

TownCryer

October 2008

Volume 2 Issue 7

Welcome to The TownCryer

In April 2007, The TownCryer was born. This little paper enables people who live in the catchment area of Musquodoboit Rural High School and beyond, to keep in touch with one another. As well, it assists the mandate of Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association: to promote events, businesses, and local attractions in our area to others.

Over the past 17 months, The TownCryer has been a free publication. It is distributed through J & J's Country Diner and GrecoXpress, Upper Musquodoboit, and Reid's Restaurant and Bakery, Haverstock's Pharmacy, and Horton's Convenience Store, in Middle Musquodoboit.

The TownCryer also offers free online subscriptions. Simply go to: www.towncryernews.ca to read past issues and to sign up to receive your copy each month delivered to your email inbox.

Thanks to generous cash donations from TownCryer readers and particularly, Steve Streach, we are now able to increase The TownCryer's circulation to your communities through the mail, at least for the time being.

Your participation is encouraged! If you, your business, non-profit group, or organization wants to share its news, send your submission to: info@towncryernews.ca prior to the 15th of each month. Please keep your contributions brief and to the point.

Want to win \$50? Please take time to complete and return the TownCryer Survey insert! We want to hear from you! Tell us what you think! Let us know what else you would like to see included in your community newspaper.

Valley Business Directory

If you have recently moved to this area or if you are in need of a particular service or product or have a new Valley business that you'd like to advertise, check out the Musquodoboit Valley Business Directory. It offers a complete list of businesses, services, and products available throughout the Valley. All listings are FREE! www.musquodoboitvalley.karsibgraphics.com

Vote for Steve Streach

Authorized by the
Committee to Re-Elect
Steve Streach



First elected in a by-election in 1999, Steve Streach maintained his seat in 2000 and 2004. On Oct. 18, re-elect Steve Streach for Councillor, District 1.

Four years ago, you, the residents of District 1, re-elected me as your representative at City Hall and clearly identified several issues that were important to you. On your behalf and, having gained the support of Council, I have delivered on the following:

- Rural Communications High Speed Internet to rural HRM and increased cell phone coverage
- Community Safety Enhanced police coverage, new fire stations, trucks, equipment and support for our volunteers
- HRM's Regional Plan Protection of our rural lifestyle and our development rights, local identity through civic addressing and community signs, establishing rural growth centers and links
- Community Development Investments in local infrastructure, grants and support for volunteer organizations, streetscaping and central service upgrades.

With integrity and dependability, I have worked hard on your behalf. I have been a voice you can trust and I will continue to demonstrate proven ability. On Oct. 18, I ask for your support.

Internet or Phone Voting - Use your Personal Identification Number (PIN) with instructions provided on your Voter Notification Letter and vote any time from Oct. 4 starting at 8 a.m. until Oct. 6 ending at 8 p.m.

Vote In Person - Advanced Polls Oct. 11 and Oct. 14 from 12 p.m. (noon) to 8 p.m.

Election Day Polls - Oct. 18 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you require assistance regarding any aspect of the election or have any questions or comments, please call 384-2109 or visit www.stevestreach.com

TownCryer donations

The TownCryer is free, however, if you wish to make a donation to help offset printing and distribution costs, your contribution will be gratefully accepted. Mail your donation to: TownCryer News, PO Box 144, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

Can you help?

Next year, a Boy Scout Jamboree is going to be held in Cape Breton. In preparation for this event, our area troop is looking for donations of material to make 1000 neckerchiefs. Keep in mind, it doesn't need to be new material. Donations of discarded curtains or sheets will be appreciated. If you can help, please contact Trish Ruggles at 384-2447.

Light up their night

On November 1, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., help light up the sky at Castle's Gardens, Middle Musquodoboit, in celebration of David's and Claire's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Bring your left-over Jack o' Lantern with a battery candle. Jack o' Lanterns may be collected the next afternoon if you wish to take them home.

