

NEWS

Have I Got e-  for You!



News from the Communities in and around the
Old Barns and Hilden United Churches



No 24

June 2023

Message from Your Editor

Happy June! I have been delving into the past lately and have always had a connection with my own ancestors and this past week, attended a church event where the subject of ancestors was a main topic. Then, to top it off, I just finished reading a book that had this following paragraph in it:

..... our history wasn't just fact. Our history was much richer. It was handed down through stories, it was documented by witnesses, it was a memory – sometimes our own and sometimes others'. All of it was interwoven, with no distinct start or end. I thought of my own history. So far it wasn't a rich tapestry. It was based on careful decisions, on trusting fact ... I realized that I couldn't go back to my sterile existence of work, gym, and a gin in the evenings ... I wanted my history to be more than that. I wanted what my grandfather had – people to create memories with, people who would always remember me. (The Rainbow by Carly Schabowski)

I have developed a love for graveyards/cemeteries and what they can tell us about the past. Last summer I recorded and did a cursory search involving the Green Oak graveyard and those that lay buried there. The result was a book I called "Giving Back Their Voices." I was honoured to receive a Heritage Award for my work from the Colchester Historeum. This summer I am back to talking to those that have gone before. What will you be doing?

~ Leslie



Joanne Hunt, Archives Researcher presenting the award

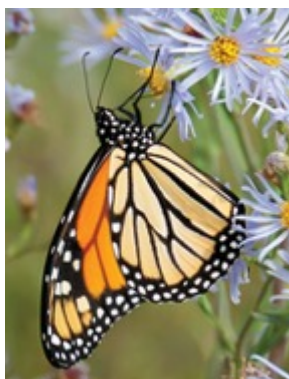
Good Bye, Dear Friends



Ruthven Smith Stewart
1926 – February 18, 2023 aged 96
Old Barns



Grant Alan Maxwell
July 5, 1934 – May 12, 2023
Old Barns



Tracie Anne Baird
May 27, 2023 aged 50
Green Oak

*Life brings tears, smiles, and memories.
The tears dry, the smile fades,
but the memories live on forever.*



Douglas Mark Austin
1959 – June 5, 2023 aged 64
Old Barns

Sympathy is extended to those community members who have lost family and friends from within and outside our communities.

Always missed, forever remembered.



Look For Me by Iris Hesselden

Look for me when the tide is high
And the gulls are wheeling overhead
When the autumn wind sweeps the cloudy sky
And one by one the leaves are shed
Look for me when the trees are bare
And the stars are bright in the frosty sky
When the morning mist hangs on the air
And shorter darker days pass by.

I am there, where the river flows
And salmon leap to a silver moon
Where the insects hum and the tall grass
grows

And sunlight warms the afternoon
I am there in the busy street
I take you hand in the city square
In the market place where the people meet
In your quiet room – I am there

I am the love you cannot see
And all I ask is – look for me.

Happy Days!

80 + Birthdays:

September – Grant Fancey

90 + Birthdays:

July – Jack Johnson

September – Eveline Whitehead



50 + Anniversaries:

June – Kent & Judy Loughhead;
Donna & Mervyn Dickey

July – David & Carol Baird

August – Arlene & Wayne Fisher



Joint Summer Services at 10:00 a.m. in Old Barns and Hilden

July 2 – Hilden with Rev. Phillip

July 9 – Old Barns with Rev. Phillip

July 16 – Hilden with Rev. Phillip

July 23 – Old Barns with Garry M

July 30 – Hilden with Arlene F & Sylvia P

August 6 – Old Barns with Laurie S

August 13 – Hilden with Marnie S

August 20 – Old Barns with Reg & Hwy 236

August 27 – Hilden with Rev. Phillip

Information about our churches and when our services are can be found on our website. Most Sundays, the Old Barns services are either live-streamed or taped and can also be found on the Charge website:

cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Spirituality Circle

The Old Barns church now has a Spirituality Circle located on the lawn to the Bay side. Anyone is welcome to come sit, with a friend or alone, to chat or silently contemplate or pray.

The Session has spent time talking about Spirituality and how it affects our lives. This has led us to discussions on how we could provide space for people in our community to explore their Spirituality.

Spiritual Walk – a time to replenish the soul, connect with the natural world, increase your self-esteem, improve your health and healing, heighten your attention, Living with Respect in Creation (as our Creed tells us to do).

You can walk in silence, observing the scenery around you or you could also walk with companions as on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13 – 35). You can pray for people and situations that are on your mind. You can talk things out with God, sharing your thoughts and emotions and leaving space for the Spirit to respond.

