



## Phase 2 River John Waterfront Development

by the River Front Development Committee

Working through the River John Action Society, a River Front Project has been in the works since early 2018. To date the project has all applicable permits and leases in place to start the work. We are waiting for finalization of funding which includes ACCOA, Provincial, Municipality and the Community Commitment. Most of which are in the final stages or approved.

The Project will be located on the other side of the river opposite Bissell Park and will consist of a concrete boat launch, parking area and 100 feet of floating dock. We will also remove the old pier from the river and make this side of the river very attractive and inviting for everyone to use.



We are looking forward to starting this work this year with completion by next spring.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave so much over the past 18 months.

We look forward to seeing you at the river and have a safe summer.

## Children's Park

by Cheryl Frizzell

Even though the ship in the children's park looked great the Lions Club had received some concerns from parents who's children were using it. After the Lions Club examined the ship it was determined that it was rotted beyond repair and for the safety of the children it was removed and replaced with a high quality piece of playground equipment.



## Coming Soon

by Cheryl Frizzell

The River John Action Society and the River John and District Lions Club have partnered together to provide a washroom for Bissell Park that will be open to the public soon.



## Ladies Night Out

The annual lobster dinner theatre this year featured "Me Best Friend". The dinner held at the River John Firehall was a delicious lobster salad plate and the entertainment was fabulous as usual. This annual event is held every spring and tickets sell out in advance.



## Clean up Day

by Cheryl Frizzell

Ann Patriquin of the River John and District Lions Club organized a group of volunteers to clean up around the village, including our local 4H group.



# Pioneer community

## RJ's celebrate their 50th Anniversary

by Cheryl Frizzel

Recently Ann Patriquin and myself were invited to an RJ's meeting at the home of Joan Redmond. I was really surprised at what the RJ's are all about. I had no idea at the amount of fundraising and support this group of ladies did and still do today. You hear all about the church groups, Legion, Fire Dept., and other groups but this group worked behind the scenes with little acknowledgement. I have been given so much information on their activities that I really don't know where to start or finish, but here it goes.

The RJ's were formed in 1969 by two ladies — Nancy Holstad and Gloria Jackson. These ladies started the RJ's so that the River John District ladies could get together and chat over tea, coffee and a lunch. Conversation would be about life and community events. As the group grew in members, they began to realize the needs in the community that they could help with. The ladies became very resourceful at fundraising and raised a lot of money thru the years to help out the community.

Fundraising was done in many different ways thru the years from variety shows and concerts, to the making of a quilt, selling calendars and cook books, while putting on dinners and catering to events. These ladies never seem to slow down.

The work the RJ's have done thru the years is overwhelming to me and the stories they tell of the fun they had doing it along the way is amazing. Here are some of the ways they have helped our community thru the years :

- \* donated the village clock
- \* provided swimming lessons and transportation for students
- \* had a raft built for the youth of River John and area placed at Skinners Cove
- \* sponsored two children in Nigeria
- \* sponsored a child in Nova Scotia
- \* started and continue to plant a garden in Bissell Park
- \* hosted the first hospital dinner to raise funds for the Tatamagouche Hospital
- \* supported Boy Scouts and Girl Guides
- \* provided yard duty for the River John School
- \* provide bursaries to West Pictou High School, Tatamagouche School, and previously River John School
- \* provide a meal and entertainment at the Riverton Home



Front row : Joan Redmond, Linda Munroe, Lynn MacLeod, Elizabeth Alexander, Carol Johnson  
Back row: Florence Crain, Greta Langille, Iola Swantee, Jo Ann Langille, Marg Jones

- \* host a Strawberry Tea
- \* fundraised for the River John Fire Department for the purchase of an ambulance, kitchen Reno, and sound system. They still provide them support to date
- \* provided flag poles for Bissell Park
- \* free seniors dinners up to last few years
- \* they have also helped out neighbours in the community who needed assistance

The RJ's have social get-togethers for their members and these get-togethers are paid for by them personally, the money they raise goes back to the community.

Now with their 50th Anniversary coming up, they still meet at their homes and share conversations, laughs and each other's company.

The RJ's are still a very active group in River John, they meet on the last Tuesday of each month and welcome new members. They have an executive which is made up of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are currently eleven steady members.

I now know the purpose of the RJ's of River John, their purpose is to help the community where and when help is needed.

I have enjoyed meeting this great group of ladies and hope this article makes more people aware of the things they did and continue to do for our community and show them support as they are a part of River John's history.



Chloe Patriquin was awarded the Spirit Award recently at hockey banquet in Tatamagouche

# Jane Sutherland Henry Bushell (Moseley)



It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Jane Sutherland Henry Bushell (Moseley), age 90, of River John, on January 12, 2019 surrounded by her loving family in Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital in Tatamagouche. Born on November 28, 1928 in the Grace Maternity Hospital in Halifax, Jane was a daughter of the late John Frederick Bourinot Moseley and Jean Sutherland Henry. Jane was raised on South Street in Halifax and spent her summers as a young girl playing and swimming with her brother John at the "old farmhouse" in Marshville. In her 20s, Jane pursued her passion for figure skating. She travelled all over North America as a member of the world-famous Ice Capades team, The Ice Cycles, from 1951 to 1953. Shortly thereafter, she met the love of her life, Norris. They married on March 3, 1956 and together they lovingly raised five children. Jane worked in various roles in banking throughout her life and in her spare time, she displayed a natural talent for oil painting. She was vibrant, full of life and brought much joy to those around her. Her presence always brightened a room. Jane's biggest role in life was that as a mother and wife which she did with great love and affection. Jane and Norris' home in River John has always been and continues to be a warm and welcoming gathering spot for family and friends. Jane was predeceased by twin sisters

in infancy; daughter, Jane (Jan) Narraway Hart Perks (Bushell) in 1989; and brother, John Frederick Bourinot Moseley in 2017. She is survived by her beloved husband of nearly 63 years, Norris Leonard Bushell; and children, Sally Tilton Jackson (Mike), Norris Frederick Bushell (Emanuele), Valerie Hart Jollimore, and Lesley Ellen Pretty (David); she is also survived by grandchildren, David, Christopher, Emily, Sarah, Ben, Hayley, Aaron, Maria, Jane, Lindsey, Devin, Johnny, Ellen and Olivia; great-grandchildren, Paisley, Harper, Sawyer, Daxton and Emerson; and many nieces, nephews and cousins; son-in-law, Ron Perks (Alice). As per Jane's request, there will be no visitation or service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jane's memory may be made to Diabetes Canada, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), the Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital, or a charity of one's choice. Special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff of Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital in Tatamagouche for their compassion and excellent care of Jane over the years. Online condolences can be made at Coulter's Funeral Home, Tatamagouche, through their website at: [www.mmcfunerals.com](http://www.mmcfunerals.com)

# Royal Canadian Legion 108

by Mary Beth Sutherland

The River John Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108 is gearing up for another busy summer.

Chase the Ace has resumed again, but with a slightly different format. The local C.G. Fulton Pharmacy will sell the tickets during their open hours each week until 4pm on Fridays, and the Legion will continue to sell tickets during the evening of the draw. There will be video broadcasting of the ticket draw at the Legion on Facebook, so the winner will not need to be present. Every Friday tickets will be on sale 6:30pm to 8:30 pm at the Legion, with the draw at 9pm. Cost: \$5 for 1 ticket and 3 tickets for \$10.

We will be one of the locations of events during the River John Festival Days, July 19th to 27th.

The Read by the Sea Mainstage is scheduled to take place here on Saturday July 6th, our grounds are a lovely setting for this event which has people come to River John from near and far.

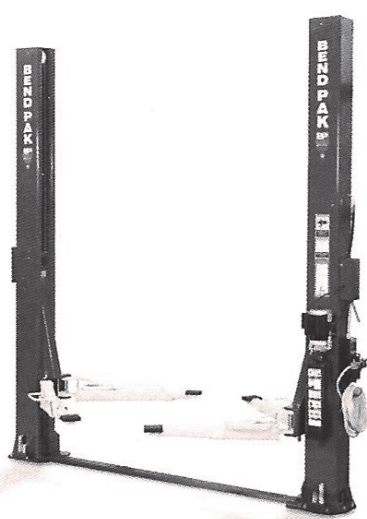
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The Pioneer is distributed in River John, the village of Scotsburn, and West Branch. We welcome any articles or picture from any of our newspaper friends and areas. Contributions to the next issue should be sent to the editors. Please send text and pictures as separate attachments. Text should have the bare minimum of formatting. Photos should be the best resolution available.

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# 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IOOF

by **Dan Ferguson**

This year marks the 200 year anniversary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. We would like to take this opportunity to discuss who we are and what we do.

The IOOF aims to provide a framework that promotes personal social development. The command of the IOOF is " Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead and Educate the Orphan" Specifically the IOOF today are dedicated to the following purposes. To improve and elevate the character of mankind, To help make the world a better place to live and to promote goodwill and harmony amongst people.

