PASSAGES

THE LONG ISLAND, BRIER ISLAND AND DIGBY NECK NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 12 **$2.00** December 2015

We Would Like to Wish all the Fishermen and Women a Safe and Prosperous Lobster Season!

Westport
Photos by Julia Gaudet

Tiverton
Photo by Taylor Barnaby

Freeport
Photo by Taylor Barnaby

Inside Passages:

New Correspondent for Digby Neck

New Owners for Straight from the Hearth

What are Scallop Selects?

Christmas Bazaar

Freeport Fire Hall
December 5th at 11 a.m.
Sponsored by Islands Women's Institute.
There will be cookie decorating for the children.
First table is free.
Phone Linda Elliott at 902-839-2671 if you want a table.
Please bring a donation for the Islands Food Bank.
There is something for everyone!
Lunch will be served by the firemen/women.

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 as 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, email passagessubscriptions@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.

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

Deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 24th.

Volunteers for Passages

Over the last several weeks, we've ask people to join us to discuss how we can improve Passages, and how we can get more people involved. We've had a great turnout, with a lot of really good ideas.

Every month volunteers get together to assemble Passages. Only takes about an hour, and it's actually a lot of fun.

As most of you know, Passages is put out entirely by volunteers. It comes out once a month, and has never missed a month in 17 years. A commendable accomplishment for a volunteer organization.

In order to keep it going, we need some new ideas and new people.

Passages is not all about articles and columns and photos. Our volunteers do everything from entering subscriptions in a database to getting together once a month to print, collate, fold and stuff envelopes, to get Passages out to our readers.

There are many other jobs. Someone has to make sure the computers are operating; or that there is toner for the photocopier, and paper to print on.

Fact is, it takes dozens of volunteers to get Passages out every month...and we would love for you to get involved. It doesn't take a ton of time; maybe an hour a month. We've made a list below of some of the jobs we need help with. Katherine Feiel has agreed to be our volunteer co-ordinator (another lofty title with no pay attached). If you'd like to learn more about any of these jobs, please give Katherine a call. Her contact information is below.

Passages volunteer tasks:

Printing and distribution:

Print Passages, mail our envelopes, insert subscription notices & sort envelopes into four regions: One hour per month.

Printing Passages: One and a half hours per month (per sheet / per volunteer. We need six to eight volunteers) As-

semble Passages: One hour per month (typically use eight volunteers for this task)

Stuff envelopes: One hour per month

Deliver Passages to post office, stores on Islands, Digby Neck, and Digby (half day per month). Several people could take this on, so no one volunteer does it every month.

Record all monies from the store sales, and give the money to Treasurer.

Order supplies for Passages printing (toner, paper & envelopes): One hour per month

Ship used toners back to supplier for recycling

Co-ordinator for all of the volunteers doing the tasks above: 4-5 hours per month

Determine quantity of Passages to print based on prescription letters and returns from previous month

Maintain monthly records of Passages printed

Community Calendar Editor: two hours per month

Subscription and Sponsorship co-ordinator: 2-4 hours per month

Proof-readers: two hours per month

Out and about columnist, Freeport: 5-6 hours per month

Out and about columnist, Tiverton: 5-6 hours per month

Out and about columnist, Digby Neck 5-6 hours per month

Interviewers - 4-5 hours per - once or twice a year

IT person (fixing our computers and other technical stuff): Generally about one hour a month

Photo editor: two hours per month

Copy formatter: 2 to 3 hours per month

Writers: As often as you like. Could be one article a year...could be several. It's up to you.

Photographers: As often as you like:

Columnist: We need several for different topics: The fishery, economic development ideas, arts and crafts. Would take three to four hours per month/per column.

Editors: Edit articles, layout Passages, work with all of the columnists, writers, production staff and all of the others who get Passages out every month. This is a large commitment of time, particularly during the last week and a half of the month. We are hoping to reduce the time commitment by getting more people involved in the process, but it still would require at least 20 hours (at present, the editors put in about 40 hours getting Passages out). We hope to have at least four editors doing the rotation, so the commitment in time to do Passages is only three times per year.

If you'd like to get involved in Passages, please give Katherine Feiel a call or send her an email at info@katherinefeiel.com

Digby Neck Correspondent for Passages

Gwen playing and singing at Lavena's Catch Cafe.

We're delighted that Gwen Wilson of Sandy Cove is going to be the new Digby Neck Correspondent for Passages.

Gwen is a familiar figure on the Neck. She's been very involved with many volunteer endeavours, as well as making wonderful music with her husband Gary. So, if you've got something you want to get in Passages, please contact Gwen.

Gwen Wilson
53 Old Post Road
Sandy Cove, Digby Neck
NS B0V 1E0
gwenwilson@Mac.com
902-834-2866

Islands' Health Centre countdown to Christmas

With the holiday season approaching we want to remind everyone that flu shots are still available.
Call and schedule your shot today.

While we are on the subject of scheduling, how about a brief explanation of "same day" appointments? Many people ask what this means. To put it simply, it means doing today's work today. This way of scheduling helps reduce wait times for appointments and often means you can call and get an appointment when you need it – even on the same day! Don't worry, you can schedule your appointments for future dates as well. The bottom line is we do try our best to give you the appointment you want in a timely manner.

Creatures of the Cove
Common Bumblebee (Bombus impatiens)

By Roger Outhouse

As September 2015 came to a close I was watching very large Common Bumblebees flying from a nest under my front concrete doorstep. Throughout the summer months I was aware of many of the hive's industrious smaller worker bees flying in and out of the nest visiting the surrounding flowers gathering nectar and pollen to meet the food requirements of the colony, where queens, drones (males) and other workers were all growing in numbers. It was the stunning appearance of about 20 of the larger drone members of the hive buzzing loudly around me within about a ten yard distance from the nest, that really got my attention. I was alarmed that the strange appearance of so many might make the workers (they have stingers) more aggressive but that was not the case. While this bee is not very aggressive they can sting and one should not attempt to get too close, especially to the nest. A common bumblebee will show it is getting agitated by extending one of the middle pair of its six legs as if to say back off! While being too close can trigger that reaction, they really get upset at the smell of mammal breath, including humans. With that in mind, perhaps a human's dreaded morning breath might indeed be fatal. They had captured my attention and made me want to learn more about this largest of all the many species of bees in North America.

This male drone Common Bumblebee is mostly black in color and is not very talented as it actually crashes into objects and makes very awkward takeoffs and landings.

While the worker bees had been quite skillful as they flew about completing their tasks, the large drone bees were very clumsy in flight, bumping into windows and other objects. They landed frequently, crawling down to dirt level in vegetation and grass where they seemed to rest and made little to no attempt to check out nearby flowers. While drones of some species serve no purpose except mating with a queen bee and consuming the food resources of the hive, it seems that the common bumblebee does incubate some of the eggs by fanning them with its wings. On the other, hand queen bumblebees are the key to new generations of colonies and that is their sole responsibility. Each fall the honey production drops and the worker bees and drones die off, leaving the queen [female] to hibernate through the winter, awaken in the spring and start single handed to establish the new colony.