For those that walking is not a possibility or for those who, at the beginning or end of a walk, just want to sit in silence or to commune with others, a Spirituality Circle is a universal symbol that represents notions of wholeness, the infinite, eternity, and timelessness. It is a place for growth of the inner Self, a symbol of consciousness because of its order and enclosed characteristics.



Hilden Events



Marnie and Wayne Smiths 60th Anniversary celebrated February 26th at their home with many unexpected guests.



On March 17th, Edith Selwyn-Smith's mother, Marie Embree of New Glasgow, celebrated her 90th birthday with more than 60 invited guests.

Edith and husband Keith along with her sister Shelley and husband David, are known in Pictou County as Family Circle and provided a few Irish songs accompanied by nieces Jennifer and Melanie who teach music in Toronto.

As a surprise, Shelley and I performed 'In the Mood' – our first piano duet in 55 years!

Always smiling, Mom kept her fun-loving nature going all afternoon especially when, after cutting her cake, she waved the knife directing us all in the singing of 'Happy birthday' and telling everyone a few her favorite anecdotes! She is already planning her 95th!



*Life is too short to wake up in the morning
with regrets.*

*So, love the people who treat you right,
Forgive the ones who don't and
Believe that everything happens for a reason.*

If you get the chance, tale it.

If it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said it would be easy,

They just promised it would be worth it.

Dr. Seuss

+

*As the area of our knowledge grows,
So too does the perimeter
Of our ignorance.*

Neil deGrasse Tyson, Astrophysicist

+

*Discussions are always better
than arguments,
because an argument is to find out
who is right,
while a discussion is to find out
what is right*

Unknown

Old Barns Events



Leslie Burrows making donations to Maggie's Place from Clifton Page Turners Book Club, Old Barns Youth Drama Club, and Old Barns Progressive Club.



Leslie Burrows, Karen Archibald-Waugh, Matthew Anderson, and Phillip Kennedy. Matthew along with Raymond Aldred wrote the book "Our Home and Treaty Land".

+

*It was only a sunny smile,
And little it cost in giving,
But like morning light,
It scattered the night
And made the day worth living*

F Scott Fitzgerald



Lloyd Yuill and Girlfriend at Pancake Brunch



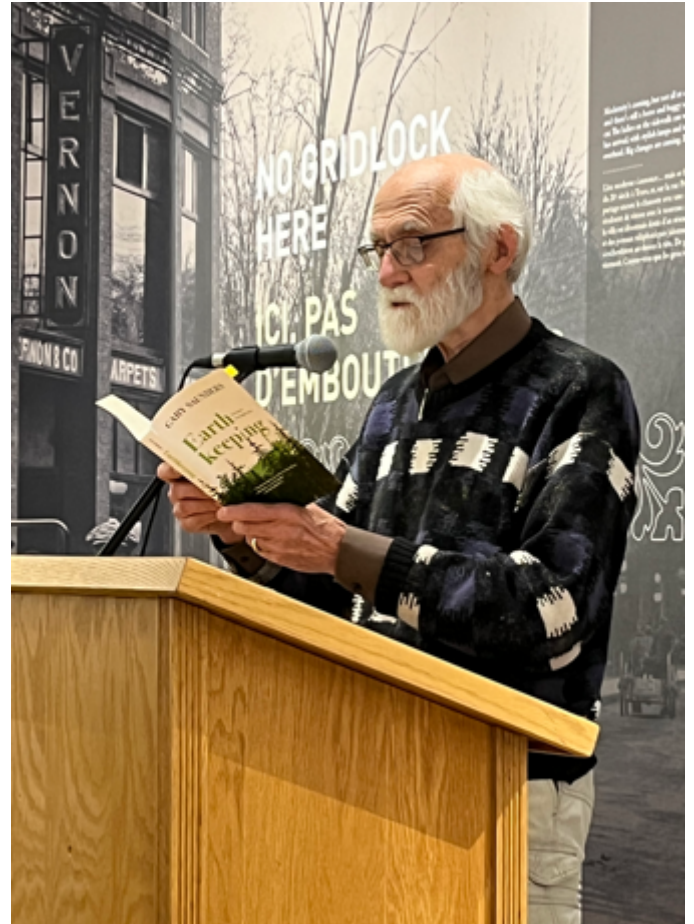
May 12th Benefit Concert for Taylor Bagnell and Family



Glenda Kent at May 13th dedication of the Cobequid District Fire Brigade Fire Fighter's Memorial in Beaver Brook.



