

TownCryer



www.towncryernews.ca

Volume 2 Issue 2

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A plea for assistance

By: Lyle Bates

The Middle Musquodoboit Cemetery Corporation (inc. 1967) is responsible for the maintenance of the grounds of Pioneer and Hillside cemeteries: to operate these cemeteries under the Provincial Cemeteries Act; Holding an annual general meeting which includes a yearly budget and financial statement; the day to day activities of both cemeteries; the naming of a secretary/treasurer for record keeping, the payment for services or products and the collection of burial plot fees. The cost of a burial plot in either cemetery is \$200. If cremation has taken place, a maximum of two persons may have their ashes placed in the same plot. The scattering of ashes at random in either graveyard is not permitted.

In past years, some families and individuals paid for perpetual care and some did not, perhaps unable to afford the extra cost. Consequently, over the years, the Board of Directors have tried to ensure that the grounds encompassing all grave sites are maintained even though these extra costs have greatly depleted our reserves.

At present, the Board of Directors is comprised of the following persons acting on a voluntary basis: Rodney Hill, supervisor of grounds; Mike McFetridge, secretary/treasurer; Ross Dares, Lynn Conrad and Lyle Bates. Anyone willing to volunteer to serve on the cemetery board (which is normally made up of seven board members) is asked to contact any of the present board members.

This is meant to be an open letter to all those persons who have loved ones, family or friends resting in either the Pioneer or Hillside Cemetery. These cemeteries, with burials dating back to the early 1800s, are part of our heritage and in our opinion must not be allowed to further deteriorate but to be restored wherever possible to reflect the pride of our communities.

Perhaps most importantly, we must not overlook those families who have in some cases long since moved

from the area. We need your help in passing this plea to living descendents who have family members buried in our two cemeteries, often with headstones and markers in a state of deterioration.

The Middle Musquodoboit Cemetery Corporation is requesting your assistance in the form of donations of money to help us in the continuing maintenance and restoration of these two heritage cemeteries. No donation is too small.

To submit a donation, please mail:
Middle Musquodoboit Cemetery Corporation
c/o Mike McFetridge
Middle Musquodoboit, NS B0N 1X0

Public pensions and me

By: Julie Prest

Did you know that less than 27 per cent of Canadian women today retire with a work place pension? What happens to the other 73 per cent of women?

Did you know that you might be eligible for up to a 50 per cent reduction (maximum of \$400) in your property tax bill if you are collecting certain Old Age Security benefits?

This project will inform you of the what, where, and how, of Canada's pension system, as well as what social benefits go along with Canada's public pensions.

Over the last month, there have been three meetings with this project, in the Sheet Harbour area. I will be holding meetings in May with various women's groups in Middle Musquodoboit, East Preston, Spry Harbour, and Sheet Harbour. These sessions are made possible by LEA Place Women's Resource Centre.

The next public meeting will be at the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit on May 24, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call Julie Prest, Senior Rural Coordinator, at 772-2211, if you have questions.

Support local runner

By: Cora Lee Joudrey

As a diabetes educator for Middle Musquodoboit, Musquodoboit Harbour and Sheet Harbour I have seen the effects of diabetes within our communities.



In order to help support my patients I have joined Team Diabetes, a team of people from across Canada who will be crossing the finish line together and who have raised funds to support the more than two million Canadians living with diabetes. I will be on the course of the Blue-nose Marathon Halifax, N.S. on May 18, and plan to do another run in 2009.

It takes dedication to be part of Team Diabetes, but I am committed to making a big difference in my life, and in the fight against Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

One of the greatest contributions of the Canadian Diabetes Association is toward outstanding Canadian research. It also runs camps for young people with diabetes and provides education and special services to people affected by diabetes in communities across Canada.

As I run the course, you will be with me in spirit and your support will help me be strong all the way to the finish line. Whatever you can contribute matters - it all adds up!

If you want to support my mission, please go to

http://www.diabetes.ca/section_donations/TeamDiabetesIndex.asp or contact me directly at Site 5, Box 17, RR 2, Musquodoboit Harbour, B0J 2L0 or Phone: 889-3009.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

New business in Upper Musquodoboit

BOOTS is a hunting, trapping and fishing supplies outlet that carries a large selection of live bait, minnows, lures, hooks, rods and much, much more! Get ready for fishing season now!

