

TownCryer



www.towncryernews.ca

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Look It! Look It!

Faithful readers of The TownCryer will notice right away that this month's issue is double in size! Thanks to everyone who has caught on to the idea of submitting to this little (now, a little bit bigger!) publication.

Check out "A Sheep or Two and a Kangaroo", by Russell Benn, editor of The TownCryer, Waterfall, Australia. It was Benn's encouragement that prompted a twin publication. Enjoy!

Business Association Still Active

The Musquodoboit Valley and Area Business Association (MVBA) has existed in our Valley for more than 12 years. The mandate of the Association is to provide support and information to new and existing businesses in the Musquodoboit Valley. Workshops, the creation and updating of a Business Directory, and profiling businesses for the information of fellow members, have all helped business development in the past.

For a number of years, the main activity of the MVBA has been to sponsor the [Employment Development and Job Search Centre](#) located at 10 Elm Dr., Middle Musquodoboit. The Centre provides support and training for the unemployed of the area and for those wanting to re-enter the work force, and assists with necessary government forms and training. The MVBA hopes to once again become more visible in the community with information sessions for business people, advertising to the residents of the Valley by promoting is available for goods and services in our area.

The annual meeting of the MVBA will be held on Feb. 27th, at 7 pm at the Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit. If you wish to become a member of MVBA, membership is \$20 and may be paid at the meeting. This is your chance is have input to the future activities of the MVBA.

Certification Courses

A FREE information session will be held on Feb. 12, at the Musquodoboit Valley Forestry Complex for those who are interested in pursuing training in:

- Heavy Equipment Certification
- Overhead Crane Certification.

This training is being offered by the Operating Engineers Training School, which is located in Falmouth, NS. All are welcome to attend. For more info see: <http://www.operatingengineerstraining721.ns.ca>

Employment Development News

The following workshops are being offered:

Basic Computer Feb. 19, 20, 21 (1-4 pm daily)
Resumé Writing Feb. 6 (1-4 pm)
Interview Skills Feb. 7 (1-4 pm)

Please call us at 384-2390 to register. The [Employment Development and Job Search Centre](#) is located at 10 Elm Drive. Staff is willing to assist with the completion of applications, resumé, and other forms.

Community History

Following are excerpts from the community history of Caribou Gold Mines, 1983.

The history of a gold mining town is entirely different from the history of other communities. It is a story of brave and courageous people, who came not to build permanent homes, but to work in the gold fields, with the hope of striking it rich. It is a story of adventure, a story of hopes and dreams...

Caribou Gold Mines, situated in the north-eastern part of Halifax County, six miles south of the Musquodoboit Valley, is a large and rich area of gold bearing quartz. It is believed, but not recorded, that the first gold was discovered by Josiah Jennings and Francis Paul of Upper Musquodoboit while hunting for moose and caribou on the free claim barrens. The place may have been called Kalchoonkade by the Indians, meaning: caribou place....

The first post office was established in Feb. 1882, the first post mistress being Mrs. Turple. The mail was brought in from Upper Musquodoboit each day by horse drawn coach. Sandy Burnet was the first mail driver. Other mail drivers were Sam Fraser and Esson Fraser. The post office changed hands many times over the years. Postmistresses who served were Mary Lindsay, Effie Belmore, Molly Logan, Edna Murphy and Rita Fraser. The post office closed with the Rural Delivery coming in to effect in the 50's...

Transportation during the early years was by horse and buggy. Often the roads were badly rutted and almost impassable. The mail driver also delivered groceries once a week.

Bit of a Giggle

Q: What did the bartender ask Charles Dickens when he ordered a martini?

A: Olive or twist?

For Rent

There is office space now available to rent on the upper level of Haverstock's PharmaSave, Middle Musquodoboit. Office space is accessible either by stairs or elevator. For more information, please contact Anita at: 384-2148.

Upcoming Events

Contact info@towneryernews.ca or call 384-2751 to submit your contribution to Upcoming Events!

Feb. 01 Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association Merchandise Bingo at Meagher's Grant Rec. Centre

Feb. 03 Craft Day at [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#) Phone: 883-7863

Feb. 09 TriCounty Area Freezeree @ Riverline Activity Centre, Dutch Settlement. A morning filled with winter activities for youth and an afternoon variety show put on by youth and adults. A fun-filled day for everyone. Phone: 568-2679

Feb. 09 Adult Valentine's Dance at [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#)

Feb. 15 Teen Valentine's Dance at [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#)

Feb. 16 Pre-Teen Valentine Karaoke Dance at [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#)

Feb. 16 Babysitting Course at [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#). Centre Phone: 758-2680

Feb. 17 Gospel Concert at Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit (2pm)

Feb. 19 [Carroll's Corner Community Centre](#) monthly meeting 6:30 pm

Feb. 22 Thinking Day. Scouting members and troop leaders celebrate the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, who were the founders of Scouting and Guiding. Many groups take part in a church service in their community either the Sunday before or the Sunday after. On this day, youth and adults wear their uniforms wherever they happen to be: at school or at work. For more info, contact 568-2679 or 384-2391. You can learn about the remarkable Robert Baden-Powell at: http://www.scout.org/en/about_scouting/facts/figures/baden_powell

Mar. 16 Gospel Concert at Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit (2pm)

For details about these and other upcoming events, go to www.mvta.net

There's Always Something To Do!

