



The Pioneer is published by the River John Community Action Society. It is a not-for-profit community-owned paper.

4-H Speeches and Demonstrations



February was a busy time for the club. At the beginning of Winter Carnival, we hosted the Family Fun Day alongside the Sunrise Trail 4-H Club. We had lots of families go through and had a ton of fun as we put on games such as the cake walk, fish pond, jail, face painting and much more. Thank you to all those that came out and supported us as well as had a family fun filled afternoon.

On the 20th, we rented the North Shore Rec Centre for our annual skate. A great time was had by

all, and followed by some hot chocolate and treats afterwards.

On the 24th, we hosted the chilli and apple crisp competition at the Legion, serving 60 people. We were overwhelmed with so many entries and the judges were certainly full by the time they left. There were a total of 14 chillies and 10 apple crisps entered. Thank you to Robin Campbell, Sandra McKay, Maureen and Mike Topley for their expertise this year. Justin Yap and Elaine Falconer were

the two winners in the chilli and apple crisp competitions respectively.

March began by hosting our club rally which consists of the members doing speeches or demonstrations. This is required for members to get a gold completion at the end of the year in July. It is a great way to build up the members' confidence and ability to speak in front of a crowd. As always we had great member participation and stiff competition. We would like to thank Sheree Fitch and Norma Baillie for their time in coming to judge the members. They did a wonderful job and we would love to have them again. The leaders are always very proud of the effort that members put into their work.

We would also like to commend the Cloverbuds (7-8 year olds): Jolie Bezanson, Alexis Langille, Braden Langille and London Hamilton on their first time speaking. The top placings in the different categories were as follows:

Junior Speech

1. Connor Langille
2. Jack Reid
3. Madison Langille

Junior Demo

1. Telsey Smith
2. Christena MacLean

Intermediate Speech

1. Ryan Bezanson
2. Hayley Murray
3. Madison Cantley

Senior Speech

1. Morgyn Hynes

Senior Demo

1. Karley Scotland and Megan McDonald

Managing with Uncle Mike



You say "Bob's your uncle" when everything is all right. But if you own a property and you're going to be away for a bit, you might want to start saying "Mike's your uncle" instead.

The newest business in the River John area is Uncle Mike's Property Management. It's located in beautiful downtown Melville, but it's the kind of business that comes to you.

Uncle Mike's was founded by Jeremy Blom to address the need among cottagers and home owners who have to leave their dwellings unattended for a while. According to Blom, if a home is left unattended for a length of time, insurance companies are reluctant to cover the full cost of any damages that could have been mitigated if someone had been checking up on the property.



Blom suggests insurance isn't the only reason homes should not be left unoccupied. Power failures, snow loads, broken or leaking plumbing are just a few of the worries that property owners would rather not think about.

Uncle Mike will also take care of things like lawn maintenance in your absence. It's not much fun to take that trip to Cuba and come back to a "battle royale" with your lawn. Blom used to do the maintenance for golf courses, so he knows a thing or two about keeping lawns in good condition.

Uncle Mike also takes special requests. Every property is unique and their service is tailored to your needs.

You can visit Uncle Mike online at:
www.unclemikespropertymgmt.com
 or you can call them at: 902-221-5840

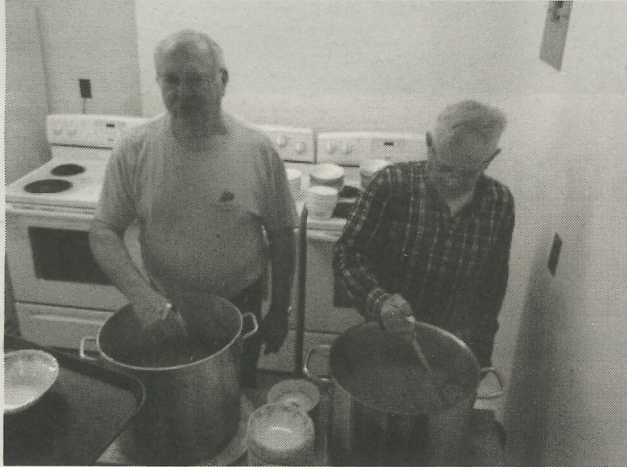
Legion helps out



River John and Area Historical Association secretary Beulah Wright accepts a donation from the River John Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108 President Harley White. The RCL Branch 108 supported the Historical Association in its recent fund raising efforts for maintenance of the museum building.

Homemade Soup

On the third Monday of the month fall, winter and spring, the monthly Soup Luncheon is held at St. George's Presbyterian Church hall at 12 noon. The meal is by donation and there are two choices of soup which is homemade. The main chefs are Robin Campbell, Hughie Langille and Earl Johnson with the desserts usually made by the women. The meal is always delicious and the company great, so stop in and see your neighbours and friends while you enjoy a good meal.



Robin Campbell and Hughie Langille are ready to dish out the soup.