Also, stop in and check out the hunting and trapping supplies! BOOTS is located at: 8412 Upper Musquodoboit, Hwy. 224. Open 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday to Sunday (unless otherwise posted).

Owner: Karl Boutilier, Tel: (902) 568-2426.

Proposed property tax reform

HRM's Tax Reform Committee has researched and gathered public input to propose changes to the municipal tax system. Now, the Committee wants public feedback on its ideas for a new system. The Committee will then report its findings to Regional Council.

The current municipal tax system is based on property values. The Committee believes a new municipal property tax system should be service-based and should consider the ability to pay. The new system should be based on principles that include equity, stability, simplicity, transparency and economic competitiveness.

The Tax Reform Committee proposes that:

- There would be nine municipal tax rates, each levied at a flat rate per home, defined by services: hydrants, solid waste, local roads, local transit, sidewalks, community recreation facilities, regional roads, regional transit, and a broad regional tax (for police, fire, libraries, and other costs).
- Multi-unit buildings (apartments and condos) would be taxed at a reduced rate.
- There would be an increase in support for lower-income families.
- The deed transfer tax would be eliminated.
- Assessment would remain on provincial services such as mandatory education.

Have your say at our local tax reform public consultation on May 15 (7-9 p.m.) at the Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre. For more info, visit www.halifax.ca/taxreform/ or call 490-4886.

No Dinner – Dinner

Please help us further our goals for the Musquodoboit Valley and beyond by supporting this fundraiser. One of



our largest projects to date was financial help with the expansion of the medical clinic at the Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital.

Please make cheque or money order payable to Musquodoboit Valley

Health Foundation, and mail to: No Dinner-Dinner, c/o Musq Valley Memorial Hospital, 492 Archibald Brook Rd, Mid. Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

Please provide all your contact information so that a receipt can be mailed to you for your tax-deductible donation. Thank you for your support!

4th Annual Spring Fling

Join the Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre Home and School Association as they celebrate the arrival of spring. Join us from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 30 for many fun activities including our bouncy tent, face painting, bowling, golf putt, and silent auction. Open to all ages. Contact Jocelyn Parker 384-3071.

Enterprisers say thanks

Members of the Enterprisers Seniors Club extend a sincere thank you to Margaret Dechman, of Timberley, for responding to their request for a refrigerator.

Just a reminder

Loonie Drive Canvassers try to visit each home in the Musquodoboit Valley during May. We hope for donations of at least one dollar per family member. Receipts are issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Litterbugs make mess

Now that the snow is gone, we see what damage litterbugs can do. No matter what has been tried in the past, these pests continue to leave trash behind them wherever they go. To help offset the damage done, property owners and the public are encouraged to clean up the garbage left by litterbugs or, volunteer to help with the Adopt-a-Highway program. Phone 384-2006.



Those darn weeds!

Together, the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association and the Musquodoboit Valley Weeders Garden Club created Cornerstone Park, Middle Musquodoboit. Through the generosity of volunteers and those who made donations, a number of shrubs, bulbs, and plants have enhanced this little pocket park, but, not only are the plants thriving, so are the weeds. If you are interested in helping rid the park of a few unwanted clumps of cooch-grass or those persistent dandelions, call 384-2006 to volunteer.

Cleanin' up!

Bouquets are tossed to the Blackburn and Isenor families for picking up litter around the square in Middle Musquodoboit one April evening. Thank you!

Annual Plant Sale

The Valley Weeders Garden Club will hold their annual plant sale at the Exhibition Grounds in Middle Musquodoboit on Saturday May 24 at 10am. Great selection... great prices... shop early!

Thank you

Sincere thanks are extended to Edna Benvie, Mary Cook, the MVM Healthcare Auxiliary, Debbie and Keith Kingsbury, Kathryn Belzer, and Rev. Joan Griffin for their generous donations to help offset the costs of printing The TownCryer.

And the winner is...

The Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital Healthcare Auxiliary extends a sincere thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets on a handcrafted quilt. The winner is Roberta McGinn, of Dartmouth.

What's your news?

If you would like to say thanks, or wish someone a happy birthday or anniversary, send along the information to to info@towncryernews.ca or phone: 384-2751. Or, perhaps you'd like to wish a MRHS grad congratulations on a job well done. Let us know, because we want to share your news!

