

Florence Harnish Celebrates 90TH Birthday in Wentworth



Florence Harnish is wished a happy birthday by a special friend, Alexander Cochrane, at the Wentworth United Church. Alexander is the son of Pastor Steven and Melissa Cochrane. (Melissa Cochrane Photo).

By Hope Bridgewater

Florence Harnish recently celebrated her 90th birthday in Wentworth. Florence is active, goes out to community events, gets out on the dance floor at Wentworth's monthly Music Afternoons, attends Bluegrass festivals and other activities, is always cheerful

and kind, and lives in her own home. She is a great example of how to live well.

Florence was born in Wentworth to Leonard and Ada McGill, attended school in Wallace for a few grades and then spent most of her schooling at the one-room Lower Wentworth School. In 1940

Florence married Bedford Palmer of West Wentworth and they became parents of four children. Now her descendants include grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. At a very young age, Florence loved both dancing and singing (still her favourite passions), and she remembers in dancing contests, which she won first prize several times dancing the Highland Fling. After her husband Bedford Palmer passed away, Florence made a second marriage to Harold Harnish.

At the Wentworth United Church, the pastor Steven Cochrane, the choir, and the congregation sang Happy Birthday to Florence during the church service. Florence has been a choir member at this church for over 60 years. Later in the church hall downstairs, the congregation members congratulated Florence individually and had prepared sandwiches, sweets and drinks beforehand. Then, a special person, young Alexander Cochrane, gave Florence a wish for a happy birthday, and Alexander is the son of Pastor Steven and Melissa Cochrane.

For the evening celebration, Florence had issued an open house invitation to her family and friends and a large gathering came to her home, where Florence greeted each person herself. Tasty sandwiches and a huge birthday cake were on a table for her guests, and good cheer flourished in all the rooms as people laughed and chatted. Florence was especially happy to see her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

I want to first take a moment to ask your forgiveness for last month's column being from the previous year, which I submitted in error! Sometimes we all make mistakes and that was a big one for me. I do apologize.

Summer seems to have been way too short as school starts in the next few days. Please remember to keep an eye out for those new students who haven't attended classes before. They will be very excited and may not be watching the traffic as they should.

Lots of birds still around at feeders and especially at our bird baths, especially on those hot, humid days. So nice to come out early in the morning and hear the birds singing and smell the fresh scents of wild roses, cut hay and other "earthy" smells. What a great place we live in!

Our gardens have been slow this year but are finally producing lots of tasty vegetables and a host of fall blooms. As I drive around our fair community I am pleased to see the efforts people have made to keep their lawns and yards looking beautiful. Speaking of lawns, I would very much like to thank both Blake Jennings and Wayne McCray for mowing our Community Park. If you have a mower and can spare the time to drop by the Park and give the grass a "hair cut" our Community Association would be very grateful.

The Masstown Community Association hosted a "Fun Day at the Park" on August 17th. Those few who attended had a wonderful time! They played washer toss, Frisbee, had races and the little ones blew bubbles by the hundreds! Prizes were given out to the children, of which there were 3, and we adults and older teens just enjoyed the nice, sunny and windy day. Hopefully next time we will get more participation from members of our community as they

are the ones we put these events on for.

The DGM Men's Club will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday September 3rd, 8am, at the Double C Restaurant. All men who live in Masstown, Debert and Glenholme are welcome to attend.

Masstown UCW will hold their meeting on Thursday September 8th, 7pm, at the Masstown United Church. All ladies in our community welcome!

The Masstown Community Association will meet on October 18th, 7pm at the Masstown Market to plan the usual Pumpkin Carving activities. For more information on this please attend the meeting!

The Fraser family from Florida were home visiting Kay Maxwell. There were 10 in all! She had a houseful and enjoyed all the visitors. Her brother Dana's ashes were buried in Glenholme during this visit. Visiting Kay now are her daughter Sandy Glendon and son Jason from Alberta and Larn Glendon.

Bob Warning and Lynda Stevenson were in Paris Ontario for Bob's daughter's wedding. Roger Wenham was home from Tankerton, England visiting his family here in Canada, Richard and Marilyn; Terry and Diane; and Rosemary and Frank. Wayne Andrews from Mulgrave visited his niece and her family Alice Andrews. Shirley and Dick Backofen from Brimfield Mass. visited Aubrey and Irene Gratto. Mary and Marc Berton cici and their children Kayla and Danielle from Saskatoon Sask. Visited her brother James Porter and family. Carol Jakal and her daughter Denise from Calgary visited her brother Jerry Fisher and family. Peter and Paula Digout spent a few days in St. Peter's attending a friend's wedding. Anthony Hayman from Burbank California was home visiting his

sister Chris Urquhart and family. He was also here to attend the Truro Senior High School Reunion which he enjoyed very much. Tara Tremere and daughter Brielle from Alberta visited her parents Randy and Cathy McCarthy.

