

# Black River News

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VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2024

## Wolfville Christmas Bird Count - December 16, 2023

As usual the Sunken Lake and Black River areas of the count was covered by Bernard Forsythe, Pauline Meldrum, Bernie and Anne Brown.

With no snow cover and temperature around 0°C it was a pleasant day to be outside. We soon found out, our travels in cars over roads, along with walking along fields and through woods produced few or no birds. Most of the birds we recorded were at bird feeders and yards around houses and farms. The number of species located dropped down to 18 with the number of individual birds down to 332; both numbers lower than usual. Hopefully bird numbers will increase during future counts.

### Christmas Bird Count- December 16/2023

Species and numbers are as follows -

Canada Geese 92, Ruffed Grouse 2, Bald Eagle 7, Rock Pigeon 15, Mourning Dove 31, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 8, American Crow 23, Common Raven 4, Black-capped Chickadee 20, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 8, European Starling 97, Dark-eyed Junco 2, Common Grackle 1, American Goldfinch 16



Red-breasted Nuthatch



White-breasted



Common Grackle



European Starling

Bernard Forsythe, Pauline Meldrum, Bernie and Anne Brown

I have always been interested in recipes that have been invented out of necessity. Some of those recipes have survived and been passed down - others perhaps not so much but did serve their purpose.

We have all experienced a global pandemic and have and still are experiencing the effect of that (as well as the wars in other countries) that are causing soaring prices and shortages on everything including food. It has me pondering what recipes now will survive and be carried on in 50 years time. I wonder if it will be legumes and other beans as we are seeing an increased use of them as a cheaper source of protein.

I would like to take us on a bit of a journey back and explore a few of those recipes and perhaps you, the reader, will have some of your own long standing recipes and thoughts.



The following is one I have made and still do occasionally. It seems it may have replaced the spice cake recipe used before World War 2. It may have first started to appear as early as the 1920's, possibly more popular in the 1960's. In the 1920's Campbells would often advertise recipes to promote a new soup.

### Tomato Soup Cake

Bake 1 hour at 350° F in a greased and floured tube pan.

- 2 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 cup raisins

Mix together in order of recipe.

1 let it cool about 10 minutes before removing.

Trina Long

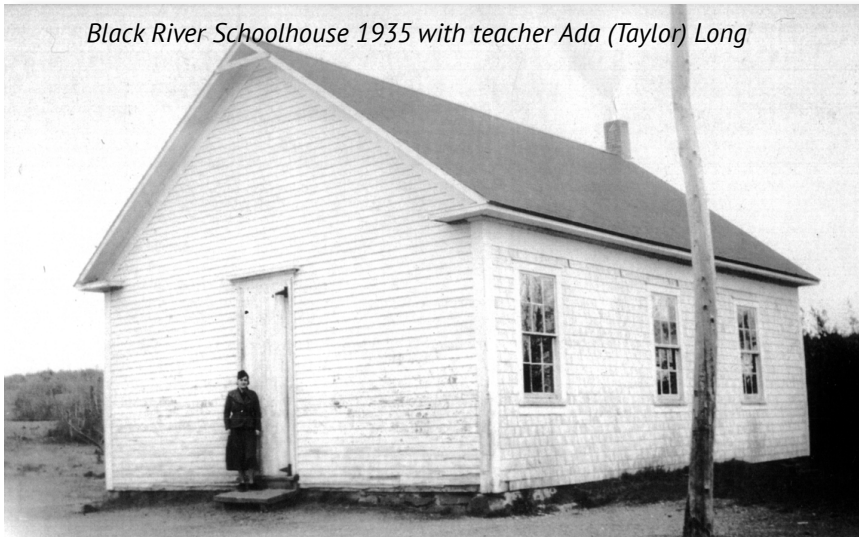
# Hello Neighbour ...

On March 8 2011 our Community Hall was destroyed by fire.  
The following story is but one of the many stories of the  
people who helped rebuild it.

## Bertha Harris and the New Community Hall

The old hall held a special place in Bertha's heart as it was the only school she attended. After the fire that destroyed the old hall, we held our jam session at our house just four days later.

The house was filled with people and of course, the talk was about the loss of the hall. Part way through the evening, Bertha asked for a mason jar. She then proceeded to go from person to person to "collect for the new hall." This was before there was a decision to rebuild at all! From that evening on, she was active at each jam session to collect monies for the hall. • **Ed Schofield**



Black River Schoolhouse 1935 with teacher Ada (Taylor) Long



Schoolhouse Cafe 2007, before the fire, after updates were made on the old Hall.  
background: Blake Spinney, Byron Spinney, Robert Sanford;  
seated at table: l-r: Trina Long, Sara Munro, Perry Munro, Clara Spinney;  
in front: Tara Lee McLearn, Deanna 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 4, 1951*

Wilbert Hiltz, West Brooklyn, was a recent visitor of his aunt, Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy.

