

COMMUNITY NEWS



MURRAY HARBOUR, MURRAY RIVER & AREA

Butler's Clover Farm Wins!

Congratulations to Butler's Clover Farm for winning The Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award! It was presented at the 15th Annual Business Excellence Awards presentation held at the Fiddling Fisherman Lookout on March 24, 2022. What a fitting recognition for this hub of the community. We are forever grateful for their contributions to our village! Here is the bio that was read out at the awards ceremony:

In March, 2020 and the ensuing days (and eventually years), as our world was turned upside down due the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown, Otis and Linda Butler stepped forward, going above and beyond, to ensure the food and essential resources needed to sustain our small rural community as well as the Island overall were available.

Although convenience stores and service stations were located in the area, Butler's Clover Farm in Murray Harbour was the only grocery/hardware/liquor store within a 20-mile radius (minimum). When supplies in larger centres became scarce or non-existing,



Islanders drove to Butler's in Murray Harbour to obtain these supplies. Linda and Otis used foresight and creativity to ensure the needs of their customers were met.

At a time when their customers were stressed mentality and financially, Linda and Otis showed true leadership and compassion to all those in the community who came in or called. They delivered goods to those who could either not leave their homes due to physical restraints or mental stress. During this time of financial stress, the Butlers never saw anyone go without and were always

Butler's Wins, con'd

there to lift their customers 'up' by lending an ear, offering a helping hand or easing their financial restraints. All acts of kindness were unspoken and truly showed not only the commitment this couple had for this community but the belief that no matter who we are, we need each other to exist and thrive. Linda and Otis' caring and concern extended beyond their customers, however, and ensured the needs of their staff and suppliers were always first and foremost in their minds.

The community of Murray Harbor and area was and continues to be served by the compassionate actions of Linda and Otis Butler. Their leadership during the pandemic and until this day, has allowed this area and beyond, to live in a sense of normalcy which would not have been possible without their leadership, foresight and caring hearts. □

Music on The Harbour Waterfront

We have reserved August 13th for the Fish Ally Festival. Some of the entertainers tentatively scheduled are JP Cormier, Dave Gunning, Norman Stewart, Jordon LeClair and Robert Doucette. We are hoping to get a few more. It is going to be a great concert.

More details to follow!



Message from the Mayor of Murray Harbour

Paul L. White

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Village of Murray River into our newsletter. Murray Harbour has had a newsletter now for a few years and we would like to share our news and Murray River's news all in the one newsletter.

If you have something you want to share in the newsletter, please contact Sandra Edwards at sandra.edwards@eastlink.ca or Gary MacKay at garyffmackay@gmail.com/705-677-7511. For advertising, contact Leslie Blake at info@oceanacres.ca/902-741-2141. □

Silent Auction

Local artist James Evans has donated this beautiful painting of Main Street in Murray Harbour to be auctioned off as a village fund raiser.

The painting will be on display at the Murray Harbour library and the winning "silent auction" bid will be revealed at the Canada Day celebrations.



Thanks so much to James for this fantastic original! □



Breaking News for Garden Enthusiasts

Great news for all the green thumbs of Murray Harbour and surrounding area! The village has been able to access funds through the Canada Community Building Fund to create a community garden. Before we proceed much further with establishing a location and design, we need to know if there is an interest in this idea.

A community garden is a shared, semi-public space where people in the surrounding neighborhood can have a garden plot for growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers. These are quite social spaces and wonderful places for sharing knowledge and experiences. The garden area would be fenced with a tool

storage shed, power, water, a washroom, and a compost/recycling area in addition to individual raised beds.

This would be a fun, educational gathering place and would absolutely appeal to those who want to share their love of gardening with others especially those who have never thought of raising their own vegetables or flowers.

If you think you have an interest phone Anne at the Village Office and leave your name and phone number, and we will contact you with a time and location when we can all meet to “plant some project seeds”. □



Murray Harbour Cemetery Donations

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Murray Harbour Cemetery should do so directly to the cemetery as funeral homes are no longer accepting donations on behalf of the cemetery.

