



MASTHEAD; Paintings and needlework by Torch River Art Group members (Terry Zabek, Annette Kirby, Judy Paschke and Sonia Fidyk) were shown in October at the Nipawin Library Gallery, along with the Nipawin Art Group. The theme was Libraries and Literacy.

SMEATON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016 ~ 144TH ISSUE

Events Sponsored by the Love & District Board of Trade:

Turkey Shoot & Bingo
Friday December 2nd, 2016 at 7:30pm at Love Community Hall (hotdogs - donuts - coffee - pop will be sold)
40 TURKEYS & CASH to be WON!
An evening for the whole family

Potluck Supper
Sunday December 4th, 2016 at 5:00pm at Love Community Hall
Bring your favorite dish and/or a tasty dessert
Enjoy visiting with Family & Friends

TURKEY BINGO
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th 2pm
By Choiceland Royal Purple
At Choiceland Elks Hall

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
MEATH PARK SENIORS HALL
Sunday December 11th
9am till noon
"All you can eat!" \$8.00
EVERYONE WELCOME

BINGO
MEATH PARK SENIORS HALL
2:00pm Sunday December 11th
JACKPOT \$75.00
EVERYONE WELCOME

CHRISTMAS TURKEY BINGO
Meath park Seniors Centre
Sunday November 27th @ 2pm
TURKEYS & CASH PRIZES, RAFFLE
** Everyone Welcome

TURKEY BINGO
SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th at 2pm
SNOWDEN COMMUNITY HALL
Please bring dabbers *
Everyone welcome
Put on by Snowden Seniors

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH #319 STILL VERY ACTIVE IN SMEATON!



KIDS' MOVIE: **"FINDING DORY"** at the Smeaton Library—Saturday December 3rd 1:00pm **FREE VIEWING, POPCORN & JUICE

ANNUAL TURKEY PIE & BAKE SALE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd
2:00 TO 4:00pm
Choiceland Seniors Hall
LARGE TURKEY PIES \$10 ** Bake Sale * Tea, Coffee and Lunch
EVERYONE VERY WELCOME
Sponsored by St Mary's Catholic Church

"LEST WE FORGET"

Remembrance Day services to honour our veterans were held on November 11th, put on by the Smeaton Legion #319. The Veteran March into the Rec Centre was led by Parade Marshall/Veteran Allan White and included Veteran John Reid, RCMP, Legionnaires, and Smeaton & District Fire & Rescue. Pastor Darcy Cust officiated and led the congregation in singing of the hymns "Count Your Blessings" and "Amazing Grace". Smeaton Legion's President Lyle White read out Smeaton's Honour Roll; Tim Thompson read Snowden's Honour Roll. Smeaton Legion #319 thanks everyone who attended and supported our Poppy Campaign. Funds raised from our Poppy Campaign stay in the community and are used to support our veterans and their families. Last year, SL#319 was able to purchase much needed kitchen appliances for North Haven, thanks to the generous support of our community. As there is no longer a branch of the Legion in Snowden, Remembrance Day services will be held in Smeaton each year.

"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, age will not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them. We will remember them."

SMEATON LEGION CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENTS

Smeaton Legion #319 held their first crib tournament of the season on November 20th. The Legion Hall was full of players ranging in age from 12 to 94 years! Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of visiting and cards, playing nine games in total (three games against three different teams). Scores were totalled and the two highest scoring teams had their pick of prizes. First place winners were Leonard Miller and Larry Backlund, both of Snowden. Second place went to Beth Whitford (Shipman) and Val Rein (Snowden). Smeaton Legion wishes to thank everyone who came out to play and the businesses who donated prizes for the tournament: Creekside Services, Snowden Star Hotel and Smeaton Co-op. There will not be a crib tournament in December - our next tournament is January 22, 2017 - watch for details in the next newsletter.

Smeaton Legion #319 and Smeaton & District Fire & Rescue are hosting a **Pancake/Waffle & Sausage Breakfast** fundraiser with proceeds going to Pastor Darcy Cust on Saturday, December 10th, 8:30-11:00 am. Pastor Cust has been hospitalized recently and we are fundraising to help with medical expenses. \$5.00 per plate. Everyone welcome.

