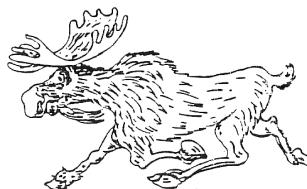


THE BEST LITTLE TOWN  
BY A DAM SITE!

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THE LATCHFORD AND AREA

## MOOSE CALL



# December 2021



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

~ ALL dogs must have current year tags per By-law 639/04. The cost per dog is: \$20.00

~ Remember to Poop & Scoop ~

Animal complaints can be reported to the Town Office @ 676-2416

COUNCIL MEETING FOR DECEMBER TO BE HELD ON THE 14th . THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY AND WILL BE POSTED TO THE TOWN WEBSITE.

LEGION MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS TO BE HELD THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

# Just Passin Through Again

I had opportunity to go down and do an up-close inspection of those two signs they mounted on Carter/Michiels Island and came away quite dismayed at the mess that had been left. The two 8" I beams (per sign) have 16 feet exposed above ground and are topped with an 8 foot by 8 foot sign board warning of the dam and it inherent dangers. I have already had my rant about other aspects of the signs but I have more to add. The point has been the site of an abundance of flowers that were undoubtedly planted by Mrs Michiel and Mrs Carter over their years of habitation on the point. Each spring and early summer much of the point was covered with lilac blooms and numerous Columbines of a variety of colours.

Topping off this display, for me, was a variety of multi-petal and very aromatic small roses that grew in abundance and that I, as well as others, referred to as the "Latchford Rose". Erecting the signs has destroyed much of the growth of everything on the point and the aforementioned flora was badly damaged and spring will determine the extent of that damage. I expressed my displeasure in a phone call with Public Service and Procurement Canada and it was pointed out, tactfully, that it was their land. I responded by stating that if it belonged to Canada then it belonged to all of us as well and here in Latchford we value an area such as that and look after it. Hopefully spring will reveal the damage is not as much as it appears now.

Covid cases are really surging here in Temiskaming and Council has had to revert to Zoom meetings until things calm down. We have actually had two cases here in Latchford at this writing after going since the onset of the pandemic without any. One is isolating and one is in ICU from what I have been told.

The Ontario Provincial Police continue to keep a good eye on speeders through Latchford and again in the last month have had to confiscate two vehicles and relieve the drivers of that privilege. With their cars impounded, one driver had to get a bus ticket to Montreal so that had to hurt! Hopefully we will eventually get a reputation like Matheson used to enjoy and the speeders will slow down when heading into Latchford!

In closing this month I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and especially Healthy New Year! Enjoy the holidays wherever you may celebrate them!

George L.



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# From the kitchen of Diana

Page 3

## Polka-dot Macaroons

Makes about 4-1/2 dozen

5 cups sweetened shredded coconut

1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1-1/2 cups M&M's minis

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, mix coconut, milk and flour until blended; stir in M&M's. Drop mixture by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto greased baking sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

Freeze option: Freeze cookies, layered between waxed paper, in freezer containers.

To use, thaw before serving.

## Cranberry Shortbread Stars

Makes 3 dozen

1 cup butter, softened

3/4 cup confectioners' sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup finely chopped dried cranberries

In a large bowl, beat butter, confectioners' sugar and salt until blended. Beat in vanilla.

Gradually beat in flour. Stir in cranberries. Shape dough into a disk; wrap in plastic.

Refrigerate 30 minutes or until firm enough to roll. Preheat oven to 325°.

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a floured 2-in. star-shaped cookie cutter.

Place 1 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Bake 12-15 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

## Cream Cheese Mints

1 3-ounce package cream cheese

1 tablespoon butter

3 cups confectioners' sugar

2 drops peppermint oil (or almond)

Food coloring (optional)

Combine softened cream cheese, butter, and confectioners' sugar in large bowl.

Stir in peppermint oil to flavor. Leave white or add colouring. Roll mixture into small balls and place on waxed paper.

Flatten using a fork dipped in confectioners' sugar and allow to dry for 2 hours. Refrigerate before serving.

