

NEWS

Have I Got e-  for You!



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



No 4

October 2016

Message from Your Editor

Once again, thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter. It is an enjoyable day for me to sit down and take all the bits and pieces and patch them together into a quilt of news for you to read. And saying that, it reminds me of the 1994 booklet of stories, "A Patchwork of Anecdotes & Memories" that Florence M. Yuill collected from the "Ladies of Clifton District". Now where did that 22 years go?! Nearly half of the contributors are no longer with us. That is why it is so important that we get our stories down on paper.

The view out my window this morning is of a beautiful, blue-sky day with splashes of colour showing up in the trees. The farm is busy as the combine is readied to bring in the beans as soon as the morning moisture burns off. The silo is being prepared for the corn that will be harvested tomorrow. The orange of pumpkins is showing up in the patch. Thanksgiving is upon us. Autumn is truly a splendor for the eyes and a feast for the belly!

Leslie

There is nothing you can dream that you cannot achieve
Have the courage to go after your dreams and believe
Always remember that you are beautiful and unique
Never give up when going after what you seek
Keep reminders around to remind you of your dreams
Savour the present for it goes quicker than it seems
Give more to others than you receive
Inspire others with all that you achieve
Value yourself, you are perfect for you
Individuality is important so let it shine through
Notice the small miracles all around you
Greatness starts from within and is in all that you do.

*Church Services –
October to December*

*We are Welcoming and Affirming Churches.
All are invited in.*

Services on the first Sunday of each month:
9:30 a.m. in Old Barns
11:00 a.m. in Hilden

Other Sundays of the month:
9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Exceptions:

October 9 - 10:30 a.m. at CEC with other United Churches and the UCC Moderator

October 30 – Joint Service in Hilden Hall
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Muffins
10:00 a.m. Service
Cold Buffet Luncheon following Service/discussion concerning Remits on future format for UCC

December 24 – Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Family Service in Old Barns
7:00 p.m. Hilden
9:00 p.m. Old Barns

December 25 – Christmas Day
No Service

January 1 – Joint Service in Old Barns
Watch for time.

Celebrations in the Church:

November 6 – Remembrance Day
November 27/December 4, 11, 18 – Sundays of Advent



Old Barns Youth Drama Club

December 22 and 23 7:00 p.m.
All are welcome. Free will offering.

*Autumn Pictures
from Green Oak*



“... and for someone who likes to rock, a rocking chair in the middle.”



Changing from Summer to Autumn colours.



Soy beans awaiting the combine.



The corn harvest has begun.



The last of the sunflowers – a bright spot of colour against the blue sky.

Old Barns Events

October to December

Anniversaries

50 Years or More!

55 – Glenda and Jim Kent

57 – Sybil and Bill McCurdy

57 – Joyce and Ruthven Stewart

*Another year,
another great reason to celebrate!*

October to December Birthdays

80 Years or More!

82 – Kathie Chisholm

83 – Jim Kent

87 – Anne Cox

88 – Eveline Whitehead (a
September miss in last edition)

92 – Elizabeth Collins

*Special day, special person and special
celebration. May all your dreams and desires
come true in this coming year.*

A Great-Grandson – A First Great!

Regan Edward Weinberg

A first Great grandchild for Don and
Kathie Chisholm

A Grandson – A Second (after 32 years!)

Henry Russell Burris

The second grandson for Jean Burris
and the first son for Michael & Kim



*There are two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

– Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Good Bye, Dear Friends



Olive Doreen Chase
March 31, 1936 – July 31, 2016



Patricia Lee (Farr) Archibald
September 24, 2016 aged 62 years

In Loving Memory

*Our memories build a special bridge
When loved ones have to part
To help us feel we're with them still
And soothe a grieving heart.
Our memories span
The years we shared,
Preserving ties that bind,
They build a special bridge of love
And bring us peace of mind.*

By Emily Matthews



Building Projects in Old Barns

..... and somewhere at the back of a field, up the Irwin Lake Road, there is a hole in the ground where Stuart & Tiffany Yuill are building a house.



Well, that was the last newsletter – today it is ready to be moved into.



Below – sunset as seen from the new home.



Old Barns also welcomes Julie Miller who purchased the Wier home from Chrissy and Mark.

Watch for a couple of new homes that should pop up in Old Barns over the next couple of months.

Two Poems from Years Gone By

These are songs that I learned when I was in school during the 1930's.

– Elizabeth Collins

October's Party

October gave a party,
The leaves by hundreds came
The chestnuts, oaks and maples
From trees of every name.

The sunshine spread a carpet
And everything was grand
Miss Weather led the dancing
Professor Wind the band.

They gathered to their partners
And danced around and round
And when the party ended
All fluttered to the ground.



