

Black River News

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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2023

A Good Neighbour

The White Rock Bridge was closed in May 2003 due to partial collapse. This was the main route to "get up the mountain". People had to detour east down the White Rock Road to Benjamin Bridge, turning right on the Black River Road and then right onto Corkum Burns Road (locally known as the Aggie Weir Road), past the public beach at Lumsden. During this period and due to the increased traffic, the Corkum Burns Road was well maintained by the Department of Transportation. The detour was in effect until a one lane Bailey bridge and lights were installed to allow traffic to use the mountain route, once again, while a new bridge was being built in the Spring of 2004.

While at work on one particular day it began to snow. I realized, once I was on my way home, that I should have left work earlier. At the White Rock corner I met up with Andrew Livingstone (Taryn Long's partner) and my brother Grayden. We had stopped there because we were undecided as to whether we should go up the mountain over the bailey bridge or take the detour. We did not feel comfortable travelling across the makeshift bridge and even less comfortable should we not be able to make it up the mountain. My memory is a bit fuzzy but there may have been others that had tried to get up the mountain by way of the bridge and had difficulty making it that way.

We decided on the detour with Andrew in the lead, then me and then my brother. We made it across Lumsden Dam, down the dip and around the bend and back up the hill, with some difficulty. We all stopped at the base of hill on the Corkum Burns Road just past the last cottage to discuss what to do. Andrew decided to try the hill, I followed a distance behind him and then my brother. I will note that none of us had 4-wheel drive!

As we were struggling to make our way, we could see headlights coming toward us! I thought to myself "don't make us stop as we will never get going again!"

The truck coming toward us was driven by Larry Long. He saw us coming up the hill and he put his 4-wheel drive truck in reverse and backed up the hill the rest of the way along Corkum Burns! His tracks made it easier for us to drive on that deep snow covered road and make our way home.

For my family and I, Larry was a much liked, respected and appreciated neighbour! Everyone should have "a Larry" in their lives.



Larry Long

Tara Lee McLearn

Words Uncovered

The Dead Die Twice Abandoned Cemeteries of Nova Scotia by Steve Skafta was a book brought to our Book Club last month. It reminded me of an article written by Judi Atwell Munro, a few years ago, on cleaning the headstones in our Black River Cemetery which was established in 1861.

"One of the projects discussed by members of the Heritage Committee was the cleaning of some of the oldest headstones in the cemetery. For years these old headstones have been unreadable due to the formation of mosses and lichens on their surfaces. Before we began I really did not have a lot of optimism that cleaning them would produce results. I am happy to say I was so wrong. Clara (Long) Spinney and I began with the idea that we would just try cleaning a couple of stones, and voila, the inscriptions came out so clearly it was unbelievable. It was like eating peanuts - we could barely stop the cleaning process, and we went from headstone to headstone, exclaiming the clarity of each one. Names that had been familiar to us only because they appeared in the old census records or family genealogies leapt from the stones. We have not completed the project but plan to continue in September.

Cemetery land is believed donated by John Reid, who along with his son Andrew, was buried there in 1864. Some of the stones were inscribed with verses from the Bible, or a simple poetic phrase. We began to notice the emblems carved on the stones - many were in the form of a tree, some an open Bible, some a hand pointing towards heaven. From the information on the stones you could determine that a family had lost of number of members in a short period of time; some of them were young children, probably from an epidemic of diphtheria, scarlet fever, or influenza. In one case a husband and wife died within days of each other. It brings home the harshness of life during those years, and the courage it took to survive.

Certainly there is a spiritual quality to the experience of sitting on one of the newly installed benches, beneath the cedars, and surrounded by the old headstones. It is the history of generations clustered in the quiet of a summer afternoon."



Judi Atwell Munro

The photo below was taken in White Rock in 1902. We are looking for some help in identifying the people. Black River and White Rock share many family members and we are hoping you will recognize someone and pass it along to us. Also we are curious as to what is the occasion? We will put the photo on our facebook page so that you can enlarge the faces to get a better look.

On the back of the photo is the following text ... "to Joe Smith with best wishes from his friend and teacher Retta Vaughan in memory of July 4, 1902. (Retta is on the far right, 2nd row from back). Joe Smith - 2nd row, white shirt frills & long tie; Howard Smith - back row, 2nd from Retta (tall); Milford Schofield (?) - 3rd row 1st on left - tie askew."



The photo below is of a cedar slab sawn from one of the cedar trees in the Black River Cemetery. In November of 2022 a strong wind took it down and at the same time three other trees had to be removed because they were dying.

In order to keep it from checking too much Jeff Long soaked it in antifreeze over the winter, then used a gunstock stain. He also constructed a stand for better viewing.

