

# Black River News

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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

## Christmas Moments from an Old Diary

*Christmas memories are so often messy. Sometimes sadness and regret are stickier than joy, so I dug into my childhood journals (mostly misspelled) to look for "the better". Hope you will find a point of recognition.*

**1953** - Just born and noisy. My Aunt Merle said she stood at the end of her driveway "waving (her) arm off to say hello, but Lloyd and Ruby didn't even notice because they only had eyes for that baby girl."

**1955** - One or all of my brothers got a cap gun and cowboy hat. Always, for Christmas dinner came grandparents and for the repeat feast three hours later!! maybe cousins and other grandparents. China cups polished and gravy!!dressing!!!pies!! Next to our new puppy collie, a rubber stuffed doll I called Cappy (couldn't say Cathy) was my best friend for years.

**1957** - I started to read this year ... from hymn books! There was nothing I liked better than to be snuggled between Mum and Dad at the Baptist Church and hear the familiar carols.

We always went, three little boys in "suits", me in a felt hat, playing thumb games with Dad. The church was full and Mrs. (Mildred) Atwell made the old pump organ wheez out the harmonies. Innocent times when the baby Jesus was more real to me than the possibility of growing up.

**1958** - The last Concert in Black River School before consolidation for the older students.

**1960** - I loved being in the barn with steaming cows who definitely knew me, Dad belting out hymns and war songs over the milkers' putt-putt. Umm, the smell of corn silage (and I don't mind cow poop, either.) Loose hay in the mows and cats for conversation. Remember the smell of Steadman's, the lit windows of Wolfville, Robertson's animal candy on shelves?

**1961** - Mum and Dad had a square dance between Christmas and New Year. This is the one where Bing, our cat climbed the Xmas tree, spilled mud all over the floor ... and lived.

**1962** - I think Richard had a girrrrrrfriend and he was allowed to have a sock hop dance in our living room with the regulars just before Christmas, Hank and Donna, Gladys and Johnny Saltzman, and more. My eyes were pretty big.

**1963** - A train wreck of a year. Brian was deathly ill and in Boston for a dangerous surgery. Mum cooked a 40?50? pound turkey,

(NOT an exaggeration) and flew to Boston Christmas Day. We ate that damn turkey every day till after it became toxic. It didn't feel like real Christmas till when skinny, pale Brian shuffled in the door at home. Great scar though. Laurie would distract me with Monopoly and THEN, insist on winning! Imagine.

**1965** - "Mum and I went skiing. She is really good and can go fast. I kept falling." Dad sometimes played games in the house, mostly physical challenges. We were all glad of his story telling. The boys endured high expectations. Do NOT tell my brothers I admit being lazy.

**1966** - "Laurie and I went skating on the pond." I had an early present of a shiny dress from Franks' in Wolfville. Against all good reason, I was allowed to go to the Christmas dance at Horton (Grade 7!) where I glued myself to the wall in terror and shyly admired all the brush cuts and upturned white collars of those mysterious boys on the opposite wall.

"Dad is not feeling well." (He had had a major heart attack in the spring, but it took a second one to make him quit smoking Export A's.) "Dad is teaching me to play crib when he can sit up for a while. (And then he lived till his late eighties!). I got a slip, a diary, some gogo socks, I LOVE them!, a little silver jewelry case, a necklace and a boughten sweater (which I loathed! An itchier piece of clothing was never created nor lasted longer.)

**1969** - Remember walking the dark halls of Horton with the choir holding REAL candles singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!". Recall the potato scallop, baked beans fundraisers in the gym (still smelling like sweaty boys .. not all bad) while the band played carols.

**1970** - On Christmas Day, we were stuck under four feet of snow. (The WORST - no company, no shared dinners, no grandparents or cousins. Boo!) Thank goodness we had the old dial up black phones to connect with the outside world ... and entertain the neighbours on the party line.

The Gift of Advice: It is never too late to start collecting good memories.