Jack Frost

Little Jack Frost walked up the hill
Late in the night when the winds were still,
Late in the fall when the leaves fell down,
Red and yellow and golden brown.

Little Jack Frost walked through the trees,
“Ah,” said the branches, “We freeze, we freeze!”
“Ah”, said the flowers, “We die, we die!”
Said Little Jack Frost. “’Tis I, ‘tis I.”

Little Jack Frost walked down the hill,
Late in the night when the winds were still,
Late in the fall when the leaves fell down
Red and yellow and golden brown.



A Prayer

– submitted by Don Chisholm

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's much I
haven't done
I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81,
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,
Would you let me stay awhile, until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so very much to
see,
Do you think that you can manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast; there is so much
in store.
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.
And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay until
I'm 85.
More planes will be up in the air, so I'd like to
stick and see what happens to the world when I
turn 86.
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must
be nice in heaven)
But I'd really like to stay until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes
will be late,
But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things, and had a
wonderful time,
So I am sure I'd be willing to leave at the age of
89 – maybe.
Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord, I
thank you kindly
But if it's okay, I'd love to live past 90.

Author Unknown



Hilden Baked Beans & Brown

Bread - "Take Out"

Saturday, November 19th between 3 and 5 p.m.

\$8.99 will get you:
one litre baked beans
one loaf brown bread

Why Go To Church

– submitted by Glenda Kent

If you are spiritually alive –

you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead –

you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I am wasting my time and the preachers and priest are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this – They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible,

Believes the incredible, and

Receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment. If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all!



A Note from Rev. Ian

May the blessings of this harvest season fill us with thanksgiving! When I was a child, I was encouraged to compose long lists of things for which I was thankful: food, friendship, family, etc. And those important blessings still remain. But this year, I think it's fair to say, in an all-encompassing statement of thanks, that I am just grateful to be alive. I never thought I'd see the day when 'health' would be at the top of my list of appreciations, but in light of all that has happened over the last while, this is indeed where I am. Every step, taken slower than I used to take them, is a blessing. Every morsel, savoured and chewed oh so carefully and thoroughly, is a blessing. Every deep breath, especially ones not accompanied by pain or discomfort, is a blessing. I have been told all my life that breaking down each of these functions into the simplest actions (breathing, swallowing, walking reflectively in no rush to get anywhere in particular), would somehow bring me to a greater sense of gratitude. Who would have thought it would later be a requirement? But I force myself to take the perspective that Michael J. Fox has taken, which he described in his book entitled fittingly, "Lucky Man." While it seems strange to say one is lucky to be walking around with an incurable disease, which in his case is Parkinson's, it forces you to take a more gracious perspective of what you still have. I will still be able to enjoy the majority of the spread that consists of our traditional Thanksgiving dinner (well-cooked food is the best!), I still have my family that surrounds and supports me, I still have each new day that breeds opportunities and choices. Thankfully, due to my new set of limitations, my ability to find complaints and get worked up about the world's problems, as was my tendency to do before is no longer beneficial. So a way of gratitude is actually the healthier way to be. Something tells me this applies to whatever might be our physical condition. May it promote healthier days for us all, observing our every movement, our carefully chosen words, seeking to live whole lives that express how thankful we are to be here and enjoying them. Let us give thanks for all the people in our lives, including our church community. Life would not be complete without you all!

Blessings be, Rev. Ian

Old Barns Food Bank Garden

– by Garry Matthews

The food bank garden is a joint project of the Old Barns Men's club and the Knights of Columbus of Immaculate Conception RC Church in Truro. It is hosted in three locations this year, at the home of John and Mary Heukshorst in Beaver Brook, James Yuill's farm in Beaver Brook and Bidaloy Farm in Old Barns.



The garden was planted in the spring and throughout the summer; fresh garden produce has been grown, harvested and delivered to the Colchester Food Bank. The garden is in its prime now, as root crops are being harvested along with weekly crops of beans, beets, summer turnip, summer squash, collard greens and kale, and lettuces.



We have been fortunate to have help from members of the 4H in the community with the harvesting and weeding.

We have delivered to the Colchester Food Bank a total of 9,839 lbs. during August. Most deliveries have been made to the Food Bank within two hours of harvest to preserve

freshness. In September, 13, 523 pounds were delivered.



The harvests have consisted of lettuces, radicchio, kale, Swiss chard, collards, beans, peas, cabbage, tomatoes, corn, summer turnips, beets, carrots, potatoes, cucumber, onions, leeks, fennel and zucchini, parsley, and soon there will be winter squash, pumpkin and rutabaga.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with any part of the garden work this summer.

Barns – New and Old



The Burris barn is nearing completion – hoping to have the cattle in by the first of November.



Beau Blois gave the Round Barn a new look, sheathing the outside in hemlock, including trim and rain gutters all made from hemlock.

