

Winter 2023/24



# COMMUNITY

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## MURRAY HARBOUR & AREA NEWSLETTER

### Season's Greetings from the Mayor

It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of Murray Harbour in 2023. My sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make this a successful year for the village. You are far too many to name, but believe me when I say your contributions have not gone unnoticed.



Councillors have led numerous improvement projects around the community this year. These include a new outdoor fitness park, a community garden, a fishermen's memorial, as well as a sidewalk extension, repairs to Rail Head Park, and nine community events.

These and many more initiatives were undertaken to help make the village more inclusive and engaging for all and wouldn't be possible without the time

and effort of many generous volunteers, donors, and funders.

I believe 2024 will see this trend of engagement and development continue for our beautiful community. Please feel free to reach out at any time with your thoughts, questions, or suggestions to positively impact our residents.

I sincerely wish each and every one a peaceful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

– Terry White



## Council Welcomes New Members

The Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour held a by-election on November 6 to fill two vacancies on the council. Sixty-seven voters (33%) turned out to cast ballots for the three candidates: Marlene Chapman, Calvin Fraser and Kelly Matheson. Kelly Matheson and Marlene Chapman were elected.

Kelly Matheson is a long-time resident of Murray Harbour, an administrative assistant at Montague Regional High School, and server/cook seasonally at Harbourview Restaurant. Marlene Chapman has been living in the village since 2018, works in the lobster fishery with her husband, and is completing a Master of Arts in Island Studies degree at UPEI.

A big thank you to our outgoing members Jacqueline Durocher and Erin Welch Taglioni for their service as council members in 2023. □



*MERRY CHRISTMAS from*



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## Memorial Tree Update

*Jackie MacNeill-Doiron & Carol White*

Although the actual removal of the Memorial Tree is a volunteer effort, funding has been secured through the PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture to cover the disposal fees of the lobster traps.

We had hoped to have the tree dismantled by the end of October and the memorial buoys either stored in a barn at 152 Robertson Road or in the hands of their owners for repair/updating, but the weather has not been our friend.

By the time you read this, the tree should be dismantled. It is our hope a permanent structure will be in place by the opening of the next lobster season.

Thank you for approaching us with kind words of support on this venture.

Donations are always appreciated but being willing to volunteer with us—even



Image source: Travis Kingdon/CBC

for a couple of hours—is equally as important.

And now for a little friendly competition... **How many traps comprise the Memorial Tree and what will be the total tonnage of waste removed from the tree and taken to IWMC?** The person with the closest guess will be announced in a future newsletter and there may be a small prize awarded as well! Your guesses can be submitted via a box located at Butler's Grocery and Hardware. □

## Local Calendars for Sale

The Murray Harbour Farmer's Market is selling 2024 calendars for \$20 each at Butler's Grocery and Hardware. The calendar features photos from their 2023 photo contest, so it is full of great local scenery and familiar faces!



## New Historical Society Being Established in Murray Harbour

For many years, Murray Harbour and area was blessed to have an incredible group of people who ensured the history of the area was passed on to future generations. This amazing group of individuals would meet once a month at the home of local historian David Hume and included elders such as Ray Brooks, Annie Williams, Margaret Billard, Amy MacNeill, and many more.

In early 2023, the Murray Harbour Community School offered “Local History” and an amazing group came together for eight weeks to discuss everything from local characters to the early days, early industry, and all things in between. They decided to create a local historical society and the inaugural meeting was held on the evening of November 8. Five people attended and several others have expressed an interest in joining.

On January 10, 2024, another meeting will be held to further discuss the new historical society. If you would like more information about this project, please contact Jackie MacNeill Doiron at 902-626-5580, 902-741-2042, email edandjackie@eastlink.ca or through PM on Facebook. □



This picture was taken in 1997 by Amy Brehaut MacNeill and holds MANY good memories! Only 5 of this group are still with us.