Xander, Garry and Max doing Clifton Road Clean-up in May.



Garry Saunders at Colchester Historeum "Lunch and Learn" at noon reading from his book "Earth Keeping"



Above and Below – Fisher Creek Cemetery Clean-up Day Crew



Above and Below: Joint Worship on June 11th at Old Barns



Country Moment

By: Beth Saunders

"It's so peaceful here," said our company, who arrived in late afternoon after I'd spent all day scrubbing garden mud off the downstairs floors, and cooking and baking country goodies; and after I had spent all winter making a quilt to put on their bed, and hooking a rug to keep their feet warm; and stuffing and dressing an elephant for a welcoming present. Oh, and weeding the tulips and daffodils to decorate their room. Yeah, right!

But seriously, today I was popping the heads off 500 dandelions to make jelly. Across the road a flatbed truck was parked to load the bulldozer that was in the field. Down the lane came an ATV. It passed the motorcycle that was just ahead of the cattle truck with its trailer full of cows. The Dept. of Highways truck came booming down the gravel road, and the tractor with manure spreader had to wait in the lane to let it pass.

That's seven vehicles in a radius not much bigger than our country house.

I took my little red wagon down the lane to see if they'd let me play too – if I brought my own toy. The sarcasm was lost on seven spring-busy men.



"Christians have no business thinking that the good life consists mainly in not doing bad things. We have no business thinking that to do evil in this world you have to be a Bengal tiger, when, in fact, it is enough to be a tame tabby—a nice person but not a good one. In short, Pentecost makes it clear that nothing is so fatal to Christianity as indifference."

~ WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN JR.

From "History of the Green Oak Area"

By: Mildred Pulsifer Burrows

Page 87 – Social Life

The people who settled the banks of the Shubenacadie River were a lively folk. They worked hard, but they took time out for fun and sociability. It required only a fiddler with a violin and someone to all the sets to get a dance started. A piano and other instruments were used if available, but they were certainly not considered essential. Dances were often held in the homes, with plenty of willing volunteers ready to move the furniture from the parlor out to the hall for the duration of the dance. Dances in schools were held to raise money for various projects, but those in the homes were usually just to serenade a par of newly-weds, to welcome a traveller home from afar or merely to celebrate the holiday season.

In 1890, the Clifton session has devoted "considerable discussion in reference to the prevalence of dancing in the community, and more particularly, with the unreasonable ours in connection with it." The members of the session agreed to let their "...strong disapproval of immoderation in this respect" be made known; however, it seems that the disapproval of the session had little effect on the Green Oak section of the congregation.



2023 Food Bank Garden

By: Garry Matthews

The Knights of Columbus of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church and the Old Barns Men's Club once again prepared the garden of vegetables and fruit for the Colchester County Food Bank.

We typically do our weeding and harvesting on Monday mornings, and Wednesday mornings, at 9 am. We deliver produce the same morning to the Food Bank, which is open three days a week.

This year, the garden is located at the home of John and Mary Heukshorst, 1766 highway 236, in Beaver Brook, just 10 minutes from town. It will be a smaller garden to match the Human Resources available.

Garden volunteers will be updated by email early each week, telling of garden progress and listing the chores for the coming week. We watch the weather, and on rainy days, we rest!

We welcome volunteers to help us at the garden; please contact me to add your name to our mail list. gsmatthews41@gmail.com



Thank You

To My Fellow Community Members,

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who attended the Benefit at the Old Barns Church May 12th in support of my daughter Taylor. The donations, thoughts and prayers meant so much to my family and I. As a single Mom of four, I wasn't sure how I was going to keep afloat during Taylor's hospital stay. The generosity of the community helped make things more comfortable for us. We will be forever grateful.

I'd also like to thank Reg Henderson and Leslie Burrows for putting the benefit together and Hwy 236 for an amazing concert. Also Karen Archibald-Waugh.

An update on Taylor:

Taylor had open heart surgery on June 1, 2023. After 8 long hours, her surgeon successfully repaired her heart defect. There was one complication during the operation in which her IV went interstitial and her arm swelled up. An orthopedic surgeon was called in and we originally were told she'd have two incisions in her left arm to relieve the pressure but she started to show signs of improvement and no incision was necessary. After a few days her arm returned to normal size.