Congratulations

Dr. Anthony Gracey, PhD, Sociology

Anthony received his Doctorate degree on August 30, 2016 from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. He is currently starting a career as a Professor of Sociology at Acadia University in Wolfville.

Anthony has grown up here in this community, the youngest member of the "Shillelagh House" Gracey family, and stays closely connected to family and friends here in the community.

So give a 'shout-out' of congratulations when you see him ... we're proud of you Dr. Gracey, your students are very fortunate to have a leader, teacher, mentor of your calibre!

Submitted by The Millers,
on behalf of your Siesta Drive family of neighbours and friends!

For Rent

Clifton Acres will have a two-bedroom apartment, complete with five appliances, available for rent as of December 1, 2016.

Any interested parties please contact:
Bill McCurdy, 902-895-4004 or
Gordie Miller, 902-895-6833.



Clifton Acres – a view from the back

Waugh - Burris Wedding



Jenna at Community Wedding Show,
Old Barns Church



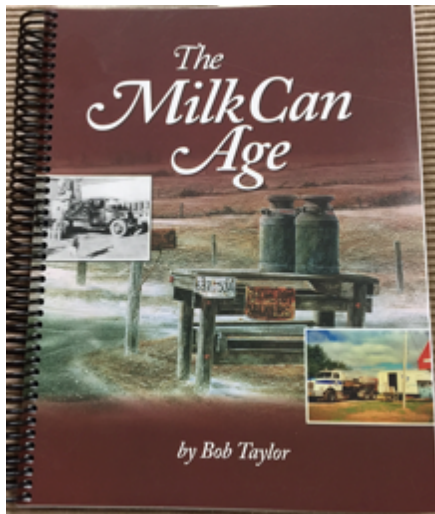
The Family Portrait at September 24th Wedding
Anthony Waugh, Phillip Burris, Jenna & Stephen
Burris, Penny Buchanan, Karen Archibald-
Waugh



A sure sign of autumn

Book Review

– by Jim Burrows



The milk can era ended before I was bigger than the milk can. While I never had to pull the full milk cans out of the cold water in the can cooler, or sling them onto the milk truck, I have many memories of the milk can, milk truck and the milk truck drivers.

Bob Taylor's book "The Milk Can Age", both brought back memories and put a perspective on a time before my memories. Most of the stories are from events south and west of our communities, but a few touch our communities. Anyone who has been involved in the dairy industry will recognize many names and personalities. Anyone with an interest in the history of life and small business in rural Nova Scotia post Second World War will be rewarded with Bob's documentation of events.

This book is available for \$30 by calling Bob Taylor at 902-956-3753



Clifton Pastoral Charge Participates With Other United Churches In Truro's First Pride Parade!

– by Barb Miller

On July 17, 2016, Truro hosted its first ever Pride Parade ... and what a show of pride in the diversity of our town and surrounding communities it was!!

After hearing of the event, I sent out an email to our Diversity in Action committee members to see if there may be some interest in joining the parade, which led to a request to Leslie to send an email to all our e-newsletter subscribers to determine if there was enough interest to organize a group to walk in the parade. Response was slow in the beginning, but when an email came in from St. David's United Church inviting others to join with them as part of a group of Colchester Area Churches, we decided to gather as many who were interested and walk as a larger group of supporters of this event.

I didn't get an actual head count of how many were in the larger United Church group, but our Clifton Pastoral Charge added nine to that number ... Rev. Ian and Mary Jo Harrison, Garry and Sandy Matthews, Debbie Rutherford, Heather Chase, Beckie Burrows, and Gordie and Barb Miller.

It was a beautiful sunny day, and even though the time spent in the parking lot waiting to start the parade was very hot, the crowd gathered there were in high spirits and enjoying the rainbow colors displayed on signs, vehicles, people of all ages, and pets too! The energy of the participants was contagious as young and old danced and sang and expressed themselves in their own unique ways!

Once the parade started its' collective walk from the Victoria Square area, Commercial Street onto Prince and on up to the Farmer's Market parking lot, the momentum continued to build as spectators along the way cheered and waved flags and showed their support by wearing all the colors of the rainbow in various outfits as well as face and hair coloring! It truly was an event to remember. We were inspired by the positive

energy from the crowd as we made our way along the street. Folks having lunch at sidewalk restaurants, and sitting or standing along the sidewalk with friends and families, were all very generous with their show of support for this event. When we came to the final few feet of the walk there were even a few who gave us a much-needed spray of cool water from their “super-soakers”! For myself, I welcomed a little bit of cooling spray after the heat of the walk! One of the entries, which I didn’t see until the parade had ended, was a small child’s wagon, with a sign which read “I am learning respect, empathy and love”... it says it all with simplicity!