Now that winter is in full swing, don't get down in the dumps. Check this out! There's something going on every night of the week!

3rd Sunday of each month	Gospel Concert Middleton United Church, Middle Musq (2pm). Admission is FREE WILL OFFERING
Sundays	TV Bingo on the big screen TV at the Carroll's Corner Community Centre (7pm)
Mondays	Bingo Bicentennial Theatre , Middle Musquodoboit. Starts at 7pm. Mini bingo starts at 6:30.
Tuesdays	Radio Bingo Tune in to 99.5 FM radio at 7pm. Bingo ticket books can be purchased at Reid's Restaurant (Middle Musq) and JJ's Restaurant (Upper Musq) for \$5 each.
Wednesdays	Open Crib Night Royal Canadian Legion, 2768 Caribou Rd, Upper Musq (7:30pm). Bring a partner to play. \$5 per couple. 50/50 Draw and Loonie Jar Draw each night. Card Party (45s) Carroll's Corner Community Centre (Oct-May) 8pm. \$2.50 admission includes lunch after cards. Prizes awarded.
Thursdays	Dart League Royal Canadian Legion, Upper Musq (7:30pm). New members always welcome. \$3/night. Auction 45s Card Party - Gays River United Church Hall, Gays River (8pm)
Fridays	Teen Games Night Carroll's Corner Community Centre (Sept to May) 7-10pm. Supervised teen night includes air hockey, pool, cards, computer games and more.
4th Saturday of each month	Open Crib Tournament Royal Canadian Legion, Upper Musq (1:30pm). \$10/team (of 2 people). 1 st and 2 nd prizes awarded, 50/50 Draw.

Shubenacadie Sam

For the past number of years, locals have relied on Shubenacadie Sam to predict an early arrival of spring or to prepare for six more weeks of winter.

For those of you who may not be aware, Shubie Sam is a groundhog who resides at the Wildlife Park in Shubenacadie. Early on the morning of Feb. 2, crowds gather to watch Sam emerge from his hut. If the little guy sees his shadow, he scurries back in where it is warm. If, however, he doesn't see his shadow, we can be assured that winter is almost over.

Shrove Tuesday: February 5th

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. It is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter, and eggs, which were forbidden during Lent.

PANCAKES: Sift together 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1-2 tablespoons sugar, 3 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Combine: 1 egg, beaten, 1-3/4 cups milk, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or melted shortening. Add liquid to dry ingredients. Beat only until combined. Heat a griddle or frypan to 380°F. Grease lightly with unsalted fat. Use 1/4 c batter for each pancake. Bake pancakes until surface is covered with bubbles and edges lose their gloss. Turn and bake until golden brown.

Good Time... Great Music

Volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program wish to extend a sincere thank you to David Whitenect, of Elderbank, for entertaining the folks at the Christmas Meals on Wheels dinner.

Also, thanks go out to the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club for providing everyone who enjoyed the Christmas dinner with a treat bag.

Happy New Year! from Anita Bell, and the other Meals on Wheels volunteers.

It's Never Too Late!

If you are a girl between the ages of five and fifteen years, contact Marion MacKay at 384-2391 to learn about joining Sparks, Brownies, Guides or Pathfinders. Registration is \$60

Boys, between ages of five and seven years, may be interested in joining Beavers! The club meets Monday evenings, at the St. James United Church in Upper Musquodoboit, between 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm. If you wish to learn more about joining Beavers or Scouts, contact: 568-2679.

Want to Get Active This Year?

Halifax Regional Municipality Recreation offers a variety of programs in the Musquodoboit Valley for preschool, children, youth, and adults. Classes include: dance, yoga, snow tubing, skiing, painting, drawing and much, much more. Phone 384-3008 or visit HRM Recreation website at www.halifax.ca/recreation where you can also see our latest **Recreation Program Catalogue**.

Winter 2008 - Winter programs run from January 1 - March 31. Winter 2008 registration will continue until programs are full.