The one old and apparent reason was given for our strange name through the authoritative history of Odd Fellowship is as explained." That common labouring men should associate themselves together and form a fraternity for social unity and fellowship and mutual help was such a violation of the trends of the time (England in the 17th century). That they became known as "Peculiar" or "Odd" and hence they were derided as "Odd Fellows"

One of the amazing things about being an Odd Fellow is the variety of ways we can help those in need. Every lodge and jurisdiction is given the flexibility to focus on projects that are unique to their community. While participating in larger global projects as a whole unit.

Here are just some of those projects. Visual Eye Research, Arthritis Foundation, The IOOF sponsors many Senior housing projects throughout North America. The Crown Jewel of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Atlantic Provinces is the Maritime Odd Fellows Home established in 1923. A-47 bed continuing care facility located in the town of Pictou. SOS children village in Cambodia, Living Legacy tree planting project. The Canadian War Memorial annual wreath ceremony is held every year on the 1st Sunday in June. The IOOF is the only organization other than the military allowed to have such a ceremony. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this event. Members of IOOF Helping Hand lodge and Frazee Rebekah lodge of River John will be traveling to Ottawa to be part of this historic occasion.

In our community, IOOF Helping Hand lodge provides support to many local projects and those in need. Some examples are. Funding for the 4 H Heritage barn, Annual Coat Drive, Providing funds for local families at Christmas, Last year to commemorate our 140th anniversary the lodge donated a bench and tree to Bissell park, supporting our youth with bursaries, funding for educational trip-sand travel expenses for national competitions. There are many other projects and individual needs the lodge provides support. Helping Hand Lodge fundraising events include an an-



Maritime Odd Fellows Lodge, Pictou, N.S

nual lobster draw, Festival Days breakfast, Scallop draw, and Chilli Dinner. The lodge collects scrap metal and beverage bottles and cans for funds.

Famous Odd Fellows throughout our history just to mention a few are, Sir John A Macdonald, Sir Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Wyatt Earp and Charlie Chaplin.

If you are interested in joining the IOOF Helping Hand Lodge, contact Dan Ferguson 351-2593 or visit us on facebook

IOOF Helping Hand lodge #34



River John IOOF Helping Hand Lodge and Frazee Rebekah Lodge members



Willis Langille and Steven Craib at the War Memorial, Ottawa 2018

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# River John's Guiding Lion

by Cheryl Frizzell

When I started attending River John and District Lions Meetings, there was a member who sat quietly, taking in all the meetings conversations. He gave me the impression of a lion. Listening and watching, then at the right time speaking his mind. Lion Wallace Sutherland is truly a lion, in appearance he looks stern and serious, but he is really a nice guy and very easy to get along with, giving a grin every now and then.

Lion Wallace joined the Gary, New Brunswick, Lions Club on Feb. 21, 1984. In 1986\87, as a member of the Gary, New Brunswick, Lions Club, he sponsored a new Club in Berton, New Brunswick and this gave him title of Guiding Lion. He also was in charge of students at Kings Landing in New Brunswick.

In 1989 Lion Wallace transferred to River John and District Lions Club where he has been an outstanding member ever since. At the time there were 30 members or more. Lion



Wallace Sutherland and incoming King Lion Bruce Frizzell



Wallace has assumed many different roles in the Lions Club thru the years some being King Lion (5 times), and bartender, and still active as Chairperson on the following committees: Recycle Program, Visitation Program and the Ways and Means.

Wallace wears his Lion's Pins proudly on his vest and hat. Where you will see these pins displayed: Melvin Jones Award, Judge Brian Stevenson Award, Life Membership Award, 35 year Milestone Chevron Award, a pin for visiting 500 different clubs which he is currently working on 600 plus many more. Lion Wallace is very proud to be a lion and enjoys the friendship that goes with being a member of the Lion's Clubs.

Lion Wallace enjoys all fundraisers, but the one he enjoys the most is the Annual Chicken Barbeque.

The River John and District Lions Club is very lucky to have a member such as Lion Wallace in our Club. Lion Wallace brings so much knowledge of our traditions and guidance.



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ronald.baillie@munpict.ca  
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**Karla MacFarlane**  
**MLA, Pictou West**

Please contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas

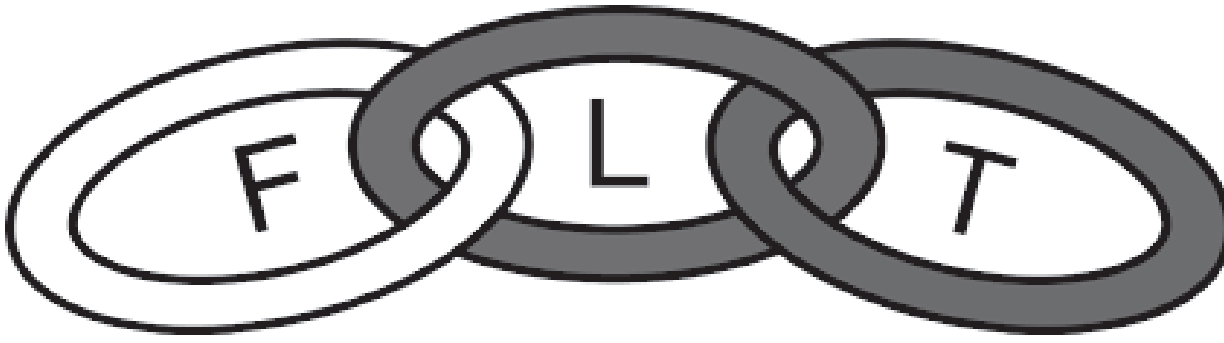
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# Twentieth Anniversary of Read by the Sea Summer Literary Festival

Admission is free to all events, but some require pre-registration. In case of inclement weather, outdoor events will be moved to the River John fire hall.

Beginning **July 1**, displays depicting festival history will be found at four locations throughout the village, during open hours: the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library, the River John Heritage Museum, Caldera Distilleries, and Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery. Visitors to the displays will be given a ticket, which will be stamped at each location. Once all four stamps are received, the ticket can be turned in to festival sponsor Caldera for a free mocktail /cocktail. One per person.

**Write-by-the-Sea "Ugh: I hate the internet (for writers)" Workshop**, Thursday, July 4, 9-11 a.m. with instructor Arthur Slade. It is for authors who are tired of being told they "must" be on the Internet, when they can't find the time to maintain an online presence. Writers need easy and efficient ways to communicate with the public online, without cutting into their writing time, Slade says. The workshop will offer time-saving hints and a discussion of which outreach method is the best for getting and keeping fans, "and for keeping your sanity," Slade says.

Slade's workshop is particularly aimed at published authors who continue to write while simultaneously trying to promote their work. The workshop is free but prospective participants should register through the festival website's "contact us" feature, or by dropping off a print message to Read by the Sea, c/o River John Library. The message should include name, the best way to contact the applicant, and a sentence or two describing the writer's work.

**Heritage Story Walk**, Thursday, July 4, 2019, 9:30 am. Meet at the River John Herit-

age Museum, Highway 6, to join members of the River John & Area Historical Society for a guided tour of the river's East Side. Hear the stories, share your own. Dress for walking and the weather. About two hours. A unique insight into the village that is home to Read by the Sea!

**Family Story-Telling Campfire**, Thursday, July 4, 6:30 p.m. on the Caldera Patio, 65 River John Rd.

Bring your tall tales - and your amazing true stories - to share in the oral tradition. Bring a lawn chair, a light jacket (just in case), and family and friends to this relaxed and popular event.

**Writers' Group Meet 'n' Greet**, Friday, July 5, 3 pm at the River John Library followed by open mic session at Bissell Park, across the street.

Drop in, schmooze the local writing scene with members of the Pictou County Writers Group: New and Experienced. Stick around for an informal Open Mic session: just show up with your writing that you wish to share and identify yourself to the volunteers. Participate or just listen and cheer on your writer colleagues.

**Pitch the Publisher**, Saturday, July 6: 9-10:30 am, River John Legion hall. It's a literary Dragon's Den! Everyone is welcome to join the audience - including the pitchers, but registration for pitchers was in early June—try again next year!

Entrants have a strict maximum of three minutes to describe their writing projects to a panel of three or four publishers, in front of an audience. The publishers then have 5 minutes to reply.

The publishers this year are MacIntyre & Purcell, New World Publishing, Chocolate River and Bouton D'Or.



WordPlay, a literary festival for children of all ages, takes place **Wednesday, July 3**, 1-3 p.m. outdoors at Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery, 286 Allen Rd, River John, hosted by MC Sheree Fitch.

The event will include **Rainbow Express**, a participatory musical entertainment and **yoga for kids**. Food concessions will be on site. Bring your grown-ups, your beach blankets or lawn chairs, your sunscreen and sun hats, and - especially - your imaginations.

**Jessica Scott Kerrin**, from Halifax, really wanted to be an astronaut, but wrote books about them instead - and about monster lobsters, creepy cemeteries and giant tree forts. Her books, including *The Better Tree Fort*, *Lower the Trap* and many more - have been translated into six languages for children around the world. Visit Jessica online at [jessicascottkerrin.com](http://jessicascottkerrin.com)

**Arthur Slade** was raised on a ranch in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, and now lives in Saskatoon. He is the author of more than twenty novels for young readers including *The Hunchback Assignments*, which won the prestigious TD Canadian Children's Literature Award; and *Dust*, winner of the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature. His books are read all over the world. Visit him online at [www.arthurslade.com](http://www.arthurslade.com).

