

Black River News

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

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2021

Hockey At Its Finest

There was a cranberry bog across the road from the Black River School. As cold weather approached, the water outlet was dammed with wooden planks. The water level would rise above the low cranberry bushes, then flood, then freeze, making it a perfect skating rink and a place to play hockey.

The school itself had a spruce board floor. Skates were put on in the morning before school so we could play hockey. When the teacher rang the bell, hockey players one and all trooped across the road and into the school still wearing their skates. The skates would be left on for the mad dash outside for the fifteen-minute recess and remained on our feet until after the lunchtime game. Skates were never sharpened back then¹ and the floor was so hard, no worries about marking it up with the blades. For those lucky enough to own a proper hockey stick - Great! But it wasn't hard to find a curved branch of the alders that grew plentifully around the edge of the bog to use as a make-shift stick. They were impossible to break unlike some of the composite sticks (costing \$300 or more today) that seem to splinter with very little effort. Sears and Eatons catalogues were sometimes used as shinpads, but it was considered a sign of weakness if you admitted to wearing them. If you lacked a puck, well, passing horses provided a frozen ball that worked just fine especially if they were soaked overnight in water and allowed to freeze. Talk about recycling. When it warmed up in the spring, there was a lot of fertilizer already spread around the bog and it was chemical free! Occasionally water might seep up through the ice in the odd day or two of warmer weather. Then we took particular care not to fall on the ice lest we get soaked although sometimes passing the puck accomplished the same thing. Then wet mittens and coats would be hung around the wood stove to dry giving the school room a certain fug.



Hockey was king among us boys. The story went that after he had left school, Claude Rogers still drove his 1940-something car to the bog to play hockey with the boys at noon hour. He drove his car out onto the bog, opened the door and used the seat as a make-shift dressing room to put on his skates - warmer than sitting on the ice. Unfortunately, one day the ice wasn't as thick as he thought it was and the car sank until its tires were completely submerged and the car's flat bottom rested on the ice surface. Most people would have worried about getting the car

out, but Claude reasoned that the car wasn't going anywhere. Nobody could steal it so might as well enjoy the game and attend to the rest later.

When school took in for the afternoon, the boys were all excited to tell the teacher about what had happened. The teacher, of course, knew all about it having watched the goings on from the east-facing bank of windows.

Claude walked up the hill and got Percy Atwell to bring his team of horses down and pull the car out. A couple of cranks started the engine and away he went. It should be said that Claude earned a measure of prominence as a rushing defenceman in the old Wolfville Falcon's, Windsor Maple Leafs and Kentville Wildcats Hockey Teams. He was a tough competitor, an able skater, and could put the puck in the back of the net almost at will.

That cranberry bog provided a lot of Black River's students a ready-made entertainment centre. But man, those cranberries were sour! They'd keep you puckered up for ages.

1 One time Bruce Long used his grandfather's (Leverett Long) grinder in the blacksmith shop to sharpen my skates. Although Bruce said he'd "just touch them up a little", he ground the sides of the blades such that all I could do after that was skate in a straight line. Turning was impossible. It took a little work to get those blades back to a more or less proper edge.

Zane Long

NATURE'S PANTRY AND PHARMACY

Now where to get those seeds? ...

Whether as a form of stress-relief or to create a reliable source of food, gardening has perhaps never seemed so appealing to so many. In a year where browsing your garden centre may not be possible, seeds play an even more critical part and are in high demand. In fact, their catalogues contain just about everything you could ever want to grow-plus the tools to tackle it. Here are a few Canadian companies, and 1 from USA that are accepting online orders right now:

Veseys - <https://www.veseys.com/>

This PEI seed company is over 80 years old and offers cross-country shipping. Their selection includes veggies, flowers, fruit, herbs and more, plus you can add an assortment of gardening tools.

Edgebrook Farm Curated Seed Co. and Stems Flower Farm

<https://edgebrookfarm.ca/>

This Ontario seed supplier offers up lots of options for growing flowers and vegetables. Their flower farm supplies local florists and lucky for us, we can get in on the online seed orders too.

The Seed Company by E.W. Gaze - <https://theseedcompany.ca/>

A go-to for gardeners and farmers alike, this Newfoundland seed supplier has been around since 1925. In addition to the flower, vegetable, and grass seeds (including a Jigg's Dinner seed kit), this spot offers maple tapping supplies, a selection of soils, and seeds for the cucamelon! Products are available for shipping.

Incredible Seeds - <https://www.incredibleseeds.ca/>

This NS seed producer's catalogue is live and shoppable online. Has heirloom, open-pollinated vegetable seeds along with fruit and tree seeds, live plants and more on their site. Orders shipped via Canada Post, and they post which days' orders they are working on so you have an idea of where you are in the queue.