The first few days were quite rough for her. But she quickly made progress and was walking laps by day 3. She noticed her breathing had improved almost immediately. She no longer has heart palpitations or the chest pain she had prior to the repair. Truly an amazing thing to watch! She's so strong! Taylor was discharged from hospital on day 5. She spent a few days settling in at home and decided to return to school this week. She will have her stitches removed on the 15th and she has about another 4 weeks before her sternum is fully healed. She can't wait to be able to swim and enjoy her summer as a normal teenager before starting high school in the fall.

God Bless, Reaghen Needham and family

Below: Taylor will be attending her grade nine prom on the 20th. The whole community wishes her a wonderful time.



Rural Routes Through the Holy - 2023

By: Leslie Burrows

Leslie Burrows, Barb Miller, Karen and Anthony Waugh attended this event at Camp Abegweit on Prince Edward Island from June 15 to 17. Approximately 40 people attended the event.

The Reverend Catherine Smith is the brains and idea behind this event. The main presenter & World Café facilitator was Dr. Marvin Lee Anderson who spoke on “Honouring Our Ancestors”

Tasters: thirty-minute presentations given by a variety of people on a variety of things so good “we may want to go home and cook them up in our own communities”. Pop Up Church (outreach), Affirm in Rural Communities, Faithful Footprints (Dundas UC and Kings UPC), Ritual Harvesting of the Gifts of the Ancestors, and Stations of the Rural Church, each given by someone who loves them well.

Prayer Stations: A labyrinth and a variety of prayer stations were set up in quiet corners for moments of individual pause and reflection. Gratitude or lament, intercession, or deep stillness, there you could find ways of being prayer.

A wonderful three days meeting like-minded people, hearing new and old ideas, being revitalized with song and prayer.

Below are some sites you might want to visit that we heard and talked about.

Websites to Explore:

abbeyofthearts.com

<https://richardvancamp.com/>

<https://www.deepeningcommunity.org/>

Songs:

Open Hand

<https://abbeyofthearts.bandcamp.com/track/open-hand>

Poems:

St. Kelvin Holds Open His Hands

<https://abbeyofhearts.com/blog/2021/04/18/st-kevin-holds-open-his-hand-and-radical-hospitality-a-love-note-from-your-online-abbess/>

Beloved Is Where We Begin

<https://paintedprayerbook.com/2016/02/11/1ent-1-beloved-is-where-we-begin/>

Book Suggestion:

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Interview:

With Robin Wall Kimmerer about her book

<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-wall-kimmerer-the-intelligence-of-plants-2022/>



This is the new sign that can now be found roadside in Green Oak welcoming travellers to our community. (Sorry about the reflections.) It shows both the Burris Farm to the Left and the Burrows Farm to the Right.

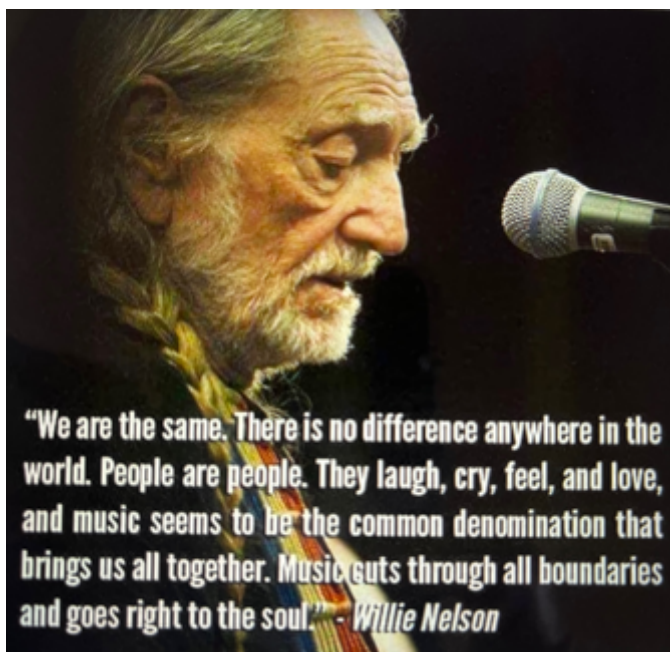
Burrows-O'Toole kids at Clover Crest Farm Open House.



Barb and Karen, also Elaine Burrows (on R) with Sarah Jewell who led a workshop on Prayer and Journal Writing. She is also the author of "Alphabet of Faith".



