VOLUME 34 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2025

themastheadnews.ca MASTHEAD







Automotive Service Centre, Hammonds Plains 2074 Hammonds Plains Road (902) 835-7691

TIRE REBATES ON NOW

Let us help you find the right tire for your driving needs. We are more than just tires Other services include: brakes, diagnostic, exhaust, alignments, oil change, suspension & Krown rust protection

GIVE US A CALL TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT



- N.S Power Service Provider
- **Backup Generator Systems**
- GENERAC ELITE Dealer
- · Installer & Generac Service Technicians
- · Efficiency Nova Scotia Preferred Partner

902-877-5659

info@vitalelectricinc.ca

www.vitalelectricinc.ca



Aubrey, 5, has a chat with Santa at Christmas in the Bay. See story and more photos on page 14.

Adult learner appreciates the chance to support other learners in new job Baija Bowie

I always loved learning, but while struggling with my mental health during the pandemic, attending school became overwhelming. With family support, I heavy-heartedly withdrew from high school.

I tried to finish through online classes. But my mind was elsewhere, and I soon gave up on continuing my education.

One year later, I received support from staff at the IWK and the AIS (Adolescent Intensive Services) program. I started feeling better, becoming motivated to complete my high school education. The CAEC was a good fit, allowing me to study independently, with times tailored to my productivity. It felt amazing to be able to learn again.

Then, my learning progress started slowing down. Still on my healing journey, it was hard for me to commit to traditional classes. I soon found my way to the Western Halifax Community Learning Network (WHCLN). I started off volunteering and then began using the classroom to study.

I finished my last CAEC test this year. It was hard feeling unable to achieve what I was



Baija on a work-related call at her desk at the Western Halifax Community Learning Network.

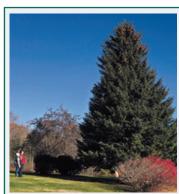
always on track for, but I felt proud for not giving up on myself, when I could have settled into that doubtful place where I had been. Knowing I went back to earn my credentials lets me celebrate not giving up on myself.

Recently, a job opportunity opened up at WHCLN. I felt confident enough to apply and now I get to be a part of other learners' journeys while living my own success story.

I want to say to other prospective adult learners that caring for yourself might mean taking a different path than you first imagined to reach your end goal, but I encourage everyone to celebrate the wins along the way and never give up on yourself.

Baija Bowie is enjoying learning new things at her job at the Western Halifax Community Learning Network, where she earned her CAEC. She also enjoys time with family, making art, including tattooing, playing guitar, and grounding herself through nature.

See page 2 for another story from an adult learner.



Headed to Boston

This year's gift tree to Boston is from Martins Brook. See details on page 13.

Photo credit: Province of Nova Scotia





Phone: 902.275.2501 or 1.833.275.2501

Office Location: Wheelchair accessible #3, 4080 Highway 3 Chester, NS B0J 1J0 Hrs: M-F 10am-4pm

Authorized by the official agent for CSM

NOW OPEN!

- **FREE Hearing Tests**
- **Earwax Removal**
- **Custom Ear Plugs**
- Repair & Cleaning
- Local & Independent BOOK YOUR FREE HEARING TEST TODAY
- **Insurance Accepted**
- **Best Price Guarantee***
 - **0% Interest Financing***
- Call 902.826.4327
 - www.empowerhearing.ca

Hearing Care Centre

5288 St. Margaret's Bay Road

Upper Tantallon (beside RBC Bank)

PAGE 2 **DECEMBER 2025** THE MASTHEAD NEWS

Happy Holidays..

This issue of *The Masthead News* is a celebration of community and caring.

From festive events to a long-running food drive, and from adults achieving learning goals to calls for supporting local businesses, the stories, letters, and photographs in this month's Masthead show how we live in a place where we lift each other up, especially on tough days.

As 2025 winds down, we want to thank each of you—our readers, contributors, advertisers, and circulation locations. Your support means everything.

We don't know what the coming year will bring, but there's one thing we can all be sure about: we'll continue to be there for each other.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy holiday season, and all the best in 2026.

The Masthead News Team



Starting small and getting support: One adult learner's path to success

Kaidin Munden

I had spent five weeks in basic training, until I was no longer mentally fit for the armed forces, and when I came back from that, I felt a bit lost.

At first, I thought I should learn how to be a fisherman, or a sailor, but not with the military.

Part of me wanted to be on the ocean, but the journey ahead of me would be vast.

I just needed to start small and simple. I knew I needed to earn my high school equivalency, and I didn't know where to start.

That's when I discovered the CAEC program and a

local study group through the Western Halifax Community Learning Network. Reaching out to Jeanette, the study group manager, was the first step that set everything in motion.

At first, the process felt overwhelming. I hadn't been in a classroom setting for years, and the thought of tackling subjects like math and science was intimidating. But Jeanette was always there to guide me, breaking things down and reminding me that I wasn't alone. Joining the in-person study group was nerve-wracking, but the moment I walked in, I felt welcomed. Everyone there was working hard toward their own goals, and that sense of shared purpose kept me going.

Through the PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment program, Recognition) discovered that some of my past efforts still counted, earning me credits and lifting a huge weight off my shoulders. The real test, though, was believing I could finish.

Step by step, I learned, studied, and pushed through the nerves of each exam.

Now, having completed my



Adult leaners Kaidin Munden and Baija Bowie at the Aspotogan Heritage Trust location, one of the study spaces available to the Western Halifax Community Learning Network.

CAEC, I feel proud—not just of I found confidence, community, the certificate, but of the journey.

and curiosity again.

What is the CAEC?

The Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) has replaced the General Education Development (GED). Although the GED is still recognized, it is no longer offered in Canada. Instead, adult learners can earn high school equivalency through the CAEC. Learn more at westernhalifaxcln.com.

HOPING YOU HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR DEEL ones this **Festive season**





3650 Hammonds Plains Road Unit 130, Upper Tantallon 902 826-2338 smbphysio.com

Councillor Nancy Hartling

District 13: Prospect Road – St. Margarets nancy.hartling@halifax.ca 902.476.3787

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays 10 - 11:30 a.m. **Prospect Road Community Centre**

Fridays 10 - 11:30 a.m. St. Margret's Bay Community Enterprise Centre

To receive the latest updates from Councillo Hartling, visit <u>nancyhartling.ca</u>



Colouring contest deadline extended to December 9 The Masthead News Staff

Colouring fans aged 5 to adult have an extra week to create their masterpiece and submit it to the All-Ages Colouring Contest,



Personalized In-Home Fitness Training for Older Adults

902-402-6582 zestexercise@gmail.com zestexercise.com

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

presented by the Peggy's Cove Area Art Society (PCAAS).

With Christmas in the Bay having been divided into two dates PCAAS changed the contest deadline from December 2 to December 9.

Original art by Jillian Book for kids aged 5-10 to colour and by Amy Nemeth for those aged 11 to adult can be downloaded from peggyscoveareafestivalofthearts. com. Click on "Member events" and then on "Christmas in the Bay" to access the artwork and contest rules.

Colouring sheets are also available at the SMB Community Enterprise Centre, 5229 St. Margaret's Bay Road, 9am-4pm weekdays.

Entries must be submitted in paper copy at the Community Enterprise Centre by 11:59pm on Tuesday, December 9. There is a weatherproof bin on the centre's porch for after hours.