Thank you

The Middle Musquodoboit Cemetery Corporation would like to thank Olga Ettinger for her donation. Thanks to the generosity of all the donors who have helped offset this year's costs of operation, we have been able to continue the regular maintenance and improvements of our village cemeteries. All donations are appreciated and may be sent anytime to the MMCC Treasurer at P.O. Box 17, Middle Musquodoboit, N.S. B0N 1X0. No donation is too small.

Parkinson's Superwalk

Submitted by: David Castle

Thank you to everyone who so generously pledged money for me to walk in the Parkinson's Superwalk to help find a cure for Parkinson's Disease. And a huge thank-you to Arleigh Cornelius who took time to walk with me the day of the event.



(l-r) Arleigh Cornelius and David Castle

Elect Bridget Boutilier

Authorized by the Committee to Elect Bridget Boutilier



On Oct. 18, voters will cast their ballots to determine the successful candidate to represent District 1. Bridget Boutilier, of Sheet Harbour, looks forward to being the newest member of Halifax Regional Municipality Council.

It would be a privilege to represent District 1 on Halifax Regional Council as a full time councillor. Because of my job as a public health inspector, I have worked closely with Municipal, Provincial and Federal government departments.

I represented this District on the school board and together with the parents from Dutch Settlement to Upper Musquodoboit and Sheet Harbour to Ecum Secum we successfully kept two elementary schools open. Employment, public transit, rural fire departments, policing and youth programs are some of the biggest concerns in this District. Our population is decreasing in some areas and growing in others. There are many people on fixed incomes. I will work with residents and service providers to address these and other challenges.

This fall, I am retiring from the Department of Environment. I live in Sheet Harbour with my husband Harold. We have two sons Frankie (Musquodoboit Harbour) and Garrett (Dartmouth).

I can be contacted at 885-3301 or baboutilier@gmail.com or www.bbforhrmcouncil.ca

Starting your own business?

Self Employment Benefit program is for people who are receiving E.I. benefits (or received them in the last three years) who would like to pursue self-employment. This program has helped hundreds of entrepreneurs get their enterprise off the ground

We provide you with business development information, help you prepare your business plan and give you ongoing advice on many aspects of running a business. Service Canada extends your E.I. benefits for the duration of the program. For more information contact Ross Finlay at (902) 499-2355 or your local Job Search Centre.

Parkers say thank you

Submitted by: Tom and Dana Parker

What a wonderful day Aug. 23 was: full of sunshine, caring and fun - our 40th Anniversary get together. We would like to thank everyone for their best wishes, in person or by mail. A special thanks also to Kim, Jocelyn, Chris & Garth for organizing this special day for us. A great day was had by all, again thank you.

Gospel and Bluegrass concerts

The Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit is pleased to let folks know that the ever-popular gospel and bluegrass concerts will begin on Oct. 19. Thereafter, people can circle every third Sunday of each month on the calendar until the end of April. The music and good times begin at 2 p.m. Admission is a good will offering and a light lunch is provided. All proceeds go to the Middleton United Church.

Gazebo approved

Earlier this year, the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA) applied for, and was approved, grant funding to have a gazebo constructed at Corner Stone Park, Middle Musquodoboit. A tender for bids has been completed and MVTA congratulates Eldon Arsenault and Michael Van Wychen for being the successful candidates. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year.

Heating assistance rebate

If you heat your home with oil, there's good news for you this winter. On Sept. 10 it was announced by Premier Rodney MacDonald that families with an income up to \$40,000 and individuals with an income up to \$25,000 will qualify for a heating assistance rebate of \$450. Look for application details later this month.

Musical Jamboree in Dean

If you want to hear some good-old fashion foot-stompin' music, be sure to drop by the Lemmon Hill Community Centre, Dean on Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. Admission is only \$5 and you have the chance to hear: Delene Andrews, Vance Andrews, Dennis Jackson, Jack Marley and Frank Fulton.

Phone: 568-2549 for more info.

Happy 25th anniversary

Friends and family join together in extending Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary wishes to Steve and Marilyn Streach, of Elderbank, who are celebrating twenty-five years of marital bliss on Oct. 1.

