

# The Shoreline Journal

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHRONOLOGICAL RECAP 1994

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 1)** - First edition of the West Colchester Free Press. 8 pages mailed to 1900 homes. Ken Kennedy's first editorial says "Welcome Aboard!". Stacy Culgin provides historical account of Londonderry Township. Updates on West Colchester Community Development Association (WCCDA).

**May, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 2)** - Over 2000 copies this month! Papers now going to Economy and Bass River. Planning for Londonderry Days and Show & Shine in Debert. Military Museum opens for season. Dan Martell writes Debert Legion Notes. Janet Swan adds a Garden Notes column.

**June, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 3)** - Now up to 12 pages. Updates on the Gloopcap Festival, Belmont Strawberry Festival and Debert Field Days. Earl & Goldie Chisholm report on their 3 week Alaskan Cruise. Village Fair Town Teas held in West Colchester.

**July, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 4)** - Elizabeth Bishop Society formed. Fourteen year old Becky Morrissey uses Heimlich maneuver to save her sister, Petra, from choking. Rebakah Lodge building in Londonderry is sold. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Masstown Market.

**August, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 5)** - 2400 copies mailed out this month. Featured poem by Florence Adams. Thermo Cell Insulation looking for newspapers.

**September, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 6)** - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for "Rural Gleanings", a 12 page periodical published by Lester and Marion Settle. Londonderry ball Tournament raises funds for Terry Fox Campaign.

**October, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 7)** - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint James United Church. Community Flu Clinic held in Region. Great Village's Vernon McCully appointed to Northern Regional Health Board. Lower Five Islands rink is being rebuilt.

**November, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 8)** - Efforts put forth to have Portauisque United Church designated a Heritage Property. Meeting held in Bass River to find doctors to replace Michael and Roya Murray. Coverage of Taggart's Fox Farm in Bass River.

**December, 1994 (Vol. 1 No. 9)** - Molasses Candy and Sod Shanties, by Mrs. Susan Roberts; Local Trees to Mexico; Our Church Heritage by Emily Lane; Londonderry Athletic Gets New Flag; A lighthouse Christmas, by Susie (Way) Taylor; Debert Friendly Neighbours Christmas Dinner at Debert UCC; Five Islands Dart Tournament;

## 1995

**January, 1995 (Vol.1, No. 10)** - Heather Prescott writing news for Bass River area, Theresa White provides Lower Five Islands notes. New signage to promote Fundy Shore Ecotourism. Plans underway for Londonderry Winter Carnival. Free Press, no longer "free", now on newsstands and by subscription.

**February, 1995 (Vol. 1, No. 11)** - Ken Kennedy decides to make paper available free of charge again and up the cost of advertising. Coverage of Lifestyle Recovery House on Dakota Road, Debert and the 90 day extended care co-op residential

*Continued on page 9*

## Ken & Vel Kennedy – Founding Publishers of the Shoreline Journal



The first edition of the West Colchester Free press hit the newsstands on April 28, 1994. Editor Ken Kennedy says he called it the Free Press because he intended the paper to be free from political influence and there would be no charge to the reader.

By Linda Harrington

Ken Kennedy was the first owner/editor of today's Shoreline Journal. Originally called the West Colchester Free Press, Ken started the paper in the basement of his home 20 years ago.

"At the time there didn't seem to be much news from Debert area in the Truro paper and I thought it was time to do something local," says Ken, who had experience in publishing a base newspaper at Camp Debert, called the "Dithy Ramb".

Local businesses offered their advertising support and Ken says he had the full intention of making the paper free to readers. "Of course, as we know now, that didn't work out very well and I had to go to subscription and sales," laughs Ken.

The idea of publishing a paper for only the Debert area did not last long either. It wasn't long before people from other communities started calling. "The next thing I knew I was covering from Belmont to Five Islands," he says. "This was a bit more than I had anticipated and I had to hire a few people to help with typing."

In the early years, the photos were taken on film and then had to be copied onto paper. Everything had to be printed, cut out, waxed and pasted onto pages. "Even the little black lines around the photos and advertisements were cut out, waxed and stuck on the pages," says Vell, Ken's wife. "I would proof read for him and if I noticed a misspelled word I would tell him he had to take it off the

page and fix it. We often worked until 3AM to get the paper out on time."

"And we are still married!" laughs Ken. "Vell was a big help. She would work all night and get up and go to her teaching job the next day."

Another person who Ken says was "invaluable" was the late Tom McLean, of Glenholme. "I took the idea to Tom, at Advocate Publishing, and he went for it. He guided me through everything and was a huge help putting together the first couple of issues."

The paper grew from 8 pages in the initial issue to 24 pages and with the growth came more hours of commitment. "It was more than I could handle. I was getting older, had some health issues and decided to see if anyone was interested in taking it over," says Ken.

Donna (Fulton) Benoit had been working as a reporter for the Shoreline Journal. "She had professional training as a journalist and she decided she

wanted to take over running the paper," says Ken. "It was a big job for a mother with three young children but she did a great job. I helped her out in the beginning as much as I could."

Ken and Vell spent some time recently reading over the early issues of the Shoreline and enjoyed reminiscing. "Ken really bonded with people along the shore," says Vell. "He

would stop in for tea along his way to Parrsboro. We have very fond memories of those days."

Ken has received a lot of compliments and comments over the years. One of the highlights was when he was awarded the Heritage Award by the Colchester Historical Society. He says he never dreamed the paper would be still published after 20 years.



Vol. 1, Issue No. 1 of the Shoreline Journal. Editor Ken Kennedy changes the name from Free Press to the Shoreline Journal.



Ken Kennedy passes the reins to Donna Benoit in 2001, 7 years after starting the paper. He originally meant the paper to be a Debert Village newspaper but interest grew and before long it was down the shore, over to Wentworth and mailed across Canada and to the US.

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