

Have I Got e-for You!



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



No 26

March 2024

Message from Your Editor

As I look out at the over-cast sky, I cannot help but be thankful for the many blessings I have received and find in my everyday life. Jim and I recently returned from our 40-day trip that took us around the world, something I never thought I would say. We visited and saw many beautiful places in both New Zealand and Australia and met just as many wonderful people from different places in our ever-shrinking world. I even met a person in New Zealand who lives in Ontario and discovered that we had a mutual acquaintance in Newfoundland. A small world indeed.

We were nearly at the tail end of our trip when we both were knocked down by Covid for the very first time. We knew this was always a possibility but we went armed with as many vaccinations and boosters as we could have and we tried to avoid people who appeared to be sick but we could not escape. We are thankful we were boosted and know it could have been much worse if we had not partaken in what was offered

As a result, we had to change some of our plans for the last few days, including the flight we had from Perth to Singapore to London. On the second leg of that journey, we were diverted to Dubai due to a medical emergency aboard. We ended up staying for 30+ hours in Dubai where we were well taken care of by the airline. We also got to know many of our fellow passengers and now have new friends we would not have met if we had not been diverted. That, my friends, is a silver lining!!

Look for the silver lining whene'er a cloud appears in the blue.
Remember, somewhere – the sun is shining
And so the right thing to do
Is make it shine for you.
A heart full of joy and gladness
Will always banish sadness and strife,
So always look for the silver lining
And try to find the sunny side of life.

by: B.G. DeSylva

~ Leslie

Good Bye, Dear Friends



George Colin "Colie" Brenton
May 29, 1934 – November 1, 2023
Formerly from Princeport



Anne Fortune
January 12, 2023 – aged 85
Formerly from Hilden



Clifford Richard Sandeson
1950 – January 19, 2024
Green Creek

Sympathy is extended to those community members who have lost family and friends from within and outside our communities.

Always missed, forever remembered.

Happy Days!

80 + Birthdays:

- Merv Dickey – February (H)
- Wayne Smith – February (H)
- Bob Wynn – February (H)
- Beth Saunders – April (OB)
- Janet Kent – April (OB)
- Irene Johnson – April (H)
- Doug Betts – April (H)
- Margie Bruce – April (H)
- Mary Starrett – May (H)
- Carol Betts – May (H)

50 + Anniversary:

- April – Carol & Merle Collins (OB)

60 + Anniversary:

- February – Marnie & Wayne Smith (H)



*Up-Coming Easter Services in
Old Barns and Hilden*

- March 24 Palm Sunday
9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns
- March 28 Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. in Old Barns
- March 29 Good Friday
2:00 p.m. in Hilden
- March 31 Easter Sunday Celebration
9:30 a.m. in Hilden
11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursdays from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Bible Study in Old Barns

Sunday, March 24 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Pancake Supper in Old Barns
\$12 a person; \$5 aged 7 & under
Entertainment – Highway 236



Hilden Celebration

After church on March 04, we had a great turn out for a pot luck luncheon after the worship service to honour Frank Arseneau for all of his and Joyce's years of service as the treasurer for the Hilden United Church.

We are thankful for your devotion to our church, Frank. You can now enjoy life without counting our pennies every month.



Frank with Sheila Marshall

Pictures Since Last Newsletter



Sante Sisters who brought their love of God and Jesus to us through their music last October.



Leslie, Glenda and Marjorie at "GLOW"



Two proud Grandmothers (Leslie & Karen) with their Primary girls (Violet & Merrit)



Christmas in the Barn at the Waugh Farm



Alexander and Violet who laid wreath in Old Barns on Remembrance Sunday



Singing Silent Night by Candlelight



Old Barns School December Concert



Clifton Family Christmas Concert with Highway 236 and Friends

A Bit of History



Burt Crowe's place in Beaver Brook

Trees

by: Joyce Kilmer (written 1915)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Gratitude

by: Tiruvalluvar – an Indian Poet &
Philosopher who lived sometime
between 31BCE and 500/600 CE

A good turn done is a heaven-born gift you
cherish

Ask “will (they) repay it” and it will perish
A helpful act howsoever slight
When timely, acquires true height

To help without thinking “What’s in it for
me?”

Is to be, for the helped one, vaster than the
sea

Help, like the millet seed, may itself be small
But its spirit stands like a palmyra tree, tall

Don’t judge help by its shape or size -
Is it large or is it small?

See how it met a need, if it has met it at all
When with ill-fortune you feel mighty sore
Just recall the pure ones who helped you in
your woe

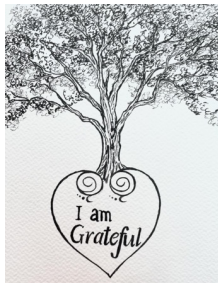
You will in all your seven lives bless
Those who’ve helped you in your distress
If you’ve been helped, don’t forget it, not for
a single day
But if you’ve been wronged, you must forget
it – and right away!

