

Wednesday, 1 December 2004

Some of the locals are not happy with the Train. It was reported to me that this last Monday a switch froze in the Yard in Cochrane. Nobody, it seems, had checked for frozen switches. The train derailed.

The Train was supposed to leave Cochrane around 10:30/11 AM -- sort of, more or less, this is The North. Arrival time at Moosonee, theoretically, is 4:30 PM -- just *after* the choppers stop flying. This time The Train didn't leave Cochrane until around 6 PM -- with an ETA of 10 or 11 PM. People were not happy.

The Archbishop of Canterbury sent out a 'Pastoral Advent' letter a few days ago. There's quite a bit on 'repentance.' For what?

Thursday, 2 December 2004

Temp is -11* at 7 AM. We get dawn around 8 AM. If these temps hold firm (and they won't) we would get our highway by Christmas.

I've had a rather half-hearted but persistent cold for a week now. Every time I think I have shaken it, it reappears. Colds here are weird. For one thing, they are common. For another, they act a lot like allergies. I'm not so sure but that half of us suffer from the dust and/or mold. There's a lot of both -- until everything freezes solid for a while. Then, of course, however, all the houses are sealed up tight, so any kind of dust inside STAYS inside.

Friday, 10 December 2004

Temp this morning (7 AM) is -15*. Last night I heard that yesterday (or the day before) there WAS a car out on the ice. That's early -- and risky. BUT, The River Is freezing up -- just like it's supposed to.

I'm told there also has been skidoo traffic for a week any way -- between Moosonee and Albany & Kashechewan.

I have come upon and have been playing with a number of digital toys. Probably, they are old to you. They are new to me, however, and I have been having FUN -- figuring out (or trying to) how they work. Maybe some day one or a number of them will prove useful. They're all on my website -- somewhere on the site. They tend to move around, so whatever I tell you here will probably be not quite right by the time you read it.

1.

I got the CBC to display some of its headlines on my home page. This is for all you Americans out there who hunger for news -- about the world, the north, and maybe even the USA.

2.

I put together a Guest Book. This is something you can sign. And you can see other people's signings-in. No matter that no one has signed it to date. It's fun.

3.

The 'Bulletin Board' -- generically known as a 'BLOG'. Peter & Marnie weighed in on that one just after I got it going. One can post messages or notices for everybody (who reads the Bulletin

Board). It's tucked away in the Paddling Section. I don't know that it will have much use for a while

4.

The 'Moose Factory Journal' now, as I get to it, I'll post in a 'blog'. When there's enough material, then, I'll bundle it up in a downloadable file. The pdf format seems to be best for the most people.

To go to the page directly -- not thru my website:

http://moosonee.typepad.com/moose_factory_journal/

---very, very cool..... You can have my very most personal and inmost THOUGHTS right while I am having them -- delivered directly and immediately to your desktop. I think I will never have to write another letter again.

5.

Calendar... This presently includes the activity (or some of it) at St. Thomas'. Whatever I type in to my desktop calendar appears in a facsimile posted on The web.

Whether any of that stuff ever becomes particularly useful at my Site, I don't know. (I tend to doubt it.) But it may be useful in church work. So, I'm learning how to make the stuff work.

Wednesday, 15 December 2004

The temperature climbed to 27* today. That's warmer than the Northeast Kingdom. However, there were small trucks on The River today -- unofficially. The Expressway is still closed.

Saturday, 18 December 2004

I heard that the taxis (4 wheeled variety) were out on the ice yesterday. In the few years I have been here this is the earliest and fastest that freeze-up has occurred. The other two freeze ups were not complete until early or mid January.

Sunday, 19 December 2004

This morning dawned with a chilly 35* below zero -- Fahrenheit. Everybody is complaining. It's not supposed to get this cold until February. Some cars wouldn't start this morning. The Church Van DID start, but it has been making nasty smells and noises all day.

There is a GREAT DEBATE going on now in high gear: whether to hold Christmas Eve Services in the Little Church (smaller & warmer) or in the Old Church (bigger & c older). The reasons for the Old/Big Church are: Tradition! AND, there are too many of us for the Little Church. The reasons for the Little Church: We'll save at least \$600 on the heat, and while we'll be crowded at 7 PM, there should be just the right number of us at the late Service. Tuesday night brings a Vestry Meeting. I already know what we are going to be talking about.

This morning the kids did their annual Sunday School Concert in the Parish Hall. Multiple generations enjoyed the event. Dale Broadworth from the Canadian Bible Society was also there -- with lots of Bibles. The kids sang; Dale sold Bibles. We munched out on cookies and sandwiches.

