

A Tale of Two Tiny Communities

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” When we’re asked about the tiny southern Caribbean Island where we spend six or seven months each winter (COVID permitting), I tend to think of this wonderful beginning to Charles Dickens’ *Tale of Two Cities*. I’m inclined to describe Mayreau as being either Heaven or Hell, depending on what you like.

If you crave casinos, highrises, shopping for luxury goods and Michelin-starred fine dining experiences, Mayreau is simply not the spot for you. However, if you appreciate an evening playing cards with friends in modest surroundings living life in t-shirts and shorts and devouring the freshest seafood, well then you’ll need to know you can get to Mayreau via Barbados with a quick 40 minute hop in a tiny plane over to Union Island and then a 20 minute boat ride.

If you tend to like tiny close-knot communities - where everyone knows everyone - you’ll probably enjoy Mayreau as much as you enjoy Black River. I don’t know what the official population of Black River is but I can tell you there are roughly 280 of us residing on Mayreau, which is west of Barbados and just north of Grenada. Our two homes have much in common. Both are made up of mostly friendly down-to-earth people who happily do without the city’s hustle and bustle. Both consist of mainly self-sufficient folks who are quick to help a neighbour when help is needed.

While there are many similarities between these two tiny communities, much sets them apart, too, though often it’s just semantics. For example, going carolling is the same as going serenading, except that serenading often occurs on Christmas Day itself and may involve more strong rum and a few Christmas carols you’ve never heard before - such as *I Want A Piece of Pork for Me Christmas* - along with the ones you know and love. And some differences are far more than vocabulary. Folks on Mayreau, like those on other islands in this country called St. Vincent and the Grenadines, enjoy *Nine Mornings* - a string of late, late, late night street parties that generally

begin about 2 a.m. and continue until it’s time to go to work - night after night for the nine nights leading up to Christmas. It mimics the social gatherings that would occur years gone by as folks left midnight Mass and meandered home, stopping along the way to socialize. Except these days it may include more strong rum and loud music, since electricity arrived in 2002.

There’s another similarity between these two hidden gems that I should mention. Both include a good number of adults who love reading. Many, many of the books in the Mayreau Public Library were donated by Black River residents. You probably know that Black River has its own Book Club but did you know it’s fledgling international chapter on Mayreau is scheduled to join the January 17th book club meeting at the Hall by Skype, to exchange views on the latest titles we’ve enjoyed? Stay tuned to find out the similarities and differences we discover. *(Unfortunately we were unable to contact each other on the January 17 of the book club but will try again February 21.)*

Nancy Saul-Demers

Foreign Correspondent to the Black River News in
Mayreau, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



**CHRISTMAS DAY SERENADERS- DRUMMER IS
DESMOND LEWIS, NANCY'S NEXT-DOOR-NEIGHBOUR**

Hello, Neighbour!



TREEBORGS INC

SAFE & EFFECTIVE TREE REMOVAL SERVICES IN THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY

This month we are taking a look at a business in the local area that you may not heard of! From White Rock, NS, **Treeborgs Inc.** is owned and operated by Trevor Schofield. Trevor is a husband, a father of 4 boys, an arborist and a professional timber sports athlete. On Vancouver Island he worked as a logger, and later as a met/cell tower rigger and supervisor, sometimes building towers as high as 200 metres!

There are many reasons why trees may need to be removed, these include: • Damage from weather (snow, ice, lightning, wind) • Tree is leaning toward property • Death, disease, decay • Whatever the specific reason for your tree removal, it should never be performed by you or a non-professional. • **Treeborgs** addresses the health and aesthetics of your landscape as well as the safety and liability of adjacent properties. Over the years we have developed time tested procedures to ensure that the tree removal process goes smoothly.

A tree stump is what's left over from a tree that has been removed. There are plenty of good reasons to remove a stump. **1.** Unsightly stumps take up valuable space. **2.** They become safety hazards. **3.** With some types of stumps the roots continue to grow. This can affect driveways, walkways and septic systems.

At **Treeborgs**, safety and your satisfaction are our main priorities. Each stump grinding project gets done right from the beginning. The stump is gone for good, and your outdoor space is ready for repurposing.

Our services include tree maintenance, as well as wood chipping and storm cleanup solutions. When a tree comes down, there is a mess of wood and branches to deal with. We can feed your branches and brush into our wood chipper, and take it away to dispose of them properly. If you want to keep the chips for projects around the house, that can be arranged as well. Regardless of what you choose, you can rest assured that the site will be left clean, and we will not leave until you are completely satisfied.

Trevor had this to say about business during the pandemic slowdown. *"My business has been booming. I have two full time employees and will probably hire another employee in the spring. I ordered a new F-550 truck with a chipper dump box that I should have by March. I'm hoping to develop my employees enough so that I can send them on some small jobs without me. I'm always looking into ways of expanding."*

Over a decade of experience has given **Treeborgs** the skills needed to properly trim and maintain your trees. **Treeborgs** provides friendly, professional and reasonably priced tree cutting and removal, stump grinding, wood chipping and lot clearing solutions. **Treeborgs** are fully insured, and are proud to offer reliable tree cutting solutions to homes and businesses in the Annapolis Valley.

REQUEST A QUOTE. CALL: (902) 300 2149.