**HERE
TO
HELP**

RIVER JOHN

(902) 752-0226
Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

SEAN FRASER, MP
CENTRAL NOVA

“Through Our Eyes” Book

The RJCAS is exploring the possibility of publishing a book showcasing the artwork produced during last summer's “Through Our Eyes” gathering of artists. Seven artists came to River John and spent a week painting scenes in and around the village. The book is expected to include high resolution images of many of the paintings that were on display at a very well attended art exhibit at the HUB. The book would also include the writing of various local authors who spoke at the event and the lyrics to Rosalee Peppard's “The River John Song.” The book, if published, will be used to raise additional funds for the RJCAS.

Will the Premier call a summer election?

All things seem to point to a summer provincial election. Premier McNeil is recalling the legislature on April 25 and will introduce a budget on April 27.

The government appears intent on finishing the legislative session by Victoria Day, after which MLAs will break for the summer. Or perhaps they'll be hitting the roads, bumpy as they might be, talking with constituents.

The Pioneer will be coming out at the end of June and will provide coverage on all candidates in the Pictou West riding. If you are planning on running for office, either for a political party or as an independent, please contact Rob Assels (editor@riverjohn.ca).

If you're not planning on running, you can still contact us and tell us what issues you would like us to put to the candidates.

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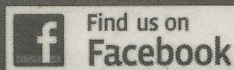
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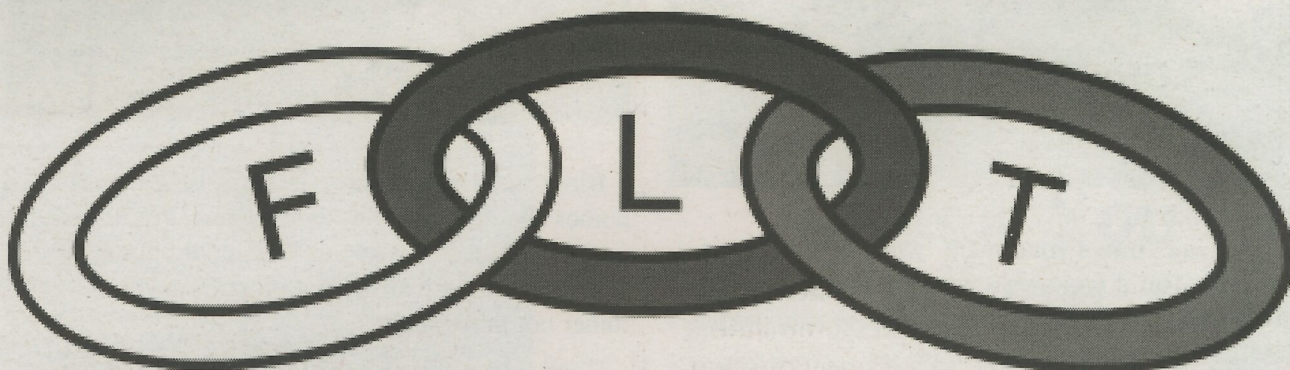
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Printer:
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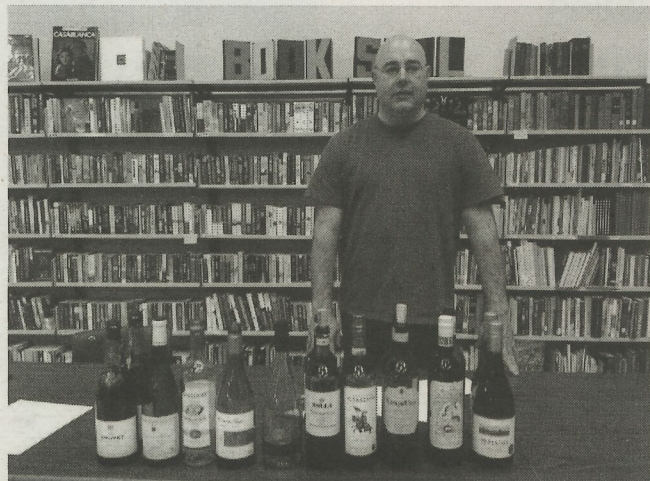


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Wine Tasting

On the evening of April 1st, Sommelier Craig Campbell hosted an educational session on wines from various areas of the world. The wines sampled were from France, Italy, Spain, South Africa and Chile. There were of champagne, white, red and rose wines. Food tasters were provided to sample spicy, sweet, cheese, crackers and fruit to taste how wine paired with different types of food can slightly alter the taste wine. Attendees had an enjoyable and informative evening,



Sommelier Craig Campbell stands behind the wines sampled at the HUB



Wines were paired with cheese, meat and fruit

You will be missed

Rev. Johnson is leaving Salem United church after serving for 4 1/2 year as the Minister. Rev. Johnson has accepted a full time position in Harvey, New Brunswick. Rev. Christine is sorry to leave River John and thanks everyone for their ongoing support. Christine's last service will be on May 28th. A more in depth profile and interview will be printed in the July edition of the Pioneer.