Ron and I hosted a Hayman Family reunion at our family cottage in Brule in July. There were 42 all told in attendance. Visiting from away were Marion Farrugia from Bolton, Ontario, Colin Starratt from Ottawa, Patricia, Alain and Germaine from Quebec; Tom and Janet Dudones from Syracuse New York; Henrick Sellers and Joyce Peterson from St. Catherine's Ontario and Laurence and Marie Weatherbee and their family from Hamilton Ontario. The family would like to extend special thanks, first to the ladies at the Brule Community center who catered a wonderful pot luck supper for us, and secondly to the folks at the Tatamagouche Mountain United Church who held a special service for us and fed us a tremendous lunch to follow. Also extra special thanks to Fay Smith for leading the worship service and to cousin Lori Kay for her part in the service.

It has been an interesting two months here in Masstown. Congratulations to Vikki Reid and Shaun MacLaughlin or their recent marriage. Home for the wedding were Vikki's two sisters Holly Reid from Fredrickton and Krista Dease and husband Chris Dease from Ottawa. It was a lovely wedding with many guests and the bride looked beautiful!

Condolences go out this month to Darrell Rushton and family on the death of his mother Mildred Rushton; Gary Gilby and family on the death of his sister Elsie Mae Woodworth and to Leona Smith and Donna Guilderson and their families on the death of their father Lester Fanning.

"Each day is a brand new day with no mistakes in it yet."
— quote from Anne of Green Gables

**School is back...
DRIVE CAREFULLY**

Wentworth Valley School Reunion 2011



Greg Beebe and his wife Else Beebe enjoy the school reunion at the Wentworth Valley school which is located at a beautiful site between two nearby ranges of the Cobequid Mountains. Greg Beebe is a descendant of Second Beebe who in the late 1700's came up the Remsheg (now called Wallace) River with Stephen Tuttle and both each built the first two frame houses in Wentworth. (Carol Hyslop Photo).

By Hope Bridgewater

The 2011 Wentworth Valley School Reunion began with a gathering at 1 pm and people registered by bringing an auction item to be sold as a fundraiser for this heritage one-room school which opened in 1903. Time was spent for those who wished to socialize until auction time at 2 pm.

Bob Lafrance did an brilliant job as auctioneer and showed good humour which made the auction a fun time. He had a clever way of selling items for as high a price as possible. He sold: locks; many types of books; a punch bowl; a phone; hinges; signed mats; shampoo; glass and china decorations; a china music box; a light; a lighthouse with

chimes and bell; two paintings of flowers; crystal glass; box of cutlery; a flashlight; a crock pot; a tool clamp; a chair; two smoke alarms; two wood bowls; drill bits; an iron; three mats; a spice cabinet; a necklace pendant, a barbeque set, a newly made chocolate cake on a plate, a painting of flowers and birds; two ships painted on velvet; two red pillows; a blanket; skis, ski boots, & ski poles; a doll; a doll's chair; a mountain bike; a rocking chair; and finally one cord of wood. Bob Lafrance's volunteer work as auctioneer made a nice sum of money for the Valley Schoolhouse.

Out in the schoolyard long tables were placed around the yard and two tents with

tables accommodated those who wished to chat and later to eat a meal of barbequed chicken and hamburger, hot dogs, cold casseroles, strawberry shortcake, punch, pop, tea, and coffee.

Volunteers had organized the meal, cooked at the barbeque, arranged the food on tables and served the dessert. Included in the crowd were Councilor (District 6) Kathy Redmond, Joanne Ferdinand, Laurel Adams, Stephen Ferdinand, and Benjamin Ferdinand.

Entertainment, began after the auction finished, during the meal and continuing after the evening meal, was organized by the volunteer Letcher clan, and they produced a top quality show. The brilliant and talented musicians included Betty Curry, Jack Lynn, Shannon Letcher, Peggy Patriquin, Ralph Anderson, Jeanie Vincent, Laverne Webb, Geraldine Lynn, Karen Newcombe, Ken Little, Debby Barclay, Faye Henderson, and Bob Hyslop.

A band featuring a piano, guitar, two trumpets and a saxophone had many tapping their feet to their rousing music, and Peggy Patriquin read a poem called The Stream That Runs Past My Childhood Door. There was an interlude and the music returned later in the evening which ended in a

grand finale when the favourite hymn "How Great Thou Art" was repeated, but this time done a cappella by Faye Henderson, Geraldine Lynn, Jack Lynn, Peggy Patriquin, Bob Hyslop, and Karen Newcombe.

Not only were people entertained and fed, but many also went home with gifts from the door prize, the 50/50, and the mini-raffle.

The annual reunion at the Valley Schoolhouse is relevant for the Wentworth community and for Nova Scotia as a province: it keeps alive the history of the one-room schoolhouse for grades Primary to XI; it shows an interesting way of connecting the present to the past. The former school serves the community as a heritage school in 2011 by providing a space for meetings, entertainment and special events; Rural reunions reveal the importance of volunteers in keeping rural districts functioning well on an ongoing basis; it salutes and honours a volunteer such as Bob Hyslop who takes people on three hour hikes to the top of High Head and back again on the beautiful Cobequid range in Wentworth and who raises funds doing hikes by giving to the Restoration Fund of the Heritage Valley Schoolhouse.



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