

NEWS

Have I Got e-  for You!



News from the Communities in and around the
Old Barns and Hilden United Churches



No 2

February 2016

Message from Your Editor

This is our second edition of the newsletter. Many thanks for the kind words after the first issue was sent out. Thank you to all who sent items and ideas for this edition. As we continue along this journey, perhaps what you see in one edition will give you ideas for items to submit in a future issue. My motto is that just about anything will be interesting – your poetry, stories, community events, awards, movie/book reviews, favourite recipes, photos, and so on

Leslie

Church Services – March to May

We are Welcoming and Affirming Churches.

All are invited in.

March

- 6 9:30 a.m. in Old Barns followed by
Coffee & Conversation
11:00 a.m. in Hilden
- 13 9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns
- 20 Palm Sunday
9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns
- 24 Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. in Hilden
- 25 Good Friday
7:00 p.m. in Old Barns
- 27 Easter Sunday and Communion
9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

April – May

- 3 1 9:30 a.m. in Old Barns
followed by Coffee & Conversation
11:00 a.m. in Hilden
followed by a potluck luncheon
- 10 8)
- 17 15) 9:30 a.m. in Hilden
- 24 22) 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns
- 29)

- April 24 is Camp Sunday
- May 8 is Family Sunday
- May 29 is Conference Sunday



What Spring Brings Our Way

Daylight Savings Time

March 13 at 2:00 a.m.

US inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin first proposed the concept of DST in 1784, but modern Daylight Saving Time first saw the light of day in 1895. At that time George Vernon Hudson, an entomologist from New Zealand, presented a proposal for a two-hour daylight saving shift.

Even though Germany is commonly known as the first country to implement DST, Winnipeg and **Nova Scotia** in Canada started using DST a little earlier, on **April 23, 1916**. The first clock change in Germany was a week later, on April 30, 1916.

St. Patrick's Day

March 17

Every year on March 17th, the Irish and the Irish-at-heart across the globe observe St. Patrick's Day. What began as a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland has become an international festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and a whole lot of green.

First Day of Spring

March 20 at 6:29 a.m.

Astronomically speaking, the equinox occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator on its way north along the ecliptic. This March equinox is also known as the vernal, or spring, equinox, and marks the start of the spring season.

Easter Sunday

March 27

In 325AD the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox.

Mother's Day

May 8

Since 1908, Mother's Day is a modern celebration honoring one's Mother, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Where Are They Now?

Ever wonder where our (still living) ministers from the past are now residing? I dove into the 2014 UCC Year Book to see what I could find and here are the results:

1970 – 1971	Robert Zinck Bridgewater, NS
1971 – 1978	Russell Burns Stratford, PE
1978 – 1983	Sandy Macpherson Morrisburg, ON
1983 – 1988	Stewart Russell Truro, NS
1988 – 1995	David Lutes Bridgewater, NS
1996 – 2000	Wade Allen Port McNeill, BC
2001 – 2009	Dan Gunn Truro, NS

Our Churches in 2016

Hilden United Church celebrates 137 years having become a congregation in 1879. The present church was erected in 1924, 92 years ago. In 1964, 52 years ago, a detached hall was built.

Old Barns United Church celebrates 184 years having become a congregation in 1832. The present building was erected 81 years ago in 1935 following a fire. The hall was added in 1987, 29 years ago.

Many worship services, services of celebrations, weddings, funeral and community events have taken place in both locations over the years. How many casseroles and desserts have made their way through the doors over the years? Too many to count but all were enjoyed.

Much laughter, many tears, smile and hugs have been witness to the fellowship of our churches over time.

Old Barns Events

January to May Anniversaries

50 Years or More!

- 50 – Fred and Julia Blois
- 62 – Don and Kathie Chisholm
- 69 – Sylvester and Doris McCallum

*Blessings on Your Anniversary –
A day for remembering and being thankful
For how good God has been to you,
A day for looking towards a future filled
With many blessings and sweet joys, too.*

January to May Birthdays

80 Years or More!

- 81 – Allen Large
- 81 – Graham Loughead
- 83 – Hazel Brenton
- 85 – Don Chisholm
- 88 – Jim Blackburn
- 89 – Joyce Stewart

90 Years or More!

- 90 – Sylvester McCallum
- 93 – Kay Purdy
- 94 – Alice Watt
- 95 – Mildred Burrows
- 96 – Rowena Loughead

*God Bless You on Your Birthday –
Wishing you a very Happy Birthday
And may God's greatest blessings
Be with you today and always!*

Senior Gatherings in OB Church

March 30 – 12 noon

CCSA Luncheon - \$3 per person

April 12 – 12 noon

Pot Luck Luncheon for Seniors & Retirees

May 25 – 7-9 p.m.