Spring 2008 - Spring 2008 registration begins on Feb 26 and Feb 27 starting at 10 a.m. Feb 26: Adult and Aquatics programs. Feb 27: All Spring programs. (Note: After February 27, registration will continue during normal business hours until programs are full. Spring programs run from April 1 - June 30)

Summer 2008 - Summer 2008 registration begins on March 26 and March 27 starting at 10 a.m. Mar 26: Adult, Beach and Aquatics programs. Mar 27: All summer programs and summer camps.

Meals on Wheels

Seniors are invited to enjoy some fine dining **every Thursday**, at the Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit, between now and March Break.

If you plan to attend, please phone Becky at 384-3448. Door delivery is available locally.

Remember Your Valentine on February 14th

Warm up the winter by warming up to **YOUR** Valentine!



A Sheep or Two and a Kangaroo

By: Russell Benn, Waterfall, Australia

Christmas was a great time with my daughter Kelly in Canberra. Canberra is about a three-hour drive from home. Funny thing was as we drove to Canberra on Christmas Eve the roads were deserted. It was really spooky. Three-hundred-kilometres and hardly a car in sight. It was sort of the end of the world feeling. Charli, my granddaughter, was with us on the trip down to Canberra and was delighted to see her mother again even though it was only a couple of days since they had been together. Christmas morning was a delight with Charli having lots of presents to open. Jenny (my wife) has been buying little presents all year long so we had a bag full of little presents for her to open. And did she enjoy herself! Like most Christmases there was paper all over the place. I loved the whole scene. Charli is just two and a half and so it was really the first time she could understand most of it.

On New Year's Eve the biggest fireworks display in the world goes up at midnight with Sydney Harbour as the backdrop and the Bridge as the centrepiece. Usually on the night there are about one and half million people seated around and on Sydney Harbour. Of course getting this many people home after midnight poses a small problem but nothing a few more beers doesn't overcome [well, usually anyway].

Happy New Year to everyone in the Musquodoboit Valley! From Russ in Waterfall, Au.

Winter Hours

Management and staff at J&Js Country Grill, Upper Musquodoboit, want to let their patrons know about their new winter hours that will be in effect from now to April.

Mondays: CLOSED
Tuesdays: 7:30am - 3pm
Wed & Thurs: 7:30am - 6:30 pm
Fridays: 7:30am - 8pm **STEAK NIGHT!!**
Sat and Sun: 11am - 7pm

JJs Valentine's Day Special - ONLY \$9.95 -

Chinese Special: choice of pineapple chicken or sweet and sour pork; oven rice, vegetable, egg roll, cheesecakes and deserts. Open until 8 pm

Royal Canadian Legion

2678 Caribou Road, Upper Musquodoboit

We just wanted to let our members and their guests know when we're open:

- Wed and Thurs (7 pm - 11 pm)
- Friday (6 pm - 12 am)
- Saturday (3 pm - 2 am).

Community Fundraising Activities

Feeling Lucky? Members of the [Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association](#) are selling tickets on a Valentine's Day Basket that will be drawn for on **February 1st** at the Merchandise Bingo at Meagher's Grant. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. Tickets can be purchased from: Mary Ann and Don Parker (384-2560), Alvin Blades (384-2477), or Barb and Don Dillman (384-2003).

Musquodoboit Valley Healthcare Auxiliary Fundraiser

Tickets are being sold on a 9-patch blue quilt (60"x72"). Tickets are only \$1 and can be purchased from Jean Dares 384-2039, Mary Cook 384-2088, or Jane Parker 568-2287. **Draw date: March 31/08.**



Many Thanks From the Food Bank

The [Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#) wants all those who donated groceries and/or fiscally over the holiday season to know how much we appreciate your contributions. Because of all your help, we managed very well this Christmas. A big thank you is extended to all those who volunteered to help fill the Christmas Boxes and also to those who so kindly delivered these special boxes to those who were unable to collect them themselves. Again, we say a very sincere thank you, to one and all.

For more information about the important work done by the Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank, or info about how you can volunteer, please visit our web site at www.grandane.com/Foodbank or call 384-3009.

'Festival of Trees' News

The Fire Prevention Booth winners are: Alanna Cooper of Middle Musquodoboit, who won a Sparky Dog and Johnathan Reid of Upper Musquodoboit, who won the fire extinguishers. Congratulations & thanks to everyone who dropped by to see us. We look forward to next year!

We're on the LookOut

Do you have a talent or skill to share with others? If you're interested in offering a program and becoming an instructor, or if you have a new program idea that you would like to see offered in the Musquodoboit Valley, please phone: [HRM Recreation](#) at 384-3008

Tech-NO-Babble

By: Karen Sibley

SPAM in a can... time was you chose to buy it, or not. Now it's in your computer and you didn't buy it or ask for it!!

If you're using Outlook Express for your email, it's an easy solution to reduce the amount of unwanted JUNK emails (a.k.a. "spam") that you receive.