It turns out that the Common Bumblebee is anything but common. True, it does occupy most of Eastern North America from Ontario to the Maritimes and down the seaboard as far as Florida, but more importantly it is a huge contributor to our economy and precious food production. Estimates suggest this humble insect that nests in fields, woodlands and sometimes abandoned rodent holes, to be a major pollinator for crops including alfalfa, field beans, pole beans, peas, red clover, plums, currents, rapeseed, apples, tomatoes, sunflowers and strawberries. This species has a remarkably longer than usual tongue and hairy body to help pollinate plants, has an ability to work in cold weather [they even have records of them flying in sub-zero temperatures] and they are dedicated high energy workers [they have a body metabolism 75% higher than a hummingbird]. Their value has been so well documented that they have been introduced to greenhouse operations in British Columbia, California, Mexico, New Zealand and Australia.

These bees are not without predators. A number of parasites do cause problems to the health of the colonies along with animals such skunks, mink, mice, shrews and weasels. Bears and foxes can and do attack entire nests, eating eggs, larvae, wax, honey and any adult bees that do not escape. Birds such as Northern Shrikes will also attack foraging bees, pulling off the stingers and eating the insect's abdominal contents. Man's use of pesticides and habitat destruction are likely the biggest threat of all to the Common Bumblebee and hundreds of other pollinators. When I mowed my lawn for the last time on November 12th I was both shocked and amazed to find a lone worker bee on a single remaining flower and respectfully decided to turn off the motor and let it BEE!

Library Adds Digital Magazines to its Services

Digital magazines are now available at Western Counties Regional Library through Zinio for Libraries.

"It's an exciting new service we are able to offer library users," says regional library director Erin Comeau.

Western Counties Regional Library deputy director Joanne Head checks out digital magazines now available at the library on a tablet.

(Ian White photo/Western Counties Regional Library)

Through western-counties.ca, library users have unlimited access to complete digital magazines, which can easily be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside the library.

Zinio's unique technology digitally recreates a magazine page for page, including full colour pictures, intuitive navigation, key word article search and interactive elements such as audio and video. There is a wide range of magazines available such as *The Economist, OK!, National Geographic, Cosmopolitan, Popular Science, The Family Handyman*, and *Good Housekeeping*.

"In all, there are 31 different magazines and their back issues available for free through the library," says Comeau. "People can read them in a doctor or dentist's waiting room, on coffee break, in their living room. All they need is a library card to access them."

There is a link to the digital collection through the library's website. From there, users can create an account using their library card. There are no restrictions on checking out magazines and they are always available.

Ham Supper

Sat. Dec. 12th at 5:00pm
Tiverton Baptist Church
Everyone Welcome!!

Proceeds go to Charitable Projects and Youth Group Activities

Congratulations!

A lovely summer wedding took place August 29th, 2015 at St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Springbrook, P.E.I. when Katherine Titus, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander Mark Titus and Carol (Pugh) Titus married Cole Dowdle, son of George and Marlene Dowdle of New London, PEI. Pictured above with the happy couple are Mark, Carol and Kate's siblings Michael and Brianna. Cole and Kate are living in Summerside, PEI and are wished the very best from all their family on the islands.

Bernice Powell and Jean Titus are enjoying each other's company at Kate Titus and Cole Dowdle's wedding. While the two were good friends in Westport in the 1960s, they probably never thought they would have a mutual granddaughter and celebrate this special occasion together.

Tiverton Bingo

The last bingo of the year will be held on December 15 at 7pm. We will be giving the $325.00 Jackpot away as well as turkey and chocolate draws. All welcome. Hope to see you there.

Outhouse - Macdonald Marriage

Sarah and Brian Macdonald are shown after their wedding at Central Christian Church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on July 31, 2015.Their attendants were Helen Ivens of Tiverton and Brent Macdonald of Calgary, Alberta. Sarah is the daughter of Roger and Dorothy Outhouse of Freeport, N.S. and Brian the son of Bill and Joan Macdonald of Stratford, PEI. Of special note was the attendance at the wedding of Brian's grandmother, Kay Macdonald who will be 102 in December.

The week before the wedding, the Outhouse/Parsons/Macdonald family members were able to enjoy some vacation time in PEI and traveled to various spots throughout the province. A brunch was enjoyed at Sarah and Brian's home July 31st with Doreen Bower, Judy Outhouse, Helen and John Ivens, Mark and Carol Titus and Bernice Powell as well as Sarah's brothers Steven, Richard and families in attendance. Sarah is now employed at PEI Office of the Future and Brian manages a family business, BJ Truck Centre, both located in Charlottetown. Love and best wishes to them from all their family and friends throughout both provinces.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

An evening of music, carols and sweet treats
Westport Church of Christ
Saturday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday December 5th at 11:00am
Westport Fire Hall

Come out to begin your Christmas shopping with local crafters. Bake tables, homemade wreaths and visit with Santa

Lunch plates available

To book a table please contact:
Jessica – 839-2652
Julia – 839-2181

Memory Tree Lighting
& Light Exchange

Saturday December 5th at 6:30pm
Bring two sets of old lights for a new set of LED lights
Hot chocolate and sparklers will be available for the tree lighting

Merry Christmas from the Westport Ladies Auxiliary

Oh Deer, Where Art Thou?

By Rick Wallace

The 2015 deer hunting season is turning out to be a bit of a rout (not to be confused with rut) for hunters on the Islands and Digby Neck. In past years, like 2013 and 2014, the deer population seemed to have been thriving, but not this year. Last winter's deep snow and prolonged cold took an enormous toll on the deer populations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Vivian Cossaboom recounted how this was the coldest winter in her memory (she's only 95 yrs old though) as well as for other "older" people (I think she meant over 96 yrs old) who have lived in Tiverton all their lives.

It's that tough winter that has had an impact on the deer numbers, with estimates running from 18-22% less deer than 2014. In a CBC interview last month, Joe Kennedy, a deer biologist with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources said, "The deer have a difficult time feeding; they don't consume adequate food to put on fat so they're burning fat all through the winter." As Kennedy explained, "Combine that with deep snow that they had to travel through — that caused a lot of energy loss so that the deer, not only are losing weight anyway, but the travel through the deep snow really zapped the energy from them, to the point that we've seen a lot of deer starving." Naturalist and friend of the deer, Roy Cossaboom (Central Grove), tells of how he would see 40-50 deer in 2013 and yet, not a single one this year. Others in Tiverton talk of feeding a group of about 15-20 deer during the winter but clearly, many of those deer perished later in the winter. Still, others talk about finding emaciated dead deer in the woods. Wayne Buckman has been hauling apples to his hunting blind for the past three weeks and only has apple cores to show for it. "It's been a bit frustrating", he said calmly. Actually, he wasn't calm and he used other words,but children read this.

