

New beginnings

This is the last issue of The TownCryer to be sponsored by the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA). Instead, beginning in January, Ellen McFetridge, editor, and Karen Sibley, on-line editor, will be responsible for its publication and distribution.

It is hoped The TownCryer readership will continue to enjoy and support this community paper.

Submissions may be made to: Box 144, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0 or by email to info@towncryernews.ca by the 15th of each month. Donations should be made payable to The TownCryer and sent to the aforementioned mailing address.

To view past issues, please visit The TownCryer's new web site: www.towncryernews.ca. There, you will also find business advertising rates, links to the TV Guide, local and regional weather forecasts, puzzles and much more.

Editors, Ellen and Karen, wish to express their gratitude to MVTA for their demonstration of support over the past 18 months.

Welcome aboard!

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA) thanks Joe Pay, of Meagher's Grant, for volunteering to be their new website manager.

Please continue to send your community events details to: info@mvta.net to be included on www.mvta.net

MVTA extends a sincere thank you to Karen Sibley for all the improvements she made to the website and the countless volunteer hours she dedicated to maintaining it this past year.

Check it out

Businessman, Ken Burrows, of Kendalmark Realty and Terra Firma Consultants, has generously offered to become a regular contributor to The TownCryer.

Please turn to Page 4 to read his first submission *Wetlands - friend or foe?*

Protect your property

Reports of recent home break-ins in the Musquodoboit area are a good reminder to all, especially at this time of year.

Before you leave your property, lock your house and other buildings. If you can, ensure there's adequate outside lighting around your yard. Some other helpful tips include:

- the use of timers and light sensors is recommended for inside your home when you are away in the evenings;
- notify a reliable neighbour when you go on vacation and have someone pick up the mail while you are away or arrange to have the mail held at the post office;
- deposit cash rather than keeping more than you need at home;
- consider keeping other valuables such as jewelry and coin collections in a safety deposit box;
- take note of serial numbers on cameras, televisions, video equipment and stereos. Engrave valuables and keep an inventory list.

The Musquodoboit Valley is fortunate to have the RCMP working from an office in Middle Musquodoboit.

We also have two active local units of Citizens On Patrol (COP) watching our Valley: Meaghers Grant, Elderbank and surrounding areas Tel: 889-3300; Dean, Woodside and surrounding areas Tel: 568-2800. COP is a group of ordinary citizens who have organized themselves into units for the purpose of keeping a neighbourly watch on the community in order to reduce crime. Members of COP watch for and report any unusual or suspicious activities to the RCMP for appropriate follow-up action.

Please call your local COP unit if you are interested in becoming a COP or want more info about how it works.



Honourable
BROOKE TAYLOR, MLA

Constituency Office:
673 Highway 2, PO Box 165
Brookfield, NS B0N 1C0
(902) 650-3000
Email: mlataylor@eastlink.ca

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



Traveling apron has returned

For some time, the UCW from St James Church in Upper Musquodoboit has had a traveling apron fundraiser. The apron travels a specific route and has approximately 30 pockets. People put money in the pockets, sew them shut, and then pass the apron along to the next person on the list. The decorating committee for the Middleton United Church tried the idea. On its first route, the apron raised the amazing sum of \$125.50. Thank you to everyone who donated to help make the decorating committee's job easier.

Please go to Page 7 to read *A history of aprons*.

Card party Auction 45s

Card players are encouraged to drop by the St. Paul's United Church Hall, 117 Lake Egmont Rd. at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 and the first Monday of each following month, to join in on the fun. Admission is only \$6 and it includes a hot lunch and a chance to win prizes.

Remember to share

As Christmas approaches, it's time to think of others who may be less fortunate. Remember to make a contribution to the Musquodoboit Valley Emergency Food Bank this holiday season.

The Musquodoboit Valley Emergency Food Bank has operated very successfully for almost twenty years. This Food Bank is not sponsored by any specific organization but depends solely on the goodwill of individuals, churches, schools, hospitals, businesses and local community groups, for which we are sincerely grateful.

