

TownCryer



www.towncryernews.ca

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Committee faces challenges

MRHS Memorabilia Committee

The MRHS Memorabilia Committee held a public meeting on June 13 to discuss the transition of historical items to the new school, which included a PowerPoint presentation containing many photos of the interior of the new building.

This gave the community members in attendance the opportunity to conceptualize and interpret the new space and also provided an opportunity to discuss some of the limitations faced by the Memorabilia Committee when trying to plan for the prospective display of the many historical artifacts in the school. Due to several limiting factors, which include Fire Marshal Regulations and cost, it was concluded that the Committee would postpone a decision surrounding the composites until the school was operational.

Check the school website, www.mrhs.ednet.ns.ca, and The TownCryer for updates in the fall.

Icelandic voices echo in Markland

It has been 126 years since the forest surrounding Markland resonated with Icelandic song as it did on May 28. One hundred ten teachers visiting Nova Scotia from Iceland trekked the road of this long deserted Icelandic Settlement and gathered around the site named Staðartunga (Homestead Point) that once was the homestead of Sigurður Jónsson. Don Redden, a member of the Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia, stood in the cellar and told the stories of the 30 Icelandic families who settled there between the fall of 1875 and 1882.

The Nova Scotia Government granted each family a log cabin on 100 acres of land in the dense

forest between Mooseland and Caribou Gold Mines. He told of the hardships and struggle as they tried to eke out a living clearing fields for farms in the rocky soil, building a road through the settlement, raising families, starting a school and finally leaving in 1882 for Western Canada and USA. The teachers were visibly moved both by the stories and the fact that this unlikely spot in the wilderness, home for 200 Icelandic immigrants for seven years, has been preserved. They paid their respects with song.

The educators and support staff were visiting from a large school in Selfoss, Iceland. They had been in Nova Scotia for the week, touring schools and facilities in several areas of the province as part of a professional development plan. The tour was organized by Dr. Jeff Orr, Director of the School of Education at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. He had been a colleague of the school's principal, Sigurður Sigursveinsson, at Memorial University, Nfld. in the early 1980s.

The visitors met the members of the Society at the cairn under the Canadian, Icelandic and Nova Scotia flags. The Markland tour began with a welcome from Marshall Burgess, Society Chair, whose grandmother Sigríður Nikolína Höskuldsson (Huskilson) lived in Markland as a baby. His family was the only one to stay on in Nova Scotia, settling in the Lockeport area.

He told of the accomplishments and some of the events of the Society and of the tremendous interest, work and dedication to the project by its members in the ten years since its inception.

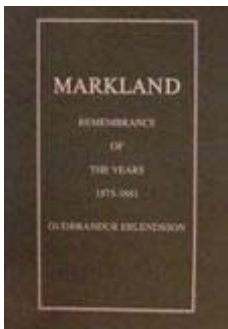
Tribute was paid to Eleanor (Dolly) Belmore, a founding member of the Society, who passed away in January of this year. It was through her vision and desire to know about and remember each settler who lived in

Markland that provided the fuel for this project and sustained its growth.

In the decade since the Icelandic Memorial Society was incorporated, foundations for most of the original homesteads have been located, pathways have been cleared to the sites and have been marked with historical plaques both in Icelandic and English. A memorial cairn has been erected at the entrance to the settlement, built of rocks gathered from the 30 homesteads and topped with a rock shipped from Iceland. The Society has published the English translation of a book written by Guðbrandur Erlendsson, one of the first settlers, entitled *Markland - Remembrance of the Years 1875-1881*. They also produced an educational documentary film and a CD entitled *The Story of Markland*. Research continues on family histories and plans are underway to build a replica of a log cabin on one of the sites.

