PASSAGES

THE LONG ISLAND, BRIER ISLAND AND DIGBY NECK NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 3 **$2.00** March 2015

Peters Island Lighthouse Shines No More

Peters Island lighthouse has suffered another blow...the light is off...

It`s been replaced by this spindle.

By Julia Gaudet

The light on Peters Island shines no more as of February 9th.The Island now has two temporary flashing green navigation lights on steel poles, on both the south and north ends of the Island. The lighthouse structure has been neglected over the years and it has been brought to the attention of Island residents that it has been deemed not safe to enter the lighthouse due to mold, therefore the government repairmen are restricted from entering the structure to work on the light.

This has made a big impact on the Island residents who saw the yellow light flash every five seconds from the top of the lighthouse.

No one is sure what will happen with the 105 year old lighthouse between Long and Brier Island. Tourists from all over come to view and take pictures of our lighthouses here on Brier Island. They all have a lot of history and they are part of Westport heritage.

David Tudor, the municipal councillor for the Islands and Digby Neck would like to see a community group take over the maintenance of the lighthouse on Peters Island. A Save Our Lighthouse meeting has been scheduled for March 4th, at the Westport Community Hall at 6:30pm.

(Editor`s note: See Derek Thurber`s story on the history of this light on Page 5)

Inside Passages:

Jimmy Outhouse says goodbye to the ferry service

Know what this is? It has a very interesting story behind it.

Okay Winter... **UNCLE!!!**

40+ years of crossing the Passages: Jimmy Outhouse calls it a day

By Andy Moir

Jimmy Outhouse doesn't look old enough to be retiring. In fact, he doesn't really look old enough to have put in over 40 years on the Islands' ferries.

But on February 28th, Jimmy made his last trip as an employee of the ferry service.

He started his career in July of 1974. He was 21 years old, and the ferry back then was a woodenboats lashed to a scow.

He worked for a couple of years on the Tiverton ferry, but then transferred to the Freeport/Westport run...and that's where he's been ever since.

He's seen a lot over the years, and has a couple of favourite stories.

"We were on the Petite Passage II, that was our big boat back then, and we were coming across the Passage, and I was standing up having a sandwich as we were coming across the Passage, and we had Wilfred Swift on, the only car, and I seen him backing up, and there were flames shooting right across the deck. The forward engine was afire, and it went 30 feet in the air, so they told us. Harold and Roy Graham were coming in the Passage, and they said it went 30 feet in the air. So anyway after awhile we put it out. And the Coast Guard came out, and Wilfred says, "Put 'er ashore. Get 'er ashore", and I says, "Wilfred, we're almost there. We'll get her up on the slip, and you can take your car up." "Oh," he says, "the heck with the car, they don't make Wilfred Swift every day. But they make cars every day." (Big laugh)

He also enjoyed meeting new people visiting the Islands: "There was one time with the wooden boat and the scow, we had three ladies come, and of course, I was out there talking, and one of them was the translator. They couldn't hear very well, they read lips and what not. It took me awhile to slow things down; but they'd been in the fish plant, and "P.U" .. So they held their nose, and that's how we communicated. Just things like that; it's been so interesting. Nice to be here, to meet the different people. And to meet your own people. Half the time you don't see your own people, not unless you're working."

Jimmy says with a laugh that he won't be retiring, just changing occupations: "My list is quite long. Very long. Trish has a long list. And I'm sure that Islands Maintenance, and the tractor, I'm going to be busy with the bush hog and what not, and community things I'm involved in. The community, commissioner, cemeteries, whatever else is going on, I'm not going to be retired. I'm just going to be with less money." (Big laugh).

What will he miss most? "I'd have to say right now it would be the guys I work with. And the people that you see. They may only come once a year. Normally they're the people that I would see, that I wouldn't see if I was home...you know a lot of times they're here for two weeks and you never know they're here if you're not on the ferry the same time. That's what I'll miss, is the people. I've enjoyed my work here, from Deckhand to Mate to Engineer. I guess that's why I stayed so long. I enjoy it so much, serving the public. Serving the province of Nova Scotia."

When Jimmy started with the ferry service, he lived in Tiverton. He moved to Westport years ago. He makes an interesting observation about his departure from the ferry service: "When I first come here Paul Pyne and myself were the only two people that wasn't Westporters. And Paul went to Tiverton to work, and that left me for about a year as the only one that wasn't a Westporter. And now I'm the last one, and there will be nobody from Westport working on the ferries."

The volunteers at *Passages* would like to thank the many sponsors who are supporting this newspaper with their dollars.

We'd also like to thank the growing number of subscribers who are getting *Passages* by email as well by regular mail.

Sponsorship costs $100.00 or sponsorship and an email subscription for one year is $120.00 (a $125.00 value). The online version of *Passages* costs $25.00 per year. Mail subscriptions are $45.00/year in Canada and $50.00/year to the USA.

For subscriptions and sponsorships, call Brenda Teed at 839-2669 or e-mail: brendateed44@gmail.com.

Passages e-mail address is: 1passages@gmail.com or mail to: Passages, PO Box 39, Freeport, NS B0V 1B0.

To add an event to the Community Calendar, e-mail: 1passages@gmail.com.

Andy Moir was editor of this month's paper and Letitia Thimot will edit next month's issue.

Deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 25th.

The Doughnut Cutter

by Maya Gillis

Waters Smith Hutchins was born in 1872. December 6th, 1917, after the Halifax explosion, caused by the Imo and the Mont Blanc. The Mont Blanc was loaded full of ammunition. The two boats collided and the explosion killed approximately 2000 people and left 9000 injured. Waters volunteered to help find bodies. In the 1890's he made a doughnut cutter from a baking powder can for his wife Mary Alice Hutchins. She was born in 1880. Waters was a sheep farmer and a tin smith. He was murdered in 1922 by Garfield John Tebo. Waters' wife Mary used this recipe and the doughnut cutter to make potato doughnuts:

Potato doughnuts
2 large potatoes, cooked and mashed
1 Tbsp shortening
3 eggs
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/2 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup milk
1 tsp salt
4 Tbsp baking powder
Add enough flour to make a soft dough
flour to roll

She made these doughnuts with the tin doughnut cutter that her husband had made for her.

Mary passed the doughnut cutter on to Leta Mary Hutchins just before she died of T.B. in 1957 (Tuberculosis).

Leta used it and passed it on to my Grammy Leta just before she died from a car accident. The milk truck had hit the front of 83 year old Leta's car in 1985.

The doughnut cutter is about 120 years old.

