

Chronicle

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Welcome to the Christmas 2011 issue of The Long Harbour Chronicle. These pages are usually dedicated to economic development issues impacting our Town. The Chronicle felt that this Christmas issue would focus on the Town of Long Harbour - MAH. The Chronicle will attempt to capture the spirit of the Community as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season. Christmas in rural Newfoundland and Labrador is as much

about tradition and family as it is about celebrating Christian values. This issue will explore how Christmas was celebrated in the Harbour years ago from the perspective of some of our senior citizens and we leave it to the reader to contrast that with the perspective of a more contemporary vision of Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all residents of Long Harbour - Mount Arlington Heights.

All Hands Shared Alike

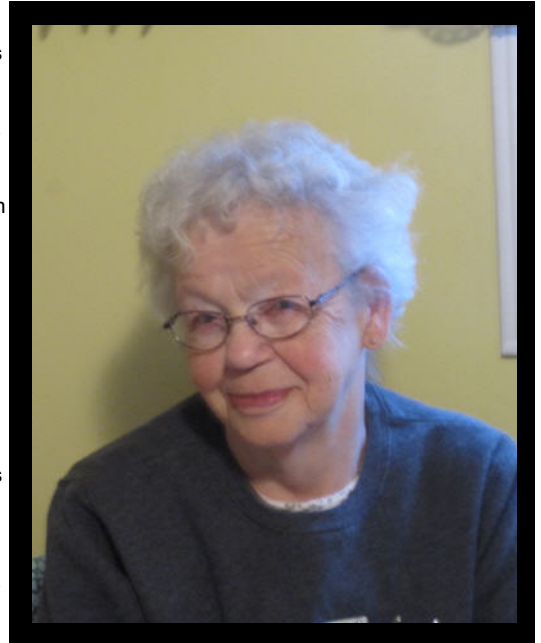
Doranne Murphy Remembers

Sharing a little time with Doranne Murphy is a true joy. This woman, who raised eight children in the Cove, has a special zest for life. Her eyes sparkled with delight as she reminisced with The Chronicle about Christmas past in the Cove. Mrs. Murphy's husband Henry, was a fisherman and when he came home from The Labrador he always brought Christmas with him. Mrs. Murphy pointed out that it was not like it is today, there were no televisions, or VCRs or anything like that. Our crowd had whatever was on the go, a hockey stick or a small radio. In most cases she made everything for her children, knitted mitts and socks, and she made dresses for the girls. She took great pride in telling The Chronicle that she has already knit 10 pairs of double mitts so far this winter.

When thinking back to her own childhood out on Crawley's Island, Mrs. Murphy recalls that her father would never dress the Christmas tree until

Christmas Eve and it would always stay until Old Christmas Day. "My mother baked cakes and cookies and whatever they had was shared with visitors", she said. Whatever was there to drink they had, home made wine, syrup and sometimes some special stuff from St. Pierre. "Then we went out to the mummings and we danced all night, sometimes until first light" said Doranne. Paddy (Accordion) Keating played and as long as as a fella came in we danced.

"I have been in this house for 64 years as of October this year, she said," we floated her over from the Island and we could live in her the very next day, there was not an drop of water anywhere". That's a lot of memories she says. For Mrs. Doranne Murphy, Christmas is all about family and this year she expects will be no different, as all her children and grandchildren gather in celebration.



The Legend of the Christmas Tree

The tale holds that a poor family generously took in a needy child near Christmas and shared with him all that they had.

This Child was in fact, the Christ Child

To repay this family for their kindness the Child created a small lit fir tree outside the home, to light the way for other weary travelers in need of a blessing.

From that day, the lighting of the Christmas tree represented kindness, generosity and goodwill towards all.



