



This photo provides an overall view of the damage done to Sea Scape Lane in Lower Five Islands. (Judy Bristow-Roberts Photo)



A more close up view of the Sea Scape Lane lawn which has suffered extensive damage from a mysterious source. (Judy Bristow-Roberts Photo)



Damage to lawns in Lower Five Islands has also occurred on O'Hearn Lane. (Judy Bristow-Roberts Photo)

Lawns in Lower Five Islands DESTROYED

By Maurice Rees

A few residents in Lower Five Islands didn't plan on re-constructing their lawns, but it's being done for them. Seascape and O'Hearn Lane have been the main targets, although an area around the cemetery has been unwanted landscape activity.

When I learned about the unexpected activity, I called Gerry and Judy Roberts owners of Gemstow Bed and Breakfast. Judy agreed to get some photos of devastated lawns along the route she walks on a regular basis.

Properties belonging to Don and Brenda Pugsley and Jim Davis, who lives in Springhill, but has a property in Lower Five Islands have received the most damage. When I called Brenda Pugsley, she said they could not figure out what was causing the damage. Some people had suggested because of how much damage would happen in one night, it would have to be a large animal. Most suspected bears.

However, she confirmed that upon returning home one night, she and Don found the culprits. They turned the car lights onto the lawn discovering three large raccoons tearing up the lawn.

At the time of our conversation, she didn't know what they were going to do. For a bit more than a week or two, they had tried live trapping, but that didn't work. The raccoons upset the live trap, turning it on its side, then entered the trap retrieving the fish, which had been

added as bait. In another incident the raccoons knocked the live trap on its side and just walked around it.

Just before press time, I contacted the Pugsley's and Mr Davis, to update the situation. Mr Davis, who operates a carpentry business in Springhill said tearing up off the lawns continues daily. At least five properties adjacent to him have been ravished including Arnie Warren's, Jim and Betty Ann Paris, plus other lots that are owned by Americans.

He and his wife believe crows a playing a big part in the situation. He and his wife stood in the window watching crows tearing away the sod. Crows would pick away at the sod, then fling back a strip that was approximately 16" by 3". He hasn't seen it, but a neighbor told him they have seen a raccoon on some of the properties early in the morning.

In a conversation Sunday afternoon, Brenda Pugsley also said the damage to the lawn is continuing unabated. They have more sightings of raccoons, than the first one a few weeks ago. She is mystified about what happens to the sod. Even though you replace a section about three feet square, there is still approximately six inches missing around the outside edges.

Although it's a mess, they have resolved themselves to do nothing until next spring, when they will bring in a large tiller to reconstruct the laws



Reg Polley, second from left, was the first customer at the tshirt-srus.ca new store in the A. J. Walker Building, Prince Street, Truro. Store owner, Dorothy Rees, is joined by Tim Tucker, Executive Director, Truro and Area Chamber of Commerce and Bill Mills, Mayor of Truro. (Rees Photo)

My Favourite Pet

Freckles, the 1½ year old Queen Elizabeth Beagle is the favourite pet of Deanna Stevens, Great Village.

Deanna and Freckles will receive a \$20.00 gift certificate from The Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services.

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CHRISTMAS CENTRE AT MASSTOWN MARKET

NOW OPEN!



Helena Bourque says, "It sure takes alot of imagination to decorate so beautifully."



Mildred Dalrymple (left) Sandra Murrans (right) finding so much to catch their eye.



Kathy Morrissey, busy setting up new displays.



Nancy Brewer says, "I appreciate the fact the Christmas Centre is open early. We don't always get down this way closer to Christmas, because of the weather."



Melissa Yantzi, with five month son Owen. "I am very happy the Christmas Centre is open."

After much anticipation the doors to the Christmas Centre are finally open. Bright and cheerful displays beckon a further look inside.

Shopper Melissa Yantzi was pleased the gift centre was open as she scanned the trees and shelves looking for something special to mark the first Christmas of her son Owen Yantzi, who is 5 months old.

With new stock continuing to arrive, employees are kept busy unpacking boxes and finding places to arrange new displays.

Helena Bourque says she always stops by on her way from New Brunswick and looks forward to Christmas shopping, especially looking at all the beautiful ornaments. She gave credit to the staff saying, "It sure takes a lot of imagination to decorate so beautifully."

Many customers were pleasantly surprised to find the Christmas Centre open so early.

Nancy Brewer lives in Sydney and had just found the perfect gift for a friend. "I appreciate the fact the Christmas Centre

is open early. We don't always get down this way closer to Christmas, because of the weather."

"Oohs" and "awes" were heard from Mildred Dalrymple and Sandra Murrans as they discovered tree after tree. Mildred said she loves coming into the Christmas Centre, with so much to catch her eye. Sandra was looking for creative ideas to use in her own decorating.

The Christmas Centre will be open until the end of December. One visit may not be enough!

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