Best of the season to you all. Emily.

Emily Levy Purdy



Emily and friend



br: Laurie and Brian  
fr: Richard and Emily

## Hello Neighbour

Nellie and I had the privilege of hosting a Young People's group a few years ago. Among the many activities we enjoyed was a hike to Little River Falls. Much planning was involved in this trip as each person was to pick a city in the world they were interested in and the distance it was from the Falls. Each person was to put that information on a sign which was to be affixed to a post and the post was to be placed at the top of the trail.

Along with our intrepid leader, Mark Shaw, we headed out with each person carrying a sign or the post. A number of the other Young People leaders also took up the challenge. Much to the surprise of nearly all of us that sign post stayed overlooking the falls for about thirteen years. In the last couple of years it had mostly deteriorated. We were approached about the possibility of replacing the sign during the summer and finally we got it all together.



On Saturday, November 4, a hardy group of folks undertook a hike to Little River Falls. Along with a few of the original young people, we



were joined by a number of friends and family from the community. The day was a perfect day for the outing. For many of the hikers, this was their first trip to Little River Falls.

When we arrived we were able to locate a couple of the original signs and then erected the new sign post in the same location as the old post. Of course, the sign directions are only approximate as are the distances.

This was a great project the first time around and I feel it had much more meaning the

second time. Many thanks to all who made this trip possible. You know who you are.

*Ed Schofield*

## 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.

**October 7-December 23, 1950**

District Health Nurse, Miss M. McLellan, and Dr. G. H. Wheelock, Wolfville, called at the school Friday to give some inoculations.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long went to Halifax Sunday accompanied back by Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long, who had been a patient at the V.G. Hospital.

Ivan Levy, Melanson, shot a deer on the first day of the season.

The Community Club held its annual fancy sale and supper at the school house on Friday with the sum of \$103.35 realized to be used for club purposes. The next meeting will be with Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long. Charlton Levy, Melanson was the winner of the Club Quilt.

Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy and Mervin, accompanied by Miss Elaine McInnis, visited the former's sister, Mrs. Eddie Smeltzer, Windsor Forks.

Miss Ethel Atwell and Mr. Harold Lake, Wolfville were Saturday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arnel (Helen) Levy.

Miss Marilyn Chute and brothers, Michael and Foster, Waterville spent the weekend with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long.

The Community Club held a crokinole party in the school house Friday night with a fair attendance when proceeds at \$10.35 were collected for club purposes.

The Community Club met with Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long Thursday and spent a pleasant evening. The usual 10¢ tea was served.

Sorry to report Phillip Long has injured his eye and is unable to attend school.

The Community Club held its Christmas Tea at the school house where a pleasant evening was spent, exchange of gifts, and dainty refreshments were served. The highlight of the evening was a birthday cake made by Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long in honour of two members who celebrated their birthdays, namely, Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long, and Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir.

The school held its Christmas concert Wednesday night. Although the roads were bad there was a good attendance. Much praise was given the teachers, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell for the delightful concert, specially the dance by the primary pupils.

Mrs. Alice Grunlun and Miss Frances Brown, Hantsport, were overnight guests of Clyde McInnis, for Christmas.

John Adams, Kentville, visited his brother, Rufus, at the home of Lloyd (and Ruby) Levy on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Grace) Allen visited Mrs. Jennie Long on Christmas Day.

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## 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](http://annapolisvalleyhighspeed.com).

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# December events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am Ways/Means & Maintenance 7pm	5	6	7 Card Making Classes 7:00	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Greenwich Fire Dept. Trip around Sunken Lake 7:00
17	18 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am Book Club 7pm-	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
31						

• **Card Making Classes** - Diane Ells 902 542 5173 Last class before Christmas is **Dec. 7** and we are making Christmas cards. Class starts at 7 pm, in the Hall.