That said, there have been some deer shot on the islands but not that many, perhaps less than a dozen in total. In 2011, biologists with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimated that deer population numbered 50,000 animals. This compares with an all-time high of 124,000 animals in 1986 to a low of 42,000 in 1995. In 2013, there were a total of 10, 835 Deer killed in Nova Scotia with 8,100 bucks and 2,700 does (http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/deer-stats.asp), with 540 kills in Digby County.

One guy from Digby County summed it up recently on a forum when he wrote, (http://novascotiahunting.com/forums/index.php?/topic/39610-deer-numbers-after-last-winter/). "I know in my neck of the woods (Digby County) the herd took a unbelievable crash. Didn't think it could possibly be as bad as what it's looking like, hardly a track anywhere, main deer trails that usually look like cow paths have no traffic on them at all. Scouted out the wild apple trees that are loaded with apples in my hunting area, same thing, not a track or trail to be found around them. Cameras up for a couple weeks at multiple spots and have only got pictures of one doe and coyotes, the one critter that seemed to thrive last winter in my area. Hopefully it's not that way everywhere, but it went from boom to bust here in just one winter, with a boom in the coyote population to make matters worse."

For some on the Islands and the Neck, deer season is a highlight of the year. This year doesn't look like it will be a good one. The situation does raise some questions about deer management, particularly on the Islands. Given that some of the deer shot this year have been older, larger but in their prime, bucks, and given the depleted overall numbers due to the winter, it raises real questions about the future number, sustainability and survival of a deer herd on the Islands. What are your thoughts on this? Write us and we will publish some.

Clearance Sale

Rodney and Leta Stark
are having a sale at
Fundy Vista Glass Creations.

Discounts of 20 - 50 % off, as marked, on all glass panels, lamps,Jewelry and decorator pieces in our shop.

Friday December 11th, Saturday, December 12th and Sunday, December 13th from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

LEST WE FORGET

Ernest (Ernie) Dakin

Royal Canadian Air Force
(Aircraft Electronics Technician)
1948-1973
Deployments
NATO France 1957-1960

RCL #92 Events

December Events:

Every Sunday 5 to 7 pm Chase the Ace
Sat. 19 Dec at 2 pm - General Meeting
Sat, 19 Dec. 9 pm to 1 am - Christmas Gala and Dance
Band: "Hour Glass"
Cost: Members $8.00
Non-Members $10.00

Legion Closed 24th-26th
Friday, 1 Jan 2016 1 pm - New Year's Levee
Happy Hour 1-5 pm/Buffet/Finger food
Dress up and Help ring in the New Year.

Everyone Welcome

ICS News

By Helen Ivens

Our thanks go to this year's guests, Joe Chaisson, Eric Albright, David Pugh and Clifton Thurber and to the Grade 10 Options and Opportunities class who held the Remembrance Service at I.C.S.

I.C.S. Remembers. . .

The Primary class made wreaths and the grade ones made crosses with messages on their banners. Sierra Lunn's reads,"I will always remember."

Avery Albright's wreath says, "Thank you for everything."

Each secondary home room class put their hands, heads and hearts together to design remembrance wreaths.

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

The Grade 4-5 class under the direction of Mrs. Giles-Thibodeau singing Highway of Heroes at our Remembrance Service.

Candy Cane Craft Fair

Islands Home and School would like to thank all the vendors, helpers and those who donated to the silent auction baskets for making our craft fair a success. Once again, our thanks go out to Frankie Gillis for supplying the cow for Cow Patty Bingo. Congratulations goes to Earl Crocker who was the winner of the $1 000 this year. We would also like to thank Oasis Youth Group for providing child care during the craft fair.

On November 10th Oasis Youth Group - Brett Allbright, Ariana Collum, Helena Smeltzer, Hannah Allbright, Miranda Perry, Sawyer Thurber, Carter Thurber and Ben Dixon--sponsored by Islands' Women's Institute, cleaned the roadsides in Central Grove. We picked up about a dozen bags of garbage, some of which was household garbage that the crows had spread around, but most of what we gathered was trash thrown from vehicles. Please help keep the roadsides clean by keeping your garbage inside your car until you get home so you can add it to your household garbage, recyclables or refundables

A Shoebox Christmas

Fifty-one shoeboxes are on their way into the hands of needy children around the world. Many thanks go to everyone who packed a box, or two or three or more this year. You have helped to change the lives of many children this Christmas. Children who live in desperate circumstances will know, through your gift, that someone cares for them. There are so many testimonials from adults about how receiving a Christmas shoebox when they were young helped to change their lives, encouraged them and gave them hope. Many still cherish the doll or stuffed animal they found in their box and now that they are grown and their circumstances have improved, they too pack shoeboxes at Christmas. It seems like a very small thing, but these gifts mean so much to those who receive them and to their families. What a wonderful way to celebrate and to share our many blessings.

Oasis Youth Group, Hannah Allbright, Mackenzie Allbright, Kassidy Harris, Carter Thurber, Sawyer Thurber and Colby Allbright, would like to thank everyone who donated to our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. With your help we were able to packs 17 boxes to send to needy children around the world.

Thanks also go to Jimmy Titus and D.B. Kenney Fisheries for once again transporting our boxes to Paradise and then on to their next collection centre. In total 51 shoeboxes were shipped from our Islands to Paradise where they were added to 1128 other boxes. Last year Canadians packed over 700,000 shoeboxes. When everyone does a little, it adds up to a lot very quickly. Operation Christmas Child, a program of Samaritan's Purse, has been delivering boxes since 1993. Over 100 million shoeboxes have been given to hurting children worldwide, bringing smiles to millions of children, spreading God's love with gift-filled shoeboxes.