SCORE We all win

Karin Fraser did it. Karin runs the River John SCORE Preschool program. It's been located at the HUB, which is closing at the end of June. With time running out, she needed to find a location ... and she has. As Karin posted on Facebook: "I am soooo over the moon happy to announce that the Lions Club commercial building will be the new permanent home of the River John SCORE Preschool (providing all inspections through licensing pass) I want to thank the community for all their support of this program, as well the Lions Club for giving the younger children of RJ a home!!!!!"

The SCORE Program is a huge asset to the community, parents and children. A big thank you to the Lions for helping out ... and to Karin for your perseverance.



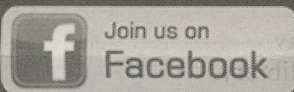
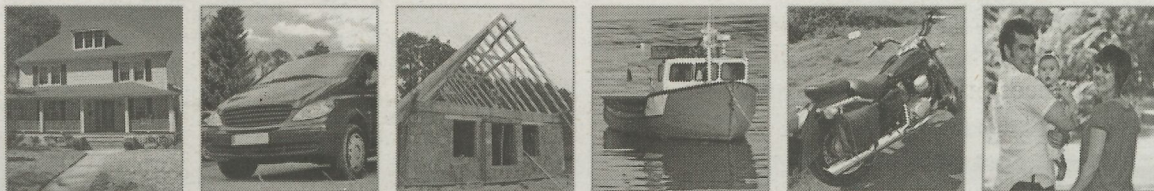
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Fraser on Electoral Reform

The Pioneer spoke with Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova. We asked him the five questions below about Electoral Reform.

1. How many people contacted your constituency office regarding the government's decision to not follow through on its promise to change the electoral system prior to the next federal election?

He told us that approximately 70 constituents had contacted him.

2. What was the general direction of their feedback (Positive, Negative or Neutral)?

The majority of those who contacted him were not happy with the government's decision. Some were "quite upset".

3. What is your preferred electoral process (status quo, proportional representation, ranked ballot)?

He has attended a number of town hall meetings on the subject and believes the majority of the riding wants some form of electoral reform, but he doesn't believe there is consensus on what it should be. He, personally, hasn't come across a single system that he could endorse 100%. There are two that he leans toward, but suggests they both have flaws.

The "Ranked Ballot" system has the advantage of ensuring that the winning candidate has support from the majority of the riding. It also ensures that the winner is accountable to the constituents. The problem he sees is that it does not address the fact that some parties may still

end up with no elected members despite having a significant proportion of the vote.

As far as a "Proportional Representation" system goes, he indicated that there many different versions of it being discussed. The one he most favours is the "Urban Rural Single Transferable Vote."

4. Do you believe the Liberal Party of Canada will be punished by the electorate for this broken promise at the next election?

He indicated that some people feel very strongly about this. They turned to the Liberals because of the promise. They may walk away. However, he believes that most people decide their vote based on multiple issues. He hopes they weigh this decision of the government against their performance on the economy, the environment and other issues of importance.

5. New Zealand introduced a form of proportional representation without a referendum. They felt the issue was too complicated for voters to decide without experiencing the system first hand. They introduced it with a sunset period. After 10 years, they held a referendum and the public decided to keep it. Do you think that is a reasonable approach to introducing a new electoral system?

He was aware of the New Zealand approach and believes it has merit. He suggested the current problem in Canada is that even within each of the parties there is no consensus on which system should be tested before a referendum.



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

Please contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas

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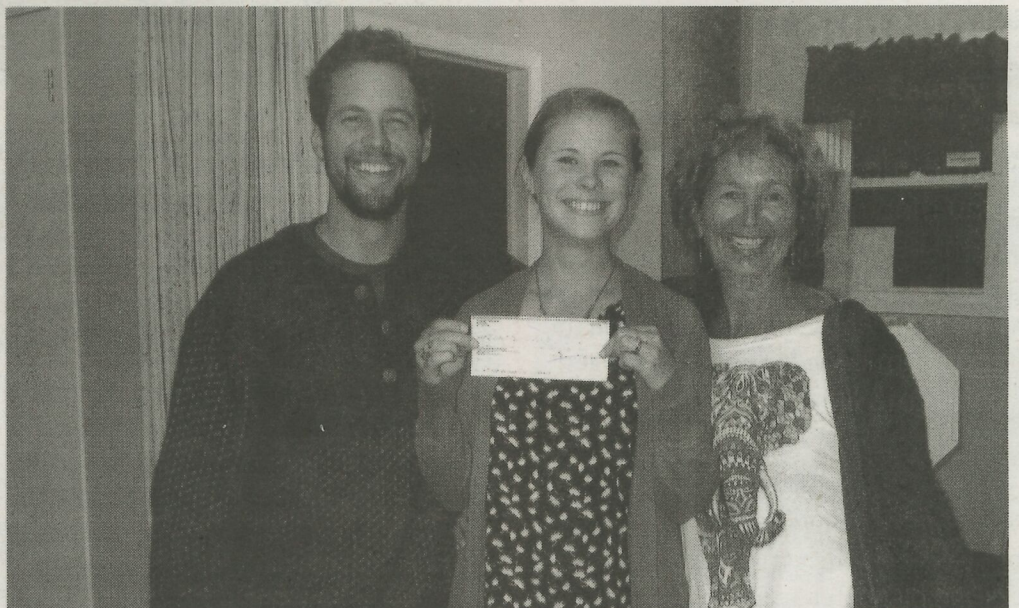


**Ronald Baillie
Councillor, District 4
County of Pictou**

Regular council meeting 1st Monday of every month unless that Monday is a holiday then the meeting is held on 1st Tuesday of the month. Committee meeting is held on 3rd Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public, all are welcome.