A great part of our ongoing success is not only due to this continuing goodwill and support but also to the Bicentennial Theatre Board of Directors, who donate generous and adequate facilities for our use.

Make a joyful noise

A Christmas gospel concert will be held at Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit, on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. A good will offering will be taken.

Seasons' greetings

Staff at the Musquodoboit Valley Employment Development and Job Search Centre wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Can you help?

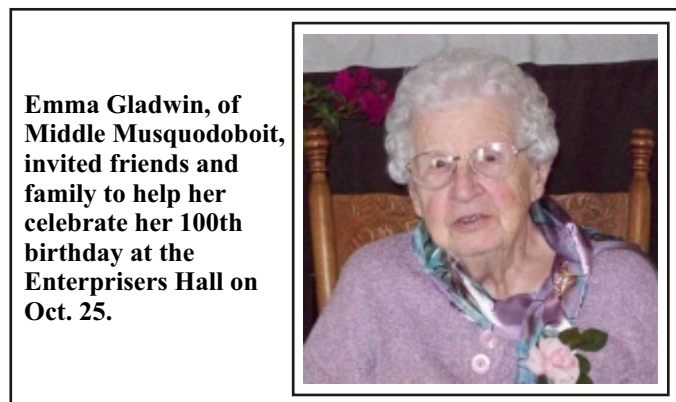
The Mitten Tree will be in place at Middleton United Church by Dec. 7. The mittens, hats, gloves and scarves collected will go to the Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank to assist needy families.

It was a wonderful party

David and Claire Castle, of Middle Musquodoboit, would like to thank everyone who joined them as they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 1.

Also, thanks are extended to all those who sent cards and greetings.

A special thank you to everyone who brought pumpkins and a *very* special thank you to Norval, Donna, Marjory, Mary Ann, and Norm who helped make the day go so smoothly.



Thanks for a great birthday month!

Emma Gladwin, of Middle Musquodoboit, and her family say a sincere thank you to the hundreds of neighbours, friends and family who shared in our October 100th birthday! For the beautiful cards, the flowers, the phone calls, the visits and the happy memories shared: thank you.

A special thanks to the U.C.W. for the wonderful birthday dinner we enjoyed at our family party. Everything was beautifully prepared and delicious.

See y' all next October!

Christmas cards on sale

Middleton Sunday School will be selling Christmas cards. The cards have a photo of the Sunday School members at Scot Matheson's and depict a manger scene. All profits from the card sales will go to a charity; Proceeds, possibly, will purchase a donkey for a third world family (\$300).

Cards are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please support the Sunday School members with this worthy cause.

Cards can be purchased from Denise: 384-2365, Claire: 384-3301 or Marjory: 384-2614.

Christmas Daddies Benefit Show

Charlie Dillman, of Meagher's Grant, along with several of his musical friends, organized a Christmas Daddies Benefit Show on Oct. 19 at the Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit.

Eric Bowers, who not only emceed the show, performed. As well, Jim Richard & Rusty Cage, Bob Mac Farlane & Eastern Ridge Bluegrass Band, Bear Paw & Willie of Port Joli and Charlie's group: Standard Brand Band all voluntarily shared their talent for this worthy cause.

After expenses, which included: theatre rental and cleaning: \$250; travel expenses for some of the out-of-town performers: \$60; the net proceeds totaled \$140, plus a ten dollar donation made by Charlie for a \$150 donation to Christmas Daddies.

A sincere thank you to Andrew Taylor, all the audience members, and the excellent technicians who helped make this show a success.

Christmas Daddies is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to help the less fortunate children in the Maritime Provinces have a better Christmas, since 1964.

Spirit of the season

Riverside United Church will be holding an Advent Service, The Hanging of the Greens, on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcomed to join in singing carols and celebrating Christmas by taking time to relax and unwind from the commercial side of Christmas. Refreshments to follow.