McKenzie Seeds- <https://mckenzieseeds.com/>

An Alberta based company offers country-wide shipping, with a wide range of offerings, including a section of heirloom varieties, and a brand new for 2021 spotlight.

William Dam Seeds - <https://www.damseeds.com/>

Outside Dundas, Ontario supplies Canadian farmers and gardeners with veggie, herb, flower and greencrop seed- even catnip.

Annapolis Seeds - <https://www.annapolisseeds.com/>

Based in Annapolis Valley, specializes in heirloom and open pollinated seeds and proudly consider their collection to be "a living seed bank for the Maritimes and Eastern Canada" grown on their farm or locally. Online shipping for their seeds, live plants and roots in Canada.

Redwood City Seeds -<https://www.ecoseeds.com/>

This is a great site to select seeds that are not usually found in seed catalogues in Canada. From California, this company promotes ecofriendly seeds and plants and would like to spread them around.

They have one of the best selections of peppers. The design of the home page is user-friendly. I have ordered from this site and have been very pleased with the selection and speed of delivery.

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.

May 13, 1948

Charlton Levy spent the week end at his home here.

Miss Miner and Miss Coldwell (teachers) spent the week end at their respective homes in Gaspereau and Melanson.

Mr. Stark, who is wiring several homes in this community, spent Sunday at his home in Greenwich.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute, Waterville.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy accompanied by Mrs. Florence Eisenhauer motored to Chester Sunday. Mrs. Eisenhauer will spend the summer months at her home there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long visited the latter's parents Mr. and Mrs Howard (?) Smith, Sunday evening.

Miss Grace Long, Wolfville, spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Jennie Long.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy were Mrs. Kenneth (Ida Mae) Smith and son Ashley, and Mrs. Hedley (Meryl) Schofield and sons, Wayne, Deward and Marshall, all of White Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnel (Helen) Levy called on Mr. and Mrs. Clyde (?) Murray, Greenfield, Sunday evening.

Ivan Levy, Melanson, and Miss Leona Lake, Wolfville, spent Sunday at the former's home.

May 27, 1948

Miss Evelyn Weir and Ronald Crozier, both of Halifax, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir.

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

Mr. and Mrs. George (?) Kerr, Cheverie, and Ted Smeltzer, Upper Vaughn, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Wesley (Roxie) Levy.

Recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Aggie) Weir were Mr. and Mrs. Harry (?) Rogers and family, Mr. and Mrs. Burpee (?) Sweet, all of Avonport, and Lester Weir, Greenwich.

March Events



COVID 19 Prevention Guidelines in Effect



Masks Must Be Worn

SUN	MON	TUE
	1	Next Month APRIL TBA Take-Out Supper
7	8 Ways & Means & Directors Meeting 7:00-8 pm	
14	15 Book Club 7-8 pm	
21 Monthly Meeting 7:00-8 pm	22	
28	29 Heritage Meeting 7-8 pm	

From Bernie Sanders to Donna (Hank) Levy

What are "smittens"? They are in high demand and during the recent inauguration in the US, Senator Bernie Sanders was photographed wearing them.

"Smittens", a word coined by combining the words sweater and mittens, are constructed by cutting a mitten pattern out of a sweater. It is better if the sweater has at least 25 percent wool. The pieces are sewn together and a lining attached. The resulting mittens are extremely warm, beautiful and can be embellished with buttons, bling, etc.

Black River, no slouch in the world of fashion, has its own smitten maven. Donna Levy has been making smittens, selling them on line, by word of mouth, and at craft fairs for several years. It was a craft she learned at our own Black River Quilting and Crafts and has become a small business for her. Since the Sanders photograph and her daughter Crystal, in New York posted a pic of Donna's mittens on her facebook, Donna's orders going to the States have increased as have the hits on her facebook marketplace.

Nothing goes to waste in Donna's mittens. Cuffs and waistbands from chosen sweaters become cuffs on the mittens. She searches Frenchys, thrift stores and other places where sweaters are recycled to find just the right sweater. From each sweater approximately three pairs of mittens can be fashioned. The colours and styles are limited only by the sweaters available.

Congratulations Donna. A woman for our times and a great example of the mantra recycle, reuse and reduce.

www.theguardian.pe.ca/lifestyles/regional-lifestyles/smitten-for-mittens-bernie-sanders-mittens-spark-new-business-opportunities-for-east-coast-makers-544647/

January 22, 2021 - 6 year old **Ethan Levy** was a Weather Kid winner on 89.3 K-Rock after his winning photo "Enjoying Nature in the Valley" was sent to K-Rock. Ethan wins a gift certificate from Swiss Chalet for 2 Quarter Chicken Dinners and a \$25 Gift Card from Amy's Embroidery.



