

Black River News

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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2021



Aunt Martha's Holiday "To Do" Calendar

December 1 - Endow Foundation to recycle hearing aids. Invent everlasting battery cell powered by the heart.

December 2 - Generate recipes for every conceivable taste and dietary restriction for Christmas Dinner.

December 3 - Retire old gardener. Spray paint shovel gold for retirement gift. Advertise for new gardener. Must be able to do the 50 yd dash and deep knee bends.

December 4 - Send *Black River News* to Gaspereau Press for book publication consideration.

December 5 - Sort through closets and cupboards for regifting ideas. Ready glue gun to personalize items.

December 6 - Encourage local Christmas Tree lot owners take handmade beeswax ornaments from wild backyard bees to decorate their trees.

December 7 - Collect dog and cat hair currently blowing through the house like tumbleweed; felt with coloured wool and lights to make festive wall hanging.

December 8 - Lay Faberge egg. Mix in with eleven of Leonard and Mildred's Chicken eggs. Anticipate miracle.

December 9 - Construct ice skating rink across road from Hall using spring water I bottled myself. Create festive mood by hand sprinkling snow. Compose carols and sing them while children skate.

December 10 - Felt tiny elf hats in Sewing & Crafts Group. Round up local Guinea Hens and attach.

December 11 - Christmas Concert at Hall. Special reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by local coyotes and owls.

December 12 - Felt slippers for everyone in Community. Attach jingle bells. Note: Plan for Mental Health day.

December 13 - Collect store bought pies. Bite decorative design around outer crust. Teeth are excellent pastry cutters.

December 14 - Create snow storm and build snowwoman in likeness of Carrie Spinney Grover at the Hall. Install recording of her fiddle music to broadcast throughout the season.

December 15 - Drain Black River Lake and fill with "spirited" egg nog.

December 16 - Sprinkle homemade glitter on local cows to add a festive atmosphere to the farms and fields.

December 17 - Float votive candles in Sunken Lake and have community go awassailing around lake. Ensure Northern Lights are visible.

December 18 - Melt down all backyard recyclables. Use repurposed material to construct winter tires. Inflate using own hot air.

December 19 - Do annual self-care/self-love deed. Schedule time to talk with Hank's therapy goats.

December 20 - Organize spice racks by herbal restorative potential.

December 21 - Consult market value of home made preserves. Attempt to influence stock market with community made five-pepper jelly and cucumber pickles.

December 22 - Spray paint Community Hall to look like festive Gingerbread House, with hand-whipped meringue and Cosman and Whidden honey trim.

December 23 - Re-wire alarm at Hall to play "All I Want For Christmas Is You".

December 24 - Create backyard manger at the Hall. Have Star of Bethlehem moved to shine over Hall. Dress livestock as Wise Men. Record Christmas Eve manger talk.

December 25 - Have Christmas Dinner delivered to community by horse and sleigh. Build sleigh.

December 26 - Gather up left-overs and have Boxing Day Take-Out fundraiser.

December 27 - Have Ways and Means Meeting on Sleigh Ride.

December 28 - Take pantry apart. Reassemble any broken electrical appliances. Be prepared for any ozone smell or heavenly lights.

December 29 - Discover missing link.

December 30 - Cure Ham for New Year's Day and the common cold.

December 31 - New Year's Eve! Give community their new year's resolutions.

January 1 - Take break.

Sharon Lake

Based on and with apologies to the author, Steven M. Sultanoff, Ph.D., of "Martha Stewart's Holiday Calendar".

Wishing everyone a very special Christmas

Ghosts of Christmas Past ...

School Days & The Christmas Concert

When I started school back in the 1930's, Edna, Don, Mark and Keith Schofield were there, as well as the Weirs - Marian, Dick, Irene; Lloyd, Ida Mae, Arnel, Charlton and Merle Levy; Morley Nowlin, Byron and his sister Verna Long; Gerald, Rena, Velma, Harlan, Leo, Eldon and Frank Spinney; Ruth, Grace and Madge Long; Helen and Ethel Atwell - and others that have slipped my mind.



I loved history and geography. My imagination would just run away with me. Sometimes the teacher would have to awaken me because I would be daydreaming about how exciting it would have been to have lived then, or what kind of houses they lived in, or what kind of clothing they wore. I loved it all.

