

Glooscap 4-H Club Prepares For Achievement Day



The Glooscap Trail 4-H Outdoorsmen group make a trip to the sugar woods of Judy and Gordon Lewis, Bass River. Shown above are Ian MacFarlane and Brad McLaughlin listening to Gordon explaining the Maple Sugar process. (Ben van den Hoek Photo)

By Ben van den Hoek

The Glooscap Trail 4-H club met on Tuesday May 3 in the Bass River Hall at 7 PM. As part of the learning process for all club members, we practiced judging as we have to judge for all the different projects we were taking to the Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill on May 25th. Early in the spring several members of the club's outdoor group toured Gordon Lewis' maple syrup operation and learned how much work is involved and how the process works. The club's Achieve-ment Day will be

held in July. Members held extensive discussion on plans and preparation for the local event, which attracts a large number of people. The next meeting to be held on June 7th will start early. All members will all bring a Pet for our Annual Pet Parade. The date is June 7 at 6.30 PM at the Bass River Hall.

Ben van den Hoek is reporter for The Glooscap 4-H Club.

Erskine 240TH Anniversary Celebrations June 19TH

By Chris Urquhart

This is the 240th Anniversary of Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge, the oldest pastoral charge in Canada. A special service will be held at Erskine United, Glenholme on June 19th, 7pm to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Lester Settle will be giving the address, on the two first ministers here, and St. James Male Chorus will be the guest choir. Everyone is invited! There will be no Church service in the morning. The Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge is the oldest pastoral charge in Canada with a settled minister in 1771. There is much history here because the Acadians had their main church here long before the English settled. There are still remnants of French Acadian artifacts to be seen. This Pastoral Charge is part of Truro Presbytery, the oldest Presbytery in Canada. Truro Presbytery is part of Maritime Conference.

Masstown is a place of history. The French Acadians settled here and had the first church where a resident priest held mass, hence our name, the town of the mass house, Masstown Village now Masstown. In March 1689 a grant of land around Cobequid Bay, from Noel to Economy, 12 miles wide and deep was granted as a Seigneurialship to Matthew Martin (the first European to be born in Acadie -1636) and called "Cobequid". The center of the community was "Cove D'Eglise" where the Masshouse, "St. Peter-St. Paul" was built in 1738. The Acadian parish is remembered with a cairn in front of the Masstown United Church. The first Presbyterian Church was of log construction and may have been built as early as 1767 and was later replaced by the present church in 1871. The Church in Debert dates from 1850 and was briefly shared by both Baptists and

Presbyterians. Each congregation built its own church: Presbyterians in 1879, Baptists in 1881. The Presbyterian church burned and was rebuilt in 1880 and, with the addition of a vestry is the current Debert United Church. Erskine United Church, a large, well-kept building, occupies the prominent location in the village. The area was once an Acadian settlement. After the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, it was settled by Presbyterians, mainly of Irish background. In 1769, the settlers invited the Rev. David Smith to minister to them. He arrived, from Scotland, in 1771, to become the first permanently settled Presbyterian minister in Canada. He ministered here for 24 years, until his death in 1795. The log church of early times was replaced by a frame construction church in 1794, and the present church was built in 1865.

Great Village Historical Society Notes



Lois Bray and Kaye Crowe discuss the Memory Book following Kaye's presentation on the Weston Tour of 1953. (Shears Photo)

By Linda Shears

The Historical Society met on May 4 in the Legion Hall. The evening began with a talk and slide show by Kaye (Williams) Crowe on the topic of the Weston Girls' Tour to the United Kingdom and France in 1953. She explained how Garfield Weston, the benefactor responsible for the tour, believed that travel would enrich the lives of young people and would foster an appreciation for the Commonwealth. In the 1950's, Garfield Weston, the Canadian-born owner of the international company, Weston Bakeries, organized several exchange tours for British and Canadian teenagers. The engraved silver medallions given to Kaye's group by Mr. Weston showed his philosophy of life: 'Tis the set of the sails And not the gales That determines the way They go (from "The Winds of Fate", a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 1850-1915). The Memory Book produced by Kaye's group in 2010 is dedicated to the late Garfield Weston and his four daughters, two of whom

acted as chaperones for the 1953 trip. The book is made up of photos, excerpts from diaries and letters and other memories of the seven-week trip. The women's reflections of the trip, of their lives and adventures as recorded in the Memory Book show that Mr. Weston's goals were realized. One wrote: "The Weston Tour opened the first big door in my awareness of the world and created a desire to see more". Another wrote: "When I felt I had not fulfilled my side of the bargain to do something worthwhile, it was the high bar set for the Weston Girls that made me persevere. In this way, the Weston Tour shaped my life and continues to influence my decisions." One of the main objectives of this particular Weston tour was the viewing of the coronation procession of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2. The Canadian girls and their British counterparts were situated in a covered stand which had a clear view of the ceremonial procession. They were able to view the ceremony in Westminster Abbey on

several TV screens which were hung in their stand. Kaye recounted numerous interesting stories from the trip, including this one: "Pictures were taken at Madame Taussaud's Wax Museum. One included Nova Scotia girls 'meeting' the Queen and Prince Phillip. That picture was published on the front page of a morning edition of The Halifax Herald. In Great Village that day my mother ran to the phone repeatedly to be congratulated on Kaye meeting the Queen. Finally she sent my dad to the village to buy a

paper. Sure enough, that's what the picture showed. Only when she read the whole story did she realize these were wax figures of the Royal Couple." In 2003 the Weston Girls held a reunion in Ottawa to mark the 50th anniversary of the trip. A second reunion was held in St. John's, NL, in 2007 and a third in Victoria, BC, in 2010. Members of the Weston family took an active part in all three reunions. Kaye was thanked for her presentation. We were a small gathering compared to the original one she encountered at the Legion Hall in '53, when she returned from her trip. That first talk was to a "standing room only" crowd. The seven completed historical panels were placed on display at the pergola on May 14, in time for the launch of Sandra Barry's book, "Elizabeth Bishop, Nova Scotia's 'Home-made' Poet". The panel committee held a meeting on May 19; two more panels are being researched and prepared. One is based on the 1889 Currie map of Great Village and the other is on the topic of agriculture. Tentative plans for an end-of-the-season trip to the Glooscap Heritage Centre will be finalized at the June 1 meeting, which begins at 7:30 PM. New members are always welcome.

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