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Poppy Sales for Branch 629 enjoyed another banner year with final total garnered reaching \$1,883.70! Having manned sales tables as outlined in last month's column certainly seems to be the best approach to the sale of poppies. While the sale of poppies in this manner require a few more hours of volunteer time versus the door to door campaign, the returns to the Poppy Fund are considerably greater.

The Wreath laying ceremony on November 11 was very well attended but, unfortunately, we encountered problems with our sound system which we hope to have rectified before next year's ceremony. Branch 629 wishes to express our appreciation to all who were able to attend and recognize the sacrifice of the fallen and all who have served in the defence of Canada. The Branch continues to be open but with enhanced social distancing protocol being re-implemented. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year is wished to all and please enjoy the hol-

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**Respectfully ,**

**Leslie-Ann Thomas  
(Montessori, OCT)  
Ontario, Canada**



iday season. All members of the Branch wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Dave Peckover who is once again providing snow clearing for our parking area free of charge to the Branch! Thanks very much for your kind gesture Dave!

**Comrade Sheila Belanger**  
**1st Vice**  
**Ladies Auxiliary**  
**President George Lefebvre**  
**Branch 629**  
**Lest We Forget**

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## IS SALT OF THE EARTH ALWAYS SO GOOD?

Way, way back when, at the beginning of Time as it were, the first civilisation in Eurasia was in Mesopotamia, so called because it was the fertile land between two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Water for crops was not always available, so some bright spark thought of fetching more water from said rivers and irrigating the land.

Now this worked well for a while, then not so well and finally both for the land and the civilisation that depended on it, not at all. The soil had been poisoned by a slow build-up of salt in it, to the extent that nothing would grow any more, or so I was led to believe.

As you likely know, I was born and raised in England, an island with the sea fifty miles or less away from anywhere on it. This sea, as well as being beautiful in my eyes, could also be very destructive. I have seen huge concrete blocks that had been thrown about like nothing by the winter storms. Further south from where I spent my vacations, the coast was made up of sand dunes and the authorities tried everything they could think of to stop them washing away.

One of their attempts, the one that concerns me now, is the planting of Marram Grass, which could tolerate the sea-salt and so could grow and thrive. All I knew about it then was that it supposedly screamed when it was burned (which of course is what I would do in such circumstances). Now given the preponderance of irrigation as an important agricultural practice today, even in Canada and especially in the oases of the Sahara Desert, salination of the soil either is or soon will be a growing problem, as indeed it fatally was for the Sumarian Civilisation so long ago. So what to do, what to do.

First, that Marram Grass. According to my internet, sheep and some other ruminant will

eat it happily, to the shagrin (my current favourite word) of England's Coastal Preservers. Then, listening to the nightly B.B.C. Programmes, I learn there are three species of camel, not the two which I thought was the limit. This third variety of camel, though nominally wild, can thrive on a high salt diet. Since our more creative farmers are looking for other protein-providing food for us and they've already been able to rear nominally ferocious beasties for meat, then keeping wild camels should be a snap.

A couple more "salt" stories for you. In Thor Heyerdahl's book The Kon Tiki Expedition, he found that fresh water by itself did not quench their thirst. It was salt they needed. This problem was solved by cutting their water with sea-water, 50-50. Not strong enough to be dangerous, but salty enough to satisfy.

When we lived in the bush, I successfully made some sauerkraut, using Windsor salt, which proudly proclaimed that it contained "Salt And Nothing Else." Imagine my horror when I thought to try again, but now the Windsor Salt Company was adding something they smoothly called "Prussate of Soda." This chemical has some more honest names, like the Sodium salt of Prussic Acid, or Sodium Cyanide. As a sometime student of World War II, I know that some of the Nazi leaders had hollow teeth installed, which they could unscrew and release the sodium cyanide they contained before their Allied captors could stop them. This chemical was, or is, so poisonous that it is fatal in seconds. As an ex-metallurgical engineer, I would expect surges in the delivery and mixing of sodium cyanide into Windsor's salt stream, which makes me read the "Contents" labels of every salt package very carefully before I buy it. I'd rather die of old age than a blip in Windsor Salt's manufacturing plant.