A number of descendents of the settlers and dignitaries from Iceland have visited Markland in the past several years, including the Icelandic Minister of Transportation, Communication and Tourism, the Ambassador of Iceland to Canada and the Prime Minister of Iceland and his advisors, but this has been the largest single group to visit at one time. The scene on Wednesday morning of 110 Icelanders walking through the settlement could well have been one of the scenes from long ago. It was easy to visualize the Iceland settlers at their departure, walking through the quiet woods, perhaps singing, perhaps more than a little reluctant to leave the fields they had cleared with back-breaking labour, the sites of the log cabins where their children were born, and the small piles of stone that marked the resting place of eight of their people.

One could say Dolly Belmore's dream of recognition for those brave settlers had come true as the sounds of Icelandic voices again echoed in this very special place.



Markland Remembrance of the Years 1875-1881

Author: Guðbrandur Erlendsson

Available at the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Office

Price: \$15.00

Random Riders pedal for pledges

Members of the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club are looking for 30 people to ride the Heart and Stroke Foundation's big bike when it comes to our area.

On July 20, a bike, the size of a school bus, will roll up to the Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre in Middle Musquodoboit.

This amazing vehicle weighs more than 1,950 pounds, has more than 150 feet of bicycle chain and is eight feet wide and thirty feet long.



Between April and September, the bike will be visiting more than 200 communities across nine provinces and have more than 54,000 riders.

The 11th Annual Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club Big Bike Ride begins at 6:00 p.m. in front of the Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre and travels around, what locally is referred to as "the big square" (approximately three miles).

If you want to have the ride of your life and become part of the Musquodoboit Random Riders, contact Lion Meredith at 384-2313 to register or to receive a pledge sheet.

Last year, in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club raised over \$2,700 for this worthy cause.

The Lions wish to say thank you to all who participate by either pledging or cycling.

Can you help?

By: Jackie George

Folks at the Carroll's Corner Community Centre are stepping up to the plate to help one of their members.

Tara McMullin-Mullin experienced a motor vehicle accident in 2006, which left her with headaches, numbness, seizures and she could not return to work. After visits to the doctor and many tests it was determined she needed a PET scan that would tell more about her injuries.

Tara sought another opinion and received her PET scan, which proved that Tara did, indeed, damage her brain in the accident. Repercussions from the accident left her with, what is commonly referred to as, shaken baby syndrome; the rolling of the vehicle and the bouncing of Tara's head, repeatedly, caused this condition.

This diagnosis is a progressive deteriorative condition, which she will have for the rest of her life. Without the proper treatment, Tara could be left in a vegetative state. Due to financial inability, Tara sought help from us. Tara is a member of our Centre and I personally know her family and I would like to help her in any way I can.

The Carroll's Corner Community Centre is a registered, non-profit charity and is unable to financially help monetarily. Therefore, I sincerely thank you for any contribution you can make to this worthwhile cause. We will gratefully accept any merchandise, gift certificates, monetary donations, donations of material or product, etc. These items would come in handy for our merchandise auction and bingo. We are also hosting a mixed ball tournament and a dance to raise funds.

In advance, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration and your support. If you wish to make a donation, please contact: 758-2680.

For Sale

Rack for a full size Dodge half ton. \$400. 384-2630.

Happy Birthday!

On June 11 our dear Aunt Bertha Ross, of Middle Musquodoboit, celebrated her birthday. Love from niece Sheila and husband David of Bowser, B.C. Happy Birthday Aunt Bertha!

And the winner is...

The Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club congratulates all winners of our 10-week spring draws. Thirty people were lucky winners. The Grand Prize of \$500 went to Nakita Archibald of Upper Musquodoboit on the final draw night of June 11.

Thank you to all who purchased 100 Club Draw tickets. Funds raised will go toward various Lions Club projects in our community.

Visit www.musquodoboitvalleylions.com to learn more about what the Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club is about.

Dreams come true

River Castle, of Oyen, Alberta, will be one lucky little girl on her fifth birthday because, for the past couple of months, her Great Grandmother, Joan Castle, has been making her a Barbie doll dress. But not just any Barbie doll dress, but a bride doll dress. And not just any bride doll dress but a dress that would be the envy of many real spring brides.