Time to Say Goodbye

By Chris Callaghan

Pet owners are well aware of the joys of living with an animal. As long as we treat them well, they love us unconditionally, they make us smile - and often laugh out loud, they snuggle and hug, and they are such comfort when our lives take a downturn. Unfortunately, given that Nature has given humans decades of life and most of our pets much less time than that, it's inevitable- unless our beloved pal meets with an accident - the time will come when we as their owners and caretakers must make that most difficult of decisions: is it time to "put her/him to sleep"? I recall taking our beloved big orange cat, Toeser, to the vet. He was King of the Castle in our house, a magnificent beast, and I loved him beyond words. But he had become lethargic, was very thirsty, and had lost weight. The other cats in the house seemed to sense that he was failing, and no longer showed him the respect they had always given him. Toeser was only eleven, but I knew him so well it was obvious that something was gravely wrong. The vet did some tests, and diagnosed kidney failure. But, he said, Toeser could probably live another three weeks without suffering. I stood in the examination room looking at my sweet old friend, took a long deep breath, and made the call. "Might as well do it now", I said. I couldn't stand the thought of bringing Toeser home only to watch him continue to decline, and for him to lose his pride as the other cats took over his place at the top of the hierarchy. Euthanasia of a pet is a gentle and painless procedure, and I wept over him and told him what a good boy he was as he took his last breath. Then I wrapped him in his yellow towel and brought him home, and Andy and I buried him under the big spruces in the yard. Every spring the pink flowers we planted on his little grave bloom and remind us of him. Life has moved on, and another big orange cat lives with us now, and we love him just as much – and the other cats don't love him quite so much. That day in the vet's office, someone else might have made a different decision than I did, and brought their pet home for those precious few last weeks. When the time comes, the best person to consult is your trusted vet. Talk to friends and family who have been through the loss of a beloved animal. And trust your own gut feelings; you know this animal better than anyone else in the entire world. The thing to make sure of is that your little buddy isn't suffering. Even though it's ripping your heart out, it's not about you now.

Sometimes the hardest right thing to do is to give up a pet that is healthy and thriving, that you love with all your heart. That's what Joey Stanton did early in October, and I can't begin to say how much I respect him for making the decision he did, as difficult as it obviously was. Joey's circumstances have changed since he and his partner adopted a five-week-old Chocolate Lab puppy they named "Diesel" last spring. When Joey called me to tell me he was moving, and to ask if I could find a good home for her, I replied that yes I could, and that he wouldn't have to worry. We agreed that he would drop her off at our place a few days later, and I made arrangements with a registered Animal Rescue Group based in Halifax to take her on. Joey admitted to feeling "a bit emotional" when he brought Diesel to me that morning. "Of course you are", I replied. The dog he dropped off was happy, confident, shiny and well-fed. It was obvious that she was much loved and well-treated. I assured Joey that Diesel will have a wonderful life, and that he was doing the best thing for her. (And then I took this photo, which I think is a beautiful portrait of the two of them). We all hate long goodbyes, so Joey and I put Diesel in the crate in my car and I caught the next ferry. I drove her to New Minas, where I met up with another volunteer who relayed her along to meet a third volunteer at the airport, who took her to her foster home in Truro. I spoke with the rescue group today, to get an update on Diesel. She has been vaccinated and spayed, and all the veterinarians and vet techs and everyone else who has met her just love her. They all say it's obvious she was well-treated. There are twelve applications to adopt her, and as soon as she has recovered from her surgery, she will be welcomed into a wonderful, forever home, to live happily ever after. We all love happy endings – (or beginnings, depending on how we want to look at it). But I want to end this column with recognition of Joey Stanton, for doing the best thing for his dog, no matter how hard it was. Saying goodbye is seldom easy, but sometimes it's the kindest act of all.

Joey Stanton and Diesel

For Sale

Kerosene Heater with Kerosene $75.00
(Used only a few times, good for fishshed or camp)
Linda Elliott 902-839-2671

ICS News

By Helen Ivens

John Ivens helped the Primary-1 class carve their pumpkins this year. Sierra Lunn helps by first taking off the top.

Next Landon MacDougall helps to scoop out the "guts".

Cohen LeBlanc and Lucas Stanton dig deep to get the last bits.

Now comes the carving, using safety carvers, of course; everyone gets a chance to help. Here Ian Tudor helps to carve the nose.

Back: Avery Albright, Cohen Crocker; Front: Sierra Lunn, Landon MacDougall, Shawna and Sophie VanTassell with smiles as big as their pumpkin.

Hannah VanTassell and her three-eyed monster are all smiles at Halloween.

Hannah VanTassell, Cameron Macdougall, Nova Tudor, Cohen LeBlanc (back), Lucas Stanton, Jayden Outhouse and Ian Tudor show off their finished Jack O'lantern.

Cameron MacDougall's rock monster.

Landon MacDougall with his monstrous pet rock.

You say "Scallop?!" Atlantic Superstore Says 'Sorry'.

By Rick Wallace

"Wow, what a deal," I exclaimed when Steve Laugher's daughter-in-law, Melanie, showed up with scallops for

only $8 per pound. The only problem is that they weren't quite scallops. In fact, it is still a bit unclear what they were exactly.

They look like scallops, are labeled "scallop", and are not scallops. Hence, the name "Scallop Select". Given the importance of scallops in this region, it seemed unfathomable that Digby Atlantic Superstore would sell such a misrepresentative item. A bit like those crab meat things made of pollack but then calling it "crabs meat". HUH?!

I couldn't help myself, I had to go talk to the Superstore Manager about it. I mean, really, the Bay Scallop fleet (mostly based in Digby) caught over 1,110 tons of scallops in 2012/13. Lots of scallops, lots of boats, lots of money. So, how could Digby Atlantic Superstore be selling an imitation product like "Scallop Select". And here, no less?!

I went into the store, asked for the Manager and calmly asked him and the Atlantic Superstore Regional Fish Director (who just happened to be there), what was up with the "scallop" versus scallops thing. First, let me say they were both super nice guys and by the end of our conversation we were all chuckling—mainly because it has been such a disaster for Atlantic Superstore. (Hee hee). I hardly know where to begin.

Turns out that Atlantic Superstore got this strange shipment of "Scallop" product from Clearwater Seafoods Ltd in Saint John. Now, to be fair, there was supposed to be a notice beside the package (because the label didn't say anything about the product) detailing what it was. Um… that didn't seem to happen in Digby…or it got lost.

Turns out the manager didn't really know what they were either. The Superstore Regional Fish and Meat Director said they weren't the Skate but were in fact scallop pieces mixed together with small pieces of fish (cod). Hmmm, Clearwater Seafood says they are "Scallop medallions made by chopping, forming and individually quick freezing our finest sweet and tender wild-caught Argentine (Patagonian) scallops into uniform portions." No mention of fish there. I'm hearing confusion.

Confusion it was. So, Atlantic Superstore started getting customer complaints in Digby and around the province. Thankfully there weren't any from Manitoba –a renowned ocean-fishing province. Clearly, no one was really sure what these things were nor why they were selling them.

Finally, Atlantic Superstore officials gave up, gave in and ditched them as quick as they could. The Regional director (a very funny guy but obviously still suffering a migraine) gave the order to get rid of those 'things' as quick as possible—discount them and let this never happen again.

As usual, it makes me wonder what Clearwater Seafoods is doing selling Argentine scallops as 'scallop select" in Atlantic Canada. It reminds me that food corporations aren't always very truthful about their ingredients, be it GMO products (genetically modified), pesticides (California grapes), unsustainable growing methods (palm oil in Indonesia) or scallop without an **'s'**.

