

Black River News

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

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2022



Trina Long with her "Worry Worms"

Christmas is the season we air out our feelings of good will and gift giving. But for Trina Long the gift of giving takes place all year. Many community members know of Trina's quiet good will whether it is a phone call on your birthday, a timely plate of something for a senior or perhaps tidying up your house when you are not feeling up to par.

Trina has always been a creative person with talent to spare and her latest effort are the crocheted "Worry Worms" pictured above. They are designed to be stress-busters and provide comfort to those who are having a hard/stressful time. Trina and a friend have been knitting items to donate to worthwhile causes for awhile and for the past few months have been crocheting these funny worms.

Long says "They don't really come to life until you put those little googly eyes on them, and then they just develop their own personalities, which makes it fun".

Part of the charm and therapeutic effect of the "worms" is their touchability and comforting presence. Originally Trina was thinking along the lines of comfort for the children of war-torn Ukraine. Their smallness makes them very portable and some of the worms have gone there already. Many have been donated to nursing homes. They, much like the fidget quilts, provide an activity that relieves anxiety.

Crocheted Worry Worms began from the Random Acts of Crochet Kindness Movement which was founded by Olivia Dieterich. Originally they were hidden in places where children could find them but now volunteers (ambassadors) deliver the Worry Worms

Trina started taking some bags of worms to her work place and soon volunteers were helping to distribute them. Some of the "Worms" have been delivered to hospitals throughout Canada and the USA and Europe. When one of the ambassadors, Nancy Gauthier of Repentigny, Quebec saw them she took a bag home with her to the children's hospital in Montreal. She thought they would "put a balm on the hearts of little loves who are going through more difficult times and make them smile."

By now Trina has made enough worms to crochet them in her sleep. She says that she makes around 20-40 at a time and then puts the eyes on them. It takes about 20 minutes to make one. Since February she has made over 2,200. She has delivered them to nursing homes, hospitals and the Annapolis Valley Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia among many other places.

Trina is always on the look out for more acrylic yarn and self-adhesive googly eyes. Any donations of such or if you are interested in volunteering as an ambassador please contact Trina Long at trinalong2177@gmail.com. She also points out that people don't have to go through her. You can make your own Worry Worms to donate to good causes.

Nancy Gauthier said she was moved by Trina's initiative. She said " ... the world needs more Trina". We would wholeheartedly agree with her.

Sharon Lake

Directions for Worry Worm

Using any yarn and hook size:

- Chain 30
- Slip stitch into the second chain from your hook, then place four single crochet stitches into each of the chains until you have one chain remaining.
- Into the very last chain, work 10 double crochet stitches. Slip stitch into the same chain, chain one, cut your yarn and pull through the chain you just made. Pull it tight and then weave in your ends.
- To add the eyes, you can use self-adhesive googly eyes or embroider them using some black yarn. (French knots are a great alternative) and your Worry Worm is complete.

* Some of the above information was taken from Saltwire.com

Hello, Neighbour! Column by Ed Schofield

Hitch Your Wagon To A Star

... continued from last month

Another 2021 mini series that was filmed in the Halifax area was called *Chapelwaite*. *Chapelwaite* is based on the short story "Jerusalem's Lot" by American writer Stephen King. It was filmed in Windsor, Nova Scotia. A brief synopsis from Wikipedia " *Captain Charles Boone, played by Adrien Brody, and his children return to the small town of Preacher's Corners, Maine after the death at sea of his wife. On their return they are haunted by a dark family history.*" Takes place in the 1850's.

In this film, one of the actors is set on fire directly in front of a horse. Paul Spinney said that the horse was more upset with the fire extinguishers than the flaming person!

There was a slow time for the film industry with the suspension of the government funding for film production in Nova Scotia in 2015. Then, a slowdown again with the pandemic. In the last year or so, things are back on track for a renewal of filming in Nova Scotia. In fact, another season of *Chapelwaite* was to be started this year. Unfortunately there were a great number of films being produced here which caused a shortage in the facilities available.



