

Black River News

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

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6

George Spinney

JUNE 2022

Father often would tell that he was born the same year that Victoria became Queen of England (1837). He was never very tall and there was a decided stoop to his shoulders. Some said the stoop was caused from carrying too many heavy loads on his shoulders. He had no use for horses and would carry heavy timbers out of the woods on his back while a horse might be eating its head off in the stable at home.

His hair was reddish brown and so was his full beard. His eyes were blue as they could be. As a general rule he was one of the most optimistic of men. Things were seldom so black but he could find a rift in the cloud somewhere. He had an almost child-like faith in better things to come. He had a quick temper but it was over in a flash. On the rare occasion when he did get discouraged, he would go awful down in the dumps. "Having a fit of the doldrums" he might have said. Then Mother would fly around and brew him a cup of tea, talk cheerfully and try in every way to cheer him up. He'd sit with his elbows on his knees, his pipe between his hands, the very picture of dejection.

"Somebody always steps on my plans" he'd say.

"Oh, well, don't bid the devil good morning 'till you meet him", Mother would always answer.

The tea would be steeped and 2 cups of the warm comforting, beverage placed on the table along with a little snack to eat. Father's cup emptied, he'd turn his cup 3 times around in his saucer, cup bottom side up, you understand. Then it was passed 3 times about his head as he mentally made a wish. This done, the cup was placed in front of Mother and she'd read him a wonderful fortune of better times to come which she professed to see in his tea leaves (it was his mother who taught her to tell fortunes). Finally fortified by Mother's cheerfulness, the soothing influence of the hot tea and the hope of better things to come, he would spring to his feet a whole new set of plans already seething in his head. Stopping just long enough to light his pipe with a glowing ember from the fire, he'd start for the door with the attitude of one who knew he could lick the world single-handed without half trying. At the time I was born he was carrying on a saw mill, in winter, he hunted and trapped as well made baskets, axe handles and things of that sort for sale.

Men used to walk several miles to their work when my father was young and coming through the woods after dark they would sing songs to make the road seem less lonely. My father did this. We lived at the foot of a pond called Sunken Lake, which was nearly a mile long. The road seemed to wind around this pond, never far from the shore. A voice would carry a long way across the water and when father would be on his way home after delivering a load of wood or lumber, he would begin to sing when within a mile of home and mother, who would go out and listen when she thought it was about time for him to be coming, would hear him and have his supper ready when he got there.

I have often heard father tell this story of his life at sea and wish I had thought to ask where it occurred. The story was that the vessel was becalmed and both food and water being low the crew was reduced to a ration of two sea biscuits and a pint of water a day for a fortnight. They had plenty of tea and coffee on board however my father had the cook make his allowance water into tea which he sipped during the day. He always said that he thought he bore the thirst much better than the other members of the crew.

They tell of one story when father went trapping for bear by Methols Hill. He carried just enough food for two meals with him as he firmly intended and expected to be home by night-fall. Night came and he did not return. Poor mother, who thought that some accident must have befallen him, walked the floor the whole night through. At the first peep of day, she packed a basket of food and, taking one of the children with her, she started out in search of father. She fully expected to find him badly injured at least, for she thought that nothing less than that would have kept him from coming home.

You can imagine her feelings when she came upon him calmly sitting on the bank of a little stream fishing for trout for his breakfast. He had been longer than he had expected at his traps the night before and darkness had fallen. He'd thought it preferable to camp out than to try to make his way home in the dark.

Carrie (Spinney) Grover

Hello, Neighbour!

Humble Hills Homestead

Humble Hills Homestead is a small uncertified organic farm located on Corkum and Burns Road, Black River, Nova Scotia. They specialize in Open Pollinated/Heirloom seeds, fruits, perennials vegetables, herbs and Heritage Livestock.

For a couple of reasons they have chosen heirloom plants. Each seed has it's own story with some strains dating back to the 14th century. They hope to help in the preservation of these species and also to increase the available gene pool for plants, with an eye to future generations.

