

# The Bear River Tributary

Panorama of Bear River, N.S.



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Presented monthly by the Bear River Historical Society

February 2008

## Bear River Board of Trade News

At the Annual General Meeting in February, the following were elected to the executive: Bob Benson, President, Angela McMullen, Secretary, Gertrude Benson, Treasurer and Teresa Henshaw, Vice President.

Gerry Chute reported that the waterfront committee is in the process of getting estimates for the repair work to the boardwalk.

The possibility of BREDS becoming a liaison organization was discussed and the idea was favourably received. The Municipalities responded to the request for the King's Transit service to be extended to Bear River. The County of Annapolis is referring the matter to King's Transit, and the County of Digby will be discussing the matter in Council. It was decided that the Board of Trade will continue to pursue the bus service as all agreed it was a vital service for the community.

The development of a water system to Bear River is still an ongoing matter and Gerry Chute will pursue all channels of possible action with the two municipalities.

The meeting date of the Board of Trade has been moved to the third Monday of the month to allow for greater attendance possibilities.

## Bear River Board of Trade

### President's Annual Report

Yes, another year has passed; I will outline some of the past year's activities and challenges.

The Visitor's Information Centre (VIC) continues to be our main activity and concern, with an estimated value of \$20,000 for the yearly operation (including the in-kind portion). It is vital for our business community that we continue to operate our VIC. Upkeep of Waterfront Park is another essential service we provide which includes lawn maintenance and year round lighting.

Our two major events were our annual fund raiser plant sale in the spring and our Canada Day celebrations. In 2007 we established a website ([www.bearriver.ca](http://www.bearriver.ca)) <http://www.bearriver.ca> offering the community an opportunity to become involved.

I sincerely want to thank all the volunteers that continue to be the driving force of our Board. This is not limited just to Board members but also to other community residents. I also wish to thank the municipalities of Annapolis and Digby for their financial support. Also thanks to DSWNS as our co-sponsors of the VIC. More recently, we wish to thank Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency for the interest they have shown in our community concerns.

The much sought after water study became a reality in 2007 through the support of the two municipalities.

In keeping with Bear River as it is today as well as with changing world trends we are pursuing the concept of Bear River being developed as an eco-village. We are attempting to explore the viability and the sustainability of this project. We believe our community has the opportunity to offer a much sought after "lifestyle."

We all need to recognize that our tourism traffic is seriously down. Since 1999, total number of tourists has fallen 50% and number of US tourists has fallen 67%. Since 2005, overnight accommodations in the area have decreased 25 - 35%. As a community depending almost completely on tourism, we must continue to take action to compensate for this loss of visitors.

Our actions to date include:

- a) Marketing plan for Bear River.
  - b) Investigating the possibility of a bus service to Bear River by "King's Transit." This would allow us the opportunity to develop "packages" of our Bear River product which then could be marketed through the Valley area plus provide a much needed service.
  - c) An upgrading of our Waterfront Park, walk way and wharf areas.
- On a more serious note, the community of Bear River needs to sincerely consider:

- a) What do we really want Bear River to be?
- b) Are the majority of our citizens content with our community as it is or are we willing to work for essential development?

We should also note that water is essential for our community's growth; without an established water system our community cannot grow or even maintain itself.

Our identified goals for 2008:

- a) To have an approved water supply plan in place.
- b) To upgrade the Waterfront Park and wharf area.
- c) Seek funding to identify and evaluate the direction we should pursue in regards to the further establishment of an eco-village and the possible effects this would have on our community. This should be carried out as soon as possible.

Direction and goals need to be established in order maintain interest.

Of course we will continue with the operation of the VIC, our fund-raisers and the Canada Day celebrations. and the encouragement of the development of trails plus carry out the many other smaller tasks required as time goes on.

Bob Benson

President, Bear River Board of Trade

**The March meeting of the Bear River Board of Trade will be held St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 7:30 pm at the Fire Hall. Everyone interested in the future of Bear River is welcome to attend.**

Read the Tributary on line at the Bear River Board of Trade site [www.bearriver.ca](http://www.bearriver.ca).

### Social Notes

Upon her recent return from a two-month visit with her children and their families in Virginia and South Carolina, Betty Raymond was the guest of honour at a birthday party held by her friends, January 26th at Pizza Delight. In attendance were Linda Somers, Kurt Selig, Mabel Marshall, Harry Ellis, Sandi Innes, Doreen Grant, Wayne Hall, Mac Wright, Paula Saccente, all of Bear River, Daisy Andrews, Angela McMullen and children Elizabeth, Victoria and Elijah, all of Smiths Cove, and Peter Hutchinson of Digby.