Musical Evening with refreshments, no cost



Yoga Classes

Thursday Evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Instructor Susan Scharpegge
Fee is \$10 drop-in or \$80 for ten sessions.
Everyone welcome.

Hilden Events

Welcome to our New Organist

Hilden is pleased to welcome on April 10th,
Edith Selwyn-Smith
We look forward to her music in our worship.



Cards and Games, Anyone?

Interested in playing cards and/or board games? Join us at the Hilden church hall on the following dates:

March 11 – 1 p.m.

March 23 – 10 a.m.

April 1 – 7 p.m.

April 13 – 10 a.m.

April 29 – 7 p.m.

Coffee, tea, snacks and FUN!
Everyone is welcome.

Baby Band

A social time for pre-schoolers and their caregivers, is held at the Hilden Church Hall on alternate Friday mornings

March 4 and 18

April 1 and 15 and 29

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

For further information, call Jane at:
902-897-7333

Garden Club

Meet the third Monday of each month.

March 21

April 18

May 16

All are welcome.





Clifton District Fire Brigade

Awards Banquet

The Firemenette provided the meal for the Annual Banquet on February 13th, one way to show their appreciation to the dedicated volunteer firefighters. Awards presented included:

Firefighter of the Year –

Eric Paris

Officer of the Year –

Mitchell Creelman

First Responder of the Year –

Sheldon Scott

Province of Nova Scotia Fire Service Award Medals:

35 Years

James Yuill

John Yuill

Charlie Baird

Colie Kent

25 Years

Craig Herring

Trevor Forbes

10 Year Stars

Cheryl Burgess

Tyler Ash

Mavis Gordon, Firemenette

Governor General of Canada's Exemplary Service Medal:

Trevor Forbes

Many thanks to these and all the Firefighters and Supporters for their service throughout the year. We all sleep better knowing of your commitment and dedication to our community.

Old Barns Youth Drama Club

June 3 at 7 p.m.

The YDC production for the spring is Robert Fulghum's "**All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten**". The play is a comedy/drama conceived and adapted by Ernest Zulia and includes material from five of Robert Fulghum's books. They are performing 15 of the 22 stories/scenes and are mounting the non-musical version. The show is at the church and it will be one performance only on Friday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. The cast includes Gillian Blackburn, Taylor Masters, Theron and Dannan Forbes, Kayla and Nicole Giddens, and Ella and Caleb McCurdy. Joining the youth cast are Gordie Miller, Garry Mathews, and Kent Loughead. This show celebrates their 27th year as a club within our church. Admission will again be a free-will offering.



Youth Drama Club Members singing in church on January 24th: Gillian, Ella, Caleb, Kayla, Taylor and Nicole.



Jim Kent with Guest Speaker Diane Arden at the Seniors Luncheon on January 27. Diane gave a lively talk on Alzheimers, with Jim as her guinea pig.



At the Clifton Federation Christmas Party, Jim and Leslie Burrows presented Cpl. Robert John Hunka with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Community in honour of his Medal of Bravery for saving a woman in a house fire.



Early retirement has allowed Allan and Lydia Sorflaten to combine their expertise in Agriculture and Nutrition to volunteer over the past fifteen years in Trinidad/Tobago, Guyana, the Philippines and Cameroon, Africa.

Travel with them by visiting 'Sorflaten's Travels':

<http://sorflatentravels.blogspot.ca/> and
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=llsorflaten&page=1

For those with Winter Blues

These days will soon return!



Bus McCallum lighting the candles on the cake at his 90th Birthday Party, January 10th.



Embroidered Artwork in Hilden



Donna Dickey, Ian Harrison and Marnie Smith with Embroidered Silk Cross donated and dedicated to the church on February 14th. See story below.