The dress has 2,065 tiny beads crocheted into the skirt, the bodice has 302 beads, the tiny purse has 70, the bouquet holder has 132, the hat has 722, and the veil has 250 for a total of 3,541 tiny beads all counted and crocheted in, one by one. The hair is hand curled and the necklace fashioned for her tiny little neck.

River has been checking out the progress on the Internet and, as of June 23, she owns the doll of any little girl's dreams.



In celebration of her great granddaughter's 5th birthday, Joan Castle of Gays River, stitched 3,541 beads into this hand-crocheted Barbie bridal dress.

TownCryer donations

Sincere thanks are extended to the following TownCryer supporters: Ira Hartlin, Mike McFetridge, and Brooke Taylor for their generous cash donations.

Auction and Yard Sale

On Aug. 2, the Middleton United Church is hosting its annual auction and yard sale. The yard sale begins at 9 a.m. and goes to 2 p.m. All proceeds from this event go to the upkeep of the Middleton United Church.

Congratulations

Since Matthew Daye, of Middle Musquodoboit, has completed his two-year Culinary Coarse at the Akerley Campus of Nova Scotia Community College, he's been employed at La Perla Restaurant in Dartmouth.

His grandparents, June and Everett Yonkee, April and Winkie want Matthew to know how very proud they are of his scholastic accomplishment.

Music Jams

Folks are invited to come along and join in the fun the second and fourth Sundays of each month at the West St. Andrew's Hall, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Admission is only \$2. All players and non-players are welcomed. Phone: 639-2687 for more information.

Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank

Volunteers for the Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank want to remind members of the community to donate non-perishable food items over the summer months. Look for the donation box that is conveniently located near the cash registers at the Musquodoboit Valley Co-Op.

Paw-sitive training

Cathie Risser, of Upper Musquodoboit, ensures pet owners training in a gentle, effective manner that is fun for both people and their pets. Please phone: 568-2038 or 223-6122 for more information.

Corporate hay roll competition

Volunteers for the Halifax County Exhibition Committee are organizing the 2nd Annual Corporate Hay Roll Competition. If you are interested in entering a four-member team, call 384-2969 or 384-2894 for details.

Farmer's Market

This summer, at the Railway Museum in Musquodoboit Harbour, shoppers can enjoy some garden fresh produce along with a variety of other items, each Sunday between 8 a.m. and 12 noon.

If you wish to book a table, contact: 889-2429 or email: mhfarmersmarker@gmail.com. (Table rates: \$15 for a six foot table, \$8 for half a table.)

Quality Carpentry

Contact Aiden Breen if you want any renovations, framing, drywall, flooring, decks, roofing, garages, pole barns or siding done. Phone: 568-2026.

Help for victims of family violence

VANISH (Violence And Neglect Into Support and Healing) began as CAFA (Committee Against Family Abuse) in May of 2001.

The objective of this committee was to offer support to the people of the Musquodoboit Valley in relation to family violence, which is still our objective today. The goal was, and still is, to let people who are victims of family violence know there are people and services available to support them in ending violence so they may feel safe in their communities and homes.

Initially, it was hoped that a Crisis Hotline would be established and run out of a drop-in centre that offered education and support programs to those in our community experiencing violence. Over the years CAFA became VANISH, a registered not-for-profit society. Although we have not met the goals first envisioned by the group we have accomplished a lot.

We have conducted a Family Violence Community Assessment survey, held a Family Violence Community Initiative Day with various professionals, students and community members to discuss the survey and develop an action plan. We also sponsored the research phase of the Thriving Rural Youth Project (TRYP) and published a booklet on the results of that survey.

We promote awareness of the "14 days in December" by holding a purple ribbon campaign and displaying a VANISH theme tree at the Festival of Trees - ours is the purple one! We hold church services of Remembrance and Hope, sponsor an annual Women's Retreat and send some of the members to workshops offered by the Metro Interagency Committee on Family Violence.

Our funding has come to us in the form of grants from Capital District Health Authority, the Lions Club, the Halifax Regional Municipality Community Grants Program, NS Office of Economic Development, as well as through various donations.

