



The "In the Village Café" in Great Village was the scene of a Victorian Tea Party on May 18. Among those sampling Steeped Teas, scones, sandwiches and sweets were Allison Francis and her daughters, Michaela and Alexis. (Linda Shears Photo)



At the Victorian Tea Party, Terry Francis gave an informative talk on the finer points of tea production and brewing. Her audience included Sybil Flemming, Cathy Mazur, Velma Suttan and Dorothy Timmons. Don't be misled by their austere Victorian expressions — these ladies all spent the afternoon laughing and chatting. (Linda Shears Photo)

## Thoroughly Plan Your Garden Project

By *Christine Urquhart*

As we start up another gardening season, let's make sure we have what we need before starting on large garden projects. Make a list of what all you plan to do with the area you have selected. Draw out a diagram of what you want it to look like once it is finished.

If you are planning a water project, such as a pond, make sure the area is suited to host it. Often we think "a pond would look wonderful just there..." but don't think "I need to bring water to the pond from..."

Plants which work well in deep ponds will not work well in shallow ponds. Water lilies are beautiful but will

take over the whole pond if you aren't careful.

Then you need to consider the critters that will also enjoy your pond. If you put in fish then you will need some sort of hiding place for them or netting over top. Even so, some of your fish will get eaten! Both birds and raccoons like fresh fish.

Moving water will attract birds and butterflies, but also raccoons and skunks and maybe an occasional goose or duck. Planning ahead makes sense.

You may wish to just put in some bushes or trees with a nice bench or two. Remember these will expand and not stay the size you plant them. Also, if planting trees,

remember that their roots will travel a long way, as a tree's roots equal its height. Don't plant trees too close to your house or your well. Bushes can be trimmed and flowering bushes will attract birds and butterflies to your garden.

If you are thinking of putting in stones for a walkway, be sure to use a level to make sure that they are even. You don't want your guests, or yourself for that matter, tripping over the edges and maybe having a bad fall. You can make some interesting pathways in a garden with just a few stones and some bushes.

Bird baths made a great addition to any garden; they

## Debert Elementary Notes

By *Erma Cox*

The school year is quickly drawing to a close and with that come lots of excitement. All classes will be participating in a message of appreciation at the Volunteer Tea on May 20th. We would not be the awesome school that we are without the help of all the special people who help us out. We recognize all these individuals will not be able to join us for the "Volunteer Tea" but want them to know their time and efforts are still very much appreciated.

Our Grade six class will be heading up to the junior high on May 27th to have a tour of the school and receive information to assist them as they continue on their path of learning. The excitement of a new beginning and the anxiety that occurs when you leave the comforts of a

known environment are expected, but we believe our students are ready for this next step. The grade sixes will also be participating in an Active Living Day on May 26th where they will do a 7km hike, some swimming and bowling. This is an annual event offered by Mr Caudle to the senior class in the school and is enjoyed by all.

We are thrilled to have ten of our students participate in a leadership conference at the Nova Scotia Community College. Special thanks to the Guidance Counsellors for organizing this event. Students will learn many skills that they can carry into their next school year and life in general.

Our Grade four class will be joining grade 4 students at Chiganois for a venture to the wetlands in Shubenacadie.

This excursion ties in nicely with the outcomes on habitats and is enjoyed by all. Hope the weather is cooperative as the learning experience is more enjoyable on a sunny day.

Drama clubs are busy preparing for their end of year productions. The P-3 group will present on June 9th and our senior drama group is hosting two evenings of their play on June 11th and June 12th. We encourage you to come out and enjoy the show.

Class trips are organized, staffing is coming together and our 2015-16 primaries will be joining us for a half day of school. We are excited about each of these events and yet realize their visit means another school year is drawing to a close. On behalf of all of us here at Debert Elementary I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Hayman Family Reunion Coming July 17-19

By *Christine Urquhart*

I am hosting a Hayman Family Reunion this coming July - July 17th to 19th - and if you are a Hayman family descendant you would be more than welcome to attend. This event is taking place at our cottage in Brule with some

tours, suppers and more exciting things.

The Hayman name has many derivations, including Amon, Heindman, Haydon etc. Either name is welcome! To contact me for more information either email me at: rcurquhart@ns.sympatico or call me at 902-662-3550.

## Great Village and District Fire Brigade News

By *Angela McDonnell*

Finally warm weather has arrived after a long difficult winter! To date the Great Village and District Fire Brigade has responded to just short of 60 emergency calls

Recently we have incorporated a new program called "I am Responding" into our practice. This program increases our ability to communicate among team members. It utilizes cellular service to deliver our call information in addition to our paging

provide a "water source" for both you and the birds. Having feeders near your bird bath will help attract more birds to your yard. Bushes for the birds to hide in will also be an incentive for the birds to use your yard.

Never go to a garden center until you know what you really want, otherwise you will end up with plants that may not be congenial to your space (or just too darn many!) Enjoy your garden, have fun planting, and don't forget to make it critter friendly.0

system. There is a map provided of the location of our call and each member is able to register in to the system to allow others to see that they are responding.

GVDFB members are very excited to be involved with the upcoming "Community Canada Day Celebration" coming up July 1. The celebration will start with a parade leaving from Great Village School at 10:00 am and ending at the field by Faith Baptist Church where there will be lots of

opportunity for food, fun and games. Our members will be there ready to show you all around the trucks and equipment. We will also have a bit of fun in store for the children. Be sure to head out and join the activities.

As always remember to stop into the fire hall any Wednesday evenings if you would like information about becoming a member! We will also have information and membership applications with us on July 1st.

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