Wellness Clinic

On Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 the Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital will host a Wellness Clinic. The theme for the 2008 Wellness Clinic is *Taking Charge of Your Health*. It will be an interactive program which will include topics and demonstrations such as: Healthy Lifestyle Games, Tai Chi Demonstration, Quick and Easy Meal Preparation, Vial of Life and many others.

Cause for celebration!

What will you be doing when you turn 100 years old? Emma Gladwin, of Middle Musquodoboit, is setting the bar pretty high for the rest of us! In August, during the Halifax County Exhibition, she entered her handiwork in 25 classes and won on each of them. Plus, she received four special prizes! On Oct. 25, Emma and her family are hosting an open house at the Enterprisers Hall, Middle Musquodoboit, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to celebrate Emma's 100th birthday. Please drop by and join in the celebrations. Best wishes only.

JD performs in Carrolls Corner

JD Clarke grew up in the rural community of West Gore, nestled in the Rawdon Hills, Nova Scotia. Against this backdrop he learned to play guitar at a young age and continued to pursue his musical dreams from there. Today JD is credited with having five nationally charted singles on country radio. His music has taken him across Canada as well as the U.S. playing to nearly sold-out crowds everywhere he goes. His music is naturally familiar and is guaranteed to have you up and dancing. His interactive shows will have you singing along and carrying on with him and his band throughout the entire show. If you wish to hear JD, drop by the Carrolls Corner Community Centre Halloween Dance on Oct. 30. For more details, contact Jackie George at: 758-2680

Wanted: church organist

Middleton United Church is looking for an organist for Sunday Services (11:00 a.m. each week) starting immediately. For salary information, etc. please contact Lyle Bates at 384-2744.

Only two weeks left

Submitted by Deirdre Dwyer

The Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers' Market has been enjoying a thriving business since the beginning of summer. You still have two weeks left to be part of this event where neighbours, friends and family meet to shop and share camaraderie. Between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, 30 vendors, on average, sell baked goods, crafts, cards, candles, jam and pickles, produce and flowers. Customers are eager to purchase fresh baguettes, croissants and other goodies from Boulangerie La Vendéene. In the event of rain, the market moves to the Bingo Hall at the Eastern Shore Community Centre and Rink.

Besides providing a wide variety of sale items, there are also talented local musicians on site. On Oct. 5, Eric Manuel and his country music band will perform, along with Laura and Jacob Homans, who play fiddle and mandolin with their grandfather, Donald Homans.

If you are interested in participating in the Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 5, email mhfarmersmarket@gmail.com for details or phone 220-9114. Also, we are considering a Christmas Farmers' Market, the date still to be decided. Please check out the market bulletin board for entertainment news and other information about these events.

At this time, organizers of the Farmers' Market wish to thank the Hon. Bill Dooks, Coun. Steve Streach, the Musquodoboit Harbour and District Lions Club, Barry Swinehammer, Taylor Tim-Br-Mart and all the helpful folks at the Seaside Tourism Business Association.

A great round of applause goes to the 65 vendors who have participated in the market and to all the market-goers who have supported the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers' Market. Thank you all.

Moose River Gold Mines concert

A special concert of music and narrative celebrating 140 years in historic Moose River Gold Mines will be held on Nov. 23, beginning at 2 p.m. at the United Church in Moose River. This may be one of the last opportunities people may have to visit Moose River Gold Mines as they remember the community.

The concert will feature: Rev. Gary Burrill, Betty Belmore, Bill Stevenson, Gordon Stobbe, Tom Easley, Greg Simm, John Tilley and friends with special guest Stan Carew. Tickets are \$15 with all proceeds going to the Moose River Gold Mines Museum. Tickets are available at the Musquodoboit Valley Visitor Information Centre, phone 384-2006 or at the Bicentennial Theatre, phone 384-2819. Other ticket venues TBA.