Anthony, Karen, Leslie, Catherine Smith, Barb



Picture Credits: Jim Burrows, Leslie Burrows, Donna Dickey, Garry Matthews, Sandra Matthews, Reaghen Meedham, Laurie Sandeson, Edith Selwyn-Smith

Clover Crest Farm Open House

By: Jim Burrows

On April 15th, Clover Crest Farm held an open farm day to profile our new and newly renovated dairy barn. The day was a sunny April day and we had over 400 visitors. Many were farmers, but lots were people who had not been in a dairy barn for years. They soon discovered that the barn of today is not what we see in a child's books or Fisher Price toys. Like how our homes have improved, how we house a cow bears little resemblance to what sometimes are referred to as the good old days.

This saga began about 5 years ago. We recognized that the facilities needed to be enlarged and modernized. We also wanted to change from milking in a milking parlour to an automated milking system (AMS), often referred to as robotic milking. By March of 2020 we had the plans drawn and most of the pieces priced and were ready to start signing on with contractors and suppliers. That was when the world stopped. We did do a renovation of one section of the old barn that summer, but delayed the new build until the spring of 2021.

It took almost two years to build the new structure and renovate the existing barn. The new barn needed to be finished before renovations of the old could begin. The whole project took longer than expected mainly because of "supply chain issues".

In Canada today, about 20% of farms use automated milking systems. In our community three farms used these systems. When they were first introduced around 20 years ago many of the systems failed. The equipment suppliers persisted and kept improving the technology. Researchers and practical on-farm experience has led to changes in how barns are designed. Designed to take advantage of the natural daily patterns of a cow.

Most cows lay down and rest, sleep and chew their cud for around 12 hours a day. Cows are more like a cat than a human in that they only rest for one to two hours at a time. After resting

they will usually socialize with other cows and then look for food.

The barn is designed with two entrances to the sleeping area through one-way gates and one exit from the sleeping area through a sort gate. When the cow enters the sort gate, she is identified by a transponder she wears. The computer is programmed to allow a cow into the milking area so many times a day, depending on her stage of lactation. Cows that have recently calved are allowed back into the milking area after 4.5 hours, late lactation cows may wait close to 12 hours.

The cow that is directed to the milking area can then enter the milking system when space is available. They patiently wait for the gate of the milking system to open and readily enter because in addition to being milked they receive grain. The average cow is in the system for 6.5 minutes. When she exits, she is directed to the feeding area of the barn. The cow that goes through the sort gate and does not go to the milking area is directed to the feeding area. Once through eating and visiting with other cows the cows pass through a one-way gate to the sleeping area and the process begins again.



This picture shows the building housing two robotic milkers. You can see cows on each side waiting their turn. You can also see a white cow in the right side being milked.

The cows operate on their own schedule and are seldom chased anywhere. The difference we see is that when a person goes into the cow area, the cows do not move out of your way. If you are going from point A to point B and a cow is between those two points, that is your problem, so walk around, the cow was there

first. If you stand still for more than a few seconds, a cow will come up to you and lick you or scratch their head on you. The cows see a person as one of the herd.

The other difference from the dairy barn of my childhood is the space per cow. The stalls are larger, the walkways for the cows are wider and the biggest difference is the ceilings are higher. The cubic feet of air space per cow is many times larger. The availability for fresh air from outside is controlled by side wall curtains. The walls on both sides of the barn have roll up curtains that provide an opening up to 12 feet when fully open. There are vents at the peak of the roof that also open and close based on temperature. There are 24-foot diameter ceiling fans that constantly move the air, the fan speed depends on the inside temperature. The result is that on the hottest day the environment in the barn is similar to being in a shaded area with a nice breeze blowing by you. On the coldest day when the curtains are closed, the fans are still circulating air at slow speed so there are no drafts but still fresh air.



This picture shows a view of the new barn with the sleeping areas on the left and the feed alley on the right with a tractor in the feeder delivering feed.

For the people working in the barn, life has changed as well. The rigidity of the twice a day milking schedule is gone. Much of the labour saving has been replaced with other tasks. Most of these tasks are not as time sensitive. The scheduling of labour, for the most part, can revolve around a person's needs, so gone is the 3:30 a.m. start time. The down side is someone needs to be available, if there are problems, as

the milking system sends an alarm to your phone when it needs help. Fortunately, the frequency of the alarms is not great.

It is now 14 months since we moved the cows to the new barn, and 9 ½ months since we began milking in with the AMS. We have seen about a 20% increase in production per cow. Production is still increasing but not as fast as the first few months. The cows are demonstrating their satisfaction.

The Burrows and Nelsons – Farm Owners



*Janell, Jason, Kase, Tate – The Nelson Family
Alexander, Leslie, Hannah, Jim – The Burrows Family*



The barn on Open House Day with guests in the Feeder.



Guests outside at Barnyard Grill Food Truck