Thank you

Submitted by: Anne, Thom, Chad and Keegan Dillman

Thanks to all our friends, family and neighbours for your support during the passing of Mom Vonnie, aka Nan Smith. The food, cards, hugs and kind words have helped to heal the shock and pain that we have experienced since losing her in mid-August.

Mom enjoyed the last ten years she spent living with us in the Musquodoboit Valley. She loved to have people visit and those that she considered particularly close were not allowed to leave without her hand made *door prize*, a knitted dishcloth. Her humour and dry wit will not be forgotten as well as her love of a good laugh.

She will always be missed. However, the loss of Mom is made a little more bearable knowing that we are in the thoughts and prayers of all of you. We know that Mom would definitely give you all a thumbs up and a wink of those snappy blue eyes... thanks guys!!!!

Community Recreation Services

Submitted by: Paige Giles, Recreation Programmer

Our fall recreational programs are in full swing in the Musquodoboit Valley area. We offer fitness classes, yoga, sketch and draw, floor hockey, soccer and youth programs. Be sure to watch for our program guide that will be sent out in January.

We frequently search for staff to work in our programs on a part-time basis. If you are interested in working with us, please contact the office.

Registration for programs is ongoing. Call 384-3008 to register or register on-line at: www.halifax.ca/reconnect. A PIN number is required for online registration and can be obtained by calling the office. The office is located at the Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre, 12046 Hwy. 224, Middle Musquodoboit.

Possibilities for youth

Are you between the ages of 15 years and 30 years? Do you attend school? Or, are you unemployed and not receiving Employment Insurance benefits?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, contact the folks at the Musquodoboit Valley Employment Development Program and Job Search Centre, 10 Elm Dr., Middle Musquodoboit, to learn what they have to offer you. Or, visit: www.mvjjobsearch.ca.

Drop by any time between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and learn more about the possibilities for your future.

For more information, please phone: 384-2390.

Free Level II Enhanced Class

Submitted by: Alanna Jones

The Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley Literacy Network will be holding a free class for those adults wishing to upgrade their education and/or prepare to write a GED test. The class will be from Jan. 5 to May 6 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in Middle Musquodoboit. We have an instructor with a proven record for success and we hope to support students with complimentary tutors.

If you are interested in being involved in this initiative, we need learners and we are also looking for more tutors - especially in Math.

Please contact your local tutor coordinator, Alanna Jones at 568-0448 or Email: adjones@ns.sympatico.ca

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www.towncryernews.ca

ADVERTISEMENT

Wetlands - friend or foe?

Submitted by: Ken Burrows - Kendalmark Realty / Terra Firma Consultants Phone: 221-2135

It all depends on whom you talk to whether or not a wetland is a friend or foe. To subdivision developers, more often than not, it is a foe. To large forestry companies, they are a foe. To a homeowner living near one, it may be a nuisance. But, the reality is that wetlands are absolutely essential to our well-being as a species on this planet. We probably cannot exist without them.

Wetlands provide many essential services and are second only to the tropical rain forest in terms of global significance. The wetlands provide flood protection and habitat for many birds, plants, and animals. They act as ground water reservoirs and help to purify our ground water and waste disposal. They are a major food source whereas 95 percent of commercially harvested fish and shellfish spend part of their life cycle in a wetland. Wetlands also play a vital role in the oxygen/carbon dioxide/nitrogen chain that allows us to live and breathe. The role of wetlands is complex and essential for life, as we know it.

Until recently, wetlands have been destroyed at an alarming rate. By one estimate, the United States has been destroying wetlands at a rate of sixty acres per hour up to the 1980s. We are not doing much better in Canada.

However, that all may be changing. The U.S. and Canada have recognized this vital role wetlands play and are taking aggressive steps to protect them. Here, in Nova Scotia, the protection process is in full swing. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment has recently taken the position that they will not accept any more net loss of wetlands.