**Back Row:** David Hume; **Second Row (Left to Right)** - Ruth Gosbee Hawkins, Lucy Strickland MacNeill, Sandra MacNeill MacKay, Elsie Gordon Moore, Ida Collier MacKenzie, Carmen Collier MacDonald, Marshall Buell, Annie Giddings Williams; **Third Row (Left to Right)** - Ray Brooks, Emerson MacLeod, Elsie Collier, Catherine MacKay; **Front Row** - Cindy Harris Bell and Gerry Harris Herring (missing Margaret Billard)



## Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive

A handful of thoughtful community members from Murray Harbour and Murray River are leading an advent themed food drive to help local families who are in need this holiday season.

The food drive is running from **November 18 to December 12** and the drop off location is at Butler's Grocery and Hardware. A list of suggested non-perishable food items is available at the store, but any non-perishable item is appreciated and can be purchased from any store and dropped off at Butler's. Monetary donations for turkeys, hams, etc. can be given directly to the organisers.

A big thank-you to Natalie Rogozynski Edgar, Emilio Memmo Cupello, Shannon Charles Cupello, Paula Todd-Voogel, Jennifer Butler, and Butler's Grocery and Hardware for bringing this important initiative to life.



If you haven't already donated, please do so before time runs out! If you know of a family in need, please let one of the organisers know. ☐



## FREE Christmas Dinner from Grab'n Go

Gordon Ramsli, the operator of Grab'n Go, is generously offering a free Christmas dinner at the Murray Harbour Community Centre on **December 25 from 3pm to 6pm**. The meal, which is open to anyone in the area who would like to attend, is Gordon's way of giving back to the community.

The Grab'n Go provides pre-packaged meals for under \$10 which can be purchased at the Community Centre every Monday between 11 am - 2 pm. A portion of the proceeds are donated to the municipality. ☐



## Holiday Events at The Old General Catering House

Hi there! Over here in Murray River, we are hoping to have more free community events like the Remembrance Day reception. Lovely to see all the smiling faces!

We will be hosting a Christmas Pancake Breakfast at the Murray River Community Hall on **December 17 from 9 to 11 am**. All ages welcome. Santa will be there!

At the Old General Catering House, we will be hosting a **New Year's Day Levee from 1 to 3 pm**. This is a free, all ages event. Donations are being accepted for future Murray River community projects.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

– Paige & Christine Hart

## Community School 2024

Registration for Murray Harbour Community School will take place at the Murray Harbour Community Centre on **January 3 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**. The storm date is January 4. Classes will begin January 8th.

Courses tentatively available are:

- Basic Baking
- Basic Bridge
- Basic Weaving
- Basic Computer, Tablet, Phone Skills
- Beginner Crochet
- Beginner Guitar
- Conversational French
- Darts
- Floor Curling
- Hootenanny
- Hula hoop exercises
- Knitting
- Line Dancing
- Painting
- Rook
- Rug Hooking
- Scrapbooking
- Sewing
- Stretch
- Wood Carving ☐

## New Year's Dance

The Village of Murray Harbour will be hosting a New Year's Dance on December 31 from 9 pm - 1 am at the Community Centre. There will be a DJ and a cash bar. Tickets can be bought through the village office (902-962-3835) or at the door. More information on this event will be available soon.



## Council Reports and Projects

### Planning Committee

It has been a very busy construction season for the Community Building Fund (CBF) (i.e., the old Gas Tax program). Somerset Gardens Inc. from Kinkora has been the prime contractor and did a wonderful job.

The **sidewalk extension** is complete from the Post Office to the corner at the Baptist Church, providing a safe pedestrian walkway.

The **Fitness Park** is complete with four pieces of user-friendly exercise equipment set up adjacent to the children's playground. Try them out!

The **Heritage Park** in front of the Community Centre is complete except for placement of the old school bell and pedestal mount.