Waters Smith Hutchins (1872-1922) + Mary Alice (Gidney) Hutchins (1880-1957)
Leta Mary (Hutchins) Haight (1902-1985)
Murray DeBloise Haight (1921-1999)
Leta May (Haight) Stark (1957 -)
Monica Lynn Stark (1977 -)
Maya Fiona Gillis (2004 -)

Mary and Waters Hutchins

The doughnut cutter...passed down from generation to generation

Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Sunday, March 15, 2015
12 noon to 6:00 PM
Masonic Hall,
Corner of King and Mount Streets, Digby (next to the High School)
Price: $10 per plate (coffee, tea or juice, roll and dessert included)
Tickets available in advance or at the door.
Early Bird draw on advance tickets - winner receives two (2) free tickets to next year's dinner.
For advance tickets call Larry 245 6455, Jack 245 4088, Bob 245 2025 or Richard 308 9574.

Engagement

Roger and Dorothy Outhouse of Freeport, Nova Scotia are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sarah Anne, to Brian William Macdonald, son of Bill and Joan Macdonald of Stratford, Prince Edward Island. An intimate wedding is planned for July 31, 2015 in Charlottetown, PEI.

Freeport Fire Department
March 29th, 2015.
Freeport Firemen's Brunch
10:30am - 1:30 pm
Adults $ 10
Children $ 4 (12-under)
Couples $ 15
Family $ 25

Come out and enjoy a buffet brunch of delicious food with big variety, while supporting your local fire department.

The Family Drop-In Centre - Help wanted on the Islands

The Family Drop-In Centre, temporarily located at 1 Birch Street in Digby, is a community based-organization that is dedicated to using a strength-based, participant-driven approach to program delivery. The organization strives to establish effective partnerships which encourage community development and increase supports for families.

The Family Drop-In Centre conducted research throughout Digby County in the summer and fall of 2014. They distributed parent surveys, service provider surveys, and facilitated focus groups with the intention of using the collected information to establish meaningful and accessible Family Resource Programming in Digby County.

The resulting information is currently being analysed and a full report will be available by the summer of 2015. The report will outline the results of the research and, in addition, speak to the actions being taken to address the outcomes. The Centre will be seeking feedback throughout the process.

Although the research continues to be analysed, the Family Drop-In Centre is beginning to address some outcomes and conclusions. The information gathered from Brier Island and Long Island clearly indicates the desire for programs and services that reflect the identified needs of the Island residents and that take place in their own community. As a result, the Centre is now moving towards establishing a foundation for program delivery on the Islands.

Currently the Family Drop-In Centre is seeking applications, from Island residents, for one or two part-time positions. The successful applicant/s will assist in creating, implementing and delivering programs and services for Island families. The candidate/s must:

- have a grade 12 education
- have a valid driver's licence
- have reliable transportation
- be willing to work flexible part-time hours
- agree to a police and child abuse check
- be willing and able to attend and take part in required training
- attend staff meetings
- have some experience in or the desire to gain experience in family and child focused program delivery.
- be willing and prepared to take on increased responsibility for programming on the Islands
- work as part of a team with other Centre staff

Applications will be accepted until March 27th, 2015
Telephone 1-902-245-2300 for further information
Forward resumes to the attention of Debbie Smith using one of the following options:

- By fax to: 1-902-245-2311
- By Mail to: The Family Drop-In Centre, 1 Birch Street, Box 668, Digby, NS,B0V 1A0
- By e-mail to: debbiesmith@ns.aliantzinc.ca
- By Drop-off at: 1Birch Street, Digby

A Brief History of Peters Island Lighthouse

By Derek Thurber

Peters Island Lighthouse is to the villages of Freeport and Westport that the Statue of Liberty is to New York! This may seem like an over-the-top statement but one just has to Google any variation of Peters/Peter's/Peter Island and you will see the interest manifested over this beacon.

The Peters Island beacon is the most photographed structure throughout Digby Neck and the Islands, and is the place that your eyes fix upon after taking a sweeping panoramic view of beautiful Grand Passage.

Island residents have drifted off to sleep with the mournful sounds of its horn and its light has reflected through our window panes for generations (106 years). One has to realize the melancholy effect that this would have on citizens in their senior years that have spent their entire life here.

One song my father always used to sing was, "The Lighthouse"

Everybody that lives around us
Says tear that lighthouse down.
The big ships don't sail this way anymore,
There's no use of it standing around.
Then my mind goes back to that stormy night,
When just in time I saw the light;

A lot of the old mariners looked upon these lighthouses as they would look upon their God. It was the staple of our safety, a staple of our seaside community. Brier Island has three of these, one for every mile. One could go on for days about the significance of this structure in tourism, reflection, community spirit, safety etc…..

With all that this lighthouse has meant for Islands residents and tourists alike, don't you feel we owe it some respect?

Safety Concern:

In today's world we rely on modern navigational aides but if these aides falter then the traditional lighthouse and horn are our means of making a safe harbour. Imagine a cruise ship full of patrons that may need to take harbour in such a dilemma.

History:

Origin of name.

Peters Island (or Peters' Island) named for one of the original owners of the Island, a Mr. Peters, is often misspelled as Peter Island or Peter's Island.

1847-1852

In 1847 Edward Jones petitioned to have a lighthouse erected on Peters Island. This had to go before the House of Assembly for the Province of Nova Scotia and then in 1848 was directed to the House of Assembly for the Province of New Brunswick for consideration. It appears that only one light was to be built and it was New Brunswick that determined Peters Island was the most proper place for a new light to be built.

"…concurring with you that a Light House on Peters' Island, at the southern entrance of Westport, would be of great importance to Navigation in that quarter, as it would be a guide to vessels bound into, or making a harbour in the Grand Passage for both the north and south entrances. From the southward it would be seen when near enough; and from the northward, so soon as the passage was opened, it would be a guide into or through it.

June 1852 (The Nautical Magazine): The light beacon erected on Peters Island, at the south entrance of Westport, on the east side of the Bay of Fundy, shows two white lights, horizontally placed, (to distinguish it from Brier Island Light) at an elevation of 40 feet above high water mark. This beacon is intended to lead vessels into Westport, or through Grand Passage, and will be seen on the approach from seaward and St. Mary's Bay, until shut in with the S.W. point of Brier Island. When in the passage, or fair way through, the light will be seen all round, and can be passed on either side; but the Eastern Passage is the deepest and widest and is recommended to strangers.

Peters Island has left many sailing schooners stranded. Some that are listed are the Jane Porter (December 30th 1884) cargo of iron, bricks, and apples from Annapolis Valley; Jennie B. Thomas (January 31st 1898) sailing from Digby.

In the 1885 publication – "Sailing Directions for the South-East Coast of Nova Scotia" -- "The Light House is a square white building 15 feet high. From the roof, at an elevation of 40 feet above high water, are exhibited two fixed white lights, placed horizontally, 24 feet apart, which in clear weather should be visible from a distance of 10 miles."