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ICS Students Organize Clothing Drive for Incoming Refugees

ICS students are working on organizing a clothing drive to help incoming refugees. A Canadian winter certainly won't be an easy time to arrive, and no matter where our new-comers end up, they'll need supplies to get started. We've been studying the refugee crisis in several classes and the students want to help.

We're hoping that you can find a little extra closet space while we sort out the details. If you have clothes you no longer need or want and they're in good condition and clean, we are hoping you will consider hanging on to them just a little longer. Hopefully within the next month, we will have a space to sort and store them. We will be looking for baby clothes and items like diaper bags, children's clothes, and men's and women's clothes. Winter items like jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and boots are probably also going to be needed. We are also thinking about taking small toys in good condition for the children who will be coming.

We will post more details as we have them on the school website and Facebook page. In the spirit of the season of love, sharing, gift-giving, peace and goodwill, we thank you.

If you would like more information, please contact susanna.haley@gnspes.ca.
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Westport Out & About

By Julia Gaudet 839-2181
deeputt@ns.sympatico.ca

Welcome to the last month of 2015!

With the Christmas shopping and decorating season upon us, I see that a few islanders have their homes all decked out in lights and decorations as well as trees trimmed and lit for a few weeks now.

The lobster season will be opened and traps set by the time you receive your Passages to read. Good Luck to all the fishermen in safety and let's hope the catch is good as well as the price.

The Westport Ladies Auxiliary held their Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest in October. Lots of creative carvings were entered again this year. Winners for the 3-5 year category were Lillie Thimot and Sophie Norwood; adult category was Nicole Titus and Chad Graham. There were no entries this year for ages 6-8 and 9-12 categories.

Nice to see Courtney Welch back home for a few months visiting with her family after being in Emerald Lake, Alberta for the past three months. Courtney arrived home on October 27th to surprise her sister Bethany who was celebrating her 14th birthday. Lots of hugs and tears made for an emotional welcome home. I would say that's the best birthday gift any younger sister could receive.

Keith Swift, who had been living with his daughter Melanie for the past year in Winnipeg, Manitoba passed away peacefully on October 30th. Sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

All the Best to Marlene Norwood and children Noah and Sophie who left on November 6th to be with Dan in Whitehorse for the winter months. Enjoy your Yukon adventure and see you all in 2016!

Congratulations to Jocean Farnsworth and Curtis Welch on the birth of their son Messiah Martin on November11th. A baby brother for big brothers Ace and Benjamin.

Congratulations to Shelby Frost and Patrick Swift who welcomed their son Kaiden Joshua Alexander to the world on November 19th.

All the Best to Lorraine and Brian Moore on becoming the new owners of Straight from the Hearth in Freeport starting in the New Year! Previous owners Dorothy and Roger Outhouse started the business in February 1986. A big Thank You goes out to Dorothy and Roger for all their years of excellent service to the Freeport community. We wish them all the Best for many enjoyable years ahead of relaxing and spending quality time with their family.

The Annual Christmas Tea & Bazaar will take place on December 5th at the Westport Fire Hall at 11am. Come check it out and do some Christmas shopping and enter the Crazy Christmas Sweater Contest for all ages. The lighting of the Memory Tree will take place that evening at 7pm at the library followed by carol singing and hot chocolate and sweet treats. We are also accepting non-perishable donations for the Islands Food Bank.

There will be a Potluck Supper at the Baptist Vestry on December 6th at 5pm to raise money for the Canadian Baptist Ministries which supports agriculture, health and education projects in developing countries. The church will also be accepting donations for the local food bank. Everyone is welcome to come out and bring a hot or cold dish for the supper and a donation for one or both charities.

Reminder of upcoming Christmas events:

Dec. 1st-20th ~ Westport Ladies Auxiliary's Winter Wonderland Decorating Contest. Sign-up sheet is at R.E Robichaud store.

Dec. 13th ~ Christmas Open House at Brier Wood Farm (Victoria Graham) from 1-4pm.

Dec. 19th~ Christmas Reflections at the Westport Church of Christ at 7pm. An evening of music, carols and sweet treats. Everyone Welcome!

Dec. 24th ~ Christmas Eve service at the Baptist Vestry at 7pm. Everyone Welcome!

There will be no **Sail2 Lighthouse** meeting this month.

I would like to wish all our readers a wonderful Christmas and all the Best in 2016! May everyone's holiday be safe and relaxing with family and friends. See you Out and About in the New Year!

Brier Island Photos

These photos of Brier Island were taken by Susan MacDormand from their doorstep in Freeport, Long Island proving you don't really have to venture far for spectacular views of nature.

Freeport Fire Department

Submitted by Helen Teed

On Sunday, November 15th, 10 members headed to the farm with all the fire trucks and had training on the new pumper. The trucks have an operator who drives and runs them but multi trained firefighters ensures that if an operator can't respond someone else can step in. Also, training took place with using radios while running lines and a new driver got some training on running our tanker. As you'll notice, we also start training them very young.

Well Women's Clinics

WHERE: Consultants' Clinic – Digby General Hospital

DATES: Thursday, 01 October 2015 (8:00am – 3:30pm)
Saturday, 24 October 2015 (9:00am – 1:00pm)
Saturday, 28 November 2015 (9:00am -1:00pm)
Saturday, 12 December 2015 (9:00am – 1:00pm)

To book an appointment,
please call 245-2502 ext. 3282

nova scotia health authority

Digby General Hospital Site
75 Warwick Street, Digby, Nova Scotia B0V 1A0
Phone: 902-245-2501 Fax: 902-245-2803
www.nshealth.ca

90th Birthday Open House

Come help Alva celebrate her 90th Birthday
December 6, 2015
2:00-4:00

Westport Church of Christ
Fellowship Room
(Rear of church building)

Best Wishes Only Please

Out & About on Long Island

By Brenda Teed
(902)245-6761

Here we are folks into the most festive month of the year! Merry Christmas to everyone from all of us at Passages! We hope that the new year coming up is very generous to you all.

The Remembrance Day Service at the Freeport Baptist Church was very well attended this year. The Church was almost standing room only – even a few in the balcony. As usual, everyone did their parts well and it all when off without a hitch. Eric Albright of the Legion always has everything planned to the ninth degree which makes all the difference. The dinner at the Legion after the service was

Stanton, Lavena and crew

wonderful, as usual. Stanton and Lavena (Crocker) Seamone along with their servers and helpers in the kitchen served a great many of us with piping hot beans, fish cakes and brown bread rolls. Dessert was cake and ice cream and that also was delicious. It was great to see so many people paying their respects to the fallen. Recreation volunteer Julie Crocker presented the Silver Cross Mother

Silver Cross Mother presented with flowers

Eleanor Bailey with a bouquet of red roses and of course, everyone teared up on that one, including Eric!