When the wrong done to you hurts like a
sore

Recall one good the wrong-doer may’ve
done and forget the woe

Forget to do good and you may find
salvation yet

But forget gratitude and you’re headed for
destruction’s net.



Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

by: Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand
my faltering steps and shaking hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears
today
must strain to catch the words they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know
that my eyes are dim and my reactions
slow.

Blessed are they who look away
when my coffee gets spilled during the
day.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile
who stop to chat with me for a while.

Blessed are they who never say
“You’ve told that story twice today.”

Blessed are they who know the ways
to bring back lovely yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known
that I am loved, respected and not
alone.

Blessed are they who know the loss
of strength I need to bear the cross.

Blessed are they who ease the days
of my journey home in loving ways.

Stories

by: Charles de Lint (A Canadian writer)

Our lives are stories, and the stories we have to give to each other are the most important. No one has a story too small and all are of equal stature. We each tell them in different ways, through different mediums – and if we care about each other, we will take time to listen.

Empathy

by: Carl Rogers (A behavioral scientist)

We think we listen,
but very rarely do we listen with real
understanding, true empathy.
Yet listening, of this very special kind,
is one of the most potent forces for
change
that I know.



The Three Sisters located in the Jamison Valley in the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney, Australia. The second largest canyon in the world, the largest being in Tibet. Bigger than the Grand Canyon by being a kilometre wider but not quite as deep, it is much greener being forested with several species of Eucalyptus trees, especially the blue Eucalyptus, a species that emits a fine mist in high heat which causes the trees to look blue.

A New Zealand Maori Proverb

Kia whakatomuri te haere whakamua:

“I walk backwards into the future
with my eyes fixed on my past”

This whakataukī or ‘proverb’ speaks to Māori perspectives of time, where the past, the present and the future are viewed as intertwined, and life as a continuous cosmic process. Within this continuous cosmic movement, time has no restrictions – it is both past and present. The past is central to and shapes both present and future identity. From this perspective, the individual carries their past into the future. The strength of carrying one’s past into the future is that ancestors are ever present, existing both within the spiritual realm and in the physical, alongside the living as well as within the living.



Maori dancers at Waitangi in New Zealand



Australia as Seen Through a Farmer's Eyes

by: Jim Burrows

One thing I have discovered in travelling is that the farmer in me sees things in the rural landscape that many of my fellow travelers don't recognize. I became aware of this seven years ago when Leslie and I were on a three-week trip in New Zealand. Many times, as we discussed the scenery with our seat mates, I would be questioned on my comments. Likewise, as we traveled across Australia by rail, we spent many hours in the lounge car with fellow travelers who look at the world from an urban perspective. Right or wrong, this is my perspective of Australia from inside the lounge car.



Australia from Outer Space showing light where the majority of the people live.

When you look at Australia, most of the population lives in areas around the coast where there is sufficient rainfall to sustain people and lush vegetation. Most of the continent is dry and desert-like. We traveled across the continent on the Indian-Pacific Railway. Leaving Sydney on the east coast and spending four days and three nights on the train as we made our way to Perth on the west coast.



Leaving Sydney, the first couple of hours are the suburbs of the large urban area, then you begin the climb over the Blue Mountains. The mountains are around a kilometer above sea level which means lots of mountain passes but still lots of trees and vegetation.

On this leg of our trip, the treed area would be broken with areas of grass land. Sheep and a few cattle grazing under the watchful eyes of many kangaroos and a few emu. Too soon it was dark.



The only complaint of the trip was that this part of the ride was very rough. We went to bed and spent the night trying to keep from being flung out of bed onto the floor.

By the next morning the landscape changed, becoming more desert-like – visible sand, small shrubs with small areas of grass. In these areas, there were few if any sheep or cattle and where they were present only a handful in a flock or herd. You would see them standing as if scanning the horizon to find the next blade of grass. Gradually the moisture improved and grass became more prevalent as did the numbers of livestock. Then grain fields appeared. Our timing was just after harvest. We saw no combines working but, as we passed grain elevators for loading rail cars, we saw huge piles of grain being formed and covered for storage and shipment.

As we neared Adelaide, we disembarked the train for a bus ride to the Barossa Valley, famous for its winery's. Once again, a new landscape appears, rolling hills, grape vines and olive plantations. We spent the rest of the daylight hours visiting winery's and having supper, then into Adelaide and back onto the train.



When we awoke the next day, we had headed north of Adelaide and made the turn west for an almost straight trip to Perth across the Nullarbor Plain – the Great Australian Outback. One 478 km stretch of tracks on this part of the trip is the longest straight rail line in the world.

The landscape was so desolate it was fascinating. Areas of almost nothing but sand, to areas with small bushes and grass like vegetation, to areas with bush, trees and grass. As can be expected, in areas with grass you see livestock.

One afternoon, one of our fellow travelers shouted camels. There were three camels grazing in the distance. There are supposed to be 300,000 camels in Australia. They were imported as beasts of burden in 1860, then when their jobs were taken by mechanization, they were turned loose and have flourished. As a side note, we had camel for lunch one day and they are tasty.



