary in New York and that he was fluent in every language but slang? He was pompous and stuffy but at the age of 35 he married and eventually had children. Here he could finally be a child at heart with his own children.

He was a story teller to them but when he created the story "The Night Before Christmas" he did what most of us parents don't do - he wrote down the story. It was found and published anonymously in the Troy Sentinel. Dr. Moore was horrified and disclaimed any knowledge that he had written it. for what would people say? Him, the author of "A Compendious Lexicon of the Hebrew Language".

This untruth could not be publicly associated with his distinguished name. Funny how things work out. He finally admitted to writing "The Night Before Christmas" sixteen years later. And for all his fine scholarly writing, long since collecting dust on college bookshelves, he is remembered most for the Christmas story he made up for his children so long, long ago.

## **Great Village students enjoy** wildlife program

By Linda Harrington

Students enjoyed a fun and informative program provided by the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. Through a variety of hands on and interactive activities, students developed an understanding of species at risk and how human behavior influences a species chance of survival. Thank you to Theresa Adams for arranging this spectacular presentation for students.

The Classroom Café has 'opened" for the school year. Check the menu each month, printed on the school calendar.

Gingerbread houses were decorated by each student on Dec. 6th. Thank you to the Home and School for providing the materials and to the "building contractors"- Mike Burnett, Andrea Gould, Kathy Crossman, Mandi MacRae, Fern Vincent, Tammy Spencer, Lyndsay MacLean, Heather Boyd, Melissa Rector, Janine Smith, Angie MacLellan. Heather Leggate, Dawn

Sprecher and Janet Dykstra.

A Food Handlers Course was offered on December 7th at the school, from 6:30-9:30. The cost of the course was covered by the Home & School.

The Christmas Concert was held on Dec. 8th. Donations for the food bank were collected at the door.

Yum! A Turkey Dinner was held on Dec. 15th, in the gymnasium. Thank you to the volunteers - Head Cooks: Heather Leggate & Margaret Congdon; Kitchen Helpers: Dawn Sprecher, Patti Sharpe, Kathy Crossman, Sheri Lundie; Serve and Clean Up: Angie MacLellan, Janine Smith, Sarah Jollimore and anyone else who helped out.

The Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 16th provided an opportunity for students to buy Christmas gifts for family

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Classes resume on January 3rd.



Grammie Putnam brought five of her grandchildren to Masstown United Church for Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning. Left to right- Chloe Wolf Putnam, Clare Smith, Colton Smith, Madelyn Smith and Morgan Smith with grammie Ellen Putnam. (Harrington Photo)



One and a half year old Montgomery Morris (left) and his three vear old brother, Xavier were all smiles as they enjoyed Breakfast with Santa at Masstown United Church on Dec. 3rd. (Harrington





Annabelle, a one year old Nubian goat loves to go for walks, when she can find clover. Her owner is Jenna Waugh, Lower Truro. They will receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate





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