On our walk back down to the area where we had parked our car, we had a chance to talk to a few of the spectators and again were so pleased to hear positive comments about the whole event. It was well organized, it was colourful, it was energetic, it was fun, and it was time for our communities to celebrate the diversity here in our midst. Indeed it is!!

I know I will be proud and excited to participate in the, hopefully many, future pride parades here in our town, our community at large.



Ian, Mary Jo, Beckie, Sandra, Gordie, Garry, Heather and Debbie in front.



Africa to Nova Scotia

– by Lydia Sorflaten

How would you choose to show our community, our part of the world, to a person from North West Cameroon, Africa? In this case the person’s interests are ‘humanitarian’: defending the rights of the marginalized in society; organizing people to decide the priorities for their community improvement; helping people who test positive for HIV to be treated and to address the stigmatization that so often besets them; helping the handicapped; addressing child labor in a developing third world country and more.



What better place to start than Old Barns United Church! No rest for the weary! Mme. Oussematou travelled some 29 hours, arriving late Friday. Mother’s Day was Sunday so we quickly worked on a presentation ‘Orphans and Vulnerable Children’ to portray some of the problems addressed by the organization she directs, the Integrated Development Foundation (IDF). This was the first of five presentations that Oussematou made about the ways in which IDF addresses social needs in North West Cameroon. You can review their content by pasting the following into Google.

<http://www.slideshare.net/LydiaSorflaten/integrated-development-foundation-bamenda-cameroon-orphans-and-vulnerable-children>

Matou really enjoyed the ‘pot luck’ lunch and especially visiting with people. She brought with her a hand crafted banner entitled ‘Sweet Mother’ for our church. The young mother is carrying a baby on her back along with a load on her head! This is a commonplace sight of the women at work in rural NW Cameroon!



The Rotary Club of Truro brought Mme. Oussematou here to be keynote speaker for our District Conference. The focus of her talk was 'Repairing Schools, Building Communities.' These school projects were initiated as a result of Allan and I seeing deplorable conditions first at the GS Illum school in the extreme Northwest. The story unfolded over a four-year period and had very interesting results.

You can watch Her Rotary presentation on u tube by double clicking on this link (or pasting the link into the top bar on the Google page

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwDJ35NG8Ys&feature=youtu.be>

Mme. Oussematou works seamlessly with all religions. She always had the Imam attend special events that had been held when we were in Africa. Formal events always are opened and ended with prayer. People are very religious. In watching the video you should note that one school has Muslim children and the other Christian (Presbyterian). Strong Christian values are emphasized in both schools. It also was interesting at the turnover to the community of the three room school in Befang when an elder approached me and insisted on knowing what church I belong to. When I said United Church he nodded, knowingly pleased. There is a connection between the United Church and their Presbyterian. The Befang school is run by the Presbytery. All students' families must pay school fees that are a struggle for most families.

For the many who cannot afford them, the children do not attend.

Pictures of the highlights of Mme. Oussematou's visit to Nova Scotia have been turned into slideshows for your review. The first shows Mme. Oussematou at our Rotary Conference and then making a presentation at the Old Barns United Church. It has been said that a society can be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable of its people. Matou was so touched and impressed by Rotary House. 'Everyone is busy' she said, 'right down to the person so diligently scrubbing the big garbage pail'.

http://www.slideshare.net/LydiaSorflaten/africville-zion-maggies-victoria-shortts-lake?utm_source=slideshow&utm_medium=sse-mail&utm_campaign=post_upload_view_cta

We visited the Charlie Hill farm in Onslow, Africville, Maggie's Place, Ecole Acadienne and the Coady Institute in Antigonish. Charlie Hill, in his will, left a sum of money to the Rotary Club of Truro specifying that it be used for an international project. The school project in Befang was so designated and has been named in his honor.

At Maggie's Place (a resource center/playschool can be described as a dream Oussematou has for NW Cameroon) she looked with interest at the grow boxes, a project she talked about with Gary Saunders. She feels a great deal more needs to be done to encourage families to grow food for themselves.

Although our time was limited, we managed to enjoy Sunday morning worship at Zion Baptist Church. It was good to feel the warmth of the church community, especially in light of having visited the sad story of Africville! Here is the link to the slides from these visits:

http://www.slideshare.net/LydiaSorflaten/africville-zion-maggies-victoria-shortts-lake?utm_source=slideshow&utm_medium=sse-mail&utm_campaign=post_upload_view_cta

Matou has such a beautiful way of expressing herself from the heart. Here are some of her comments: 'you gave me the opportunity to touch the lives of so many people. It is work and effort with the blessing of Almighty God that has yielded fruit. I am just a tool used to achieve all

these. We were lucky to have met through a godly directed choice presented by CESO (Canadian Executive Service Organization). It came at a timely moment to change my life, to give me hope and to take me high up to unbelievable places.'