Singer-songwriter **Anna Plaskett**, uses music to help people, especially children and seniors. She joins WordPlay to perform from her debut children's album *To the Moon and Back*, released in June 2017. Visit her at [annaplaskett.bandcamp.com](http://annaplaskett.bandcamp.com)



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# July 3-6, 2019, River John, NS

## Faith at Work

by Monica Graham



### Read by the Sea Main Stage

Saturday, July 6, 11 am-3:30 p.m., in the Legion Memorial Garden

Five prominent Canadian authors will each read from their latest works, followed by an onstage interview. After all authors read, they will participate in a moderated panel discussion and then answer audience questions.

**Colin Campbell** (Free Days With George) takes the Local Author Chair - introduced in honour of the festival's 20th anniversary. Colin will read from his first book, a true story and a New York Times best-seller about a huge dog with an even bigger heart.

**Mayann Francis** (An Honourable Life) The former lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia reads from her new book, a candid account of her life and her challenges - beginning with her early days in Whitney Pier, through to filling the province's vice-regal position. This is her second book, following a children's book Mayann's Train Ride.

**Kevin Major** (Land Beyond the Sea) reads from his novel about the 1942 sinking of a Newfoundland passenger ferry by a German U-boat, Major's latest addition to 18 highly-acclaimed works that emanate from his close

relationship with his home province, Newfoundland and Labrador. Among them are Hold Fast, a Governor General's Award-winner, and his first adult novel No Man's Land, adapted as a long-running play.

**Allan Cooper** (Toward the Country of Light: New and Selected Poems) is a New Brunswick poet whose 40 years of work earns accolades wherever people hear or read it. He's published 16 poetry collections and a book of translations, and his work appears in publications across North America. Oh - he's also a musician and a publisher.

**Elizabeth Hay** (All Things Consoled) reads from her award-winning memoir about her parents' deaths and her life as their daughter. The Ottawa resident is a life-long hard-core reader who travelled widely before returning to Ontario. She won the Giller Prize for an earlier work, Late Nights on Air, and has written several other novels. She is happiest at her desk.

MC is local radio personality AJ (Alan Johnson).

Interviewers: Lana MacEachern, Trecia Schell

Coles will have a mobile bookstore onsite to sell the authors' works. Volunteers will sell festival swag (souvenirs), and raffle tickets to raise funds to support the festival. (Donations are gratefully accepted). Food concessions will be on site, and live music will accompany the lunch break. Picnics are welcome.

Authors will meet their fans and sign books.

Bring your lawn chairs or beach blankets, your sun hats and sunscreen, your snacks - and sit back and enjoy.

The first of the Faith at Work summer lecture series at St John the Baptist Anglican Church in River John takes place on Sunday, June 30 at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies as guest speaker. Her topic is "Called by Earth and Sky," from a song title of the same name, known in French as "Du ciel at de la terre"

As coordinator of the Environmental Network for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island since the agency's inception in 2012, Marian will describe how a community of faith can realistically and passionately approach challenges like climate change, environmental crises, ecological, social and economic justice - and deal with opposition as they do so.

Marian, a retired priest, serves as diocesan representative on the Creation Matters task group, represents the Anglican Church of Canada on the Kairos Canada Ecojustice Circle, and is a past board member of the Primates World Relief and Development Fund and of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Her work as a priest and an activist has taken her around the world from her New Brunswick home. You might find her meeting interfaith representatives at an international summit, marching with student environmental activists in public protests, or celebrating Holy Eucharist in some church, somewhere. (Including at St. John's at 11 a.m. on June 30.)

"I appreciate the fact that Anglicans within our diocese and globally have become very engaged in the efforts to reduce and reverse climate change," she says. "Like so many others I am concerned about the future in regards to climate change."

Everyone, regardless of church or other affiliation, is welcome to attend the event, which includes time for audience question-and-answer and respectful discussion.

No admission fee is charged to the lecture series, but donations to help with costs are gratefully accepted. Other topics in the series will be announced as details are finalized.

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# Pioneer history

## A River John spring in the 1950's

by Diane MacLeod Shink

April showers bring Mayflowers. March twenty First is the official first day of spring,

according to the calendar but Mayflowers and daffodils were seldom in evidence at that date. The worst snow storms of the season could occur after that date, It is often said that if March comes in as a lion it leave as a lamb and vice versa.

One spring when I was tired of wearing dreary wool clothing I decided that come April 1 my summer clothes would be worn. The day started sunny as I went off to school in a sleeveless blouse but my mid day big flakes of snow were landing on my bare arms. The cold north wind off the ice filled Gulf often discouraged the wearing of light cotton clothes until well into May.

My father, Carl MacLeod watched nature at work and always marked the date when the big Ice cake across the mouth of the river "went out" as a sure sign of spring. As the ice in the river broke up the braver boys in the village resumed the spring sport of ice cake jumping. The snow had started to melt by mid month and by early May we were looking for pussy willows at the edge of the woods. Those who had gardens in sheltered spots facing south would have gay daffodils nodding in their gardens. The stores sold very little fresh produce at that time of year so lucky the folks who had a rhubarb patch a welcome addition to the dessert menu. It was also a country custom that dinner, the main "meat and Potatoes" meal was served at noon. The supper meal often involved something you could "put a spoon into" such as stewed rhubarb instead of preserved strawberries, peaches pears or plums.

Another sign of spring was when spouts and buckets appeared on the maple trees that lined driveways, the return of sap to the trees was a sure sign that spring was coming. I do remember lugging pails of maple sap from the trees we usually tapped in the cemetery, amazing the amount it took and the time required to boil down into sap but a delicious treat. Today there are still a few Maple woods in the area where sap is collected and maple sugar products are produced. At the height of the season, particularly if the sap ran well some products would be available at MacLeod's store.

Spring was the beginning of the mud season, when the frost came out of the ground and the unpaved side roads were almost impassable. That season is also know as rubber Boot season. May first was also the opening of the

Lobster fishing season, when the Lobster fishermen and their families sometimes moved to Skinners Cove or Cape John so the men could be close to their boats to tend their gear daily. One April when my mother was substitute teaching at the Cape John school she arrived at the one room school to see that her class size had doubled.

Memories of spring are associated with food. In addition to fresh maple syrup and Fiddleheads collected by streams there was the delicious taste of fresh Lobster. The family tells a story about me when I very young. My uncle was home from the war and my father had ordered Lobster to celebrate the occasion (That is he had requested that one of the lobster fishermen bring him a "feed" probably 10 pounds of live (canners, smaller) lobster. After they were cooked in the kitchen the men began to shell them and as soon as that tasty meat was released from the shell there was a tiny hand reaching up, pulling on a pant leg saying "more lobs".

A change of season always meant more work for the women. Winter clothes had to be cleaned, mended and stored until next fall. There was generally a trip to "town" or ordering from the catalogues to purchase new clothes for Spring and Easter Sunday church services. I can still hear my mother singing the song "Put on your Easter Bonnet" and she did love wearing hats! There was also the ritual of spring cleaning when the accumulated dust and dirt needed to be removed from the home. This was especially necessary in homes without central heating as the extra stoves were taken out.

The village of River John is noted for the community meals prepared and served. All of the churches have meals as fund raisers throughout the year. In the spring the IOOF members sponsored a St. Patrick's Day supper in their hall, the men served the scalloped potato and ham meal but the women usually prepared it. This meal was rounded out with lots of home made pickles, bread and rolls and of course pies, my fathers favourite was Coconut cream piled high with meringue.

To this day when I think of spring I think of mayflowers, Nova Scotia's floral emblem, the Trailing Arbutus which grows on the forest floors. I loved to visit my Aunt in early May as her farm had a place on the edge of the woods where mayflowers could be found. Memories of the wonderful perfume and dainty pink and white tiny flowers hidden behind green leathery leaves what a priceless bouquet!

The other Spring event associate with food was Easter. The front window of the store would be filled with chocolate bunnies, brightly coloured Easter jelly bean eggs and chocolate marshmallow stuffed eggs. In our home we always had a session of dyeing boiled eggs and decorating them for brightly coloured Easter baskets. Our Easter dinner was finished with a fabulous chocolate cake piled high with boiled white frosting centred with a nest of Easter candies. The Easter bunny also hid easier candy behind the furniture so there was a egg hunt on Easter morning, no wonder my mother had to drive us to New Glasgow for dental appointments!



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# A Walk Through Time Museum

“Explore the past to appreciate the present”

At the age of 10 on a visit to an old farm with his father, Allan spotted, in the dirt, a ‘fancy’ glass bottle. It was about 1 gallon size with a small opening at the top with a rope design all around the top edge. He kept eyeing it until the old farmer noticed and said “Kid, if you like that bottle, you can have it”. Well, Allan thought he had the world by the tail and that moment sparked his interest in all things old or antique and thus his collection began.