(St. John Sun) In 1904 there was a chemical fertilizer factory built on the Island. This included a cooking operation. The material used in the manufacture of the fertilizer was dog fish and fish offal. Mr. Carritte, the operator, lived on the Island with his wife. They were employing 15 people but expected that number to soon increase. The products of the factory were sent to St. John by the steamer Westport.

In 1909, the old lighthouse, built in 1851 and also known as the Westport Lighthouse, was replaced by the present wooden octagonal tower equipped with a dioptric fifth-order apparatus showing a fixed white light. The original illuminant used in this tower was petroleum vapor, burned under an incandescent mantle.

John D. Suthern was appointed first keeper of the lighthouse in November, 1851, and Pete Welch served as the final keeper of the Peters Island Lighthouse from 1972 until the station was unmanned in 1984. A unique feature to the octagonal tower is the circular gallery deck beneath the lantern room. The tower is 13.4 meters tall and displays a flashing yellow light. Source: www.lighthousefriends.com

In the 19th Century and early 20th Century Peters Island was a picnic destination; when picnics were the social gatherings that everyone looked forward to each and every year. The Suthern family operated the light and hosted these events.

Brier and Long Islands and Offshore Waters Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA)

(Editor's note: Readers may remember that a small wind-farm proposed for the Tiverton area was shelved because of concerns it would interfere with bird migration. Many were surprised to learn the area was part of what is called an IBA. So we asked for an explanation, and here's what we recieved:

By Sue Abbott, Bird Studies Canada
sabbott@birdscanada.org

Most of us know that this part of Atlantic Canada is a very special place rich with wildlife and unique plants. But did you know that Brier Island and Long Island are part of a globally significant Important Bird & Biodiversity Area, or IBA?

What is an IBA? IBAs are places of outstanding value to birds and other biodiversity around the world. IBA sites support high numbers of birds, threatened or endangered birds, or birds with very limited ranges. Since the IBA program was established by Birdlife International, it has grown into the world's largest network of ecologically significant sites for birds and other wildlife. In fact, over 12,000 IBA sites have been designated globally, of which 600 are in Canada and 32 in Nova Scotia.

Great Shearwater gathers in the thousands to feed during fall. This seabird breeds on islands in the South Atlantic! Photo Rob Ronconi.

IBA sites can be small or large, land or water, and privately or publically owned. IBAs are identified using criteria that are internationally agreed upon, standardized, and scientifically defensible. IBA designation does not necessarily lead to legal protection of the area, and many diverse activities are often allowed within IBAs. In Canada, IBAs have been used to design conservation reserve networks, prioritize lands for conservation and protection, and assess impacts and establish guidelines for proposed development projects. As is the case of Brier Island & Offshore Waters IBA, they are places where we can enjoy nature and grow eco-tourism opportunities.

Why was Brier and Long Islands and their offshore waters designated an IBA? These Islands and their offshore waters qualify as an IBA because of rich marine and terrestrial birdlife. During different seasons, the area supports a variety of different birds in large numbers. Fall migration (July-October) brings songbirds and birds of prey (raptors) to the islands; shorebirds to the shores; and seabirds and unique sea-going shorebirds, called phalaropes, to offshore waters. Some seabirds, like Razorbill and Black-legged Kittiwake, feed offshore during winter. In spring and fall, Brant geese stop-over during their migration to and from their Arctic breeding grounds.

Beyond its terrific variety of birds, this IBA is also home to the endangered eastern mountain avens. A team of community members, conservation groups, lead by Nature Conservancy Canada, and government partners is working hard to recover this special little plant and its boggy home on Brier Island. The presence of this rare plant truly makes Brier Island and Long Island an outstanding example of an Important Bird *and* Biodiversity Area!

Map showing location of Brier Island & Offshore Waters IBA

Five ways to learn more and get involved

1. Learn more about the birds of Brier Island & Offshore Waters IBA at www.ibacanada.org and by reading "Birds of Brier Island" by Dr. Eric Mills and Lance Laviolette (ISSN: 2292-7743 published by NS Institute of Science).
2. Add to our knowledge of birds by contributing your bird sightings to ebird.ca – a free, online tool for scientists, researchers and amateur naturalists to record and share bird data.
3. Support IBA biodiversity by participating in conservation projects such as the restoration of Brier Island's eastern mountain avens with Nature Conservancy of Canada (contact craig.smith@natureconservancy.ca).
4. Keep birds safe from harm by keeping cats indoors (see www.ecologyaction.ca/alliedcats).
5. Where possible, turn off or shield bright outdoor lights which can disorient migrating birds at night and lead to injuries or death (see www.rasc.ca/lpa).

Great Shearwater gathers in the thousands to feed during fall. This seabird breeds on islands in the South Atlantic! Photo Rob Ronconi.

A group of volunteers posted this IBA sign at Pond Cove, Brier Island on one of Nature Conservancy of Canada's conservation properties. NS Habitat Conservation Fund provided support for this volunteer event. Photo Bird Studies Canada.

Ryan O'Leary, grade 12 student at Islands Consolidated School, graduated from Basic Military Qualification Training at Aldershot, NS on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Ryan showed a lot of dedication to his dream by going to school through the week, working with his military reserves unit in Middleton every Thursday night, and completing his basic training every weekend for 10 weeks in Aldershot. Ryan plans to complete his next training course (DP1) in New Brunswick over the summer after graduating from high school.

Congratulations, Ryan - what a great job!

Happy 1st Birthday to Sadie-Marie Albright on March 27

April 4th at 12pm
Westport Fire Hall
Watch the April issue for more info

Welcome to the world little one . Eden Rose was born on Dec. 28th, 2014 to Bradley & Kristenn. Another Great Granddaughter for Connie Bisson .

Congratulations to Marco and Heather on the birth of their baby girl Edison Ruth Albright born on January 20, 2015. Proud grandparents Verna and Donnie, Sandy and Lloyd.

Happy Birthday to our sweet daughter, Sophie Evangeline Norwood

We have a little girl who is turning three years old today (March 24th)
She's the prettiest girl we know who loves to dance and play
She's truly our precious angel who we love more everyday!

Love, hugs and kisses,
Mama, Daddy and your big brother Noah too!!

Westport Out & About
By Julia Gaudet
deeputt@ns.sympatico.ca
902-839-2181

Welcome to March!...the question on everyone's mind is will March come in like a lion or a lamb, whichever way it's nice to know that winter is almost over with. Thank Goodness! I guess there's only one word to describe the month of February SNOW!

February turned out to be a snowy, windy cold month and allowed the kids and teachers to have a few snow days. With shoveling and plowing it was getting to the point as to where to put it. It made it dangerous for driving you could not see over the top of the snow piles to pull out of driveways or side roads. Storm after storm but we were lucky that we only lost our power during the Nor'easter on February 15th, with those who had generators and wood stoves they fared well, some not so lucky that they ended up with frozen pipes that lead to major damage to their homes. I think we could call this "An Old Fashion Winter".

