

Black River News

• Together • We • Can • Accomplish • Great • Things

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

Fireside Stories

APRIL 2022

I was up at 5, the wood stove fired up, breakfast finished and sitting here all by my lonesome having a spot of tea. Happy 51st birthday to youngest brother Dale. I can remember like it was yesterday Mum bringing Dale home. Mum had a small crib for him in the dining room. I was just shy of ten years old - a new toy to play with.

Dale had to grow up rough and ready because he had five siblings older and all of us pulling at him. I remember one summer day I asked Mum if I could put "Sale" in the stroller and go for a walk.

"Sure", said Mum. That would take two kids out the door for a bit is what Mum was probably thinking.

Our driveway was roughly 400 feet long with the last 200 quite steep. Me being the adventurous feller that I am would give the stroller a push and then run to catch it. Dale roaring the whole time. Catch and release if you will. I did this trick one too many times. I ran as hard as I could, but I never caught up in time before the stroller and Dale did a cartwheel or two, three. This time the roar had a different jingle to it. I don't remember if I caught hell or not but that may have been the reason for Dale being a motorbike enthusiast. Who knows?

Being -17°C outside this morning reminds me a story I must tell. Back in 1968/69/70 us kids did a lot of coasting and tobogganing with the neighbourhood kids. Our neighbour, Bryce Ells inherited his Dad's bobsleds. A beautiful set and quite heavy. Back then, the two hills on either side of the community Hall were not paved. One isn't to this day. We would help Bryce pull the sleds from home to the top of the hill which would be a mile.

One very cold Saturday night, the roads were a sheet of ice. We were a very energetic bunch of young fools, amongst other things. Bryce would lay on his stomach with his arms on the front sled steering. The rest of us would sit on his back and maybe one body would crouch on the tail

end.

On this night, we had eight on board. At the very highest point on Spinney Hill we started out. The person on the back would start running and pushing the load. Once we were motoring, he would crouch on the back; Bryce steering the sled from hell. Once the sleds hit a certain speed, there was almost a silence. I often wondered if this meant that the sleds and cargo



were somewhat hovering on the ice.

This night was a great night for the sleds because we were going extra fast. High octane! We went down across Spinney Brook and up over the lower grade to the Hall and kept on going. At that time, the pavement stopped at the Church, so

we still had ice. Past the hall and up the flat. I can still hear the laughter when, to our surprise, we had lots of speed left to motor clear across the flat, which would be about 400 feet and then we still had enough momentum to start up the Levy hill. Enough that when we should have stopped, we started to coast backwards.

We laughed like fools. I know for a fact, that our speed would have been in excess of 100 kilometres an hour. With eight on board, our body weight alone would have been 800/900 pounds. I'll have to ask the pilot and crew if they remember this.

I was the pilot on another night on the same hill. My eyes were watering so bad that I couldn't see anymore. I had a crash landing into Tanner's driveway stone work. I was taken into Mrs. Tanner who cleaned the blood off my face. All else bailed before the crash.

Good times. I'll bet the sleds are still in Morris Ells' pig house to this day.

Francis McLearn



Hello, Neighbour!

Over the last few months, I have tried to introduce our readers to some people who have businesses or services and have a connection to our community. Here is a little something about some folks that make Black River their home! **Part 1**

Over two decades, Benjamin Bridge has distinguished itself as Canada's premier sparkling wine house. In 1999, it started as a labour of love with Nova Scotian entrepreneurs **Gerry McConnell** and the late **Dara Gordon**.

Inspired by early grape growers and winemakers in the region, Gerry and Dara invested years of research to discover whether region-defining wines could be produced in the Gaspereau Valley.

With expertise from Canada and the world's top oenologists, led by its chief innovator and head winemaker, Jean-Benoit Deslauriers, Benjamin Bridge has been unwavering in the singular pursuit of reflecting its precise set of growing conditions as transparently as possible.

Gerry and Dara's twin daughters Ashley & Devon McConnell-Gordon now lead the small family-like team. As stewards of land located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq First Nations, the team has carefully and meticulously grown Benjamin Bridge from a micro-boutique project into a dedicated sparkling wine house.

“ Our belief is that sustainability must be interwoven with the fabric of everyday life, that it must be pragmatic yet aspirational, and it must constantly evolve to meet greater awareness and knowledge. ”

For over 20 years, they have pursued excellence along these beautiful, south-facing slopes in the Gaspereau Valley. They carry on in Gerry and Dara's guiding belief that sustainability, community, and quality is embodied in each and every bottle.

The highly recommended *Terroir Tasting* is a deep dive into the winery's traditional method sparkling program, bookable year-round by appointment. Watch as culinary manager Kyla Welton touches on the biodiversity program featuring apiary, pollinator gardens, no-till garden, and the winery's approach to regenerative agriculture.