Donations can be mailed to PO Box 193, Murray Harbour, PE C0A 1V0 or be given to Lily at the D.W. Baker & Co. garage. All donations are greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors of the Murray Harbour Cemetery. □

Murray Harbour Farmers Market Update 2022

It's OFFICIALit's EXCITINGand it's ALL because of YOU—OUR SUPPORTERS, OUR VENDORS, OUR VOLUNTEERS! This summer we, the Murray Harbour Farmers Market, will be celebrating our 9th season—quite an accomplishment considering we started out in 2014 with 3 vendors in the middle of a hurricane!

Over the years, we have seen many changes and have overcome many challenges but two things have remained the same and are our cornerstones. 1) To provide a place for you to BUY LOCAL. 2) To encourage, develop, and present information/presentations/events which promote, educate, and celebrate our community, past, present, and future.

The Murray Harbour Farmers Market is an entity to its self and is in no way funded by governmental programs or initiatives. We are funded solely by donations at the door or coffee/treats (pre-Covid). We rent the Community Centre Hall on a seasonal basis. Although we never solicit the community for prizes, we are always humbled and grateful when we are contacted by those offering prizes.

After all expenses are paid, the Murray Harbour Farmers Market has been able, over the years, to donate surplus money from our “glass bottle” to organizations in the community, including to the SKC Breakfast Program, Montague Food Bank, Montague Group Home, Turkey Drive, SKC Home and

School, as well as other worthy causes and individuals in the area.

So enough about the “workings” of the market, what about the FUN? Well here are a FEW of the events planned for 2022, but be sure to check out our Facebook page or bulletin boards in the area for specifics and the remaining other showcases.

- Coffee Club is back again and we feel we will be back to “normal” or as normal as it gets!
- April 21 - “A Day in the Life of Murray Harbour” screening – 7 pm (see pg 5)
- July 2 - Opening market with a homemade ice cream social – 9 am to noon
- July 16 - Story circle and free historic tours of Murray Harbour (see pg 5)
- July 23 - Nominations for Murray Harbour Fire District Volunteer of the Year
- July 30 - Final Vote for Murray Harbour Fire District Volunteer of the Year
- August 13 - School Days – 9 am to noon
- September 10 – FryDay – 9 am to noon
- September 17 - Photo Contest – 9 am to noon; photos are to be taken between September 2021 and August 2022. More details to follow.
- October 8 - Pumpkin carving and Halloween market

So until we see you at the market or a market function....stay safe, be kind to each other, take the time to say hello to your neighbours, BUY LOCAL, and keep those oars in the water! ☐

Tours of Murray Harbour

For the summer of 2022, we will once again be offering the Murray Harbour Historical Walking Tour as well as our newest walking tour which we like to call "Eerie We Arr!" ... a ghostly walk through the village.

The Historical Walking Tour of Murray Harbour will take place every Monday morning from July 4 to August 29 at 10 am. The tour will begin and end at the Murray Harbour Community Centre and will take approximately 1 ½ hours. Private tours can be booked in advance (walking and coach tours for buses) with times for private tours being outside the Monday, 10 am timeframe.

Our "Eerie We Arr!", a ghostly walking tour through the village will be held on Wednesday evenings from July 6 to August 31, beginning at dusk. This tour which will highlight the tales of old (and some not so old) will begin and end at the Murray Harbour Community Centre, taking approximately 1 ½ hours. Be sure to bring your bug spray, a flashlight, COMFORTABLE walking shoes, and an open mind!

It is best to book ahead as tours are limited to 20 persons. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Bug spray, your sunscreen, a hat, and COMFORTABLE walking shoes are recommended! For more information or cost, contact us through our Facebook page - Historical Tours of Murray Harbour, the Village Office, or Jackie at 902-741-2042. ☐

A Day In The Life Of Murray Harbour

The Murray Harbour Farmers Market is thrilled to announce on April 21, 2022, the first screening in the 2022 Murray Harbour Farmers Market Community Series "A Day in the Life of Murray Harbour" will be presented.