• **Money-back Recyclables** - Since October we are collecting the money-back recyclables for the *Upkeep of the Hall through the winter months*. Thanks for supporting our efforts in the Ukraine and for your continued support of the Hall. We collected \$300 from the recyclables this year and are donating it to the Red Cross Ukraine Relief.

• Thanks to **Jessica Myra** for once again heading up the 5th Annual Cemetery Treat Walk in November. Thanks to all the volunteers, contributors and to the Greenwich Fire Dept., Sparky and Marshall.



## Correction and Apology

• In the November issue of the *Black River News* **Bernie Davies** was inadvertently left off as a member of the cemetery maintenance crew. Bernie is a vital member of the team and has been for many years. Please accept my apologies for the oversight. Sharon Lake



Bernie Davis cleaning up rotten maple tree in Cemetery.

• **Greenwich Fire Dept.** is making their Christmas trip around the Sunken Lake/Black River Area Dec. 16 and making a stop at the Black River Hall at 7:00. The Hall will be open at this time with the possibility of a rotund individual in attendance.

• **Thanks to Just Us!** for their generous donation of Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate to the Community Hall. The donation is very much appreciated.



**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=m5N2VSsQQZufzbSNR96dyQ>

**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 \$10** single, \$8 five or more bags. **DROP-IN AT 85 UPPER SUNKEN LAKE RD or CALL 902.713.5094.**
- RETA SPINNEY'S Jams Jellies Pickles -\$6 Jams & Jellies & \$8 Pickles**
- **HUMBLE HILL HOMESTEAD** offering: farm fresh eggs in a variety of colours, frozen-fresh rabbit, veggies and transplants seasonally. Contact 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**

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
Emma Marie Ells	Dec 25 (7th)
Gordon Berry	Dec 26

**Get Well Soon ...**

- **Zane Long** has undergone surgery due to a fall. He is recovering at home.
- **Perry Munro** is currently recovering from a minor stroke in the Valley Regional Hospital and proceeding with physiotherapy.
- **Sheila Hutchison** has been admitted to the Valley Regional Hospital.

**Condolences**

- We pass along our condolences to the family and friends of Bertha Harris who passed away in November. [www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/173577](http://www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/173577)
- Leora Spinney's brother Earle Arenburg passed away in November. Our sympathy is extended to her family and friends. [www.corkumfuneralhome.ca/obituaries/173790?fbclid=IwAR0uYoF3W\\_KRM8cEcEDBKobvcwZA\\_yEIROsV7Ep6998IENdU7hFeSwqV2YQ](http://www.corkumfuneralhome.ca/obituaries/173790?fbclid=IwAR0uYoF3W_KRM8cEcEDBKobvcwZA_yEIROsV7Ep6998IENdU7hFeSwqV2YQ)

**With Appreciation**

• We had a lot of support for the Christmas Craft Sale in Nov. Thanks to all who donated baked goods, came out to exhibit their crafts and to those who bought them. The Fair was a wonderful festive occasion.



**Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations**

recorded by Clara Spinney

• It's been a slow go for Nature News this month. The main topic of conversation every day is the amount of geese. We've never had geese like this before. There have been lots stop over here at Sunken Lake, which a few short years ago was unheard of.



Although I enjoy seeing and hearing them I understand not wanting them as residents.

• We still have three black ducks giving short visits. This is late in the season for them to be still here but the warm fall is probably to blame for that.

• The small flock of mergansers are still here but that is the usual for them. They are not people friendly birds.

• There have not been many small birds around, usually they are here looking for the feeders to be up. My



feeders are not up yet. I wait for the first good snow fall. Even people I have talked with that have their feeders up tell me the bird count is way down compared to other years.

• I'm still on friendly terms with the beaver although I don't understand them. Every night, overnight sometimes, they bring branches to my shoreline and peel them, snack on the bark and leave the naked branches behind. This is something new they are doing. I don't know where they are getting the branches, I've checked my bushes and shrubs. The mystery continues.

*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**

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