

# Lightning Strikes



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and we thought the house might be on fire."

Clayton immediately went out into the rain to check on the house and out buildings. With the light from more flashes of lightning, he could see where a tree had been hit and pieces of wood were strewn around the yard.

Neighbours Joe and Rila MacDougall were shaken by the lightning strike, as well.

Rila had just hung up the phone and was talking to her husband in their kitchen. "I was facing the window when all at once I saw a massive explosion and sparks that looked like 1st of July fireworks," says Rila. "It really sounded like a bomb and I thought for sure the Lewis's garage had been hit." She says it was a good thing it was raining so hard, or a fire might have started.

Phone service at the

Lewis home, and neighbours on both sides, was out following the strike. Rila says they were told the telephone wires were burnt right off at the pole.

Inside the Lewis home, they had damage to their television, vcr, telephones and fridge. Clayton surveyed the yard at day break the following morning and could not believe his eyes. Their property was littered with pieces of wood; some had flown as far as 200 feet away and even up onto the roof. The tree, where lightning had struck, looked as if it had exploded. A clothesline pole was split from top to bottom and the clothesline itself had been completely burnt off.

Walking around the property he found numerous broken windows in the barns and garage. Glass littered the ground from about a dozen windows and Clayton found it interesting when he noticed all of the glass had fallen outside, as if forced outward from pressure within. One window in the house was also cracked by a fragment of exploding wood.

"I don't think I have ever seen a storm this bad and I hope I never do again," says Clayton. "I remember one when I was a kid that killed a horse down at Saints Rest but I think this was even worse than that one."

Clayton and Kay had plenty to talk about when they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary as planned on June 4th. Family

and friends, who dropped by to wish them well, were amazed to see where the lightning had struck.

The Lewis's had a mess to clean up but they weren't complaining. "We were very lucky the house or buildings did not catch fire," says Kay. Damages were covered by their insurance.



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ing of few dollars. She stood close to the hall entrance with a hand painted sign saying "Hi I'm Dexter. If you make a donation to Maya it would make my day. Pat me." By mid-morning she was pleased to have close to \$25 in her bucket, as few could resist walking by cute little Dexter.

People came from far and wide to offer their help and to make donations. Janice Crowell lives in Truro, and works with one of the organizers. She said she really felt the need to come and help where she

could, "Whatever else I would be doing with my day is not worth anything else compared to this."

Holly Miller helped organize the BBQ and Ball Tournament and she was amazed at how everything from the ball tournament prizes to hamburgers was all donated. She says a grand total of \$9,524.85 was raised plus even a \$100 gas was card donated, all to help little Maya's family.

One thing is for certain, the love and prayers reflected in everyone who contributed to "Maya's Day" could never be measured.

## Great Village and Area Notes

By Florence Adams

The Isabelle Pope UCW celebrated the closing of the season on June 8th with a seafood dinner at Mo's Café in Five Islands. Seven members attended. Some enjoyed a drive along the coast afterward.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Gary Jordan on his death on June 14th. Gary's immediate family are in Bass River, but a portion of the family are in Great Village.

Wheel to Meals in the Legion Hall as usual on June 7th was catered to by the Fireman's Auxiliary and was well attended. The last Wheels to Meals for the season was held on June 21st.

Friends of Eddie Hatfield will be pleased to know that he is home from the hospital. He was hospitalized after a serious beating earlier this month. The attacker is awaiting trial.

Jack Leeman spent the second week of June visiting family and friends in Tiverton.

On June 19th, the congregation of St James United church presented Tracey Miller a cheque in apprecia-

tion of her services for the last eleven years. Tracey has been an organist, teacher and choir member. She will attend college in Halifax.

The celebrations for Elizabeth Bishop's one hundredth birthday are in full swing. This month has seen visitors from USA and Japan visiting the Elizabeth Bishop house here.

Work has been going on on the Londonderry Station Road since May. The residents of this road will be happy to have it finished. Work is

expected to continue into August.

The market on Saturday mornings continues quite successfully. On June 18th, Nancy and Bruce Corrigan paid a visit. They are former residents of Great Village. Bruce played an important role in getting the market organized.

The 1st of July celebrations scheduled will end, as usual, with a chicken barbeque sponsored by the Fireman's Auxiliary. At St James United, it was good to see Robert Layton in the choir on Sunday, June 19th. It's his first appearance since he broke his ankle last spring.



Alfred Matthews  
Debert

Alfred Matthews remembers helping his mom milk cows when he was seven years old.

"I was born in Debert on the farm and worked my arse off," Alfred said with a laugh. "I was too light to get into the army so I stayed on the farm. My dad was sick so I helped my mom around the farm."

He was born on the farm on May 6, 1920, the son of Earl and Iola Matthews. "There were six of us in the family and I was the oldest boy."

Alfred married Shirley Patriquin in 1943 and he got into construction work, particularly with Tidewater Construction. He helped with a project in Newfoundland and also was part of the crew that built the causeway in Pictou.

After working in the Folly Mountain gravel pit for a number of years, Alfred retired in 1985. Shirley passed away four years but Alfred is "still driving and getting around."



Forest McClelland  
Parrsboro

It was a life on a briny seas for Forest McClelland.

Forest was born on June 30, 1918 in Ward's Brook, the son of Bill and Mary McClelland. Ward's Brook "is just below Port Greville in Cumberland County," Forest pointed out.

As a youngster, forest went to the area school and then did what many young men did back then, he went to work in the woods.

But he heard the call of the sea and joined the Merchant Navy during the Second World War, staying

with it until 1945. Afterwards, he went to work as ship's engineer for the Irving Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. He has two sons from two previous relationships: Keith McClelland and Dana McCully.

Forest married Joyce four years ago. She's originally from Ontario but her late husband of 52 years was from the Parrsboro area so she knew the area. "Forest came along and he was lonely and I was lonely and now we're not," she said with a laugh.



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