It has been a privilege for us to work in Africa with Mme. Oussematou over the past six years. Seeing her in action working positively to improve the lives of the handicapped, those living with HIV AIDS, orphans, those without family, the elderly and then being able to let her see our part of the world has been an incredible experience difficult to describe. Giving, sharing, loving, seeing lives change for the better. What could be more satisfying!



COMMUNITY SUPPER

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
A COMMUNITY SUPPER**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016
4:30 – 6:00 P.M.**

**COBEQUID FIRE HALL
LOWER TRURO**

**MENU
TURKEY SOUP, CHILI, ROLLS
& APPLE CRISP FOR DESSERT**

COST: FREE!

The Cobequid Firemenettes are hosting this supper for all those living in our fire brigade area from Truro Heights to Green Oak. We hope you will join us.

World Food Day

Sunday, October 16th

World Food Day was established in 1945 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization as a way to increase awareness of world hunger and food security. For us, World Food Day is a time to thank God for the abundance we enjoy (especially now at harvest time!) and to acknowledge and pray for those who lack enough good food.

What do faith and food have in common? Join us for a World Food Day Picnic as part of Colchester Local Food Week at 1 p.m. on October 16th at the Truro Farmers Market. Bring food to share, your picnic, basket, blanket and a willingness to learn. For more information or to volunteer, contact Hannah Main at [902-305-1375](tel:902-305-1375) or mainhannah@gmail.com

On **Saturday, Oct 15th**, Canadian Foodgrains Bank will have a display at the Truro Farmer's Market. Check it out.

This is a note to let you know of a Thunderclap tweet we have set up to go out on **World Food Day, October 16th**. We would invite and encourage all those who have Twitter accounts to sign up. If you know people who have a Twitter account, you can invite them by sharing the link to the Thunderclap. Here is the link <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/47650-aid4agriculture>. Please sign up if you have a Twitter handle, and share widely with other social media folks in your networks! They can be from anywhere, as long as they are on Twitter.



A Day in the Life of a Stage Manager

– by Hannah Burrows



I'm often asked what exactly it is I do and what a typical day is like for me. The short answer is there is no such thing as a typical day and the ins and outs of my job can vary drastically depending on the show I'm doing and my role on the stage management team.

On every production there will be a stage manager (SM). Depending on the size of the show and the resources of the company there may also be one or two assistant stage managers (ASMs), an apprentice, or some combination.

As a team we are responsible for communication; making sure designers and departments are notified of any changes that come out of rehearsal (adding props, losing a costume, the door has to swing out and should hinge on the right, sound cues needed here, a specific lighting request from the director there) and conveying information from the designers back to the rehearsal hall.

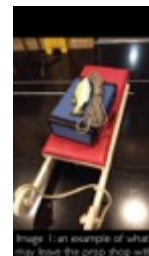
We keep track of where every actor is on stage, where they enter/exit, what costumes they are wearing and when they change, what props they have and where they pick them up, what needs to move in the scene changes and how do we make it work with the available people. You name it, if it happens on or off that stage, we keep track of it.

Once we move to the stage, the stage manager is responsible for calling the show. This means they will call every lighting, sound and fly cue, and potentially other cues depending on the show. They are also the outside eye on a show and have the sometimes difficult task of making

sure the show stays exactly as the director leaves it opening night, however many weeks or months the show may run. The ASMs and/or apprentice are working backstage. They will coordinate and possibly participate in the scene and costume changes, track props, keep tabs on the actors, and troubleshoot when something goes wrong. They are also the stage managers eyes backstage. ASMs work more closely with the actors and crew and keep the SM in the loop about any personality issues, who is sick, who tripped/bumped/ran into what and how serious it is, why someone was late for their entrance, etc. That's the job in a nutshell.

Now a 'typical' day depends on what my role is and where we're at in the production. For this I'm going to take you through what my day may be like as the props ASM about two weeks into rehearsals on a musical, that's about as exciting as it gets! (When there are two ASMs one focuses on props/set and the other on wardrobe, personally I prefer the props side of things.) To give some timeline context, we usually rehearse a musical in the rehearsal hall for two weeks, the third week is spent on stage in tech, the fourth week we rehearse during the days and have previews in the evenings and open mid-way into the week, after that, it is just show calls.

I arrive at the theatre roughly 9/9:15 a.m. Before going to the office, I'll stick my head in on stage to see how things are progressing there. If it isn't too busy, I'll chat with the carpenters for a few minutes or check out a new element they've just installed. Then I'll stop into the office to check phone messages and emails that came in over night. I'll grab my notebook (never go anywhere without your notebook!) and head down to the prop shop. We'll talk about any questions, concerns, additions that came out of rehearsal the previous day. I'll leave any props that need work and that we don't need for the morning with them; they will send newly completed props upstairs with me with instructions on their use or questions that the builders need answered by the actors.