(902) 485-6475
ronald.baillie@munpict.ca
www.county.pictou.ns.ca

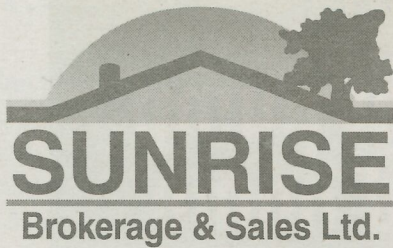
We are chasing the Ace again!




Here is last falls happy winner Emma Langille Balodis holding her \$31,000 cheque! It was a fantastic fund raiser for both the Action Society and the Legion. The fact is folks the money eventually makes its

way back into the community so get out and support and lets build that jackpot!

The times are the same: Tickets on sale Fridays from 6:30 - 8:30 with the draw at 9:00



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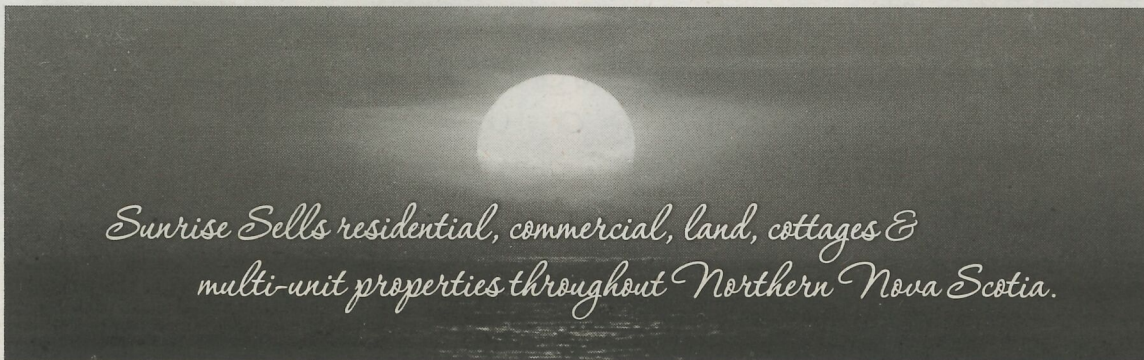
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Excited by the recent federal budget?

Sean Fraser is. Fraser is proud of it. In an interview with the Pioneer he said he believes it is a good budget for Atlantic Canada. He referred to the new money for career transition services. He noted the new Centre of Excellence for veterans' care will help many Maritimers who served. There is also \$725 million in additional benefits for caregivers of veterans. There are also funds for Career Transition Services to help soldiers make the shift to civilian life. Longer serving veterans will have access to up to \$80,000 for education and training.

Fraser discussed the changes to Employment Insurance, particularly the modification that allows it to be spread out over 18 months instead of 12. He acknowledged that some of the funding is only a commitment to future spending, but added he believes some of the money will begin to flow within the next 12 months. He noted that an additional \$5 million for small craft harbour improvements is being added to the \$149 million announced in the previous budget.

Over the longer term (10 years) the government is committing up to \$1 billion in clean technology investments, through the Innovation and Skills Plan. Fraser added that the government is also funding innovation in seafood processing which should help increase access to foreign markets and increase revenues for everyone in the industry. While much of the coverage of the budget has been rather neutral; it has been characterized as a "wait and see" budget, Fraser says he is comfortable that every dollar in the budget is being allocated to a very specific goal.

Water front development

It's been a long time coming. The River John Community Action Society (RJCAS) commissioned a study almost ten years ago about how to develop and promote the Village. At the time a consulting firm developed a report that was supposed to be a precursor to government funding. Well the government funding didn't materialize, but the plan remained.

Without government money, the society scaled back the plan. Members wanted to see a more limited development at the water front.

The RJCAS asked for and received a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Bissell family, after whom Bissell Park is named. That money has been sitting in trust and has earned almost \$1,000 in interest.

Michael Topley, a local engineer, developed the initial plan for a retractable multi-purpose launch adjacent to Bissell Park at the base of the bridge.

At a March meeting of the RJCAS, a committee was struck including: Mike Topley, Gary Johnson, Mike George, Bruce Frizzell and Dan Ferguson. The committee is investigating a company called Bear River Plastic Welding, which produces tubular docking systems. The committee also wants to include a patio closer to the water overlooking the dock.

If approved, construction would begin immediately with the hope of having the launch in place this spring/summer.