JAMES JOHNSON

Mar 21, 1938 –
Oct 31, 2016



James (Jim) Allen Johnson was born March

21, 1938 in Rose Valley, SK, the second son to Adolf and Nellie Johnson. Jim started school at Kirkwall and went to high school in White Fox. Jim helped his dad with farming, did road construction, worked at Hayes in White Fox, worked in the bush for Becketts, drove cat and fought fires with Stensruds. He tried hauling gravel one fall but it got too wet; Lloyd White suggested working for him setting up machinery for fall "and go from there"... for 17 years. Jim started dancing with Beverly Doyle in 1961 and married her November 24, 1962. They moved to Valleyview for work. Daughter Ellen was born in September 1963. Jim took employment in Prince George and there, son Darwin was born in November 1964; daughter Colleen soon followed in October 1965. In 1966 the family moved back to Saskatchewan and stayed a couple of months with Bev's parents until they found a place outside of White Fox to rent. On Mother's Day 1967 they moved to Choiceland to rent a house; after a year they bought it and made it their home. They moved back to Prince George in 1988 where Jim worked at Clear Lake Saw Mill until his retirement in 2003. They then moved back "home" to Choiceland where Jim occupied his time wood-working, gardening, camping and fishing. Jim lived his life for his wife and family. The grandkids and great grandkids will always be "the apple of his eye". We all have special memories of Poppa that we will treasure forever. He will be greatly missed by his wife Bev; daughter Ellen (Richard), son Darwin (Dang), daughter Colleen (Rob), grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family placed their trust with Coventry Funeral Services Nipawin, SK

SMEATON LIBRARY

A reminder of our hours: we are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am till 5pm and our phone number is 306 426-2049. We will keep regular hours through the Xmas season.

Thank you to everyone who stopped at our table at the recent Smeaton Fall Fair. We received donations of \$214 from people who chose books, puzzles and movies at our table.

We remind everyone that Terry Chamberlain's book "Stories in the Dirt" is available at the Library; it makes a great Christmas gift.

At 1pm on December 3rd we welcome all kids to a showing of "Finding Dory". Popcorn and a drink will be served!

Drop by to peruse our selection of books, movies and puzzles (discards available for a donation).

Gayle and the Library Board wish everyone a great Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy 2017.

CHOICELAND SENIORS SUPPER

On Sunday November 6th, a meal was shared with friends and family at the Choiceland Seniors Hall. The menu featured roast beef, potatoes, turnips, several vegetables and many salads. The meal was topped off with a large variety of desserts.

Fenton Lindbergh won the door prize, a \$25.00 certificate for the Sundown Saloon. The 50/50 draw of \$250.00 was won by Holly Toews. The following is a list of the donors, the donation and the winner. Doug Johnson - Oriole Bird Feeder, winner Deanna Herman, Choiceland Insurance - Winter Mitts, winner Colleen Stensrud, P&T Enterprise - Gift basket with Coffee Mugs and Pens, winner Geraldine Adelman, Pineland Co-op Choiceland - Rotary Power Hand-saw, winner Ruben Toews, Cathie Nakonechny- Throw Blanket, winner Cindy Black, Grow Plan Fertilizer - Wireless Thermometer, winner Brenda Nakonechny, Choiceland Insurance - BBQ cook set, winner Holley Toews, Davies Pharmacy Nipawin- Wooden Coat Hook Rack, winner Colleen Stensrud. The under 9 children's draw featured two donations from Bank of Nova Scotia- Piggy Bank with \$5.00 in each bank donated by Alma and Ian Gartin. These were won by Madeiros Medelros and Katrina Shymanski. The Hot Wheels Lego set was donated by Jolene Nakonechny and won by Rorik Shymanski. The other

In Loving Memory of

Lawrence Grant Butterfield

April 7, 1934 – November 27, 2015



You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can Smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back

Or you can open your eyes and see what he has left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of Love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember hi m only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind
Or you can do what he would want:
Smile....open your eyes, Love and go on.

