

# The Shoreline News

Published by Fundy Communities Development Association

Delivered direct to all households from East Margaretsville to Delaps Cove, along the Fundy Shore

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March, 2008

## Let's Talk about Property Taxes...

By Marilyn Jones

A year ago, in February 2007, the annual notice from the Assessor's office arrived in the mail. When I opened this routine piece of mail I was amazed to see an enormous increase in my proposed property assessment - in fact it had been increased by an astounding 81%!

I immediately submitted an appeal and requested that someone from the Assessor's office visit me at my home. Meanwhile, I discussed my concerns with my county councilor who suggested that I put some facts on paper and he would present it at the next council meeting.

I also spoke with my neighbours and learned we were all more or less in the same boat, facing larger than expected increases in property taxes. Five of them kindly agreed to write letters of protest in support of our concerns. I distributed the package of our six letters and a cover letter to four relevant government departments including our MLA and the Tax Administrator in Kentville.

Over the course of the next four months, I phoned several times but heard nothing back from any of these people by way of phone calls or letters. June rolled around and I knew the

hefty tax bill would be due in 30 days but my appeal had still not been investigated. So, I went to see Mr Larry Powell, the Editor of the Spectator newspaper. After listening to my predicament, the June 21st edition of the Spectator published a letter I had written expressing my concerns and Mr. Powell's editorial column focused on the topic of rapidly escalating property taxes.



My letter (and perhaps his column as well) was forwarded to other newspapers and on that very same day I received a phone call from CBC Halifax television. They asked if I would be interested in appearing on their newscast and of course I said "Yes!"

I am happy to report that on July 11th a nice young man from the Kentville office did come to do a thorough assessment of my home and REALLY LISTENED to my concerns. This inspection resulted in a re-assessment of my property with a moderate decrease in the amount of tax I would be required to pay. While pleased with the reduction, I still feel it is a lot of money for a senior citizen or anyone on a fixed income to have to pay - especially considering that our government services are minimal.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Fundy Communities Development Association Annual General Meeting

It's that time again - the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Fundy Communities Development Association will be held on Monday March 31st, in the Port Lorne Fire Hall. The evening will start with a Pot Luck Supper beginning at 5:30 pm, and supper will be followed by the business meeting beginning at 7 pm.

Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. David Caldwell of Eastlink, Senior Director of Business Services for EastLink. Mr. Caldwell will be discussing the process to bring high speed internet service to the Fundy Coast, under the provincial Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia initiative. Elections for the 2008 Board of Directors will be held during the business meeting, and nominations for new directors are being sought from the Margaretsville area.

Director responsibilities include the willingness and ability to attend a monthly Board meeting (locations vary up and down the length of the FCDA region), daily access to email, and a willingness to participate in ongoing communication by email and telephone.

For more information, please call the FCDA office at 902.532.1393 or email our Administrator at [info@fundycommunities.com](mailto:info@fundycommunities.com). We look forward to seeing you and your casserole dish in Port Lorne on March 31<sup>st</sup>!

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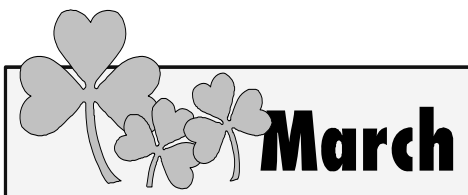
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**Litchfield**

(Milton & Juanita Longmire 532 -0114)

- Saturday night jam sessions - 7 pm start time - Entry by donation
- Saturday, March 15th - Pot luck supper - 5:30 pm

**Hillsburn**

(Angela Burnie 532 - 5872)

- Spring Break Brunch - Saturday, March 8 - begins at 9 am, \$5.00
- Each Wednesday evening - join us for cards, darts, games & chat

**Young's Cove**

(Mary Hudson 532 - 2926)

- Tuesday night jam sessions each week - 7 pm start time
- Friday night jam sessions each week - 7 pm start time

