

Glen Alda Seniors

by Doug Field

A friendly, active and open group.

December is the month that the majority of people in this area celebrate Christmas, and then most follow it up a week later with a party to celebrate the New Years beginning. I have not really been a Christmas-kind-of-person since I was a youngster. In my youth, I was interested in the presents, Christmas tree, good food, seeing relatives I had not seen for the past year, and the “bangers” we used to pull around the table before tucking into the food. Oops, I almost forgot my aunt Jean’s Plum Pudding with a choice of both hard and soft sauce - yummy, to say the least! I always took a bit of both kinds of sauce, but don’t tell anyone. Today, I look forward to a good meal with my wife, Bev, and our children and grandchildren, but, perhaps for me, just as important is the warm radiant heat from the wood stove while watching the grand-kids opening their presents with the flames in the stove providing a warm, welcoming backdrop. Priorities change as you pass through the different stages of life, and for me, at this point, the welcoming heat of a wood stove is very important.

Owing to the deterioration of my bones, and the concurrent pain in my joints, the inability to safely use a chainsaw for the past year or so has meant I do not have a good supply of dry wood to keep me warm throughout the winter months. The dead trees I marked last year at this time to be felled for this year’s heat are still standing, at least those which have not fallen over in the interim. I do owe a debt of gratitude to Earl A, who stepped up and made sure I had a supply of wood, but unfortunately it is not dry enough to provide reliable heat this winter, which is a shame.

We installed a new furnace about four years ago, but it just is not the same. The hot air blowing around the house and the sound of the blower are somewhat distracting after forty years of silent, warm, wood heat. If you have not experienced it, you will unfortunately not be able to understand the subtle difference ... which lies in the silent radiant nature of wood heat, which not only heats the air, but seems to penetrate right into your joints and the marrow of your bones without all the noises associated with blowing hot air through the house. I am counting on having enough mobility in my hand in the next month or so, to at least fell and block up the trees I marked last year, so I have a goodly supply of dry wood to ensure some silent heat for next winter. We did manage to heat with wood during October and the first part of November, but that was only poplar left over from last winter’s spring wood. Spring wood is the poplar, elm, cherry, and ash, but not the maple, beech and oak, that mid-winter heating requires if you do not fancy chucking wood into

the stove every couple of hours. I miss the heat, but my wife assures me that she does not miss the dirt, dust, and ash that heating with wood also adds to your home. She does have a point of course, but she appreciates the true warmth of wood heat as much as I do, so we share the task of cleaning up the mess as it occurs.

November for the Glen Alda Seniors started off with a meat pie delight for our first luncheon meeting. I had suggested in last month’s write up that we were having a pot luck, but that did not happen obviously, which was a good thing as home-made meat pies are always welcome with this group. I could not believe the huge assortment of deserts which members contributed to the meal, so of course I had to sample more than a few. Yummy! The second meal was prepared by Peggy and Mike but, unfortunately at the time I am writing this, I do not know what is on the menu. However, going on past meals prepared by this couple, I know that it will be scrumptious. They have never let us down in the past, so I am expecting something to wet the palate.

December is the month when we only have one meeting. For the past couple of years we have chosen a different venue for our luncheon. This year, a vote was taken, and the group decided to *dine at home*: at the Glen Alda Community Centre. This meal will be catered, which is always a treat, as our members are free to eat and enjoy the company of all the rest of our group without having the bother of being hosts as well. Our caterers have come highly recommended, and the best part is that they are local. We do like to keep things within the community, as we are after all a friendly, active, and open group.

For more info on this group, or even an invite to attend our meetings, please call our President, Barry Rand at 705-656-1850.

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