The slab is very heavy and measures approx. 22"x 20". Jeff counted 95 rings which would make it planted around 1928.

It is unknown who planted the cedar trees in the cemetery but Jeff suggests it seems reasonable to assume that they were planted by the family whose headstones they were near. This tree was near headstones of the Picks, Payzants and Schofields.

"Cedar is sometimes called the "Graveyard Tree" as it was so often planted in burial grounds. A reason perhaps is because they were so long lived and needed evergreen foliage symbolized eternal life. Another idea is if you plant a cedar, when it gets tall enough to shade a grave, it's time for you to die. Or Cedars are often used to drive out negative energy and purify homes." I like that idea best.



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.

July 6, 1950

Miss Ruth Long, Halifax, is spending her vacation with her mother, Mrs. David (Jennie) Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph (Rosie) Ells and family, White Rock, were visitors Sunday evening with the former's brother, Leslie and Mrs. (Mae) Ells.

Sheldon Levy, Kentville, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Mort (Clara) Freeman and Adrienne, Spokane Washington, are spending their vacation with Mrs. Freeman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin (Ada) Ellis, Victoria Beach spent the holiday week end with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long.

Creelman Schofield, New Minas, is spending a short time with his daughter, Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir and Mr. Weir.

Miss Ferne Nowlin has gone to Wolfville to work at the home of Dr. Wheelock.

Misses Jean and Joan Nowlin were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Emery (Vera) Nowlin.

Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy and children, accompanied by Miss Elaine McInnis, spent Saturday

with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett (?) Hiltz, Lockhartville.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell and family visited the latter's mother, Mrs. George (?) Illsley, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy (?) Foster, Waterville Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo (Dorothy) Long, Kentville, were guests Sunday of the latter's parents, Mr. and

July 13, 1950

The Girl Guides, who are camping at Sunken Lake, attended church Sunday morning, contributing to a short program to the morning service.

Mrs. Lenna Cunningham, Donna and Glenn, Valley Falls, R.I. are spending their vacation with Mrs. Cunningham's mother, Mrs. Lawson (Bessie) Atwell.

A miscellaneous shower was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. David (Jennie) Long in honour of her daughter, Ruth, who is leaving soon for Charlottetown, where she is to be married in July.

The Community Club held its weekly meeting with Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell, Thursday evening. The time was spent quilting and a 10¢ tea was served by the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long and family motored to Mill Village, Sunday, visiting Mrs. Long's aunt, Mrs. Bennett.

Annapolis Valley High Speed Internet

We thank the AVHS for the complimentary internet at our community hall. CONTACT them at 902-692-9100 or annapolisvalleyhighspeed.com.

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AUGUST events ●●●



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	2	3	4	5
6	7 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am Ways/Means & Maintenance 7pm	8 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	9	10	11 Kids Arts & Crafts Evening 6-8 pm	12 An Evening with Chris Gertridge. 7-9 pm
13	14	15 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	16	17	18	19
20 Monthly Meeting 7 pm Directors Meeting 7pm-	21 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am Book Club 7pm-	22 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	23	24	25	26 Family Bingo with Prizes, Canteen, 50/50 Draw 6:30-8:00 pm
27	28 Heritage Meeting	29 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	30	31		

• 45's card Games 7-9 pm. Come out and enjoy the fun. Tickets are \$4 for the game. 50/50 Tickets Available and a light lunch included. All are welcome. Contact Zelma Long 902 542 2842 or sunkenhaven@gmail.com for further information.

• Online Auction and Barn Dance in Support of Bobbi Lynn Bezanson, Paloosa Ridge Stables 1512 Deep Hollow Road. August 5, 2012. Bobbi Lynn is well known to the equestrian world. She has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and is awaiting surgery. Donations are needed to host a benefit/auction and barn dance in support of her. Any funds raised will go directly to her. For donations please contact Tammy Levy 902 670 2084 and leave msg. EMT can be sent to tammygarnett@hotmail.com or contact: Samantha Marylyn, Ssharpe.ml@gmail.com 902 817 8305. Thanks for your support.

• Kid's Arts & Crafts Night. Aug 11 6-8 pm Open to Children ages 5-12 with an adult. Arts supplies provided. Free Will Offering. Pre-register with Jessica 902 300 1426

• An Evening With Chris Gertridge. Aug. 12 7-9 pm
Are you interested in our local history? Come out and enjoy Chris Gertridge's collection of photos, short films, curios and artifacts. He has some wonderful pictures of local towns, people, ships, buildings, etc. - a little something of interest to everyone. All are welcome! Be prepared to be transported from the comfort of the Hall. Coffee, Tea Available. Admission: Free Will Offering.