In the mid-1980s, CBC developed and filmed a series of documentaries of various Island communities which spoke of their sense of community and home, and we have been able to locate the film on Murray Harbour. The screening will be held at the Murray Harbour Community Centre beginning at 7 pm. Seating will be at 75% capacity (approximately 75 persons). Masks and social distancing at this event will be in accordance with the restrictions and procedures of the PEI Department Public Health effective April 21.

If you would like to reserve a seat or two, feel free to contact us. Although no admission will be charged, donations are always appreciated to defer costs of the market during the 2022 season and to assist local groups and fundraisers. Light refreshments will be available, free of charge. If demand warrants it, another showing will be scheduled during the summer of 2022 for our summer residents and visitors.

So circle April 21st on your calendar. You'll see some faces from the past on the screen (many who sadly are no longer with us), get the chance to listen to their thoughts on their Murray Harbour AND who knows, you could be one of the people on the screen! ☐

Canadian Community Building Fund Projects

There are many projects planned for Murray Harbour in 2022 under the old federal “Gas Tax” program, now called the Community Building Fund, some new and some in progress:

Memorial Park for Seafarers: To be established at the lookout on south side of the bridge. The lookout will also have repair and maintenance completed.

Green Energy: The Community center is looking into alternate energy sources to offset a very high electric bill. This includes solar and geothermal. We also are “on the list” for an Electric Car charging station installation.

Sewage Lagoon Access Road and Fencing: to be completed with an entrance gate installed.

Community Garden/Public Washroom: see article in this newsletter.

Soccer Field: to be completed this year. The new moveable nets were a big hit last year.

Community Centre Basement: The Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) system is installed. Humidex control will be added, and the floors and walls are painted. The basement now has much improved air quality to protect storage and be available for future activities.

Sidewalk Extension: New sidewalk from the Post Office to the Robertson Road corner.

Repair of existing concrete sidewalk will also be completed.

Outdoor Sports and Recreation

Infrastructure: Adjacent to the children’s playground senior friendly exercise equipment and basketball courts upgrade.

Heritage Park: Construct a small parquette in front of Community Centre with relocation of the old school bell as a centerpiece.

Future considerations include the development of a senior friendly housing complex adjacent to Faye Fraser Drive. The dog parks would be relocated/downsized to accommodate this project. A walking trail/boardwalk along waterfront on Riverside Drive is also being contemplated. □



New Flag for Murray Harbour

A new flag design was voted on last year at the Farmer’s Market, and the winning design was by Steward MacLean—well done Steward! Council hopes to have the new flag flying soon. We are also looking at purchasing seasonal banners to be installed on the bridge light standards. □

It's an Election Year!

Municipalities across PEI will be holding Municipal Elections this fall.

On Monday, November 7 there will be an election of a new Village Council to take office in March 2023. It will be to elect a mayor and 6 councilors for a four-year term. If you are interested in one of these positions, call the Village Office at 902-962-3835.



We regret to announce that Cllr Paula MacLean has resigned her position. We take this opportunity to thank Paula for her contribution on Council and wish her the best for the future. ☐

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Murray Harbour 2022-2023 Operating Budget

By the time this newsletter is published the Murray Harbour 2022-2023 fiscal year operating budget will have been submitted to the PEI government. Our total budget is approximately \$250,000 with only about 7% of this being costs that the Village can control! The rest are mandatory or essential services required to operate a relatively small municipality (pop. 282).

Did you know it costs upwards of \$10,000/yr to power our streetlights? Add in the village office complex and our Maritime Electric bill pushes \$30,000/yr. Insurance just rose by over 15% to \$24,000/yr and the village's share of the mandatory financial audit is in the order of \$7,000 each year. Our outstanding mortgages add another substantial financial burden. Needless to say, making ends meet is a challenge. Property taxes did increase this year after 0% increase last year.

Our volunteers and fund raisers are a critical part of our ability to present a balanced budget. To all of you that donate your time and efforts, a most appreciative thank you! A special thank you to the lobster fishers that donated so generously in 2021 for our lobster dinner fund raiser, which was another huge success! ☐

Murray River News

With spring well underway, Emilio & Shannon at Come From Away B&B as well as Tony & Mary at Old Anchor B&B are already getting bookings for what promises to be a banner year for tourism on Prince Edward Island. Soon the wharf will be loaded with traps in preparation for lobster season. The sidewalks are clear of snow and able to be used for walking once again.