Forever in our hearts

Love, Ella and your children and their families.



prize donated by Choiceland Seniors was an envelope with \$10 went to Gaberila Medelros.

Apologies go to Diamond North Credit Union for having missed using their donation. It will be saved for a future event.

Travis Clarke and Violet Huard, Bank of Nova Scotia employees, volunteered their time at this supper and Scotia Bank will be making a donation as well. The Seniors thank Travis, Violet and the bank.

The Choiceland Seniors wish to thank all donors for generously donating and guests who came to eat and play. A special thank you goes out to the many volunteers who are not members but assisted by donating food and some cases also time with set-up and clean-up. A special thank-you goes to Janet

Misselbrook who does so much for the Choiceland Museum and still finds time to help the Seniors Club. It's these actions that make this event such a success.

The MC noted that at this time of the year there are a lot of suppers within the community and the neighbouring communities. The following question was asked "If this supper event were to be moved to the spring time would it still be attended by the folks that are here."

Although "Fall Suppers" are traditional, these events are also very much about having a community meal with friends and family. The Choiceland Seniors will consider moving this supper event to the spring.
....Peter Neufeld

NORTH HAVEN

Manager's Report by Jeanette Waldner

We wish to welcome three of our most recent residents: Therese Blondin, Jean Bodnar and Lillian Tait. They have fit in very well and hope to get visits from friends and family.

We will be celebrating Joan Barker's birthday on December 2nd. Our residents Christmas Party will be held at 5:30pm on December 3rd. Plan to attend. It will be a potluck.

Thanks to Donna Kostyniuk (granddaughter of Alice Elves) who arranged for Marvin Torwalt (and friends) to entertain at North Haven every third Monday of the month, from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Visitors are welcome for this musical interlude.

Residents got their flu shots on November 22nd. It was most convenient for the nurse to come into North Haven so residents did not have to travel.

Thank you to Russ and Lynne Case, for framing two works of residents' art. Several residents have been enjoying adult colouring and are doing very pleasing work.

In the past while we have received vegetables, cases of honey, lunch and dinner items, home baking, oranges and so on. Some of the donors were: Jack Pickett; Lynelle Shreve; Bob Robertson; Caroline Weger; Smeaton Rec Board; Choiceland Royal Purple...and others.

Residents, Staff and the Board of North Haven would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the best in 2017.

Thank you for all your support throughout 2016!



Above, Dorothy Rigg keeps herself busy at North Haven with her art and craft projects. Currently she is working on a very warm afghan of her own design. It requires no piecing together but builds square upon square set diagonally. It is a very ingenious pattern and consists of rows of white, pink, sand and brown squares. Ask her to show it to you.

NORTH HAVEN AUXILIARY wishes to thank everyone who made it possible for us to make \$835 at our bake table at the Smeaton Fall Fair on November 19th. Many thanks to the wonderful response for donations to our Gourmet Basket Draw which earned us \$300. Donations to the bake table enabled us to make another \$500. Thank you to everyone who bought baking and bought tickets. Winners of the gourmet items were: Shirley Godin; Colleen Stensrud and Julie Schemenauer.

We are grateful for everyone's support! Thank you to the auxiliary members who manned our table. They did a great job.

SMEATON FALL FAIR BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER



The Fall Fair at Smeaton Rec Centre on November 19th was better than ever, with over fifty tables rented. Organizers Margo Marshall and Esther chamberlain (at left) did a great job again. They claim they are retiring from this pursuit and this is their last "Fair", whether Spring or Fall. Hopefully, they will change their minds. At any rate, thanks for all your work over the years. We appreciate the time and effort you both have put into it.

SMEATON & DISTRICT QUILT AND CRAFT GROUP has decided to move their meeting from the first Saturday of the month to the second Saturday for the foreseeable future. Plan to gather with your projects at the Smeaton Health Unit on Saturday, December 9th. Contact Margo Marshall for information.



SMEATON FALL SUPPER on November 6th was a great success, with about 250 attending. Thank you to everyone who worked at it, who donated food, or who came to enjoy the great meal. Attending from Prince Albert, above, were Gordon and Margaret Mifflin. We asked Margaret to give us her story for the newsletter, and she promised to submit it. Perhaps Gordon has a story as well.