This position of *no net loss of wetland* by the Department will obviously affect subdivision developers, forestry companies, and even individuals with wetland on their property. This may initially drive the costs of new subdivisions, forestry operations, and any other activities that impact wetland but, the overall benefit will be worth the short-term pain.

Delineating wetland is a complex and costly procedure. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment is training delineators in this skill and will have a list for the public. Terra Firma Consultants, of Wellington, have qualified staff to perform this function. If you have any questions about this new wetland focus by the Department of Environment you can contact Terra Firma at 576-3551.

That's all for now. Have a wonderful holiday and we wish you all the best in the New Year.

Am I at risk?

Submitted by VANISH

VANISH (Violence And Neglect Into Support and Healing) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping end family violence in the Musquodoboit Valley. Below are some signs that you are in an abusive relationship and at risk:

Does somebody...

- get jealous when you are around other people?
- make fun of you in front of your friends and/or family?
- destroy and/or threaten to destroy your things?
- make you choose between them and your family and/or friends?
- put you down and/or blame you when things go wrong?
- call you names and threaten to hurt you?
- threaten to take the children?
- push you around and/or hit you?

Do you feel...

- isolated from family and/or friends?
- you have to make things right just for him/her/them?
- you have to do what he/she wants... or else?
- that he/she is trying to ruin your life?
- afraid of his/her reactions or anger?
- afraid to say what you think?
- afraid to break up with/leave him/her/them?

If you have answered yes to some of these questions, you are at risk and/or are being abused and need to talk about it with somebody you trust.

Email: vanish_violence@hotmail.com for more info.

Christmas Concert success

Submitted by: Ken Burrows

On Nov. 23, Moose River was transformed once again into a vibrant active little community. The church hall was filled with music and laughter and the Moose River museum had more people attend in one day than ever before. It all happened as a result of Betty Belmore's idea last summer. She knew how hard her mother, Dolly Belmore, and others worked at keeping the museum open over the years. Betty wanted to pay tribute to her mother and all the good people involved in the museum. Betty, with the help of her sisters, organized an event in the Moose River church that will not soon be forgotten.

Stan Carew, Betty Belmore, Bill Stevenson, Gordon Stobbe, Tom Easley, Greg Simms, and Doug Romans musically energized the Moose River Church like never before. And John Tilley kept us spellbound in a powerful story about the Moose River cave-in. To top it off, Reverend Gary Burrill paid special homage to the many characters of Moose River and the impact that small community has had on so many lives. It was truly a magical day and everyone appreciated the efforts that went into this wonderful concert.

The efforts were well received and the museum will hopefully be able to continue to tell the story of the Moose River people, the mines, and its interesting culture.



To our valued patrons

Submitted by: Andrew Taylor

The Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre would like to thank all those who have attended a show in the past year. Our ability to bring high-quality entertainment to the Musquodoboit Valley is completely dependent on your continued patronage.

We look forward to 2009, when we will be presenting our annual Robbie Burns Night, an exciting classical music show entitled *Muse of Fire* and, in November, Hot Toddy's 10th Anniversary tour.

For information on any of these shows, or to make a suggestion about an artist you would like to see at the theatre, e-mail: bicentennial.theatre@ns.sympatico.ca or call 384-2819.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Flyer delivery contact info

If you wish to toss a bouquet or a brick to the flyer delivery person in your area, please use the following contact info: Phone: 1-902-426-3350 or 1-888-766-6444 or email: emc@herald.ca or fax: 1-902-426-0422.

Cranberry sales a success

The Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association (MVTA) extends a sincere thank you to everyone who supported our sale of cranberries in October and November.

Special thanks are extended to Sunberry Cranberries Ltd. for once again supplying MVTA with a quality product. Merry Christmas!

Worth checking

If you have the opportunity to enjoy a meal at a restaurant over the holidays, or any time at all, it's worth your time to visit: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/report/ before you belly up to the table. At this site, you can enter the name of your favourite eatery and learn what marks it received in regards to food preparation, storage and safety. Schools, hospitals and other locations are also listed there.