For fourteen years, Holly and Will Chappus have been growing a Heirloom Cottage Garden which features old and rare varieties of Cottage Garden plants, not F1 hybrids.

As part of their farm they raise heritage chickens. Some of which are dual purpose birds used for both meat and egg production. Currently they raise Standard White Brahma, Silver Ameraucana, Black Copper Marans, Black and White Silkies. They also raise solid Chocolate and Blue Muscovy ducks on the farm. Muscovy eggs are richer in flavour and contain more vitamins than chicken eggs. They also raise Peking Ducks for both meat and eggs.

New this year to the farm are Rex, Mini Rex and Silver Fox rabbits.

From their facebook page we learn that by May 8 the peas and greens have been planted right on time. It is their habit to plant cold crops very early so that a second crop can be planted as well. This is the first year they have used bunny berries (rabbit manure) and Holly is eager to see the results. She also imparts a tip for all of the gardeners. Rabbit manure has four times more nutrients than cow or horse manure and is twice as rich as chicken manure.

Holly writes, "Farming is hard and not for the faint of heart. Postives get shared a lot because those are the highlights, those moments we cherish."

Contact Holly at @hhheritagefarm.



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.

April 28, 1949

Misses MacGuier and Ann Lowe left on Friday to spend the holiday at the former's home in Tiverton, Digby County.

We are glad to report that Kenneth Long, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long, is able to be up again after spending the last three weeks in bed.

Miss Ferne Nowlin, who has been working in Gaspereau for the past few weeks, is now at home for a time.

Mrs. Orin (Greta) Levy, who has been on leave from the telephone office, Wolfville, returned to her work on Sunday.

Church service was held on Sunday afternoon. Our minister, Mr. Murray has been unable to get to the service the past few weeks due to bad roads.

Mrs. Aggie Weir has returned home from E.K.M. Hospital after spending the past month there, feeling much improved.

Mrs. Lloyd (Ruby) Levy and son Brian spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milfred (?) Schofield, White Rock.

Misses Ferne and Mabel Nowlin are employed at present in Hantsport.

June 23, 1949

The Community Club was held at the home of Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long on Thursday evening last and very pleasant evening was spent in piecing a quilt. At the close of the meeting dainty refreshments were served. The next meeting is to be held in the school house.

Mrs. Clyde (Florence) McInnis has returned to the V.G. Hospital, Halifax. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Kinsmen Benjamin and family, Bishopville, spent Sunday with Mrs. Benjamin's parents Mr. and Mrs. Emery (Bessie) Spinney.

Charlton Levy has returned home from Normal College, Truro, and will spend his vacation helping his brother Arnel on the farm.

Congratulations are extended to the Misses Joy Levy, Ruby and Jean Nowlin for winning prize in the recent competition conducted by the Sons of Temperance.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Jackson were supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy (Mildred) Atwell on Sunday.

Sharon Lake

JUNE EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 50+ Community Connect 1-3 pm	2	3	4
5	6 Sewing/Crafts 11-3pm Ways/Means 7pm	7 Cards 7 pm \$3 & 50/50	8 50+ Community Connect 1-3 pm	9	10	11 Hall Cleanup 9am-3pm bring cleaning supplies
12	13 Sewing/Crafts 11-3pm	14 Cards 7 pm \$3 & 50/50	15 50+ Community Connect 1-3 pm	16	17	18 Mountain Treasures Sale free will offering 9am-2pm
19 Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm- Directors' Meeting 8:00 pm-	20 Sewing/Crafts 11-3pm Book Club	21 Cards 7 pm \$3 & 50/50	22 50+ Community Connect 1-3 pm	23	24	25 Kitchen Party 7-9 free will offering
26	27 Sewing/Crafts 11-3pm Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	28 Cards 7 pm \$3 & 50/50	29 50+ Community Connect 1-3 pm	30		

• **Note: Name Change**

50+ Community Connect Program. Starting June 1 on Wednesdays from 1-3 pm.

Cards, board games, snacks available. No charge. For more information 902 542 5125.

• **Sewing and Crafts for June**

All are welcome to attend from 11 am - 3 pm.