Some of our Island residents will be traveling to Caribbean locations this month. After all this snowy weather I don't blame them for heading to warmer climates. Wishing them all a safe, fun and relaxing vacation.

March brings us Daylight Savings Time(8th),Spring (20th),and the schools take their March break(16-20th). Wishing the students and staff an enjoyable week off. Saint Patrick's Day is on the 17th, don't forget to wear GREEN!

All the Best to Dan Norwood who left on February 3rd,for NFLD. Dan has taken on a job opportunity as mechanic for a construction company in Torbay.

The Westport Ladies Recreational Auxiliary is planning their annual Spring Fling for April. More info will be posted in next month's Passages.

A nasty virus has been making its rounds for the past few months with flu and cold afflicting islanders. Hopefully it has run its course and everyone is back to good health.

On February 7th, Rhynda Tudor had a sleepover Birthday party to celebrate turning "8" on the 5th. An evening with her girlfriends was spent watching movies, doing crafts and playing games which lead to having homemade pizza, cake and ice cream and opening of presents. Sounds like it was a funtastic get together for the Birthday Girl!.

Wally and Joyce DeVries along with Raymond and Riekki Robicheau spent two weeks vacationing in the Dominican Republic.

Guess that's all for this month. I hope everyone has a Happy St. Patrick's Day and that March will be much better than what we've gone through so far this winter.

If you have any news you would like to share, please call or e-mail me.

Julia took lots of photos of the various storms that hit during February. They all blend together. Here are some of her shots.

Pat Moore`s car buried

Road to Northern Point

Waiting and waiting to get plowed out...problems with broken equipment left some streets covered in snow for days after the storms.

David and Sharon Pugh were lucky to be in Florida...so they didn`t have to deal with this mess in their driveway. Jessica Thimot photo

Jessica Thimot took this picture after the first storm of February...trying to get out to the Coast Guard station at Northern Light. This scene was repeated after each storm

Iris Garron couldn`t get out of her house because of the drifting and banks created by the snow plow. Fortunately Danny Kenney dispatched a backhoe and Iris was soon freed. Thanks to Danny Gaudet for clearing a path. Photo by Crystal McDormand

Community Drum Circle

There will be a Community Drum Circle at the Freeport Community Development Centre on **March 15th from 2 – 3:30 p.m.**

Dustin Campbell and Sam Outhouse picked up some spare cash digging, and digging, and digging to get to the front doors of Chris and Andy`s house.

Heather and Lindsay had to tunnel into the basement to get to the generator... which was needed when the power went out.

Fred Taylor on School Street in Freeport taking on a monumental task. Photo by Heather Prime

The volunteers who put out Passages had some serious digging to get into the Freeport Development Centre....Brenda Teed photo

The snow piles up against the doors of Genie Wilkins' house in Sandy Cove

Laurence and Dianne Outhouse sent us this picture of the ice in Tiverton Harbour taken from Mac's Point Road

Daniel Outhouse took this photo on February 20th.... high tides and ice made a mess in Tiverton.

Brenda and Roger Teed sent in this photo of the Tiverton ferry working its way through the ice.

Snow piled high at the corner of School Lane and Overcove Road in Freeport. Thanks Heather Prime for the photo

Rohan Lehrke, Julian Prime, Seth Feiel

There`s always a fun side to a storm...and the aftermath. These kids and dogs took to the hill in front of Chris and Andy`s in Freeport for some sledding...and some hot chocolate.

OUT & ABOUT ON LONG ISLAND

By Brenda Teed
brendateed44@gmail.com

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to everyone!!!

And don't forget to change your clocks ahead on the 8th of March!

"March winds colder than snow, all that you ever can do is to blow!" Remember that little verse from primary school? I'm sure there are not too many that would contradict me when I say that's about all we've had all winter is wind, especially the fishermen! There have been lots of storms this month, one right after the other. It really makes one not want to listen to the weather!! Lots of 'snow days' for the students at school as well. I understand it was quite difficult to get their exams done due to storm days!! I expect there will be lots of snow pictures in our issue this month!

There was a huge turnout to support our friend Gerald Moore and his family. Photo by Amy Tudor

The first weekend in February found many, many people at the Freeport Fire Hall enjoying a Pot Luck Benefit Supper for Gerald and Mary Moore. Gerald is in hospital in Halifax and has undergone surgery and will be there for awhile. This supper was very, very well attended. Gerald was the fire chief for many, many years and is known far and wide. Donald Crocker won the 50/50 draw. Little River Holistics donated a gift certificate for Reflexology which was won by Ann Schweitzer and 1000 Air miles was donated by Scott Flinn of Fraser Pro Hardware, Annapolis Royal.

Leonard and Rowena Small have returned home from their trip to Hawaii, taken with Senior Tours of Canada. Rowena told me that when they began their descent in Hawaii, the view from the windows was so breathtaking that the whole plane was silent! Highlights of their trip were a visit to the Pearl Harbour Memorial, and a tour of a volcano which was still smoking. They visited the three Islands and enjoyed each one. The flights to Hawaii via Vancouver on the way there at least gave them a break to stretch their legs, but straight through coming back and that was long, she agreed. But reading between the lines, I think it was all worth it! Needless to say they are both suffering from jet lag!!

I understand George Robbins is doing quite well after his recent surgery. Keep up the good work George – we need you here for Freeport Days! Also want to say hello to Darrell Newton of Halifax who we also need here for Freeport Days! Hope you're feeling better also Darrell. Laurence Outhouse is also at home now after having treatments in Halifax and we are sending good wishes out to him as well. We hope Edwin Ossinger is feeling better now also and will be able to be out by the time this ice and snow disappears somewhat!

David and Judy Teed have returned from their excursion to Florida stopping in South Carolina to visit with David's daughter Debbie and then on to Atlanta to visit with his son Michael and then on to Panama City to visit with cousin Lorraine and Doug Holder. They certainly escaped a few of the snowstorms anyway. Although getting stuck in a hotel in Toronto coming back is not always a good thing! And having to shovel LOTS of snow when they returned was also a negative! But the trip was great!

I had a lovely phone call from Jean Prime recently. During the course of conversation she told me about her Christmas party and she would like others to enjoy her party as well. " *During my lifetime of 90 years, I had many joys. Watching my children grow and spending time with them is one of them. One of my great joys happened on the 14th of December as I treated my family and friends to a Christmas dinner of their choice, held at Callisters restaurant in Coldbrook. My girls...Linda, Laura, Marjorie, Peggy and Jennifer and my son Ronald were all there, accompanied by their spouses. A number of my Grandchildren and Great grandchildren attended along with a number of my friends. Forty three people in all. The meal was wonderful and the guests all received a gift while all the rest had to wait for the 25th. Christmas greetings and hugs were shared by everyone. I had a great time and hope to do it again when I turn 100.*
Hugs to all.....Jean Prime"

Jackie Shields got some very good news recently. She has been patiently waiting for her hip replacement appointment to come through and finally she got the call – for February 19th! So happy for her – good luck to you in your rehab Jackie!! It will be all over but the singing by the time this edition goes to print.