Gary and Bev Roebuck of Dartmouth visited with Bev's mother Linda Elliott over Remembrance Day and attended the service and dinner with her. Also visiting with Linda was her son Laurie, who was down from Halifax deer hunting with friends. Her granddaughter, Paige Barnaby visited over a weekend and attended the Candy Cane Carnival at the School and the Christmas Sale at the Tiverton Baptist Church.

Kelly Sue Pyne of Bridgewater visited with her parents Linda and Rodney Pyne over the Remembrance Day.

Joe, Jane and Thomas Flinn have been visiting with her parents Leslie Powell and Eunice Powell recently.

Last Rose of summer

Linda Elliott visited with friend Maurice Soucie in Belliveau's Cove recently.

Good wishes go out to Jane Ozon who underwent a bit of surgery recently. I understand all went well.

I happened to look out our sun porch window recently (for one of the last times until spring) and lo and behold, here was a wild rose in full bloom!

I see Ed Brown has returned to his home on Water Street recently.

A big shout out and Congratulations go out to Brian and Lorraine Moore on their decision to take over the Straight From the Hearth store in Freeport. I understand they have purchased the old Trading Post in Freeport and once the repairs are done, which will take some time, it will be the new home of the store beginning January 2, 2016. It will be known as School Street Market – all the very best in your new endeavour!

Dianne Outhouse and her granddaughter Jennifer, of Halifax and friend Brenda Outhouse of East Ferry, travelled to New Hampshire to visit with Dianne's son Ronald and wife Nila and celebrated Ronald's birthday. Of course, nobody could go to New Hampshire without doing some serious Christmas shopping! A great trip for all three of them. While they were in New Hampshire, they took a side trip to visit with Tom Delaney in Berlin, Mass. Tom would like all of their friends and cousins to know that unfortunately Claire passed away in October after 38 years of marriage. Tom is planning a trip to Tiverton before Christmas but plans are not as yet finalized.

Roger and I have had a very busy week or so packing up our home in Freeport and making the move to Digby to a smaller apartment. Do you all know you CANNOT put a houseful of furniture into a small apartment? We do now! We tried but it just doesn't work. So a lot of things we have decided we really enjoyed while we had them; now we don't need them anymore so they go...somewhere.....not sure where yet!

Good wishes go out to John Ivens who I hear cut his hand quite badly recently. Take it easy, John, and let it heal properly!

The Freeport Fire Department hosted a Turkey Supper this month. I understand the food was absolutely delicious and it was fairly well attended. These fundraisers are really important to the Fire Department and deserve to be well attended. Don't forget how high your insurance would be if there wasn't a fire department close by!! It takes a lot of money to run the department and this is just one of the ways they raise that money.

I understand the Fisherman's Services at Freeport and at the Tiverton Baptist Church were well attended. Pastor Rick Small of the Tiverton church did his last service on that same evening, November 15th. Not too sure where the church will go from here, but we hope someone keeps things going. Good luck Pastor Rick, in whatever you decide to do, which we know will involve the church in some way!

Karl Perry of Saint John, N.B. has been visiting with his mother Muriel and Malcolm Bates recently.

Bonnie MacLachlan is visiting at her home in Freeport for a couple of weeks.

Speaking of our newspaper, I understand the public meeting which was held on the 18th at the FCDA was very well attended and it looks like everyone wants Passages to continue. I am so happy about that! Thanks to everyone who went to the meeting and had lots of good suggestions, I understand.

I can't forget to say hello to my cousin Maxine in Halifax – she is still reading every word of Passages, or sometimes having it read to her, and really enjoys our newspaper.

It's been a busy month at the Freeport Community Development Center trying to revamp the Passages and keep things running smoothly. I am so happy to have been able to work with all of the people up to this point, and I am sorry to say it is nearly impossible for me to continue to do this column from Digby. I would like to say a big Thank You to all who have supported me in this column and have sent me news items over the years. I will really miss doing this and I am hoping someone will pick it up. I will certainly continue to buy Passages!

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Islands Historical Society News

The Islands Historical Society will again be raffling off tickets for a beautiful Christmas Basket. Tickets will be available at the local stores in each village and the local bazaars being held on December 5th in Freeport and Westport. Cost per ticket is $1.00 or six for $5.00. Draw is December 16th. You will be able to see the basket at our "Open House". Date and information in the poster included with this article.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

OPEN HOUSE

DATE: DEC. 12th

LOCATION: LENT HOUSE MUSEUM

TIME: 1 – 3PM

PAINTINGS BY KATHY PRIME

JEWELRY BY MONICA STARK

"ISLANDS REMEMBER"

LIGHTING OF OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

6:30PM

PURCHASE YOUR CHRISTMAS BALLS @ $2ea.

FOR YOUR LOVED ONES AT:

CANDY CANE CRAFT FAIR – NOV. 21ST

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FARMERS MARKET DEC. 5

OR MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

REFRESHMENTS

COFFEE, TEA, HOT CHOCOLATE

OLD-FASHIONED COOKIES

ISLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FREEWILL OFFERING

Grade 12 students, Hannah Allbright and Maeve Dixon help to sell the wreaths decorated by their graduating class.

Encounters with Canada

By Taylor Barnaby

Last month (November), I had the opportunity to go to Ottawa through the Encounters with Canada program. I got to

My group and I (I'm wearing the orange scarf)

choose the theme week that I wanted to attend so I picked Arts and Culture. Most of the activities that were selected for me were Arts and Culture related; visiting the National Art Museum, taking part in an acting class at the Schulich Acting Academy, recycled art class, dance classes, singing classes, and many more. We also had activities scheduled like, touring the city, taking part in a peacekeeping module, a linguistics module, a motivation speech done by two-time Olympic Medalist Sylvie Frechette, tour of the parliament buildings and I also got to attend an NHL game. Out of all of the amazing things I got to experience while I was there, the most memorable would have to been attending the swearing in ceremony of our new Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. While at the ceremony I not only got to meet Justin Trudeau but also hug him. Besides all of the fun things I got to do and see while there, I also made a lot of friendships that I know will last me a life time. Throughout the whole week they kept telling us that by the end of the week we would have a friend from every province and territory, and I did. I am very grateful for this experience and I encourage everyone who has the opportunity to go to Encounters with Canada to do so, because it will change you for the better and open your eyes to things you've never seen before.

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

Municipal Councillor, David Tudor

I would like to start out with thanks to those who give me a hand getting wood for the Wood Bank. When winter's snow is here and the Nor'easter is blowing, wood can sometimes be hard to come by.

Various levels of government offer programs that can be a big help. If you have a program you or someone you know might be entitled to, let me know. Sometimes the forms can be complicated and difficult to fill in so if you need help completing them feel free to get ahold of me.

To let people know, I would like to get the No-Fee Boxing Club up and running again but with having a family I no longer have time to go back and forth to Westport to teach. I have to give a big thanks to Westport for providing me with a place to put a ring and hold classes. I am looking for a place in Freeport so that I can put on boxing classes immediately after school so any potential students and I can more easily make time for it. I am not picky at all. As my Coach used to say "heat makes you weak".