Hi-Way Harvest News:

- December: 4th –Potluck and Communion
- 6th - Games Day starting at 10am.
- 12th -North Haven Christmas Church Service
- 18th – Christmas Service at 11 a.m.
- 24th – Old Fashioned Christmas Eve – 6:30 Come join in the singing followed by dainties –Treat bags for children.
- No Service Sunday the 25th or January 1st, 2017

WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

Smeaton Recreation Center News

GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY DECEMBER 13 ~ 7PM

We are in need of new **Board Members** -
New **Volunteers** to help organize community functions -
BINGO'S – Fresh Ideas for **FUN** -

This is our community building that benefits us all! Let's keep it viable
USER FEES ARE ALSO DUE: \$100 / Family –**Can be paid at the Village of Smeaton Office for a Receipt**

FACILITY MANAGER: Travis Grunerud is our new Facility Manager! Inquires, bookings, and General Building Maintenance will be done by Travis!

We would also like to Send out a **BIG** Thank you to Cara Jensen, Cara was our previous Manager and she did an amazing job, and spent countless hours cleaning, organizing, and working with our Rec Center!! Thanks Cara

This is my story...

Everyone has a story to tell. Tell us yours— send to Box 28, Smeaton SOJ 2JO or email to akirby@sasktel.net

This is my story...a lifetime of transition by Conrad Hadlock

I was born in 1943 in a very rural part of Quebec. Like most people in Canada, I am from mixed ancestry.. England and Germany. My ancestors emigrated to the New England area of the USA. That was my dad's side; on my mother's side it was Canadian including native blood from the regions of Quebec.

My first ten years were on a small dairy farm at least a mile from our nearest neighbours. We lived on what was called a "crossroad" and we were the only family on that road so that road was never plowed. Instead they were rolled with a team of horses to pack the snow and some winters it was better to go by team through the thick forest than to follow the road. It was challenging to attend school in the winter. We had lots and lots of snow, sometimes 8 to 10 feet with drifts 15 feet high. From grades one to four I walked three miles each way to school. If conditions were bad I sometimes stayed with relatives closer to school.

The area was mountainous as well and sometimes I would take a shortcut to school by walking cross country. As a result, I became an avid outdoorsman and fell in love with the great outdoors,

Until I was ten, I lived in a small house with two brothers, mom and dad, grandma, grandpa, great grandma and a hired hand. Believe me, it was crowded, and quite awkward most of the time. We did not have electricity for seven of these years, just a wood stove in the kitchen and a small box stove in the living room. On cold winter nights, both fires would go out and containers of water would be partially frozen by daylight.

Child labour was a large part of my life on the farm. That's the way it was back then. Beatings from my dad were part of the package. Quite often he was sick and two of us got punished regularly; his way of coping I guess. On October 23rd, 1953, I spotted smoke coming from the window at the top of the silo. I reported it to my mother. That was the end of the entire barn. This became a blessing in disguise as the next year we moved to another farm on the main road where we were picked up by school bus.

I met my wife-to-be in high school. She was my date for prom night. We married in August of 1965. We planned our lives together and although there were ups and downs in our marriage, our plans were met. We had a fine son and a beautiful daughter just as we had hoped for. They in turn eventually gave us six wonderful grandchildren.

I worked hard and so did my wife. Because of my love for the outdoors, I became an avid hunter and fisherman and I always included my family. There came a time, in 2002, I decided along with a much younger friend, Mike, to do a whitetail hunt in Saskatchewan, in the Battlefords area. Although Mike is 28 years my junior, we became great friends. His mother and my wife were also great friends. In 2003,

Mike and I decided once again to head west on another whitetail hunt. Because of the contacts we made, this time we hunted Ontario, Manitoba and finally, Saskatchewan. This was a five-week adventure and we ended up in the Meadow Lake and Dorintosh region of this beautiful province, along with its great people. We both fell in love with everything this province has to offer.