Murray River Farmers Market

Michelle is preparing for the first farmers market behind her Salvage Garden Consignment store to begin June 18th. Contact Michelle at michelle.a.hodgson@gmail.com or Jane at millandbirch@gmail.com to book a table.

Food and Fashion

Mill and Birch have their new spring fashions out as well as a great giftware selection. And for the some of the best pizza on the Island, The Millstone Grill is open again.



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Catering House Set to Open

Great news that The Old General is set to open its doors as a Catering House. The press release says "to experience intimate dining for two in their Chef's Kitchen with stunning river views. Enjoy catered events up to 50 guests in the hall space, which features 1000 square feet of Canadian maple floors. Classic character combined with bespoke menus The Old General is a place you're sure to make memories." We're all looking forward to that!

Murray River Council Meetings

Murray River community council meetings are held at the library the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. These are open meetings to the public to attend, and if you have something you wish to discuss, please call our mayor Pat Bray. Sandra Edwards, Donna Penny, Greg Munn, Kari Ferguson and Walter Munn are our councilors. □

The Harbour 50/50 Draw Lottery

The Harbour Lottery is a fundraiser of the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour, which started in 2021. Anyone wishing to play, can find out the information at one of three businesses: Winds Four Corners at Peter's Road, Miller's Esso in Murray River, and L.&O. Butler's in Murray Harbour. Many thanks to them for letting us play our lottery from their locations. Don't forget to enter every week—nothing like the feeling of having your number drawn when you didn't play! ☐



FIRE DEPT

The Murray Harbour Fire Department had a relatively quiet winter, which is good news. With spring coming we want to remind everyone that after March 15 burning permits are required for any outdoor burning.

Since winter has hopefully given way to spring, it is a good time to assess your civic numbers and make sure they have not been damaged by snow or snow removal operations and ensure they will not be obstructed by vegetation later in the summer. Remember if we can't find you, we can't help you!

We also want to thank those who support us each week in the PEI Firefighters Raffle. ☐



AT THE LIBRARY

The following are events taking place at the Murray River library:

Storytime

Storytime slated for Wednesdays, April 20, May 4, and 18 all at 10:30 am.

Craft Night

A craft night is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 at 6 pm when you can learn to make paper roses from book pages.

Plant Cuttings Exchange

On Saturday, May 14 there will be a house plant cutting exchange during open hours from 1 to 5pm. Bring cuttings of house plants to share.

Stitch & Bitch

If you're looking for something to do before yard work starts Stitch & Bitch is every Wednesday afternoon at 1pm. If you can't do one, you can probably do the other! All are welcome.



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Happy Spring Everyone!

What a glorious time of the year with the promise of nice weather and a great season for our farmers and fishermen. We trust in a prosperous year for them and also all of our local businesses.

This summer we look forward to normalcy in regard to our upcoming community events in Murray Harbour. As always, we value your support, both in regard to our dedicated volunteers, the many who donate produce and other items to our events, and you, the community—your donations and attendance make all the efforts very much worthwhile. ☺

- Place your order for **flower baskets**. Baskets are \$40 each for “In Memory of” or, “In Gratitude of”.
- Our recent **Lobster Roll Take-Out** was a great success. We were sold out within 2 days and earned over \$700, which helps with the expenses to run our Community Centre. This tells us that not only do you enjoy the food but that you are great supporters of your community. We value your community spirit!
- Another take-out is in the planning stages: **Turkey Salad Sandwiches** (again using Mayor Paul’s homemade rolls) ...this time we will hold off the lettuce but add some sides and we will be including a piece of delicious cake for dessert. Posters will be displayed very soon—stay tuned!