First, second, and third prizes

are being awarded in four age categories. Prizes can be seen on the Christmas in the Bay Facebook page. Judging will be done by artist members of PCAAS and winners will be notified by phone on December



Ella Glover with her entry to the 2025 All-Ages Colouring Contest. Photo credit: Monique Glover





WATERCOLOUR



LESSONS PAINT NIGHTS WORKSHOPS

G © @ shawnmacphersonartist shawn@shawnmacphersonartist.com

STUDIO OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

shawnmacphersonartist.com

THE MASTHEAD NEWS DECEMBER 2025 PAGE 3

Second-hand treasure: The perfect gift may not be new Sharon Jessup Joyce



Illustrator Emma Fitzgerald (Sketch by Sketch, Along Nova Scotia's South Shore) says she loves the inspiration provided by vintage china. Photo credit: Deborah Pryce

MacMillan says, "Customers may

find they're taking a trip down

And it's not just about vintage.

Shops that carry previously

owned stock may also have

contemporary items in perfect

memory lane."

When Ben and Olivia Costigan got married in her parents' backyard in 2019, their wedding dinner at a nearby church hall was served on an assortment of dishes owned or inherited by family. Each place setting was intentionally different, with a dinner plate from one set, salad plate from another, and bread-and-butter plate from a third.

Reisa Muir, a volunteer at Lunenburg Community Consignment (LCC), which was named recently by House & Home magazine as one of the best vintage shops in Canada, says that appreciation for mixing vintage items is something she sees at the shop quite regularly.

"It's a way young people can use the older dishes without their table looking like their parents' or grandparents' table," she notes. "In fact, it's a way we can all reflect own style and creativity."

Muir thinks consignment and other second-hand shops are also great places to buy for others, saying a beautifully made and hard-to-find gift is worthy of being offered with pride, wrapped in our prettiest paper.

Such gifts, in addition to being perfect for the recipient, may have a nostalgic connection for the giver. LCC volunteer Susan or almost-perfect condition. For example, Otis & Clementine's Books & Coffee in Upper Tantallon has both vintage and recent books, games and puzzles, some of which still look brand new.

"I've been saying it for years: well-chosen second-hand items can make very personalized, creative, and unique gifts," says Otis & Clementine's owner Ellen Helmke. "It keeps Christmas lowstress and simple."

Because such shops often have only one of something, it's a good idea to stop in regularly, to avoid missing out on the perfect item.

LCC volunteer MJ Sakurai loves being there when a shopper strikes gold: "Objects move through time and space to make magic—and who can resist sharing in the delight of that lucky find?"

There is often joy for the seller or donor, too, says Reisa Muir. "We hear it all the time, that someone else has loved it, and now it's going to a good home and won't end up in a landfill or at the bottom of a drawer."



Just a few of the games and puzzles at Otis & Clementine's. The day after this photo was taken, the Miss Marple puzzle was gone to a new home. Photo credit: Adrian Schneider







Julia Bourque from Yarmouth (left) and Ava Richter from the Annapolis Valley, checking out teacup choices at LCC. Photo credit: Jamie Grey

FARROW HICKS MCDADE LAW INC.

LAW THAT'S CLOSE TO HOME

Contact us for a free consultation

5445 St Margaret's Bay Road, Unit #101 Upper Tantallon, NS B3Z 2H9

Phone: 902-820-3555 Fax: 902-820-3556

More vintage and second-hand finds

In addition to consignment and second-hand retailers, thrift stores, flea markets, and yard and estate sales are great places to shop for previously owned treasures.

If buying online, check out the seller's ratings and return policies, and pay attention to shipping costs, which can make a purchase less of a bargain than it appears to be.

The perfect gift may also be found in unexpected places: for example, the Seniors Association of St. Margaret's Bay (Bay Seniors) sells donated jewellery at occasional inperson and online sales to benefit the St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank, offering vintage and contemporary fashion jewellery at approximately half market value. Email jewellery@bayseniors.ca for more information on donating or buying.



Pie number one

Debbie Boutilier gets ready to put the finishing touches on the first pie on October 19, Apple Pie Day, at St. James Church in Boutiliers Point. Volunteers made 430 pies in 4 hours.







SERVICE DIRECTORY

Shop Local. Dine Local. Support Local.



candu1@eastlink.ca DAVID BOND

www.charleslantzcabinetry.com

Employment Law Family Law Wills and Estates Mediation

BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR

(902)-858-3066 www.davidbondlaw.com

PO Box 58, Hubbards, NS, B0J 1T0





SPECIAL T SEPTIC & EXCAVATION

-Septic Systems/Tanks/Pumps -Water & Sewer Lines

-Lot Clearing / Driveway Build -Foundations

-Drainage Solutions

-Cisterns

-Auxilliary/Emergency Water Sumps

Tyler Kynock 902-877-1547 tylerkynock@specialtseptic.com





Homecare, Private Nursing Services & Advanced & Diabetic Nursing Foot Care

Servicing all of Nova Scotia.

© 902.497.0722

communitycare@rwhc.ca Your Journey, Your Home, Your Independence



Creating Biodiversity Restoring old growth characteristics Enhancing wildlife habitat by ecological forestry practices

John W. Young Forest Technician

902-222-6428 youngjohn0388@yahoo.ca





Matt Swain 902.789.9099

"Home is the most important place in the world." www.viewpoint.ca/mattswain







Lola's Landing

Girly Shopping at its Best

(902)-858-5652

10061 St. Margaret's Bay Road Hubbards, NS, Canada BOJ 1TO

Open Weekends

From 10:00am until 5:00pm. Follow Us on Facebook for Sales, Events and Updates!

Nick Culley MRCPod

Podiatrist Foot Specialist



902-820-2777 5216 St Margarets Bay Rd Upper Tantallon, NS



info@sunrisepark.life

902-880-4944

sunrisepark.life

When was your last hearing test?

No Doctor referral required. Accepting new patients.

Empower Hearing

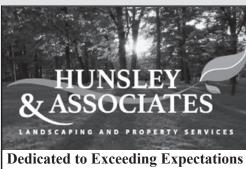
5288 St. Margaret's Bay Road **Upper Tantallon (beside RBC Bank)**

Call Today: 902.826.HEAR (4327)

family owned & operated

BOOK A FREE HEARING TEST ONLINE: www.empowerhearing.ca





Locally Owned and Operated

Complete **Residential & Commercial** Landscaping Services

FREE ESTIMATES

hunsleyandassociates@gmail.com

902-233-2781





www.shipshapehomerepairs.ca

INGRAMPORT TRAILER AND FABRICATION

8161 St.Margaret's Bay Road General Repairs In or On Site Official T1/T2 Trailer Inspection Station Tire Changing and Balancing Vehicle Frame Repairs

> TIM FILLMORE 902-858-2042



for Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Bridgewater & all MODL communities. All ages.

902-523-4455

Three days advance booking recommended

Charitable Registration #13166 6489 RR0001



902 417 2219

www.breathassured.ca

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Shop Local. Dine Local. Support Local.



- Jewellery

Accessories

Small giftware

2136 Hammonds Plains Road. Hammonds Plains 902-832-3008

10am to 5 pm

Proud to support Canadian companies, Canadian-made and Nova Scotia-made products



Your door-to-door community transportation service

902-820-6600

48 hours advance booking required

Charitable Registration #81675 3305 RR0001



- SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- RETAINING WALLS
- · MATERIALS

Leader in Workmanship, Quality & Dependability! www.rockworksexcavation.com





Slow computer, pop-up windows won't go away or your computer started thinking for itself?

902-999-2205 Larry Chrysler email: HELP@ThelittleGuy.ca Website: http://ThelittleGuy.ca

Call us, we can help get you back to your "Computer Normal"





Monday-Tuesday: by appointment Wednesday-Friday: 10:30am - 5pm Saturday: 10:30am to 1:30pm

Other hours may be available by chance or appointment



billyjoeauto@ns.aliantzinc.ca Open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friendly Staff / Comfortable Waiting Area / FREE WIFI 10% Seniors Discount on Labour



Family · Corporate · Child Protection Property • Wills & Estates

Proud to support the Bay's families and businesses

ksllawyers.ca | 902-826-9140

St.Margaret's Bay, NS





Antiques, old and interesting items bought and sold.