By 2010 my marriage was not great. We had developed different interests and though we lived together, I was really feeling like a stranger in my own house. By this time I was 67 and decided that by 70 I was not going to work so hard. I was going to retire and live my remaining years doing what I wanted to do. I had raised two children, and helped a lot with six grandchildren so now it would be time for me. All my debts were paid. I told my wife what I had in mind and asked her if she felt the same. She shrugged, turned and walked away and became even more distant to me. I was lonely and miserable for the next three years.

My friend Mike knew I was not enjoying life. In April of 2003 he and his family moved to Choceland. We kept in touch. He told me he was sure I would like this area as well and encouraged me to get away from the hurt and come west. He told me about Placid Place which had apartments available, run by the Choceland Housing Authority. I thought about it



for a couple of months and finally made the hardest decision of my life. I packed as much as I could into my Dodge Ram truck, left all my family members, two properties, and most of my tangible belongings and headed west on August 19th, 2013.

The first two years away from all that was almost too painful to describe. Everyone was a stranger here, except Mike and his family. I didn't know how I would be received here, nor did I know if I could cope amongst strangers. All I can say is this: Mike was 100% correct in his assessment. I have been in the same apartment now for over three years; I've been well received by everyone. The people are great. The fishing and hunting are phenomenal. I realize that changes in my lifetime are inevitable, but I also realize that being miserable is optional and I chose not to be miserable anymore. I certainly have no intentions of going back to Quebec. Saskatchewan, thank you for restoring my sanity.

....Conrad Hadlock

PHOTOS: Above, the farm where Conrad spent his first ten years; below: Conrad enjoying the out of doors in Northern Saskatchewan.



This is my story...Part 2

Lil Kuzniar, our Dutch war bride, continues her life story from where she left off last month. Thank you, Lily, for sharing.

I arrived in Regina on July 1st, 1946 and Stan was there to meet me. We first lived with Stan's parents, Stan Senior and Mary on their farm north of Snowden. His brothers Bruno, Teddy and Mitchell were still living at home at the time.

I found living in Canada quite different, and I didn't like living with his family so we moved to a house by Diamond Lake school. I was six months pregnant when I arrived in Canada and my first child Gloria Maria was born on October 10th but she died two days later. We had three more children - Edward, Briggy (Brigitta) and Rose Marie.

Briggy and Edward just had to walk across the yard to school. We later moved to Harvey Bell's farm, where Greg Pagan presently lives. At that time we had one horse and a toboggan that the kids used to go to school.

Stan farmed and trapped. At this time of year we had to get wood up for the winter. We just had an air-tight heater so our water pail would freeze in the winter but it didn't take long to warm the place up when we got a good fire going.

Stan worked in B.C. in the winters and he wouldn't come home all winter. I spent one winter alone with my children with no vehicle and no roads. Stan then decided he couldn't leave me out there like that again so in 1956 we moved into Snowden. The next year we all moved to a lumber camp in Prince George B.C. and I home schooled the children. Later on there were enough children living there to bring in a school and Audrey Wark (who later married Don Holliday), became their teacher.

We returned to Snowden in 1961 and lived in a rented house until we could move the house we had bought from Fred and May Johnston that they had on their farm south of town. It is the same house I live in today.

The kids now went to school in Snowden and could get involved in sports and other activities. Later Briggy took nurse's training in Saskatoon and Edward was in the army in Petewawa, Ontario.


Stan continued working in B.C and In all the years he worked out there he only made it home for Christmas and that was when Mrs Oliphant wanted to come to Saskatchewan so they came home together in her vehicle.

I made a few trips back to Holland over the years, but I felt like a fish out of water because nobody could understand how we live in Canada. When my brother came to visit us he wouldn't believe me what an outhouse was for.

Stan passed away in February 1997, but what can I do, I have to go on. My hobbies have been knitting, cross-stitch, picture and cross-word puzzles. I enjoy watching the birds and deer and other wildlife that come through my yard.

I made a trip with Rose last month to visit my granddaughter Vanessa in Victoria. It was a very good trip. Here is a picture of me on the beach.





SNOWDEN STAR HOTEL

Spend your **New Year's Eve** at The Star. Back by popular demand will be "Slick Gizmo" to entertain us. We will have a buffet supper from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hope to bring in the New Year with you all!