What you didn't see is people. The train made two stops while in the Nullarbor, one for the train to refuel and take on water, and the other to have supper under the stars. The first place had a population of four and the second a population of two.



I have read of desert travelers seeing mirages in the distance, then hiking for hours looking for water only to have them disappear. On our third afternoon on the train, the mirages began to appear, then disappear or move before your eyes. While your eyes would tell you there was

a lake in the distance, it was difficult to take a picture of and then with a blink the lake would move. An amazing feature to witness.

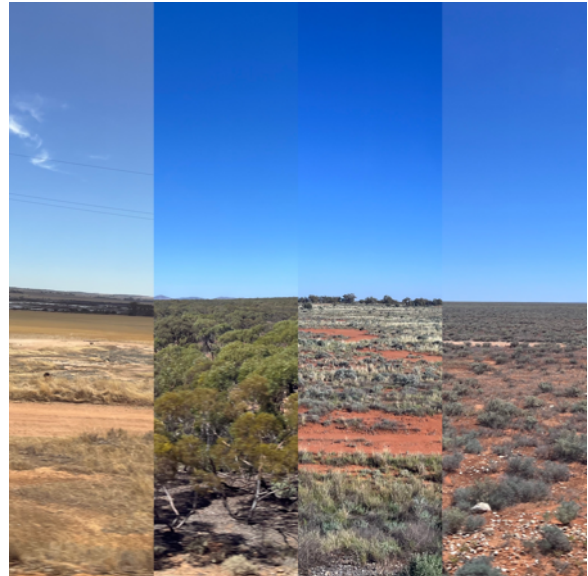
As we got within a few hundred kilometers of the west coast, just as when we approached Adelaide, we began to see more vegetation, more sheep and cattle. Then the grain fields appeared. Many of the fields had to be hundreds of acres. As we were travelling over 100 km an hour and there was nothing but field, it was impossible to put anything into perspective.



About 15 years ago, we had a few farmers from Australia visit our community and do a presentation on dry land farming. I can still remember the focus of their talk was about all the techniques they used to preserve every bit of soil moisture. I now have a better understanding of the environment in which they farm. The other thing I can take from travelling in New Zealand and Australia, is that farmers are able to understand the environment around them and develop practices to produce crops and food efficiently in very diverse environments.



Grain storage



Australian landscapes



A dust funnel

Ngaanyatjarra

“Good Bye”

Cobequid District Fire Brigade - Year In Review 2023

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share the accomplishments and statistics of the Cobequid District Fire Brigade for the 2023 calendar year. It's been a year of dedication, hard work, and community service.

Call Statistics:

In 2023, our brigade responded to a total of 115 calls, each one met with promptness and professionalism by our dedicated team. Here's a breakdown of the call types:

- Fire Calls: 19 (Including Grass, Structure, and Flue fires)
- Alarm Activations: 21
- Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) and Vehicle Fires: 36
- Mutual Aid Calls: 20 (Assisting neighboring departments)
- Medical Calls: 2
- Other Calls: 17 (Including Floods, Hazmat, Personal Safety, and Powerlines)

Recognition and Awards:

It's important to recognize the exceptional individuals who go above and beyond in their service to our community. At our recent banquet, we honored:

- **Jody Prodger:** Awarded Firefighter of the Year for their outstanding dedication and bravery.
- **Michael MacEachern:** Recognized as Officer of the Year for their exemplary leadership and commitment to duty.

Leadership Team:

We are fortunate to have a strong leadership team guiding our brigade. Special thanks to:

- **Chief Trevor Forbes**
- **Deputy Chief Mitchell Creelman**
- **Department Officers Colin Kent, Michael MacEachern, Corey McLellan, and Greg MacRae**

Farewell to Cheryl Burgess:

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, we also bid farewell to Cheryl Burgess, who recently retired from our department after years of dedicated service. Cheryl's contributions have been invaluable, and we extend our deepest gratitude for her commitment and hard work.

We are thrilled to extend a heartfelt thank you to the incredible **Firemenettes** who have been an integral part of our community and department for over 45 years. Their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on our brigade, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

Recently, we had the pleasure of gathering at our Annual Banquet, a cherished tradition where we come together to celebrate our accomplishments and honor those who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to our cause. At this year's banquet, our Firemenettes once again went above and beyond,

treating our firefighters and their families to an unforgettable home-cooked meal. Their hospitality and warmth truly exemplify the spirit of community that defines our brigade.

Additionally, we had the privilege of recognizing the remarkable milestones of several members who have dedicated years of their lives to serving our community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following individuals for their ***outstanding years of service:***

- **Christine Naugle:** 5 Years of Service
- **Debbie Mantle:** 5 Years of Service
- **Jo-Ann Mumford:** 30 Years of Service
- **Glenda Kent:** 45 Years of Service

Their unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment to our brigade are truly commendable, and we are honored to have them as part of our team.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain deeply grateful for the invaluable contributions of our Firemenettes and all our of our members. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.



Join Us Today!

Now Recruiting Volunteers

Embrace the Flames, Become the Difference

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