Legion news

Submitted by: Ken Burrows, Vice-President Valley Branch 147

Your Valley Legion has been busy lately. Remembrance Day services were well attended and there was a very nice reception at the Legion hall after the service. The food was great and we thank all the volunteers for their contributions.

If you haven't noticed, the Legion in Upper Musquodoboit recently had a new roof installed. It is bright blue and it's very attractive. The interior of the Legion has been painted and some additional painting will be continuing. The plumbing has been upgraded and the Legion is in pretty nice shape. Have a look for yourself.

As with all volunteer organizations, the Legion is looking for new members and fund raising events. To be a member of our Valley Legion you do not have to be a service member or even have relatives in the military. Social members are always welcome and it is a great place to meet and socialize.

The Legion has a nice facility for meetings or events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, anniversaries, educational forums, town meetings and just about anything else. The rental fees are very modest. The Legion has regular crib and dart nights, which are enjoyed by many. The Legion is also planning to expand its hours of operations and providing additional services to the public. We will keep everyone informed through The TownCryer on Legion events. Take care and have a wonderful holiday.

Employment opportunity

The Legion in Upper Musquodoboit is looking for a manager to coordinate activities at the Valley Branch, including bar services. This would require weekends and some evenings. Incentive-based remuneration.

For an interview contact Ken Burrows at 221-2135.

TownCryer donations

Sincere thanks are extended to the following readers of The TownCryer for their generous donations: Emma Gladwin, Jean Gladwin, Jean Erskine, Helen Jenson, Ella Rhind, Christine Kozier, and Susan Miller on behalf of the Festival of Christmas Crafts.

The TownCryer is a free monthly publication. If you wish to make a donation to help offset printing and distribution costs, your financial support is gratefully accepted. Please forward your donation, made payable to: The TownCryer, P.O. Box 144, Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

Mobile public library

Information provided by Mobile Public Library brochure

Sat. Dec. 6 and 20:

10:45 a.m. - 12 noon Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy

Thur. Dec. 4 and 18:

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

Thur. Dec. 11

10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Middle Musq., MVEC parking lot
2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Valley View Villa
4:50 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Middle Musq., Haverstock's Pharmacy

See you in church

Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean - Service at 11:45 a.m.

St. James United, Upper Musq - Service at 10:15 a.m.

Riverside United Church Service at 9 a.m. for the months of Dec, Jan, Feb, and March.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, Elmsvale - Service is Saturday at 4 pm.

Middleton United Church, Middle Musquodoboit - Service begins at 11 a.m.

Wittenburg Baptist Church, Wittenburg - Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Dec. 7: St. Paul's Antrim - Service at 10 a.m.

Dec 14: St. James' Meaghers Grant -Service at 10 a.m.

Dec 21: St. Andrew's Elderbank - Service at 10 a.m.

Dec 24: St. Paul's Antrim - Service at 6 p.m.

Dec 24: St. James' Meagher's Grant - Service at 8 p.m.

Dec 28: Valley-wide combined service at Sharon Presbyterian, Dean - Service at 10 a.m.

Just a reminder

Now that this area has had its first snow fall of the season, property owners are reminded to ensure clear pathways so delivery people can easily access mail boxes, oil and propane tanks, meters, etc.

If you are unable to clear snow, perhaps a helpful neighbour would be willing to lend a hand.

Disclaimer: The TownCryer reserves the right to decide whether or not to accept any advertising material or articles for publication. Acceptance and publication of advertising material should not be taken to imply The TownCryer's support or endorsement of the product and/or service or advertiser, nor support of any claims made by the advertisers. While all care is taken, no responsibility is accepted by The TownCryer for typographical errors or for the effect of any changes made by editing any material.

Upcoming events

Dec 5-7: Christmas Festival of Trees: Natural Resources Education Complex, 12014 Hwy 224, Middle Musquodoboit. See Page 8 for details.