Then it's back upstairs to the rehearsal hall. I set up the stage for the scene we will be starting with. The set is taped out on the floor so we know where the walls and big pieces are.



Often we will have furniture and smaller set pieces in the hall to work with, but it's not unusual to use tables or music stands to represent larger elements that we don't have. I'll make sure props are where they need to be for the morning. As the actors arrive I'll point out new props, prop locations and, of course, just chat with them for a bit.

At 10 a.m. our rehearsal day starts. First thing is to take inventory and make sure you have everyone you need to start the day, if we have the full company that can mean 20+ moving bodies to count. Once we start rehearsing, I'm up and down a lot. When they are working a scene or doing choreo/music, I'm sitting down at my spot at the front of the room taking note of anything new that happens or going through the paperwork I've started to generate for the running crew (essentially a 10ish page doc that includes every set piece/prop moved in the order it has to happen with all of the actors entrances and exits peppered throughout) and flagging any places I have concerns or penciling in adjustments.

When they start running scenes I will be up with the actors standing off to the side ready to handoff/receive props and do the scene changes. Mid morning, we will take a break. I often end up using this time to run back down to the stage or prop shop to check on something that came out of the morning. After the break it's another head count then back to working/running scenes in the hall until we stop for lunch around 1 p.m.

I'll get about 45 minutes to sit and eat my lunch/chat with whoever pops into the office.

Then I'm back in the hall to set up because we're going to run the full show in the afternoon. I will set up the stage/props for the top of act 1. Then, because there is often more stuff than we really have room for, I'll move anything that is not used until act 2 out of the room to clear space. I'll set myself up in a corner near the back of the room. I'll have a music stand on which to put my paperwork, stopwatch and notebook, and I'll sit on whatever set piece lives in that area (on *Frog and Toad* this meant I sat on a log for the runs).

Everyone is back from lunch at 2 p.m. Again, we start with a head count, and then it's into the run. A run in the rehearsal hall is very different than doing the show on stage. A scene change that may take me three trips to do in the rehearsal hall could be accomplished in eight seconds by a crewmember turning a revolve onstage. The actors are often working with rehearsal set pieces and props and these runs rarely involve costumes other than some jackets and hats. While we are working with fewer elements than 'real life' I tend to be busier because it's just me to do most of the changes/prop handoffs, although for the bigger scene changes or moving a set piece that requires more than one person, another member of the SM team or a free actor will jump up to help me. *Shrek* is the biggest show I've run in the hall as props ASM thus far.

Here's a rough idea of what my track was like for our hall *Shrek* runs. I'd start by standing as close to that wall on stage left as possible as there was a gaggle of actors who had to make entrances. As they entered and exited I'd give/take props from them. Then I'd be standing by with music stands, a barrel and a bucket to set up the swamp. I'd go to stage right to catch the skunk that was thrown off stage then run around to stage left to catch a giant martini glass (it's worth nothing that while I would have failed gym class if we were graded only on skill I never once missed catching these props). I'd go back to my spot at the back and sit for a song then was up again to clear the swamp away and set sign post (another music stand) then back to stage left to move Gingy into position. I'd stay there to catch a sword and axe and put them away. Then would strike Gingy and have a horn ready to pass to an actor. I'd take the sheet that used to cover Gingy to stage right to give to some actors, then stick around because they threw it off stage a few minutes later. While Duloc was dancing I'd be prepping Fiona's tower and at the end of the scene pushed those set pieces into position.

Then I'd turn my attention to the dragon, did I mention there was a dragon hanging at the back of the room?



Crossing from one side to the other often meant going under/behind the dragon and when moving furniture, I always had to watch for her tail. The four actors who puppeteer the dragon would put on their harnesses then stand underneath her. Once they were hanging on, I'd stand on a chair and unclip the dragon. Once she was unclipped, the pole attached to her head was removed from its stand and I'd move the stand out of the way. Then it would be time to clear Fiona's tower out of the way. At this point, I had a few minutes to stand and watch which meant I got to enjoy the dragon's song. And by enjoy I mean I watched the dragon and puppeteers like a hawk because they were still getting used to the dragon and the weight of her and adjustments were still needing to be made to the dragon herself and the poles the actors used. So, I'd be watching to see if any of them were having trouble and what the problem may be.

Then the dragon's song ended and she'd run off stage. I'd set up Fiona's tower then check in with the puppeteers/help them turn her around and get ready for their next entrance. Then I'd clear the tower and move the dragon's head stand back because after the dragon made a quick appearance, they'd bring her back to hang her again. Then set up a fireplace and log. Now it was time to hang the dragon and one of the very tall men in the cast usually spared me trying to clip her back in (even with a chair it was always harder to clip than unclip her) and I'd help position her head. There was one more song then the act was over.