Numerous people are working towards getting the Ferry Approaches Project completed. I'm confident a deal can be worked out. The amount of volunteer hours a project likes this takes are considerable but working together and having a plan is how we get things done.

It's wonderful news that Lorraine and Brian are going to be keeping a store in Freeport. Our village stores are a part of the beating heart of our communities. It is very important that we remember the vital necessity of buying local. Imagine how difficult it would be to attract people to the area if they could not buy milk; not to mention the work they provide and the social role they fulfill.

Thanks,
David Tudor
902-839-2630

Gordon Wilson, MLA
Clare-Digby
info@claredigby.ca
902- 245- 5300

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Farewell to Straight from the Hearth

By Dorothy Outhouse

For some reason, 1985 became the year I was obsessed with baking. I baked on a regular basis every day and new recipes were being investigated by the dozens. The Canadian Living magazine was in its infancy and that became a must have. Every month the mail box held a muchly anticipated envelope from the Cookbook of the Month Club with hundreds of books to choose from. Westport Library's book shelves also fueled my addiction. Eventually I knew something had to be done with my compulsion. My family couldn't keep up with it all and the freezers were full. It was before the age of the reality show "Intervention" but I may have been headed in that direction.

One night we were somewhere visiting and I made the comment "I'd really like to start a bakery". That was a tactical error – as I didn't expect anyone to hold me to it. The cooking compulsion may have faded away if Ted Swift hadn't heard me say that. Ted had recently become manager of Freeport Trading and the traveling bakery from the French Shore had decided to stop its deliveries to the Islands. He wanted baked goods for the store and I had said I wanted to cook – an answer to his problem was it not? A phone call asking me when I was going to start my bakery followed and I bit. I had just read Debbie Fields' (of Mrs. Fields' Cookies) autobiography and it seemed like a good idea to start a baking business. I had read about these successful entrepreneurs. I felt my headline would read "Baking empire begins with $120 taken from grocery money." February 6, 1986 saw the first delivery go out the door. I started in our kitchen. Anyone who has seen my house knows that my kitchen is not large. I had one gas oven and a Kenmore mixer. I began cooking after the boys and Roger went to school and finished in early evening. Sarah's love of television and movies may have come from that first year when I baked and she found a way to amuse herself. At first it was just one day a week but then the words "economy of scale" started floating around in my head. If I could do more than one store at a time, larger amounts of ingredients could be purchased at a lower cost and more money would be taken in. We had purchased one of the very first Plymouth Voyager minivans and it was perfect for making deliveries. Gorham Elliott's store in Tiverton was approached and then Robicheau's in Westport, Sypher's in Sandy Cove and then Marshall's in Digby came on board. Now that baking took almost the full week, family suppers were quite often at seven or later at night. The dining room table was full of packaged goods and we began to eat on TV trays in the living room. A second stove was added to the kitchen and some initial help was hired. All of our recipes were made from scratch with no preservatives and that took time and effort.

Straight From the Hearth Baked Goods' first day's products: oatmeal brown bread, biscuits, white cup cakes, and molasses cookies. Eventually each day's cooking would consist of three-four types of bread, biscuits, cookies, muffins, pastry, cake and squares.

After a bit, Caroline Norwood wanted to do a story on the business for the Digby Courier. I agreed but putting the business out to the world began an almost 30 year relationship with the food inspection arm of what is now the Department of Agriculture. Inspections, water tests, food handler courses all became increasingly familiar components of our day to day life. It was decided to separate the bakery from the household area and move it to what had been our family room in the basement. Walls were erected, plumbing run and special lighting ordered. One Kenmore mixer wasn't going to cut it anymore and at times it was used so much that it smelled as if it would soon burn out. A bakery in Digby sold us its equipment, including roasting ovens, a 60 quart mixer, proofer and other items, none of which I had ever used. Our flour and sugars began arriving in 40 lb or larger bags and trips to other equipment suppliers began. Slab pans for cakes and squares, strap pans for breads; cookie sheets over two feet long and huge spatulas and spoons were purchased along with two twenty quart

Originally a one car garage, this building became the beginnings of our convenience store. Roger remembers our van being housed there once before the conversion.

mixers and a sheeter, which would shape bread dough. Eventually, in addition to the three gas ovens, a convection oven was used as well. In winter time the extra heat generated by the stoves and proofer was welcome – in mid-July, not so much. When I purchased the first round of equipment, we had no outside entrance to our basement, where it was headed. The 60 quart mixer weighed approximately 800 pounds and I still can recall how it was lifted by a group of men from the truck it had arrived on, put on its back and lowered down the basement steps through a system of attached ropes. The stoves were carried in in pieces and then assembled. When the local propane company came to set them up, they connected the stoves to the lines, got the propane working and then discovered they couldn't get all the rest of the parts placed where they should go. This began my propane apprenticeship. By the time they had caught the next ferry, the oven was assembled. I troubleshot a lot of gas stove difficulties from that day onward.

Dorothy and Sarah, Christmas 1986. Our three children all got shirts which said "Straight From the Hearth Junior Staff". Sarah probably wasn't envisioning her "senior staff" career of over 10 years, June 2004 to August 2015, at that time.

We had applied for a Growth Opportunities' loan to expand the business. However, the application was rejected and one reason given was that they felt I would never create enough employment. When Roger and I tried to recall all the employees who had come and gone through the business, our total was 55 local people who had benefitted from bakery and/or store wages.

The bakery ran until the 1990s. At the height of our work, we supplied wholesale bakery goods to 30 stores throughout Digby and Annapolis Counties, reaching as far as Keji Park on Route 8. In addition to smaller convenience stores, our products were in the Digby IGA as well as cafes and restaurants in Annapolis Royal. Some of our product used at Leo's Café in Annapolis even got a mention in Gourmet magazine.

Some products worked better than others. For some reason, peanut butter cookies tended to burn more than any other type. My kids, when coming home from school, usually came home through the bakery entrance asking "What'd you burn today?. The hope was for singed cinnamon rolls and there were only so many peanut butter cookies they could eat. After a while, they couldn't stand anymore and swore off them completely. We were never without desserts as the return rate was quite high some weeks. One year Carol and Milledge Pugh hosted two pigs at their house and we fed them bakery returns for the however many months they lived. One was close to 500 lbs when the time came to go to his reward. It was suggested that with all the baked goods they ate, they were the first pigs to be sugar cured before death.