Thursday, 23 December 2004

I sent off my Passport along with fotos of JBE to Canadian Immigration yesterday . Evidently this is near the end of the process I initiated in March of 2002.

Tuesday, 28 December 2004

Christmas is over. And we all survived. We now have a balmy 21*, and six inches of new snow. The East Coast of the USA just got hammered. We seem to have been spared.

News of the great tidal wave has reached us. We hear of close to 50,000 dead. It is beyond my imagination. I have been sending out emails trying to find out if anyone has heard from or about the former priest at Eastmain, Nirmal -- who is from Sri Lanka. No word yet on him or on his family.

Monday, 10 January 2005

Another 6-10" of snow...

I had reported to friends and relations when I first got here that Moose Factory never got much snow. Well, it didn't in 2002, 2003, and 2004. We're making up for it now in 2005. More snow came in last night -- after the evening Service. I'll need the back-hoe for another visit, before I can get the car out of the drive way. That will be the third visit this season. I think I got plowed out three times last year. And we're only in January -- with February and March to go!

It's warm. We have 10* above 0 (Fahrenheit.)

Tuesday, 18 January 2005

We're at a moderate -30* (F). I'm hearing more about the cold from The States than from the CBC up here.

Thursday, 20 January 2005

We have -20*(F). It's 11:30 AM.

Vermont Public Radio just came on with the Inauguration. I switched over to Berlioz's Requiem

Friday, 21 January 2005

My (US) Passport came back from Canadian Immigration yesterday. It had a bright, shiny, new visa inside. Yee-Haw!!!! I had applied for it sometime in the spring of 2002 -- thinking I would need it in order to serve in the diocese up here. I was wrong -- fortunately. A 'Visitor's Letter' was sufficient.

The only issue with the 'Visitor's Letter' was that it was good for only a year. I had to get a new one *within* the year. Once I had the 'Visitor's Letter' I could then get two other important

items. One was the Ontario Health Card. The other was paper allowing my truck to be driven (legally) in Canada. The Health Card and the vehicle's papers, also, were issued only for a year; that is, they would expire when the 'Visitor's Letter' expired. Each year, then -- over holidays -- I'd have to get all three going again.

Now I have a visa. Evidently, I have to go to the Border to activate this visa. The blurb that came with it, anyway, states that I have to present myself and my papers at the Border -- whilst entering Canada.

And I'm not clear about how long, once activated, this visa is good for. I don't have any worries about the next three or so years -- the time I'm Rector at St. Thomas' -- before I have to retire at age 65. It's the time after I've turned 65 that's in question. My papers, now, from Canadian Immigration allow me into Canada only as long as I am holding the position I presently hold.

In other words, once I am officially 'retired' from the Anglican Church in Canada, at age 65, my options for living in the North remain obscure to me.

One step at a time....

Monday, 24 January 2005

Yesterday several of us gathered at Christ The King (Roman Catholic) Cathedral in Moosonee. We celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Catholics and the Anglicans here get along just fine. The other groups were, as usual, notably absent.

Last night the deep freeze eased. The temperature now (at 6 PM) is up to -6*. A few snow flakes dropped last night. Down south, Massachusetts and Rhode Island got slammed.

There is a wolf -- or there are wolves -- in the parking lot at the Community Center. They have been seen in the early morning and after dark in the evening. One man, reportedly, had to flee to a nearby house late one night. I was told not to go out walking at night by myself. Or, if I did walk by myself, I must carry a 'big stick'. (I think I'll just not walk.....)

Ordinarily the wolves are much less anxious to connect with humans than the humans are inclined to connect with the wolves. So, something is going on. They could be starving; their usual food supply (rabbits, etc.) may have disappeared. Or, there could be something else; it was rumored that someone left food or garbage out where they could get at it.

Anyway, ... it's got the neighborhood talking.

Tuesday, 25 January 2005

The CBC reported yesterday that Peawanuck (formally called Winisk) is having trouble with electricity. It is generated locally by a private company. And it costs too much! There are people now -- most notably some of the Elders -- who don't run their heat and hot water appliances, simply because they can't afford it.

Electricity IS a major expense here at Moose Factory. It's expensive, but it also is a common source of heat. I'm told that oil and hot water also are really expensive.

The cost of heating, of course, is what keeps us out of the Old Church during the winter. The 'Little Church' (or, St. Thomas' Chapel -- or, the 'Way-Down-Church', because it's way down The River) is newer and more energy efficient. I live in an apartment at one end of the building here.