**Hampton**

(Andy Kerr 665 - 4040)

- Hampton Community Hall has 4 pairs of snowshoes to loan - please call Jo at #665 - 2424 for arrangements

**Port Lorne**

(Kevin Corbett - 584 - 2209)

- Saturday, March 22 - Port Lorne Volunteer Fire Department monthly dance - 9 pm - 2 am \$3/person, \$5/ couple - Photo ID required

**Port George**

(Tracy Bezanson 825 - 3858)

- Monday Night Jam Sessions 7:30 - 10 pm. Refreshments served, \$2 entrance. For more info contact Evelyn Wood at #825-3986

**Community Events**

**Forest Glade**

(Olive McLaughlin - 765 - 4679)

- Each Tuesday -  
 Craft & Chat - 10 am - 2 pm  
 45's Card Party - 7:30 pm,  
 Refreshments served, \$2

*Here comes SPRING!*

The Vernal or Spring Equinox is the date when day and night are of equal length, and is the official first day of Spring! This year Spring officially arrives at 5:58 am on Thursday, March 20th—just three days before Easter.

***A Sincere THANK YOU!  
 to our Individual Sponsors:***

Show your community spirit; add your name to this column for 12 months for a minimum donation of \$25.00 to the Shoreline News. Find the Sponsorship Form on our webpage, or contact the FCDA office at: 902.532.1393 or [info@fundycommunities.com](mailto:info@fundycommunities.com)

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***This space is waiting for  
 YOUR NAME!***

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 Tel: 902.532.1393  
 Fax: 902.532.1394  
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 Website: [www.FundyCommunities.com](http://www.FundyCommunities.com)

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# Church Listings

## Margaretsville United Church

Sunday Services  
 March 2 - 9:30 am  
 March 16 - 9:30 am  
 Maundy Thursday Service, with  
 Communion, on March 20th at 7 pm

## Margaretsville Baptist Church

Sunday Services at 10 am  
 ~ All are welcome ~

## Victoria Vale Baptist Church

Sunday Services at 11 am  
 Pastor Rev. Vaughan Henshaw

## Hampton / Port Lorne Baptist Churches

Rev. Bill Patterson 584 - 3219

- **Sunday Worship** - 10:00 am  
 595 Port Lorne Rd.
- **Sunday School** - 11:15 am  
 463 Port Lorne Rd.
- **Youth Group** - Thursday @ 7 pm  
 463 Port Lorne Rd.
- **Bible Study**: Wednesday at 7 pm  
 Anne McCurdy's - St. Croix Cove

## Clarence United Baptist Church

Pastor: Rev. George Mollins  
 825 - 3650

Sunday services are held at the  
 Clarence United Baptist Church  
 at 10:30 a.m.

## Fundy Fellowship Baptist Churches

Pastor: Bruce Kaiser - 532.5055  
 Youth Pastor: Nathan Hawboldt  
 532.1204

Worship Service 11 am each Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Parker's Cove & Hillsburn

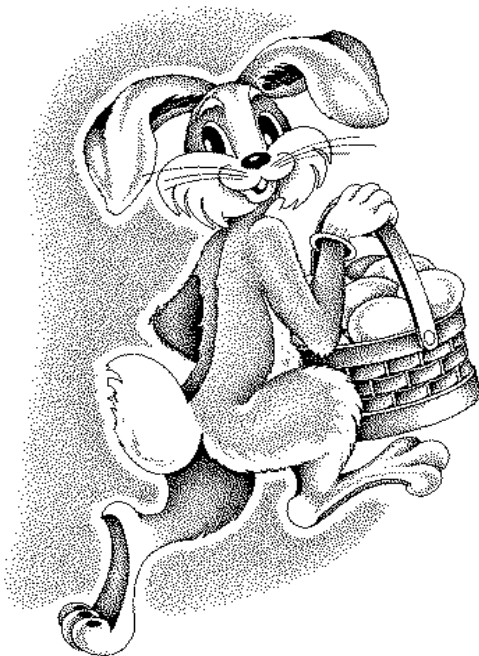
**DON'T BE LATE! Remember to  
 change your clocks...**

