

Black River News

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

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 5

MAY 2023

A Childhood Memory of My Mother

Memories of our mothers are always precious, likewise are those of my late mother Helen Marion (Atwell) Levy. My childhood memories of Mum are some of the fondest and now the funniest although not so much at the time.

One such childhood memory took place while helping with the daily farm chores. I remember my mother routinely helping with the farm work and chores in addition to all the farm housework. On one such occasion Mum was pitching silage out of the silo and down the silage chute. My oldest brother Barry and I were tasked with filling the silage cart and feeding the silage to the milking cows. Now Barry and I were still very young and hardly big enough to manoeuvre the silage forks and certainly not strong enough to be able to handle the silage cart. In fact, when we would get the silage cart full, we would have to go get Dad, who was doing the milking at the time, to wheel the cart up the ramp onto the level alley way so we could pitch the feed into the manger.

On this particular occasion Mum was pitching the silage down the chute faster than Barry and I could keep it cleared away and as a result the chute hole got plugged and Mum was up in the silo with no way out. The harder Barry and I tried to dig out the silage chute the more packed it became. Finally, in a panic I went to get Dad for help. Of course, he was busy milking so his response was, "Well I guess she will just have to stay up there."

Both Barry and I burst into tears thinking we had seen the last of our mother. Using both silage forks and our hands we frantically dug away at the packed silage chute in hopes of saving our Mum. All of a sudden, with dress far above her knees, out slid mother through the tiny hole and landed at the bottom of the silage pile. She brushed the silage from her clothes, straightened out her dress and as I remember wondered what all the fuss was about.

Of course, in hindsight I'm sure Dad would never have actually left Mum up in the silo for very long, certainly not beyond supper time.

Theresa Feltmate



Helen (Atwell) Levy

Memories of My Mum

Lillian Lyon (Riley), my mother, was one of the best cooks. I can remember coming home from school and the smell of homemade bread, cookies or pies coming out of the oven. She used to walk to a place near our house, pick raspberries in one of those Lowneys hard candy buckets, and come home and make the pies.

After I was married we often visited Mum on a Sunday. She always had four or five pies made and her yummy molasses cookies.

Shawn, being the oldest, often mentions Mum's pies. She made them especially to have when company came.

Shawn wonders why I didn't take after her in doing the same.

She made the best apple pie and made sure there was enough supper for whomever came to visit.



Lillian Lyon (Riley) at 95

Mildred (Lyon) Levy



Photo by Francis McLearn
Crocuses planted by Francis' sister, Darlene for their Mum Shirley

Last Class

AS most of you know, the site of our wonderful Hall was first occupied by the Black River School. The original building was opened about 1870. A second room was added in 1945 and the old school number was "67". Ironically, it closed in 1967. This might have been the end to all school classes held in the building but for this bit of history, which been brought to light in an interview with the teacher involved, Nellie Schofield.

!! In the Winter and Spring of 1999 a new class was taught at the Black River Schoolhouse. I was approached by a number of people to see if a GED course could be held at the school. The GED course is a General Equivalency Development program which enables adults, who did not graduate from High School, to complete their public education. Fifteen students originally enrolled and twelve completed the program.

The majority of the classes were spent on Math and English Grammar, as well as practice in writing essays. Social Studies and Science were basically comprehension reviews. The Math classes covered everything from simple arithmetic to high school Geometry and Algebra. Assignments were given and quizzes and tests provided the needed reviews.

The Grammar classes covered Spelling, Punctuation and Sentence Structure. These topics led into the writing of a 250 word essay on the topic that was chosen by the Exam Board. It was always a broad based topic sentence that the student had to respond to with complete sentence, proper punctuation as well as an introduction, body and conclusion. This was the only paper marked by a person as all other exams were corrected by a computer. If you did not get a passing grade on the essay, you did not get the English credit.