Find us on Facebook



Tree + Brush Removal | Decks | Landscaping | Demolitior



Proudly Serving Our Community Since 2009

- Tires Brakes
- Maintenance
- Diagnostics
- Exhaust
- Air Conditioning

We Repair All Makes and Models 9993 Peggy's Cove Road, Hackett's Cove (902) 823-2886











LOCALLY

106 Duke St. Chester 902-275-4619

 Hearing tests • Hearing aids

sales/repairs Wax removals

Open 10 - 4 Monday - Thursday

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Shop Local. Dine Local. Support Local.

Raven & Gryphon Fine Books

FINE USED AND RARE BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD Hackett's Cove (Open by chance, please call ahead) 902-488-6291

www.ravengryphonfinebooks.com info@ravengryphonfinebooks.com







JOSH FELTMATE

902-222-3930

josh@primepumps.ca

Cut It Out! Barbara Olson © ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Flower stalk
- 5 Redford and De Niro: Abbr.
- 10 Four-mo. school term
- 13 Part of an angel costume
- **14** Mutual of ____, insurance company
- 15 Like ironic humour
- **16** Motto of geriatric ex-Montréal Canadiens?
- **19** New Zealand parrots
- 20 Boy toy?
- 21 Melville novel set in the South Seas
- 22 Botching, with "up"
- 25 Showing shock, in a way
- 27 Divorcée's schemes?
- 29 "Well,___-di-dah!"
- 30 Word with crack or crock
- 31 Too violent for a PG-13
- 35 Toddler's cube
- 38 Just ___ of (not quite)
- 40 Gumption
- 41 Frolicking
- 43 Elephant's "fan"
- 45 Roadside Assistance grp.
- **46** Group of musicians who play "single-handedly"?
- 50 Solidify, as Jell-o
- **53** Unlike a tank top, muscle shirt or vest
- **54** Baseball's Jesus or Moises
- **55** "Treasure Island" author's initials
- 57 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
- **58** Association that does not accept university instructors?
- 62 It's big on a braggart

- 63 Smooches, in Brit-speak
- 64 Dutch painter Jan van der _
- 65 The "S" in GPS: Abbr.
- 66 Sealy mattress rival
- 67 Wraps up

Down

- 1 HBO alternative, in TV Guide
- 2 Is a bore at a staff party, maybe
- 3 Firstborn
- 4 Angora goat's coat
- 5 Do a bank job
- 6 Siberia's second largest city
- 7 Rotten-to-the-core type
- 8 What lost items "vanish into"
- 9 Manuscript submitters encl.
- 10 Eastern mystic
- 11 ___ the side of caution
- 12 It "has fleas" in a music tuning ditty
- 17 "Piece of cake!"
- 18 Gets right on (it)
- 22 Cracker-like "toast"
- 23 Honour highly
- 24 GM muscle cars
- 26 Clothes line?
- 28 It was a gas in surgery
- 32 Did a major dig
- 33 "Cheers" server
- 34 Sum up again
- **36** Become plugged, as a drain
- 37 "Citizen ____" (Welles film)
- 37 Citizen ____ (vveiles film)
- 39 Orange French fry veggies42 The first 12-month cycle
- **44** Archeologist's treasure
- 47 Fully in favour of

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
	13					14						15		
	16				17						18			
		19					20				21			
22	23					24		25		26				
27							28							
29					30				31			32	33	34
35			36	37		38		39		40				
41					42		43		44			45		
			46			47				48	49			
50	51	52						53						
54					55		56		57					
58				59				60					61	
62				63						64				
65				66						67				

- **48** Remove a certain deposit from, as in pipes
- **49** "Children should ____ and not heard"
- 50 Old age supports?
- 51 Suffix with sex and reflex
- 52 "Tsk tsk" elicitors
- 56 RCMP rank
- 59 Blog feed letters
- 60 Mama bear, in Madrid
- **61** Tree ring equivalents: Abbr.

See our website for solution

Do you sell pine cones? Nope. Try our branch office.

December 10 is Human Rights Day

For more information, search under the name of the day on canada.ca

New Year traditions quiz

Okay, put your phone in your pocket so you aren't tempted to cheat. In what country will you find these New Year traditions?

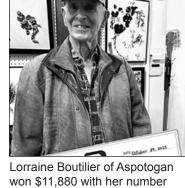
- **1. First footing:** If the first person to cross your threshold on January 1 is a dark-haired male, you'll have good luck that year.
- 2. Broken plates: Throw plates against your neighbour's door on New Year's Eve, possibly to leave any quarrels behind and start over in the new year.
- **3. Round fruits:** Serve 12 round fruits on New Year's Eve, one for each month of the coming year, to bring prosperity.
- **4. Red underwear:** Wear red underwear on New Year's Eve to bring luck and love in the coming year.
- **5. Midnight kiss:** Kiss someone at the stroke of midnight as the new year begins.

Answers on page 12

Congratulations, BTC winners!



William Boutilier of Seabright (shown here with his wife Majorie) won \$11,738 with his number 3766 on October 22



44601 on October 29



Michael Garner of Stillwater Lake (pictured with wife Shannan, and daughter Micah) won \$11,798 with number 1598 on November 5



Gary Gibbons of Bedford (pictured with his Mother Margie) won \$11,317 with his number 42733 on November12

THE MASTHEAD NEWS DECEMBER 2025 PAGE 7



CMC Chair's Briefing – CMC Appointments and Performance Target Progress at Otter Lake Landfill

STAFF AND CMC MEMBER UPDATE

The Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) has a new part-time environmental consultant, Phil McKenzie, a professional engineer and the owner of MacKenzie Solar Limited, Halifax. He replaces **Scott Morash**, a valued member of the CMC staff who helped us navigate the regulatory world of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change and monitor HRM's progress toward the department's compostable waste target. By March 31, 2026 compostable solid waste by mass entering the Otter Lake landfill is not to exceed 10%. With an appointment effective until Oct.31, 2026, Mr. MacKenzie will continue to chart HRM's efforts.

The two-year terms of HRM's three volunteer members of the CMC came up for renewal Nov. 30. **Tekena Warikubu** and **Christa Schnare** each opted to accept another two-year appointment, which HRM Regional Council made effective until Nov. 30, 2027. **Hailey MacKinnon**, the third appointee, was unable to make another 24-month commitment. The HRM volunteer recruitment process is expected to name her replacement soon. **See OtterLakecmc.ca for the full list of CMC members**.

Part-time CMC staff reappointed for new one-year terms, effective until Oct. 31, 2026, were **Jason Timms**, the social media technician and **Betsy Chambers**, the communications consultant.

ATTEND AND BE HEARD

Public input is now a fixed CMC agenda item.

Come to a meeting and be heard.

Dates of future meetings available by email inquiry at **cmc.hwrs@gmail.com** or by consulting the CMC website, **otterlakecmc.ca**, where agendas are posted two weeks in advance.



A recent Saturday at Cell 7B, Otter Lake Landfill's working face, shows idle machinery awaiting the start of the workweek. The white metal screens, vaguely resembling hockey nets, are portable litter fences that move in conjunction with bulldozer operations to protect against flying debris. On windy days, the litter fences are vital.

PERFORMANCE TARGET PROGRESS

HRM is closing in on its objective, CMC's outgoing environmental consultant, **Scott Morash**, advised the CMC in his final report. However, he added, compostable waste, as a percentage of the overall solid waste by mass going into the Otter Lake Landfill has yet to reach the 10% mark set by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The compliance deadline is March 31, 2026.