Written by Marnie Smith

Recently, the Hilden United church was the recipient of a beautifully embroidered silk cross, handmade by Father Pirson, a missionary in the Belgian Congo during World War II. The journey of this art piece was extensive until it came to its final destination in the sanctuary of the Hilden Church. It was dedicated on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

The Navaux family (originally from Chimay, Belgium) gifted this artwork to our church where Suzan, daughter of Betty Navaux, married Greg, oldest son of Wayne and Marnie Smith in 1986.

Betty is a friend and mother of my daughter-in-law. Our kids met in Fredericton where both fathers were RCMP. Betty's parents were George and Suzanne Navaux from Chimay, Belgium. George was a pilot who flew with the Belgium Air Force, a fascinating man in his own right.

Father Pirson was a Roman Catholic priest and a good family friend; his brother was Betty's godfather (who was married to

Betty's aunt) – that is the connection. Father Pirson went to the Belgian Congo, somewhere in the 1939 to early forties period, Betty was not sure of the exact date. The embroidery was done by him while in the Congo ... the work is truly exquisite ... even the cord outline of the cross was handmade ... all in silk. Personally, I don't know how he found time to convert anyone judging by the work that went into this!!!

This piece of art travelled from the Congo to Belgium to France, crossed the ocean on the ship when the Navaux family immigrated to Canada and landed at Pier 21 (the family's name is on the wall there) then lived in Montreal for a while. Then onto New Brunswick before coming to rest in Nova Scotia. It was given to Betty as no one else wanted it. Betty said it went with her through the many transfers with her father (military) and husband (RCMP). It was always in the bottom of a drawer somewhere and she wasn't sure "where" it should be.

Betty moved to Parkland Estates in April. She would often pass by the little Hilden Church on the hill. She loved the country look it had and I (Marnie) reminded her that it was the church where our kids married. She told me she wanted a place for the cross and said she felt quite strongly that this is where "it is meant to be" if our church would like to have it. She had it professionally framed and it was dedicated on February 14th to a very appreciative congregation.

She had hoped to be in church to do it but her health spiralled down that week and I stood in for her. She wanted a home for this artwork before she passed away and is content to know that it has found a permanent home.

Editor's Note:

Thank you Betty for taking such good care of this beautiful embroidery and donating it to the Hilden church so that others will enjoy it now.

*Clifton Community Seniors
Association*

Formed February 1, 2009

Submitted by Millie McKim

We are a non-profit Group and have six dedicated women, Julia Blois, Kathy Hannah, Debbie Masters, Shirley Semple, Millie McKim, and Glenda Kent on our Board. We thought this Organization might bring more of our Communities together for fellowship. As of now we have had lots of compliments for our luncheons and musical evenings. Our community band "Highway 236" has been very faithful to provide music for our evening functions.

We were able (after a lot of work) and time to obtain one Provincial, one Federal, four Wellness and two Colchester County grants plus help from the County to help pay for our Insurance. These grants are very time consuming and done to specifications. County grants have to be presented before Council.

Over the years, along with our luncheons and musicals we have provided nearly \$30,000 of equipment for the church hall. We are not applying for any grants in 2016.

Together, we try to make a good lunch but had to raise our price to \$3.00 per person, We stay within our budget and try to break even; we are thrifty and often make our own desserts. We have a speaker or, entertainment; our average attendance is 45.

We leased the hall for ten years and pay \$400 per year for heat/lights. As we do not fall under the church umbrella, we pay our own insurance. This hall is the only center available in the immediate area to hold this type of function and we wish to give thanks for the privilege of having a meeting place.

This is just a little update on what our Board has been doing. As you can see we are all getting older but we will do our best. Hope to see you on March 30th. NO SNOW, please!

*The Truro and Area United Church
Refugee Sponsorship Group*

**Syrian Refugee Sponsorship
Report**

Submitted by Brian Hagell

On Thursday, February 18, 2016, the Truro and area United Churches met for the second time to begin the process of establishing whether or not there was enough support locally in our churches to sponsor a family from Syria for our community. Thirteen members were there for this meeting. Several members were not able to attend this particular meeting.