Mrs. MacDonald teacher of the advanced department, has returned to her school and with her family is occupying the Arthur Buckley house.

Pte. Gordon Weir of Washington, has returned to duty after spending his leave at home.

Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir and Beverly spent Saturday visiting her mother, Mrs. Crealman Schofield, Kentville.

Sorry to report Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy is indisposed. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The snow plow is very busy trying to keep the roads open in this area.

Mrs. Frank (Hattie) Ells is confined to her home with a sore knee which required medical attention. Also L.W. Long was at home for a few days having injured his foot.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute, Marylin, Michael and Foster, Waterville, visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long.

Mrs. Edward (Pearl) McInnis returned home after spending a week with her daughter, Mrs. Ben (Eunice) Stultz, Kentville.

Sorry to report Mrs. R.A. (Rosie) Ells on the sick list. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

The senior Teacher, Mrs. MacDonald, spent the week end in Halifax, with her husband, a patient at Camp Hill Hospital.

John Adams spent Sunday with Lloyd Levy.

Sorry to report Mrs. John (?) Schofield still seriously ill.

Mrs. Rema Young, Kentville, recently visited her mother, Mrs. John (?) Schofield, who is very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long and Lynda, visited Mr. and Mrs. Gordon (Phyllis) Young, White Rock, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg (?) Schofield, Newtonville, visited the former's grandmother, Mrs John (?) Schofield.

Miss Pauline Schofield is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Elisha (?) Tracey, Lockhartville, who has been suffering from pleurisy.

Miss Muriel Coldwell and Sam Little, Halifax, were supper guests Christmas night, with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy.

Sorry to report Mrs. Edward (?) Benjamin is indisposed.

Ivan Levy and Lawson Levy, Melanson and Orin Levy, Wolfville, spent Tuesday with their brother, Arnel Levy.

## 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.  
LOCAL BUSINESS • NO CONTRACT • UNLIMITED TRANSFER



# January events ●●●



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am Ways/Means & Maintenance 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Book Club 7pm-	16	17	18	19	20 Pot Luck Supper 4-7 pm
21 Monthly Meeting 7 pm	22 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Heritage Meeting 7pm	30	31	• COMING SOON - Games Night at the Hall February 26 from 7-9 pm		

• **Card Making Classes** - Diane Ells 902 542 5173 instructs classes in very professional looking card making which you will be proud to give away. **Card making is cancelled for January but** classes start up again in February - 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm, in the Hall. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the fun.

• **Book Club** - Mary Tanner Long heads up our Book Club. She can be contacted at mary.tanner.long@hotmail.com. We meet at the Hall every **3rd Monday of the month**. At our book club we all read separate books throughout the month and when we meet we talk about what we have read, likes and dislikes, etc. It gives us an idea of what to read next and books are borrowed. All are welcome.

• **Pot Luck** - Looking for a chance to get together with friends and neighbours? Come to the POT LUCK SUPPER January 20 from 4-7 pm. Bring your supper and we'll share the feast and the chance to visit with each other.



• **Leora Spinney** cutting her birthday cake in September 2023. She was 88.

• **Blake Spinney** on his 81 birthday in September 2023.

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

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**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**

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
Greyson Gertridge	Jan 16
Brandon Schofield	Jan 17
Marion Gee	Jan 24
Jayn Kenny	Jan 25
Pauline Murray	Jan 29



Donna and Hank Levy enjoying a TRIP down memory lane in 2023.

**Get Well Soon ...**

**Updates ...**

- Zane Long has progressed from a walker to a cane after his fall and surgery.
- Perry Munro is recovering from the mild stroke. He was at the Rehab in Digby and has returned to Black River living with his daughter Sara.



Perry Munro with a friend in Labrador earlier in 2023.



Patrick, Alice & Leander Clancey back to school Sept 2023

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

recorded by Clara Spinney

- **Nov 22** Today the water birds put on quite a show - at least 250 Canada Geese landed out front on the lake, joined on the outer edges of the geese was a flock of Common mergansers, both male and female, one lone loon landed also, followed by five very plump black ducks. I'm so close to the water they seemed very near to my front door. It was a real treat seeing all of this.
- **Dec 4** It snowed today so out went the feeders. I've had gold finches, chickadees and juncos visit the feeder but only a few of each. I usually have several woodpeckers at the suet feeder but so far not a one.
- **Dec 6-7** The lake froze over, which isn't out of the ordinary but it froze over so clear, not a ripple of any kind. For as many years as I've been on this lake I have never seen ice like this. The ice was tested at three inches. It was as clear as a window pane.
- **Dec 11** The ice went out again and we were visited again by some of the geese. They have not been here for a couple of days. Maybe they have called it quits for the winter.

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



Bernard Forsythe at Sable Island 2023

**EXECUTIVE ...**

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**Diane Ells**  
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**Tracey Pick**  
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**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**