The **Fishermen's Memorial** and new lookout on the south-side of the wharf is complete with the exception of the placement of the monument itself. The site looks fantastic and will be a centre piece for the village that everyone can be



proud of. Besides the bell and monument, plantings scheduled for spring 2024 at all these locations adding the final touches.

The **Community Garden** (constructed by AE MacKay & Sons and Primus Construction Ltd.) was a resounding success. We are currently waiting for a possible expansion grant through the local Friendly Circle group for 2024—fingers crossed! If you would like to use the community garden, contact the Village Office to get your name on the list for the 2024 season.

## Planning Committee, con'd

The **Green Energy project's** solar panels (installed by Sunly Industries) on the Community Centre roof have gone through their first full year and are saving us approximately \$300/month on the electricity bill.

The **Outdoor Recreational Improvements** project centred around the very popular ball hockey league with new bumper pads being purchased.

The CBF is federally funded and is coming to the end of its five-year plan in 2024. We are waiting to hear about a continuation of this funding stream, which has seen \$100,000 per year allocated to Murray Harbour. While projects must fall within certain guidelines, these funds have provided numerous benefits to area residents and visitors, and as such we hope it continues in some fashion. We look forward to providing further updates in coming newsletters.

## **Fundraising and Events**

The Fundraising Committee of the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour has had a very busy and successful year, already

exceeding our fundraising goal! This is because of the contributions of our many talented volunteers, and all who take part in and donate to our events.

Some of the activities we had were a New Year's Dance, Games Night, St. Patrick Day Dance, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Lobster Collection from our generous local fishermen and processors, Canada Day Celebrations, End of Summer Bash, Halloween Dance, and Harbour Lottery.



Two events are being planned now: the Senior's Dinner for the Murray Harbour Mail Route on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and our New Year's Dance on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Fundraising and Events, con'd

The following people are on this committee: Paul White (Chair), Elaine Herring, Gordon Ramsli, Fay Wedlake, Laverne MacInnis, Jaki Durocher, Jamie MacKay, Pam Oickle, Maddie Fraser, Ralph Leigh, Terry White (ex officio), Anne Harnesk (ex officio), and so many other volunteers.

## **Maintenance Committee**

Bravo! We now have a streetlight at the corner of Mariner's Lane!

Over the summer, asphalt repairs have been completed in the pedestrian area between the fire hall and the bridge, and new walkway lines added.

A broken stretch of sidewalk between the post office and Butler's General Store has been repaired as a part of the sidewalk extension.

PEI Transportation and Infrastructure has indicated they will complete the asphalt sidewalk from Machon Point Road into Rail Head Park when they are working on other local asphalt projects in 2024. Soon we will have a safe and secure pedestrian walkway linking residents from one end

of the village to the other and providing access to community services.

Improvements and repairs at Rail Head Park included a new eaves trough and updated signage. This was Fiona damage missed at the time, but retroactively claimed and covered by insurance. Thanks to Carol White and Jackie McNeil-Doiron for their work in updating the information.

We have been able to improve the entrance to the dog park by adding a significant amount of gravel which should take care of the wet and muddy conditions that crop up throughout the year. Please pick up after your pets to ensure all users return home with clean feet! Unfortunately, we often receive feedback that some users are not doing their part on this account.



## Council Reports, con'd

### Emergency Management

We are thankful that 2023 was without any community-wide emergencies, but even so, we are prepared!

The Emergency Plan for the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour was approved by council and the provincial EMO department this year.

We're ready for the next emergency...ARE YOU? In case of emergency, always be prepared to shelter in place for 72 hours following any emergency.

Have a safe and happy holiday from your Murray Harbour Emergency Management Team: Pam Oickle (Chair), Lawrence Harnesk, Elaine Herring, Gordon Ramsli, Mike Vanasse, Faye White, Paul White, and Jamie MacKay.