In 2023, the department made attaining and sustaining the 10% limit on compostable waste the condition for making its authorized December 2022 deactivation of the front-end processor and waste stabilization facility permanent. HRM has estimated \$2 million in annual savings from the stoppage. Previously, the FEP and WSF had retrieved and stabilized organic matter from waste before it was buried at the Otter Lake facility. HRM remains optimistic the 10% target will be achieved through its waste diversion efforts.

Strum Consulting, hired by Mirror Nova Scotia, the landfill operator, to supervise the quarterly performance audits, found the weighted compostable waste percentage for May was 8.5%. In August the results were 11.31%.

Jordan Vallis, HRM's Manager of Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste Resources, advised the CMC's October meeting that "to date, we are actually under 10%." He pointed out the average for the first two quarterly audits this fiscal year is 9.90%. The November 2025 and February 2026 audits are yet to come.

Citing figures from the HRM Compliance Report of April 20, 2025, Mr. Morash noted for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, the total weighted average per cent of compostable materials entering the Otter Lake landfill was 12.41%. The figure became 11.64% for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, and then 11.50% for the fiscal year ending March 2025.

Compostable waste disposal practices, Mr. Morash said, are influenced by a range of factors, from public awareness to power outages and natural disasters. He could not predict if HRM will meet its 10% compliance target by the end of next March, but he stated the trend was going in the right direction.

Reg Rankin
CMC Chair

PAGE 8 **DECEMBER 2025** THE MASTHEAD NEWS

Local art purchase helps the food bank, too The Masthead News Staff

The Crossroad Artists have a gift suggestion. You can purchase a small, original work of art by one of their members and support the St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank at the same time.

of "Nourishment," sell for \$100 each, with 100% of the proceeds going to the food bank.

See the paintings at the SMB Community Enterprise Centre,

The 12 paintings, on the theme 5229 St. Margaret's Bay Road in Upper Tantallon, weekdays, between 9am and 4pm. The centre will close for the holidays on December 24 at noon, reopening on Friday, January 2.



One of the paintings to be sold in support of the food bank, "Navel Gazing," 5x5" acrylic on panel, \$100, by Philip Hodges.

The Crossroad Artists includes 18 artists who paint together once a week and hold an annual art show and sale in the fall. Individually and as a group, they are members of the Peggy's Cove Area Art

26 FOR 2026!



Spark joy by being a Big Brother Big Sister in the South Shore next year.

We need 26 "Bigs" to mentor our "Littles" for 4-6 hours each month, and make a positive impact in a young person's life..

> Help us kickstart the new year as we launch 26-in-26!

Learn more about our mentoring programs:

SOUTHSHORE@BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA SOUTHSHORE.BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA FACEBOOK.COM/SOUTHSHORE.BBBS



A fine book makes for a fine gift Andy Cutten

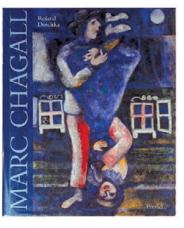
At Raven & Gryphon Fine Books we specialize in fine and scarce books in all price ranges, with a particular focus on illustrated, photography, and art books and history. We currently have over 3,500 books in stock.

Our knowledge and passion

for books and collecting enables us to provide advice to help our customers find a specific book, help build their library, or get advice on the perfect gift for the book lover on their gift list.

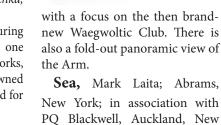
Below, four books that are representative of our stock.

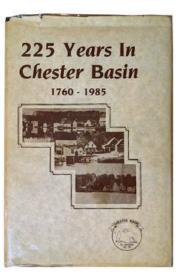
> SKETCHES 48 TRADITIONS NORTHWEST ARM



Marc Chagall: Origins and Paths, edited by Roland Doschka; Prestel, Munich, 1998 - \$60.

There are many books featuring Chagall, but what makes this one unique is that the featured works, chosen from his estate and renowned private collections, are presented for the first time in this volume.





225 Years in Chester Basin 1760-1985, by E. M. Backman, C. Fitch and R. E. Eldridge, published to celebrate that anniversary - \$100.

It isn't surprising that we've had at least three different histories of Chester, but this book is the third history we've had on muchsmaller Chester Basin.

Sketches & Traditions of the Northwest Arm, Halifax, N.S., by John Regan; McAlpine Publishing, Halifax, 1908 - \$100.

This is the first edition. The history includes information on the clubs that dot the shoreline,



I have handled many beautiful books over the years on all subjects, and this book just might be the most spectacular of all. Not a white page in this book: stunning photos of the ocean's inhabitants are presented on black pages. Laita's sensual imagery reveals the extraordinary colours, textures, and personalities of the sea's incredible and unusual residents. What a stunning, special gift this sea treasure would be!

Andy Cutten and his wife, Glenda, launched Raven & Gryphon Fine Books in 2017. The bookshop, which does not have set hours but is open by chance, is located in their home in Hackett's Cove. Please reach out prior to a planned visit. More information at ravengryphonfinebooks.com.

Long-running Haliburton food drive is about food—and family

Sharon Jessup Joyce

The rain held off long enough for around 70 volunteers with the Haliburton Community Food Drive to finish collecting donations on Saturday, November 22.

Started in 1994 by Ruth Ann (Kelly) Kottwitz, who died in 1995, the annual food drive is not just a neighbourhood tradition, but a family tradition, too.

One of the organizers, Faith Balcombe, was Ruth Ann Kottwitz's next-door neighbour, and Balcombe and her family have been part of the drive every year since it started.

"Neighbours who were children helping now bring their own children to help—so we have grandchildren involved," she says.

Some of those grandchildren are Balcombe's own. Her three granddaughters were there this year, and "my daughter, eight-and-a-half months pregnant, was here from PEI," she adds.

By the time everything was counted, organizers were



Gill Janes with baby Nel, at 5 months the youngest volunteer in this year's food drive. Photo credit: Alison McCarthy

grateful to see that donations of nonperishable items were down a bit this year, and monetary donations were up a bit compared to last year. The food drive brought in \$6,295 and 304 bags of food, enough to fill four half-ton trucks.

"It's actually a good thing," says Balcombe. "The food bank has limited storage, and monetary donations and gift cards are easy to store and allow the food bank flexibility and the opportunity to buy things that are needed when they're needed."

She says the commitment of their neighbours to supporting the food drive, year after year, is a wonderful way to honour event founder Ruth Ann Kottwitz, and that support is unwavering, "even in tougher years," she adds.

As for next year's food drive, Balcombe says she and her family will be involved again—this time with a fourth grandchild as the family's newest food-drive recruit.



A family tradition: Three generations of the Balcombe family (from left), include Matt, Madison, Katie, Leah, Faith, Irelie, Jill, Mark (Gaudet) and Gordon.

ne we end our wo Christ

And a Happy New Year to all of our valued customers at GC Snair & Son Ltd.

We appreciate your patronage and wish you a joyful and prosperous holiday season.

We look forward to seeing all of our customers, new and old, in 2026.

Lee, Ramona & Andrew



G.C. Snair & Son Ltd.
PLUMBING, HEATING & OIL BURNER SERVICE

902-857-3746





Bill Rogers, Roberta, and Aliyyah Fazil at The Season of Father Christmas festival in 2024. Photo credit: Bryan Limoyo Photography

While most of the special events offered by Mahone Bay's The Season of Father Christmas take place this year between November 28 and December 7, the festival goes right to December 24. Area businesses and organizations are making the holiday spirit bright with festive décor, interactive displays, and vignettes that offer perfect backdrops for family photos and selfies. The Faerie Trail is also

ready to greet visitors, with the faeries having decorated for the holidays, too.

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft has issued a personal invitation to visit Mahone Bay during the

"Mahone Bay has been growing and changing in wonderful ways, but heading into the Christmas season, we really want to celebrate the shop owners and eateries who've kept their doors open and their spirits high through a challenging year," she says.

