

United Church Women Spring Rally held in Old Barns

By Chris Urquhart

The Truro Presbyterial UCW Spring Rally was held in Old Barns on May 12th. Rev. Dan Gunn welcomed us and told us a bit of the history surrounding Old Barns. We were also welcomed by Old Barns UCW President Becky Burrows and Presbyterial President Brenda Leslie. The Old Barns UCW led us in an inspiring worship to start off the day.

The morning program was about the Tatamagouche Center with Margaret Tusz-King showing us photos plus explaining about all the programs at the Center. She told us about the different groups which use the center and told us how welcome we would all be there. It was very interesting and informative.

In the afternoon Faye Smith, Barb Aiken and Norma Moore (the promotions committee for the camp) talked about McLennan Camp, which is our Church camp sponsored by both Truro and Pictou Presbyteries and Presbyterials. We learned about the wonderful pro-

grams they have at the camp, about the cabins and other facilities including the in ground pool and the need for new stoves at the camp.

They thanked us for our continued support, and especially for all the pennies and Canadian Tire Money we have saved for them. They read out their "wish list" for this camping season which includes items such as garbage bags, cleaning supplies, tin foil, toilet paper, other paper products and craft supplies. If you have any items to donate to the camp please pass them along to any of your UCW ladies!

They ended their presentation by showing photos of the camp from last year and years ago. For those of us who have attended McLennan Camp in years gone by it was almost emotional! The day ended up with a short business meeting and reports.

There were 69 ladies present and the book display did very well. Thanks to Wendy Davison for the book display from our Conference Office in Toronto.

Nature Notes

by Fran Spalding • 647-2837

After sending off my article on April 20 I stepped out into the garden to see what signs could convince me spring was really on the way. In cool, windy weather the snow drops, scyllas and crocuses were up and smiling, but they were oases in a pretty drab landscape.

All at once a small flash of orange - red fluttered by, and of course I thought it was a butterfly. By its small size it might have been one of the many species of skippers, but it was too early for them. It inspected a crocus briefly and flew up into a birch. Then I realized it wasn't a butterfly at all, but a moth called the infant, which flies like a butterfly and is usually seen in early spring above woodland paths where birch trees abound.

Years ago I'd spent a lot of time poring through my butterfly guides before I finally found it in a moth guide, and now I smiled to recognize an old friend. The reason it's called the infant (I learned courtesy of Google) is that the nineteenth century collector who first named it determined it was the most primitive of the inchworm family and so called it, in Latin, the first born infant.

While I was at it I asked myself why its relatives came to be called butterflies. The Oxford English Dictionary states the word is an old one and gives two most unlikely reasons for its creation - first, that some butterflies are yellow (most aren't) and second, that simple folk hundreds of years ago

may have thought butterflies were attracted to butter (the simplest dairy maid a millennium ago could have told them that wasn't so).

Keeping in mind that many insects are usually seen in flight (house flies, dragonflies, mayflies, etc) it would have been easy for an excited child or poetic adult to say "Look, a butterfly" instead of "Look, a flutter-by", possibly its original, but more awkward name.

Turning to birds, before the end of April the swallows (tree and barn) were back, as well as chipping and savannah sparrows. On April 28th, a pair of bluebirds were investigating their nest box at Judy Roberts's in Five Islands. Two more male indigo buntings



passed through, at Highland Village and Five Islands - always a treat for those who manage to see them.

For some reason hummingbirds chose to arrive early despite the inclement spring weather, as early as May 5 when May 15 is their due date. Warblers have started arriving. There are twenty-one species that summer along our shore, of which only four have been reported so far (yellow-rumped, palm, nashville and black-and-white).

In the latter part of May, on a pleasant morning, one might see all or most of them along woodland paths and streams, but it would take some luck. As for plants, mayflowers, red trilliums and dog-toothed violets will have passed their peak by the time you read this, but on the plus side the shad bush should be in bloom.

Debert Elementary Students Present Heritage Fair Projects

By Linda Harrington (see pictures page 20)

Students at Debert Elementary recently dug deep into the research books and presented several informative Heritage Fair projects on April 22nd and 23rd. Projects were proudly displayed on stage in the school gymnasium.