Occasionally we DO use the Old Church in the winter -- usually for funerals. We had one such funeral a few weeks ago. The lady we buried was from out of town. She was one of those who came back to Moose Factory after a life of being away. Her roots, however, were in Waskaganish. The Vestry here at St. Thomas' has told folks that if we crank up the heat in the Old Church in the winter, we need help. We just can't afford those hydro bills on our own. So, the families chip in; the community chips in; the Bands are very good about providing help when help is needed. In this case, we buried in Moose Factory a lady from far to the south with money from Moose Factory and also from Waskaganish.

January 25, 2005
new blogware

This now is the third or fourth 'blog'... I've tried a number of different kinds of software/applications and services. I just keep fidgetting until I get it right -- or at least like something I can live with.

If you're shopping around....

Both iBLOG and BlogWave work on the MAC (OS-X) platform and utilize the iDISK that comes with the dotMAC account. Very easy to use. I was happy with neither, however, so far as comments were concerned. DreamHost (the server I use for non-.MAC pages) offers a free version of WordPress. However, I'm not advanced enough to take advantage of its flexibility. I tried 'Blogger' from Google for half a second. For some reason I just didn't like it.

My priorities were/are to have considerable control over format and comments. But I didn't want to have to write code myself. Everything would have to be 'off the shelf' -- so that anyone else could step in and continue managing the blog -- or so that I could manage it after i had forgotten everything I had already done to it. That effectively ruled out WordPress (because of formatting issues) and iBLOG (because of comment issues).

BlogWave is a close competitor to what I am using now (typepad.com). And I might even go back to it. The difference between the two: BlogWave is an application residing on your MAC; it utilizes your .MAC account. That makes it really great to work with -- when you're working at your MAC. But you can work with it only with a MAC with the right software on it. (Not good if you may have to use more than one machine -- not good for me when I'm on holidays, without a machine.)

I doubt I'd be blogging/journaling much while on holidays. But, if I'm going to allow comments, I have to be able to delete one or a number rapidly -- or turn them off. There's a scourge of spammers out there.

The RSS feed for this is:

http://moosonee.typepad.com/moose_factory_journal/atom.xml

or

http://moosonee.typepad.com/moose_factory_journal/

I can't figure out which...

Wednesday, 26 January 2005

blogware

With the application, ecto, from kula software (in Tokyo) I now have the best of all worlds (I think).

Typepad has an interface so that I can manage the weblog from their site -- on the internet. I can do it therefore, on any machine, off any platform. "ecto" -- a \$17 piece of software -- allows me, also, to write material on the desktop. I think ecto is available in Windows format as well as in the MAC format. In some respects Mariner's 'MacJournal' is a better application, as it has options for 'saving' that are very nice. But ecto conveniently manages two blog accounts. None of the other blog applications I have played with are quite so easy in this respect. And, since I'm running (or learning how to run) two blogs, (this and the MOOSEblog for the diocese) that's a priority

gas

The Island is running out of gas. Moosonee already is without any gas. Two-Bay Garage has the only pumps in Moosonee. They ran dry yesterday or today. Over here, on The Island, we have Northern Store's 'Quickstop', where this evening there were dozens of cars lined up and waiting. 'TJ's Gas Bar' also is on The Island. But TJ's ran out some time today.

The demand for gas around here is intense this time of year. Folks drive in from Attawapiskat, Albany, and Kashechewan -- over the ice highway. They fill 50 gallon drums in Moosonee and cart them back up North in the back of pickup trucks. That's the cheapest way to transport gas up there. (And, while they're in the big city of Moosonee, they'll also stock up on groceries and whatever else.)

Evidently one of the tanker cars on the train had leaked some or all its load on the trip north to Moosonee. Moosonee got caught short in the middle of the crunch. No new gas arrives until Friday's train pulls in -- in the late afternoon, at the earliest.

Thursday, 27 January, 2005

Chilly

Gilman, Vermont got 52* (F) below last night. Or, that's what VPR said early this morning at around 4 AM; they backed off later to citing Saranac Lake at 29* below. We got 24* (F) below last night.

Saturday, 29 January, 2005

HOT!

The CBC this morning stated that Moosonee and Moose Factory are now the warmest place in Ontario. We have 27* (F) this morning (at 6 am).

January 31, 2005

warm, again

We had 25*(F) early this morning. Lancaster, NH had -7* last night..