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

Contacts: sharonlake07@gmail.com 902 542 5125 • gladly.zanelong@xplornet.com 902 542 1994

LIVE LINKS TO OUR FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTER & PODCASTS

<https://www.facebook.com/blackrivercommunityhall/>

<http://blackrivercommunityhall.weebly.com/>

<https://anchor.fm/storiesfromblackriver>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1zMHYxDMwQ9uUjCNQSmN7U?si=m5N2VSsQQZufzbSNR96dyQ>

CONTACTS

Quilting & Crafts: levy.judy3@gmail.com, 902 542 5182

Book Club: mary.tanner.long@hotmail.com

Password for internet: communitycenter

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: 902.542.1552

Looking for KINDLING for the winter season? Look no further. **Jack Spinney is offering QUALITY, DRY KINDLING** at the great price of \$5 for a full feed bag. Call Jack at 902 542 1552.

Birthdays

Larry Long	Mar. 2
Susan Haley	Mar. 3
Nancy Morton	Mar. 8
Alice Clancey	Mar. 9
Keisha Levy	Mar. 12
Mary Tanner Long	Mar. 13
Richard Knott	Mar. 17
Millie Whiston	Mar. 21
Wendy Weisner	Mar. 18
Levi Pick	Mar. 29
Ethan Levy	Mar. 29

Anniversaries

Richard Knott & Sharon Lake Mar. 29

With Appreciation

• Thank you to all the plowers and shovellers who have removed the snow from the Hall's deck, steps and yard this winter. Your dedication and hard work is appreciated.

• Richard and I would like to thank the mysterious person who kindly cleared the snow off our car and shovelled out around it after the Snow Storm February 7/8. Thank you for your thoughtfulness - Sharon Lake & Richard Knott.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Donleigh Dixon and Tyler Schofield on the birth of their daughter Maisie Elizabeth in February - a granddaughter for Graydon and Darlene Schofield.

Condolences

Donald Wheaton passed away in January. We extend condolences to his family and friends. A graveside service was conducted in Greenfield Cemetery February 1.

www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/151665

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Howard Arenburg** who passed away in January. Howard was a brother of Leoria (Cookie) Spinney and Helen Tanner, who predeceased him. serenityfuneralhome.ca/tribute/details/8447/Howard-Arenburg/obituary.html

In February the father of **Roswitha Spinney** passed away. He lived in Ottawa. We extend condolences to Reta, her family and friends.

EXECUTIVE ...

Black River Community Hall

989 Deep Hollow Road
Black River, NS B4P 2R2

902 542 7913

President - Tina Gertridge

tinagertridge@gmail.com
902.542.4152

Vice-President - Jayn Kenny

jayneileenkenny@msn.com
902.542.0002

Secretary - Gladys Long

gladys.zanelong@xplornet.com
902.542.1994

Treasurer - Tara Lee McLearn

mclearn4@yahoo.ca
902.542.4548

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...

Ed Schofield

nellieed.schofield@gmail.com
902.542.5134

Clara Spinney

claraspinnney123@gmail.com
902.542.3180

Joe McInnis

902.542.2558

Clayton Pick

902.698.1629
clayton-765@hotmail.com

Wanda Schofield

902.542.3206

Sharon Lake

sharonlake07@gmail.com
902.545.5125

Don Feltmate

donfeltmate@gmail.com
902.542.2798

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

Jan 30 - Such a difference with activity on the lake this year. Counting six rinks clean off from my front lawn to the lake-lots of skating; one rink has light for evening skating. I presume this is due to Covid. So nice to see.

Feb. 1 - Usually I have a lot of juncos at the feeders but this year I have none. They remind me of little tea kettles.



dark-eyed junco

Feb. 4 - A little squirrel is leading a charmed life under the birdfeeders - lots of food, not a care in the world, my two overweight lazy cats watching them out the window.

Feb. 7-Everyone should have a flock of chickadees to watch. They are so cute and friendly. If you stand still with food in your hand they will land on you. They just cheer your day.

Feb. 11 - A raven flew from across the lake with twigs in its beak. Remodelling their nest which they have had for years across the road. They nest from late Feb. to late Mar. Can't imagine them being able to keep their eggs from freezing.

Feb. 16 - Went to Tracey Pick's this evening; getting out of the car there was an eerie noise coming from the woods behind their house. A pack of coyotes yelling. Apparently this goes on often, sometimes so loud they hear them from inside the house above all else.

Feb. 18 - A large flock of snow buntings were seen in the fields



snow bunting

along Corkum-Burns road today. The first I have heard of them this winter.

Feb. 21 - Four geese were seen flying from south to north, northwest this morning. Is that a sign of spring or just wishful thinking?

Telephone Clara 902.542.3180 with any of your wildlife observations and she will add them to her own or email: claraspinnney123@gmail.com