Praising the volunteers who bring the town's festival to life, the mayor adds, "Shopping local at this time of year isn't just about gifts, it's about supporting

businesses at the heart of it all."
For details about The Season of Father Christmas, visit festivalsofmahonebay.com.



What the Dickens? A Christmas Carol with a twist in Lunenburg



Laurel Darnell as Perkins and Sue Evans as Dilber in Flying Fish Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. Photo credit: Kevin Finch

Flying Fish Theatre at the Bluenose Lodge is presenting a spirited re-telling of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic story of redemption.

As the show opens, the cast members are setting up to perform the play when—plot twist—one of the actors fails to show up. The remaining cast quickly re-shuffle the roles.

Douglass Ross plays Ebeneezer Scrooge and Laurel Darnell and Sue Evans play everyone else. The show includes an opportunity to sing Christmas carols, with Reid Campbell on keyboard leading the singing. Festive treats and libations will be offered, too.

In the spirit of the season, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Harbour House in Bridgewater.

The show runs on Mondays, December 15 and 22, and Tuesdays, December 16 and 23, at 7pm, and Sunday, December 21 at 3pm.

Call the Bluenose Lodge in Lunenburg at 902-634-8851 for



PAGE 10 DECEMBER 2025 THE MASTHEAD NEWS



Shining Bright for 130 Years! Help preserve the iconic Lunenburg Academy, a treasured National Historic Site — the only intact 19th-century Academy building in Nova Scotia. Your donation supports essential restoration projects to preserve "The Castle on The Hill" for future generations. Donate today. Together, we'll ensure that the light shining from the Castle on the Hill never fades. Your gift can be sent in any of these ways: lunenburgacademyfoundation.com/donate, scan the QR code, or call us at 902-634-8130 Or by mail or e-transfer: Lunenburg Academy Foundation 97 Kaulbach St., PO Box 697 Lunenburg, Nova Scotia BOJ 2CO



administrator@lunenburgacademyfoundation.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's support local businesses affected by road construction



Playful approach to a serious situation: Gabe Wallot-Beale, co-owner of the Labour Day Picnic Café on Peggy's Cove Road in Glen Haven, encouraging motorists to stop in at the café. Photo credit: Kate Melvin

The construction along Peggy's Cove Road and St. Margaret's Bay Road needed to be done, and residents and visitors will benefit from the work.

But if the end product will be worthwhile, the process has been severely problematic. Lack of information from the province and HRM about where work is occurring and significant differences in how often those stop/slow signs are flipped—sometimes every few minutes and sometimes more than 20 minutes—makes the construction much more challenging for residents than it would have been with good communication. To add to the frustration, it appears that the province and the municipality have not been coordinating their respective efforts.

In the absence of up-to-date official information, we end up relying on our neighbours to share information on social

media—information that is based on in-the-moment observation and guesswork.

In addition to difficulties residents have had getting to work and school on time and planning activities, local businesses and events like art shows and craft fairs have taken a very serious income hit. Empty parking areas could be seen for weeks on end at location after location, as drivers, enduring long and unpredictable delays, have been reluctant to stop along the way.

This is especially unfortunate during the period leading into the holiday season. But it's not too late for us to take action to support those businesses that have been suffering during the road construction. Let's commit, even more than usual, to giving our business to local retailers. restaurants, and service providers during this holiday season. By supporting those businesses most affected, we can make a difference. In some cases, it may even be the difference between whether a small business is able to survive to continue serving our community.

> Margo Mosher-Swain Seabright

Please respect decreased speed limits in our neighbourhood

As a lifelong resident of Indian Point Road, I have witnessed, over the years, the increased traffic, speeding, and reckless driving by people visiting our beautiful neighbourhood on Indian Point Road and Sunset Drive. We welcome visitors to our beach on Micous Island, and to our scenic point—we simply ask that you drive respectfully.

For years, the speed limit was 50 km/h. While that may be appropriate in some areas, the increased volume of traffic, the lack of road shoulders, and the decreased visibility on the turns make it common sense to slow down. Our roads are shared by children, walkers, domestic pets, wildlife, and cyclists.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to rely on common sense alone.

There have been several near misses involving pedestrians, and one dog—struck by a non-resident's vehicle—required an amputation and costly veterinary care. We have also seen speeds that are simply unacceptable for a combined residential and recreation area.

Neighbours came together over our shared concern about safety, and I am pleased to report that the speed limit



From left, Christian Stead, Nora Griffin and Kim Dauphinee, whose efforts to get reduced speeds in their neighbourhood have paid off. Pnoto credit: Pattie Macleod

was reduced to 40 km/h. This reduced speed is already in effect and starts at the turns a half kilometre from the beginning of the road. Additionally, several of the sharpest turns are now posted at 25–30 km/h, and new deer-crossing signage has been installed.

These changes are a positive start, and we are grateful for the progress. Beach and island traffic is currently in the off-season, but we know that continued vigilance is necessary, especially once the traffic increases in the spring and summer.

We remain committed to addressing this issue and will continue to revisit strategies for traffic control and speed management. These strategies rely on support from visitors to please respect our community. We are not asking you to stay away—we simply ask that you help keep Indian Point and Sunset Drive safe for everyone.

Kim Dauphinee Glen Haven

Guidelines for submitting letters to the editor

The Masthead News welcomes letters from our readers on topics of interest to our community members. Letters should be a maximum of 350 words, and must include the writer's name and community. The Masthead News will not publish letters that constitute personal attacks or hate speech. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, and style. Please submit letters to info@ themastheadnews.ca. Include a daytime phone number (which will not be published).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must protect natural spaces for our children

I was glad to join the 100-plus people who came out to the Tantallon Public Library this past August to discuss the province's high-production forestry plans inside the Ingram River area. This is a high-value ecosystem, with some of the oldest forests in our province. It underwent a biodiversity assessment I authorized while I was Minister of Lands and Forestry.

The proposed Ingram River Wilderness Area is an opportunity to help the province meet its legal obligations to protect 20% of our land. So far, the province has moved the land protection from just 13% to 13.77% in the past 4 years.

Over a year ago, part of this area was protected, designated as the Island Lake Wilderness Area—but that doesn't mean clearcutting should be considered in the other parts. Nearby residents have made

their concerns clear, and I share them. Protecting more of the Ingram River Wilderness Area is about more than stopping clearcutting – it is about making thoughtful choices that respect both our environment and our economy.

Protecting Nova Scotia's natural spaces has always been a passion of mine, and it's something we should do for our children and grandchildren. The protection of Nova Scotia's wilderness areas is not just the responsibility of government or a right of Nova Scotians—it is also a gift we can offer to future generations.

In this season of giving, let us cherish and safeguard these precious natural spaces for those who will come after us.

Iain Rankin, MLA Timberlea-Prospect

On the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, an invitation to reflect and remember

On December 6, the 36th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, when 13 young women were killed because of their gender, we are reminded of the fragility of human life and the need for solidarity and hope.

But in the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle, finding quiet and space to think of such things can be challenging.

On Friday December 5, you are invited to gather with community anytime between 7 and 8pm. It will be a time of stillness, connection, reflection, meditation, and remembrance. All are welcome to attend

at St. Margaret's Church, 36 St Margaret's Crescent, off Peggy's Cove Road in Tantallon.

Recognizing that many people will see this letter after December 5, perhaps it can serve as a reminder of the importance of building awareness that, 36 years after the Montreal Massacre, there is still work to be done, together, to address gender-based violence.