• Bingo For The Whole Family, Neighbours & Friends. Saturday, Aug. 26 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Prizes for the lucky winners. Admission Free Will and/or Donation to Food Bank accepted. Canteen and 50/50 Tickets Available. It is always a special fun time.

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

Contacts: • sharonlake07@gmail.com • 902 542 5125
• gladyslong67@gmail.com • 902 542 1994

LIVE LINKS TO OUR FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTER & PODCASTS below:

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

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

<https://anchor.fm/storiesfromblackriver>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1zMHYxDMwQ9uUjCNQSmN7U?si=m5N2V5sQQZufzbSNR96dyQ>

CONTACTS: Hall Rental/Events Booking: Daily Rental-\$100, Damage Deposit \$50 Contact: Jayn Kenny 902 542 0002
jayneileenkenny@msn.com

Quilting & Crafts:

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

Card Games: Zelma Long 902 542 2842 or sunkenhaven@gmail.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 is offering QUALITY, DRY KINDLING \$6** for a full feed bag. **DROP INTO THE HOUSE AT 85 UPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD or CALL 902.713.5094.**
- **HUMBLE HILL HOMESTEAD** offering: farm fresh eggs in a variety of colours, frozen-fresh rabbit, veggies and transplants seasonally. Contact via Facebook Farm Page or call/text 902.300.5482
- **FOR SALE: Locally grown lean ground beef \$6/lb.** Custom beef orders for sides and quarters \$5/lb. Call Shawn Levy 902 300 4432
- **Need a little help around the house or yard? Some cleaning, organizing or light yard work? If so, call Amber Hermie-Long at 1 (506) 280-1568. She can help you out!!**

Birthdays

Tammy Levy <small>Belated Best Wishes</small>	Jul 15
Courtney Ells	Aug 1
Kinsey Levy	Aug 3
Ken Byland	Aug 10
Debbie Hancock	Aug 13
Brody Russell	Aug 16
Natasha Schofield	Aug 22
Casey Stubbart-Tait	Aug 27
Sofia Heather Guthro	Aug 28
Joe McInnis	Aug 30
Leslie Ells	Aug 30

Anniversary

Aaron & Tammy Levy <small>Belated Best Wishes</small>	Jul 30
Zane & Gladys Long	Aug 1
Bryce & Diane Ells	Aug 2
Jeff & Debbie England	Aug 6
Frank & Shelley Hill	Aug 6
David & Victoria Milligan	Aug 13
Mitchell & Amber Hermie-Long	Aug 13
Justin & Amy Davis	Aug 15
Don & Theresa Feltmate	Aug 17
Tara Lee & Francis McLearn	Aug 19
Jeff & Mary Tanner Long	Aug 20
Holly & Larry Spinney	Aug 20
Todd & Pam Schofield	Aug 24
Rick & Pearl Tait	Aug 30

EXECUTIVE ...

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Donna (Hank) Levy
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Get Well Soon

Our thoughts are with Trina Long as she begins another round of chemotherapy. Best wishes are extended to Trina for a successful outcome.

With Appreciation

Thanks to all who helped with our Strawberry Shortcake Social. It was a wonderful Canada Day Celebration with so many old and new friends attending. Thanks to Tracey & Phil Pick & Blake Spinney for picking the strawberries in between the cloudbursts. They were all you could want in fresh local strawberries making the social a enjoyable success.



Sisters-Mary Tanner Long and Tanya Hoyt at Strawberry Shortcake Social with Mary's granddaughter Ava Rose, center.

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations
 recorded by Clara Spinney

- This past month has gone so quickly, and the summer is going so fast.
- The hummingbirds are in full swing. There for a while I was worrying about not having many but things have picked up; although the count is down from other summers. The young must be what is making up the count.
- The loons have hatched two young this year. The strange part of this story is that one was born then the next day they had the second one. That is what I have been told by the nest watchers. Hopefully the eagles will leave them alone.
- The beaver has been here nipping a limb here and there, nothing serious but that will come closer to fall.
- This spring and summer many people have been invaded by ants, slugs and earwigs. It seems that if you have them it is never in small amounts. No matter what is it is a never ending fight.
- The residents of Sunken Lake are being treated to an extra chorus of bull frogs. They would try the nerves of anyone trying to sleep. I do believe there is a choir of eight in front of my house.



slug



earwig



bullfrog



Loon with young on her back

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 • Damage deposit \$50
- Effective January 1, 2022
- Hall Rental/Events Booking: Jayn Kenny**
 jayneileenkenny@msn.com, 902 542 0002
- Accepting bookings for Hall Rental Now**