

# Black River News

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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2023

## Christmas Bird Count

The December 17th count day had rain mixed with snow and strong wind. Therefore we did the count from our cars rather than walking into the woods for the Wolfville Christmas Bird Count. Anne and Bernie Brown joined Pauline Meldrum and me, looking for birds in the Black River area of the count. Many of the birds we spotted were in people's yards and at bird feeders.

Sunken Lake was open and held Mergansers plus one Loon. I think it was the first time I found a loon for the Christmas count. The large farm fields on Corkum and Burns Road is where we found all the Geese, Ducks and Snow Buntings. Another surprise was spotting Pine Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks. Hopefully their numbers are starting to increase.

The 25 bird species located looking through the rain added up to 428 individual birds found in Black River and Sunken Lake this year.

**Bernard Forsythe**

### **Christmas Bird Count December 17, 2022**

*Species and Number are as follows -*

Canada Geese 89, American Black Duck 14, Hooded Merganser 9, Common Merganser 8, Common Loon 1, Bald Eagle 5, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Herring Gull 1, Rock Pigeon 30, Morning Dove 11, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 28, American Crow 20, Common Raven 2, Black-capped Chickadee 36, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, American Robin 3, European Starling 9, Snow Bunting 80, Dark-eyed Junco 4, Common Grackle 2, Pine Grosbeaks 11, American Goldfinch 54, Evening Grosbeaks 7



**Evening Grosbeak**

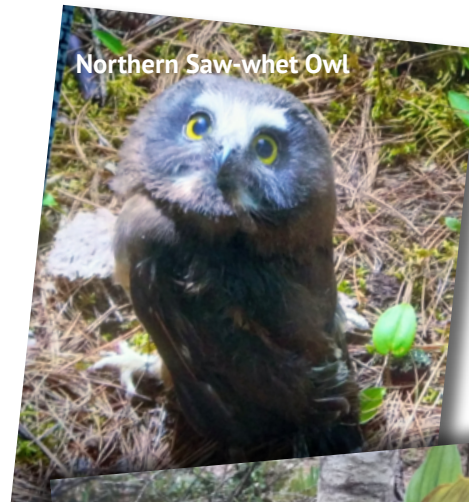


**Pine Grosbeak**

## Blomindon Naturalists 2023 Calendar

**Pauline Meldrum and I** are long-time members of the *Blomindon Naturalists Society*. Annually, the BNS sell a Natural History Calendar to support various environment and other projects. Members are encouraged to submit photos for the calendar. The 2023 calendar contains three beautiful photos taken by Pauline. The remaining photos are also excellent this year as usual.

**Bernard Forsythe**



**Northern Saw-whet Owl**



**Yellow Lady's slipper**

**The Northern Saw-whet Owl** is a small owl with a catlike face, oversized head without ear tufts and bright yellow eyes. It is named for its repeated tooting whistle call often compared to the sound of a saw being sharpened on a whetstone.

**Yellow Lady's Slippers** are found growing in ferns, wetlands, shorelines and damp woodlands and prefer an alkaline soil. It's best not to pick any Lady's Slipper flower due to the interference with the plant's life cycle and seed making.

**Pauline Meldrum**



## Spotlight 'round the 'hood



Murray Tanner with great-grandchildren Ava-Rose & Jayden



Donna Levy with her grandson Adam who lives in Brooklyn New York



Proud great-grandfather Zane Long with Hunter Milligan



Sara Munro with daughter Alice Clancey



Proud great-grandmother Leora (Cookie) Spinney with Everligh Rose



Tara Lee McLearn, Santa, Deanna Schofield at the Hall Dec. 17 with the Greenwich Fire Dept



Leland Leggett fundraising for Open Arms. He walked 5 km and raised \$500.



Holly Chappus-Hopgood with daughter Lilly Chappus

# 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.

### *November 24, 1949*

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd (Ruby) Levy are being congratulated on the birth of a son at E.K.M. Hospital, Wolfville.

The Wolfville Boy Scouts are repairing their cabins at Sunken Lake.

The Community Club met at the home of Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long. The usual 10¢ tea was served and the next meeting will be with Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long.

Congratulations are being extended to the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Grace) Allen, who were recently married in Valley Falls, R.I. They returned home Thursday evening.

Brian and Richard Levy are visiting their aunt, Mrs. Merlin Forsythe, White Rock.

### *December 8, 1949*

The teachers held a crokinole party at the school Friday night with proceeds of \$9.50 for school purposes. Prizes for highest scores went to Wayne Schofield and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy with consolation prizes by David Long and Bertha Schofield.

### *December 15, 1949-January 6, 1950*

Claude Rogers is playing hockey with the Kentville Wildcats this season.

Clifford Long, Ian Long and Claude Rogers have been repairing the telephone line which has been out of order for several days.

The final meeting of the Black River Community Club held at the home of Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long on Tuesday evening took the form of a Christmas party. Mr. Gilroy, advanced teacher, played the part of Santa.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan (Leona) Levy and Miss Ethel Atwell, of Wolfville, were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arnel (Helen) Levy on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin (Ada) Ellis, Victoria beach, spent Christmas day at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long.

Miss Ruth Long, Halifax, spent Christmas week end with her mother, Mrs. Jennie Long.

Christmas visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emery (Vera) Nowlin were Miss Mabel Nowlin, Hantsport and Miss Ferne Nowlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long and Clara spent Christmas with Mrs. Irene Clem, Victoria Harbour.