Mary Stone Parish of French Village Mothers' Union

Local business earns national recognition



Lisa and Adrian Bolton of APD Motorsports Ltd. in Glen Haven are all smiles posing with their Canadian Triumph Motorcycles Flagship/Dealer of the Year award for 2024. Photo credit: Holly Bolton

When a small business rooted in the St. Margaret's Bay area earns national recognition, it's a victory for more than just the owners; it's a win for our community. That's exactly what's happened with APD Motorsports Ltd. in Glen Haven, which was named the 2024 Canadian Triumph Motorcycles Flagship/Dealer of the Year.

APD Motorsports describes itself as "family owned and operated," with over 40 years of experience in powersports.

For those of us living in the St. Margaret's Bay area and nearby communities, this honour brings more than local pride; it emphasizes the value of supporting small, local businesses.

APD has long served our community. Their facility offers full services: sales, parts, accessories, and maintenance, including

Red Seal and factory-trained technicians for Triumph and various other brands of bike.

It's important to highlight local success stories. APD's achievement underscores a broader lesson: dedication, hard work, and quality service can lead to recognition at the highest levels. It's a reminder that greatness doesn't always come from big cities, but often from local businesses committed to their customers and community.

Let's celebrate APD's win not just as a business milestone, but as a community achievement. Whether you're a longtime customer, a motorcycle enthusiast, or just someone who appreciates seeing local success stories, this is a moment worth recognizing.

Mike Lancaster Hubley



Part of the proposed Ingram River Wilderness Area. Photo credit Mike Lancaster

DEMONE GRANITE 1964
PRODUCTS

DEMONES.CA

1-800-661-4621



Services Offered:

Septic Pumping
Filter Maintenance/Cleaning
Riser/Safety Screen Install
Septic Bacteria

Pump Replacement Float Switch Repair Minor Repairs







WE ARE FULLY INSURED AND CERTIFIED

902-329-4477

cousineddiesseptic@gmail.com

Find us on FaceBook - Cousin Eddie's Septic Services

PAGE 12 DECEMBER 2025 THE MASTHEAD NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community event listings are free, and published as space permits.

Event notices can be accepted **only** on our Community Event Listing form. Go to **themastheadnews.ca**.

Friday, December 5

Christmas Concert: St. John's Lutheran Handbell Choir & The Mahone Bay Legion Swing Band, 7:00–8:30 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahone Bay. Annual Christmas concert with a new repertoire, held during the Father Christmas Festival. Free will offering. Contact David Friendly at 902-634-4428 or friendly@bellaliant.net for more information.

Saturday, December 6

14th Annual Kid's Christmas Shopping Day, 10:00 am–12:00 pm, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 2553 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Timberlea. A special chance for children and youth to shop for family and friends. Most gifts range from \$1 to \$5, including a selection of gift baskets. For details, contact Bev Higgins at bev.higgins@bellaliant.net

Father Christmas Reindeer Fun Run, 6pm. At the Civic Marina Flyer Station Light up the night in your bling and costume while you rock to the tunes along the route at the 'Run that Gives'. Costume prizes, post-run treats. Details and registration at atlanticchip.ca

Cribbage Social Night, 7pm. St. Peter's Church Hall 10030 Peggy's Cove Rd, Hackett's Cove, come have a fun night of game, 50/50 draw will be held. Free.

Christmas at the Barn (Night Market), 4-7pm. Hubbard's Barn Association, #57 Hwy 3, Hubbard's, NS, Canada, Nova Scotia. Come enjoy a night of local vendors.

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

Christmas Festivities and Lobster Roll Luncheon, 9:00 am–2:00 pm, East River Village Hall, 7629 Hwy 329. Indoor yard sale, Christmas décor, bake and craft tables. Lobster

roll lunch available 10–2, pre-order by Dec. 4. \$15, contact Sheila Hirtle at 902-275-5720 or the_hirtles@yahoo.ca for more information.

Lunenburg Christmas Craft Festival, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. 15 Green Street, Lunenburg, NS, Canada, Nova Scotia, Featuring unique Nova Scotian Artisans and Crafters with handcrafted pottery, woodcarvings, glass, sewing, wreaths and a variety of other treasures just in time for your Christmas shopping! Adults – \$6.00, Student/Senior – \$5.00, Children 12 and under – free.

Sunday, December 7

Crossroads Community Choir Christmas Concert "Here We Come a-Caroling", 6:30–8:30 pm, St. Luke's United Church, Tantallon. An evening of carols and seasonal music presented by the Crossroads Community Choir. All welcome, no admission fee, cash donation at the door are welcomed. Contact Susan Feltmate at 902-478-0604 or sfeltmate88@gmail.com for more information.

Kid's Christmas Market, 11am-3pm. Prospect Rd Community Center, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake NS. There will be local vendors, activities, Santa and more, free admission.

Tuesday, December 9

Memory Cafe, 2:30- 3:30 pm, St. Luke's United Church, 5374 St. Margaret's Bay Rd. These social events are designed for individuals living with memory challenges, along with their family members and care partners to join music, art, warm drinks, and social interaction. Free. To register contact Rachael Emge at (902) 826-2100 Ext. 3274.

Friday, December 12

Kids Christmas Craft & Movie Night, 6-8:30 pm, St. Luke's Parish
Hall, 10 Shore Club Rd., Hubbard's.
An evening of Christmas crafts
and a movie for kids. Registration
required. Free, contact Lyda Miller at
902-471-1674 or Susan at 902-4414580 for more information.

Saturday, December 13

St. Peter's Church Book Worm Haven – Used Books, 9:00 am–12:00 pm, St. Peter's Church, 10030 Peggy's Cove Rd., Hackett's Cove. Browse used books, puzzles, games, and CDs for all ages, priced at \$2–\$3. Free, contact 902-823-1085 for more information.

Thursday, December 18

Christmas Sing-along, 10-11:00 am, St. Luke's Parish Hall, 10 Shore Club Rd., Hubbard's. Two Coves

Cafe is hosting a Christmas singalong with coffee, tea, and muffins. Wheelchair accessible. Free, contact 902-670-4411 for more information.

Saturday December 20

Sweet Chiming Christmas Belles, 7:30pm. An evening of harmonies and instrumentation by the St. John's Lutheran Mother & daughter Choir, Directed by Leslee Barry, Principle Accompanist Rebecca Rock. Proceeds in support of the Mahone Bay food Bank. Tickets at Kinburn Pharmasave.

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Concert presented by Chordially Yours, 7:00–9:00 pm, First Baptist Church, Hammonds Plains. An evening of Christmas music featuring carols, classics, and seasonal songs. All welcome, no admission fee, cash donation at the door are welcomed. Contact Carmen Johnstone Chapman at 902-240-1053 or carmenjc@bellaliant.net for more information.

Running until December 24

Season Of Father Christmas, Mahone Bay's month-long holiday festival that transforms our charming seaside village into a nostalgic, storybook celebration of the season. Find more information at https://mahonebay.com/ season-of-father-christmas/

TRADESPEOPLE

All-Star Appliance Solutions Ltd.

Registered & insured. Expert appliance repair, maintenance, and installation. Fast, reliable service.

Call or email for assistance today!



Household renovations, repairs and installations. Doors, windows, porches and decks repaired or replaced. Repairs to flooring, drywall, siding, installation of laminate countertops, shelving and garage storage solutions. Insured and references.

Call Mike, 902-476-8831.

Furniture Repair/ Restoration

40 Years experience Specializing In: Wood furniture; replacement of parts, Danish Teak PC's, finish and colour.

Call Mr. Backman 902-423-1820

Matt Copas Plasterer

Small jobs, taping, skimming, old plaster repair and traditional plastering.

Call Mathew: 902-204-8283. mathew60copas@gmail.com

$Seamless\ Eavestroughing$

Quality system; hidden hangers; 50 colours, aluminum and copper. More than 25 years experience. Free estimates. Call Eric Messom, 902-228-2988, 902-456-4900.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING





FREE adult education

Offering workplace skills, digital skills, CAEC Prep (Replaces GED) for adults 18 and over.