Violence is everywhere; it exists in all communities, cultures and income levels. Our goal today is to help break the cycle of family violence and to provide our community with the services and resources needed to help victims empower themselves. Currently we are five members strong, but we would welcome anyone who is

interested in our work to join us! Together we can make a difference!

Our email address is vanish_violence@hotmail.com.

Achieve your career goals

If you are looking to improve your present employability skills and achieve your career goals, be sure to check out the Job Search Centre, now located at 10 Elm Drive, Middle Musquodoboit.

Students who are looking for their first job or workers who wish to explore employment opportunities are encouraged to contact the Job Search Centre staff. If you are between the ages of 15 and 30, or unemployed or no longer in school, help is only a phone call away.

Contact: 384-2390 or email: info@mvjobsearch.ca



**“Working in our Community
With our Community”**

New digs for Job Search Centre

The Employment Development Program & Job Search Centre is moving to a new location: 10 Elm Drive, Middle Musquodoboit. The office will now be adjacent to Tidy Bubbles Laundromat.

On July 16, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. the general public is invited to drop by, enjoy some refreshments, and meet the newest staff member, Elizabeth.

Also, the board of directors will be on hand to join in the celebrations. Staff offers a full range of services including: resumés, assisted job searching, cover letters and a variety of workshops. The hours of operation are: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please call the Centre at (902) 384-2390 or email: info@mvjobsearch.ca for further assistance or to book an appointment with one of the trained personell.

Staff at the Employment Development Program and Job Search Centre looks forward to serving you at their new office.

Annual Salad & Strawberry Supper

Dean Salad and Strawberry Supper - Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean (4-6pm). Adults - \$7, 12 & under -

\$3, preschoolers FREE. Enjoy a variety of salad dinner plates and complete your meal with either strawberry shortcake or strawberries and cream. Contact Wanda Smith, Tel: 568-2578.

Fiddling champ at Bicentennial

For more than 20 years, the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit, has consistently presented many of the top musical performers in Canada. On July 17, patrons of the Bicentennial will have a chance to hear another great performance.

Scott Woods, two-time winner of the Canadian Open Fiddle Contest, two-time winner of the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships, and Canadian Fiddle Entertainer of the Year, takes the stage at 7 p.m.

Scott studied classical violin from age four. He also plays several other instruments, but his favourite is fiddle - whether it's classical, jazz, big band, country, swing, Celtic, or old time music.

His love of fiddling has been passed down through six generations of his family. Scott can turn somersaults and step dance while playing the fiddle. For seven years Scott was the musical director and played the part of Don Messer in Memories of Don Messer's Jubilee which toured extensively in Canada.

The Scott Woods show has played to sell out audiences wherever it is booked. Scott Woods combines his superb playing ability with a wonderful sense of humour, along with other talented musicians who join him onstage. This is truly a show to be enjoyed.

Tickets are just \$15, and can be purchased at the Bicentennial Theatre or Reid's Restaurant, Middle Musquodoboit. To reserve tickets, call the Theatre at 384-2819 or email bicentennial.theatre@ns.sympatico.ca or 24taylo@gmail.com. All reserved tickets MUST be picked up by July 15.

Mike Cowie and the Water Babies

As a participant in the 2008 HRM Summer Concert Series Free Public Concerts, the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit, is proud to present Mike Cowie and the Water Babies on July 5 between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Mike Cowie is a trumpet player, singer and songwriter in a funk/jazz/blues style. After the success of his *Big Night Out* CD, which brought Mike's original jazz/funk based music to audiences in Canada and Europe, he followed up with the release of his latest CD *Lucid Blue*.

Ten new Mike Cowie originals, combine computer/DJ sound-scapes with his stunning trumpet tone. The funky beats, beautiful melodies and sophisticated chord progressions create a sound that is new, fresh and timeless.

See you in church

Over the summer, churches throughout the Musquodoboit Valley combine their services. All church services begin at 10 a.m.