**Want to become a committee member and be more involved with happenings in your community?** Please contact our CAO Anne Harnesk at the Village Office if you're interested. The committees are:

- Finance
- Planning

- Maintenance
- Newsletter
- Sewage Utility
- Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)
- Fundraising and Special Events ☐



## Fire Dept. News

As we see the year come to an end, we would like to wish the residents of the Murray Harbour Fire District a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's also the season when we start using more wood burning appliances, and we want to remind everyone to have properly seasoned firewood and ensure your flues are clean.

As well we recommend everyone use a lot of caution with Christmas decorations and NEVER leave candles unattended.

We look forward to seeing everyone on **December 15** when we will be chauffeuring Santa Claus around the Murray Harbour and Murray River fire districts beginning in Murray River at 6:30 pm. ☐



## Cape Bear Lighthouse and Marconi Station

Warm holiday greetings are extended to all of our friends and neighbours from the Board of Directors at Cape Bear Lighthouse and Marconi Station Inc.

We would like to say thank you to all those who visited the lighthouse grounds during the 2023 season and/or supported our fundraising events.

We are pleased to announce that we recently received funding that has enabled us to get the top of the lighthouse— known as the lantern room— repaired. As a result of some leaks in the roof, it was in need of some refurbishment, so it was recently removed to allow that work to take place.

We are presently completing a five-year business plan which will see some exciting things take place in and around the lighthouse.

As a non-profit, we appreciate your support as we work hard to maintain Cape Bear Lighthouse as a premiere focal point of the Points East Coastal Drive.

Merry Christmas & Happy 2024!! ☐

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## Murray Harbour Farmers Market Celebrates 10 Years

*Jackie MacNeil-Doiron*

No doubt you all have heard the epic saga about how in July of 2014, in the middle of a hurricane with three vendors, the Murray Harbour Farmers Market began its journey! Then we successfully navigated through COVID when other markets, and so much more, came to a stop.

We are so very proud of our customers who remained loyal through those trying days. We have laughed and we have cried, but perhaps most importantly, we have proven that by working together—with individuals and organisations—great things happen.

As we finish our 10<sup>th</sup> season of operation, we look forward to the future. We are proud to say we are still independently run with no government funding or subsidies. We operate on a coffee fund and sales from raffles and draws. In 2023, in cooperation with the Murray Harbour Public Library, the Market sponsored two Saturday morning children's programs. We also collaborated with "Err We Are" and donated approximately \$450 to the Breakfast Program at Southern Kings Consolidated.

We were thrilled to welcome Julie Pellissier-Lush - the former poet laureate for PEI, a Mi'kmaq knowledge keeper and storyteller and bestselling author - on stage for our Canada Day celebration along with local singers, Canada Games Torch Bearers and the youth of our area. Our most recent undertaking has been coordinating the Murray Harbour Remembrance Day Service, which showcased the memories and war memorabilia of our local veterans.



So what's in store for the 2024 season for the Murray Harbour Farmers Market? New collaborations, new partnerships, new events and new adventures. Until then, stay safe, be kind, take the time to say hello to your neighbours, BUY LOCAL and keep those oars in the water! ☐

## Murray Harbour Walking Tours 2023

Historical Tours of Murray Harbour is pleased and honoured to have committed their 2023 season to giving back. All proceeds raised by the tours were donated to important groups and causes in our area. We are also announcing 2023 will be the last year for both “Historical Walks through the Village” and “Eerie We Arr” Walks. Storytelling can be arranged in the future by contacting Jackie (902-626-5580) but will not be held on a consistent basis.