Roger and I took a drive to Tiverton last week to see all the ice in the harbour. We just caught the ferry coming across to Tiverton and managed to catch it having to push the ice out of the way to get to the slip. (See photo on Page 11)

After having seen all the ice in the harbour in Tiverton, on the 15th of February, we were hit with a MAJOR snowstorm. Folks who have lived all their lives here have never seen anything like the snow we had throughout this storm not to mention the wind which whipped the snow around everywhere. And coming right on the heels of another storm, the banks are really piled high! At one point we were completely isolated – no ferries running due to the

high winds; no plows due to blowing snow and no ferries to bring them here; and no power! Not a good scenario at all. Monday morning the wind was still high and the plows had not been able to get across the ferry. Sometime during the late morning, the wind subsided somewhat and the plow and the power trucks arrived. We had been without power for about 21 hours at that point. We do have a generator so were at least warm and had TV and two burners on the stove! But I really feel sorry for those whose pipes froze, and those who had no warmth at all for that long period of time. Yesterday (Tuesday after the storm) Roger drove me around to see all the snowbanks plowed up - these pictures show some of the worst one.

Above: The Melville place on Roney's Point. Below: Malcolm Bates waiting for the plow to come by so he can dig out his driveway again.

I had this note from Ronald Dakin recently -*Hello Brenda and the many volunteers:*

Thank you for the reminder. Cheque is on the way. Have been really concerned about the Islands and how you have been coping with the terrible weather you have had. You can't take Westport out of the boy (83 and counting). Although I've been away many years I still often think of "home". I look forward to Passages each month, and thank all who are involved. It's a great little publication!!! (One request - would it be possible to include names of people with photos WHERE POSSIBLE).Thank you, Ron Dakin

Helen Teed and Christine Thomas have had a vacation in Freeport recently – Freeport Bahamas that is! No snow for them during the last 'bomb', but lots of blowing sand I'm told! I think they enjoyed that much more than they would have the snowstorm we had. A good time was had by both of them and they are certainly more tanned than the rest of us!!

Todd Sollows has spent some time in Mexico during this month. I understand he was storm stayed at the airport for one night but finally made it to his destination.

I would like to let everyone who knows Linden Patterson that he is going into the Birches Nursing Home in Musquodoboit Harbour the first of March. Anybody who would like to call him to have a chat (he loves calls from home and from people he knows) can call The Birches Nursing Home and ask for his number. (**902-889-3475**)

A few more of our residents have been vacationing in the Bahamas during this month. Sure hope your weather was warmer than what we had here! And I understand more are vacationing in Florida. This is certainly the year to be able to travel to the southern climes. It has been brutal so far! Perhaps March will be better!?

Hi to Gerald Moore who is still a patient in the QE2 in Halifax. Also want to say hi to my cousin Maxine in St. Vincent's Guest Home in Halifax. I'm still planning on coming in to see you soon Maxine – if this winter weather ever gives us a break!

We see lots of 'goings on' out our sun porch windows! This morning there were three deer out on the ledge (it was low tide) in front of our house. They walked back and forth not seeming to know what to do with the tide rising all the time. Eventually they had to swim, and it looked as though they swam around the break to the other side. My son Jeff just called to say at least one of them swam to the other side of the cove, and when they got there it was walking up past the old Kamp Kill Kare house. We don't know where the other two went but certainly hope they are safe!! We think it is the same three deer that we see roaming the hill every so often. Apparently they like to eat seaweed and that is what we think they were doing on the ledge before the tide drove them to swim.

Photo by Malcom Bates

I think that's about it for this month. Don't forget to call me with any of your news items for the April edition! As I have said before, I can't be everywhere so I need your help!!

Our Readers Write

To All: I have enjoyed hearing each month the news from the east, (Westport) my home for all my growing up years. This paper is so enjoyable for me, many new names but still many names I recognize. I am so grateful that you send it to me, sure makes me think back many years. I often wonder how the Island looks now. Someday I may go to see. Thank you again for your work and kindness. God Bless – Ruth (Lent) McEachern

Have we got a sweet deal for you!

By the Digby Neck / Islands
Gulf of Maine Institute Youth Team

Just in case you are looking to hasten the glorious days of summer and want to forget the winter snow drifts, we would like to offer our readers in the local area a free resource to get you smelling the roses early and get you buzzing about starting a brand new hobby which will have you savouring the sweet smell of success in no time.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a queen come to your very own home or become the master of hundreds of workers dedicated to sweeten your life? You've guessed it! Carter Thurber models the necessary regal headgear to reign over such an empire as he holds a copy of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping"- Everything the budding beekeeper needs for a healthy, productive hive. Carter had the opportunity to take part in the Gulf of Maine Institute last summer in Mass. USA and he worked with a team of youths led by the guide's authors, Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, raise bees, participate in research, and also have conducted international conferences on the topic of managing apiaries (hives).

Carter Thurber ready to befriend some bees

If you live in the area and would like to borrow the book, you can determine if you would like to begin your own production of honey and create badly needed pollinators for our world. Maybe you would just like to learn more about the wonderful world of bees and how honey is produced for table. Simply call Roger Outhouse (902 839-206) or Anna-Marie MacKenzie-Kelly (902 834-2370) and we will arrange to get the book to you.

Our Readers Write

We both really enjoy "Passages" - (good to read news from "home"). Roy and Betty Peters – PEI.

Thank you people for all your hard work. I enjoy Passages so very much. Regards to all – stay warm. Sincerely, Anna Scrivens - BC

Islands Lego Team

Ms. Sollows, Mackenzie Allbright, Mr. Webster Sawyer Thurber, Colby Allbright, Adam Le

The Islands Lego Team (ILT) attended The First Lego League Provincial Championships at Acadia University on Saturday, February 14th, 2015. The team got to present their innovative way to teach children to tie their shoes by matching up a picture puzzle that is sewn on the shoes. They also took part in robot challenges using programs that they developed.

MED-A2 Training

By Amy Tudor

The sunny days of summer may seem like an eternity away but they are just around the corner and summer on the Islands means whale watching! I was excited to head to Yarmouth to NSCC Burridge to take my 3-day MED-A2 training course. The course was educational and hands on. Getting to put out fires and taking the plunge dressed in a survival suit were my personal favorites. Due to extreme temperatures and ice cover in Yarmouth we did our water rescue training in the YMCA pool rather than open water.