Congratulations to our 2016 Snowden Star Hotel Pool Tournament winners: A side Jim Johnson and Ted Bieker B side Jeanette Delisle and Ingrid Chamberlain. thanks to all for attending. Mark your calendars for Nov.2017!

FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

On Sunday, November 20th, the Smeaton First Responders met at the Smeaton fire hall for "con-ed" training. As First Responders, each member needs to hold a valid certificate, plus complete 20 hours within three years of continuing education (or con-ed). Continuous education helps members stay current with their skills.

Mark Ollinger from Nipawin, came to refresh the group on spinal restriction, C-spine and the Kendrick Extrinsication Device (KED), a device which is used primarily for extricating a person with a suspected spinal injury from a motor vehicle collision. Having trained, experienced and available First Responders is a very valuable asset to our community. If you are interested in becoming a First Responder, please contact Smeaton First Responder lead Crystal Fajt at 306-426-7788 or Fire Chief Randy Fajt at 306-426-7661. A course is currently in the planning stage and we encourage anyone interested to phone or text so we can get the class numbers required to



host training in our community. You **can** make a difference!
PHOTO: Jimmy Brophy, Todd Palidwar, Karen Rein, Lindsay Langdon and Nadine Palidwar practise using the KED on instructor Mark Ollinger. Missing is Crystal Fajt who took the picture.

SUPPORT SMEATON & DISTRICT FIRE & RESCUE !

Smeaton & District Fire & Rescue held their 50/50 draw on October 31st. Pot was \$303 and the lucky winner was James Doerksen! James is a member of Choiceland Fire Department and bought his winning ticket from SDFR member Sue Pelech. SDFR Deputy Chief Lyle White presented James with a cheque for \$151.50 at Choiceland Fire Department's Firemen's Ball. Next draw is November 30th - tickets are available at the Smeaton Post Office, Smeaton Co-op, Smeaton Hotel, Nuffy's Handy Dandy Store and Snowden Star Hotel or from any firefighter or first responder.



NEWS FROM WEIRDALE SENIORS:

The **coffee and toast** are on at the Weirdale Seniors Centre every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They often also offer muffins or cinnamon buns. Toast is from homemade bread. Drop by from 9am till 11am for coffee and a visit. Bread is still available for \$3.00 a loaf.

Next monthly **Seniors Meeting** will be held December 7th, regular and prospective members welcome.

Quilt and Craft Group will be held from 9am till 4pm on December 15th. Fee is only \$2; everyone welcome.

HERITAGE HOMESTEADS IN THE CHOICELAND AREA



Dan MacDonald

passed away in 2000, but his photographic record of homestead homes are a valuable reminder of past history in the Choiceland district. 35 of Dan's photos have been enlarged and are displayed in the foyer of the Choiceland Museum. Many thanks to Jan Misselbrook for preparing these stories every month.

CHOICELAND MUSEUM NEWS

Jerry Black won the Choiceland Museum's 50/50 Draw on November 1st. He took home \$645.

Thank you to the community for the continual support. It enables the museum to make improvements.

We were thrilled to learn that MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers, Nadine Wilson, presented the Choiceland reopening of the Museum in the Legislature. Nadine said the reopening is now forever archived in Saskatchewan history.

Here is what she said into the record:

MLA NADINE WILSON'S REMARKS IN THE SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATURE:

Reopening of Choiceland Museum

Hon Ms Wilson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to be invited to join with the community of Choiceland on August 20th to celebrate the grand reopening of the Choiceland Museum. A dedicated group of volunteers and board members all worked together to make sure that the museum's new location was ready at the former St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Mr Speaker, the master of ceremonies was treasurer Jan Misselbrook who guided us through the event where the history of the region and the museum was showcased. It

ANGUS PLEWES HOMESTEAD

This bachelor came out of Ontario in the late 1920's or early 1930's. He settled in the Crocken Hill area, on NW 19-53-17 W2.

Angus was on the first list of ratepayers held in 1934 at Henry Fedelleck's home. The ratepayers would get a credit towards their taxes if they helped build Crocken Hill School.

Angus, like many others, worked in saw mills.