A big thank you to each of you who have supported us by attending our events and promoted us through word of mouth and your advertising over the years. By working together, we can make big things happen in Murray Harbour and area—all it takes is a vision! ☐



*Merry Christmas from*

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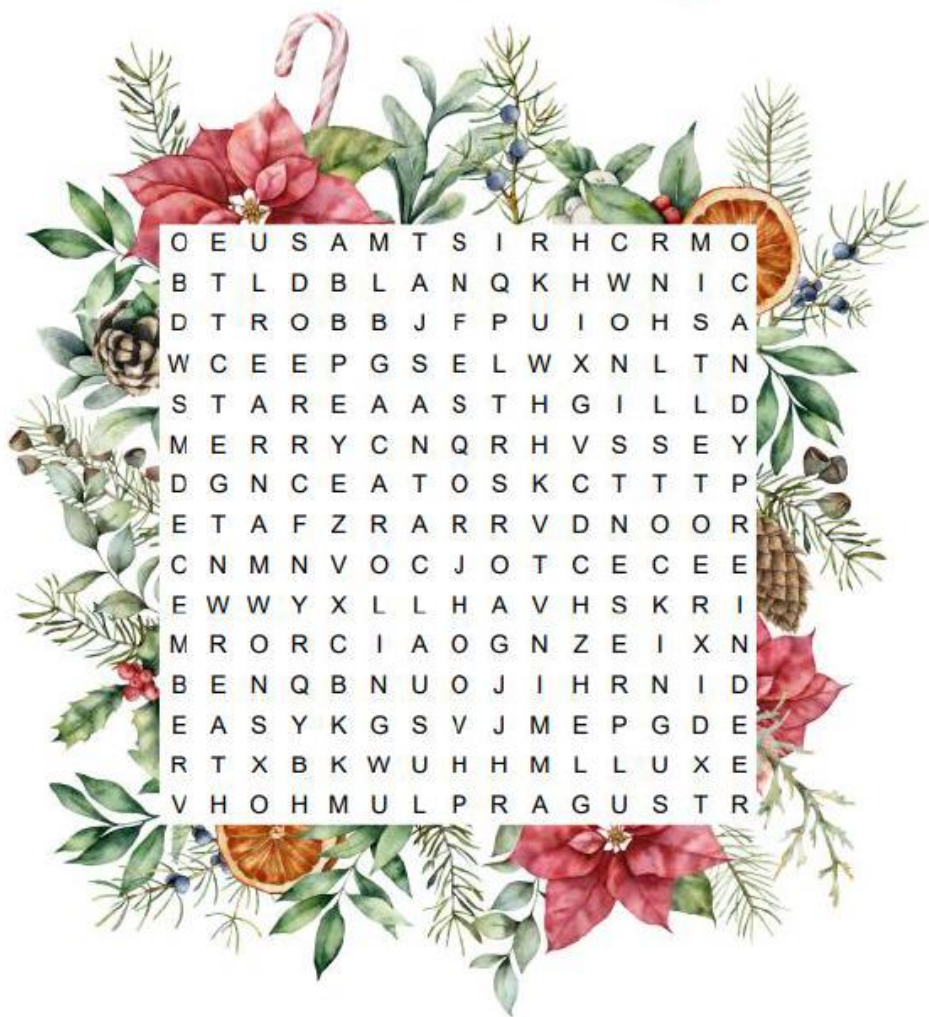
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# Christmas Day



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STOCKING, SUGARPLUM, TREE, WREATH.

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## Council Approves a Study into Benefits of Amalgamation

In November, the rural municipalities of Murray Harbour and Murray River passed resolutions supporting a study to assess the costs and benefits of forming a new, larger municipality for the Southern Kings area, which would encompass Murray Harbour, Murray River, and the districts of their fire departments. The resolution also requests funding from the provincial government for the study.

The area of study would border Three Rivers to the north and Belfast to the west, an area that could create a municipality of approximately 3,000 residents. The purpose of the study would be to investigate the viability of a community of this size and nature.

The Murray Harbour municipality is concerned about its ability to provide the level of services their residents expect and deserve with their current size and resources. They recognize that by coming together with other communities, the area could benefit from increased infrastructure funding, tourism and economic development, attraction of new residents, proper land planning, and community programming. This study will enable the councils to gather more information and consult with residents

about the options, implications, and viability of moving forward.