That all happened in just over an hour. I was as wiped out as the actors who had just sung and danced through the whole thing.

The cast would break and I'd set up for act 2, dumping anything that we no longer needed in the hallway and bringing the rest of the stuff back in the room. This was also where I decapitated the dragon as her head was needed for act 2 but her body was not (between rehearsals and shows I decapitated that dragon over 80 times).

Act 2 was much calmer and I had much more time to sit with my notes. While runs in the hall may be very different from the stage, I still use them to sort through transitions and what order things need to happen. So I write down any new ideas that came to me while running act 1. I hop up to push a bathtub onstage then at the end of the scene move it right out of the room as there was no place for it to live. Then I set up the fireplace and stumps again. Cleared them away. Handed off a sunflower to one actor and then took the same prop from a different actor a few minutes later. I went stage right to pass an actor a flag then ran stage left to catch the same flag from the same actor. I set up the swamp, then a few minutes later cleared it away and moved a table (which would be an altar) into place. I helped take the dragon's head out of the stand, then put it back in and cleared the table. All that was left was for me to sit and watch the final number.

Once the run was over, we all took a break. 15 minutes later we went back for notes. As the director/choreographer/music director gave their notes I scribbled down anything relevant and wrote down anything from the run I hadn't yet had time to. After notes, we'd spend the rest of the day working small bits of the show or brushing up harmonies.

6 p.m. was the end of rehearsal. I put all the props away and moved everything back into the room. In the office, the team would put together rehearsal notes. These notes include anything that came out of the day that needed to be passed on. The stage manager would also do the daily for the next day. Dailies can take a lot of time to do because you have to make sure you've called all the right people for the various scenes and that no one has been double booked (sometimes we work in two rehearsal halls, also costume/wig/make up fittings need to get worked into the day). By the time we finish the notes and daily and distribute them, it's usually 7 or 7:30.

That's a 'typical' rehearsal day. Needless to say I sleep well those nights!



Sunset at Black Rock

Thanks for Not Running Me Down

– by Beth Saunders

I walk a lot. People ask me why I don't take the Trail. To me it seems silly to drive the car a mile down the Shore Road – to take a walk.

This essay began as “Tips for Walkers”, tips such as: Never assume only one car at a time will be passing; another could be close behind. And be aware of where the sun is and if it's shining in drivers' eyes. And note the *actual* width of large farm vehicles. And be wary of tree-lined curves. But as I got to thinking, I decided this could be a Thanksgiving piece. So here goes.

For the two or three drivers who've kindly stopped to ask me if I have a reflective vest, thank you. For the lady who offered me a drive (obviously not from here), thanks – but no thanks. For the neighbours who let me stop and receive a friendly cuddle from their dog, thank you. Also, for the neighbour who gently reminded me it was hunting season when I walked through a wooded section wearing a tan jacket with a hood.

And for the neighbour who, seeing it was starting to rain heavily, jumped in his truck, came out his lane and offered me a ride home. Felt sorry I had to turn him down, knowing full well that Gary, seeing the some situation, would soon be coming to pick me up. Which he did, so on arriving home I called the neighbour, saying, “Honey, I'm home.”

And for the neighbour in his gravel truck who silently prays I will not be coming down the hill on an icy day, and for his partner who fortified me with a drink of water, a candy and a drive home one day when I went walking too close to lunch time. I thank them both.

For the neighbour, watching from the top of the hill, who once told me I had a “nice gait”, that was nice to hear – at my age then. Thank you. And for the neighbour who bought me a reflective vest, since I hadn't got around to it, thank you.

Finally, at a recent community gathering, I found out that another neighbour, who travels this road frequently, was always “warning” drivers about me. I liked the concept – and thank him too.

Who was Duffus Nelson?

Or ... Have you heard about the Duffus and Muriel Nelson Trust Fund??

– by Glenda Kent

Duffus Nelson (1887-1958) grew up in the Clifton area. He married Muriel Lawrence (1889-1971) formerly of the Maitland area. She was a relative of W.D. Lawrence. They spent their working years in New York. When it came to retiring, they moved to the Black Rock Road, the property later known as Phil Miller's (the home just before Gary and Debbie Rutherford's). However, winter months saw them in a Queen Street apartment but summer days, a return to Black Rock!

Duffus and Muriel apparently had a great interest in seeing young men in becoming ordained ministers! He left in his will the sum of five thousand dollars to be used for the purpose of establishing "The Duffus and Muriel Nelson Trust Fund, the income from which is to be used to assist in defraying the educational costs of a young man or young men from the Clifton congregation of the United Church, Old Barns aforesaid, who are studying for the ministry. If the income from the said Fund at any time accumulates to one thousand dollars without having been expended by the trustee of this Fund under the power heretofore given to it, the trustee may expend the accumulated income thereon to pay or defray the educational costs of any young man or men studying for the ministry of the United Church from any congregation in Nova Scotia."