- Highlight the message from the "unwanted" sender.
- Click MESSAGE (on the top menu)
- Select BLOCK SENDER (from the drop-down list) A "message box" will appear telling you that if you click OK, all future messages from this sender will be blocked.

- Click OK

All messages in your inbox from that particular sender will be deleted and any future messages will automatically go into your Deleted Items folder rather than your Inbox.

Important to know: Some spammers are really wise to preventing THEIR email address from being blocked. They do it by ensuring that YOUR email address appears in the "message box" and if you don't read the email address that appears (after you click BLOCK SENDER), you may accidentally add your own email address to your Blocked Senders list.

To view and edit your Blocked Senders List:

- Click TOOLS (on top menu)
- Select MESSAGE RULES (from the drop-down list)
- Select BLOCKED SENDERS LIST (from the drop-down list)
- Click the BLOCKED SENDERS tab

At this point you can view the list and remove anyone who you have mistakenly blocked (including your own email). Other email programs use similar processes. If you understand the 'process' and the 'terminology', it's easy to find the right buttons (to click) to manage your email.

Fire Safety Tips

By: Debbie MacDonald

A smoke alarm is one of the most important pieces of safety equipment you'll own. It's designed to detect smoke particles in the air, alerting you to a fire in the earliest stages giving you a chance to get out. Smoke rises, so it's critical to attach the alarms up on, or near, the ceiling (see manufacturer's recommendations). Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. Use a candle, or something to introduce smoke in to the alarm until it sounds. If you own an electrically operated alarm, and it doesn't sound, check the fuse and try again. And, if still nothing happens, you should replace the unit.

Tips for cleaning smoke alarms: Replace batteries every year on the same date. Clean the alarm detection chamber and protective cover with a soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner, every month or so.

Zone 3 Fire Prevention has a program called: ALARM AND READY. We will come to your home and install smoke alarms. This program is a **free service** in our

zone. So, if you are interested, contact 384-2072 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Programs

The [Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre](#), located at 12280, Hwy. 224, Middle Musquodoboit, offers the following programs:

Rhyme Time/ Parent Tot

Rhyme Time is a fun interactive program for children from birth – five years of age. Learn rhymes and stories. Parent Tot follows Rhyme Time. Variety of theme-based crafts and activities.

Rock N Rhyme

Active songs and rhymes along with music. Parents along with their children 0 – 5 years.

Creative Kids

Learn to create "story books" from the art made by their children, as well as "oral story telling".

Coffee Morning

The Family Resource Centre reserves this time on Friday mornings especially for families to drop-in.

Junior Preschool

Junior Preschool is for three and four year olds who are eligible to attend Primary in the Fall of 2009. This program focuses on interaction with other children and helping children to prepare for senior preschool.

Senior Preschool

Senior Preschool is a school- readiness program for four and five year olds who are eligible to attend Primary in the Fall of 2008. This program focuses on early learning skills & social adjustment to school.

Call 384-2794 to inquire or register.

By Working Together We CAN Make a Difference!

As many of you already know, break-ins and vandalism are on the rise and can occur anywhere at any time. It is up to each of us to do our part to assist the RCMP to reduce crimes in our area. Because of the wide geographic area patrolled by the RCMP, they cannot



be everywhere at the same time, and welcome community assistance. We need YOU to help us to reduce crime and would like you to become part of our Citizens On Patrol team.

Citizens on Patrol (COP) is a group of ordinary citizens who have organized themselves into volunteer units for the purpose of keeping a neighbourly watch on the community in order to reduce crime. COPs watch for and report any unusual or suspicious activities to the RCMP for appropriate follow-up action. We have two active units in our Valley. The Meagher's Grant Unit patrols the Meagher's Grant, Elderbank and surrounding areas, and the Dean Unit patrols Dean and Woodside.

Anyone who is 18 years of age or older who lives in the area patrolled and can pass an RCMP security screening is eligible to become a COP member. Help us make a difference! Become a COP today! To find out more info, or to join COP, please call: Meagher's Grant COP - 889-3300 or Dean COP - 671-2249 or visit http://www.highway7.com/t_community/commu_9908_citizenpatrol_old.html

Look in next month's TownCryer for details about an upcoming meeting of the Dean COP Unit to take place in March. Anyone interested in learning more about Citizens on Patrol is welcome to attend.

Wanted

If anyone has a copy of Stony Road, by Dolly Belmore, that they'd be willing to give away or sell, please contact the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association by phone: 384-2006 or by email: info@mvta.net

Quality Care

If you, or someone you know, are unable to live alone, consider this. Maintain independent living in your own suite, but be assured that a caregiver is on hand to offer 24-hour care for seniors/palliative care. Heat, lights, meals, personal care, appointments, plus more, are all included. Phone: 568-2426 for more info.