Economy & Five Islands News

By Ruth Thompson 324-2262

Recent visitors with Bert and Lucia Fulmore were Nancy Costa and her children Ashley and Ryan Costa. Olsen and Linda Field recently attended the graduation of their granddaughter, Emily Ann Beadle, from South Colchester Academy. She was awarded numerous scholarships and awards and is studying to become a machinist. Good work Emily Ann and congratulations from your family and many friends.

The next event at the Economy Recreation Centre will start in September. Recent visitors with Marilyn and Denny Cock were Bettijane Graham from B.C. Also visiting were Gerald & Elsie Wood from Centreville, N.S. Marilyn and Denny have their Granddaughters, Sara and Marine from Vancouver, B.C.

All communities along the shoreline have been bustling with activity this summer. There have been lots of tourists and lots of people away coming home for a visit. There’s been a variety of music at Mo’s and Diane’s Restaurant held their first annual Clam Jam. The steamed clams are reported to have been very tasty and the music delightful.

The Wild Blueberry Festival kicked-off in Economy with an evening of dessert and entertainment on the 17th. Carole Dibbon, Ray Dibbon and Linda Field were hilarious in a mini play - a tribute to mama. There were a number of skits (some seemed a little fishy), celtic and country music and even a special step dancer. The food was delicious and the evening very enjoyable. Hats off to all those who made it so!

Rev. Florence and Paul were blessed with their first grandchild July 30. Best wishes and congratulations to them and the proud parents. Bass ... will be having a sale of fall Vesey’s bulbs in order for us to begin to plan and plant for next year’s fun and festivities.

From the archives of the Colchester Historical Society

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Historic Sites

ACADIA MINES BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE OF 1920

LONDONDERRY

The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital “A. F. Church Maps” to pin point the circa 1873 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.

By Dick Albron

The arrow pointer on map #34 locates the approximate spot on the west bank of the Great Village River in Londonderry (Acadia) Mines, where these photos were taken, some thirty years apart. Photo #1 taken before the turn of the century, shows, in the foreground, the rail track at the base of the hill leading to the right, the mines at Lornevale in the middle foreground as the “Chapel Bridge” and across the bridge, on the left, St Ambrose’s church, with its gable house. On the other side of the church is Church Street, today’s road to Sutherland’s Lake. To the right of St Ambrose and across Church Street is the Baptist Church. Across the bridge to the right, the building with the eight windows is St Bridget’s Hall, the center of social life in this town. Traveling the after groups, circles, the local brass band all used this hall over the years to entertain the citizens of this thriving community. In the extreme upper left can be seen the Rolling Hills where the iron ore taken from the hills around was turned into steel products.

Photo #2, taken after the great fire of 1920, shows the complete devastation of the area. St Ambrose Church and its gable house were burned. The building now in its place was the abandoned Salvation Army Building which survived the fire, and was obtained by the Parish and moved to the old site, where a steeple was added to the structure. This building still exists, and is the one shown on page 144 of Truman Matheson’s “History of Londonderry” which has been republished and is available in the ‘Archives’ Bookstore. The fire of 1928 provided the closing chapter to the story of this once vibrant community. In 1890 the population was approximately three thousand people, with nearly as many more in the outlying hamlets; today’s Londonderry Mines has less than two hundred inhabitants. Like so many mining towns in Nova Scotia, it was “Boom to Bust” in just seventy years.

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