The decision, decided on by the thirteen members present was that "yes", the assistance process was a "GO". There are federal funds available to assist sponsors who are willing to help bring a family to this area. It was established that close to \$24,000 would be needed for the adoption of a family of six people, four children and two adults or some other family combination. \$10,000 of this total amount would come from Truro presbytery. It is hoped that each Pastoral Charge will be willing and able to raise \$2,000 as well to aid in the funding of this international humanitarian project. This \$24,000 would help sustain the family for one year.

For the benefit of the family, it was felt that accommodations close to the downtown core of Truro would be best for the new family. Close to doctors, shops, banks, grocery store, etc. This central region location will help make their transportation in and around town much easier than if they were living outside of the Truro area.

To help the Syrian Family in their new life here in the Truro area, there will be teams of people volunteering their time and efforts helping the new comers to get set up and established. For example: there will be a team helping the family members with learning English if it is needed, another team will be assisting with school work and making sure there is a good connection between home and school. If needed, a team of translators will be found and assigned to the family. No one will be in this

all by them selves. Anyone who volunteers will be working with other like-minded people who want to help the new family settled and on the road to self-reliance.

Once the forms are filled out and sent in to the Federal government, it is estimated that it may take up to 3 to 4 months for a family to arrive.

As the committee needs a name, it decided after some discussion, that our efforts would be under the new group's name of: The Truro and Area United Church Refugee Sponsorship Group.

The Reverend Ian Harrison, Beckie Burrows and myself, Brian Hagell, represented the Old Barns United Church.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.
First United Church Hall



Book Review

"My Life With Trees"

by Gary Saunders

Submitted by Brian W. Hagell

This past Christmas, I received a wonderful present. Often I get a book but this one was extra special since it was written by our own church and community member and also well know forester, Gary Saunders.

Over the past years I have not been reading very much in book form. The audio books tend to be my "reading" medium of choice. However, as I began to read chapter 1 of Mr. Saunders' book, "My Life With Trees", concerning the cedar family of trees, I soon realized the book and I had a certain connection which we shared.

Having worked in New Brunswick one winter in the woods surveying and such, I remembered coming upon a growth of cedars in the woods one day. I can remember thinking at the time (1979), "Hey, these are cedars and we don't have too many growing in the wild in Nova Scotia."

The cedars were growing, just like it says in Mr. Saunders' book in a low, wet area of the woods. This is one of the many facets of the book that I enjoy. It seems that for each variety of tree described, I seem to have a little story or connection to that tree.

Thank goodness for the scientific names of each tree and their varieties, otherwise there could be a great deal of confusion. For example: Tamarack is also known as hackmatack, juniper, larch. I've enjoyed learning the various names that each tree has depending on its location. Just like other plants and animals, where you grew up has a great bearing on the name assigned to local flora and fauna.

The book, "My Life With Trees", not only describes trees in their environment, their shape and lifespan but also delves into their historic importance in days gone by. He explains how each tree has a special character about it that made them valuable for certain uses. This information is very informative and makes the book that much more enjoyable to read. We all know that maple wood provides the best heat for a wood stove and that if we were to shingle a house we would probably use cedar. But what if you for wanted to start up an old fashioned tannery. What type of tree would you look for? Before chemical preserving of wood, what trees would make the best railroad ties?

I like the layout of the book as well. Each of the twenty-eight trees highlighted in the book has its own chapter and for me it is a feature I enjoy. One chapter makes for an easy read after supper, before bed or some quiet time you might be able to manage for yourself.

"My Life With Trees" is not just a book of scientific facts. No, it is more of a history of the natural world around us, a history of Man's place in this natural world of trees and future hopes for trees in the generations to come. This story is a wonderful read. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in the ecology of the forest and the history of our recent forest past.

"My Life With Trees" by Gary L. Saunders is printed by Gaspereau Press of Nova Scotia

Movie Review

“Brooklyn”

Submitted by Ian Harrison

Bravo for Brooklyn!

As the Academy Awards loom closer (February 28th, if you're marking your calendars), I always make a concerted effort to see as many of the nominated pictures as I can, and considering the geyser of titles that are released all at one time during this season, each year brings me varying degrees of success in accomplishing this. Most years, I do indeed have at least one to root for, regardless of their chances or how highly touted they are. For the record, I will be hoping Leonardo Di Caprio finally gets recognized for his amazing work in 'The Revenant,' and wouldn't mind seeing the latest Star Wars instalment win a few technical prizes. But it is no secret, at least to those who've already heard me gush about it, that my heart holds a very special place for Brooklyn, even though it is far from being one of the front-runners. I have been so thrilled to hear others have taken me up on my recommendation and ran out to see it, leaving the theater as overjoyed as I have been.

