



The harshness of winter causes a lot of concern for all of us. Normally, it does not extend into the summer. Looking at this photo there will be "no summer fun" for the Charles Harrington Family.

## RASCALS Moving Forward

By Linda Harrington

RASCALS (Rural Association for Sustainable Communities Along our Shore) met at Joy Laking Gallery for another enthusiastic evening on April 21st. The group were pleased to have District 10 Councillor Tom Taggart join the meeting and give updates on several areas of interest.

County Council has approved funding for three electric car charging stations. One of these stations will be installed at the Dominion Chair Store in Bass River.

The County has purchased the former Palliser property and Tom Taggart is very excited about the potential tourist traffic at this site. There is going to be a Visitor Information Center at this location and Tom sees this as a great opportunity to promote the businesses and attractions along our shore, from Truro to Parrsboro. "This area is a well-kept secret and we need to

get the information out there," says Taggart.

RASCALS is looking into joining Adopt a Highway for a 5KM cleanup in the local area. The group wants everyone to take pride in their community and assist with clean-up. Another important part of keeping the area clean is preventing dumping in the first place. There was much discussion about possible solutions, and a sub-committee is going to look into this further.

A jam session was held in April at Joy Laking's Gallery, with 7 musicians coming together to share a common interest. There seems to be enough interest to hold a monthly music jam with the next one planned sometime in June.

A book box is located at the Village Café, in Great Village and at the Bass River Heritage Museum. Donations are always welcome. Enjoy some 'new to you' reading material!

RASCALS Drop Ins have been very successful. These are informal social gatherings for anyone to come and enjoy friendly chat with neighbours along our shore. The next Drop In will be May 20th at Emily Lane's from 10AM-Noon. Emily lives at 7276 Hwy#2. Bring a friend!

Check out the RASCALS facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15rascals/>. This is a great place to post any community events.

Heather Lawson, of Bass River is featured in a wonderful new promotional video called Stone. It can be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/125501609>.

The Bass River Heritage Museum continues to celebrate 250 Years with special events each month. Heritage Days will be held in August.

The next RASCALS meeting will be at Willem and Maya van den Hoek's on Wednesday, May 20th. All are welcome to attend.

## Ken's Corner

By Ken Kennedy

"I'm so glad to be home, I'm glad I went." That was the often quoted expression from my dear departed father-in-law when he went somewhere and was happy to get back to his modest cozy home in White Settlement, Hant's County.

I guess I feel the same way since just getting back from a month in South Florida. It's not that I missed the snow. It's still piled up about six feet in the back yard. It was 91F last Tuesday when we left Orlando, but it

was a nice "warm" day when we arrived in Halifax.

As usual we spent the first two weeks with our son, Greg, Cindy and the twins, Michael and Sarah will turn eleven (11) years old in a few days. After they left for home we took Olivia to Largo and stayed in a small mobile home park trailer for another two weeks. It was so darn hot we almost suffocated. Olivia was content to play in the nearby playground but we wanted to go to the beach in Clearwater.

It was spring break for some states - need I say

more. Crowded and hot we weren't long trying to find a place in the shade. Olivia did go out in the water once but a wave knocked her down and that was it - no more salt in her mouth!

Other years we have driven the 1600 miles and back but this year we decided to fly. We got a WestJet direct return flight and by the time we figured the cost it was about the same - without all the driving.

So we are just about back to normal with only one suitcase left to unpack. Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

## MINUTES FOR RASCALS Meeting APRIL 23, 2015

(Editor's Note: Because RASCALS is a new group of people interested in promoting the Shore from Truro to Parrsboro, I've again decided to present the minutes of the meeting held April 23, 2015)

**Present:** Joy Laking, Cathy Mazur, Anita McLellan Ashley Fletcher, Jim Campbell, Karen Ewing, Carol McNutt, Linda Harrington (representing the Shoreline Journal), Maurice Res, Willem Van den Hoek, Karen MacFarlane, Tom Taggart, Emily Lane

**Call to order at 7 pm**

Joy chaired and gave an update on events since last meeting.

Several drop ins had to be cancelled due to snow storms however there have been four successful drop ins. We have one more April drop in on April 29 at the Bayside Pharmacy between 10 and noon. We decided that there will just be one drop in per month until the fall. May 20: 10 until noon at Emily Lane's 7276 Hwy 2. Bass River (in Portauquique) 902-668-2253 and June 10: 10 until noon at Carrie McCully's 8515 Hwy 2. Great Village 902-668-2403

Cathy and Joy will have a drop-in in the early evening in July and August and Jim and Liz Campbell will have a drop in in September. Dates to be decided.