- **Small Halls** is a GO!! **Monday June 13 at 7:30 pm**. Tickets are \$25 each. We have a great line up of artists, including:
 - Morgan Davis, a Juno Award winning Blues man
 - Morgan Toney and Keith Mullins, a Cape Breton fiddle and guitar duo, from a Massey Hall performance;
 - Host and poet Tanya Davis

We will need volunteers to help set up, and put away the chairs as well as other tasks to make this event, once again, a great experience. Purchase details to come soon.

- **Canada Day** will be upon us quickly and we are planning, once again, a great special event to celebrate this great nation! More to come on the details but rest assured it will be filled with fun for all ages, laughter, great food, fellowship, and respect for one another.
- Idea of a **Community Beach Day Event** would bring us to Beach Point’s beautiful shore or some fun in the sun, sometime in mid-summer. Stay tuned as this idea is currently in its infancy stage.
- **End of Summer Event** - we are looking forward to planning another BBQ and corn boil when the time is right (i.e., freshly harvested produce).

Thanks again for your continued support; we cannot wait to join smiles with you all. ☐



Murray Harbour Baptist Church

Pastor Colby Stewart 902-781-4308

Sunday Worship: 11 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 am

Adult Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 pm

Early Easter Service: 8 am followed by breakfast

Watch for news of a **Kids Klub Movie Night** and mark the date for **Vacation Bible School** from July 4-8.

Murray River Baptist Church

Pastor Marie Kenny

Sunday Worship: 11am

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 pm

WellSpring Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. David Son: 902-969-1983

Sunday Worship: 10:30am

Lenten Bible Study (Journey Through the Bible): Every Wednesday at 10:30 am until April 27

Maundy Thursday Service: April 14 at 7pm

Easter Sunday Celebration/Infant Baptism: April 17 at 10:30 am

"Praise Night Concert with Upstream Toronto": Sat, June 4 & Sun, June 5 at 7 pm
Join us for worship in person or online!

Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church

Pastor Aaron Tardif, 902-962-2200

Sunday Worship: 10 am

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 pm

Good Friday: 10:30 am

Murray Harbour Church of Christ

Minister Victor McCullough, 902-962-2714

Sunday Worship: 11 am

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Murray River Church of Christ

Pastor Charlie MacNeill, 902-962-3278

Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday Worship: 11 am

Memorial United Church

Reverend Debbie Aiken

Sunday School: 10:30 am

Sunday Worship: 10:30am

Good Friday: April 15 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Service: April 17 at 10:30 am

Seniors' Meal: April 21



247 Fox River Rd
Murray Harbour
902 962 3913



Weekday Breakfast is back!

Breakfast 8am - 11:30am
New hours Wednesday - Sunday
8am - 8pm

Have an
EGGCELLENT DAY!



THIS & THAT

Card Play

All are welcome to play cards at the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30 pm. Cost is \$2. For more information, call Ida MacKenzie at 902-962-2798.

Indoor Pickleball

Pickleball is held at 9 to 11 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Community Centre. Cost is \$2. Please bring indoor sneakers. All are welcome! Contact Natalie Edgar at 902-962-3776 for more information.

Lobster Trap Tree Refresher

The Murray Harbour lobster trap tree will go through a little refreshing this summer. As you know we were unable to have an official tree lighting this past December due to the COVID protocols in place. The tree was lit, albeit unceremoniously, with 800 new LED lights which solved the breaker kicking out regularly with the old C9 light strings. The old lights will be taken off during the summer reno work. This will be an opportunity to refurbish the buoys as well.

Village Office Hours

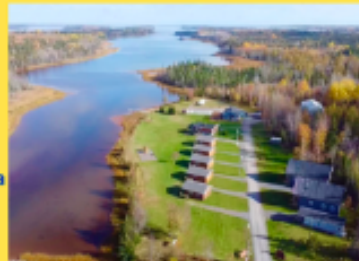
Take note the Murray Harbour Village Office will be closed July 6 – 18 inclusive for a summer vacation period. Phone messages will be checked on a regular basis during this time. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

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Have Something to Share?

If you have information about upcoming events or news to share with the community, please contact:

Murray Harbour

Gary MacKay

garyffmackay@gmail.com / 705-677- 7511

Murray River

Sandra Edwards

sandra.edwards@eastlink.ca

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