**All the best from a salty old Charlie by the lake.**

# Rhonda's Garden Tip

Page 6

## Umbrella Christmas Trees

In the days of a recycle, and reuse mindset it's easy to see how our old junk can be reinvented to become new again. With Christmas being just around the corner and maybe having to be a little frugal as to what areas we spend our money – this month's tip can certainly help with the outdoor decorating area.

To begin, let's look at stuff, things around the garden, or junk as some may call it, with a different perspective. Force yourself to see the junk, even parts of the junk in a whole different light, not necessarily what the object intended for. Can parts or sections of the things be used to create other useful things? Let's take an umbrella for example; normally used to keep us dry from the rain and shield us from the sun, but, when you look at its natural shape, you can see the possibilities of a tree shape – a Christmas tree shape. This idea occurred to be when the outer cover of my large deck/patio umbrella became worn and fragile from the sun. The wooden skeleton of the umbrella was still in good condition, so I thought of another use for it – a wooden Christmas tree to shine bright outside for the holidays!

Simply remove the weathered wrap cover, unscrew the extension pole section and the pulley/cord hardware (optional), so all you are left with is the tree shaped skeleton. Next, decide how wide you want the legs of the tree to spread out. Then secure a screw into the base pole to stop it from going up or down. Mine stands approximately 4.5 feet tall. Use wire or rope to wrap around each arm to circle the tree top to make it sturdy. Now for the fun part, adding the Christmas lights. With your chosen colour of lights, wrap the tree skeleton in a circular motion, securing every second wrap around with a tie wrap. Depending on the size of your umbrella, you'll probably need a couple of sets of lights to make the tree look full.

For the final part, plug in your Christmas lights, step back and take in the beauty of your finished creation, a long lasting outdoor Christmas tree that can be enjoyed for many years. Luckily, I had two umbrella skeletons to decorate and a smaller garden cone shaped trellis (a wire tomato cage would work) to add to the collection. Group the trees together to shine bright, a brilliant way to use what you already have without a tone of cost. Imagine a group of 5 or 6 tomato cage trellises all lit up! These trees could also be used indoors too – no rules.

The future Christmas garden decorating challenge is to look at your rake with a creative mind and in a different light – your metal rakes I mean. How can a metal rake become part of your outdoor Christmas decorating? Wait to see,

**Merry Christmas everyone! Bye for now Rhonda**



## Subscribers News

November was another good month, weather wise, here in Latchford. So far those weather prognosticators that predicted a cold, snowy winter have been off the mark and let us hope it remains that way. Temperatures were mostly moderate and Bay Lake finally froze over on November 27 so now the ice fishing crowd and the sledders are waiting for the ice to thicken enough for their activities and the wise ones will wait until Rob Godden marks his annual trail across the lake.

Renewals during the month included one from Brent and Marie Anderson out in Airdrie, Alberta for two more years. Brent grew up here in Latchford and attended Cobalt High School where a teacher, Robert Marvin, once told me that Brent and Wayne Conroy were the most gifted scholastic and athletic students that he ever had the pleasure to teach and they were both from Latchford! It was nice to hear and certainly well warranted for both these Latchford lads.

Also staying with us for another two years are Ramona and Harold Fisher from Etobicoke and Marie Turcotte of Temagami renewed for another year but requested that it be sent to her son-in-law Richard Corbett also of Temagami. Thanks to all for your continued support of, and interest in, the Moose Call.

On the health and fitness front, Latchford has finally been infected with Covid. At this writing we now have two cases and my understanding is that one is/was in ICU with the other self isolating at home. It was bound to happen as the Temiskaming Health Unit area has now got the highest infection per capita rate in Ontario. This news, coupled with the news that we are losing Dr Roedde who is retiring from the Clinic next April is causing a lot of concern here in Latchford which is understandable.

The circulation manager got a “two thumbs up” on her trip to Toronto on the 1st but didn’t fare so well in Sudbury on the 9th. The attempted angioplasty there was unsuccessful and had to be terminated leaving her arm very badly bruised and Sharon in considerable pain. At this point we are uncertain as to what the next step is but hopeful that she can get her health issues resolved. Sheila Belanger continues to heal at home with the assistance of her daughters and Dr Roedde. Charmaine L’Heuroux had the misfortune to fall in her yard and fracture an ankle! This resulted in a trip to hospital in North Bay where she spent well over a week before being allowed to return home to recuperate but states she is managing with help.