Directory of Organizations and Services in River John

River John is a community that is rich in organizations and service groups. We have a Legion, three churches, Lions Club, IOOF and Rebeccas, the River John Community Action Society, Fire Department and the Fire Department Women's Auxiliary (which organizes an annual lobster dinner theatre fund raiser). We have a Score PreSchool program and the Historical society. In addition, we have different committees that puts on the annual River John Festival Days celebration, Read by the Sea and the children's literature event "Word Play." We have Winter Carnivals and Harvest Fest celebrations as well as organized dances throughout the year. We even boast our own newspaper!

New people to the area and also summer visitors may find it hard to navigate these various organizations and if they wanted to become involved might not know who to contact or when organizations meet.

So, it is my intention to compile a directory of services for the Pioneer, which will also be displayed on the website (www.riverjohn.ca).

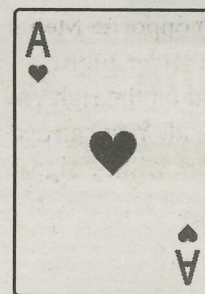
If you run a community organization, social club or activity, I would like to collect the following information from you:

- Name of the organization or event
- Contact person
- Email and phone number
- Location of the event/activity
- When and how often it takes place
- Cost, if any to members/participants

I would like to hear from people if this is something which you feel would be useful and to assist me in compiling the information and displaying it in an organized format.

At a recent meeting of the River John Community Action Society a committee of three people volunteered to compile an inventory of the Facilities in the area (Halls etc), when they are available and what it costs to rent them. Although not exactly the same as what I have envisioned, it is good work and also useful information and which will be added to the Pioneer website.

Joan MacLeod
902-351-2759
joanandmarie@ns.sympatico.ca



Chase that Ace

Chase the Ace is back up and running at the River John Legion. Organizers are hoping the spring weather will bring out the crowds that showed up last year.

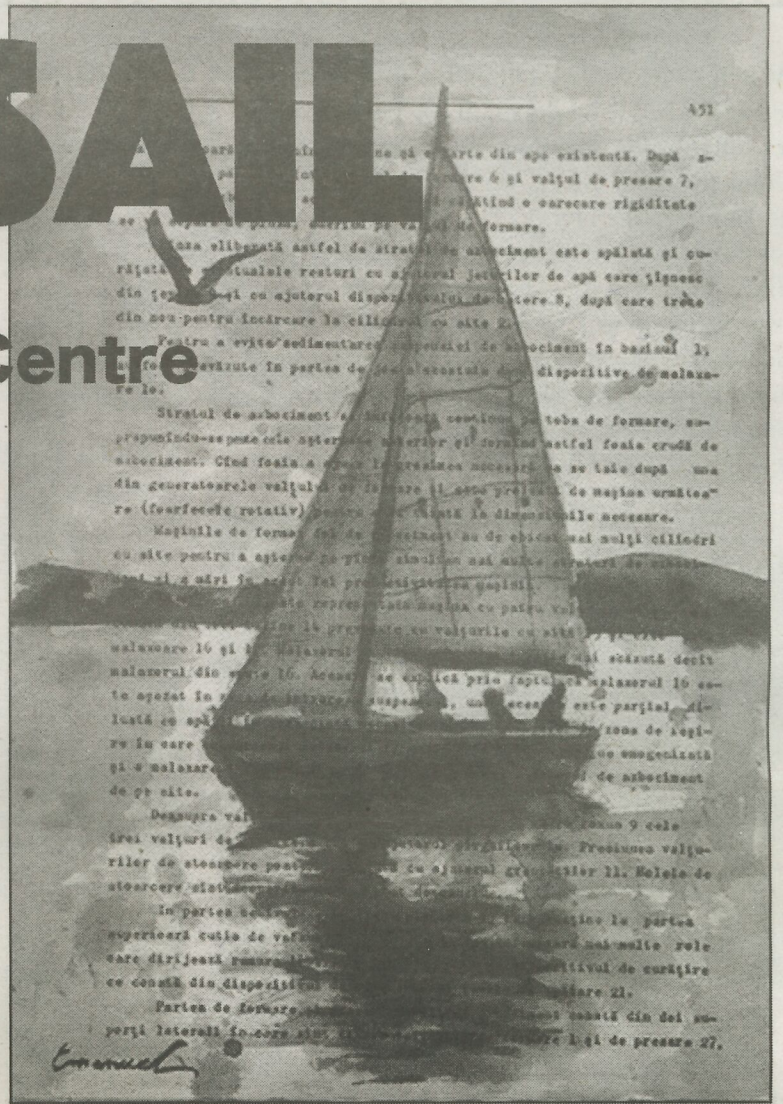
If you remember, last year in March the Friday event had to be cancelled several times due to poor weather. This year, the weather has co-operated but the March numbers were still a little light. For the most loyal players, that has meant better odds of winning, but it also means that the lottery prize pool is slower to grow. Last year, Chase the Ace raised \$21,000 (each) for both the Legion and the River John Community Action Society.