Growing up next door to his grandparents, Allan was always involved with ‘old time farming ways’. His grandfather never had a driver’s license or an automobile (although he did get a tractor in later years); therefore, much of the farm work was done with horses. Grandpa loved his horses and passed that love along to Allan and his brothers. Working with horses required horse drawn farm equipment so Allan became well acquainted with such implements and how to use and take care of them. In his collection, Allan has many items from his grandfather’s farm or items similar to the ones he grew up with. He has often been told that he was born a generation or two later than he was meant to be, as he has a genuine interest and passion in old time ‘stuff’.

Allan has been collecting artefacts for more than 30 years and storing them where ever he could find room to protect them from the weather. He has purchased many items from local families and many more have been donated, especially since people found out about his intentions to open a museum.

In 2016 we purchased the former Scotsburn Creamery building in the village of Scotsburn. In order to make it work, we relocated our “A&M Small Engines” business to the lower level of the building and the top was designated for the museum. The building has about 10,000 square feet on each level so we thought we had ‘lots’ of space. As it turns out there is a lot of space but it has been filling up very quickly.

A WALK THROUGH TIME MUSEUM opened on June 3, 2018 for the first season.

We had more than 600 visitors explore our museum between June 3 and Sept 30 and reviews have been amazing. People are surprised and delighted to see how many artifacts there are and how well they are displayed.

Some of the displays include the large horse drawn farm machinery as well as many hand tools used for farming, gardening, lumbering and blacksmithing. It is amazing to see the ingenuity of the people who invented tools and machines to make work easier and the progression over the years. Most dating between late 1800’s to 1950’s.

The “General Store” features household items, tools, stoves, skis, hats, pipes, fabric, dishes, books, a harness room and so much more, some of which are priced as they would have been in early 1900’s.

There is a large working loom, spinning wheels, sewing machines, a dining room all set for Sunday dinner, sleighs, buggies, including a doctors buggy and one of the most popular items, an undertakers wicker basket that was used to transport the body.

There is an old time parlour, complete with gramophone, piano, baby cradle and so much more. A bedroom is set up featuring a spool bed, a rope bed and other items used before modern plumbing. There is also a basic old time kitchen with a Queen Cook stove and many kitchen items used in the early days.

Even the creamery building itself is in fact one of our most interesting artefacts as it was built in 1929. We have done our best to preserve as much of its architecture as possible that was left when we bought the building. One of the most interesting rooms that we kept ‘as it was’, is what we call the Scotsburn Room. It houses cream and milk bottles, cartons and containers used over the years by Scotsburn Dairy as well as some of the awards and prizes earned by “Scotsburn” through the years.

It has been a dream and passion of Allan and I (after I got used to the idea) to open this museum to display and share the history of our



Beautiful oak doors that were once the front entrance doors of Bethel Presbyterian Church.



Dining room table for Sunday dinner



Museum's General Store

community and surrounding areas with others. In 2012 when our Bethel Church in Scotsburn celebrated its 150th anniversary, we opened our yard and buildings to allow interested folks to view what we had already collected. We charged a small admission fee which was donated to Bethel Church and members provided tea, biscuits, and oatcake as refreshments. It was a wonderful day for friends and fellowship and reinforced our dream that we should open our museum.

Since our opening last year, generous people have donated many family items to our museum. They love seeing and knowing that their items are displayed in the museum with their family name attached. We would like to give a special thank you to these folks whose generosity helps our museum to grow.

We would like to thank our wonderful team of faithful volunteers who work with us to help us realize our dream. Open hours are 10am – 5pm, daily - June through Sept. Admission is \$10 person, \$25 family. Larger groups are most welcome with notice. You may contact us at 902-485-4586, email [awalkthroughmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:awalkthroughmuseum@gmail.com). Keep up to date on our Facebook page. We look forward to welcoming you to our museum!

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# The Methodist Church in River John

by Beulah Jane Wright

River John once had five churches, plus more outlying ones, but now there are three, and it is an ongoing struggle to keep some of them going and to acquire ministers for them. One of the five churches with a goodly congregation was the Methodist Church which stood proudly on a hill overlooking the village. Few, if any, can remember services there and before long, there will not be many who even remember where it was. But it played an important part in the life of River John and deserves to be remembered in the history of our village.

It is said that the old records of the Methodist church were gathered up by someone who felt they were important and taken to the U.S, perhaps by someone who moved there, but had their roots in the village. As to where they are now, if indeed they still exist, is any one's guess. Unfortunate for the genealogically inclined who are searching for data for their family tree!

Christopher J. Perrin owns the title of the father of Methodism in River John. He was of Montbeliard stock, and had taken up residence in the newly founded village, with several of his countrymen. He soon became a prominent citizen, with above average education and was extremely religious. Long be-

fore there was a church or a minister, he filled the role of spiritual leader, holding services in his own home. He had a large family and he and his sons were mainly instrumental in building the Methodist church. The dates are uncertain, but the first minister recorded was William Webb, in 1828 followed by Thomas Taylor in 1832. At first, River John was part of the Truro circuit and later the circuit ran along the shore from Albion Mines to Wallace. One of his sons provided board and lodging before a parsonage was built. Christopher and many descendants are buried in the Old Methodist cemetery, alongside the Station Road.

It is important to note that the River John congregation gave several of its sons to the Methodist ministry, a notable contribution from a small congregation. James Burns was ordained in 1857, preached in NS for 14 years and then moved permanently to United States.

John George Bigney was the son of Thomas Bigney and Sarah Rogers. He was the great grandson of James Bigney, one of the first families in River John. He was ordained in 1865 and went on to be a successful minister in other parts of Nova Scotia.

William Henry Burns was ordained in 1867 in the United States, and also became a prominent minister there.

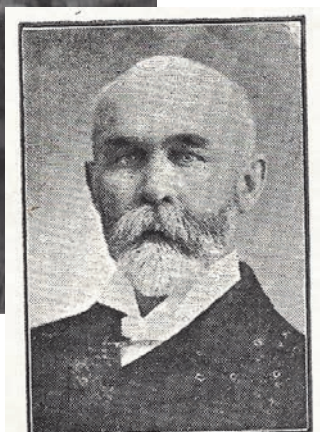
David W. Johnson, second son of the ship designer Duncan Johnson, and his wife Abigail Sutherland, began teaching school in Hedgeville at the age of 16 years. After a year at Mount Allison he served as principal of River John school. Returning to Mount Allison and graduating in 1873, he entered the ministry and was ordained in 1877. He preached in River John and in several other areas and served many prominent offices including editor of the "Wesleyan" the Methodist newspaper.

One more minister was William H. Langille who was ordained in 1882 and served in several circuits. He too, was a descendant of the Montbeliard settlers, the son of Oliver Langill, himself a religious man and competent preacher.

In 1925, the year of church union with the Presbyterians, the Methodist church in River John was closed, but was used as a church hall by Salem United until they acquired their own hall. The old church became deteriorated and a fire hazard and was taken down. There is a shortage of photographs from the Methodist church but Rev. Donald Sutherland donated a print of a painting, to the Heritage Museum.

Also in the museum is an old and fragile Financial Report of the Methodist church for the year 1911, which provides names of contributors and officers of the church. Interesting reading!

The Methodist Church of River John, served its people well and was an important part of River John history.



Rev. D. W. Johnson, D.D.

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# Pioneer mothers

On mother's day we asked for photos of River John mothers.



Bonnie Allen and her grandchildren



Jessica and mum Brenda



Brenda Klussman, Lynn MacLeod and their Mum Marie.



Brianna Taylor and her mum Abby.



Alexis, Logan and Colten are seen here with four generations of mums, Melissa Mayo, Mary Roy, Mary-Jane McNutt, and Delia Johnson



Abby Taylor and her mum Cheryl.



Jake Dehann and step-mum Mindy



Crystal Peverill and mum Ann.



Dustin and Jordan with Mum Sheree and grandmother Doe.



Francis Sutherland, George, William, Margaret, Joan Sutherland and Isabel.



George and William Cripps and grandmother Mary Beth.

# RIVER JOHN FESTIVAL DAYS 2019

# FUN IN THE SUN & THE SEA

## DAILY 50/50

Daily 50/50 draws will be held during Festival Week! Drawing to take place at Lions Veranda evening entertainment daily.

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July 20th-21st

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Brittany MacLellan: 902-890-6907

Chelsey Joudrie: 902-301-1867

Email: [rjfestivaldays@gmail.com](mailto:rjfestivaldays@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/riverjohn.festival.days](http://www.facebook.com/riverjohn.festival.days)



The River John Festival Days Committee wish to extend their appreciation to the residents of River John and area, as well as to all visitors from near and far, who have supported the festivities for over 30 years!

The committee would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the hard working individuals, who have organized these events and volunteered during the Festival Days.

Please join us and take part in the many activities and events scheduled for our week long celebration!



## FRIDAY JULY 19

**6pm** Baseball Tournament begins at the ball field. Contact Jay Reid 902-351-3396 to register.

## SATURDAY JULY 20

**9am** Baseball Tournament continued

**10am-4pm** Atlantic Canadian Military Historical Association WWI/WWII Display at St. Georges Presbyterian Church and River John Historical Society Museum.

**12pm** (until sold out) Lobster Dinner at the River John Fire Hall

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**2pm** Cardboard Boat Races at Bissell Park dock. Build your own cardboard boat. Contact Joanne for more info, 902-351-2143.