Brooklyn is an absolute revelation in this day and age, not only because it is not cluttered by violence and stuff blowing up, but also because it is a film about feelings and mood and subtlety. The gaping flaw in so many modern movies today (and has been for a while now) is they are driven solely by plot and effects. Oftentimes they have what might be a promising premise without the ability to carry it through to feature-length.

Brooklyn centers itself around the experience of an immigrant woman named Eilis from a small village in Ireland, finding herself overwhelmed by the sheer size and impersonal nature of the city. You enter into the homesickness and loneliness of one longing for a friend and a remnant of the home she has left, and only gradually does she find companionship, an appreciation of her surroundings, and a niche she might carve out for herself. Later, the home of her origins calls to her again, and Eilis must decide where she is called to be and who she has become.

The source of this film's majesty is undoubtedly because of Saoirse Ronan's performance as Eilis and how she entrances the screen with such understated meekness, delight, and what I can only call 'illuminescence.' This is a star-making performance that you know is capturing you simply because you want only the best of happiness for her. The period atmosphere of early 1950s America feels authentic; the sentiment is anything but cloying, and the pace leisurely.

After many years of being intimately acquainted with the cinema, with my track record in having seen more than my fair share, very rarely am I able to go from a theatre having been completely satisfied, enlightened, and completely won over by a story that seems at the face of it so simple and yet so glorious. This happened for me, and my trust in the power of movies today has at long last been renewed!

As an aside observation, if the comparison is in fact apropos, it does make me reflect on what the experience might be like for those newly arriving to this or any country that is suddenly foreign to them. No doubt for refugees from Syria and other areas, the challenges are much more broad and complex. Newness of language, climate, technology, and social landscapes are only a few that come to mind.

Yet beyond what is incidental, I wonder if the experience of having seen Brooklyn just might help any of us to empathize with what it feels like to be away from what we've known as home. Can we even wrap our hearts and our heads around it? The distance travelled is more than a few thousand miles. What essence of community might be discovered once they have reached their new destination? Will it be welcoming? Will it be a culture shock in more ways than we might imagine? What if we were in someone like Eilis' position? Would we fare as well?

The word 'home' means so much to so many: the company of loved ones, a state of mind and being, a place that speaks to our spiritual self. Brooklyn describes these and much more, an absolutely lovely movie experience!

Silence – Some Thoughts to Ponder

Submitted by Barbara A. Miller

Silence is golden. Or is it?

Spending time in silence, choosing not to speak and removing oneself from exterior noise for a certain period of time on a regular basis, can definitely be a calming and restorative practice.

A nice walk in a park or on a nature trail can offer many insights about the world of natural beauty around us, as well as the world of natural beauty within us. Even doing our routine daily chores like sweeping a floor or washing dishes, baking, or hanging out a line of clothes, done in silence, can offer a few moments of reflection about the people we do those things for, and our love and hopes for them.

People who choose to spend an extended time in silence, such as a retreat for a couple of days, or even longer, will often tell you that it is a very “liberating” experience. Even when they had wondered beforehand how they will ever be able to keep quiet for as long as 24 hours or, heaven forbid, even longer! Being with others in silence, although it may take a bit of time to settle into the silent space, takes away the pressure of needing to fill our time together with conversation.

One need not apologize or explain an impulse to go out for a walk, or just sit and look at a magazine, or be still and meditate. There is no expectation, or agenda, attached to the time spent together. One of the things that most often scares people, I think, when contemplating the idea of being in silence, whether it is with others or alone, is how to process the thoughts and feelings which often arise from the experience. Journaling can be one of the most effective ways to examine those thoughts and feelings, especially when looking back on the experience later. Some form or artwork can also benefit the process as it allows a person to completely immerse in the piece of work, whether it be painting or writing or coloring, there are lots of different ways to “lose oneself”.