At the time of printing (just before the April 7 draw), the prize pool was \$2,681. Tickets go on sale at 6:30 at the Legion and close at 8:30. The draw is at 9 pm. While you wait you can listen to live music and get drinks at the Legion's bar.

BOOK SAIL

River John H.U.B. Community Centre
Tuesday April 11th 2pm - 6pm
Tuesday April 25th 9am - 1pm

For sale are over 2000 gently used books, music CDs, and movies at bargain prices in a variety of genres. All proceeds from the permanent year-round sale go to the River John Action Society.



WordPlay is coming back to River John!

WordPlay, the extraordinary literary festival for children of all ages, has moved back to its beginnings in River John, to a new date on July 3, the Monday after Canada Day, and a new venue on the grounds of the community's new bookstore, Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery. That's a lot of news!

WordPlay coincides with the official opening of Mabel Murple's, a venture by River John children's author and poet Sheree Fitch and her husband Gilles Plante.

The shop is located on Allen Road on the east side of the river. From highway 6 (Sunrise Trail), turn onto River John Road (paved) opposite Meh's Esso and Yap's Place restaurant in River John. Allen Road is the first (gravel) road on the right, at a sharp left curve in River John Road. You can see Mabel's from the intersection. There will be signs! Maybe even balloons!

Schedule for WordPlay

1:00 pm Opening Ceremony for Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery. Everyone is welcome to attend. Former CBC radio host Costas Halavrezos will be master of ceremonies.

1:20 Wild City Roses will sing a song composed especially for the event: 'Happy Birthday, Canada!'

1:30 WordPlay opens with mistress of ceremonies Starr Dobson (children's author, television personality and mental health advocate).

1:30 Prominent Mi'kmaq author, artist and musician Alan Syliboy tells the story Thundermaker from his 2015 children's book of the same name. Syliboy is an alumnus of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, a Queen's Jubilee Medal recipient, and 2016 Coady Chair in Social Justice at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS – as well as a film-maker, musician, community leader, curator, business executive and consultant.

2:00 The Fancy Shawl Dancers from Millbrook First Nation perform a traditional Mi'kmaq dance.

2:20 Multi-award-winning children's author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay reads from one of her many books. The Montreal resident writes in both French and English, and her books are translated into more than fifteen languages. Her illustrations need no translation, and her popular characters - Stella and Sam, Caramba, Roslyn Rutabaga, and more - reach children around the world.

2:50 Wild City Roses perform their usual repertoire of musical hilarity

3:00 Authors sign books, while Wild City Roses provide background music, kids make their own petroglyphs, and shawl dancers teach a thing or two.

Kids – Bring your grown-ups!

Easter week services

- April 13 Maundy Thursday service will be held at River John, St. John the Baptist, Anglican church at 7pm
- April 14 Good Friday service at Salem United church, River John at 11am
- April 14 Good Friday service at St. Michael's Roman Catholic church, Brule at 3pm
- April 14 Good Friday service at St. David's Presbyterian church, Toney River will be at 7 pm
- April 16 Easter Sunrise service will be held 7am in River John Bissell park (dress warmly). Breakfast following the sunrise service is hosted by St. George's Presbyterian church in their church hall.
- April 16 Easter Sunday services will be held at the regular times at each of the churches. St. Michael's will start their Easter service at the new time of 9:00 am.

Church Breakfast



The River John congregation of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church serves a wonderful breakfast the last Sunday of each month from 7:30 to 10:00 am, the cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. So come, join your friends and enjoy a wonderful start to your day.

If it rains, both the official opening of Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery AND WordPlay will move to the River John Firehall. Start time remains at 1 p.m. Watch for signs.

Historic "Plan of the Settlement of River John and Vicinity"

On March 24th a large group of interested citizens gathered at the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library in River John for the unveiling of a historic piece of River John and area history, which will be on permanent display in the library. The item is an original "Plan of the Settlement of River John and Vicinity," much like a map, it is drawn on cotton in ox gall ink, and it was prepared in 1841 by the Deputy Surveyor John Gauld. On the plan each property is identified by a number or with the name of the individual who lived on property from the Seafoam to Tatamagouche district in June of 1841.