MVTA says thanks

Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association is grateful for the continued support of our corporate advertisers and sponsors who helped make our 2008 50-Mile Route of Yard Sales a success. We ask that you, the community, also support our sponsors by supporting the following businesses: Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society, Haverstock Pharmasave, J&J's Country Grill & Greco Xpress, Betty Cox - Dominion Lending Centres, Bev's Country Diner, River Oaks Golf Club, Splash of Colour Children's Centre, Bruce Fulton's Bed & Breakfast, Elmsdale Landscaping, Prestige Homes, Mastodon Ridge, Stone's Throw Restaurant, Hants Realty and Antigonish Eastern Shore Tourist Association.

Thanks also go out to the yard sale vendors who registered their sites and appeared in the Yard Sale Brochure. Only through advertising funds from local businesses and yard sale vendor registrations can we continue to produce 4,000 Yard Sale Brochures that are distributed throughout the Maritimes and available on-line.

If you didn't have the opportunity to register your yard sale site this year, you can still show your support to MVTA for hosting this event by making a donation to help ensure the continued success of the 50-Mile Route of Yard Sales. You can mail or drop off your donation to MVTA, Box 162, 12390 Hwy 224, Middle Musquodoboit NS, B0N 1X0.

Why register your yard sale site?

- The more yard sale vendors we have listed in our brochure, the more people we will attract to the area for our Yard Sale, which means more buyers stopping in at YOUR location!
 - Only REGISTERED yard sale sites are listed in the Yard Sale Brochure. Yard sale shoppers are encouraged to visit registered sites.
 - By registering your site and advertising what you have for sale, shoppers will know exactly where to go if they want to purchase what you have to sell.
 - Your advertising dollars pay for printing and distribution of the Yard Sale Brochure. These funds help ensure that MVTA can produce a quality brochure that is distributed throughout the Maritimes - again, bringing more yard sale buyers to our area and YOUR location each year.
 - Together we can create another successful event!
- Thank you from the MVTA.

Amy and Chris Cleveland are proud parents of Austin David, who was born at one pound three ounces. To help offset anticipated medical costs, donations may be left at the Middle Musquodoboit Post Office.

Steve Brine: District 1 School Board candidate

I have recently retired from teaching after a 33-year career. The last 31 years have been in this school board district. I lived in Musquodoboit Harbour for 21 years and for the last ten years in Meaghers Grant, which is centrally located within the new District 1 boundaries.

I have taught at the elementary, junior and senior high levels. I also have been an administrator and athletic director, which gives a person another perspective of what our children need in order to have a successful and fulfilling life. My four children completed their public education in this District and I have one grandchild who will be starting next year. I want to work on the behalf of all students, parents and staff of the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB). It is very important that each District has a representative that can be an advocate for the unique concerns, needs and problems that arise in their communities.

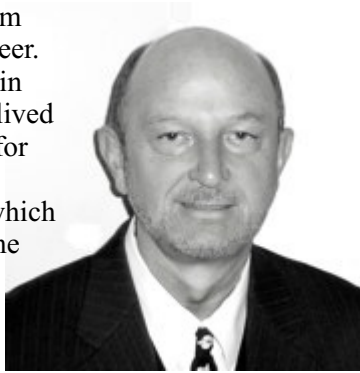
My extensive teaching experience and being a parent helps me understand the needs of both students and parents. As a former employee, I know the intricacies of the system. This knowledge would help me be an advocate for you.

The following are some of the key issues in schools today:

- SAFETY: for students and staff
- CURRICULUM: that meets the needs of all students
- PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION: we need to continue to promote the importance of both
- STAFFING: Provide appropriate staffing in all areas of education in order to help our children succeed
- INFRASTRUCTURE: it needs to be updated and well maintained.

In closing, I often hear students and parents say that students in a rural area do not have the same opportunities as those who live in an urban setting. Location should not determine the type of education that our youth will receive.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 384-3034 or by e-mail at stevebrine@live.com



Susan Myers-Levy running for HRSB, District 1

**Our children,
our schools,
our communities...**

I live on Sober Island with my husband Randy. We have three children, all of whom graduated from DMHS in Sheet Harbour.