Start anytime and work at your own pace.

Call 902-225-6320 or email info@westernhalifaxcln.com

Decluttering & Junk Removal Service ~ RRS ~

"Repurposing/Recycling & Up-cycling is our priority" Home - Cottage - Office - Storage 902-293-3821 Operating respectfully since 2015

Antiques and collectibles

Liquidating an estate, downsizing, clearing your basement, attic, barn or shed? ABC: Antiques, Books, Collectibles wants to buy your old and interesting items! 902-826-1128.

For Sale

Teak Dining table, 42 inches round, with 3 chairs.

All in excellent original condition Circa 1970, \$1150.00 Delivered Call 902-423-1820

Classified ads

\$20 for first 25 words, and 20 cents for each added word.
Bold or uppercase words 40 cents each. \$12 for box around ad. \$12 for each photo or logo.
Add HST to total price. Send text, pictures, phone number to info@themastheadnews.ca or call 902-826-1302

Stay connected with The Masthead News

Don't miss out on local updates, events and publishing news.

Sign up for our free monthly email newsletter

- Community events
- Where to pick up the latest issue
- Publishing deadlines & reminders
- Highlights from the Masthead team

Scan the QR code to sign up today!

MÄSTHEAD NEWS



New Year traditions quiz answers

- 1.Scotland
- 2.Denmark3.The Philippines
- 4.Italy
- 5. Possibly ancient Rome, during the Saturnalia festival, from which many of our New Year's Eve customs are derived. Other sources say it's an old Viking custom.

Check out our Facebook page facebook.com/MastheadNews

December 6 is National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

For more information, search under the name of the day on canada.ca



The Masthead News is published by Ocean Blue Publications Ltd.

Reproduction in part or whole without the written permission
of the publisher is forbidden.

January 2026 issue Submission deadline Monday January 5 Publication date January 12

info@themastheadnews.ca 902 826 1302

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by their portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred; whether such error is due to the negligence of the servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount of such advertisement. The publisher reserves the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

IN MEMORIAMS



Paul Edward Kennedy

With sadness we announce the passing of Paul Edward Kennedy on October 30, 2025.

Paul was born in Kingston, Nova Scotia and lived many places until the family settled in St. Margaret's Bay when he was 16

years old. Shortly thereafter Paul met the love of his life, Sheila (nee Mason), to whom he was married for over 58 years.

Paul was a man of many talents. A self-taught musician, he played the piano, accordion, mandolin, fiddle, and banjo at a high level but was an exceptional guitar player. He loved old-style country and western music, and bluegrass. Many evenings were spent in Paul and Sheila's kitchen playing music with dear friends and family and Paul was always the life of the party.

Paul loved to work on and restore cars, and this is how he made his living, working for others as an employee and also running his own body-repair

shop with his brother-in-law Jim Mason. Paul purchased many "smashed-up" vehicles over the years to restore, but his favourite project was building a half-ton truck complete with smokestacks, running boards and a button-and-tuck upholstered interior.

An avid animal lover, Paul and Sheila had many dogs and cats over the years, most rescued from pending euthanization or strays that showed up in the yard that they would love and tame into house pets. He had a big heart and although he was never a wealthy man, he was generous with his friends and shared whatever he

But the highlight of Paul's life

was becoming a grandfather. He loved helping raise his grandson Jacob. They spent so much time together; playing cards, laughing at silly jokes and playing music. He was an excellent grandfather, funny, playful and unconditionally loving and supportive.

Paul had a wonderful sense of humour. He was quick-witted and silly in the best possible way. He loved practical jokes, such as shaving off half of his long winter beard and moustache and visiting his mother like nothing was amiss. He was very intelligent, although not educated. He was an excellent cook and loved food. When he set his mind to something there was nothing he couldn't do, but he was happy living a simple life, mowing the lawn and caring for the property he loved, watching TV and visiting friends.

We lost the essence of Paul slowly over the past 3 years after a short and very intense battle with Alzheimers. Sheila cared for him at home through stage 4, and when his care became too much

we were fortunate to find the most compassionate safe space for him at Willow Hall. We want to thank the staff who so thoughtfully cared for Paul over the past 5 months, especially Nurse Ruby, Nurse Peter, Dr. Aries and Dr. MacNeil. They truly made every effort to give Paul comfort and dignity until the moment of his passing from this terrible disease.

Paul is survived by his wife Sheila, daughter Tracey Kennedy (Neil Depew), grandson Jacob $Depew, sister Linda\,Hills\,(Brecken$ Hills) and many other extended family. He was predeceased by his parents and his beloved big brother, Vance (Sonny) Kennedy (Judy Kennedy). His remains have been cremated and as per Paul's wishes there will be no funeral.

Paul was truly a unique man and will be missed by many. The family asks that his loved ones and friends celebrate Paul by sharing a fond memory of him over a cold beer on a hot summer day.



Lorna Creelman Nauss

The family of Lorna Creelman Nauss, age 96, of East River Point, Nova Scotia, is saddened to announce her passing on Saturday, October 4, 2025.

Born on April 5, 1929, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Lorna was the daughter of Dr. Prescott A. Creelman and

Freida I. (Creighton) Creelman. She passed peacefully at South Shore Regional Hospital in Bridgewater.

Predeceased by her beloved husband, William, Lorna and Bill shared 71 joyful years filled with family, travel, and lasting friendships. They met at Mount Allison University, where Lorna graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1951. The couple married in Charlottetown on September 4 of that year.

As a devoted military and foreign service spouse, Lorna accompanied Bill on numerous postings Canada across and abroad, including in Copenhagen and San Francisco, where she made lifelong friends.

Lorna had a deep passion for people, art, and Scottish Country Dancing. Always warm and welcoming, she took a genuine interest in everyone she

met—including the four-legged kind. Her playful spirit and sense of humour brought laughter to every gathering.

She is lovingly remembered by her three children: Meredith Rodger (Elliot) of Ottawa, Karen Nauss-Henry (Reid) of Edmonton, AB; and David Nauss (Marcie Boswell) of Upper Tantallon, NS. Lorna also leaves behind five grandchildren: David Rodger, Mariana Henry Kuchmak, Michael Henry, Charlotte Nauss, and Isaac Nauss; and one greatgrandchild, Elizabeth Henry.

In keeping with her generous spirit, Lorna donated her body to science. A celebration of life and interment will be held at a

Donations in Lorna's name may be made to Hope For Wildlife: hopeforwildlife.net/ support.

Annual thank-you gift to **Boston**

This year's tree for Boston, (see page 1), came from Ronald and Clare Feener's property in Martins Brook in Lunenburg County. The white spruce is 13.7 metres (45') tall and was planted over 40 years ago by the Feeners.

The first gift of a Christmas tree was sent to Boston in 1918, as a thanks for the help the city provided in 1917 after the Halifax explosion. That first tree was also from Lunenburg County.

Since 1971, a tree from Nova Scotia has been sent to Boston every year, serving as Boston's official Christmas tree.

NEW MEMBERS



Some new members of the Chester Basin New Ross and Chester Lions Club were recently inducted into the club with their sponsors present. From left: Jim Barkhouse (sponsor), Quinn Crossley (new member), Mitos Crossley (new member), Sharon Rafuse (sponsor), Elizabeth Heisler (sponsor), and new members Marion Fryday-Cook, Elaine Brunn Shaw, and Adam Connors.

The club is always interested in new members. Contact mackenziestepnerkaren@gmail.com for more information.

The Masthead News now accepts milestone announcements, including birthdays, anniversaries, and special community moments. For pricing and details, contact info@themastheadnews.ca Events will be included as space permits.