Just gimme the facts

Mother's Day is always the second Sunday in May. The first Mother's Day observance was a church service honouring Mrs. Anna Reese Jarvis, held at Anna Jarvis' request in Grafton, West Virginia, and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1908. Miss Jarvis supplied carnations, her mother's favourite flowers, at that first service. White carnations were chosen because they represented the sweetness, purity and endurance of mother love. Red carnations, in time, became the symbol of a living mother. White ones now signify that one's mother has died.

Really big shoe

By: Dylan Matthias

All those who ever longed to see the Ed Sullivan Show live, will get their chance this spring in Meagher's Grant - sort of.

A dinner theatre will be held at the Meagher's Grant Fire Hall on May 24 and 25.

This gala will feature food, song, and comedy. The event looks sure to repeat its successes of past years.

Previous shows include last year's *Hillbilly Hall*, *Sweetheart of the Valley*, *Grant Ole Opry*, and *Heartbreak Hotel*.

This year's show is entitled *A Really Big Shoe*. Details about the particulars are kept under strict confidentiality, but it will be 1960s themed, and some popular stars of the day should make an appearance.

Everyone who plans to attend is actively encouraged to dress in '60's fashion, and a prize will be awarded for the fanciest shoes.

The troupe, called the Lower Musquodoboit Players, has a current cast of 13 talented performers. And, a band of local musicians provides music for the shows.

To find out if tickets are still available for either the May 24 full Dinner Theatre or, the May 25 dessert and coffee, (both of which will feature a full show) call Gloria Caborn at 384-3218. The price for the 7:00 p.m. full meal is \$25 and the 2:00 p.m. dessert is \$12.

Information Centre opens

There's a reason tourist bureaus were renamed visitor information centres a few years ago.

It's not only tourists who drop by seeking travel information. Many local residents, and travelers from within the province, seek information about attractions, events and destinations.

This year, the Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit, will open on May 17. Make a point of stopping in to see the various displays and the selection of books written by local authors. Also, there are a number of gift items for sale throughout the season.

For more information, please phone: 384-2006 or email: info@mvta.net or visit the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association website at: www.mvta.net

Theatre workshops

Folks at the Bicentennial Theatre look forward to the day when the Bicentennial Players start again. Throughout the month of April, workshops offered participants some fun and healthy exercise with dance movement, improvisation and theatrical exercises.

Sharon Meadows, former high school principal, will offer a couple of workshops on stage production and direction at a later date. No previous experience needed to do these introductory workshops. For more information, please phone: 384-2819. Everyone is welcome!

Musical duo to perform at Bicentennial



Ivan and Vivian Hicks are well known for their contribution to the preservation and promotion of old-time fiddling throughout North America.

On May 4, at 2 p.m., Ivan and Vivian, along with other talented musicians, will perform at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit.

Many albums and hundreds of concerts have made Ivan and Vivian a very popular duo in the entertainment scene. Ivan Hicks, with 60 years of playing old-time music, has shared his talents with many students, young and old alike, and has been an inspiration to countless others. For tickets (\$15 at the door) or info, please call 384-2819.

Beyond Brazil

Chris Churchill, Shelly Meisner, Scott MacMillan and Tom Roach come together at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit, on May 30 to pay tribute to Brazilian music and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

It has been said that Jobim was the George Gershwin of Brazil. Jobim, like Gershwin, contributed large bodies of songs to the jazz repertoire and made inroads to concert halls with his music.

Showtime is 8 p.m. and admission is \$15. For more information, contact: 384-2819.

Health services for youth

By: Rosanne Gillis RN BScN CPMHN (C)

Public Health Nurse/Youth Health Centre Coordinator

The Musquodoboit Rural High School, (MRHS) Youth Health Centre (YHC) is part of a joint initiative between the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and Capital District Health Authority. Each high school within HRB has a Youth Health Centre.

Youth Health Centres are youth friendly/youth focused and provide accurate, non-judgmental information and services to youth within the school community.

Services are provided in a safe and confidential manner to enable youth to make healthier decisions. Programs and services are provided using the Health

Promotion model. Health information, support and referrals to outside agencies are available for students.

A Public Health Nurse staffs the YHC at MRHS on a full-time basis. Programs and services available in the YHC are based on the needs of the school community and may be offered on an individual basis, group sessions or in a classroom setting. Some examples include: body image, alcohol/drug/smoking use, teen parenting, anger management, anxiety, mental health issues, pregnancy testing, contraception information etc.