Daylight Savings time begins at  
 2 am on Sunday, March 9th

"Spring forward, fall behind"

# Happy Easter!

## Sunday March 23



### BookMobile Schedule

#### Thursday - March 27

Hillsburn	3:45 - 4:30 pm
Young's Cove	5:30 - 6:00 pm
Hampton	6:15 - 7:00 pm
Port Lorne	7:15 - 7:45 pm

#### Thursday - March 13

St Croix Cove	2:00 - 2:30 pm
Mount Hanley	3:00 - 3:45 pm
Margaretsville	4:15 - 5:15 pm



*"The person who does  
 not read books has no  
 advantage over the  
 person who cannot  
 read them."*

- Mark Twain -

### China is Home!

Three weeks after our cat China disappeared we had just about given up hope of ever seeing her again. We put a notice into the Shoreline News and the day after the January issue arrived in our mailbox - China came home - a bit thinner but otherwise fine.

If someone took her into their home, we Thank You for caring for her while she was away - and also for letting her come home to us! Sincerely; Hallet and Barb Rafuse

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## Property Taxes (Continued from page 1)

Just recently I learned from my county councilor that some people WERE working in the wings on my behalf, as well as on behalf of others with similar concerns. All of the county councillors have been concerned with the increase in taxes along the shore and a particular block from Cottage Cove westward appears to have been hit the hardest. Mr. Robicheau, Annapolis County CAO, personally checked into several properties along the shore and made a point of driving over to look at my place to see what all the fuss was about. He apparently has spoken to the assessment office in Kentville, emphasizing the fact that we must try to prevent a situa-

tion similar to what happened along the South Shore of Nova Scotia regarding land taxes.

I am a reasonable person who realizes price increases are inevitable, but our government must take some facts into consideration. In my case, this land I'm looking after has been in my children's family for four generations. We all LOVE this land; it was never bought on speculation of re-selling for profit but was cleared and worked by past generations of poor people. I'm sure that they were proud to pass it on to the next generation, just as I am planning to do.

Therefore, please don't tax us off our property!

## Spring Cleaning for your Computer

Contributed by Bruce Hamilton

Despite the frustrations of our slow dial-up connections, we still want our computers to work properly - and that requires that we get the dust out of the inside as well as off the top of the case. Unless you live in a "dust free house" this maintenance should be done once every two years.

Computers have cooling fans inside that move a lot of air, and any dust particles in that air get deposited on the chipset cooling fins. If you burn wood or have pets in your house, the ash and pet dander add to the problem. To clean - simply unplug your machine on a fine day, remove the left case cover, take it outside and clean it with compressed air. Cans of compressed air made especially for this purpose can be purchased at most computer stores. Be sure to clean cooling fins on the CPU and blow dust out of the power supply.

If you don't feel comfortable doing this drop it in to your local computer shop, they will clean it for a small fee.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Participate in the production of your community newspaper, **The Shoreline News**, each month. We are looking for one **Community Reporter** from each settlement along the shore: DeLaps Cove, Litchfield, Hillsburn, Parker's Cove, Young's Cove, Phinney Cove, Hampton, St. Croix Cove, Port Lorne, Outram, Mount Hanley, Port George, Victoria Vale, Margaretsville, Forest Glade. Requirements are that you be able and willing to send one or more email messages each month detailing your community events and news

**Proofreaders** - 2 positions; You must have a computer and be able to open and read PDF documents. Spelling and writing skills are helpful, attention to detail is most important. Corrections and

notes will be sent back to the editor via email.

If you are interested in participating or assisting with any of these tasks, please contact us at the Parker's Cove office—902.532.1393, or by email to editor@fundycommunities.com



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