July 6: Higginsville United Church

July 13: St. Andrew's, Elderbank

July 20: Riverside United Church

July 27: Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean

Holy Cross Catholic Church (Elmsvale)
Service begins at 9 a.m.

Wittenburg Baptist Church (Wittenburg) Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

Aug. 3: Provincial Picnic Park, Middle Musquodoboit

Aug. 10: St. James', Meagher's Grant

Aug. 17: St. James United, Upper Musquodoboit
Aug. 24: Middleton United Church, Middle Musq
Aug. 31: St. Paul's, Antrim

Summer hours

Between June 16 and Sept. 1, The Nova Scotia Liquor Commission outlet in Middle Musquodoboit will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week. (Mon. – Sat.)

As of June 15, the Musquodoboit Valley Co-Op is now open Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Upcoming events

July 5 FREE Concert - Mike Cowie & The Water Babies, Bicentennial Theatre, 7-9 pm

July 12 Dean Salad and Strawberry Supper - Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean (4-6pm).

July 15 Deadline for submissions to August TownCryer

July 16 Employment Development Open House 7-9 pm

July 17 Fiddle Pride Nation Wide: featuring Scott Woods - at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit - 7pm.

July 20 Big Bike Ride - The 11th Annual Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club Big Bike Ride begins at 6:00 pm in front of the Bicentennial Theatre.

July 21-25 Vacation Bible School - Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit. The theme will be 'Beach Party'

Aug 1 August TownCryer published

Aug 2 Middleton United Church Auction & Yard Sale

Mobile public library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Saturday July 5 and 19

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

Thursday, July 10 and 24

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 July 3 and 17

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.

Community history

The following are excerpts from the community history of South Section #9 that were compiled in 1983 by Mary Cook as part of the Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial celebrations.

Mary gives vivid descriptions of the individual homesteads and includes many detailed stories from those times, like this one:

Sam Logan was a carpenter and shipwright and was in the Southern States when the American Civil War broke out. He skedaddled back home bringing his wife, Aunt Jemima with him. She was quite a famous Spritualist-Medium and created a lot of excitement the few winters she spent in the Valley.

Aunt Jemima taught the locals how to call up the spirits of dead people and have them use somebody's hand to write on a slate the answers to questions she asked. Lots of slabs of slate-rock could be gotten at Murchyville or other places, and at one time they had to be broken up and thrown in to the river after a Christian Minister scared the people into believing the spirit writing was the work of the devil and they would all end up in hell if they didn't stop at once. They stopped, and Aunt Jemima went back to the States.

The procedure of spirit writing was thus described: People would sit around the kitchen table in an unbroken circle of hands, the little finger of the right hand touching the little finger of the left hand of the person to the right, and so on. After a minute or two of silence some person's writing hand would feel funny and Aunt Jemima or some other person in the know, would put a slate and pencil in front of the hand, start asking questions, and the person's hand would write the answers.

All kinds of weird things would happen. Sometimes people would recognize the handwriting of their departed, and read from the writing things that the person of the writing could not have known. In one case, a man had drowned in the river but his body had never been found. A spirit wrote, telling them to go to a certain place where there was a fallen tree, its tip hanging down in to the river under which they would find the man's body, and they did find it there.

Correction

Cemetery records for the Pioneer and Hillside Cemeteries in Middle Musquodoboit and the Riverside Cemetery are now available online at the Church web site www.midmusqpastoralcharge.com. In last month's issue, Debbie Sutherland's name was missed as a major contributor to the Cemetery Record project. Debbie and staff from the VIC, working with Church offices, did all

the background work to make this project possible. Thanks also to the Cemetery Corporation from Middle Musquodoboit and the Cemetery Committee from Riverside. Without the background work on the project, none of it would have been possible.

Book of the month

Is it just me...or is everyone's life like this? by Sharon McLeod is available at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC), Middle Musquodoboit for \$8.50. Sometime this summer, drop by the VIC and pick up a copy of *Is it just me...*

This book, published in 1992 by Down and Out Publishers, a division of D. Holliday Printers, Upper Musquodoboit, is a must read.