This house was a place to gather and dance — and many a dance they had.

Angus loved women —big and



small, he loved them all. He just couldn't settle on one. In 1940, Angus left with some of the local boys to work in the mines in Sudbury Ontario. He never returned and remained in Ontario.

Today the land is owned by Ian and Doreen Malcomson.

GEORGE CAPES HOMESTEAD

In 1929, George Capes at age 14 came to Choiceland to homestead with his recently widowed mother.

The homestead, 5W 15-52-18-W2 was located four miles west of Choiceland.

The homestead was completely covered with bush and muskeg. The muskeg was on fire and everything smelled of burning peat moss.

The Capes family lived at Tom Robertson's until their three-room log house was built.

The Capes used Bill Fizzell's oxen to clear the land.

George married Ruth Walker in 1936. George moved his bride in with his mother, Selma, and they shared the little house



pictured here. The two women got along very well except for a floor scrubbing contest that went on all day until one tired out. Life was a struggle for day to day existence. Without the help of good neighbours it would have been impossible.

In 1946, Selma, George's mother, moved to Choiceland where she lived till her passing in 1962.

In 1958, George and Ruth Capes moved to Saskatoon.

Today the land is owned by Jeff Smith.

was great to see so many of the original founding members present at the grand reopening of the museum, first founded in 1995.

President Thelma Kelsey cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. In addition to the ribbon cutting, there was live music, local art displays, friendly community leaders, and of course, Choiceland and district's rich history on display. The whole community supported this many months of work to get to this celebration, which I can personally attest to as I walked through the museum, visited with young and old, and thoroughly enjoyed the museum and numerous homemade pies on hand,

Mr Speaker, many small towns across Canada

have amazing local museums like the one in Choiceland. I would like to ask all members to join with me in congratulating the museum association, their volunteers, and community of Choiceland on the grand reopening of their museum. Thank you.

FOR SALE: 1988 VOLVO 760 TURBO

Just over 300km; Remote Start; never smoked in; not winter driven the past 17 years; does not burn oil; solid car; no dents.

\$1900 OBO

Call 306 862-5952

Greetings to friends and neighbours in Smeaton & District!



It is with a profound sense of gratitude and joy that I offer my sincere greetings during this holiday season, a time of tradition, family and feasting. Serving you in parliamentary democracy for the past nine years has been my distinct pleasure and honour. During this time many changes have occurred in our family. Three children have found partners, married and blessed Doug and me with seven lively and beautiful grandchildren. I count my blessings every day and wish you the same.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and a happy and hopeful new year!

Sincerely,
Nadine Wilson
Saskatchewan Rivers
(306)763-0615



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
(and make new friends!)**

Are you looking for a way to help our community and learn new skills at the same time? Smeaton & District Fire & Rescue is looking for new members! We are an active fire department with meetings held every two weeks. Regular practices keep our skills honed and fresh for whenever the need arises. We send members to both the spring and fall fire schools put on by the SVFFA to keep up-to-date with new protocols and so members can become certified in various areas of the fire service. If you are interested in joining SDFR, please contact Chief Randy Fajt at (306) 426-7661 for more information.

In photos above: Smeaton & District Fire & Rescue members are shown at a recent practice, refreshing their skills with the pumper and water truck.



THE 100-DOLLAR BILL by Tony Rudnicki

I am writing about a one hundred dollar bill that I carried for 21 years in my billfold. The billfold I got for Xmas and it came from the Snowden Bar. As for the 100-dollar bill, this is how I got it. I was at Canadian Tire getting a battery for my 34 swather, paid \$86 for it and had it in the shopping cart to get the truck. A man came to me from Beardie's asking me to sell him the cap from my truck. I said "How much?" He said \$200. I said "You can't want it very badly". I said I wanted \$600; he said \$500. I said \$550 and he said "Sold". In the meantime I forgot about the battery and someone took it. So I had to replace it for another \$86. My wife was at Wal-mart so I asked the man to meet me there to move the truck cap to his truck. I thought he would not come but he was there with his wife. His wife wanted our phone number, Elsie wanted to see his money. The buyer and I were trying to get the bolts loose; Elsie and his wife were chattering in the background. We finally got it loose and I said "This thing