**7pm** Variety Show at the Fire Hall. Pre-Register by contacting Chelsey at 902-301-1867.

## SUNDAY JULY 21

**9am** Baseball Tournament continued

**10am-3pm** Sheep & Wool Day at Lismore Sheep Farm. Sheep shearing, wool demonstration, wagon rides, BBQ, wool demonstrations

**10am-3pm** River John Sunday Market, Lismore Sheep Farm. Fresh produce, baking, maple syrup, artisans, Live Music.

**10am-4pm** Atlantic Canadian Military Historical Association WWI/WWII Display at St. Georges Presbyterian Church/River John Historical Society Museum.

**11am** Combined congregation Church Service at Salem United Church.

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**1pm** Bridge to Bridge Fun Paddle. Bring your own kayak, canoe, etc. Meet at Bissell Park. Additional parking behind the Fire Hall. Weather permitting.

**6pm** Children's Parade and Family BBQ at the Lions Club Playground. Participants meet at St. Georges Presbyterian Church. Categories include best fictional character, best original, best on wheels, best group, best festival theme.

**7pm** Gospel Sing at the Veranda "Village Sings"

## MONDAY JULY 22

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda by Sunrise Trail 4-H Club. French Toast and Sausage (\$6/\$4)

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**1pm-4:30pm** Sunrise Trail 4-H Achievement Day at Melville-Seafoam Community Hall. Non-livestock in Toney River Community Hall at 2pm.

**1pm** Strawberry Tea by the RJ's at St. Georges Presbyterian Church (\$6/\$3)

**6pm** Scrabble Walk, register at Bissell Park, \$2

**6:30pm** Mackerel Fishing Tournament. Registration at Bissell Park, \$5 (free for 12 and under).

**7pm** Firefighter Competition/ Demo on the old school grounds.

**7pm** Cribbage Night at Melville/Seafoam Hall. Ages 19+, \$10/ player, teams of two, winner takes 50%. Prize for biggest regular hand, prize for biggest crib hand. Cash bar.

**7pm** Entertainment on the Veranda "Ron and Diane O'Brien"

## TUESDAY JULY 23

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda by River John 4-H Club. Bacon, eggs & beans (\$6/\$4).

**11am** Art with Danielle at the Legion \$20. All ages are welcome.

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**2pm** Kite Flying at Caldera Distilling Inc (65 River John Road.) Prizes for best decorated, and other prizes to be won. All ages welcome.

**6:30pm** Tupperware Bingo at the Fire Hall

**6-8pm** Lego at the Library. All children and youth welcome. Contact River John Library for more information, 902-351-2599.

**7pm** Trivia Night at the Legion. Ages 19+, \$20. Teams of Four, winner takes all.

**7pm** Entertainment on the Veranda "Geezer"

## WEDNESDAY JULY 24

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda by Pictou County 4-H, proceeds to Legacy Barn, eggs, bacon and hash browns (\$6/\$4)

**10am-4pm** Craft Sale at Anglican Church Hall

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**12pm** Washer Toss registration. Games to immediately follow registration. At River John Legion. 30 teams max.

**1-4pm** Community Picnic Skinners Cove (East)

**6:30pm** Family Chocolate Bar Bingo at Fire Hall. Bring a chocolate bar to "buy" a bingo card (1 chocolate bar = 1 bingo card). Open to all children with parent/guardians.

**7pm** Euchre at the Legion, \$6/person, 19+

**7pm** Entertainment on the Veranda "Thursday Night Fiddlers"

## THURSDAY JULY 25

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda by the Oddfellows & Rebekah's. Ham and eggs (\$6/\$4).

**9-11am** "Run by the Sea". Start time at 10am. Walk/Run for 3/6/9km. Pre-Register at Library for free, or register at 86 River Road for \$5 at 9-9:30am.

**10am-4pm** Craft Sale at Anglican Church Hall

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**2-4pm** Wardens Tea at the Fire Hall

**2pm** Activities at the River John Library. Please contact the library for more information, 902-351-2599.

**6pm** Children's Scavenger Hunt. Register at Bissell Park.

**6:30pm** Winmill Electric's Customer Appreciation Free Ice Cream Sundaes at Bissell Park

**7pm** Mackerel Fishing Tournament. Weigh in at Bissell Park. Prizes awarded at 7:30pm.

**7pm** Bingo at the Legion

**7pm** Entertainment on the Veranda "Route Six"

## FRIDAY JULY 26

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda with proceeds going to "The Lodge that Gives". Eggs, bacon, hash-browns and toast (\$6/\$4).

**11am** Art with Danielle at the Fire Hall \$20. All ages are welcome.

**11:30am-1pm** Friends of the Library BBQ at the River John Library

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**1pm** Pie Sale at the Veranda by Bethel Presbyterian Church Youth Groups

**1-3pm** Story Time at Mabel Murples. Dress as your favourite story book character.

**1-3pm** 'Art in the Park' at Bissell Park. Rain location at Fire Hall. Maximum 25 participants. All ages are welcome, materials provided, no experience needed.

**7pm** Entertainment on the Veranda "River Run"

**8pm** Caldera Distilling Inc. bonfire, music and cocktails (65 River John Road). All ages welcome.

## SATURDAY JULY 27

**6:45-10am** Breakfast on the Veranda by The Lions Club. Pancakes and sausages (\$6/\$4).

**10am-4pm** Rubber Boots Expo. Variety of vendors. Former River John School. To book a table or if you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Baillie at 902-876-2114 or e.baillie@bellaliant.net.

**10-11am** Antique Car Show Registration

**11am-2pm** Antique Car Show open to public at the former school parking lot

**12-8pm** Red's Chip Wagon in the village

**2pm** Antique Car Show trophies & prizes

**Car Show sponsored by Highland Ford Sales**

**TBD** River John Volunteer Fire Department Lucky Duck Race on the River. Time to be announced.

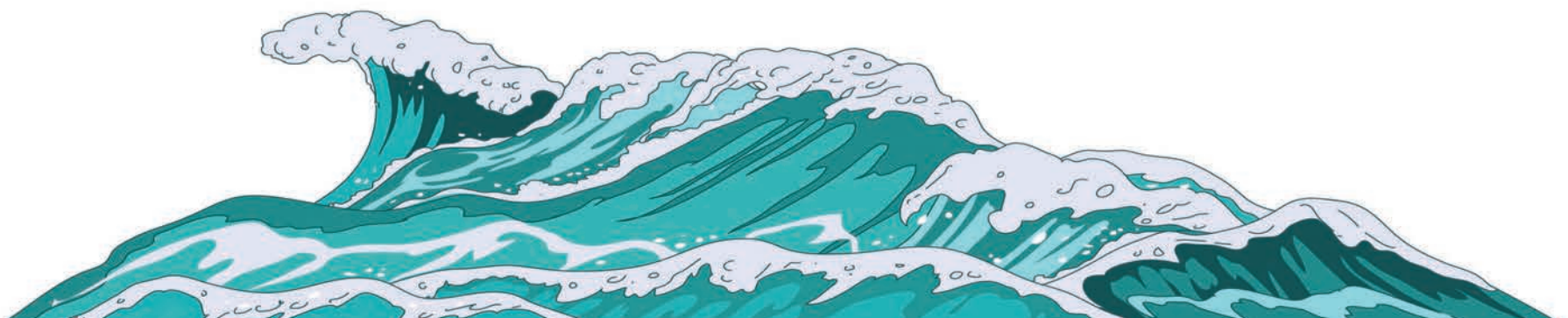
**2pm** Lobster Crate Run on the River. Register at 1:30, Bissell Park dock, \$2

**2pm** BBQ in Bissell Park. Proceeds will go to Meals on Wheels.

**6:30pm** Street Parade. Awards following the parade at St. Georges Presbyterian Church.

**9:45/Sunset** Fireworks over the river

**10:15pm-2am** Festival Dance (DJ), at the Fire Hall, 19+ (\$10)



Pioneer mothers (cont'd)



Jordon, Jackson and mummy Sgt. Jessica Grant and Sgt. Justin Grant



Julia Reid and her mum Linda.



Nancy Patriquin and her mum



Jordon, Jake, Jackson and Grandmother Brenda



Mary Tohill and Grannie Kurt



Randi Lee MacLellan and her mum Terri



Lilly and grammy Marty



David, Mary and Sheila



MacLeod girls and mum Lynn Macleod



Mum Della and Mum Aggie



Theresa Babin and her mum Cheryl



Reese, Audrey and grandmother Terri



Yvonne Organ and her mum

# Pioneer youth

## Lion's District Speak Out

**By Cheryl Frizzell**

Recently at a Lions Convention I listened to students speaking on various topics. There were two students that made me sit in my chair and take notice of them. I wanted to meet them and share their thoughts.

Mya put into words the way so many people today, (young and old) feel for daring to be different.

As a person who suffers with anxiety and depression it is hard to put feelings to words, but Maxwell certainly nailed it.