Dec 6-7: Christmas Festival of Crafts: Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre, 12046 Hwy 224, Middle Musquodoboit. See Page 8 for details.

Dec 6: Pot Luck Supper: Sharon Presbyterian Church, Dean, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Contact Wanda Smith, Tel: 568-2578.

Dec 6-7: Craft/Bake/Yard Sale, Carrolls Corner Community Centre. To book tables (@\$5), call Marilyn at 883-7863. New and gently used items for yard sale. Admission \$2.00

Dec 7: 'Tis the Season 2. Showtime: 7:30 p.m. - The Bicentennial Theatre extends an invitation to Bette MacDonald's rollicking Christmas show 'Tis the Season 2. This hilarious show also stars Maynard Morrison, with music by Ralph Dillon. Advance tickets are \$22 (available at the Theatre and Reid's Restaurant, Middle Musquodoboit) or \$25 at the door. To reserve, please call 384-2819 or email bicentennial.theatre@ns.sympatico.ca

Dec 14: 3rd Annual Christmas Party for Children at the Middle Musquodoboit Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children receive a gift from Santa, have their picture taken with Santa, and get to decorate their own Christmas cookies. If you would like to assist with a donation to help defray expenses, your kindness will be appreciated. Contact: Trish Ruggles 384-2447 or Bob Ruggles 568-0026.

Dec 14: Christmas at Carroll's Corner. Party 2-4 p.m. Free admission, door prizes, entertainment, and a visit from Santa.

Dec 15: Majorettes (baton twirling) at Carrolls Corner Community Centre. Call Heavenly for info 384-3253. New session to start.

Dec 31: Carrolls Corner Community Centre Youth Group bagging groceries at Superstore 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Dec 31: New Years' Karaoke Dance at Carroll's Corner Community Centre. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Admission \$10 each.

Jan 1: New Year's Day Levy, Royal Canadian Legion, Upper Musquodoboit, beginning at 1 p.m.

Bit of a giggle

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. Instantaneously, the driver screamed - lost control of the cab - nearly hit a bus - drove up over the curb - and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me." The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry - it's entirely my fault! Today is my first day driving cab - I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

Middleton United Church

The first Church was built on the centre of the land now called Pioneer Cemetery during the ministry of Reverend John Laidlaw. Construction of the Church started in 1814 and was finally completed after some difficulties in 1818. It was a two-story building, and could supposedly occupy 700 people. In 1868, only 50 years later, it was torn down and sold at public auction. The present Church, originally built as a Presbyterian Church, stands east of the old Church on property that was purchased from Jonathan Layton for \$40. The entire cost of construction was \$3,440.

It was opened and dedicated for worship on December 12, 1869 and in October 1871 named Middleton. The name Middleton came from the maiden name of Rev. Robert Sedgwick's wife, Jessie Middleton.



Jessie (Middleton) Sedgwick



Rev. Robert Sedgwick

Mrs. Sedgwick led the Sewing Circle which raised most of the money for furnishings in the Church. The choir used to occupy the two front seats in the gallery until land was donated for the Chancel. In 1899, Robert Reid donated the existing Church bell in memory of his wife, Mary Ann Archibald. The stained glass windows were made possible in 1909 by the Sewing Circle. The first organist was Mrs. Daniel Reid. In July 1915, two stone tablets were unveiled in the Church, one in memory of the Ministers of the Presbyterian faith who served in the first 100 years, and the second to the pioneer men and women who, with heroic courage, laid the foundation of the Church in the Musquodoboit Valley.

Finally, in 1958, the Church was lifted and a foundation poured, which created main floor rooms still used today as classrooms, a kitchen, and washrooms, all laid by volunteers. Middleton United Church has remained very active in the life of the community since that time and, since United Church Union, has been part of a two-point Pastoral Charge along with Riverside United Church.