Linda Somers held a birthday party at her home for Kurt Selig on January 29th. The guests, Mrs. Mildred Selig, Don and Norma Rice, Betty Raymond and Paula Saccente, all enjoyed the celebration.

Kevin Fetter and Family who returned to Bear River from Alberta last month travelled to P.E.I. to visit family.

Carol Sampson plans on having all the boys; Micheal, Zach, and Carl, home for March break. Micheal, who is studying Theater at Acadia will be appearing in a play at Acadia in March and is busy learning an Irish accent for the role.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Barry and Wanda Trimper who celebrated their 27th anniversary on Feb. 16th.

### Birthdays in the News

**Belated Birthday greetings** to Carol Sampson, Feb. 8, Tammy Frost, Feb. 16 and Bev Morine Feb. 19.

**Happy March Birthdays** to Tracey Perkins, March 2, Ben Wilson March 6, Mark Trimper, March 18, Cheryl Amouri, March 16, Harry Ellis, March 9, Leslie Milbury March 10, Laurie Milbury, March 16 Jane Henshaw, March 18, Ethel Taylor, March 31, Ruth Darres, March 27.

**Special birthday wishes** to Idella Morine who turns 91 on March 19th and to Allister Milner who turns 88 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

...And a very special belated birthday wish to Mariam Cuthill, 93 years young on Feb. 17. She celebrated with a surprise visit from her daughter, Darlene Pearson who travelled from Ontario.

### Condolences

Sympathy extended to the family and friends of Frank Meuse Sr. who recently passed away.

Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to Elford Norton on his recent back surgery.

### Just A Reminder...

The next scheduled Bear River Fire Hall Breakfast is: Saturday March 1 from 7 am. to 10 am.

Pat on the back: A big round of applause to all those who worked to make the Bear River Winter Carnival a reality and help make winter something to celebrate....here's hoping this event becomes a mainstay on the February calendar! Well done!

### The Winter Carnival

#### And the winners are!...

**Grand prize** for the snow sculpture competition: Janet and Shirley Isles for their group of angels. 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Sue and Jim Comeau, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Bub and Cindy Harlow.

**The winners of the snowman competition:** Tina Jefferson and Carol and Wylie White

**The winners for the food competitions:** Carol White, 1<sup>st</sup> place for dessert 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for soup. Ginny Hurlock, first prize soup, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, dessert. Victor Durling won for his baked beans and Janie Hanshaw for her brown bread rolls. Thanks to Jan Smith and Steve Downes for their difficult jobs as food testers!

**The Fireworks were particularly impressive!** A special thank you to everyone who sponsored and helped raise money for the Bear River Legion Winter Carnival Fireworks: Cherry Brook Grocery, Bear River Plastics, Gerry Chute, Freddy Miller, Branch 22 Legion. Also big thanks to Glen Rice and Dave Lewis for their great job in setting them off!

**The first annual Winter Carnival was held Feb. 14-17 with a great variety of outdoor and indoor activities. It was a huge success and already there are plans for next year swirling in people's heads. A meeting will be held in March for a brainstorming session so keep your eyes out for that poster and get yourself involved!**

**BRIDGS:** Meets second Wed. each month at the Youth Centre, 7:30. Everyone Welcome.

**BREDS:** The Bear River Economic Development Society meets the first Wed. each month at 7:30. Farmers Market, Trading Post Bldg. All welcome!

**Bear River and Area Clinic:** Board meets first Tuesday each month at 7:00. New Members needed.

**Amnesty International** 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. each month in the United Church Vestry, 7pm-8pm.

**Oakdene Centre:** Card Parties Tuesdays at 7p.m.

**Legion Ladies' Aux:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. each month in Aux room at Legion at 7:30

**Bear River Board of Trade meetings:-** third Monday each month, 7:30 pm at the Fire Hall.

**Seniors' Exercise Classes:** Wednesday mornings from 10 – 11 at the Christian Advent Church. Sponsored by the Digby Recreational Dept.

*The Bear River Historical Society thanks the following sponsors*

RCL Ladies Auxiliary	Oakdene Centre
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Bear River Board of Trade	Bear River Bargains
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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](mailto:laurelshishkov@ispmonsters.com) Or Zoë [oddacity@tartanet.ns.ca](mailto:oddacity@tartanet.ns.ca)**