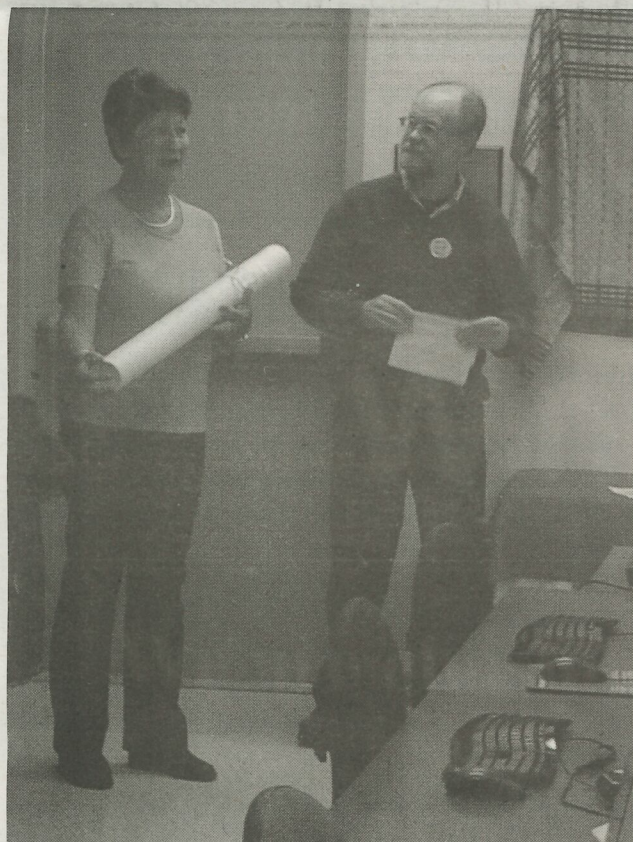
Derek Andrews and Karla MacFarlane

Derek Andrews, a member of the River John CAP site, read some of the background history of the plan before he and our MLA, Karla MacFarlane unveiled this wonderful piece of local history. After acknowledging the individuals who generously donated their money to the purchase it, a copy was presented to the River John and Area Historical Society president, Linda Thompson-Reid for display in the local museum. Several members of the Society were among those who contributed toward the purchase.



Long-time residents reviewing the plan

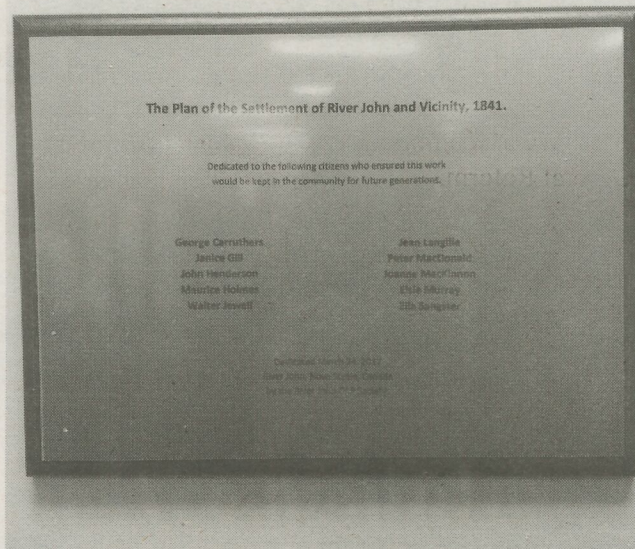
standards. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has made a digital scan for the library.



Derek Andrews and Linda Thompson-Reid

In the early 1980s the owner of this plan was Clifford Carruthers and after his death it was auctioned off. In concern that it would go to a private collector, Janice Murray Gill contacted nine other like-minded individuals to pool their money and ensure that the plan stay in the community. The purchase price was over \$1500. These individuals who contributed their money were; George Carruthers, Janice Gill, John J. Henderson, Maurice Holmes, Walter Jewell, Jean Langille, Peter MacDonald, Joanne MacKinnon, Elsie Murray and Ella Sangster.

The Settlement Plan, now under the care of the River John Community Access Program (CAP), who were working with the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, and using CAP funds, had the Plan sent to the Halifax Zwicker Art Gallery and reframed to museum



Plaque acknowledging donors

There have been a limited number of reproductions of the "Plan of Settlement" made available for sale. The library has made the electronically scanned version available on the Regional Library's digital collection website:

NovaStory.ca found at www.parl.ns.ca.

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Pioneer running a deficit

This is the twelfth issue of the Pioneer. As a quarterly publication, that makes us three years old. The paper is published by the River John Community Action Society. It raises all its money from local businesses through advertising.

The editor, Rob Assels, recently spoke with the RJCAS treasurer Robin Campbell about steps that could be taken to reduce the debt, which currently stands at \$1,200. "Given we incurred that debt over 12 issues, we're really trying to figure out how to save \$100 per issue," says Assels. There will be no increase in advertising rates. The paper has enjoyed very consistent support from local business owners that have a hard enough time making ends meet. "Most of our advertisers are in every issue. Some are seasonal, but are in every year." He suggests that eliminating colour in select issues may be an option.

The paper is printed by Advocate Printing and Publishing. Having the centre spread (which includes the front and back pages) in colour adds \$200 to the printing costs. By eliminating colour in 2 of our 4 issues, we would no longer run a deficit.

The online version of the Pioneer may also help. A number of our advertisers have said they would be willing to have ads on the website for a small addition to their ad. Online ads are currently free until June, but will then cost \$25 for a three month posting.

One thing that is not being considered is the elimination of the printed version of the paper. While most people in the area now have access to the internet and use Facebook and other programs to stay in touch with their family, there are still a number of people who would prefer to get the hard copy.



Uncle Mike's Property Management

- Lawn Care
- Snow Removal
- Property Check
- Animal Infestation
- Water Leakage
- Picture / Video Confirmation

We offer a very friendly and reliable service that you can trust!