MILESTONES

- Coming in our January issue

 Jim and Diane Buckle share thoughts about saying good-bye to Rhubarb Restaurant on December 21 after 13 years, and where their next chapter will take them.
- Celebrating a beloved teacher's 30-year post-retirement teaching career.
- · How Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Shore are hoping to find 26 "bigs" in 2026 to spend time with 26 "littles."
- And lots more.

Most popular Christmas songs of all time

According to record sales, downloads, and streaming, the 10 most popular holiday songs, and the artist performing the most popular version and its year of release, as of November this year, are:

- 1. White Christmas, Bing Crosby, 1942
- 2. Silent Night, Bing Crosby, 1935
- 3. All I Want for Christmas is You, Mariah Carey, 1994
- 4. Last Christmas, Wham!, 1984
- 5. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Brenda Lee,
- 6. Jingle Bells, Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, 1943
- 7. Let it Snow, Dean Martin, 1959
- 8. Jingle Bell Rock, Bobby Helms, 1957
- 9. Feliz Navidad, Jose Feliciano, 1970
- 10. Santa Claus is Coming to Town, tie: Bruce Springsteen, 1981 (record sales), Michael Buble, 2011 (streaming)

Read the backstories here: alltopeverything.com/ most-popular-christmas-songs-of-all-time



Cash for scrap vehicles

PAGE 14 DECEMBER 2025 THE MASTHEAD NEWS

Christmas in the Bay: Twice the fun this year The Masthead News Staff



Eric and Nicole Mathew with face painter Mary Lynne Milledge.





With rain in the forecast for November 22, the organizers of Christmas in the Bay, a free, family-friendly annual kick-off to the festive season in St. Margaret's Bay, decided to divide the event in two. Indoor activities taking place in the red-roofed building on Sonnys Road in Upper Tantallon would still happen that day, and outdoor activities would be moved to November 29, the following Saturday.

On the afternoon of November 22, Santa hosted around 250 community members—kids, parents, and grandparents—who came out to the indoor activities, which included face painting, a kids' craft, live music, cookies, and apple cider. And time to chat with Santa, of course.

As always, everything was free, thanks to support from local businesses and organizations. One father, attending with his three children, said, "If we had to pay for this, we wouldn't be able to come, so we're grateful."

Jean Sinclair, who comes every

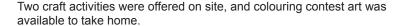


Santa arrives to get the party started.

year to Christmas in the Bay with her daughter and grandchildren, said adding two singing groups and refreshments to the indoor activities was "delightful—it has really taken this lovely event to the next level."

A story and photos featuring Christmas in the Bay's outdoor activities will appear in our January issue.







Jill Rahali enjoyed face-painting to live music this year.

Christmas in the Bay photos on pages 1 and 14 by Mary Lynne Milledge, Neil Oldreive, and Sharon Jessup Joyce.



Hammy Holidays
From Hammonds Plains
Veterinary Hospital

How to be part of the Christmas Bird Count Sharon Jessup Joyce

Looking for a holiday tradition that isn't about gifts and food? Participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count, which was begun in 1900, is a great way to get outside and support knowledge about nature. It's also the longest-running citizen science project in North America, with data collected at over 2,000 locations.

The bird-monitoring event runs from December 14 to January 5 and involves either walking around a designated area and counting the birds you see, called a field count, or counting the birds you see in your own yard, called a feeder count.

The first step is to get registered, which you can do by visiting birdscanada.

org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count. Everything else you need to know and do to participate in the count is provided there

Worried you won't recognize a less common species, miss counting some birds or count some birds twice? The bird-count pros at Birds Canada have suggestions for all those possibilities. But they want us to remember that such realities are part of citizen science, and our data, when pooled with all the other Christmas Bird Count data, will help tell the story of how wild birds are doing in our area and across North America.

Women in Business invite new members, plan more networking



Organizers of the November 20 SMB Women in Business networking event (from left) Dalene Allen, Jennifer Gillard and Rebecca Coleman. Photo credit: Atlantic Memories Photography

Jennifer Gillard, one of the organizers of the SMB Women in Business networking event, held on November 20 in Boutiliers Point, says the event attracted 30 women in business from the area, with HRM Councillor Nancy Hartling also attending to show her support.

Attendees enjoyed conversations, refreshments, and the chance to share with other local business owners.

The atmosphere, Gillard says, "was warm and welcoming and reflected the strength and spirit of women supporting women "

"It was a long-overdue initiative that is truly needed in our community," she adds. "And this is just the beginning."

If you have a woman-owned business in the area and would like to join the group, email info@bizebee.ca, attention Jennifer.

Lions selling Christmas trees in Hubbards, Bedford, not SMB

The St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club will not be selling Christmas trees. for the second year in a row.

Club member Peter Lund says, "This decision is due to the ageing of our current members and a shortage of volunteers to assist with the effort."

The Bedford Lions Club and Hubbards Area Lions Club will be selling trees at their respective locations.

Says Lund, "We encourage you to visit them as one way to continue supporting the Lions' community work."



Blame Julius and Janus

The new year used to fall in spring, the season of new growth. But in 46 BCE, Julius Caesar corrected an annual date discrepancy caused by the 304-day Roman calendar. He decided to change the date of the new year at the same time. Caesar put it at the start of the month named for Janus, the Roman god of new beginnings, because Janus is two-faced, and can look toward the future while still viewing the past.





A Cedar Waxwing, enjoying a winter meal. Photo credit: Jason Dain





(Open December 22, then closing for the holidays

and reopening January 2.)

PAGE 16 DECEMBER 2025 THE MASTHEAD NEWS

Christmas belles are singing: Annual holiday concert by Mahone Bay mother and daughter choir supports food bank

Over 30 singers and 10 instrumentalists will present "Sweet Chiming Christmas Belles!" a candlelit evening of Christmas choral music presented by the St. John's Lutheran Mother & Daughter Choir on

Saturday, December 20 at 7:30pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mahone Bay.

It's the 16th year for the concert, and the Mahone Bay Food Bank will be the recipient of funds raised.





The mothers and daughters of Mahone Bay's St. John's Lutheran Church Mother & Daughter Choir. Back row, from left: Amy Bezeau, Saryn Bezeau, Sara Whynot, Rachel Whynot, Sofia Andreu, Jennah Barry. Second row: Clare Power, Katie Iyoupe, Anna-Louise Tingley, Elsie Iyoupe, Leslee Barry (director), Rebecca Rock (principal accompanist). Front row: Lucy Power, Hailey Fralic, Olive Thompson.

Volunteer and choir member Trudi Petersen Inglis says, "With a mix of voices from the very young to the more seasoned, this wonderful group of singers creates a beautifully blended sound with lots of character."

Inglis says the program is varied and will include both original compositions and traditional carols.

Leslee Barry, musical director and concert coordinator says, "This concert is a gift to the food bank funded by the generosity and good will of others—it's

wonderful that so many are willing to donate their time and energy each year."

Barry gratefully acknowledges the "loyal audiences who have filled St. John's Lutheran Church to capacity each year, giving this incentive the fuel it needs to provide valuable support to those in need."

Tickets are available at Kinburn Pharmasave in Mahone Bay or from one of the choir members. Cost is \$20 for an adult, \$10 for a student, and free for children under 10.

Affordable, reliable,
high-quality metal roofing
made in Bridgewater
since 2013



Showroom open

Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm

1314 Highway 325 Blockhouse

902-298-3022 sales@wallsmetalroofing.com

wallsmetalroofing.com



Installations

Our installation teams are some of the best in the business with over 4,000 projects completed.

Innovations

Our app is designed specifically for install crews and contractors buying materials.

Wholesale

We wholesale all of our roofing products and packages. Contractor pricing available.

Contact us for a free quote