Like some of the greatest wine regions in the world, the Gaspereau Valley has a truly exemplary maritime climate. Its coastal terroir is shaped by its proximity to the Bay of Fundy. The perfect introduction to Benjamin Bridge is the *Classic Tasting* which is a guided 30-minute wine tasting, with plenty of time to ask questions. You may add on small bites to Classic Tasting available online when you book.

Note: *Terroir* is the characteristic taste and flavour imparted to a wine by the environment in which it is produced.

For more interesting activities and fun information check out Part 2 of this article next month!



Black River

... from the Wolfville Acadian

This column was originally printed in the Wolfville Acadian and was printed without the wife's name, as was the practice of the time. Where it is known we have included it in brackets.

February 17, 1949

Our Primary teacher, Miss MacGuier spent the week end at Grafton guest of her sister. Miss Ann Lowe spent the week end at White Rock.

The Trask Well Co. completed a well at the Black River Schoolhouse last week. Roscoe Schofield installed a frost proof pump to complete the job.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd (Ruby) Levy and two children spent Sunday with Mrs. Levy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milford (?) Schofield, at White Rock.

The Avon River Power Co. are slowly moving their camps and machinery to Black River from Methol's.

Ben Stultz has returned home from Camp Hill Hospital.

Mrs. Paul (?) Wile is at present assisting Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy with her household duties. Mrs. Levy still is not in the best of health.

Alfred Ells is at present employed with Oscar Levy who is busy in the woods.

Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long and daughter Linda (Lynda) spent Saturday evening with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard (Lillian) Smith.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. Clyde (Florence) McInnis is still in the V.G. Hospital, Halifax. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Frank (?) Davis and little daughter Judy, of Sackville, Halifax Co., spent the day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Aggie Weir), recently.

Mrs. Frank (?) Morrisey, of Halifax, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emory (Bessie) Spinney.

The Black River Woodchucks and the White Rock Rabbit Hounds met for another friendly game on the White Rock Rink Saturday night. It was a sharp game, the teams both doing their best, at the end of the first period the score was 2-0 in favour of Black River. The second period was scoreless and the end of the third period was 2-2. In the ten minutes overtime the score was 5-2 for the Rabbit Hounds. Thus the White Rock team won two out of three with a total score of 13 for Black River and 11 for White Rock.

Ed Schofield

NOTE: AT TIME OF PRINTING
THE CALENDAR IS AS ABOVE

APRIL EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Chili Take-Out pick up 4-6
3	4 Needle Felted Easter Eggs Workshop Sewing/Crafts Ways/Means 7pm	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Ukrainian Easter Eggs Workshop Sewing/Crafts 11-3pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Book Club 7pm-	19	20	21	22	23 Kitchen Party 7-9 free will offering
24 Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm- Directors' Meeting 8:00 pm-	25 Beeswax Wraps Workshop 11-3pm Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	26	27	28	29	30

• Chili Take-Out Fundraiser

Black River Community Hall, 989 Deep Hollow Rd
Saturday, April 2 *pick up 4-6 pm*. \$10 includes: Chili,
Roll, Dessert. Enjoy Saturday Night Supper with a
delicious Chili Take-Out from our kitchen.

**To preorder please call: 902 542 5125 or
902 542 7913 or email: sharonlake07@gmail.com**

• **Donate your refundable bottles to the Hall.** Drop off
anytime in the designated can at the Hall. **Money donated to
the Ukraine Relief Fund.**

• **WANTED Volunteers to help the Seniors' Connect Program.**
For more information 902 542 5125.

• **WANTED Carpenters/Labourers,** with or without experience
to help build a home in Black River. Starting mid-April- Sept.
Contact Thomas: twkrausse@gmail.com

• Sewing and Crafts for April

All are welcome to attend from 11 am - 3 pm.

- **Apr. 4** - Needle felted Easter Eggs workshop
- **Apr. 11** - Ukrainian Easter Eggs Workshop.
- **Apr. 25** - Beeswax Wraps Workshop. Socialize or
work on your own crafts & enjoy a cuppa.
- **Kitchen Party Apr. 23, Sat. 7-9 pm** Bring your
instruments and your good time voices. Free Will
Offering. Snacks available
- **Community Pot Luck** Bring your supper
and share it with your neighbours. May 1
Sunday,
- **Community Yard Sale- Friday May 20 4-6/
Sat May 21 Sat 8-12** Tables Inside \$5/Outside-
Bring your own. Call 902 542 3180 for info or
donations. BBQ and Canteen Available

NEWSLETTER *The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.*

Contacts: sharonlake07@gmail.com 902 542 5125 • gladys.zanelong@xplornet.com 902 542 1994

LIVE LINKS TO OUR FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTER & PODCASTS
Password for internet: communitycenter

<https://www.facebook.com/blackrivercommunityhall/>

<http://blackrivercommunityhall.weebly.com/>

<https://anchor.fm/storiesfromblackriver>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1zMHYxDMwQ9uUjCNQSmN7U?si=m5N2VSsQQZufzSNR96dyQ>

**CONTACTS: Hall Rental/Events Booking: Daily Rental-
\$100, Damage Deposit \$50 Contact: Tina Gertridge**

tinagertridge@gmail.com, 902 542 4152

Quilting & Crafts: levy.judy3@gmail.com, 902 542 5182

Book Club: mary.tanner.long@hotmail.com

Classifieds...