There are undoubtedly a number of others out there who are ailing or infirm, and I am sure all readers join me in wishing all a speedy return to good health.

All of us here at the Moose Call wish to send out Merry Christmas greetings and a wish for a Happy, Healthy New Year to all who read our little newsletter!

George L.

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Editorial Policy

: We will not print any news, items, letters, or otherwise containing slanderous, defamatory, or injurious information in reference to the character of any person or entity. The writer of all articles must be identified when items are submitted but may request to remain anonymous in print. All such requests will be honoured.

**The Latchford Volunteer Fire dept. would like to thank everyone who has donated pop cans and aluminum products over the years. We will no longer be accepting any more of these donations. Please put your pop cans out with your regular recycling. Thank you again for your support.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**STORAGE AVAILABLE**

Winter Storage available for boats, cars, trailers, ATVs etc.  
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## Latchford Volunteer Fire Department News!

The holiday season has arrived! The Latchford Volunteer Fire Department would like to share some festive fire prevention and safety tips with Latchford residents.

As festive meal preparations, cooking and baking ramp up for the holidays, so does the need to take precautions in the kitchen, dining room, and gathering spaces.

Cooking fires are a major cause of home fires and home injuries. Unattended cooking is a leading cause of fires in the kitchen. It is important to stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, for even a short period of time, you should turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, remember to check it regularly. While food is cooking, remain in the home. It is a good idea to use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Remember to keep anything that can catch fire, like oven mitts, wooden and plastic utensils, food packaging, towels or other materials, away from your stovetop. It is also important to ensure that children and pets stay clear of the stovetop, oven, and other heated cooking appliances while in use.

Do not overload electrical outlets or use extension cords in the place of additional outlets. Remember to check electrical appliances regularly for damaged cords and plugs. Remember to un-

plug electrical appliances that do not need to be plugged in when not in use.

Candles are often used during the holidays. Here are a few candle use safety tips to remember. Extinguish all candles before going to bed or leaving the room. Never leave burning candles unattended. Do not burn candles on or near anything that can catch fire such as curtains, bedding, combustible decorations, and clothing. Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Place burning candles somewhere they cannot be knocked over. Cut candle wicks short to prevent high flames. Use sturdy candle holders that won't easily tip over. Perhaps consider using flameless, battery powered candles as a substitute when possible.

The LVFD is wishing all of its' Latchford residents, families and friends a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

**Chantal Paquin**

## Note of Thanks!

A Big Thank You to all who helped me celebrate my Halloween birthday like THIS

1 dozen Red Roses, Lavender scent warmer, cards, tickets, cup cakes, 2 pies, 2 cakes, 3 boxes of chocolates, one box homemade fudge, 2 bags of mixed goodies!

Look out scales, here I come.

**Thanks**

**Alice Livingston**

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*I have been gifted with the following memories as related by Fred Keenan and given to me by his daughter, Sheila Godby of Peterborough, and I hope to serialize them over the required number of issues. It will give readers, whether they knew the Keenans or not, a look at Latchford from 90 plus years ago. Hope you enjoy!*

### **Latchford Memories of Fred and Ida Keenan 1928 to 30**

Next morning we were up early and Laura and I set off for school (only two blocks away). The kids had started to assemble and eyed us curiously. You, will remember the old school quite well and it really didn't change much over the years until it was taken down in 1963. It had originally been built in 1908 as a four-room school but actually only two or three rooms were ever used depending on enrolment.

The school yard was a forest of tree stumps, reminders of the big white pines that grew all over that area. It made playing any games almost an impossibility. The main road to Cobalt turned at the school and followed the railway and the river as far as the Gillies sand plains then away from the river into Cobalt\*, the site of the great silver boom of 1904-1920 and, in a constantly diminishing scale to the present day.

There were no buildings north of the school, just bush. The building itself was of sturdy frame construction of two stories and a bell-tower in which swung a huge bell rung every day at 8:45 a.m. 9 a.m. 12:45 p.m. and 1 p.m. Well, not quite every day.