Boys Basketball team deserves a hearty "well done" and a pizza supper

The ICS Jr. Boys basketball team held a potluck supper on January 21st to raise money for expenses during the season and a pizza party to celebrate after our last game. $612.00 was raised that night in total. Ben Dixon won the 50/50 draw. A huge thank you to Janet Dixon, Julie Crocker and Nadine Tidd for helping in the kitchen and to the rest of the parents for cooking and helping after with clean-up! Also a big thank you to everyone else who brought food that night! We couldn't have done it without you! The boys did all of the setup and served tea and coffee and also sold tickets and did the majority of the cleanup. The boys had a good season, winning two games against Bridgetown, and giving Clare, Digby and SMBA a run for their money! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us at the games and the supper. Thank you!!

The basketball team getting ready to set up the potluck supper. Below, Laurie Thurber makes the 50/50 draw. The players get their reward: A pizza supper

Random Cute Kids and Snow Pictures...

Ben Welch conquers a snowdrift

Sophie Evangeline Norwood is literally snowed in (note snow where door should be)

This is Karlee Farnsworth on a drift at her grandparents' house in Digby that was so high she could climb up to the roof of the mini home

Creature of the Cove – Common Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina)

By Roger Outhouse

During the colder months from October to May this largest of all North American freshwater turtles has been hibernating under water in pond and stream sediments absorbing their oxygen through the skin and surviving by lowering metabolic requirements by reducing their heart rate to only a few beats per minute. Once spring arrives they will make their appearance as they start to hunt for food. The snapping turtle has earned a reputation of being very aggressive and this comes about because they have adapted some scary features from a human perspective. First of all they have a very small lower shell (plastron) and are unable to retract their head, feet and tails into the protection of the shell like other turtles. This means that when they rarely stray from the protection of water they become very aggressive when approached by predators or curious humans. In water this animal is more likely to be in flight but on land they are ready to fight. They have a very long neck which can reach out with powerful jaws and a sharp beak delivering a serious bite. No other turtle has such a long reach to defend or attack with. Add to this a loud hissing sound and this reptile can look and sound pretty menacing. Because of their inferior shell defense they stay mostly in water except for females venturing on land in June to lay their 20 to 40 eggs in nests they dig in sand, gravel or soil of nearby beaches, roadsides, woods or gardens. After covering the nests the females move back to the water. About three months later the young hatch and seek access to water immediately. If the above ground weather conditions are cold when the young hatch they have been known to stay in the protection of the buried nest until the following spring when things warm up.

The prehistoric looking snapping turtle can live 25 years, weigh up to 16 kg (35 lbs) and have a shell 35 cm (14 inches) in length. Although the shells are brown they can appear greenish due to green algae growing on the surface.

Unfortunately predators abound and in fact racoons, coyotes, foxes and skunks raid the nests of the unhatched eggs. While most literature reports this turtle as posing no threat to humans it is clear that snappers are described as mean spirited if they feel threatened and it is best to observe them from a distance. My wife once tried to do the right thing when she spotted a snapping turtle the size of a dinner plate slowly making its way across the highway near Bear River. Although not keen on reptiles she thought that she could help this rather large individual cross the road. She stopped the van, picked the critter up and was only a few moments into the rescue when it lunged out with its long neck and gaping mouth. Dorothy took offense to this ungrateful beast and dropped it immediately leaving it to fend for itself! Unfortunately highways and increasing traffic is where these slower moving animals are at greatest risk and of course the sandy soils on the shoulder are attractive nesting sites. Since roadways are frequently patrolled by many of their predators a lot of nests are destroyed; thus roads are in fact a deadly triple threat.

I can remember reading in an older publication on Amphibians and Reptiles from the Nova Scotia Museum explaining that this rather feisty reptile would sometimes lay waiting in ponds using its keen sense of smell and not so great eyesight to locate potential prey including frogs, snails, fish, waterfowl and other small animals. It also described a single incident in Keji Park where a large snapper once grabbed a young child who was in the water and had to be beaten off by other adults. Actually in Nova Scotia the snapping turtle population is found mostly in Southwest Nova Scotia while other rare sightings in the rest of the province are most likely due to humans transporting the animals to new areas. This is in fact how they have finally made it to Long Island. We have had a number of sightings in recent years and the photos used in this article were taken of a female at the bottom of Lovers Lane in Freeport where the pavement ends and sandy gravel begins on the old road leading toward the Freeport Brook. On a broader range this turtle is found in New Brunswick and as far west as southern Saskatchewan, and throughout the eastern and central United States as far south as the Gulf of Mexico and west to the Rockies. Although one might think the snapping turtle is doing well it has now been declared as a species at risk in Nova Scotia and Ontario. The greatest threats to the common snapping turtle are the loss of habitat to urban development and pollution of waterways which greatly reduce the reproductive success of these amazing reptiles.

Pour for the Cure

Mary Dixon, left, serves up some goodies. Above, ready to play " backwards Bingo".

The Islands Women's Institute held their annual "Pour For the Cure" at the Freeport Fire Hall on the 23rd of February. The roads and parking lot were very icy and not a lot of people ventured out but it was a fun evening playing "Backwards Bingo" and socializing with others after being snowed in the house for so long for those of us who ventured out!! Lots of good snacks and tea and coffee were supplied by the WI. A tidy sum was collected for Breast Cancer research. President Linda Elliott tells me that the Breast Screening Clinic is due here in Freeport on **August 20 and 21, 2015**. Be sure to mark this on your calendar.

Winter Wonderland February 3rd

By Amy Tudor

"Hello winter wonderland! I was able to make it to the Westport Library today! It was no easy task but I have to admit, fun! The drive way was covered with 2-5 feet of snow and the Northern Light Road is COMPLETELY IMPASSABLE by ANY vehicle. My pictures may look like a little snow with foot prints but that is 6 feet of pure heavy snow pack. The DOT plow started the road but was unable to finish and created a nearly 25 foot snow bank in the middle of the road. I have to admit I felt like a joyous 7 year old atop that massive 25 foot mount looking down to where the plow did get down. Then I see Jimmy Outhouse in the Island Maintenance truck working away on the road. It was so exhilarating to see snow explosion reaching 20-30 feet in the air when the plow truck collided with the banks. I happily slid down the massive bank and Jimmy was kind enough to give me a lift to work. The front road was okay but the back road still a mess.

I have to admit getting to work was FUN today but on a serious note if there had been an emergency with any of my family or the Coast Guard was called out no help would have been able to get to those in need and that is a serious situation."

Library News

The Westport library was feeling the love during our Sweetheart Story Time party. We enjoyed stories, sweetheart scavenger hunt and decorating boxes for the people or things we love.

Upcoming program dates and times include:

Break the Boredom

Thursday, March 19, 12 to 2 p.m.

All ages can enjoy a light snack while playing good, old-fashioned board games with friends and family.

