

GASPEREAU VALLEY GAZETTE

A Celebration of Who We Are and Where We Live.

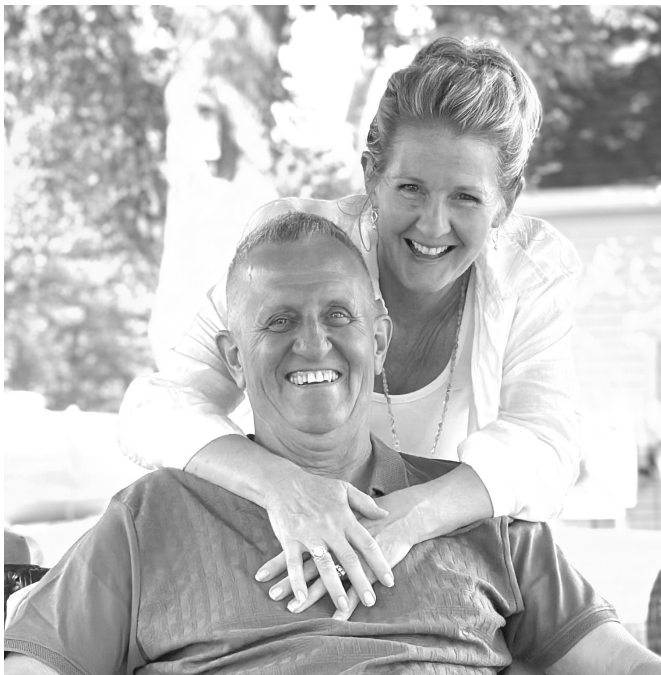
**Featuring: Community Announcements, Aunt May's Diary,
Recreation News, From the Pantry, and the Idea Shop** December 2025

Tattingstone Inn

Originally, Tattingstone Inn was a farmhouse built in 1874 as a home for George Thompson. (He later served as one of Wolfville's mayors.)

Located in the west end of the town, at 620 Main Street, it later was owned by Architect Leslie R. Fairn. He and family called it home for more than 35 years. (He ran his business out of the carriage house in the rear.)

Along came Betsy Harwood. She had built a reputation as a restaurateur in Halifax and put her knowhow to work in 1989 and transformed the historic house into Tattingstone Inn.



Randy & Erika Banting

Enter Randy and Erika Banting, they were charmed by Wolfville and the surrounding area on a visit to Nova Scotia twenty years ago.

In 2015, they were able to purchase the property. Since then, they have gradually expanded the accommodations to 21 rooms with the aim of becoming a boutique hotel. They now are able to offer several different types of rooms: Classic, Deluxe, Premium, and Suites.



Tattingstone Inn Before



Tattingstone Inn After

(Tattingstone cont'd on pg. 3)

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Gaspereau Church Office Hours

with Lic. Ben Davidson

Wednesdays 2:00p.m.-4:30p.m.

or by appointment 902-680-5700.

Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:00p.m.

Examining 1 Samuel, The Epic Saga of King David.

When We Meet

Avonport Baptist Church– Sunday service at 11:00

Gaspereau Baptist Church- Sundays at 10:00, unless otherwise noted.

Choir Practice- Thursday nights 7:00 p.m.
Walk-ins Welcome.

Wolfville Ridge Baptist Church - Sundays, 11:00

Annapolis Valley Welcome Network-Be part of the New Minas/Greenwich Welcome Group. Here's your chance to welcome newcomers and show off your part of the Valley. Contact Welcome Chair Cynthia Urtubia

Cynthia.u1114@gmail.com
www.haveitallav.ca

The **Valley Women's Business Network (VWBN)** meets the second Wednesday of each month. See our website for details: www.vwbn.ca

White Rock Community Association meets the last Thursday of every month at 7pm. Downstairs (lower parking lot). New members are always welcome!

Wolfville & Area Newcomers Club- The club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p. m. at the Wolfville Legion. Visit our website <http://www.wolfvillenewcomers.org> or our Facebook page "Wolfville and Area Newcomers Club" for the most up-to-date information.

Wolfville Silver and Gold-Tuesdays 1-4p.m.
Wolfville Lions Hall, 36 Elm Ave.

Bingo, cribbage, Skipbo, 45s, etc. Coffee, tea, and snacks are plentiful.

Contact Club President, Eve Deir at 902-681-0534.