It is great to hear of a business that has not suffered too much in the last couple of years. All the best to Trevor and **Treeborgs Inc.** in the New Year!

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.

January 20, 1949

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo (Dorothy) Long, Kentville, and Mr. and Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute and family, Waterville, were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long on Sunday.

Miss Grace Long and Jack Allen, Grand Pre, were recent visitors of the former's mother, Mrs. Jennie Long.

Mr. and Mrs. George (?) Brown, West Glenmont, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Leverett (Mabel) Long.

Church service was held Sunday afternoon with a large congregation.

Miss Ann Lowe spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Perley (Helen) Saltzman, White Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie (?) Hyland, and two children of Halifax, were visitors of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy and Florence Isnor, visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles (?) Jodrey, White Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh (Abbie) Ells, of North Attleboro, Mass., who are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long, are spending a few days this week with her sister, Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute, Waterville, and other relatives in White Rock, Windsor and Hantsport.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Phyllis) Clem and daughter accompanied by the former's mother, Mrs. Clem, of Victoria Harbour, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long.

Miss Grace Long, who has been employed at the Snack Bar, Grand Pre, is now spending some time at her home.

Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy and Mrs. Florence Isnor were Thursday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Merton (Vivian) Levy, Greenfield.

We are sorry to report that Orin Levy had the misfortune of fracturing a bone in his foot while working in the woods last week. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (?) Buckley, Lumsden, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell, Saturday evening.

Mrs. Glennie Turpin and Bert Crowe visited friends here on Sunday.

Our teachers, Miss Guier and Miss Ann Lowe, spent the week end in North Grand Pre.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Sewing/ Crafts 11-3pm	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Sewing/ Crafts 11-3pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm- Directors' Meeting 8:00	21 Sewing/ Crafts 11-3pm Book Club 7pm-	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	NOTE: EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID- AT TIME OF PRINTING THE CALENDAR IS AS ABOVE. EVENTS IN BOLD ARE STILL MEETING WITH COVID PREVENTION GUIDELINES IN EFFECT.				



WHO ARE THEY?

Thank you to Lorna and Mike MacNeil for responding to the question in last month's newsletter. The names of the 1974 Horton Basketball team are as follows:

Back l-r: Coach Mike MacNeil, student Steve Norman

Middle l-r: Mike Langdon, Perry Folker, Raymond Starrat, Matt Tanner, Ewott Winkleman, Robbie Parrish

Behind front row: Ivan Bishop (with glasses)

Front l-r: John Lewis, Marty Lake and Andy Schofield
Mike taught phys ed at Horton 1971-1998.

- Thanks also to Tammy Schofield for sending the pic opposite from a newspaper clipping which has a slightly different view.

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: 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

Levi Ells	Feb 2 (2 yrs)
Elizabeth Levy	Feb 3
Larry Spinney	Feb 5
Reta Spinney	Feb 6
Taryn Long	Feb 7
Perry Levy	Feb 7
Samantha Gertridge	Feb 7
Wanda Schofield	Feb 7
Brenda Bylund	Feb 10
Kelvin Davison	Feb 11
Annette Schofield	Feb 13
Noah Tait	Feb 14
Joel Sheffield	Feb 17
Lorna Pick	Feb 18
Carl Levy	Feb 19
Trina Long	Feb 26
Tammy Schofield	Feb 28
Brody Davies	Feb 28

Get Well Soon

Update on **Ed Schofield** who is at home recovering a heart attack. There are some complications to be addressed later but the best news is there is no damage to his heart.

We hope **Francis McLearn** will be feeling better soon.

Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Cecil Reid** who passed away in December 2021. www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/158949

Ian Purdy's brother Anthony Purdy passed away in January. Our condolences to both Ian and Emily and their families and friends.

www.saltwire.com/halifax/obituaries/anthony-purdy-66083/

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

Had my first woodpecker of the season in time for the annual bird count (in December) - a male hairy that has been here constantly ever since.

Jan 1 - Lots of chickadees and gold finches at the feeders but still do not have any juncos. Their count has been down here for the last couple of years.

I have a Christmas tree (6 ft) on my deck close to one of my feeders. It is the greatest place for the small birds. They spend most of their time in it. Nice shelter for them.

Jan 5 - There are several woodpeckers coming to the feeders, both hairy and downy, plus one dove that stays close by at all times.

Jan 8 - I have noticed every morning the gold finches gather in our birch trees. I am curious as to what they are doing there. Must be a seed on a branch that they want.

Jan 10 - There were two purple finches on the tree that is on my deck. Hope to have more.

There doesn't seem to be any fur bearing animals left around. Haven't seen any squirrels or rabbits in a long while. The last fur bearing animal I saw was a fisher.

Jan 13 - Has anyone besides me noticed the gold finches are starting to colour? The male ones seem to be getting a yellow tinge.

Jan 15 - A large storm is predicted for later today so I presume that is why I have an over abundance of birds at my feeders.

These are the most birds I have ever had - gold finches, woodpeckers, chickadees, a few purple finches, doves and even three crows.

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

EXECUTIVE ...

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HALL RENTAL:

Daily Rental \$100.00

Damage deposit \$50.

Effective January 1, 2022

Hall Rental/Events Booking:

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902 542 4152

**NO RENTALS ARE BEING
TAKEN DURING FEBRUARY**