Crayon Re-creation

Wednesday, April 22, 3:15 to 5 p.m.

In celebration of Earth Day, all ages can make new crayons out of old crayons with the Crayola Crayon Maker.

Jessica Thimot helps Lillie with a Valentine Project. Marlene Norwood helps Sophie. Rhynda Tudor, Emma Delaney and Ian Tudor work on their Valentines

Ian Tudor with a fancy tie and Valentine box

Lillie Thimot makes a big stretch to find a hidden treasure

New laws bring in big fines for dumping kittens; leaving your dog tied out for long periods

By Christine Callaghan

New legislation passed in December means increased protection for companion and farm animals in Nova Scotia. Finally, cats have been given due recognition, and dogs will no longer have to endure endless hours outdoors at the end of a rope or chain. One big step forward is that it is now against the law to abandon an animal. So, for example, if your cat has kittens, and you decide - instead of putting an effort into finding good homes for them - just to dump them at the side of the road in, for example, Little River, you are breaking the law. If you're found guilty, you could be fined anywhere from $200 to $700. Ditto if you leave your dog tied up outside for more than twelve hours a day. These provisions are long overdue, and there is still a long way to go, but it's a start. We can all play a role in ensuring animals are adequately cared for, with the food, shelter and proper care they deserve. If you are aware of cases of cruelty or neglect to a companion animal, PLEASE call the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). The toll-free number is (888) 703-7722. All calls are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Your neighbour will never know that it was you who called. For cases regarding farm animals, call the Department of Agriculture at (902) 896-2299. Under the new legislation, the RCMP now have the authority to enforce the Act, so in an emergency, call (902) 245-2579 (24 hours). And please remember, there is never a good reason to abandon a pet. There are agencies and citizens who will do their best to help any animal in need. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'll say it once again: the most important first step in preventing animal suffering is to spay and neuter your pets.

This beautiful tiny kitten was one of several that were abandoned along highway 217 in Little River last summer. He was lucky to be rescued and adopted. Some of the others didn't make it. Abandoning pets is now against the law in Nova Scotia.

Job Opportunities!

The Brier Island Lodge
and Welcome Aboard Whale Watching Tours

are hiring for our 2015 season.

WWW.BRIERISLAND.COM

Positions available:
Office and front desk agents
Grounds and maintenance crew
Kitchen and dining room staff
Housekeeping
Boat crew-MED-A2 Mandatory
Please forward resumes or inquires to
bayoffundy@brierisland.com
Or
PO Box 33 Westport NS B0V1H0

Balser's Pharmachoice

Phone (902) 245-4071 Fax (902) 245-4076
83 Warwick St.
Digby

Free Delivery to the Islands

Digby's Only Locally Owned Independent Pharmacy

Thank-you Freeport Fire Department and Men Who Move Snow

By Amy Tudor

Thank you the Freeport Fire Department for setting up the warming/charging station during time of prolonged power outages. On February 16th after a night of no power, no heat, nearly dead electronics and 3 cabin-fevered kids we decided to take the ferry to Freeport to get warm and charged-up.

A big thank you to Daniel Kenney for bringing up the excavator and working to clear not only the Northern Light Rd but the roads of Brier Island. Clyde Stark showed he was a man of dedication when it came to clearing roads pictured here shovel in hand on Northern light road. The clearing of snow was also seen on the ferry and at the FVFD as well.

Clearing the snow from the ferry ramp

Clyde Stark leads a one-man attack on the Northern Light Road

Snow everywhere...and it just kept coming

A D.B. Kenney backhoe adds some more horsepower to the attack

Warming up at the Freeport Fire Hall

LEST WE FORGET

Pte. Frederick Adams
Royal Canadian Artillery
17th Field Regiment
1942-1945

17th Field Regiment, part of 5th Canadian Armoured Division, first saw action when they landed in Sicily in 1943. They fought across the Island, landed on the Italian mainland and fought up the east side of Italy to north of Rome. They were withdrawn and moved to southern France in the Fall of 1944. They moved north and joined the rest of the Canadian Army for the move into Holland and spearheaded the move into northern Germany.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 14th. 3 pm. St. Patrick's Day Event
-Kitchen Party with open mic
-Happy Hour with Green Beer
-Irish stew
Wear green and have a wee bit of fun

Saturday March 21st, 2 pm. General Meeting

Audrey Weir is proud to sponsor Passages in Memory of her husband Dr. Donald Weir

Proud to sponsor Passages
Gary Stanton Carpentry and Snow Removal
839-2158

BRUCE
Chevrolet Buick GMC

BRUCE GM
398 Highway 303, Digby,
Nova Scotia B0V 1A0
Ed Hankinson, BBA, Manager.
Cell - 902-245-8007

Busy Bees' Salon 245-6775
Three Master Hairstylists:
Heather, Aralee, and Debbie
Walk-ins Welcome. Evening and Sunday appointments available
134 King Street, Digby

Digby and Area Recreation Commission
is proud to
sponsor Passages

Tradewinds
A Nova Scotia Real Estate Company

Andy Moir
839-2337
245-8571
Your REALTOR here on
The Islands and Digby Neck
www.fundyislandsrealty.com

D.B.KENNEY FISHERIES (2014) LTD.
Westport, Digby County, Nova Scotia, B0V 1H0 CANADA
Bus: (902) 839-2023 ~ Res: (902) 839-2096 ~ Fax: (902) 839-2070

RAM COMPUTER SYSTEMS
62 Water Street, Digby
245-4606
sales@ramcomputers.ca
www/ramcomputers.ca

CPAWS
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

CPAWS NS is a non-governmental organization working collaboratively with stakeholders, to protect Nova Scotia's natural land and ocean environments www.cpawns.org
1-902-446-4155

Digby and Area Early Intervention Program
Provides various services and supports to children with, or at risk of developmental delays from birth to school entry in the Digby County area. Free of charge and service is provided in your home. If you have concerns about how your child is developing, please call (902) 837-7315

Digby Denture Clinic
John D. Lilly, D.D.
21 Warwick Street
245-2587
Most Dental Plans Accepted
Complete Denture Service Directly To The Public
•Complete and Partial
•Upper & Lower Dentures
•Same Day Relines & Repairs
Mon. - Thurs: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fri: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF PASSAGES