is heavy" but he said he had friends and they came and shifted the cap from my truck to his. Elsie says, "You don't have his money" but he handed me three hundreds and five fifties. I carried one of the \$100 bills till it wore out. About ten years later I was going to Shopper's when the billfold slipped from my pocket. It contained the \$100 bill plus another \$250. When I realized I had lost my billfold I went back and halfway to the truck found it on the ground, same colour as the pavement, with my \$350 still in it. It was the old \$100 bill that brought me luck so I held onto it as long as I could. I finally took it to the bank in July of 2016. I never saw Mr. Sanderson again but hope he was happy with the truck cap. I understand he drove chuckwagon and was a very fine fellow.

THE BACK PAGE...Looking back to 2004.

We started this newsletter twelve years ago, in 2004. In December's Issue in 2004 we had the school photo and a story from Lil Clarke about her family's trip to Las Vegas. We are repeating both items below.



ABOVE: The entire school, students and teachers, wished everyone Happy Holidays

AT RIGHT:: The Clarke family had their photo taken before leaving Las Vegas.

CLARKE EXPEDITION TO LAS VEGAS IN 2004

At right are members of Lil Clarke's family, leaving Las Vegas in November 2004 after an all-too short holiday. Left to right are Darrel and Thelma Cowie, Marg and Don Clarke, Lil Clarke, Lois and Chuck Leachman. What could they possibly have strapped to the top of their rental car?



ARCTIC

REFRIGERATION INC.

306-314-7214

A Trueman Plumbing & Heating

For all your Plumbing, Gasfitting, HVAC Needs
Serving Choiceland and area

Darcy Trueman
Journeyman Plumber/Gas Fitter

Po Box 483 Choiceland, SK
S0J 0M0



CELL (306) 862-1221



THE OLD WOMAN SAYS:

When I signed up to be a "woman" I did not realize how much of my time would go to doing housework. Good thing I do the minimum. Still, there is no time for saving mankind or finding a cure for the common cold.



THE OLD GUY SAYS:

Getting colder, time to give the summer longjohns a rest and a wash, and put on the winter fleecies. I can't wait.

**NEED A NEW KITCHEN
OR VANITY?**

Affordable Custom-
Built Cabinets
FREE ESTIMATES
Call 306 276-8313

Steve's Septic Service

cell 426-7553 home 426-2743
sbeal@sasktel.net

Tanks pumped, floats and pumps replaced * Portable Toilet Rentals
* 24- hour Emergency Service
TRENCHING FOR SEWER &
WATER NOW AVAILABLE
Serving villages & rural areas,
Albertville to White Fox

STEVE BEAL
(owner /operator)



SMEATON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A. Kirby, Box 28, Smeaton SK
S0J 2J0

<http://smeatondistrictnews.tripod.com>

akirby@sasktel.net

(306) 426-2447

Editor: Annette Kirby

Contributors: Everyone else

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Last week of the month. Mailed subscriptions remain at \$15 per year and copies to district mailboxes are free of charge. Emailed and website copies free of charge. Ask for your email address to be added to our mailing list. Look for your copy of the newsletter in your mailbox from Meath Park to Love.

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

Creekside Services
will be closed from
December 9, 2016
to January 2, 2017.

**Have a good
Christmas!**

VILLAGE OF SMEATON urges residents to decorate their yards and homes for the holiday season as they are once more sponsoring a contest for the best decorated. The judging will take place on **Wednesday, December 21st**. Many thanks to Erma Prince, Caroline Bonsan and Margo Marshall who have agreed to judge your efforts. Besides getting in the spirit of Christmas, further incentive is prize money of \$100 for first and \$50 for second.

...Mayor, Council and Administrator wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season and a great 2017

Thank you to the following for donations towards printing:

Andy Blomquist (Nipawin); Ella Butterfield; Mary Basaraba (Nipawin); Frank Will (Weirdale); Meath Park Seniors; Mary Stacey (Prince Albert); Choiceland Senior Citizens; Lily Kuzniar (Snowden); Gordon and Amanda Wilmot (Garrick)