Paul Spinney on the set of "Pure"

The boys (Paul Spinney and Shawn Levy) and their teams have been busy for the last few months with the shooting of a Disney film called *Washington Black*. Much of this movie is being shot in Cape Breton. This is a big budget film for sure. The movie is adapted from the Giller-winning novel by Esi Edugyan. It is the story of an 11 year old who escapes an 1800's sugar plantation in Barbados and with his mentor, who is a leader in Halifax's Black community, begins a journey of self-discovery.

When the provincial government announced a \$23 million investment in Nova Scotia's film industry back in March *Washington Black* was one of the first to start production.

Would any of you be interested in viewing some of these movies? If so, we are planning to "screen" some of the shows at our Community Hall beginning in January. Please join us! Just bring some movie snacks to share and maybe a comfy chair. More details will be forthcoming next newsletter. We hope to see you there.

Now let's "Roll Em!..."

Christmas Remembered

As usual, I was up early and breakfast finished by six, a spot of tea made and my chair waiting for me. Watching a sappy Christmas show that got me thinking of Christmas time when I was a kid. My Mum and Dad never had a lot of cash but we always had lots to eat and the basement was always well stocked with vegetables and preserves. I can still see the bins of apples, carrots, potatoes and turnips. The parsnips didn't come out of the garden until Christmas morning. The longer parsnips stay in the ground, the sweeter they are. Dad was in charge of digging them out.

About a week before the big day, Mum would say, you kids should go to the woods and find a Christmas tree. Us four older ones would bundle up and head into the snow (most years there would be snow). We would cover a lot of acreage to find a nice tree and when we did find one, it was like we all knew that it would be the one. There was no going to town and buying a pruned tree for us. Home we would go with the tree in tow. Dad would put it in a can of sand and Mum would get her treasured tinsel out. The real good stuff back then - it was heavy and didn't blow with a passing body. Probably not healthy either.

No gifts were under the tree until Santa came on Christmas eve. All the breakfast dishes had to be done up before we opened our gifts. Dad would also do the milking and feeding first. When we were real young, the wrapping paper was saved for next year. Much like today really. We don't discard gift bags. Mum would have the turkey stuffed with potato stuffing, garnished with home grown summer savoury. Mmmmm. Cranberries picked in South Rawdon and bottled by Mum. The drumsticks were always mine and Dad's and I still have one today. I can still hear Mum's smooth voice singing to the Christmas music.

When the boys were still at home and father-in-law was working his tree lot, we got our tree there. When



he passed away we went to Keith and Linda Davidson's farm and would take the tractor and log loader to the lot to cut our own. Now, Tara Lee and I just pick one in the shed. These folks have beautiful trees. We always have a great chat with Keith and sometimes with Linda. Tara Lee is in charge of the lights and most of the decorating. I have a few of our homemade ornaments that are my favourites. We always have a large breakfast with my favourite mother-in-law, get the turkey in the oven, and then we hit the gifts.

Since I have lost a year's work, and we always go overboard with the gifts, we have agreed to cut way back this year and concentrate on the meal and decorations. Last year, I was not even able to open my gifts because of my illness. Jayden took me to the hospital after lunch and I was there until New Year's. This year the meal will be very special.

Have a great day all.

Francis McLearn

DECEMBER events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>• NOTE: Ways and Means meeting at 10 am on December 5 instead of the evening.</p>					2	3
4	<p>5</p> <p>Ways/Means 10 am</p> <p>Maintenance 7pm</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>Computer Simplified 10:30 am</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>Movie Night 7:30 pm November Christmas</p>	10
11	<p>12</p> <p>Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am</p>	13	14	15	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>Monthly Meeting 7 pm</p> <p>Directors Meeting 7pm-</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Book Club 7pm-</p>	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BOXING DAY</p>	27	28	29	30	31
<p>• NOTE: Heritage Meeting CANCELLED for December only</p>						

• NOTE: Computer Simplified on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. We are offering a very elementary course in computer e.g. emails, scans, making a business card, designing a poster. Bring your laptop, ipad, and we will try to help with some simple steps. We have some microsoft old computers here and a mac to help get you started. We are not experts but are willing to share what we know. As well, please feel free to just come in and use the internet, or work independently while the course is taking place. **Cancelled Dec. 21**

• **December 9 at 7:30- MOVIE NIGHT.** We are showing the movie *November Christmas* starring Sam Elliott, John Corbett, Karen Allen. This film was filmed partially in Nova Scotia-Wolfville and area about a father whose daughter is seriously ill and with the help of neighbours Halloween & Christmas are celebrated early for her benefit. Bring snacks and a comfortable chair, if you want. **Admission-free will offering and/or non-perishable food item for the Food Bank.** Come out and enjoy an heart-warming evening with neighbours and friends.