I have lived in the Sheet Harbour area all of my life and as a rural resident, I share the hopes, dreams, frustrations, and disappointments of Nova Scotians in each community in District 1 and realize how important it is to have a voice at each level of government.

I would like the opportunity to be that voice as your District 1 representative for the Halifax Regional School Board and to represent the things that are important to all of us - our children, our schools, and our communities.

I encourage you to contact me to voice your concerns and issues you may have. My email address is

sm.levy@ns.sympatico.ca



Fall celebration

This year marks the 16th Annual Rally in the Musquodoboit Valley and King of the Garden. Enjoy a day of family fun and entertainment. This event is brought to you every year by the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association and takes place at the Halifax County Exhibition Grounds, Middle Musquodoboit, on Oct. 5.

Throughout the day, car buffs will enjoy meeting and talking to owners of antique vehicles in the Show 'n Shine.

Redneck Ruckus is a new event this year. We're looking for a few good ol' boys and girls to take part in hubcap hurlin', throwin' the throne, seed spittin' and a whole lot more.

Kids of all ages will enjoy seeing the winning pumpkin in the King of the Garden Contest.

This year there is something for everyone. For more info, please phone 384-2006 or visit www.mvta.net.

MVTA Bingo

Have fun and help support the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association at the same time. A Merchandise Bingo is scheduled for Nov. 7 at the Meagher's Grant Fire Hall. Early Bird - 6:50 p.m. Regular Games - 7 p.m.

Pumpkin carving contest

Members of the Middle Musquodoboit Volunteer Fire Department invite kids of all ages to drop by the station on Oct. 29 to participate in a pumpkin carving contest. It is hoped the pumpkins will be left at that station to be lit with flameless candles on Hallowe'en Night. Phone Trish: 384-2447 for details. Good luck!

See you in church

Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean - Service 11:45 a.m.
St. James United, Upper Musq. - Service 10:15 a.m.
Riverside and Higginsville combine services:
Oct 5 and 19: Riverside - Service 9 a.m.
Oct. 12 and 26: Higginsville - Service 9 a.m.
Middleton Church, Middle Musq. - Service 10 a.m.
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Elmsvale - Service
Saturdays 4 p.m.
Wittenburg Baptist Church, Wittenburg - Sunday school
9:30 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.
Oct. 5 and 26: St. Paul's United Church, Antrim -
Service 10 a.m.
Oct. 12: St. James United, Meagher's Grant - Service 10 a.m.
Oct. 19: St. Andrew's United, Elderbank - Service 10 a.m.

Community upcoming events

Improv Classes at the Bicentennial Theatre every
Thursday evening between 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Phone:
384-2413 for details.

Oct. 4: Hot Turkey Supper - Middleton United Church,
Middle Musquodoboit, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults: \$10;
Under 12: \$4; 5 and under FREE. Contact Kim Higgins
(902) 758-2671.

Oct 6: Riverside 4H Registration - If you are between the
ages of 9 and 21, consider joining the Riverside 4H club.
Registration is at the Forestry Complex, Middle Mus-
quodoboit at 7 p.m. Call 384-2517 or visit
www.riverside4h.karsibgraphics.com for more info.

Oct.7: Majorettes! Yes! We are lucky to have our own
baton twirling majorette instructor right here in Carrolls
Corner. Phone 758-2680 for details.

Oct 18: Turkey Supper - Gays River United Church Hall,
Gays River (4 p.m.- 6 p.m). Contact Marjorie Barkhouse
758-2550.

Oct 18: Christmas Tea & Sale - Sharon Presbyterian
Church, Dean. (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Admission: \$4
(includes a light lunch). Contact Wanda Smith, Tel: 568-
2578.

**To have your upcoming event included in the
November issue of The TownCryer, email
info@towncryernews.ca or phone 384-2006
by October 15.**



presents

Oct 5: The Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial
Theatre is pleased to present Shane Cook and Troy
MacGillivray in concert at 7 p.m. They will be joined
on stage by Ray Legere, Skip Holmes and Sabra
MacGillivray. Tickets for this evening of masterful
fiddling are \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. They can be
purchased at the Musquodoboit Valley Tourist
Bureau or by calling the Theatre office at 384-2819.