Announcements:

Black River's

Christmas Farmers' Market

989 Deep Hollow Road

Sunday, December 14, 10 am-2pm

Artisanal goods, jewelry, crafts, preserves, baked goods, local businesses Contact Jessica to book a table 902 300 1426 or jessieb579@gmail.com
small table \$5, large table \$10.

Fine place to pick up a unique gift for that special someone.

Gaspereau Hall

*For hall rentals call or text

Chris Gertridge at 902-300-9771.

Wolfville Legion

***Tea & Coffee Social** - Join us at the Wolfville Legion for coffee, tea, and snacks every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11. Enjoy meeting new or old friends in our recently renovated Legion building. Everyone welcome. Freewill donation.

Wolfville Lions Club

***Big Breakfast** December 20th. (Held the third Saturday of every month.) Menu is: bacon, sausage, pancakes, scrambled eggs, toast, homemade baked beans, hashbrown, juice, tea, and coffee.
Time 8 AM to 10 AM. 36 Elm Ave., Wolfville.

Wolfville Ridge Baptist Church

***Christmas Bells**– a program of music and readings by church members- December 14th 2:00.

***Music Jams** Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30.

The final one for the year will be December 15th.

***Christmas Eve Service** December 24th at 4:00 featuring special music.

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(Tattingstone cont'd from pg. 1)

There have been many other changes to the property including upgrades to the original buildings and adding Magnolia House in June of 2024.



Chefs Wayne & Mark

Originally the bistro, under Chef Wayne Arnold, had limited seating which meant only hosting small private parties. Expansion of the bistro began last year and, as of October 1st 2025, the new Mulberries Bistro is now serving dinner. Chef Mark Lambert has also joined the team, bringing his culinary talent.

Chef Wayne is a local boy with a wealth of experience after having worked abroad, on a private yacht, and in hotels and resorts from coast to coast in Canada.

Chef Mark also grew up in the Valley. Ten years ago, he changed careers and stepped onto the culinary stage. (He previously was at Luckett's Vineyard.) Mark was also awarded first place at the Chowder Smackdown from 2018-2021 at the Devour Food Film Festival.

"Our menu is inspired by traditional Italian flavours blended with "flavours from away" — a unique collection of global influences shaped by the experiences of our two talented Chefs, Wayne Arnold and Mark Lambert. From delicious appetizers and inspired main courses to exquisite desserts, Mulberries offers a truly memorable dining experience in the heart of Wolfville." -Erika Banting



Tuscan Chicken Linguini



Haddock Almandine

With the restaurant, bar lounge area, and outdoor spaces, Tattingstone Inn is now a true destination. -Daphne Frazee

info@tattingstoneinn.com (902)-542-7696

Photos thanks to Tattingstone Inn



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902-790-0070
donna@mackayre.com

How can I help?



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Magical Scenes

I always wait
To see Snowflakes
That look like Lace
On the fir trees & my face

The Fairies look like star lights
In the night
A beautiful sight
And all year all white

At our home
And in my poem
The Natural Fir Trees are known
To have a nice scent in the home

I like to see lights
From Rainbow Colours which make it white
Like Christmas all year; Beautiful lights
With a Mirror to increase light

Fountains are Magical
And so are Waterfalls
Especially with lights-
make it Colourful
Like Stalagmites & Stalactites
that are Mystical (outside Sydney Australia)

A Focal Point is seen first and why
It draws your eyes
It doesn't need to be high
To see a Fairy one should always strive

Walt Disney
And "Crocodile Dundee"
Are programs I like to see
They seem nice to me

Thomas Kincade
And Miss Wade
Memories that don't fade
From: "Painter of Light" to Fantasies made

Imagine walking on stairs without sight
And one with no light
But with Tiny Lights
It could look like starlight

Lights on winter nights
Can be Magical, even white
And one might
Even see the Northern Lights

Night Lights keep fears away
Usually not present in the day
Rainbows are Sun Rays
That children often portray

Lights Shine on waxed floors
Also lights Shimmers on Velour
Home Plans start with a "Signature Facade"
& a Special Door
And one can see the Decor

My Favorites are Chandeliers with Candles
Walking down the hall
Also the Fireplace and a mantle
Even though wood heated ones are only 15%
efficient (similar to Windows)

Mary Jordan

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FROM THE PANTRY



Chocolate Peppermint Cookies

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1 c. butter, softened | 1 c. sugar |
| 1 large egg, room temperature | |
| 1 t. peppermint extract | |
| 2-1/3 c. flour | 1/3 c. cocoa |
| 1 t. salt | 1 t. baking soda |
| 1 package (11-1/2 ounces) milk chocolate chips | |
| 1 c. marshmallow creme | |
| 1 c. finely crushed peppermint candies | |

Preheat oven to 375°. Cream butter and sugar together. Add in the egg and peppermint extract. Whisk together the dry ingredients; add gradually to the first mixture.