Classes were held 2 nights a week for about 12 weeks. The exams were written over a weekend in May. Friday night was English Grammar and English Literature. Saturday exams were Social Studies, Science and Math.

The students were quite well prepared for the exams and they were written at KingsTec in what used to be the old welding classroom.

This small group became very supportive of each other during the course and often helped each other when stuck. We worked on the old brown, wooden tables and I used a White Board to write on. A great deal of learning and laughter took place there and it was a pleasure to teach these students. **!!**



Teacher Nellie Schofield



Photo of teacher Ada (Taylor) Long in front of the Black River School No 67 before second room was added. Pic taken circa October 1935.

Perhaps you have a similar story. Our community is made up of good neighbours - people who find a way to make your day a little lighter and brighter. Your story doesn't have to be present day it can be a story from the past. Let us know; we would enjoy reading it and sharing it in our newsletter. You can contact us by email or telephone - see the contact numbers on the next page.

Ed Schofield

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.
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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 18, 1950

Arnel Levy and Mrs. Stanley (Elsie) Levy took Mrs. Florence Eisher to Chester on Sunday.

The teachers and pupils observed Arbour Day on Friday.

Messrs Roy Gilroy, our advanced teacher, and Charlton Levy, Melanson, spent the week end in Dartmouth at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald (?) Gilroy.

Alfred Ells visited Claude Rogers Monday Night.

Claude Rogers visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Glen (?) Dorman, Newtonville.

Mrs. Ian (Hazel) Long, Bruce, Larry and Linda (Lynda) visited Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Howard (Lillian) Smith, White Rock.

Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. L.W. (Mabel) Long were Mr. and Mrs. Alvin (Ada) Ellis, Victoris Beach, Mr. and Mrs. Victor (?) Cook and three children Bedford, Mrs. Ronald (Neva) Schofield and two children, White Rock, Mrs. Lawrence (?) Westcott, Gaspereau.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman (Mildred) Ells and Gladys, Gaspereau, visited Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Hattie) Ells.

Leslie Ells, who has undergone a second operation, is reported to be resting comfortably.

David Schofield, U.S.A. called on friends here last week. Mr. Schofield is a former resident of this place.

Harvey Taylor, Truro, visited his sister, Mrs. Clifford (Ada) Long, and Mr. Long, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long spent Thursday evening in New Minas with Mr and Mrs Robie (Isabel) Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long spent the weekend at Victoria Harbour, at the home of the latter's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison (Verna) Chute and family of Waterville, visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Rupert (Inez) Long.

Ronald Clem, Victoria Harbour, visited his sister, Mrs. Byron (Verna) Long and Mr. Long, recently.

The Community Club is undertaking the painting of the church.

MAY events ●●●

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Ways/Means & Maintenance 7pm	2 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	3	4	5	6
7	8 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am	9 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	10	11	12	13
14	15 Book Club 7pm-	16 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	17 Monthly Meeting 7 pm Directors Meeting 7pm-	18	19	20
21	22 Sewing/Crafts Meeting 11 am	23 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	24	25	26	27
28 Seed Swap/ Gardening Tips Refreshments 7-9 pm	29 Heritage Meeting 7 pm	30 45's Card Game 7-9 Adm: \$4 50/50	31			

• **Starting April 2 45's card Games 7-9 pm.** Come out and enjoy the fun. **Tickets are \$4** for the game. 50/50 Tickets Available and a light lunch included. All are welcome. Contact Zelma Long 902 542 2842 or sunkenhaven@gmail.com for further information.

Newsletter. The current newsletter can be picked up at the little Library at the front entrance to the Hall. 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: sharonlake07@gmail.com. or 902 542 5125 **Note: Our newsletter will be available at select places in the Valley area (eg. White Rock Hall, Gaspereau Corner Store and Dabro's Farm Market).** Some back issues are available.

With Thanks

• Many thanks to **Carol Bond** for the donations to the Hall of money back recyclables and to the many anonymous donators who have left their recyclables here. In May we will again contribute to the Ukrainian War Relief Fund through the Red Cross.