I think the choice to be silent on a regular basis leads naturally to being “still”, which is not quite the same thing. Being in silence, with others and in the world around you, is not quite the same as taking time away from all of that external stuff and becoming ‘still’. In stillness the body and mind stop. A time spent in stillness, the quieting of your body and emptying all thoughts from your busy mind (or trying to!), is somewhat different than walking silently along a nature trail. It’s a bit more challenging for most people to do this for even a few moments! The use of focused breathing or a mantra can help to settle into it, but for most it is difficult to maintain for more than a few minutes at a time without years of practice.

However, the benefits of staying with the practice, even for a few minutes a day, are said to be beneficial to one’s physical as well as mental health. The stillness, the quiet within, brings more focus to the rest of the day, promoting more compassionate responses to situations around you and in conversations with loved ones and co-workers.

I’ve just finished reading a book called *Listening Below the Noise* by Ann De LeClaire. She begins a practice of spending every first and third Monday of the month in silence. She offers insight and advice with honesty and humour about the pros and cons of this practice. One of the things which spoke to me is that she came to realize, during the years of this practice, that she began to pay attention to what she would have said, had she not been in silence, which revealed that many times ‘silence is golden’. The benefits of her silent Mondays, whether alone or in situations where others were not in silence, grew to her craving for the silence so much that she continued the practice for 17 years as of the release of her book.

However, she also discovered, in talking with people over the years that she had been practicing her silence, that silence, in some instances, is far from golden. One man spoke to her about coming from a culture where silence is imposed on women as a form of control, and in fact he himself had been in captivity where silence was

used as a form of torture. Ann herself had been raised in a home where, instead of talking things out, or even arguing, remaining silent was the way of dealing with disagreements.

Perhaps you are familiar with the feeling of sitting in comfortable silence with a loved one, where no words are necessary, just a companionship as each sits with their thoughts, or book, or puzzle book.

Perhaps you've also experienced that place where the silence is vibrating with unspoken truths that need to be expressed. Your nerves are skittering with energy that demands release. The silence is deafening. Someone needs to speak. Whether this is tension in a close personal relationship, or an injustice that you are aware of in a group, this silence must be interrupted. A voice needs to be heard. A process must begin ... of speaking up, or speaking out, to protect and/or preserve a relationship which is important to you.

In this manner, the difference between stillness and silence becomes clearer. A period of stillness, whether it's a day or an hour, can positively influence your voice when it is imperative that you **not** remain silent. Intentional, chosen silence is a wonderful practice. Meditative stillness, quieting the mind and body so that we can hear the still, small voice within, is fast becoming recognized as a healing practice around the world. In times of such violence and hatred among nations and cultures, have we ever needed stillness more?

The word
LISTEN
contains
the same letters
as the word
SILENT.
— Alfred Brendel

Belgium

The end of November, Leslie and Catherine Burrows spent a week in Belgium. Catherine was on her way back from Astana, Kazakhstan where her work took her for ten days while Leslie flew over to meet her. We spent a wonderful week visiting Antwerp, Bruges, Ypres, Ghent and Brussels. What a lovely country and people.



Catherine by canal in Ghent.

No matter which town we were in, there were Lace Shops, Chocolate Shops and Beer Shops. It was rough but each time we went in a chocolate shop, we had to sample their wares!

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to the cemeteries around Ypres and Passchendaele. We also visited Menin Gate where we saw the Last Post being played. It has been played every evening at 8:00 p.m. since July 2, 1928.

We climbed the 366 steps of the Belfry in Bruges and the 255 steps of the Belfry in Ghent. We visited a medieval castle and stayed in a hotel that was built in 1780.

We toured the canals in both Bruges and Ghent. They were all manmade in centuries past as a means for moving goods.

We visited many churches and cathedrals. The architecture is magnificent.

We met people from all over the world. Another wonderful memory for the future. Where next shall we travel??

Old Barns United Circle Cookbook

Submitted by Leslie Burrows

How many of you have this cookbook on your shelf or in the recipe drawer in your kitchen. Is the cover gone, the pages dog-eared and stained?

In speaking with Kathie Chisholm, she thinks the publication date was circa 1958.

I have Millie Burrows copy that has a cover featuring Santa and says 32 Christmas Cards – Special Value. The special value part is true indeed. The original front cover has been long gone. You can tell the favourite recipes by the stains and flour remnants on the paper.