Folks may be interested to learn that, at the age of
26, Shane Cook "rates at the top of the short list of the
finest fiddlers in the world today," says the Canadian
Fiddlers' Hall of Fame. Shane has distinguished
himself as a master of the Canadian old-time fiddle
tradition and excels at an array of fiddle styles ranging
from Irish and Scottish to French-Canadian, Texan,
and Bluegrass.

Oct. 15: Dave Gunning and Ron Hynes at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 at the door, and are
available at Reid's or the Theatre.

Oct 19: An afternoon of bluegrass, country western,
and old-time music in support of the Christmas
Daddies. (1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.). Tickets \$10 adults, \$7
students, are available at the Theatre office. Call 384-
2819.

Oct. 25: Art & Paul: The Show They Never Gave.
8pm - tribute to the songs of Simon and Garfunkle.
Tickets: \$18 advance - \$20 at the door. Contact the
Theatre at 384-2819.

Mobile public library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Saturday: Oct. 11 and 25:

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

Thursday: Oct. 16 and 30:

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: Oct. 9 and 23:

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

Contact: 1-800-565-4414 to request materials or visit:
www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca

Community history

This month, The TownCryer is featuring the community history of Gays River. The complete collection of community histories, compiled in 1982, is available at the Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit.

In the earliest years, the pioneers of Gays River and surrounding areas traveled on foot or by horseback to hear the preacher at various log cabin homes in the area. The visit from a preacher was a great event in those days so people came from long distances.

Sometimes, the service lasted three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon so they had to bring a supply of food for the day. Those from a very great distance often had to spend the night at a friend's home and continue on their way the next morning.

The first frame church stood at the junction of the old Truro road and the old road leading to the Musquodoboit Valley and was opened for worship in 1818.

The present church building was built in 1858 on land once owned by Mr. John MacKay, grandfather of Reginald MacKay...

At first, the children who could afford it, were sent to a schoolhouse at Ellis about four or five miles outside the present section. The first schoolhouse of the section stood on the old road where the John Frame back lane met the old road.

The second schoolhouse was built about 1830 near the Episcopalian church. The third schoolhouse was built in 1837 on a knoll beside the barren. The next schoolhouse was built where the MacKay old lane struck the old road. But ground being so miry they moved it to the site of the first schoolhouse. A few terms were taught before they moved it up to the present Pine Grove School site. This building is still in the spot but used as a hay shed by Mr. Benjamin...

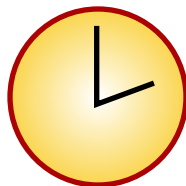
The first tavern was kept by George Moore, followed by his son Samuel Moore. Corbett followed but the line of travel had left Gays River for Shubenacadie and business died out.

The first blacksmith shop was run by Miller Gray. Then followed MacQuinn, Killen and Ogilvie...

The principal crop of the early settlers was wheat. They also raised enough wool and flax to clothe themselves which they manufactured themselves. The early settlers found their first market at Maitland which they reached by the Shubenacadie River.

Fall back!

**Remember to
set your clocks back
one hour on Nov. 1**



End of another season

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association extends a sincere thank you to staff supervisor, Mary Ann Parker, and the students who worked at the Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit and the Moose River Gold Mines Museum this summer. The VIC closes for the season Oct. 11.

Book of the month

Orville B. Pulsifer: The Man, The Vision, The Legacy by A. Ross Brown is available at the Visitor Information Centre, Middle Musquodoboit.

Orville Pulsifer was a prominent aviator, business man and inventor who welcomed every challenge that ever placed itself in his path. He helped to shape the Nova Scotia that we know today by locating the current site of the Halifax International Airport, developing and naming Crystal Crescent Beach and creating Sparkling Springs, a water company which remains well-known today.