### **Mya Chidiac's speech**

"Good evening, ladies, gentlemen, fellow contestants, and honourable judges. Now whenever the topic of feminism arises, whether it be among close friends or complete strangers, I can hardly keep myself from blabbering on. I've never been one to speak up unless absolutely necessary, but it's become more than apparent that I can no longer stay silent in the midst of such chaos. You see, biased sources like the media would have you believe that feminists are villainous and hypocritical, and that they aim to strip men of their rights and power. In reality, though, this could not be farther from the point. Contrary to what said sources often depict, feminists have no desire to insult men or put down women with more traditional tastes; we only want to show young girls and boys alike that the patriarchal view of one gender being better than another is, quite frankly, ridiculous. The one, true goal of feminism is to reinforce the fact that we, as a society, must move past these preconceived ideas and ideologies that gender and personal preference have any correlation at all. By dictionary definition, feminism is, 'the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes,' and not, as some would think, the promotion of women based on the belief

that they're of the predominant sex.

Now, I get it; once you've made up your mind, it'll take a more than a speech from a fifteen-year-old to change your mind. However, suppose you'll humour me for a moment. Imagine being a young girl, born into a life that has already been planned for you; instantly you find yourself stuffed into tiaras and princess dresses, swimming in a sea of pink and purple. For some girls, this is everything they could have hoped for, but not you. You don't like playing with baby dolls and helping cook dinner; you're fascinated by dinosaurs and archaeology, monster trucks and toy airplanes. You love spending time outside, getting your hands dirty and learning about the world around you. At first, your family thinks this is strange. They urge you to wear the dresses they've so carefully picked out for you, frustrated beyond possible comprehension when you tell them you'd much rather a suit. Eventually, though, they make up for it by calling you a tomboy; an utterly degrading name that assigns gender to inanimate objects and personal preferences. Of course, this goes both ways. Imagine being a little boy, in awe of the nail polish your mother wears around the house and the flowers she plants in the garden. Maybe your family is supportive of this—maybe they take you shopping and help you paint your nails, tell you that they love you and mean every word—but they're not the only people in your life. The kids at school have heard their parents talk about people like you in hushed voices, heard them curse and wish horrible things upon little boys who like the things you do, and as children often do, they follow their example. Your friends call you names that you don't even understand, but each word is a blow to your heart, and you soon learn to avoid the things that make you happy to keep from being teased. When a boy like you comes along, one

who's unapologetically feminine despite the bullying, you join in on the name-calling so that for once in your life, you'll feel like you belong with everyone else. These kids will continue into adulthood, repressed and anxious, waiting for someone to come along and tell them that they're worth more than what they've always been told. These behaviours have become so normalized in our society that they have sparked online and real-life debates that drag on and on until each party becomes exhausted by the mere thought of carrying on. This is why feminism is so important, why we must all promote gender equality and learn to move past the toxic masculinity that is so prominent in today's society, because otherwise, these kids may live their whole lives in fear of who they are and who they could very well become. I'm tired of sitting around, smiling and looking pretty while children all over the world are told that they will never be accepted unless they act a certain way. I'm sick of being told that, since I'm a girl, I'm too emotional and unpredictable to make a difference. I'm so done with defending my entire existence time and time again, having to listen politely while I await my turn to be heard. Maybe we're young, maybe we have limited experience compared to those around us, but you have to remember that us kids have grown up hearing stories of noble heroes who look and think just like us, and we will not be silenced. We're tired of having to get used to the opinions of those around us; it's time they get used to us. Now I'll leave you all with a question today; how could something with the sole purpose of helping others become such a joke? Thank you."

### **Maxwell's speech**

I was 12 when I first wanted to die. I wrote a note, and I was ready. Instead of dying, I went to emerg that night. It was the first time, but it wouldn't be the last. I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety two years later, at 14 years old.

Depression is a persistent mood disorder that causes sadness, loss of energy, and other things like that. It's described as having a big black dog following you around. Anxiety is an intense, persistent, excessive worry about everyday situations. To talk about the factors that cause mental illness would take up more time than I have available today. But, when it came to myself, it caused a black cloud to always be around me. It made me feel inadequate, like a failure, no matter what I did.

Unfortunately, my situation is not unique. Over 45% of teens in Canada suffer from men-

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tal health disorders. Look at two youth and it is likely one of them has a mental illness. From those who suffer with mental health issues, only about 1 in 5 kids who need help will ever receive it. While the need for mental health resources has skyrocketed, the availability is at a critical low.

For youth who are actively in crisis, they face an estimated one year wait time, excluding specialists. It has gotten so bad in our province that my school counselor advised me against going through the provincial system, or to use it as my last resort. That fact is scary, even more so since youth suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth, and Canada has the 3rd highest rate of youth suicide in the industrialized world.

Overall, there are around 1.2 million children affected by mental illnesses. Within the next year, it is projected that 3.2 million children are at risk for developing depression alone. All of this is happening when the resources available are nowhere close to where we need them.

Now, let's look at the big picture. Everyone here either has a mental illness or knows someone who does. Our economy is losing \$6 billion or more every year. At least 250 Canadians will attempt suicide today. Out of those, 10 will succeed. And for each of those 10, another 10 or more will be affected. That could include you if it doesn't already.

This sounds bleak, but it doesn't have to be.

At 14, I told myself I would be dead before 16 years old. I had suicidal thoughts, depression, and anxiety. It was constant, and I was scared. Now, I just turned 17 because I found support. It is hard to deal with mental illness alone. It's like trying to heal a broken bone without telling anyone you broke it in the first place.


So, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth. Canada has the 3rd highest rate in the industrial world. But how can we change it? Three things. Education, advocacy, and support.

Education. We should all educate ourselves and others on mental illness. We need to learn warning signs, and where to get resources. We also need to teach children how to do this. I didn't speak up for 2 years because I was scared. I didn't want to be different. It wasn't until years later that I learned two of my older siblings also struggled with mental health.

Advocacy. Talk to everyone. Always. We need to open dialogue about this, because no one wanted to talk about the 12 year old who wanted to die. No one, because who wants to hear that a child wants to die? But we need to talk about putting money towards sustainable, community based care. We need to talk to community members, and we need to contact our MLA's, MP's and tell them action needs to be taken. That year long wait for resources is killing people. That is a fact.

Support. My parents helped by supporting me, but some parents might feel overwhelmed about dealing with a mentally ill child. Please listen to people when they come to you with concerns about themselves or loved ones. You could help save a life. Point people towards the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention. And if you see those warning signs, talk to people. And listen. You could save a life without even knowing it.

We can help reverse this trend of childhood suicide, and we can help transform the face of mental illness for all. Thank you.



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River John



Members of the River John 4H club

## River John 4H

On March 9, the club held their public speeches and demonstrations at St. George's Church Hall. This year due to so many conflicts, the number of members able to attend was lower than normal but the members who completed their speeches and demonstrations did an excellent job. Thank you to our wonderful judges, Norma Baillie and Chelsey Joudrie, both of whom are former 4-H members. It's always a pleasure having members of our community come and be involved with our youth. Those who placed first were eligible to move onto the county competition then onto regionals with the aim of competing provincially. A big congratulation goes to Elizabeth Heighton who made it to the provincial competition, and is also the regional ambassador for the Eastern Region.

### Results:

Cloverbud: Alexandria Bezanson.

Junior Speech: Christena MacLean, Connor Langille, Braden Langille.

Junior Single Demonstration: Jolie Bezanson.

Intermediate Speech: Jennie MacLean, Mya Elliott, Hunter Matheson.

Senior Speech: Gracien Murray, Elizabeth Heighton, Megan McDonald.

Senior Double Demonstration: Madison & Sidney Baillie.

Ambassador: Elizabeth Heighton

On April 28th, the county held their service and talent auction at the Pictou Legion. The club put together several baskets which contained many beautiful items from local businesses and individuals in River John. We are very grateful to all those contributed. The funds raised will go towards Pictou County 4-H supporting activities and expenses that come throughout the year.

On May 10, the River John 4-H club held a fundraising chili supper at St. George's Church. This included some delicious homemade biscuits and brownies. It was the first event that we were able to showcase our beautiful "In Memory of Mary" aprons which were bought in memory of Mary Langille who passed away this past year. The light horse members had a bake table where they sold out of their wonderful goodies. Funds from this have gone towards covering the costs of club membership. Our club does it's best to offset the cost members have to pay to be in the program so kids can be kids and not have to worry about finances. Thank you to all that came and supported us.

And remember to mark your calendars for the morning of Tuesday, July 23rd. We will be serving our annual bacon, eggs, beans and toast breakfast on the verandah as part of River John Festival days. We look forward to seeing you all and thank you again for all of your support each year!

# Young Students Changing the World

by Cheryl Frizzell

Upon opening up the Pioneer Newspaper email, I found this letter addressed to me, after reading it I thought it would be nice to share.

"Hi Cheryl,

If you happened to skip your coffee this morning, you might want to save this email for later... It's tough on the ego to be "shown-up" by young students who are changing the world – especially if you're not fully caffeinated.

All jokes aside, we have an incredible story to share with you.

As Tim Hortons customers across Canada flock to their local coffee shop to participate in the annual 'Roll up the Rim to Win' contest, these young petition starters are pressing the coffee giant to do more to protect the planet.