Book of the month

Tried and True Recipes of the Musquodoboit Valley

Compiled by Middleton United Church - various favourite recipes from members of the community. This cookbook is dedicated to the friends and families of the Musquodoboit Valley and surrounding area, to the volunteers and congregation devoted to Middleton United Church, and to Rev. Marjory Cornelius for her devotion and friendship given to the Valley and Middleton United Church. The Middleton United Church Board of Stewards wishes to thank everyone who donated their time and recipes and those who helped in many ways to make the cookbook a success.

Price: \$8.00 (available at the Church office or through Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Visitor Information Centre by calling 384-2006).

A history of aprons

The Middleton United Church Decorating Committee recently circulated an apron with multiple pockets for folks to make cash donations.

Many children today may not know what an apron is. The following is an article found on the Internet.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few. It was easier to wash aprons than dresses: they used less material. But, along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something to replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

Today, health experts would be driven to distraction trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

Christmas Festival of Trees & Crafts

Warm up to Christmas in the Musquodoboit Valley
Middle Musquodoboit, NS

Dec 5, 6 & 7



Christmas Festival of Trees

Friday, December 5
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tree Lighting Ceremony @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 7
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Natural Resources Education Centre
12014 Hwy 224, Middle Musquodoboit

Admission: No charge for the Festival of Trees but donations of non-perishable goods will be gratefully accepted at the "Giving Tree". For more information please contact staff at the Natural Resources Education Centre Phone: 384-3420 or Email: nrec@gov.ns.ca

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/extension/centre/default.html

Christmas Festival of Crafts

Saturday, December 6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 7
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre
12046 Hwy 224, Middle Musquodoboit
Admission - \$1.00

More than 60 Maritime crafters presenting a large variety of high quality items. Lunch/refreshments available, smoke-free environment, wheelchair accessible, coat/parcel check. For more information please contact Sue Miller: 384-2690.



It's a fairy ring!

Submitted by: Jo-Ann Shaw and Kara McCurdy

In reference to the ring of dead grass in the Pioneer Cemetery, I believe it may be a fairy ring which isn't as fanciful as you might think.

It is caused by a fungus and is very difficult to eradicate. Sometimes it



manifests itself as a ring of mushrooms but sometimes not. Here are a couple of web sites to look at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_ring <http://gardenline.usask.ca/yards/fairy.html> or you can also google fairy ring to get more information.

Kara McCurdy, of Middle Musquodoboit, agrees. "I have a feeling I may have solved your mystery. It's something I heard of years ago, and it's called Fairy Ring Fungus, and can affect lawns by killing out the grass. Read the insert below."

Fairy rings appear in any lawn, golf course or other turf areas during spring and summer months. The rings appear as either dark green or brown circular bands ranging in size from a few inches to 50 feet in diameter. The fairy ring fungus grows outward from a central point at a rate varying from a few inches to as much as several feet a year. Where several distinct rings converge, fungus activity stops at the points of contact. As a result, the circular shape of the original rings is replaced by a scalloped effect.

Mushrooms frequently develop in a circle outside of the dark green or brown ring during spring and fall after a period of heavy rainfall or irrigation. Centuries ago people thought that the mushrooms appeared where fairies had danced the night before - hence, the name: fairy ring.

Disease Cycle: The disease is caused by any one of a number of soil-inhabiting fungi. Development of the fairy rings starts with a germinating spore or a strand of mycelium and grows outward in all directions. The fungus feeds on organic matter in the soil. Fungal strands (mycelium) spread throughout the soil to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. As the fungus grows, the first visible evidence of a new fairy ring is a cluster of mushrooms (the fruiting structure of the fungus) or a tuft of stimulated dark green grass. Later, as the fungi spread outward from the point of origin, the ring-like pattern develops.

The initial tuft of dark green grass and the ring of stimulated grass that develops later result from the nitrogen released after the fungus breaks down the organic matter in the soil. A ring of brown or dead grass may also develop, caused by the depletion of soil moisture in the area where the fungus is concentrated. If you dig into the area of brown or dead grass, you will find a dense growth of white mycelium. Water will not penetrate this zone of dense mycelial growth.