Those wouldn't be the footprints of the jolly ole Elf, would they?

photo by Francis McLearn

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

Contacts: • sharonlake07@gmail.com 902 542 5125
• gladyslong67@gmail.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: Daily Rental-\$100, Damage Deposit \$50 Contact: Jayn Kenny 902 542 0002

Quilting & Crafts: jayneileenkenny@msn.com

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

Card Games: White Rock contact Tim MacKay 902 697 2374

or email tim.mackay@eastlink.ca

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.**
- *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 \$5/lb.** Custom beef orders for sides and quarters \$5/lb. **Call Shawn Levy 902 300 4432**

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 (6th)
Gordon Berry	Dec 26

Wanted

Volunteers for Snow Removal

If interested please contact Ed Schofield - see contact info below.

Looking For A Babysitter? Lucie Levy, 13 is looking to babysit. "I am reliable and great with kids! I have my St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course which includes CPR and First Aid. Can prepare meals and do light housework. All babysitting money earned will go towards my 2023 Ottawa Class Trip. Message me at 902 300 7277."

EXECUTIVE ...

Black River Community Hall

989 Deep Hollow Road
Black River, NS B4P 2R2
902 542 7913

President - Clayton Pick

clayton-765@hotmail.com
902 698 1629

Vice-President - Ed Schofield

nellieed.schofield@gmail.com
902 542 5134

Secretary - Jayn Kenny

jayneileenkenny@msn.com
902 542 0002

Treasurer - Tara Lee McLearn

mclearn4@yahoo.ca
902 542 4548

With Appreciation

Thanks to Jessica Myra for putting together another very successful 4th Annual Cemetery Treat Walk on October 28. It was well attended along with an appearance by the Greenwich Fire Dept. and Sparky who brought treats. Thanks also to the many volunteers who make this a special occasion for our community each Halloween.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...

Clara Spinney
claraspinnney123@gmail.com
902 542 3180

Joe McInnis

902 542 2558

Sharon Lake

sharonlake07@gmail.com
902 542 5125

Don Feltmate

donjfeltmate@gmail.com
902 542 2798

Donna (Hank) Levy

902 542 5419
donnaahank@hotmail.com

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

- Sometimes I wonder what I'll write about for Nature Notes but Nature never lets me down. There is always so much to see.
- I still have the duck. Although she has made some friends she still constantly checks in. I'm hoping when her friends leave for the winter she will go with them. We'll see.
- A muskrat was starting to build a little house here but for some reason hasn't been around for a few days. There was one here a few years ago all winter. It ate lots of bird seed from under the feeders, plus I gave him some carrots.
- We had such a warm and beautiful weather this fall that one day I spent it outside just enjoying the sights. There were four ducks, six geese and a muskrat swimming around the wharf.
- The beaver have been down toward this end of the lake. Apparently they are harvesting their food across the road where they are not bothering anyone.
- I was down at Lumsden Pond a week ago. I cannot hazard a guess as to the amount of geese that were on the water. A real beautiful sight.
- Have not put my bird feeders out yet although I've had chickadees and nuthatches here looking for them. I know there are still lots of seeds out there for them. Once the snow comes out will go my feeders. But I have been known to give in when it gets cold.
- I saw a porcupine one evening last week. I was so excited to see one - I was afraid they were extinct. Wished it well.
- Have not seen the loons for a week now so I feel I can safely say they are gone for the season.
- There were four male hooded mergansers here this week. The hooded mergansers both male and female always stop here in the fall. The flocks used to be much bigger and they'd stay for about two weeks.

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