Let Us Take Away the Worry!

Need maintenance and a check up on your home away from home?

Call us today at (902)221-5840

www.unclemikespropertymgmt.com

Email: unclemikespropertymgmt@gmail.com

I'm Jeremy Blom, the founder of Uncle Mike's Property Management. After graduating University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Business, I moved away from golf course maintenance and began working at an office job, however I felt always like something was missing. I quickly decided that an office job was not for me, so I designed a business that incorporates my background while

providing a solution for the North Shore community.

I want to share my expertise with all of you- I run an honest, reliable business and utilize the property maintenance skills I learned working in golf course maintenance to satisfy your expectations. Together we can build a plan to ensure your piece of paradise is up to standard so you can maximize time with the family!

Uncle Mike's Property Management is a solution for the snow birds and cottage owners of the North Shore. I understand the importance of quality family time while at the cottage, so I am here to take away the annoying, mundane tasks such as mowing the lawn, turning on the water, removing debris after a storm and pest control. Let us take away your worries!

NFB Film Club

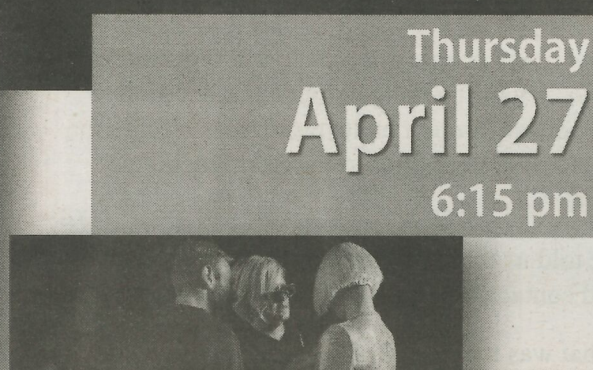
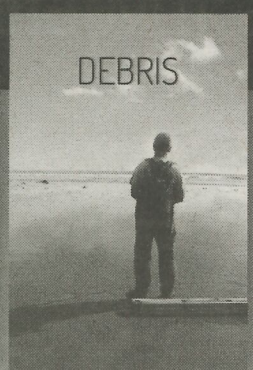
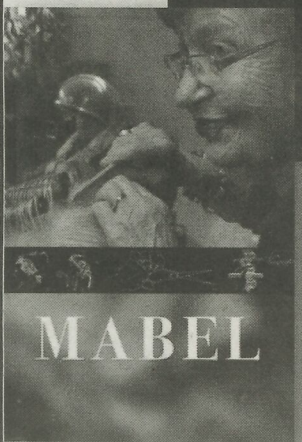
@ the River John Library *presents*

3 short films...

Thursday

April 27

6:15 pm



The Films

MABEL (20 MIN) Feisty, fiercely independent and firmly rooted in place, 90 year-old Mabel Robinson broke barriers back in the 40s when she became the first woman in Hubbards, Nova Scotia, to launch her own business—a hairdressing salon where she still provides shampoo-n-sets over 70 years later. With no desire to retire anytime soon, Mabel gives voice to a generation who are not front and center of cinema or the pop hairstyles of the day, and subtly shifts the lens on our perception of beauty and the elderly.

DEBRIS (15 MIN) A portrait of Tofino, BC, intertidal artist Pete Clarkson as he crafts his most ambitious and personal project to date: a memorial to the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami. When splintered timber and other objects started to wash ashore, the disaster hit home for Clarkson, and the inspiration for his memorial was born.

REVEALING MARIE SAINT PIERRE (38 MIN) Marie Saint Pierre could have been a filmmaker, a sculptor, or a painter, but the world-class fashion designer chose fabric as her canvas, channeling her creative energy into empowering designs for women. While her counterparts approach the craft through illustrations and patterns, Saint Pierre dives into design, sculpting a dress right onto the body of a live model. Revealing Marie Saint Pierre gives razor-sharp insights into her creative process and the quest for international recognition by a fashion designer who dares to be different.

Everyone welcome...



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library
River John



For more information please call:
902-351-2599 or visit www.parl.ns.ca



LEETIK ESSO YAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT

RR#1 River John

Pictou County, NS B0K 1N0

Tel: 902-351-2515 Fax: 902-351-2145

Pioneer Poll

The most recent poll on the Pioneer website showed that 57% of respondents prefer the proportional representation form of deciding elections. The poll is unscientific and had only 14 respondents. That means you can use it, along with \$2.00, to get a cup of coffee at Meh's. Still, we found it interesting.

Thank You

The River John and Area Historical Association would like to thank members of several River John and area groups, for their support, during the recent River John Winter Carnival. The 50/50 draw and fudge sales helped to finance some of the repairs of our community museum. Thanks also to the River John Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108 for their sponsorship and willing assistance in our fund raising efforts. The response from the general public of the area is much appreciated.

The Next Pioneer

Ad bookings: June 1, 2017
Artwork: June 7, 2017
Content: June 7, 2017
Distribution: June 30, 2017