Originally Central Trust in Truro was entrusted with the Duffus and Muriel Trust Fund but upon their closing, a committee within the Old Barns United Church comprised of the Clerk of Session, the Church Treasurer, two Congregational representatives have been administering the Fund.

Since females have been accepted into the United Church ministry, the wording has been changed to a "theological student studying for

ordained ministry". Some of the recipients have been Lloyd Burrows, Russell Daye, Joe Wynn, Angela Corey, Keith Gale, and Alicia Cox. Each received a one thousand dollar bursary and were ordained.

Candidates, with the approval of Truro Presbytery Education and Students Committee, apply to the committee (Trustees) who will determine the amount receivable. Interest rates are having an effect on the amount offered.

We are grateful to the late Duffus and Muriel Nelson for making this fund for future ministry personnel available.

A great nephew of Duffus Nelson, Donald Nelson and wife Nancy live in Joan and Gordon Nelson's home in Black Rock.



... The Final Word

– by Leslie Burrows

My final words are about our final resting places. We use many words and phrases to describe someone's death. Here are just some of many – at peace, at rest, departed, dead, died, bit the dust, buy the farm, passed away, gone to heaven, kick the bucket, meet one's maker, their number was up, push up daisies, ride the pale horse, six feet under, join the choir, gone to a better place.

Then comes the "resting place" which for most is a cemetery, although some who are cremated will have their ashes spread in a place that meant a lot to them. The definition of a cemetery is "a burial ground" or "a graveyard".

Last week, I visited seven cemeteries in our community. How many can you name? Many of these I have driven by for decades but never stopped to walk through. It was a very interesting walk indeed. I stopped to read many of the headstones – poems, loved words, names and dates. You learn a lot about the people who have gone before and sometimes a very little bit of information tells you of the suffering families went through. The young ages of many and the children who died; I saw two headstones of little children who died in 1878 – on December 4, James aged 4 years 8 months and next to him, his sister Abbie aged 7 years who died four days later. What happened? Diphtheria went through the area – a disease that today would be easily cured – imagine the anguish of the family. But then, I also saw stones showing people who lived to “ripe old ages”.

So, have you figured out the seven cemeteries? I believe the oldest cemetery is the Clifton Cemetery located in Beaver Brook. A Presbyterian church was built on the property in 1832.



Stand in front of Fred Blois' shop and look up the hill to the left to find this cemetery. The stone was added in 1985 to commemorate the site.



Although the grass is being cut in this cemetery, it needs a little work, as many headstones are tilted and falling over.

Next is the Green Oak Cemetery where the Calvary Union Church served the community from 1856-1960.



The stone cairn was made by Reg Henderson, Sr. in 1960. Plans are to re-do the cairn as it is falling apart.



These are the stones for the two young children.

Ralph Dartt took loving care of this cemetery for many years and now his daughter, Nanci, keeps it up under the umbrella of the Fisher Creek Cemetery Corporation.



Oldest date found on surviving headstones is from 1861.

The Anglican Cemetery in Beaver Brook was established in 1853 when Christ Church was built. It is still in use.



This stone sits where the church originally sat.



The Anglican Cemetery showing the older stones to the far left.

Beside the Anglican Cemetery, The Old Barns Cemetery (located in Beaver Brook) was established in 1877. The area was very rough and in 1949, headstones were removed and the entire slope levelled and terraced and the stones were put back in place.



The lovely wrought iron sign marks the Cemetery.



The cemetery is cared for by the Old Barns Cemetery Corporation.



You will recognize many Community names if you stroll through the headstones.

The Fisher Creek Cemetery in Green Oak was established in 1910 because the land was drier than in the Green Oak Cemetery.



Another lovely wrought iron sign to mark the cemetery.



This cemetery is under the care of the Fisher Creek Cemetery Corporation that also tends to the Green Oak Cemetery.



This is the cemetery that the Burrows family uses.

Now, I have talked about the five community cemeteries, two of which are no longer in use, but where are the other two? They are both private family lots on private land.

The first is the Dartt Family Cemetery located in Green Oak. What a lovely walk down to it! This lot is kept mowed and tended by family members.



No signs will direct you but not hard to find once you know where to look!



A very peaceful spot.

The last one that I found is on Phillips land which now belongs to the Burris family in Green Oak. There are forty graves in this lot although only a very few headstones can be found.



Small trees have grown up through this cemetery.



Plans have been made, possibly starting this fall, to reclaim the land back from the trees and make it a place for family to visit once again.

So now you know where the seven cemeteries are in our community. And now, this is the end. See you in the next newsletter!