Five Sisters and

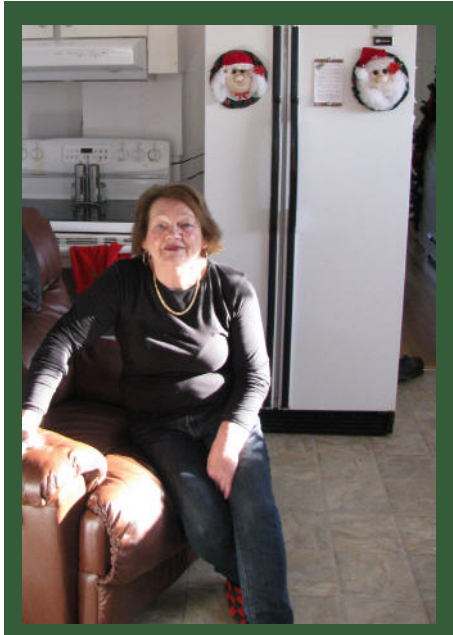
A Fruit Cake

In a small Newfoundland community not far from here five sisters would gather around the kitchen table with their mother to enjoy Christmas fruit cake and a cup of Tetley tea. The laughter and the stories told reflected the joy the sisters felt in sharing this time with their mother. After their mother left to be with the angels the sisters determined to honour their

Mother and to keep the tradition alive. Late each fall the five sisters gather with their mother's secret recipe to make their annual dark fruit cake. Now days, they sit around the kitchen table at Christmas, have a cup of Tetley tea and fruit cake . They remember, they laugh and they share this time with their daughters. The tradition lives on.

Family and Friends Will Gather As Always

A Visit With Gladys Burke



A warm welcome to strangers is a trade mark of many homes in our province. So it was when The Chronicle paid a visit to Gladys Burke and her husband Jack.

Gladys was born on Crawley's Island, her father was a fisherman and her mother tended to the garden and cared for the small animals that they kept. "My father was a hard working and a very kind man", she said. "We never had much", Gladys pointed out "but we were comfortable".

"I could feel something strange out in the toe of my Christmas stocking. You would always get an apple and an orange and sometimes you would have grapes, that was special. When I dug out what was in the toe of my stocking ...it was a beautiful shiny broach, I will never forget that moment".

When we talked with Gladys about Christmas her eyes brightened with fond memories that seemed to transport her back to another time on Crawley's Island. "When I was a little girl", she remembered, "we always got a Christmas stocking". This one Christmas she felt something strange out in the toe of her Christmas stocking. "When I dug out what was in the toe of my stocking...it was a beautiful shiny broach; I will never forget that moment", she said. "I had a new broach to wear in my dress for Christmas".

With the twinkle of a master story teller, Gladys related the story of a friend in the Cove who had gotten a rubber ball one Christmas and for the next three Christmas mornings he found a rubber ball painted a different color each time. Laughter comes easy around Mrs. Burke's kitchen table.

When asked what was her favorite Christmas gift of all she is quick to related the story of a doll her father brought her from St. Pierre. "It was a beautiful doll", she said. " I kept it for well over 30 years and later gifted it to one of my Grandchildren".

The Burke house will welcome family and friends again this year as they have for decades. They will sit around the kitchen table, share in the joy that is Christmas, trade a story or two creating memories for a new generation. The warmth of the Kitchen lies in the heart of she that dwells there. Merry Christmas Gladys.





Warm Wishes For A Merry Christmas A Joyous New Year

LHDC Chairman and Town Mayor, Gary Keating extended warm Christmas greetings to all residents of Long Harbour and Mount Arlington Heights at a shared Christmas reception that was jointly hosted by the LHDC Board of Directors and Town Council. During the evening's event Gary gave an overview of the many successes and accomplishments that were achieved by both the Town Council and LHDC this past year. "We have a lot to be thankful for", said, the Mayor. He went on to say that both Council and the LHDC have been working hard on behalf of all residents. "Though

"We have a lot to be thankful for. Though we have challenges, we have also seen continued growth in our community. My expectation is that LH-MAH will continue to experience change as we respond to the ever growing needs of industrial development taking place in our town".

we have challenges, we have also seen continued growth of our community. My expectation is that Long Harbour - MAH will continue to experience change as we respond to the ever growing needs of the industrial development taking place in our Town". Christmas time gives us an opportunity to reflect and to give thanks for all that we have achieved as a Town. "I am looking forward to an exciting New Year", Gary said. On behalf of my family and I, we wish each and every one a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



A Message from The Chief

The Town's Fire Chief, Wally Burke spoke with the Chronicle about his wishes for Long Harbour - Mt. Arlington Heights this Christmas Season. "My concern as Fire Chief is for every household in our community to have a safe and happy Christmas", said the Chief. "It's important that residents take steps to protect their family and keep them safe", he said. Things like not overloading electrical circuits, keeping open flames, like candles away from combustible materials and taking the time to keep natural Christmas trees well watered during the season are common sense. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and remember to always think safety first.



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