Drop batter onto a greased cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes. Cool.

Melt the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl; stir until smooth. Place a dab of marshmallow cream in the middle of each cookie. Then dip half of each cookie in the melted chocolate. Let any excess chocolate go back into the bowl. Finish off by sprinkling with the crushed peppermint candy. Place on a sheet of waxed paper and allow chocolate to harden before packing away in a container.

Cranberry Cake

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 2 c. flour plus 1T. | 1 c. sugar |
| 1 3.4 oz box white chocolate OR cheesecake instant pudding mix | |
| 1 t. baking powder | 1 t. baking soda |
| 1/2 t. salt | 1 c. sour cream |
| 1/2 c. butter, melted | 3 large eggs |
| 1 t. vanilla extract | |
| 2 c. cranberries washed, dried and picked over | |
| 1/2 c. white chocolate chips | |
| icing sugar for dusting | |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare a 9-inch springform pan by greasing and flouring.

In a medium bowl, whisk together: 2c. sifted flour, sugar, pudding mix, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

In another bowl, whisk the sour cream, butter, eggs, and vanilla together to combine.

Make a depression in the middle of the flour mixture, fold in the wet ingredients.

Toss the cranberries with the 1 T. of flour to coat. Fold them and the white chocolate chips into the batter.

Spread evenly in the prepared pan and place a sheet of foil around the bottom of pan to guard against leaking.

Bake for 70-80 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. (If it looks too brown after 30 minutes, cover with foil.)

Cool for 30 minutes before removing the outer ring. Finish cooling on a cake rack.

Sprinkle with icing sugar before serving.

Keep in the fridge.

Carrot Cake Cheesecake

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 c. sugar | 1/3 c. canola oil |
| 2 large eggs | 1 c. flour |
| 3/4 t. baking powder | 1/2 t. baking soda |
| 1/2 t. cinnamon | 1/4 t. salt |
| 1 c. finely grated carrots | |
| 3/4 c. chopped toasted pecans and some for garnish | |
| Nonstick cooking spray | |

Cheesecake

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 2 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, at room temperature | |
| 1/2 c. sour cream | 1/2 c. sugar |
| 1 T. flour | 1/4 t. salt |
| 2 lg. eggs, at room temperature | 2 tsp. vanilla extract |

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, whisk sugar, oil, and eggs. In another bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt together. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and whisk together. Add in the carrots and pecans; combine.

Spray a 9-inch springform pan and Pour in the above. Bake approximately 18 min., until just set. Allow to cool for 1/2 hr.

Cheesecake: Lower oven temperature to 325°F. Use a stand mixer with a paddle attachment to beat the cream cheese at medium speed for approx. 2 min.

Gradually add the sour cream, sugar, flour, and salt, beating for 1 min. Use a rubber spatula to clean the sides to help things along.

Lower the speed to medium-low speed and beat in the eggs one at a time. Clean down the sides while beating. Lastly, stir in the vanilla.

Pour the cheesecake batter over the carrot cake, beginning around the outside edge and working toward the middle.

Put the pan on a cookie sheet and bake until the edges of the cheesecake are set and the center is solid, about 50 to 55 minutes. Cool on a cake rack for approximately 2 hours. Cover and put in the fridge for at least 8 hours.

To serve, loosen the sides with a knife and remove the springform. Garnish with pecans.



Recreation News



ARTSPLACE Gallery

CTRL ART DEL An exhibition featuring works that embrace, question, and challenge the role of AI, robotics, and automation in contemporary artistic practice. Through painting, sculpture, sound, and digital media, participating artists examine questions of authorship, originality, and creative agency within increasingly mechanised systems.