Mya, Eve and Ben from Calgary are all un-

der the age of 17 and they're making big changes. Together, they launched a Change.org petition calling on Tim Hortons to create a compostable, recyclable cup. And their story is in the national news!

With the support of more than 106,000 Canadians who have signed their petition, the trio has only just begun.

If you're wondering why Mya and Eve look familiar, it's not the first time they've made headlines. These are the very same girls who launched a Change petition and campaigned with an environmental coalition to ask Starbucks to commit to producing an eco-friendly cup – and they WON! Their campaign resulted in a visit with Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson and a \$10 million USD commitment that the company will indeed make a #BetterCup.

Now on the heels of that victory, they've turned their attention to Tim Hortons and they're leveraging the annual contest as THE

moment to really turn up the heat. They've also brought Ben (16 years old) onboard to help with their campaigning efforts, and they've crowdsourced some ideas from those who signed their petition.

When they asked thousands of their campaign supporters for advice on how Tim Hortons can help prevent unnecessary waste, a couple ideas bubbled to the top:

1. Catherine T. of Nelson suggests that only people who bring in reusable cups get to play. She also recommends that the contest should be digital instead of being promoted on disposable, single-use cups.

2. Glen G. from Windsor suggests Tim Hortons should hand out a loyalty card and scan it to uncover who wins, instead of handing out disposable cups.

Mya, Eve and Ben are proof that what starts out as just an idea, can become a reality that has a real impact.

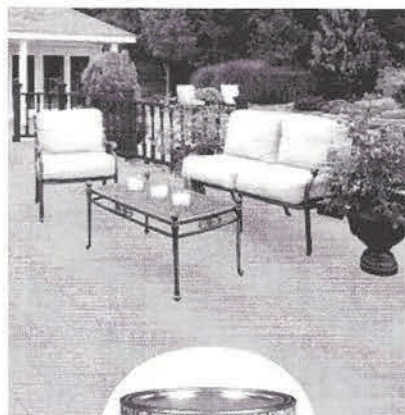
So what do you say, Cheryl? Do you think it's time Tims steps up to the eco-friendly challenge? Join the movement! Take a moment to sign the petition, then help these inspiring young Canadians spread the word.

Cheers to your next cup of coffee being planet-friendly,

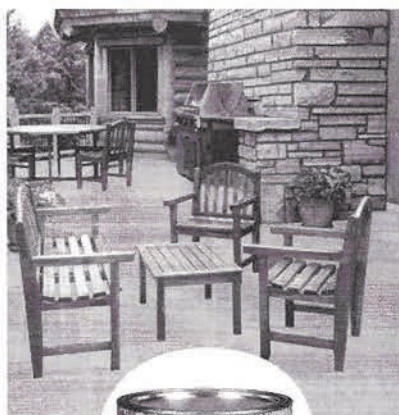
Laura Dunens  
Change.org Canada

PS — We're proud that Change is completely free to use and independent. Our platform and the success of campaigns like this one relies on monthly contributions from our Members. Become a Change Member today to help power more campaigns like Mya, Eve and Ben's to victory.

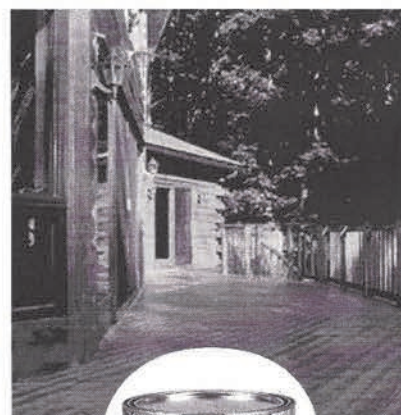
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## Is it windy out there?

by Rob Assels

Several years ago the Pioneer looked at 10 years of historical data from Environment Canada's Caribou Point weather station. It found that while day time temperatures were staying relatively constant, night time temperatures had increased on average just over 1.5C.

We did the same, this time looking at the past 5 years of wind data. Each day, Environment Canada measures Maximum Wind Gusts and Direction of Maximum Gust. The Pioneer reviewed 1,836 days of data spanning 5 years. The maximum wind gusts have actually decreased from a high in 2014 of 111 km/hr to just under 100 km/hr in 2019; however, the bad news is that average wind gusts over the course of the year have increased from 50 km/hr in 2014 to 57 km/hr in 2019. That means that on average there are more windy days now, but that they are not as extreme.

## Recycle your pens and markers



by Derek Andrews

Did you know there is a collection box at the River John library for used writing instruments? They will be collected by Staples Canada and recycled by TerraCycle.

The program accepts any brand of pens and pen caps, mechanical pencils, markers and marker caps, highlighters and highlighter caps, permanent markers and permanent marker caps. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/RJpens>

## Thank an RJ

The River John Ladies Club affectionately known as the RJ's celebrate 50 years of helping our Community this year. If you know one of these ladies or should meet one this summer thank them for their volunteer service.



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We are Eco Friendly Septic Solutions, a River John based company dealing with ecofriendly (Non chemical) septic products. Our products are very easy to use, to maintain your septic system, to improve its health, functionality, and extend its longevity?

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Prints of this 1841 Plan of the Settlement of River John and Vicinity are still available for sale at the library.

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# Pioneer home

## Life before TV and electronic devices

**By Beulah Wright**

Before there was a Television, a computer, a smart phone, a gaming device - what did families do for fun and amusement?

For one thing there probably was not as much free time. While daylight lasted, there was work to be done, and the children too, had their chores, woodboxes to be filled, eggs to be collected. dishes to wash and lampshades to be washed and lamps to be filled. Winter evenings though - when the barn chores were over, when the oil lamps were lit, and supper was finished - could become rather long, even if it was the practice to go to bed early.

Well, there was always reading, especially the Bible, when the family gathered regularly to hear the Holy Word. Other books might be scarce or not suitable for the children. The ladies of the family might take out their knitting, but even that was more of a necessity than amusement.

Those oil lamps were great for casting dark shadows, and some people were talented at using their fingers to create shadow pictures on the walls and all of the family could try their "hands".

Checkers and chess have been around for a long time and I remember how often my Father and I played crokinole in the evenings, while my Mother knitted or rocked the baby. The crokinole board dates back to the late 1800s and was considered rather a harmless amusement, unlike playing cards which in some strictly religious families were considered "works of the Devil" and were not allowed. An older neighbour told my Mother that she had heard we were playing cards at noon hour in school. My Mother didn't mind and answered that if that is all I was doing, she wasn't worried, but the neighbour lady was clearly shocked. What was the world coming to? If she could see the games the kids play on their smart phones today, I am sure she would faint away!

More than that, people visited. Everyone visited their neighbours. If it was close, they would walk - farther away, they would hitch up the horse to a buggy or a sleigh. At their destination, they would tie the horse in the barn while they visited. And the whole family would go, even in the winter if the evening was clear, with the children warmly bundled under a buffalo robe, against the cold, and wrapped hot bricks at their feet to keep toes warm. The babies would be put to bed while their parents talked and told stories. If an unexpected snowfall occurred, they would stay

all night and leave in the morning.

In our museum, we have a memory jar, made to remember some of these vists, whether consecutive or a party, I am not sure. The large jar was covered in putty and everyone was to search their pocket or purse for small items they could leave. These items ranging from a sewing machine bobbin, nails, coins, buttons etc were pressed into the putty and when it was set, was painted with a gold paint and behold - a mantle decoration!

House parties were common, and any excuse would do, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, housewarmings, home comings and other get-togethers. Some homes were lucky enough to have a piano, or some of the guests would bring a fiddle, a mouth organ might be found in a pocket, and there were always spoons in the kitchen! With the music at ready, the floor would be cleared for dancing and the entertainment began. It was common for neighbors and friends to hold a noisy serenade,

sometimes called a shivaree, for a couple after the wedding. My grandparents travelled by buggy from Nine Mile River to Maitland to be married, arrived there about noon, were served dinner by the minister's wife, were married and started back home, arriving about supper time, to find the hill beside the groom's home crowded with well wishers. The guests had whistles, horns, pots and pans and any other noisemakers they could provide. The women and the couple's family provided refreshments, and the guests finally left, having done their part to celebrate the wedding! If the couple were shy and eager to avoid the serenade, they could go on a wedding trip and show up in church, before going home - but that was cheating their neighbours out of a noisy celebration!

I am sure there are many other examples. Early entertainment was definitely a family affair, and I don't think anyone really suffered for the lack of electronic devices!

---

## Chocolate Brownies

**by Cheryl Frizzell**

1½ cup Margarine  
1½ cup flour  
1 cup white sugar  
1½ teaspoon salt  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
5 tablespoons cocoa  
walnuts

Mix, bake in 8 x 8 inch pan , about 30 minutes, 350 degree oven. No baking powder or soda used.

This recipe came from a friend so many know. I have been sitting in her kitchen for over 20 years listening to her stories of River John in days gone by and watching how her granddaughters grew up into the beautiful ladies they are today. Aggie McLellan lives a very quiet life in River John.

Aggie worked, while raising her family for some years at the Maritime Packers Fish Plant and the Periwinkle Restaurant.