Nature Conservancy Canada Protecting over 1,200 acres of land on Brier Island www.natureconservancy.ca (902) 405-4334	**Brier Island Lodge** *Nova Scotia's* *Eco Tourism Destination* 1-800-662-8355 *www.brierisland.com* *4-Star Canada Select*	**Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises** *Whale Watching since 1984* **Westport 839-2995** ***www.brierislandwhalewatch.com***
FREEPORT SUPER SENIORS ARE PLEASED TO SPONSOR PASSAGES. Meeting every Wednesday At 1 p.m. at Islands Manor	**The Village of Freeport** is proud to sponsor Passages	**Pirate's Cove Whale Cruises** *Established 1990* **839-2242** **Toll Free: 1-888-480-0004** **Tiverton**
Wilson's Home Hardware **103 Warwick Street, Digby** **Tel: 245-4731 Fax: 245-2203** *Delivery to the Islands*	**PIER II REALTY LTD.** 121 - 1st Avenue Digby (902) 245-4711 (Bus) 245-4712 (Fax) pier@ns.aliantzinc.ca	**The Fieramosca Family** *Pleased to sponsor Passages*
Come and Enjoy St. Mary's Bay at... **Bayside Farm & Cottages** 580 Fort Point Road Weymouth North, NS B0W 3T0 www.baysidefarm.com Tel.: (902) 837-5353 or Toll Free: 1-866-940-6700 *"Keeping up the Bayside Vacation Tradition"*	Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Assoc. ***Our Fundy, Our Future!*** Roger Outhouse (902) 839-2068 routhouse51@gmail.com	**Alvah Titus** *Pleased to be a sponsor of Passages*
Providing support and employment counselling for persons with disabilities/barriers to employment 1 Birch Street, Digby. Phone 245-1830 Employment Opportunities Partnership	**Freeport Lodge #65 AF/AM** **Meets 3rd Thursday of every month.** **Contact John Small**	**The Municipality of the District of Digby** ***Proud to sponsor Passages*** **245-4777**
Barbara McAlpine-Nicholas of Hillsboro, Oregon is proud to sponsor Passages	**Darrell Newton** ***Pleased to sponsor Passages*** **Halifax, NS**	**DIGBY EYECARE CENTER** 245-1010 Dr. Yves Levesque Dr. Sara Wilkinson www.eyecarecenter.ca
THE TWELFTH FRET **Guitars - Mandolins - Banjos** **Amps - Strings - Effects** **Special prices for Islanders** **Grant MacNeill** 1 - 416 - 423-2132 *www.12fret.com* *sales@12fret.com*	Sanford & Associates CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS *Jeremy Sanford, CA, CFP* 9a Water Street P.O. Box 2410 Digby, NS, B0V-1A0 Phone 902-245-6400 Cell 902-308-9466 Fax: 902-245-6406 jeremy@sanfordfinancial.ca	Four books of nostalgia, humour, local history, and personal experiences: FERRY TALES ($15); FOGBURN ($15); FACT AND FANCY ($15); and TATTLE TALES ($20), plus postage and packaging. Contact the author: Blair MacNeill, RR#2, Guelph, Ontario. N1H 6H8. Email: blair.macneill@sympatico.ca

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF PASSAGES

Connell's **Septic Services Ltd.** Septic tank pumping/Portable toilet rentals **902 532 5045** **1-888-709-0005** (Toll-free for long distance)	**Clare Dodge Chrysler Jeep** **3640 Hwy # 1 St. Bernard, NS** **www.claredodge.com** **902-837-5171 (phone)** **902-837-5946 (fax)**	Mainland Telecom Integrated Communications. Powerful Solutions. Providing high speed internet to the Islands. 902 365 3132
J.L. Brooke Fisheries *A proud sponsor of Passages*	**Northeast Cove Fisheries Ltd.** C/O Tony & Laurie Thurber 902-839-2732 Proud to sponsor Passages	**Jim and Kaye Watt** *Pleased to be sponsors of Passages*
Myron Garron *Pleased to sponsor Passages*	**Jim Thurber** *Pleased to sponsor Passages*	**TIVERTON SUPER SENIORS** **Tue (1-4) Thurs (10:30-4) Sat (1-4)** *Don't stay home alone-COME!* **New Members 55 years and Better - Welcome 839-2866**
James L. Outhouse, QC **Lawyer and Notary Public** **Tel: 245-2551 Fax: 245-6622** **Digby**	**Small Ideas Crafts and Gifts** **77 Overcove Road, Freeport** **Open by Chance or Appointment only** **839-2539**	**Lavena's Catch Café** *Recommended in "Where to Eat in Canada"* *"Good Coffee, Company & Conversation"* **Freeport 839-2517**
MV Lady Taylor Proud to sponsor Passages	**Cynthia Carver** *Pleased to sponsor Passages*	**THE SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT AND SARAH OUTHOUSE is proud to sponsor Passages**
Digby Neck Firewood **full cord bagged will deliver** **Bruce McCullogh 834-2777** **Sandy Cove bruce@mccullogh.ca**	Ford **Belliveau Motors Ltd** PO Box 190 Church Point, NS B0W 1M0 **Darren McWhinne** Quality Certified Specialist 13 years of Service **Bus.902-245-6565** **Toll-free 1-877-601-6565**	**Virginia Crocker and Family** *Are proud to sponsor Passages*
Noah Richler, Sarah MacLachlan and Sophie and Nathalie Marsh, on the Neck & Islands whenever they can be, are pleased to sponsor Passages. We are in fact, delighted.	**Straight from the Hearth** Mon - Sat: 8:30 am - 8 pm Sun: 1 - 5 pm **839-2053 Freeport**	**Westport Baptist Church** **Tiverton United Baptist Church** Rick Small **Freeport United Baptist Church**
R. E. ROBICHEAU LTD 839-2273 www.brierislandhostel.com store@brierislandhostel.com	**Sissiboo Veterinary Services Ltd.** **Siegmar Doelle, D.V.M.** *"House calls to the Islands"* **(902) 837-1009** **5 French Road, Plympton**	**Eugene Finigan** Cleveland, Tennessee *is a proud sponsor of Passages*

News from Islands Consolidated

With help from his TA Tina Balser, Jeff Lombard had one of the highest bowling scores!

Demeka Tudor enjoys one of Yvonne and Lorena's Valentine cupcakes. They have become an annual treat at ICS. They baked one for everyone at the school and a few extras as well! Thanks once again for making our Valentine Day extra special

Book Buddies, Emma Delaney and Tegan Theriault share some stories on Valentine Day.

Secondary students enjoy a day of skating and bowling as part of the "Beat the Winter Blahs" activities at ICS. Ironically other activities had to be postponed a week because of a winter storm!

Exchanging Valentine cards is a tradition that still puts a smile on the faces of the children at ICS. Cohen Crocker was very excited to see all the cards, as well as a few treats, that were in his Valentine mailbox. The card exchange is still a highlight of our Valentine celebration.

Hannah VanTassel's Valentine mailbox is overflowing with cards and treats from her friends.

The Primary-1 class is always happy to see Rya and her bag of books. We would like to thank Rya for sharing so many wonderful stories with us. We can't wait for her next visit!!

Jayden Balser carefully opens his Valentine, eager to see what is inside and which friend it is from.