

# Happy anniversary to Ballantrae Lions club

When I introduced my new *People* column last week, I wondered if it would be a problem getting the news. Boy, was I wrong to worry. People popped out of the woodwork with birthdays and special events galore.



## People

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Ruth LeBlanc

Earth Day was last Wednesday and I paid a visit to our local Deer Park Childcare at the invitation of owner and teacher Diane Clarke. When I pulled into the parking lot I spotted lots of children gathering up litter that had blown onto the property over winter.

Eager to tell me what Earth Day meant to him, little Jacob wants to go into the water, so keep it clean! Grabbing my hand was Brittany who said "don't cut down trees and use garbage cans." A much shyer Rhonda advised us to clean up the garbage and grow trees. Seconding that was Joel who said planting trees is a good thing and makes the air better.

One of the Earth Day celebrations for the kids was planting Dogwood trees. Young Calvin said it will "make it nicer outside and deer and bunnies can eat from it too." One small voice piped out "horses like them" and all heck broke out.

At once they all began to speak excitedly about horses. Eyes sparkled and horse and pony stories started until Diane settled them down and took them off to lunch.

Just days later, on Saturday, kids of all ages did something great for the environment at Musselman's Lake. The group Friends of Musselman's Lake issued the call for a mass cleanup of the area and the people came.

Being an area resident, the Big Guy and I joined the close to 100 people who raked, bagged, hauled and tidied our roadsides. When I met Mike Watson and Patricia Thomson, co-organizers of the event at Cedar Beach, they told me they were thrilled with the enthusiastic turnout.

Heading out with rake in hand I met

up with a longtime lake resident Rosemarie Sylvester of Maple Grove street. In Rosemarie's 25 years of lake life she has never seen such community spirit in action. Other residents like Dave McMullen and Don Quarles were busy dragging and hauling debris. Seven year old Bruce Preston helped clean the lake because "more people would like to swim in it."

East, west, north and south people like Nancy Lang, Peter McNeil, Cameron Amos, Caroline Laffleur, Greg Crozier, Jan Quarles and many more pitched in.

I heard comments like: the community itself is changing and more people are getting involved in the environment; it is a matter of educating the residents; and the last one that says it all "this day is above and beyond environmentalism. It is not what you get out of the community, it's what you put into it."

Another celebration of community spirit was the 20th Charter Anniversary of the Ballantrae & District Lions on Thursday evening at the Ballantrae Community Centre. Being a past president of the club I was proud to attend and see many familiar faces. Lion President Ian Brown along with his wife Diane welcomed the club's first president Tom Woods back to the club for

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