

The Bear River Tributary

Panorama of Bear River, N.S.



Volume 5, Issue 3

Presented monthly by the Bear River Historical Society

March 2007

Variety Show a Vibrant Success

It was standing room only in the Oakdene Centre where more than 220 people turned out to support the new Youth Center.

No one was disappointed! For more than 3 hours there was great music: from opera to swing to bluegrass to rock. It was amazing to experience the depth and breadth of talent in our midst. It was also a treat to witness the enthusiasm of the young people who contributed their considerable talents as performers, decorators, and planners at the event. Well done *everyone!*



Dynamic Duo, Mike Dondale and Eleanor Balser at their Post. Both retired at the end of February. They will be missed.

End of an Era

After 23 years as the postmaster of Bear River, Mike Dondale has begun a well earned retirement. On March 9, many friends and residents attended a great Karaoke Party at the legion to serenade him on, into his future endeavors. All the best Mike, you certainly left your stamp on our village!

And...Best wishes are heartily extended to Mike's trusted sidekick, Eleanor Balser, who also retired from post office duties at the end of February. (We all look forward to seeing the results of her extra gardening time!)

We welcome Jeanette Deveau as the new post mistress and wish her all the best in her new position!

Preserve Our Memories...

Support Our Museum

For 12 years now, the Bear River Historical Society has operated the Heritage Museum in the I.O.O.F. Memorial Hall, (owned by the Bear River Legion). That building is now being sold. The museum must move.

The heritage collection fills five rooms with antiques, artifacts and articles and that celebrate everything from Mi'kmaq traditional settlements of the 1500's to the Cherry Carnivals of the 1960's. Many residents of our village have only a passing awareness of this gem that displays our treasures, our pride *and* our potential. Tourists and visitors who view the collection leave glowing compliments about the museum and the rich history of our small community. During its summer season, the museum also employs young residents (students) of Bear River as hosts and interpreters.

The Bear River Historical Society has done all this on the strength of volunteer enthusiasm and commitment but it has reached a turning point. We need new energy ... and this means new volunteers. We must move the museum collection to continue operation. Arrangements are being made, funding being sought -- to renovate the Green Lantern Building (next to the Post Office) and make it the new Heritage Museum.

Think about it. History is not a just a dusty collection of dates, heirlooms, and creased photographs. It's what is happening all around us, all the time -- and we are part of it. The Tributary Newsletter (that you're reading right now) is produced by the Historical Society as a record for future generations to appreciate what went on before them. Anyone who has a fascination and appreciation for the past, present and future of Bear River is invited to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society on April 23.

The continuing operation of the **Bear River Heritage Museum** will be the main point of discussion at the Annual General Meeting. If you would like to see the Museum continue, please attend and show your support. New members are always welcome. The meeting starts at 7:30 on Monday, April 23 at the Oakdene Centre.

Bear River Fire Department News

During the month of February, your Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to 5 emergency 911 calls. 2 chimney fires, 1 motor vehicle collision, and 2 mutual aid to assist Digby fire Dept with 2 structure fires.

This month's fire prevention tip: NEVER PUT ASHES IN THE GREEN CART. Keep Ashes in a steel container until cold, then spread them on your garden or put them COLD in the garbage. visit our web site www.bearriverfd.piczo.com

Welcome / Welcome Home

A warm welcome to Kathy Millett and family who have recently moved to Bear River.

George Chisholm and Darlene Ricker have recently returned from six months of travel in exotic locales. Their itinerary included, New Zealand, Bhutan, Thailand and Australia... they had an eye-opening, and mind -expanding journey. Welcome back!

Teresa Henshaw recently returned from visit to Cuba with a wonderful tan. She plans to do a repeat visit in the future.

Vintage Bear River

A recent plebiscite has determined that Bear River Winery will be allowed to sell their product from their business on Chute Road. Congratulations Chris and Peggy, in pioneering the way for the vineyard industry that is unfolding upon our hillsides! Bear River may yet become THE wine producing area for the Maritimes... Cheers to that!

Bear River Community Clinic

The next Board meeting will be held Tues. April 3 at 7 pm at the Clinic. New members welcome.

There will be a Osteoporosis (bone health) Clinic on Mon. April 16 at 1 p.m.

There are now two (2) School Readiness Programs available; 10 - 12 or 1-3 on Fridays.

Please refer to the clinic website:

www.bearriverandareacclinic.ca Or drop by to pick up a schedule of regular clinics and programs.

Birthdays in the News

Many Happy Returns to: Diane Jotterand, April 11; Richard Scragg, April 15, Rose Muise, April 17; and Glendon Milbury, April 26.

Two birthday parties were held last month for Paula Saccente – we hear they were lots of fun.

Zoe Knorek-Onysko enjoyed a surprise birthday dinner with friends, and then, a few days later...

...Laurel Shishkov was treated to a "fabulous-50 party" by the same rowdy bunch. Many Thanks!

'Tis the Season for AGMs

(Annual General Meetings)

The Bear River and Area Community Health Clinic

held its AGM on March 14th. Mike Lockett from the Emergency Health gave a presentation on services provided by that organization. The executive for the upcoming year is: Chairperson, Judy Isles; VP, Brian Coaker; Secretary, Shirley Isles; Treasurer, Sheila Justanson. Board Members are: Marcia Buckler, Janet Isles, Junior Peck, Carolyn Wagner, Norma Wagner, Joan Young, Gerry Chute, Bob Payson. The Board meets the first Tuesday of each month and all are welcome to attend. Many programs are being discussed for the upcoming months and your input is important.

BRIDGS (Bear River Innovation, Development and Growth Society) has changed the date of its AGM to Wednesday April 11. The meeting will start at 7:30 --to be held at the Youth Centre. Everyone Welcome.

The Bear River Legion recently held its AGM. The following slate of officers was elected: President, Glendean Parker; 1st VP, Joe Saurette; 2nd VP Earnest Ryan; Secretary, Phyllis Varner; Treasurer, Mike Reid. Psst! There are plans in the works at the Bear River Legion to organize a *Winter Carnival* for 2008. This sounds like a great idea. Anyone with ideas or an interest please call: Glendean Parker at 467-3695

Music Anyone?

Anyone interested in organizing music events at Oakdene please call Carol Dibble at 467-3836. When Carol gets enough names, she'll call a meeting of the musical minds and maybe they can get some entertainment and dancing events happening.

The Bear River Historical Society thanks the following sponsors for the month:

RCL Ladies Auxiliary	Oakdene Centre
Cherry Brook Grocery	
Bear River Board of Trade	
Flight of Fancy	
Malmström Studios	Bear River Puzzles
BREDS	Mary & Drowsy Goodale
Bear River Fire Department	
Paula's Service Centre	
Changing Tides Restaurant	

The Tributary is presented by the *Bear River Historical Society*, with the generous support of our sponsors. The deadline for news is the 10th of each month. Submissions can be made to Laurel 467-3643. laurelshishkov@ispmonsters.com
Or Zoe oddacity@tartannet.ns.ca