The first page states:

“These tried and true recipes are contributed for this publication by members of the United Circle and other ladies of the district of Old Barns, Colchester County, Nova Scotia.

What follows are 137 pages of recipes and extra hints, covering the following headings:

Breads
Cakes
Icings
Candies
Cookies – Squares
Desserts
Salada
Supper Dishes
Preserves – Pickles
Yuletide Recipes

The following is the list of the women from whose kitchens the recipes came. Notice how their names were written. If I have it correct, only five of the original 40 ladies are still alive.

*Baxter	Mrs. Douglas	
*Blackburn	Mrs. Arnold	
*Burgess	Mrs. Dart	
Chisholm	Mrs. Don C.	(Kathie)
*Chisholm	Mrs. Don R.	
*Chisholm	Mrs. Harry	
*Creelman	Mrs. Arthur	
*Crowe	Mrs. Jess	
*Crowe	Mrs. Roland	
*Crowe	Miss Ruth	
*Dearman	Mrs. Walter	
*Farr	Mrs. Harry	
*Favier	Mrs. Murray	
*Feast	Mrs. Helen	
*Forbes	Mrs. Carman	
*Henderson	Mrs. Reg	
*Jorgensen	Mrs. Niels	
*Kennedy	Mrs. Raymond	
*Loughead	Mrs. Donald	
Loughead	Mrs. Frank	(Rowena)
*Loughead	Mrs. Fred	
*Loughead	Mrs. Robert	
*Lynds	Mrs. Harold	
McCallum	Mrs. Sylvester	(Doris)
*McCurdy	Mrs. Allison	
*McCurdy	Mrs. George	
*McCurdy	Mrs. Percy	
*Nelson	Miss Ethel	
*Nelson	Mrs. Gordon	
*Pendleton	Mrs. Erving	
*Sterling	Miss Hettie	
Stewart	Mrs. Ruthen	(Joyce)
*Tanner	Mrs. William	
*Weatherby	Mrs. C.B.	
*White	Mrs. Earl	
*Yuill	Mrs. Charles	
*Yuill	Mrs. Elmer	
*Yuill	Mrs. Isaac	
*Yuill	Mrs. Jack	
Yuill	Mrs. Laurence	(Helen Zwicker)

What follows is a recipe from the kitchen of Mrs. Arnold Blackburn (Mae). Her son Jim was kind enough to put some of his memories down for this e-newsletter. They will follow the recipe.

Cry Baby Cookies

Recipe from Mrs. Arnold Blackburn

1		egg
1	cup	molasses
1	cup	brown sugar
1	cup	milk
2/3	cup	shortening
4	cups	flour
1	teaspoon	salt
1	teaspoon	cinnamon
1	teaspoon	cloves
2	teaspoons	baking soda

Mix ingredients as for any other cookie.
Drop on baking sheet and bake in a
"Cookie" oven, i.e., in a fairly hot oven.

Memories



Submitted by Jim Blackburn

My parents, Arnold and Mae Blackburn, moved out to Clifton from Truro in 1934. My father worked for the Truro Electric Commission at the time. On one of his trips through Old Barns and Princeport reading meters, he heard of an empty house in Clifton that may be for sale. He contacted the owner that was then living out west. The sale was done.

The Blackburn family of four boys and one girl moved out to Clifton (two girls were born later in Clifton). It was a big shock to my mother since she was a city girl and had never lived in the country and on top of that there was no electricity in the house, no running water – just a hand pump, and an outhouse.

Mother and Dad took part in the community affairs. Dad was treasurer of the church for awhile. He was in the Credit Union, Home and School (both mother and Dad) locally

and provincially, Rural Beautification, and Dad was the area counselor for a time.

My father wired the church as well as most of the farms on the Shore Road after the power line was installed.

I began my schooling in Truro (kindergarten) but my grade schooling was at the small one room school in Clifton. There were only about 12 or 14 students at best, grades one to ten, however, one year there were only nine students, five Blackburns and four Faulkners. I went to the Colchester Academy for my grade 11 and 12.

When I graduated from the Academy, I had hoped to take forestry at UNB, however, I heard that Alcan was giving a course in Analytical Chemistry in conjunction with McGill University. I applied and was accepted. On graduation, I remained with Alcan. Needless to say, I had to learn to speak French since that was the language of the workers in the plant.