More people are needed to host drop ins. We also need a co-ordinator of drop ins.

Since we were lucky to have Tom Taggart with us, we asked him questions regarding the electric plug in, (probably a go at Dominion Chair) as well as the dumping of Fracking water, (hopefully will not happen).

Tom made us aware of an opportunity to do a closed loop film on this part of the shore and have it in the new Tourist Bureau at the Palliser property. Tourism could be a 4 billion dollar industry over the next decade. Jim Cambell will work with Tom and Vernon McCully to help make loop film on our shore happen. Linda Harrington could do the film work. Jim will report at the May meeting.

We will discuss various possible partnerships in the future. Jim will see if we can have the Parrsboro STEP program extended to include all of our shore up until Masstown. The need for definitive branding and a label or a name was presented by Karen Ewing and supported by everyone.

The Facebook page was discussed. We need more people to use it. Cathy Mazur will keep posting events and will post the ones from the Cobequid Outlook. Joy will buy Cathy a subscription to the Cobequid Outlook.

Both the Bass River Book box and the new Great Village book box appreciate the donation of books.

Jim Campbell and Carol McNutt reported the first music jam was a success and they will plan a second evening for June. Joy has offered her place to hold it.

Jim Campbell reported on Clean Nova Scotia and Carol McNutt reported on the Adopt a Highway. With Ashley's encouragement, we decided sign up to do a 5 km stretch in Portauquique for three years. It will be designed to be as easy as possible. Hopefully, we will have a week to complete our section.

Carol and Jim will consider ways to extend this program, perhaps by giving bags to neighbouring stretches or by offering bags to the entire shore. Willem offered to take a run along the shore and collect the garbage to a central spot for the pickup. Carol will co-ordinate and pick up vests and bags.

If bags are to be given out, Maurice offered to provide RASCALS labels and Joy offered to design a label. We will continue discussion on this project at the May meeting and probably for many meetings until we have raised the profile and solved this problem.

We liked the idea of encouraging all the communities to take part and we liked the idea of having a RASCALS sign. We do have a great resource with JP Woods as he will go after the problem people on behalf of the county.

Continuing Education: In the Village Cafe in Great Village will be having a cooking course when it re-opens. Jim Campbell will look into the feasibility of other courses and report at the next meeting. This item was deferred until May. And a full slate of courses probably wouldn't be started until the fall.

Shore Banners: Great Village and Bass River will have banners this summer. (Elizabeth Bishop and 250 Anniversary) The possibility of banners for the rest of the shore was discussed.

Anita has talked to the Beatons and they will reinstall Economies banners. Anita also contacted the Five Islands Fire Department in case they will reinstall Five Island's banners. Linda will talk to Laurie Jennings to see if he needs to order any replacement banners and if he will install them again at both Masstown Markets.

**Next Meeting** will be at Maja and Willem Van den Hoeks on May 20 at 7 pm and Jim Campbell will chair the meeting.

**Future discussion will include**

RASCALS structure and it's goals and if it needs to be a registered Society.

PS. I completely forgot to mention all the work I did on investigating the purchase of the Elizabeth Bishop House. It appears that there are no grants either Federal or Provincial for purchase of historic sites. Should we own the House, there is money available for planning, initiating programs and doing repairs and maintenance. It is my recommendation that we not pursue this further. However if the house was offered to us, then I would recommend that we take it and make it work. We should discuss this at a future meeting because we may want to relay this to the current owners of the house this.

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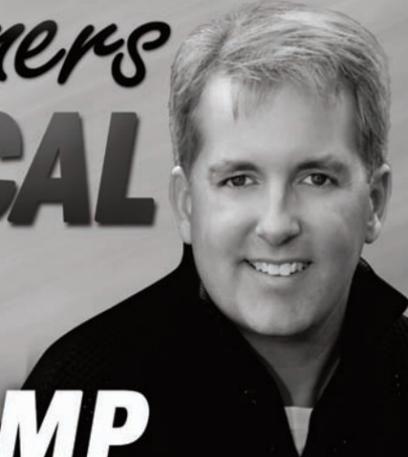
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