The programs of the YHC should complement and enhance other services and supports available to youth at MRHS. Referrals to outside agencies can be made through the YHC in person or by phone. For the summer months a contact list of services is made available to youth. For more information, please call 384-3920.

Bit of a giggle

A man owned a small farm in Musquodoboit. The HRM Wage & Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him. "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent. "Well," replied the farmer, "there's my farm hand who's been with me for three years. I pay him \$200 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$150 per week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90 percent of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a pack of beer every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally." "That's the guy I want to talk to! The half-wit," says the agent. "That would be me," replied the farmer!"



**Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre
Tuesday, May 27 (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.)**

If you knew one hour of your time could save someone's life... would you help? In just one hour, you could save as many as FOUR lives.

Please help by giving blood. Make your appointment today by calling 1-888-236-6283. Identification with full

name and signature, or full name and photograph required. New Donors Welcome!

Different drug problem...

By: an anonymous on-line submitter

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied, "I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in Mom's garden and flowerbeds, and cockleburrs out of Dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbours to help out some poor soul, who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behaviour in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin. And if today's children had this kind of drug problem, the world would be a better place.

Bless the parents who drugged us."

Victoria Day

In Canada, the celebration of Victoria Day occurs every year on Monday, prior to May 25. It is the official celebration in Canada of the birthdays of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Victoria Day was established as a holiday in Canada West (now Ontario) in 1845, and became a national holiday in 1901.

Upcoming events

May 2	Merchandise Bingo @ Meagher's Grant Fire Hall. Early bird bingo at 6:50 p.m. Regular games at 7 p.m.
May 4	Ivan and Vivian Hicks @ Bicentennial Theatre. Showtime 2 p.m.
May 10	Dance @ Meagher's Grant Community Hall. Band "10 2 Midnight" takes the stage at 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Adm. \$6. each
May 10	Jam Night @ the Royal Canadian Legion, Caribou Rd., 8 p.m. House band, Soulshine invites musicians of all levels to come and jam with them. Admission: \$5 (19 yrs. +)
May 15	Submission Deadline for June TownCryer. Submit to info@mvta.net or call 384-2006.
May 15	Tax Reform Public Consultation - MVEC 7 pm
May 17	Parks for People: If hiking and bird watching interest you, meet up with like-minded nature lovers at the Natural Resources Education Centre parking lot, Middle Musquodoboit, at 9 a.m. for a two to three hour hike in the Centre's woodlot to see and hear migrant and resident songbirds. Leader: Verna Higgins. For more information, contact: 384-2286
May 24	Valley Weeders Garden Club Annual Plant Sale - Exhibition Grounds - 10 a.m.
May 24	UCW Rock-a-Thon @ the Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Phone: 384-2608 or 384-2088 to sponsor a rocker.
May 24	Public Pensions & Me - Forestry Complex 1 pm
May 24	Dinner Theatre - Meagher's Grant Fire Hall (7 p.m.)
May 25	Dessert Theatre - Meagher's Grant Fire Hall (2 p.m.)
May 27	Blood Donor Clinic - MVEC (5:30-8:30 p.m.)
May 30	Spring Fling - MVEC (6-8:30 p.m.)
May 30	Beyond Brazil at Bicentennial Theatre. Showtime at 8 p.m. Admission \$15.
June 1	Walk for Dog Guides - Bicentennial Theatre (1 p.m. Registration, 2 p.m. Walk)
June 1	June TownCryer distribution

See you in church

Sharon Presbyterian Church (Dean) Service begins at 11:45 a.m. each Sunday
St. James United (Upper Musquodoboit) Service begins at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday
Higginsville United Church (Higginsville) and Riverside United Church (Elmsvale) Winter Schedule - These churches combine their congregations and have 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday at Riverside Church. Spring Schedule - On alternate Sundays Higginsville United and Riverside United hold services at 10 a.m.
Middleton United Church (Middle Musquodoboit) Service begins at 11 a.m. each Sunday. Sunday School: The Middleton United church offers a weekly multi-aged (ages 4-18) Sunday school class from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. We teach through fun activities, songs and stories. Stories about God/Jesus help children learn to make good choices. We invite you to come every week or once a month, come when you can. Why not try it? You're sure to have fun!
Holy Cross Catholic Church (Elmsvale) Service begins at 9 a.m.
Wittenburg Baptist Church (Wittenburg) Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m.
St. Andrew's United (Elderbank) May 18 - 10 a.m. service
St. James United (Meagher's Grant) May 11 - 10 a.m. service
St. Paul's United Church (Antrim) May 4 & 25 - 10 a.m. service

Mobile Public Library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure.