Any parent can identify with the stories told in this 66-page book which is a collection of columns, aired over a six-year period on CBC, both regionally, through Halifax's Information Morning, and nationally.

Is it Just Me is witty, intelligent and jammed full of the way life is when there are kids around. It takes the reader through all those everyday experiences of child-rearing and leaves them smiling. Sharon has also written several short stories for children and continues to freelance for newspaper and magazines throughout the region.

Summer camp information

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

Summer Teen Program for ages 12-16 at the Cobequid Parent and Youth Resource Centre, Truro, Nova Scotia. Call 893-2974 for more info. This year, between July 21 and 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, children (ages 5-12) are encouraged to participate in **Vacation Bible School** to be held at Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit. The theme this year is "Beach Party!" Join us for fun on the Yellow Submarine as we explore oceans and beaches. \$10 per child. Limit of 20 children, so register early! To download the registration form, visit: www.midmusqpastoralcharge.com or call the Church office at 384-2520 for more info.

Hoofbeat Hill Stables offers five-day youth camps for children 12 years and older. 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.

The cost of commuting

Inflated gas prices are making a direct hit in the wallets of people who can least afford them. City dwellers and rural folk alike are crunching numbers to come up with the extra bucks it now takes to fill their tanks. Although those in the city may feel the pinch, people in rural communities are especially hard-hit.

Instead of working in their hometown, most people are forced to travel to urban centers. Although the one-hundred-series of highways are relatively well maintained, the secondary roads are not.

Horror stories are retold whenever drivers get together and recount their drives to and from the city. Once, four vehicles were stranded after driving through a particular pothole on a remote section of a favourite route to the city. Each had flat tires, destroyed rims and damaged under gear. The outraged motorists not only lost time at work, they also had to pay for towing and repair charges.

Many drivers are now questioning where the provincial tax on gas is being spent. Supposedly, a percentage of provincial petrol sales is designated to road maintenance and improvements. But is it? To add further insult to injury, gas prices just hit an all time high. In an attempt to balance supply and demand, motorists are encouraged to find alternative transportation.

Regrettably, public transit and taxicabs are not options available to rural residents. Their only alternative forms of transportation are walking, cycling or perhaps horseback. (Pogo sticks, skateboards, scooters and roller blades may be fine for children, but adults tend to look ridiculous on any of them!) Since amalgamation and centralization of HRM, jobs, hospitals, specialists, government offices and other services are impossible for non-urbanites to access without a vehicle. Some experts say to alleviate this situation, reduce fuel costs and consumption, commuters should move closer to their employment and services.

The only problem with that advice is the fact that most people used to country living are reluctant to give up their way of life. Others suggest that several drivers get together and create a car pool i.e. each takes turns using their vehicle to get around.

Insurance companies have managed to put the screws to that idea though. Most motorists can barely afford minimal coverage let alone high priced premiums that would insure passengers. What really infuriates many Musquodoboiters is the knowledge that circumstances weren't always like this.

At one time, there were freight and passenger trains that made regular stops in Middle Musquodoboit. As

well, a private bus service offered affordable transportation to and from the city on a daily basis. Evidently, the decision makers at that time didn't foresee this day. Had they, train and bus lines would have been left in tact and the Musquodoboit Valley would be a trendsetter today.

Instead, we're forced to pay at the pumps just like everybody else.

Bit of a giggle

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter."

Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

To this, Esther replied, "Morris that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word it's fifty dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, fifty dollars is fifty dollars!"

MVTA partners with local restaurants

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association has provided J&J's Country Diner & Greco Express (Upper Musquodoboit), Reid's Restaurant & Bakery (Middle Musquodoboit), and River Oaks Golf Course and Country Club (Meagher's Grant) with customized place-mats to use this summer.

The MVTA encourages people to visit each of these local businesses to enjoy the Valley's finest dining.