After the closure of Leslie Powell's store located in the MacIntyre building, pressure was put on us to supply some groceries, such as milk and bread, so Freeport residents wouldn't have to drive elsewhere to buy necessary small items. Eventually, groceries began to eclipse bake goods and take up more of our effort. Being on the road 5 days a week was not fun. I had had some close calls during some winter days. I can remember flipping around on the Landsdowne Road one day and having the car continue towards Bear River, rear end first, down the hill toward the village. Another time I applied my brakes on Purdy Road to stop behind a large tour bus which had materialized as I broke over a hill. Every time I drive that road, even 20 years after the fact, I still remember thinking "This is where I die" when my brakes failed to hold on the snow and ice. I must have had a guardian angel on my shoulder that day as the van came to a halt just before the stopped bus. The angel didn't save the three lemon meringue pies, which flipped when the van came to a stop.

Chrysler's mini vans were a new invention which took the world by storm in 1984. We had ordered one but had to wait until the 1985 models came in as they were so in demand. Although the van seating was removable, it was not comparable to the new "Stow and Go" seating available now, where the seats disappear in to the van floor. To remove our seats, the locking mechanism had to be pushed down and released. The seat could then be taken out of the van and stored. These were heavy, requiring at least two people to lift it from the van. Towards the end of the van life, the clasps were no longer cooperating and to take the seat out, a hammer had to be kept in the van at all times – to be used on the latches when either taking the seats out or putting them back in so the family could travel together. Ours also had a few transmission problems – it required three of them while we owned it. One spring day Laurie Thurber and I had picked the van up from Bridgetown where it had had work done totaling over $5,000. We got as far as the Mary Jane Riley road marker and the accelerator stuck. As the van continued to pick up speed and we began to hurtle down the 101, Laurie and I exchanged looks of pure desperation. I did the only thing I could think of - stomp on the brakes. Although the van did stop, it was a permanent stop and we were stranded on the side of the

road, in the days of no cell phone. Staying in one place and selling milk and bread began to look welcoming.

After a prolonged fight to get permits to start a store – the rules stated that we could not sell even so much as a can of beans unless a hand wash sink was located within the store itself- we connected our garage building to the bakery area and started to sell whatever we could fit in the space available. In 1999,we constructed an addition of 25 feet and this has allowed us to carry a little bit of most everything in the grocery line. We're not Walmart but I hope we've been able to serve you well over the past years.

I have never been able to see the headline about $120 of grocery money creating a monetary fortune come true. Store life has been full of ups and downs but it has always been an education in many areas. Our children have had jobs throughout school and university and it has taught them many things about human nature, business and the way of the world. We will miss visiting with everyone as they come in to the store and include us in their life – children have grown up before our eyes from babies to adults, families mourned loved ones and the joy of happy occasions has been shared. We are turning our family business over to another family who will be there to serve you and support the community. It feels like the business has come full circle – both Brian and Lorraine grew up with our children, Brian's mom Mary was Straight From the Hearth's first employee and School Street Market will be eventually located where our bakery first did business. I'm not quite sure how Roger and I will fill our days but we will be in Freeport and you may even see us helping the new owners out every now and then.

Ever practical, for our 25th wedding anniversary in 1999, 25 feet was added to the original building to give us what we thought would be TONS of shopping room.

Richard and Sarah wrapping granola bars. The kids started at 25 cents an hour in pay, moving to $1. This was before they discovered that minimum wage laws existed - which didn't take long. Steven also worked there, eventually specializing in pizza.

We would like to thank everyone for your kind words and expression of gratitude for having the store in Freeport. It has meant a lot to hear these things.

From one family to another- Dorothy and Roger Outhouse will be passing their ownership of inventory and equipment over to Brian and Lorraine Moore January 1, 2016.

On January 2, 2016 drop in and wish Brian and Lorraine the best as they start their new venture. Hours of business will remain the same, 8:30 am to 7 pm, Monday to Saturday and 1 to 4 pm on Sundays. Pizza will be available every weekday noontime and takeout pizza will be offered Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 7 pm. They will be renovating the store on School Street over the next few months and when that is done, all equipment and stock will be moved and the store will operate from there. It will be good to see a thriving "village square" again! Check out their Facebook page for all Lorraine's updates and information about the business.

This spring will see this building come back in to its own as a store in the spring of 2016. Known as The Freeport Riteway, Freeport Trading and Thurber's Landing as well as other names, it will be called School Street Market when it is renovated and open for business under the Moore family.

Fish Shop Update

Islands Historical Society would like to thank the fishermen and families who have helped us make our fish shop a reality. Special "Thank Yous" go out to JL Brook Fisheries (in memory of Marjorie Thurber); Ziplock Fisheries, Risky Ventures, Titus Talisman, Jr. Perry and Penny Graham whose donations allowed us to afford the building which was made by Happy Harry's, Digby in a specific design echoing fish shops of early years. Older windows were donated by Andy Moir, adding an authentic touch to the building. After receiving the building, it was thought that having chip board floor and plywood walls might not help us create the proper setting for hanging 1900s fishing equipment. A push to find aged boards to cover the walls was on and sent Wanda Christensen, our president, in many different directions. The yard of the late Hermie Shaw, Pat Moore's attic and numerous "back of the house piles" (Doug Ryan and Ed Brown) gave us enough wood to completely cover all the interior walls. Susan and Brian McDormand, shown in the photo, took their vacation time and did all the construction work with the boards – readying the interior for the artifacts. With a fresh coat of paint put on the door by Wanda and Stewart, the shop is ready for the winter.

Susan and Brian McDormand

This spring will bring our official opening with donors being recognized. In addition to our local fishermen, we also thank the family of the late Carl and Elsie (Campbell) Newell who kicked off our fundraising campaign. It will be wonderful to be able to give all the artifacts a home and explain fishing in the early 1900s to our visitors.

Children's Toy Drive

Hi, my name is Kenzie Crocker and I will be doing a Toy Drive again this year. I hope you all can try to donate something to help out the children. Last year was a success. I will be placing boxes at Long Island Trading, Straight from the Hearth, R.E. Robicheau's, Tiverton Community Hall, or if you want you can drop them off to me in Tiverton. Please try to help out so we can all make a child's Christmas this year. Thank you so much everyone.

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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 - 7 pm Sun: 1 - 4 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*

ICS News

By Helen Ivens

Halloween Rocks in the Primary-One classroom.

Maritime Marionettes, Darrell and Heather Taylor, visited our school on November 17th. They brought with them a large assortment of shadow puppets and marionettes. In four workshops, they shared their knowledge and skills to teach our students in Grades Primary-8 how to control the various puppets. Everyone found this puppetry fascinating and had a great time working with the puppets.

Demeka Tudor and her marionette both sit down to have a little rest.

Cohen Crocker tries his hand at shadow puppetry.

Jayden Outhouse takes his cat for a little walk.

Ashlee Crocker doing a little Christmas shopping at the Candy Cane Craft Fair.

Grade 9 Child Study student, Ben Dixon, reads with learning buddy, Ian Tudor.

Sophie VanTassell makes her bird fly around the room.

Edward Smeltzer makes what he hopes is the winning bid on a Silent Auction basket.