Saturday May 10 and 24

10:45-12:00 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy
1:30-3:30 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy

Thursday May 1 and 15

10:45-12:30 Middle Musq, MVEC parking lot
2:00-3:30 Middle Musq, Valley View Villa
4:50-7:30 Middle Musq, Haverstock Pharmacy

Thursday May 8 and 22

11:00-12:15 Upper Musq, school parking lot
2:10-4:00 Dean, Sharon Presbyterian Church
5:30-7:15 Upper Musq, Fire Hall

Contact: 1-800-565-4414 to request materials

Summer's comin'

It may seem early to think about summer vacation, but think again!

The **Middleton United Church** invites you to visit its website: www.midmusqpastoralcharge.com to learn about the various activities, services, etc. the church provides to its community. This year between July 21 and 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, youth are encouraged to participate in Vacation Bible School. With the theme "Beach Party", you know there's going to be lots of fun!

Hoofbeat Hill Stables offers five-day youth camps for children 12 years and up. Horses and board are all included, however you can bring your own horse if you wish. Clinics are held Monday to Friday throughout July and August and are aimed at the serious student who is interested in being involved with horses all day long. For more info visit www.hoofbeathill.com or call Marnie Mitchell 384-2266.

Mount Traber will host 18 summer camps this year for children (ages 5+) and youth. For details, go to www.mounttraber.org or call 384-2238.

Community history

The following are excerpts from the community history of Elmsvale that was compiled in 1983 as part of the Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial celebrations.

Elmsvale was part of a 2,150-acre grant of land given to the Archibalds in the 1780's and part of a Dickey grant. It was originally called The Flat. It was named Elmsvale because of the beautiful elm trees growing there.

There had been churches in Upper and Middle Musquodoboit for nearly 70 years but, in the area between, the people had no place to worship. In the early 1880's, the call came to establish a church of their own. The people of Higginsville, Newcomb's Corner, The Flat (Elmsvale) and Deacontown Centre (Centre Musquodoboit) came together to build a church. The Riverside Presbyterian Church was built in 1886 and formally opened and dedicated in 1887 becoming part of the Middle Musquodoboit Pastoral Charge...

The first school, which was made out of logs, was built on the old road some distance up the Dechman Road behind Don Stewart's house (1982). The second school was built as a one-room school and served the community for many years. It was originally called Sedgewick School for Rev. Robert Sedgewick. In later years, a second room was built on. This school closed in 1953 and the children are now bussed to schools in Middle Musquodoboit.

Mrs. Bates Fraser operated a Tea Room and canteen from 1932 to 1937 in the house of David Taylor (1982). Mr. and Mrs. Bates Fraser ran a taxi service from

Musquodoboit to Truro until it was taken over by Mr. Dares in 1940.

A near tragedy occurred in 1872 in the month of April. Mrs. Thomas Guild and her niece, Harriet Bryson, aged 11, were crossing the river bridge in Elmsvale, when the four-year-old colt that Mrs. Guild was driving took fright at a broken plank in the bridge and backed the buggy over the low railing in to the river, which was at flood tide. The woman and girl were thrown clear and carried downstream. The current carried them close to the bank and they managed to scramble to safety by grasping small bushes that were growing at the edge of the stream. Wet and chilled, they made their way to D.W.B. Reid's place where they were given dry clothing and hot drinks. The young horse was not as fortunate, however, as the buggy hampered his efforts to escape and he was drowned.

Book of the month

This month, The TownCryer is featuring Memories, by Roberta Annand.

For many people, leafing through the pages of Memories is like a trip back in time.

The pencil-drawn depictions of various buildings located throughout the Musquodoboit Valley not only give a visual of their construction but a brief history lesson, as well.

Beautifully drawn, by artist Roberta (Bobby) Annand, the pages of Memories preserve some of Musquodoboit Valley's proud history.