# JANUARY events ●●●

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>Ways/Means</b> 10 am Maintenance 7pm	3	4 <b>Computer Simplified</b> 10:30 am	5	6	7
8	9 <b>Sewing/Crafts Meeting</b> 11 am	10 <b>Public Meeting re: agreement with Greenwich Fire Dept</b> 7pm	11	12	13	14
15 <b>Monthly Meeting</b> 7 pm <b>Directors Meeting</b> 7pm-	16 <b>Book Club</b> 7pm-	17	18 <b>Computer Simplified</b> 10:30 am	19	20 <b>Sequence, Darts, Crokinole Games Night</b> 7-9 pm	21
22	23 <b>Sewing/Crafts Meeting</b> 11 am	24	25	26	27 <b>Sequence, Darts, Crokinole Games Night</b> 7-9 pm	28
29	30 <b>Heritage Meeting</b> 7:00pm	31 <b>The Commission and Greenwich Fire Dept. have reached a mediation agreement with Kings County. The Commission will be holding a public meeting Jan 10 at 7pm at the Greenwich Fire Hall to answer questions about next steps in light of the agreement and how the outside rate payers can be involved in the process. The community is encouraged to attend.</b>				

• **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 and work on your own stuff.

• **January TBA at 7:30- MOVIE NIGHT.** We plan to show the movie *Lizzie Borden* starring Christina Ricci, Billy Campbell and Stephen McHattie (actor who grew up in Wolfville), Jeremy Akerman (former NDP Politican), John Dunsworth (from Trailer Park Boys and many other productions). Our own Paul Spinney and Shawn Levy were extras in this film. 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 a evening with neighbours and friends. We will put the date on our facebook page when we decide on the night.

## Wanted

### Volunteers for Snow Removal

If interested please contact Ed Schofield - see contact info on back page. Month of January is taken care of.

• **Newsletter.** The current newsletter can be picked up at the little Library at the front entrance of the Hall. Some of our deliverers have retired so are unable to deliver it to everyone. If you are unable to pick it up at the Hall please let us know and we will find a way to deliver it to you.

Contact me at 902 542 5125 or sharonlake07@gmail.com

• **January 20 & 27 Games Night 7-9 pm. Special Invitation to the Community.** Come out and enjoy a **Games Night** at the Hall. We hope to have enough people to play darts, crokinole, scrabble, sequence, etc. Canteen Available or bring your own snacks. Free will offering and/or foodbank item. The winter days and nights are long so let's get together and have some fun.

**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**

jayneileenkenny@msn.com

**Quilting & Crafts:**

**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

Belated Best Wishes

to Holly Spinney	Dec 20
Cail Tait	Jan 1
Brad Schofield	Jan 6
Holly Chappus	Jan 7
Jim McInnis	Jan 8
Darren Gertridge	Jan 9
Tasia Schofield	Jan 13
Shawn Levy	Jan 14
Elaine Schofield	Jan 15
Amber Gertridge	Jan 16
Brandon Schofield	Jan 17
Marion Gee	Jan 24
Jayne Kenny	Jan 25
Pauline Murray	Jan 29
Alisha Cassie	Jan 31

Congratulations To Owen Milligan on his most Valuable Player award in November. He plays for the Valley Bulldogs on the defensive line, atom age group. It was his first season.



## Condolences

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Cindy (Long) Crowdis who passed away in November.

Majorie Ells passed away November 26. Condolences are extended to her family and friends.

[www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/obituaries/marjorie-florence-ells-80957/](http://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/obituaries/marjorie-florence-ells-80957/)

We regret to announce the passing of Marie Levy in December. Condolences are extended to family and friends of Marie Levy.

[www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/166716?fbclid=IwAR0AT\\_IHQTwP-ey7EYpYDBe72WN4TTiWjsgFD2C](http://www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/166716?fbclid=IwAR0AT_IHQTwP-ey7EYpYDBe72WN4TTiWjsgFD2C)

Lester Cleveland, half-brother of Leora Spinney passed away in December. We extend our condolences to Leora and her family.

[www.middletonfuneralhome.com](http://www.middletonfuneralhome.com)

## 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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...

### Clara Spinney

claraspinney123@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  
donnaHank@hotmail.com

# Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

- **Nov 23** In the early morning hours Earl Redden saw a good sized bear on the Miner Meadow Rd
- **Nov 26** Bernard Forsythe told me he'd seen one male and five female mergansers at the upper end of Sunken lake.
- **Nov 30** Robin Armitage reported seeing an unusual occurrence. She said she looked out a window to see a beaver swimming by, followed by one lone goose, followed by a female duck followed by a large male mallard. She wondered if it had anything to do with a storm forecast for that night.
- I put my feeders up and they are busy with mostly chickadees and nuthatches, a few doves and a small flock of goldfinches. As the season goes on I'll be looking forward to more species. Once I put out suet cakes I'll have lots of woodpeckers.
- **Dec 15** I got up this morning to pancake ice all along the shore in front of the house. I had never seen it before so it was a real treat. Then a flock of mergansers came and kept swimming around them. They don't usually come so close to shore so it was a real treat.
- **Dec 17** Today was the Annual Christmas Bird Count done mostly by Bernard Forsythe. Bernard came to the door saying he had just seen an adult loon. It was with a flock of mergansers. Needless to say he was excited as in all the many years he has been doing the bird count he has never seen a loon at this time of the year. Later on the day it was in front of this house swimming around. It still has its summer plumage.
- Bernard also said that they had seen a flock of pine grosbeaks in the trees behind Jack and Reta Spinney's house and evening grosbeaks on the north Sunken Lake Rd.

pancake  
ice



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

## HALL RENTAL:

• Daily Rental \$100 • Damage deposit \$50  
Effective January 1, 2022

**Hall Rental/Events Booking: Jayn Kenny**  
[jayneileenkenny@msn.com](mailto:jayneileenkenny@msn.com), 902 542 0002  
**Accepting bookings for Hall Rental Now**