• **Thank you to the community** for your support of the Ticket Auction. We appreciated the many who came out to our Fundraiser and brought donations. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and went home with a little treasure.

Seed Swap & Gardening for Good

• **Sunday May 28 7-9 pm** At the Community Hall in Black River. We will be treated to a presentation from Master Gardener, **Carolyn Green** on how to make good compost and growing gardens for diversity. Bring any extra seeds you would like to share with your neighbours at our Seed Swap. Join us for an informative and fun evening and learning favourite gardening tips with your community. Refreshments will be served. Free will donation for the upkeep of our sweet Hall!. Everyone Welcome.

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

Contacts: • sharonlake07@gmail.com • 902 542 5125
• gladyslong67@gmail.com • 902 542 1994

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 \$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 \$6/lb.** Custom beef orders for sides and quarters \$5/lb. **Call Shawn Levy 902 300 4432**

Birthdays

Livia Levy	May 4
Carla (Davies) Spidle	May 4
Kathy Berry	May 6
Amy Davies	May 7
Megan Ells	May 8
Judy McLearn	May 8
Jane Feindal	May 8
Anna Ells	May 9
Jeff England	May 9
Sandi Schofield	May 14
Lois Long	May 21
Deanna Schofield	May 23
Bryce Ells	May 24
Leland Harris	May 25
Richard Schofield	May 25
Sharon Lake	May 27
Clara Spinney	May 29
Jimmy Milligan	May 29
Aiden Schofield	May 29
Ford Spidle	May 29

Anniversary

Bernie & Charlene Davies	May 20
Brody Russell & Rebecca Collings	May 30

Condolences

- In March, Andrew Yethon passed away. Our sympathy goes out to Hank and Donna Levy, family and friends.
- Our sympathy is extended to Julie and Glenn Hawkesworth, family and friends on the passing of Parker Ingram Hawkesworth in April. www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/169457
- We regret to relay the passing of Madelaine Harris in April. Sympathies are offered to her family, friends and neighbours. www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/169555
- Doug Harris passed away in April. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends. A Celebration of Life took place at the community Hall April 23 www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/169610
- William "Bill" Giles passed away in April. Our sympathy goes out to his son Barry, family and friends. www.arbormemorial.ca/coleharbour/obituaries/william-bill-robert-giles/102080

Sunken Lake and Area Journal of Wildlife Observations

recorded by Clara Spinney

- What a great time of year. All the birds returning for the summer. As of March 3 when I saw my first robin it has been almost weekly that different kinds show up.
- Of course the highlight of the lake is the return of the loons. That is always an exciting time for us who love living on the lake.
- We have a lone purple finch. It has been here for quite awhile. It is the only one we've had all winter.
- Phil and Tracey Pick have multiple pairs of yellow-bellied sapsuckers at their place. They are hoping they will move on as they kill maple and birch trees by boring holes in the bark, then suck the sap out which in turn kills the trees.
- There are three pairs of ducks staying here in the brookway, a mixture of black and mallard, soon will be nesting.



Yellow bellied Sapsucker

- Of course, we have the beaver and otters. I'm going to try to get along with the beavers. We safe guarded any trees we value by putting wire mesh around them. I am going to try.
 - Zelma Long tells me the deer are back enjoying her lawn grass. That is so nice.
- Even with the abundance of birds here I'll soon be taking the feeders down. Then up goes the hummingbird feeders. That is only 2-3 weeks away. Yea!
- Just learned that Carl Levy has put out a float for the loons to nest on if they wish. Thank you Carl.



Peeper

- **April 13** - Peepers sounding off at the Lake-Knotts.

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

HALL RENTAL:

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

Hall Rental/Events Booking: Jayn Kenny jayneileenkenney@msn.com, 902 542 0002

Accepting bookings for Hall Rental Now

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