It's one thing to tell someone about the creamery, that used to be in Middle Musquodoboit, or the blacksmith shops and other like businesses that used to employ locals. It's quite another to actually be able to see what these places looked like.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of Memories for \$30, should call 384-2006 or email: info@mvta.net

Gone fishin'

The ill-fated day began at 4 a.m. I was still recovering from mononucleosis and preferred to remain in bed. Instead, I was going fishing with my husband. He told me to dress warmly and help pack gear. By 6 a.m. we had crossed the Musquodoboit River in a rubber dingy and began the long trek into Saddleback Lake.

To get there, we first had to walk around Gilbralter Lake. For a week prior, my husband had told me, "It'll be like a walk in a park," he said, "with sawdust footpaths." In reality, it was more like trudging through a jungle. While branches slashed my face, I began to wonder if this described piece of heaven-on-earth was in fact, the

gateway to hell. And, an hour later when we came across two men just crawling out of their tent, I was sure I met the gatekeepers.

When we finally arrived on the shores of Saddleback, I collapsed facedown on a bank of smooth rock. Before heading off to do some serious fishing, my husband built a small fire to keep me warm, I thought. He thought I would heat a can of beans for his lunch. I suppose it was the mono that made me fall soundly asleep. And, while I slept, that small fire scampered away from its encircling ring of rocks and crept its way to the tree line.

I woke up to a frantic husband cursing and beating down flames. I too was in a state of panic when I realized my entire jacket was covered with thousands of fluttering iridescent wings. I could only assume these were the Mayflies I had heard so much about. Blind with fear, I ran headlong towards a stream that flowed from the lake. There, I perched myself on a rock in the centre of a brook.

Later, I ignored my husband's calls. When he finally spotted me, he simply said we were going home. It was about noon when we came across those two gatekeepers again. They were just cracking open a bottle of black rum. When they saw me approach, they rightly decided that I was in need of a drink. As it sometimes happens on fishing trips, one drink led to another. It was sometime after the second bottle was opened that the offer was made to take us across the lake by boat, rather than walk around it. In my drunken state, I was impressed with the helmsman. He maneuvered that little craft like an expert. I didn't notice that he hadn't reduced speed as we neared the shoreline. And, if I had, I didn't care.

It's amazing what one can remember in a time of crisis. I hadn't had any water safety courses since I was a child. But, I instinctively clasped the bench, assumed the fetal position and relied on my air supply from the pocket above me in the capsized boat. I could hear men yelling my name and shouting, "Stand up!" Tentatively, I lowered one foot and was relieved to feel bottom.

On the way back to the river, I found those footpaths and learned that wet blue jeans attract sawdust like flies to sugar. It seemed consistent with the day that the rubber dingy sprang a leak before we landed on dry ground. Soaked, tired and now sober, I stripped before crawling behind the wheel of the car.

The next weekend, while playing at a dance, I wasn't prepared for the number of truckers who took me aside to say, "I saw you last week. I *saw* you! What were you doing driving naked?" "Fishing," I say, "I was fishing."

Walk for Dog Guides

Join the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club for our annual Walk for Dog Guides; a healthy, pet-friendly, family walk to raise funds to help our Lions change lives. One hundred per cent of donations collected goes toward providing the gift of mobility, safety, and independence to Canadians living with disabilities.

Canine Vision Dogs - For those with a visual impairment, the help of a Canine Vision Dog Guide to navigate streets, buildings, and transit means he or she can travel more widely and independently with greater confidence.

Hearing Ear Dogs - For someone with hearing loss, a Hearing Ear Dog Guide offers reassurance that he or she will be alerted to important everyday sounds, such as a baby's cry, a knock at the door, or an activated smoke alarm.

Special Skills Dogs - For those with physical or medical disabilities (e.g., muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, etc), a Special Skills Dog Guide offers greater independence and mobility by picking up dropped items, helping the person in and out of bed, and operating an emergency line to get help.

Seizure Response Dogs - Seizure response dogs work with people who have regular seizures. These Dog Guides are trained to bark for help during a handler's seizure or activate an alert system. They provide a tremendous amount of confidence and independence to their handler's lives. Handlers feel secure going out knowing that their Dog Guide will be with them in case of a seizure.

Participation is open to everyone - with or without a four-legged friend! The walk is for everyone who would like to enjoy a leisurely walk while providing support for a wonderful cause.

For more info: www.purinawalkfordogguides.com
Sunday June 1, 2008 - Registration at 1 p.m. Walk begins at 2 p.m. Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit.

If you want to participate or make a donation, please contact Lion John MacDonald, Tel: 384-2267.