- **PORCUPINE CREEK PRODUCTIONS** - handcrafted by Nellie Schofield - nellieed.schofield@gmail.com. Tel: 902.542.5134
- **JESSICA MYRA - NATURAL FIBRE CREATIONS**-mothermuse@outlook.com
- **JACK SPINNEY BRAIDED RUGS** - local and handmade, 85 Upper Sunken Lake Road, Sunken Lake B4P 2R2 Tel: 902.713.5094 or **DROP INTO THE HOUSE AT 85 UPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD.**
- **LOOKING FOR KINDLING ?** Look no further. *Jack Spinney is offering QUALITY, DRY KINDLING* at the great price of \$5 for a full feed bag. **DROP INTO THE HOUSE AT 85 UPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD or CALL 902.713.5094**

Birthdays

Amy Schofield	Feb 9
Lucas Schofield	Mar 1
Wayne Schofield	Mar 28
Leland Leggett	Mar 25
above are belated Happy Birthdays	
Nancy Morse	Apr 1
Todd Schofield	Apr 1
Joyce Carnell	Apr 2
Donna (Stephen) Levy	Apr 5
Patrick Clancey	Apr 9
Sarah Levy	Apr 11
Brittany Gertridge	Apr 14
Shane Kaizer	Apr 17
Violet Levy	Apr 18
Pam Schofield	Apr 20
Francis McLearn	Apr 20
Josh McLearn	Apr 21
Aiden Levy	Apr 21
Paul Levy	Apr 22
Kyle Chappus	Apr 23
Evan Ells	Apr 24
Blair Schofield	Apr 24
Sage Munro	Apr 26
Tracey Pick	Apr 26
Nellie Schofield	Apr 27
Joel McLearn	Apr 29
Aaron Levy	Apr 30

Anniversary

Paul & SueAnne Russell Apr 9

Acts of Kindness

• We often say that young people today cannot lift their heads up from their phones to see the world around them. Leland Leggett is an exception and an example of a young person who is trying to make the lives of others a little easier. He collected \$500 for Open Arms Coldest Night of the Year 5 km walk. Leland is the son of Kit Leggett and lives at Sunken Lake. He is in Grade 4.

Condolences

We send our sympathy to **Kim (Joel) Sheffield** on the passing of her grandmother *Marjorie Mathorne* at 97 yrs.

www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/160651?fbclid=IwAR3eZUUFsA9NayKQoJGfQULEX3m0X2DzWtFe1V_YVXcFDcZyS5Q

Our condolences to **Zelma Long** and her family on the passing of her sister *Constance Shivers* in March.

www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/160811

Christine (Coolen) Kendrick passed away suddenly in March. Our sympathy is extended to **Violet and Freeman Levy**, their family and friends.

www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/160819

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

Feb 27 - Sorry to say the cardinal didn't stay at Hank & Donna Levy's bird feeder but they now have a pheasant.

With the Avian Flu on the go among the bird population we were told to not feed the birds so things were dull around here for awhile but I gave in when a few snow storms piled snow to cover all. I felt guilty both ways. After talking with a person I consider an expert on birds who said that feeding small birds sunflower seeds would be okay. I feel better about feeding the small birds. He cautioned not to feed the bigger birds such as crows or ravens.

Driving home from the Ways & Means meeting I came upon a little wet skunk on the road. I wanted to stop and pick it up but common sense kicked in even if he was so cute.

Sunday while Earl Redden was walking down the road he had the good fortune to see three large birds fly over. He later identified them as Northern Gannets, which are about a month early going North to nest. On the same walk he also saw a flock of about thirty Canada Geese flying North. Spring is in the air.

I wish I had never said that I had not had any squirrels. It started with one looking in the window at my lazy cats to moving to the sheds with all their relatives destroying everything in their paths. What a mess! Plus chattering at you for intruding when you go there.



Northern Gannet

Remember in six weeks we will be hanging out our humming bird feeders.

Telephone Clara 902.542.3180 with any of your wildlife observations and she will add them to her own or email: claraspinney123@gmail.com

HALL RENTAL:

Daily Rental \$100.00
Damage deposit \$50.
Effective January 1, 2022

Hall Rental/Events Booking: Tina Gertridge

tinaGertridge@gmail.com 902 542 4152

Accepting bookings for Hall Rental Now

EXECUTIVE ...

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