Virginia Bergmann's "Dusk to Dawn"

Bergmann's work has been recognized by the Federation of Canadian Artists with multiple awards and honourable mentions, and her paintings are held in private and corporate collections worldwide. Recently, she was elected to signature status with the Society of Canadian Artists (SCA) and as an associate member of the Federation of Canadian Artists (AFCA).

Susan Sweet's Community Pasture

Susan Sweet holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NSCAD University. Her public art commissions include the "Hants County Exhibition 250th Anniversary Commemorative Painting" (2015) and the "Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award Painting" (2016).

All three exhibitions continue through December 20 at ARTSPLACE Gallery located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. For more information please contact: admin@arcac.ca

White Rock Community Centre

Turkey Luncheon: Sun., Dec. 7th, 11am to 1pm. \$12. Turkey à la King + gingerbread & lemon sauce.

Fitness Fun for Seniors & Others every Tue. & Thurs. - 9:30am to 10:30am. \$3 drop in fee. No sign-up required. Everyone welcome.

TIME™ (Together in Movement & Exercise™) for those with balance & mobility challenges due to injury or illness. Every Tue. & Thurs. 11:00am to 12noon. Licensed through UHN Toronto Rehab. Call Robin (902-297-7389) or Phyllis (902-542-3733) or email phyllis.crowe@gmail.com to inquire/register.

Chair Exercise every Friday 11:00am to 12noon. (Not yoga.) \$3 drop in fee; no sign-up required. Everyone welcome.

Makers Meet every Wed. 10:00am to 2:00pm. Bring your projects & hang out with other creative people. \$3 drop in fee. Downstairs (lower parking lot). Use the door nearest the generator.

Card Making with Diane Ells on December 10th. 9:30am to 12:30pm. \$10/person. Downstairs (lower parking lot). Pre-registration is appreciated but not required. Call Judy (542-5182) or Phyllis (542-3733).

Card Parties (45s) every Tuesday afternoon 1:30pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome - just drop in. \$4 fee. Snacks + prizes. CHAIRMAN NEEDED. Call Sheila (542-7073), if interested.

40th Anniversary Celebration on April 18th. 2-4pm. Looking for contact info for all Past Presidents and other VIPs. Contact Phyllis (phyllis.crowe@gmail.com) to help us with names of those who should be invited.

Our Soul Is Song - Acadia University Singers Tuesday, December 2, 2025 7:30pm - 9:30pm in Denton Hall music@acadiau.ca 902-585-1512 (Freewill admission)

Featuring a blend of words and music both ancient and modern, "Our Soul Is Song" explores the power of song to refresh the soul as it unites people across time and space - bringing joy in the midst of darkness, peace and healing in times of sorrow, and fortitude and resolve when it is needed the most.

At the heart of this program will be a performance of Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, a beloved classic for choir and harp that breathes new life into ancient Medieval carol texts through Britten's intricate choral writing. Complementing the carols' timeless message of seeking light and hope, the choir will also perform new works by Canadian composers Katerina Gimon, Ruth Watson-Henderson, Tracy Wong, and more.

"Our Soul Is Song" will feature professional harpist Dr. Deanne van Rooyen (also an Associate Professor in Acadia's Department of Geology), as well as pianist Cian McCarron and violinist Rebecca Czerny. Tenor and bass friends from Acadia will also join the Singers to perform music for mixed-voice choir by Marques L. A. Garrett, Jake Runestad, and Sarah Quartel. (Recreation cont'd on pg. 7)

(Recreation cont'd from pg. 6)

Quill Insertion Christmas Tree

Thursday, December 4, 2025 10am - 12pm

Join Karen Beals for Another Quill Insertion Workshop

Get into the holiday spirit and create a beautiful Christmas tree decoration to hang this festive season. Spaces are limited, so call to reserve your spot today!

\$35/person

Macdonald Museum

21 School Street, Middleton

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 6, 2025 9am - 1pm

tinakennickell@hotmail.com

Christmas Craft Fair

Pottery. Soaps, ornaments, candles and much more!

Door prizes. Free Admission.

Community Hall

5796, Highway 358, Scott's Bay

Singing for our Supper

Saturday, December 20, 2025 7pm - 9pm

donnaolmes712@gmail.com

Singing for our Supper is an annual fundraiser for the Wolfville & Area Food Bank.

Join Donna Holmes, Alan Slipp, and their talented friends for a sublime sample of Seasonal Songs & Stories staged by sensational singers & storytellers.