When I think of the Christmas Concerts - oh my! They were such a BIG DEAL and not just for us kids at school. The whole community looked forward to them. Every child was involved in something. I remember having a recitation - 4 lines. I had to stand on a big wooden box so that everyone could see me.

In one skit I was the baker. The teacher made me a costume with stars all over it. I held up my letter and told my story, then the next child would hold up their letter and tell their story. I remember one of the kids acted the part of the doctor. We would spend days decorating the school and boy, didn't that school smell good. We had it decorated with boughs and big crepe paper bows. Beautiful!

Barbara (Schofield) Davidson [excerpt from 2007 interview by Gladys Long and Clara (Long) Spinney.] First printed in our Christmas Anthology "Recipes & Remembrances".

A Long Time Ago

I grew up with my brothers and sister on Schofield Road in the 1920's. When Christmas time came around we were excited to receive a package of clothing and presents from my mother's sister in the States. My father would cut us a Christmas tree and we made paper chains and other homemade ornaments to decorate it. I remember one Christmas when all of us kids were sick with Scarlet Fever and the doctor came from Wolfville by horse to tend us. I remember that my brother Keith was just a baby and was very ill but we all recovered and lived healthy lives. Christmas dinner was a special occasion for us and we would have roast chicken or pork as my father always raised some pigs and of course we had chickens for eggs and meat. In the Fall my mother would make mincemeat from either venison or rabbits and we also had plenty of apples from the orchard. Sometimes she made caraway cookies using seeds she had gathered. Life was simple but we had lots of food and fun.

Barbara (Schofield) McInnis (from an interview of August 2007 with Clara (Long) Spinney and Judi Atwell Munro) First printed in our Christmas Anthology "Recipes & Remembrances".



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.

December 9-30, 1948

The Community Club met at Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long's home last Thursday evening.

The primary department of our school was closed on Friday, owing to illness of the teacher, Miss Mae Guier.

Johnny Crowell spent two days recently with Mr. and Mrs. Leverett (Mabel) Long and has now left for British Columbia to live with his aunt, Mrs. Barney (?) White.

Two families have moved into their newly completed homes this week, namely Mr. and Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell and Mr. and Mrs. Emory (Bessie) Spinney.

Jack Allen and Miss Grace Long, from Grand Pre, spent Sunday with Mrs. David (Jennie) Long.

The Community Club had their annual Christmas party at the Schoolhouse last Thursday evening. It was a pleasant social evening and the members exchanged gifts then had refreshments of ice cream, cake, cookies and candy.

Last Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Donald (?) Stewart and two children, from Nictaux, called on Mrs. Lawson (Bessie) Atwell.

Charlton Levy is spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy.

Little Kenneth Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long, has been sick for several days, and confined to his bed. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long have moved into their newly completed home.

The school children had a Christmas concert Monday evening, under the supervision of their teachers, Misses Lowe and Guier. "Santa" presented each child with a gift, an orange and a bag of candy.

Miss Ruth Long, from Halifax, visited her mother, Mrs. David (Jennie) Long, on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo (Dorothy) Long and Mr. and Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute visited Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin (Verna) Forsythe and little son Dale, White Rock, called on Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd (Ruby) Levy on Christmas Day.



DECEMBER EVENTS



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Seniors' Connect 1-3pm	2	3	4
5	6 Sewing & Crafts 11-3 pm	7	8 Seniors' Connect 1-3pm			
12	13 Meeting to sort details of Dec. 19, 7pm-	14	15 Seniors' Connect 1-3pm			
19 Drop In HotChocolate Tea/Coffee Community get together 2-4	20	21	22			
26	27 Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	28	29			

EVENTS:

SEWING & CRAFTS: Dec. 6 last meeting before New Year. Start up again on Jan. 11/2022.

SENIORS: are meeting December 1-15. After the 15TH Seniors Connect is cancelled until January 12, 2022 when they will start up again.

DECEMBER 13: Meeting of the executive and board of directors to discuss the details of the community get together. STARTS AT 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER:

Please feel free to drop in at the Hall for some hot chocolate, tea/coffee from 2 - 4 pm on December 19. This event is instead of a monthly meeting in December and is free of charge.