I worked for Alcan in Arvida (located 125 miles north of Quebec City) for 38 years in various departments and capacities. These were: the main laboratory, chemical development, chemical production, research, and support to chemical sales worldwide. The latter took me to many parts of Europe, South America, and the United States.

It was an interesting career since I became involved in so many phases of the Alcan chemical business. The primary business was developing a range of aluminas (aluminum oxide) for industry, however, we made other chemicals such as chlorine, and aluminum sulphate (alum) which we supplied to the Truro water filtration plant.

The alumina was used in such things as spark plugs (porcelain part), catalyst support for exhaust pollution control in cars, grinding media, insulation for computer circuitry, insulators for high voltage lines, chine (white wares), artificial knees, and high temperature refractories used in the steel industry. Fused alumina is next to the diamond in hardness.

I married my first wife in 1953. We had six children which was the norm at that time in Quebec. All the family is bilingual. There were many opportunities for the children to learn sports and other cultural things since it was a company town with everything provided.

Just imagine a rec centre with hockey, curling, dancing, play groups, girl guides and boy scouts. There was a ski hill, lit for night skiing (with T-bar) and in the summer, we had a yacht club, only a ten-minute drive away where the children were taught sailing. The sailboats were made by the fathers and friends throughout the winter months.

I retired in 1986, returning to a new home that I had built on the Captain Marshall property that I had purchased in 1956. I had always admired the view from his home and was carried away by the stories of his sea adventures. I had the opportunity to watch as he built a scale model of the ship *Anne E Wright* that Captain Davis (from Clifton) was the Master. This model was built in the living room of Captain Marshall's home where you could look down the bay to Five Islands to the north of the Bay and to Blomidon to the south. The model ship is on display in the Maritime Museum, Halifax.

The mid-1930's were difficult for most families, ours was no exception, however, there was always food on the table. Mother would not turn away anyone looking for food. I remember on one occasion, she took in a couple and their dog. I can still hear his words while at the door, "She's tired, I am tired, the dog is tired. We will sleep on the floor anywhere." Mother put them up on a fold-out couch for the night.

We had a one-mile walk to school, often in knee-high snow in the winter or in the spring in six inches of mud. (Eighty years later, we still have the mud,)

The bay behind the house had nice sandy beaches where we could walk for a mile in each direction in our shoes. Today, the bay is silted in with mud and sage grass and no sign of the sandy beach.

My first and only ride on the Black Rock Ferry was the first year that we lived in Clifton. The church Sunday School had the

picnic at the Club House (Truro Cycle Club) at Black Rock. There were races of various types such as tree-legged, egg, and sack races. The highlight was a ride on the ferry at high tide. Edgar Nelson, his son Gordon, and other parents kept us in the center of the ferry for the trip. I was probably the youngest kid on the ferry. I don't believe the ferry ran the following year.

One adventure that I had when I was about 15 years old was a canoe trip with my father from behind the house at high tide to Grand Pre in the Valley. We took three tides to go from home to our destination and only two tides to come back. We camped at Noel Bay the first night. When we crossed Minas Basin, we passed ocean ships that were heading to Walton to load barite or gypsum at Hantsport.

Another canoe adventure was at the end of the war when the American Base at Selma was closed. There was an auction or sale of all the new and used equipment that was intended for the base. My father was interested in buying a new bathtub (still in its crate). The problem was getting to Selma. Dad decided that we would canoe on the early morning tide and head for Maitland on the day of the sale. Everything went fine on the trip to Maitland, however, Dad bought the tub, crate and all, several other items that were smaller such as boots, oil lamps, bow with arrows for me, etc. Someone offered Dad a lift with his truck to Lawrence House where we had left the canoe.

It was nearly dark when we got to the canoe and the tide was coming in with a gale blowing down the river. We had to remove the tub from the crate, lash it to the top of the canoe with all the goodies put inside. By that time, the tide had risen higher but all we had to guide us was the light of Edgar Nelson's. Once we crossed the river, we followed the shoreline up to the house. The girls had made a large fire by the shore to guide us. Looking back today, we must have been nuts!

Thank you Jim for sharing your memories with us. We are so pleased that you moved back to your boyhood community.