Entrance fee is by donation of cash or food items for the food bank.

Wolfville Baptist Church

487 Main Street, Wolfville,

wolfvillebc@gmail.com 902-542-5524

The Barra MacNeils' East Coast Christmas

Monday, December 22, 2025 7:30pm

pas@acadiau.ca (902)542-5500

25 years of "An East Coast Christmas" in 2025!

'Tis not really the Season without The Barra MacNeils' festive and inspiring Celtic Christmas concert!

Well-honed over a quarter of a century, yet ever-changing, "An East Coast Christmas" has become THE iconic Christmas concert from Coast to Coast to Coast!

\$50 for adults, \$20 for students/youth

Where to buy Tickets: Acadia Box Office

Purchase Tickets Online

Convocation Hall, Acadia University

15 University Avenue

The Holiday

Saturday, December 20, 2025 7pm

Movie / Film Family-Friendly Accessible Washrooms Wheelchair Accessible Food & Drink Available

Presented by Acadia Cinema Cooperative

manager@alwhittletheatre.ca

9025423344

Two women, one American and one British, swap homes at Christmastime following bad breakups. Each woman finds romance with a local man but realizes that the imminent return home may end the relationship.

Sponsored by BeLeaf Salon and Spa

FREE ADMISSION, first come, first served. 100 tickets (out of 160 capacity) available online.

Runtime: 2h 16m

Rated: PG - Parental guidance advised. Themes or content may not be suitable for children.

Tickets: Free

The Sound of Music

Sunday, December 21, 2025 2pm

Presented by Acadia Cinema Cooperative

manager@alwhittletheatre.ca

9025423344

In the years before World War II, a tomboyish postulant at an Austrian abbey is hired as a governess in the home of a widowed naval captain with seven children, and brings a new love of life and music into the home.

Sponsored by We're Outside Outfitters

FREE ADMISSION, first come, first served. 100 tickets (out of 160 capacity) available online.

Runtime: 2h 54m

Rated: G - Suitable for viewing by all ages.

Free Admission

(Recreation news cont'd on pg. 8)



travagant I know, but it was his birthday and he looks great in a dinner jacket.

<https://bestlifeonline.com/funny-one-liners/#best-one-line-jokes>

The Idea Shop

Get 'crafty' for Christmas. Involve the children or grandchildren in creating Christmas tree ornaments, gift tags, and gift wrap.

Take a trip to your favourite craft supply store and get inspired, perhaps some holiday stickers, red and green pompoms of various sizes, popsicle sticks, etc.

Popsicle sticks painted green can be made into Christmas tree shapes. From a triangle using two whole sticks for the sides and half of one for the bottom. Leave the other half stick unpainted for the tree trunk. Hot glue them together where they meet and then you are ready to stick on some stars or other 'gem' stickers for the ornaments on your tree.

Use pompoms to create a wreath. They can be glued around the edge of a paper plate that you have cut the centre out of or stacked to make snowmen.

(Recreation news cont'd from pg. 7)

Harvest Gallery

Gathered Here until December 24, 2025

Gathered Here features a diverse collection of works by 52 distinguished Nova Scotia artists, all part of Harvest Gallery's permanent roster. The exhibition includes painting, printmaking, fibre art, sculpture, ceramic, woodcarving and turning, jewelry and so much more. Each contributing to a rich collection of artistic expression.

At its heart, Gathered Here speaks to the season's themes of togetherness, return, and shared memory. It highlights works that reflect community, connection, and the intimate collections that make up our lives both literal and metaphorical. Each artist offers a unique interpretation, resulting in an exhibition as varied and meaningful as the stories that inspire it.

Give Artfully this Holiday Season!

For more information, visit www.harvestgallery.ca
@harvestgalleryns on Instagram or
@harvestgallerywolfville on Facebook.
Or email harvestgallery@gmail.com.

Dear Editor,

For the past five years, while walking my dog in the woods behind the awesome White Rock Community Centre, I've often paused at the scattered remains of a 1930s- or 1940s-era pickup truck—a true relic of Gaspereau Valley's past.

Until recently, that is!!

Someone has meticulously reassembled it, achieving exactly what I've long dreamed of doing myself. Well done whoever did this!