The two existing councils will appoint a committee, with representatives from each of the municipalities and from each of the fire districts, to oversee the study. Participation of residents in unincorporated areas and the two existing municipalities is critical to the study. Their thoughts and perspectives will be included in any recommendations.

Funding from the province would be used to hire a consultant to conduct the study and a communications person to ensure residents are kept informed and engaged as the process unfolds. Anticipated completion of their report would be early 2025.

If you have any questions related to this study, please contact the Village Office at (902) 962-3835 or [office@murrayharbour.ca](mailto:office@murrayharbour.ca). □

*Happy Holidays from*



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## Investigation into Code of Conduct Breach Complete

As per the *Municipal Government Act*, a third-party investigation was undertaken in October in response to a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Councillor John Robertson in relation to a message posted on the sign at his private property in late September.

The investigation, conducted by a retired RCMP officer, found Councillor Robertson to be in breach of four of the five complaints of breach of conduct. In response to the findings, the Murray Harbour Municipal Council voted to have Robertson suspended from Council for six months. He is also required to pay a fine and submit a letter of apology. If he does not comply with the sanctions, the matter will be brought to the provincial government for further action. □

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


**Pickleball** is held at 8:30 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Community Centre. Cost is \$2. Contact Natalie Edgar at 902-962-3776 for more information.

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
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### Alyssa Chapman Does it Again!

Alyssa competed in her third Special Olympics this past summer in Berlin, Germany.

As a member of the first ever Canada Women's Soccer Team, Alyssa took home her fifth Olympic medal, this time a bronze. To date, Alyssa has won over 80 provincial, national, and international medals and has been participating in Special Olympics for 22 years. What an amazing accomplishment!!! Murray Harbour is so proud of you, Alyssa! ☐



### Dory Racers Extraordinaire

Ellen Moore and Grace London, now both 17 years old and having three years of dory rowing under their belts, are still going strong. In addition to once again placing first at the 2023 Fisheries Festival, they won gold at a Canadian qualifier in Nova Scotia. They then travelled to Gloucester, Massachusetts for the 2023 Junior International Dory Championships where they achieved their best time ever in the half-mile race: 7 minutes and 42 seconds. Funds raised locally helped the girls make this exciting and educational trip. ☐





## At the Library

Our local library is an amazing resource! Along with books and our growing "collection of things", we have a great selection of online digital materials that can be borrowed using a library card. If you are interested in finding out how to access our online resources for use on tablets, mobile devices, and laptops, please contact Sue at the library, and she will be happy to help you get set up to start accessing digital/audio books and magazines.

Our collection of things to borrow includes musical instruments, radon detectors, CO2 monitors, thermal cameras, white noise machines, light therapy lamps, fitness and yoga kits, sensory kits, technology kits, walking poles, snowshoes, and telescopes, just to name a few.

PEI library services has also recently partnered with Saltwire media, so all of their publications are available to read online on our library computers. Free access to Ancestry.com is also available on the library computers for those interested in researching their family history.

And remember:

*No late fees* on materials brought back after the due date.

*Covid tests* are still available for pick up at the library, and we have a recycling depot for batteries.

### December Programs

Story Time is held every Friday morning at 10:30 am.

### NEW Library Hours

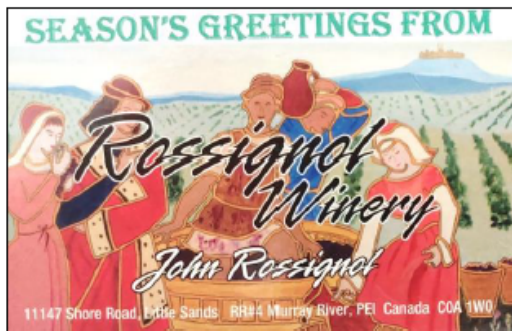
**Tuesday:** 10 am – 1:30 pm

**Wednesday:** 2:30 – 6 pm

**Friday:** 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Saturday:** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