- June 6/13 Sewing needle case
- June 20 Crocheting baby blanket
- June 27 TBA

or work on your own crafts & enjoy a cuppa.

• **Auction 45's Card Games:**

Begins Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 pm Admission: \$3
50/50 tickets Available

For more information: Zelma 902 542 2842 or
sunkenhaven@gmail.com

• **Saturday, June 11** Bring your rags, cleaning supplies and your energy. Time to clean up the Hall inside and outside. Volunteers needed for a couple of hours only. **9am-3pm**
Call Nellie 902 542 5134 and leave a message.

• **Mountain Treasures Sale**

Sat., June 18, July 16, Aug. 27, Sept. 27 9am-2pm Bakery Goods, Crafters, Flea Market Items Vendors Wanted. Tables \$5.00/ Canteen Available/ Free Will Offering Admission. Call 902 542 4152 or email: tinagertridge@gmail.com to reserve a space. Volunteers wanted to help run the program.

• **Kitchen Party June 25, Sat. 7-9 pm** Bring your instruments and your good time voices. Free Will Offering. Snacks available

• **TENTATIVE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

July- Cold Plate Take Out /August- Hodgpodge Take Out

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

Contacts: sharonlake07@gmail.com 902 542 5125 • glady.s.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

Card Games: Zelma Long 902 542 2842

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 ?** 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. New price starting August of \$6.**
- **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**

Birthdays

Zane Long	June 2
Adam Schofield	June 3
Tammy MacLellan	June 6
Pat Levy	June 8
Rick Tait	June 8
Harlan Spinney (93)	June 9
Leslie Ann Levy	June 9
Tasha O'Reilly	June 10
Nadia Levy	June 11
Dylan Schofield	June 12
Perry Munro	June 16
Leonard Levy	June 19
Keifer Levy	June 19
Jacob Long	June 29
Cameron Hoyt	June 30
Nicholas Ells	June 30

Anniversary

Gordon & Kathy Berry	June 2
Hank & Donna Levy (51)	June 5
Paul & Sherry Spinney	June 15
Shane & Jenna Kaizer	June 17
Ken & Brenda Byland (48)	June 22
Rick & Lynda King	June 26
Adam & Natasha Schofield	June 28

EXECUTIVE ...

Black River Community Hall

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Zane Long

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902 542 1994

Donna (Hank) Levy

902 542 5419
dannahank@hotmail.com

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

- This is such a nice time of the year; everything new and our summer birds return.

May 1- Bernard Forsythe phoned to see if I might like to see a red throated loon. They are extremely rare for this area. There was one in Lumsden. So after trying for two weeks to see it as I was going to a hair appointment there it was. They are not local - they range from the Aleutian Islands, coastal Newfoundland & Northern Manitoba. In winter south to Florida and the Gulf Coast. They also breed in northern Eurasia. Glad I finally got to see it. Thank you Bernard.

- Carl Levy has put out a nesting platform for the loons. He used to have one but time did it in. It was very successful so we are very thankful for the replacement.

- The kingfishers are back. They are interesting to watch. So quick on their dives into the water and are most always successful in taking their prey.

- A pair of chickadees are building a nest in a hole in an old fence post. One of my favourite birds so I wish them luck. I have a rabbit that comes to eat the grass around the rhubarb. He is there almost every evening - so cute to watch and he isn't frightened.

- Of course everyone has hummingbirds. They were a little late getting here this year but better late than never. I'm sure everyone enjoys them.

- Do not have any baby ducks yet but hopefully soon. Some days there are five male mallards swimming around out front.

- I still have a squirrel problem in the shed. I could go on and on about the destruction but I won't. I have defended them over the years but now. NO!

May 16 - Bernard Forsythe reported on two of his owl boxes. The box at Bentley Meadow has three babies. The box on Miner Meadow Rd has 3 babies but older than the others. Due to bird flu he cannot tag them only look in on them.

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: Tina Gertridge
tinagertridge@gmail.com 902 542 4152

Accepting bookings for Hall Rental Now