COVID 19 Prevention Guidelines in Effect / Evidence of Vaccinations Required

NEW ITEMS OF NOTE:

The By-Laws for the Black River Community Club have been ratified. The name has been changed to **Black River & District Community Association**. There is no membership fee to join and all are welcome to come to our monthly meetings, make suggestions and in general help guide the direction that our association will make in the future. A community with your interests and concerns in mind.

HALL RENTAL:

Daily Rental \$100.00

Damage deposit \$50.

Effective January 1, 2022

See Tina Gertridge's contact information below for more details.

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=m5N2VSsQQZufzbSNR96dyQ>

CONTACTS: Hall Rental/Events Booking: Tina Gertridge
tinagertridge@gmail.com 902 542 4152

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

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

For 45's : 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 BRAIDED RUGS - local and handmade, 85 Upper Sunken Lake Road, Sunken Lake B4P 2R2 Tel: 902.542.1552 **DROP INTO THE HOUSE AT 85 UPPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD.**

Looking for KINDLING for the winter season? 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 UPPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD.**

Birthdays

Sherry Spinney	Dec 5
Bernie Davies	Dec 7
Emily Levy Purdy	Dec 7
Trevor Long	Dec 8
Debbie England	Dec 11
Byron Spinney	Dec 12
Bernard Forsythe	Dec 12
Greg Long	Dec 18
Gerald Harper	Dec 20
Blaine Myles	Dec 21
Maddie Harris	Dec 24
Emma Marie Ells	Dec 25 (5th)
Gordon Berry	Dec. 26

Congratulations

Leslie and Courtney Ells were married on October 23, 2021. Leslie's parents are Bryce and Diane Ells and Courtney's parents are Mike and Janice Stickland.

Get Well Soon

Sympathy is extended **Susan Haley** who his recovering from a broken leg.

Condolences

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Henry Golar** who passed away in October.

With Appreciation

Thanks to all who supported The Cemetery Walk on October 28. We appreciate the people who made it possible through their donations of time, treats, funds and their sense of fun. A special thanks to Jessica Myra for organizing it all.

Unknown ghouls at the cemetery



Thanks to all who supported **The Craft Sale** November 20 especially Sheila Ward, Craft Fair organizer. It was a successful and enjoyable day with many local



crafters taking part.

Photo: l-r Pres. Clayton Pick, the jolly old elf and Sheila Ward

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by **Clara Spinney**

Oct 27 - Saw a beautiful doe deer today. It was so grey in colour it resembled a mule deer in many ways. I had a really good look at her as she was as interested in me as I was in her.

Oct 29 - Have noticed a few hooded mergansers in the lake; not near what there used to be. Also a few black ducks and mallards still around enjoying the lake.

Nov 3 - To my surprise I came upon a porcupine. I believe it was one of this year's. I was convinced they were extinct as it has been so long since I have seen one and no one mentions seeing them. Lots of people seeing fishers which are enemies of the porcupine.

Nov 6 - My first nuthatch was here today looking for my bird feeders; sorry not out yet. I have wanted to see a bear all summer long. Thought it was not going to happen but finally I saw two small ones - probably year olds. That sighting just made things worse, I want to see them all the time. So beautiful!

Many people are sighting flocks of geese in the harvested fields around. A few flocks have flown over the lake, honking. One of the great sounds from nature. Although their honking seems sad in the Fall.

Nov 12 - Some people noted the large flock of crows gathering in the fields down and around Spinney Hill before you get to the Hall.

I have had a couple of opportunities to see the hundreds of geese that gather on Lumsden Pond mid-mornings. It's a beautiful sight!

Nov. 13- Hairy and downey woodpeckers at Feltmates suet bird feeder.

Telephone Clara 902.542.3180 with any of your wildlife observations and she will add them to her own or email: claraspinnney123@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ...

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A Little Free Library Box

Many places have Little Free Libraries. You may have noticed ours on the front entrance to the Hall. This type of library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or leave a book. There is no paperwork involved. If you take a book or two from the library try to leave a book or two you think others would like to read. If you don't have a book to leave it doesn't matter. You may take a book anyway. If the library is full and you have some to leave contact one of the directors. We have a library inside the Hall that operates on the same principle.