Six of the eleven projects will be going on to the Regional Heritage Fair on May 1st at the Nova Scotia Community College. These include projects by Emily Wilson and Kennedy Height (Maud Lewis), Anna Staples (Hearing Aids of the Past), Michaela Priest (Northern lights Christmas Tree Farm), Carlie Barnhill (My Family 'Store'y), Jessie Steves (The Shubenacadie Canal) and Brian Weatherby (The Londonderry Mines).

Kennedy Height's great great aunt was the famous Maud Lewis. Emily Wilson and Kennedy thought that the story of Maud Lewis was interesting and they liked her art work. Emily says, 'I thought it was cool how she could paint such interesting paintings while she suffered from polio.'

Anna Staples has been wearing a hearing aid since she was 2 years old. She decided to do her project on the history of hearing aids and was amazed at how large the first hearing aids actually were. "Even the batteries to run them were huge," said Anna. She was pleased that the hearing aids made today are much smaller.

Carlie Barnhill had fun

interviewing her grandfather and father for her Heritage Project on the family store that has been in business for 89 years. When asked if she would like to continue running the store as a fourth generation she said she had two feelings on this. "I learned from the interviews that it was a lot of hard work, running the store 7 days a week, but it would be fun to keep it running for another generation."

Michaela Priest had a family connection to her project as well. The Christmas Tree Farm was started by her grandfather Wayne, 25 years ago, and her father Matthew is taking over the business this year. She enjoys helping out on the tree lot and found it

interesting to learn that Christmas trees are shipped as far away as Mexico and the Caribbean Islands.

A keen interest in mining lead Brian Weatherby to research the Londonderry Mines. He says that the size of the mine and how big the population of Londonderry grew were two things that he found especially interesting. Brian said he had fun constructing a diorama of what he thought the mines would look like.

Jessie Steves took a road trip last weekend to visit the site of her project. She found the Shubenacadie Canal to be a very interesting topic, especially the fact that it only was working for nine years, because the railway bridges

were too low.

Five other projects were presented by Dakota Lockhart and Skyler Mellory (The Development of the Goalie Mask), Jessie Weatherby and Jacob Currie (Pioneers), Brandon Barcaly (Lonnie, Tonnie Canadians!), Matt Arsenault (Camp Debert), Courtnee DeAdder (The Halifax Explosion).

Skyler Mellory happens to be a goalie and and researching about the goalie mask seemed like it would be interesting. Project partner Dakota Lockhart said that the most interesting fact they found was about inventor Jacques Plante who was the first goalie to wear a full face mask.

(see pictures on page 20)

Bass River Notes

By Joyce Starratt

I wonder if spring knows if it supper to be here? The winds have been very cold. I was trying to get my yard cleaned up, but wind and leaves don't mix well together.

Rand and Leora Grue attended their daughter Holly's graduation from Sir Stanford Flemming College, Lindsay, Ontario. Holly graduated as a forestry technician. Congratulations Holly.

Visitors with Lucille Starratt, over the Easter weekend were her son, Dennis and wife, Denise, Toronto. Also attending were their daughter, Keleigh, husband Gavin and their daughter, Ella, Lucille's great grand-daughter.

The boys, Andrew and Doug, spent a few days at the Carriage House. I didn't get out to the Memorial Service to honour the memory of Six Million Jews, who died in the Holocaust. I was going to go, but it was rainy and cold, so I decided to stay home. I was sorry to miss it. I even had a candle ready. Maybe next year.

Quite quiet around here yet. The Bass River Fire Brigade had their annual pancake brunch. Very, very good.

Economy had theirs too. Very good. Nice note to have to get something cooked for yourself, then not have to wash dishes.

I don't know the man from here who was hurt in the toll booth, but I'm glad he survived the accident. It must have been a horrible feeling, seeing something that big coming towards you. On the 15th of May, the UCW of Riverside United Church held a successful Potluck Supper and a goods and services auction. It was a very enjoyable evening.

The John Sands concert was very well received. A lovely evening of beautiful music.

Congratulations to Julia McLellan on receiving the TD Community Leadership Scholarship for 2009.

Kohl Grue Phinney, Dereck Grue and Charles Foster had a trip to the Dominican Republic in March. They stayed a Port-a-Plato and enjoyed going on a Safari and say la lot of the countryside and animals.

Trying to get my flower beds in order, between the raindrops. We extend our sympathy to the family of the late Junior Lewis.

Talk to you next month.

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