The bell rope came down through the tower to the front hall and it was the tradition and it was a tradition on Hallowe'en some daring soul would climb up to the tower and cut the rope so that when the teacher pulled it to ring the bell the rope would come tumbling down on his head.

No matter how careful a watch was kept on Hallowe'en night some way was found to cut that

rope. Once in a while the teacher won but mostly he lost to the forces of mischief (and laughed about it of course). The classrooms were quite adequate with oiled floors which kept the dust down, very good lighting from side and back windows, high ceilings, and the original old  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., solid slate black-boards, and lots of them. They were so good that when the new school was built in 1962-3, I persuaded the school board to put in the old blackboards and I guess they are still there.

The desks were the old screwed-to-the-floor variety. Some of them were doubles, mostly used in the senior grades. This was long before the ball point was invented and the kids used penholders in which they inserted new steel pen-points as required.

Actually they were the best pens ever made for good penmanship but there use required a bottle of ink and an inkwell which caused all sorts of problems with ink spotted hands and clothes and spills on the floor. The use of slates had been abandoned but the odd one still remained among the primary grades.

Heating was by means of a big barrel-stove in each room and an abundant supply of dry birch in the cellar. The caretaker (or generally his son who was a pupil in the school) was supposed to have a fire early in the morning but this often did not happen and most of the morning the kids wore their outside clothes until the room got warm enough. Conversely, by afternoon the place would be like an oven.

\*At that time present day Sullivan Avenue continued east, turned north (the road still exists) and became Railway Street and went north parallel to the railroad tracks. The "old" road as it was called by the locals was passable by vehicles well into the 1980's but is now a Recreational Vehicle/Snowmobile trail.

To be continued next issue

## **Obituary**

**Belanger Annette [Rabillard] -**

With sadness the family announces the peaceful passing of Mrs Annette Belanger of Cobalt at the age of 85 years. Mrs Belanger passed away on Monday September 27, 2021 in the comfort of her home with her loving family by her side.

Born on December 9, 1935 in Latchford, Mrs Belanger is predeceased by her husband Remi Belanger, her son Pierre Belanger and by her grandson Keedan Belanger. She is survived by her children Claude and his wife Micheline Belanger, Monique Belanger, Jean Guy Belanger, Andre and his wife Judith Belanger and by her daughter-in-law Stacey Belanger. Mrs Belanger is also survived by nine grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren as well as her extended family members.

A memorial mass was celebrated from St-Pat's Catholic Church, Cobalt, Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Father Wayne Mills officiated. Memorial contributions in Mrs Belanger's memory can made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada or to the Temiskaming Hospital. Condolences and contributions may be left at [www.buffamleveille.com](http://www.buffamleveille.com).



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## **NOTICE**

**The Latchford Recreation Committee would invite residents to consider joining their group, as several members have resigned and some are moving away, so very few members will remain. Should they not be able to recruit more people, this organization could very easily fold and this would be very detrimental to the children and adults of Latchford as they provide many activities for all ages throughout the year. Call Sharon @ 705-676-1115 Town Office @705-676-2416 to join up!**

**Funny**

How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

He was hooked on trees his whole life.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?  
Because he had very low elf esteem.

What does the Grinch do with a baseball bat?  
Hits a gnome and runs.

What do you call a broke Santa Claus?  
Saint-nickel-less.

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?  
A rebel without a Claus.

Why did Frosty ask for a divorce?  
His wife was a total flake.

Why does Scrooge love reindeer so much?  
Because every single buck is dear to him!

What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?  
A Christmas quacker.

What's Santa's favorite snack food?  
Crisp Pringles.

Why do mummies like Christmas so much?  
They're into all the wrapping.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
Nothing. It was on the house!

How do you help someone who's lost their Christmas spirit?  
Nurse them back to elf.

What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?  
Anything you want. He can't hear you!

What nationality is Santa Claus?  
North Polish.

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?  
Rude-olph.

How is Christmas exactly like your job?  
You do all the work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.

What's every elf's favorite type of music?  
Wrap.

What do you call a scary looking reindeer?  
A cariboo.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?  
Frostbite.



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