For more information, please contact the library at (902) 962-3875, by email at [murray\\_harbour@gov.pe.ca](mailto:murray_harbour@gov.pe.ca), or check out the PEI Public Library Service Facebook page for additional events and information that may be happening at local libraries. □





## Church Notices

### **Murray Harbour Baptist Church**

*Glen Gosbee, 902-962-3256*

**Sunday Worship:** 11am

**Sunday School for All Ages:** 9:45 am

**Adult Bible Study:** Tues, 7 pm

**Christmas Cantata:** Dec 17 at 11 am,  
everyone welcome!

**Christmas Eve Service:** 6 pm

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### **Murray River Baptist Church**

*Pastor Marie Kenny*

**Sunday Worship:** 11:00 am

**Christmas Program:** Dec 10 at 10:45 am

**Christmas Eve Service:** 7 pm

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### **WellSpring Presbyterian Church**

*Minister: Dr. Lonnie Atkinson*

**Sunday Worship:** 10:30 am

**White Gift Service:** Dec 10 at 11 am  
(collecting gifts for Christmas hampers)

**Carols and Cocoa:** Dec 10 at 7 pm - An evening of music and celebration. Free will offerings for Food Bank appreciated.

**Christmas Eve Service:** 7 pm

Join us for worship in person or online!

### **Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church**

*Pastor Aaron Tardif, 902-962-2200*

**Sunday Worship:** 10 am

**Christmas Concert:** Dec 9 at 6:30 pm

**Christmas Caroling:** Dec 20 at 7pm (meet at the church at 6:45 pm)

**Christmas Eve Service:** 7 pm

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### **Murray Harbour Church of Christ**

*Minister Jason McVicar, 902-962-2714*

**Sunday Worship:** 11 am

**Sunday School:** 9:45 am

**Christmas Concert:** Dec 10 at 6:30 pm

**Christmas Eve Service:** 6:30 pm

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### **Murray River Church of Christ**

*Pastor Charlie MacNeill, 902-962-3278*

**Sunday School:** 10 am

**Sunday Worship:** 11 am

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### **Memorial United Church**

**Sunday School:** 10:30 am

**Sunday Worship:** 10:30 am

**Seniors' Meal:** Dec 14

**White Gift Service:** Dec 17 at 10:30 am  
(donations going to Emma's Cupboard)

**Christmas Eve Service:** 7 pm □



## This & That

### The Friendly Circle

The Friendly Circle Senior's Club meets monthly at noon at the Murray Harbour Community Centre for a meal and program.

The next meeting is the first Thursday in January (no meeting in December). The scheduled program will be Mark Tiller demonstrating how he makes a variety of items such as wooden coasters and decorative hangings using his laser cutter for wood, metal, leather, and acrylic.

All seniors 50 and over are invited. Cost is a toonie. For more information, please contact Club President Larry Siebrands at 902-213-5275.

### Community Pantry

We have submitted our proposal to the provincial government's Island Community Food Security Initiative and expect to receive funding this winter for a community pantry. The pantry will contain a fridge and freezer and will be located on the Murray Harbour Community Centre property in a well-lit and easy to access location. We look forward to bringing this offering to our area and will let everyone know when we are ready to accept food donations for the pantry. □

## Murray Harbour Community Council

### **Terry White**

*Mayor*

### **Marlene Chapman**

*Councillor*

### **Gary MacKay**

*Councillor*

### **Kelly Matheson**

*Councillor*

### **Pam Fielding Oickle**

*Councillor*

### **John Robertson**

*Councillor*

### **Paul White**

*Councillor*

### **Anne Harnesk**

*Chief Administrative Officer*

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## Contact Us

### **Village Administration Office**

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Murray Harbour, PE C0A 1V0

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**email:** office@murrayharbour.ca

**web:** www.murrayharbour.ca