Orville asked his friend, the writer A. Ross Brown, to compile his biography and it was completed just prior to his sudden death at the age of 92. This book contains memories of a very full life of adventures, adversities, accomplishments and opinions.

During the twentieth century, only a small number of Nova Scotians can claim to have noticeably changed our history. Orville Pulsifer must be numbered among those few.



Birds in the Musquodoboit Valley

Submitted by: Verna Higgins

In 2007, the Nova Scotia Bird Society asked members to report the number of bird species that they saw in their yards during the year. The numbers were quite remarkable with the highest numbers, all from yards on, or close to, the sea, being 169 (Canso), 128 (Three Fathom Harbour) and 124 (Cape Sable Island). The only report from our valley was 76 (Brookvale) from a land-locked yard.

The results of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas will give us a better indication of the number of bird species actually breeding in our area. With two more years remaining in the Atlas program, we are well on the way to at least 100 species for the area covering Middle, Elderbank, Glenmore and Higginsville.

The Atlas data is still too limited to detect serious declines in any species but swallows' numbers are of real concern. The disappearance of the cliff swallow colony on the former high school building is a serious loss. As for barn and tree swallows, allowing swallows access to your barn and putting up tree swallow boxes in the spring will keep those two species nesting here.

Explain this

Submitted by: Mike McFetridge

On Sept. 12, Rodney Hill, the President and Caretaker of the Middle Musquodoboit Cemetery Corporation was mowing the grass in the Pioneer Cemetery when he noticed something unusual



on a knoll in the cemetery next to the Sibley Road. It was a circle of dead grass in an otherwise green landscape.

Upon inspection, the dead grass was still rooted and appeared to have died for some unknown reason. As caretaker of the cemetery, he knew he did not cause the circle to be there. After contacting me to witness the scene, possible origins of the circle were speculated. We couldn't think of any logical reason for the appearance of this phenomenon. If anyone knows why this circle appeared, perhaps they could satisfy our curiosity by telling either Rodney or myself so this mystery will be solved.

125th Halifax County Exhibition

The Middle Musquodoboit Agriculture Society and the Halifax County Exhibition Committee would like to express a sincere thanks to all those who helped to make this year's Exhibition a success. It takes a lot of work, mostly volunteer hours, to make the Exhibition happen. Next year, August 19-22, marks the 125th Halifax County Exhibition, a celebration that has to be started now. In order to do this, we need your help.

The Middle Musquodoboit Agriculture Society and the Halifax County Exhibition Committee invites you to attend a meeting to view ideas and suggestions and answer questions as to what one could do as a volunteer. We are looking for stories, old photos, programs or ribbons that we can either copy or have on display for the Exhibition. Anyone who has ever volunteered at the Exhibition is invited to mark the occasion on opening day.

There are many areas in which one could donate their time before the Exhibition starts or during Exhibition week in August. If we had more people doing smaller jobs, everything becomes easier. Our sense of community spirit will definitely increase with a larger volunteer group focused on celebrating the 125th Anniversary.

A meeting will be held Oct. 21, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Forestry Complex. Please help make this 125th Halifax County Exhibition a great success.

Bit of a giggle

Two guys were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and values. Mike said, "I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married. Did you?" Bill replied, "I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?"

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A little boy went up to his father and asked: "Dad, where did my intelligence come from?" The father replied, "Well son, you must have got it from your mother, 'cause I still have mine."

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"Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully", the divorce Court Judge said, "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week." "That's very fair, your honour," the husband said. "And every now and then, I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

- - - - -

A doctor, examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all." "Me neither, doc," said the husband. "But, she's a great cook and really good with the kids."

On sale now!

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA) is selling tickets on a Lotto Tree that is decorated with \$200 worth of a variety of scratch lottery tickets. Tickets sell for \$2 each or 3 for \$5, available at the VIC in Middle Musquodoboit, during the Rally in the Musquodoboit Valley, and various locations in the Musquodoboit Valley.

Draw date Dec. 7 during the Festival of Trees. The winning ticket holder wins ALL lottery tickets on the tree. For info, call 384-2006.