If any readers know the truck's make and model, its exact year, former owners, or the story of how it ended up in the Gaspereau area woods, Skye (my dog) and I would love to hear from you.
mike_madigan@yahoo.com



Humour

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

I threw a ball for my dog. Sure, it was a bit ex-



Aunt May's Diary

January 1917 - October 1971

Dec. 8, 1935 - Sunday. Church in the morning.

Doris and Shirley Crawford dropped by for their suppers.

Dec. 15, 1935 - Sunday again. Alice and Bruce came in to invite me to Christmas dinner, but I have a previous invitation to the Allen's.

Patching, mending and knitting all week. Mrs. Ernest Schofield has passed.

Dec. 18, 1935 - Got an invitation from Mrs. PJC to go with her to Kenville shopping. Been to Shelrite (?) Store at last. Got a PO order off.

Dec. 19, 1935 - Found mysterious package on doorstep. Later, Otis Eagles came and I found it was a fire extinguisher I had order. Arnold called.

Dec. 20, 1935 - Weather being so beautiful decided to go to town and take my presents to Lib. Fred being in Halifax, stayed all night.

Hear Clara is in bed with a trained nurse attending.

Dec. 21, 1935 - Snowing to beat the band this morning. Cooked my Christmas cooking this afternoon.

Dec. 22, 1935 - Sunday. We had a full choir. Ken Evelyn, myself with Mrs. Hunter as organist. It was the punkest Christmas music in the history of the new Church. Cold and blustery.

Mrs. Smith here to enquire about the concert.

Dec. 23, 1935 - Dyed five pairs of mittens.

Cassie called, also Del and Cyril for a roasting pan for Elizabeth.

Dec. 25, 1935 - Christmas. Went with Jim and Cassie to Blanche's to dinner. Everybody there but Barbara who has the chicken poxes.

Took tea at Bruce's. Did justice to both meals. Good sleighing.

Dec. 26, 1935 - Looked like snowstorm so went to see Elizabeth.

Saw in paper where George Ryan's store was gutted by fire and water. Bad.

Came home in storm. Doris came also to stay the night.

Dec. 27, 1935 - Everything snowed up. Doris and I snowbound.

Dec. 28, 1935 - Men breaking out roads with snow

ploughs. Bruce called.

Dec. 29, 1935 - Sunday. Church. Doris went home towards night. Fine, but cold.

Wrote letter to Marion and card to Laura C.

-Submitted by Zelda Weatherbee

Facebook

The social media and social networking service known as Facebook has been with us for over 20 years. Founder, Mark Zuckerberg started Facebook in 2005.

As a boy, he displayed a real grasp of how to write computer. By the time he was 11, his parents got him a tutor named David Newman who specialized in software development.

In 2002, he was on his way to Harvard where things did not go smoothly for him. He came up with a program called Facemash which was a site where fellow students at the university could rank the appearance of other students. Unfortunately, he neglected to get permission to post their photos. He almost was expelled as a result. The administration decided to let him stay, but the site was shut down.

February 4, 2004, he launched Facebook. At first, it was only for those attending Harvard. It was a site for connecting with other students, sharing photos and interests, which immediately became a hit. The problem was that 3 other students that he had worked with on a similar project were suing him for stealing their idea. The case was settled in 2008 with each of them receiving shares in Facebook (worth \$300 million at the time).

Facebook continued to grow in popularity and in August of 2005 it was available to Canadian university students. It was opened up to universities and schools in other countries after that. The rest of the world was able to use it in the fall of 2006.

Today, there are many similar sites and Facebook's popularity has waned, but it is still used to keep in touch with friends and family or sell that set of tires sitting in the garage.

-Daphne Frazee, research by Conrad Davison
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>

Merry Christmas!

The Gaspereau Valley Gazette
has readers from coast to coast,
and from the U.S. to Europe.
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**the deadline each month
is the 12th day of the previous month.**

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This Year's Decorating Theme
MARY DID YOU KNOW

OPEN HOUSE FOR VIEWING
DEC. 22nd and DEC. 23rd 6-9pm

Private Communion Area

EVERYONE WELCOME

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7PM**

Gaspereau Church Memory Tree

Place a provided ornament
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in memory of Someone Special.

Your Freewill Donations
go to the Future Fund.

Names of Loved Ones
will be published in an upcoming issue
of the Gaspereau Valley Gazette.

E-transfers donations- **gaspereauchurch@gmail.com**