At the Periwinkle Restaurant she work along side friend Eilene Tattie and Hazel Mc Kegian baking for the restaurant and making bread, biscuits, pies etc. for the bakery side of the counter. I can remember going in to the restaurant and the meals and sweets were soooooo good. Aggie used to make the



brownies and wanted to share the recipe, it was Hazel Mc Kegian's.

Thru the years Aggie has helped prepared many a church supper, breakfast, and even the making and selling of quilts events. If you have ever attended a St. George's Anglican Church Breakfast you would have smelled bacon or ham being cooked by Aggie. She also offers her talents to the River John Ladies Fire Auxiliary.

Aggie has very strong family values and feels close to her family and friends. Her eyes twinkle when you mention great-grandson Ethan or should you ask about her granddaughters.

Aggie like so many of our other senior ladies in River John have so much talent and knowledge to share. From their knitting to quilting , preserving to baking, making meals and catering. It's amazing what advice they can give on any topic. Just try talking to one of them.

# Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers

by Patsy Chapman,

## Nature's Nook & Kranny

Ok, the sun will warm up and summer will come...right?? So we will pretend it is and talk about container gardening. There are so many ways you can decorate with containers, you only need to start with your imagination. So we will talk about thrillers, fillers and spillers, which will help to remove some of the intimidation of starting.

### Thrillers

These are the big bold focal point of your container, it will provide a vertical eye catching element. If you are viewing your container from all sides, your thriller should go in the middle. If you are viewing it from the front, then your thriller will go to the back. When thinking of thrillers think of things like dracaena, grasses, canna lilies, think of bold colors as well as flowers.

### Fillers

These plants will surround your thriller, fill in the spaces. These plants will usually be mounding and mid-size. Here you can use many different plants or go for one type, so many choices. Think of things like million bells, begonias, and geraniums. Trouble will be which ones to choose.

### Spillers

Here are your splashy plants that will tumble and cascade over the sides of your pot. Again there is so many choices to go with that



the combinations are endless with plants like lobelia, sweet potato vine, bacopa, ivies.

When you have your choices and your planter is finished, here is a hard part... pinch your plants a little and pinch off your flowers, I know you don't want to but in a few weeks your container will be fuller and thicker with more blossoms. Always always use a quality potting soil, it will make a huge difference. Once your plants start to show signs of new growth, which will take a couple of weeks, start a liquid feed program. Do not feed a dry plant, can cause burn to the root system which will quickly show in your plants. Water and feed in a few hours. Dead heading any spent flowers will keep your flowers coming.

When you are thinking containers, flowers and not the only choice you have. If you are in an apartment or condo and are low on space, vegetables and herbs are a great thing to put in your pots. What is any better than picking cherry tomatoes from your deck?

Once summer does finally get here, get out to your garden centers and let your imagination run wild with choices for your containers.

## 1819 - Duncan Johnston / Johnson Family, Meet and Greet/Anniversary - 2019

The family of Duncan Johnston sailed from the Isle of Coll, Scotland, on the ship "Economy", landing in Pictou, and first settling in the Cape John District of the time (Hodson, Melville, River John, Toney River) and to Montague, PEI. If you are an interested descendant, feel free to attend.

If you know which of the twelve children of Lachlan and Sarah Johnson you are off, there could be interesting conversation. Historical Tag if desired, guest books to sign, copies of old family photos welcome. Wear any Scottish Tartan you may have.

No parking on the busy Sunrise Trail. Please park on gravelled areas, behind hall or up Toney River Road by hall.

### Toney River Community Hall

#### Saturday July 6th

10am - 10pm, Meet and Greet (Finger foods)  
Self Guided Tours,  
8pm - Possible Ceilidh

#### Sunday July 7th

11am Salem United Church Service, River John  
12 noon - 4p, presentations, sharing of family histories and socializing.



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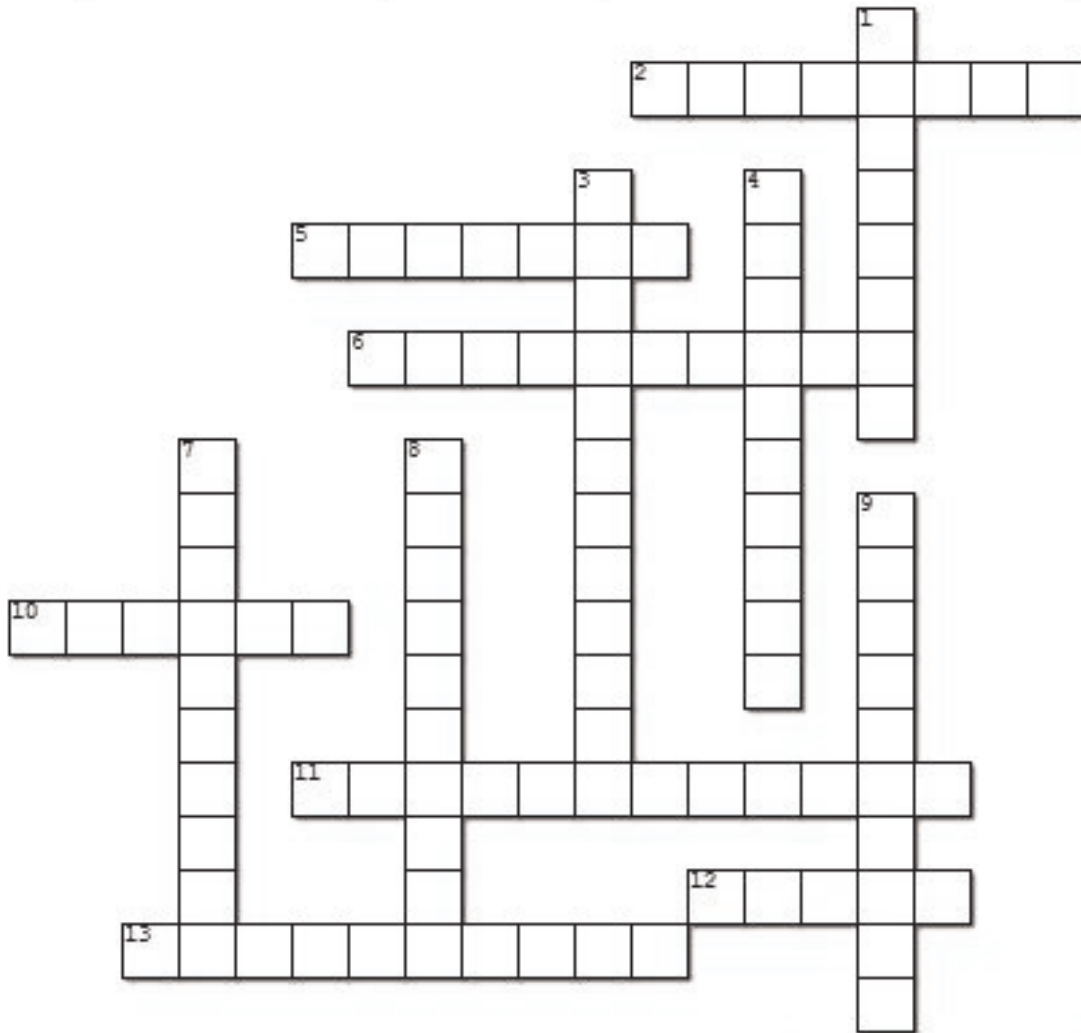




# Pioneer recreation

## CLUELESS CROSSWORD AROUND AND ABOUT RIVER JOHN

Complete the crossword puzzle below. (HINTS: SEAFOAM, MELVILLE)



HERE ARE THE WORDS THAT BELONG IN THE "AROUND AND ABOUT RIVER JOHN" CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

BRULE HEDGEVILLE SKINNERSCOVE WESTERLY HODSON SEAFOAM TONEYRIVER  
MELVILLE MARSHVILLE TATAMAGOUCHE POPLARHILL LOUISVILLE WESTBRANCH

## RIVER JOHN NAMES WORD SEARCH

N I U Q I R T A P B O N E G Q X T I  
L F V J Y M A C L E O D F N V F B N  
L S A O C X R H V O B E S X V F X N  
N A N W F O T D U P L E S S I S W I  
E W D C D T R W K E N N E D Y R B S  
I I E D N O S P M O H T C D Z Q C W  
R N R N Z W Q I M E D N O M D E R Q  
B M V E I I E M S N R S N W V L K Q  
O I E L N X A M P L H O O D K J A S  
O L E L O G O I F H S A M F K I E B  
X L N I R E D N A X E L A I H L D P  
E K M G E M V D L P D I H L L H F H  
U I B N M T K N C D F N G E O L G R  
T O L A A O B U O P J C R H M K O V  
I U L L C M W M N U S S G W T H H J  
J A Q Q I Y E L E E K X E M C O F O  
V L V T G A V Q R Z I N C K J X N I  
I D Q S H P B J E L L I O T T K O B

ALEXANDER THOMPSON  
BAILLIE VANDERVEEN  
CAMERON WINMILL  
DUPLESSIS YAP  
ELLIOTT ZINCK  
FALCONER  
GAMMON  
HEIGHTON  
INNIS  
JOLLIMORE  
KENNEDY  
LANGILLE  
MACLEOD  
NIXON  
OBRIEN  
PATRIQUIN  
REDMOND  
SELLERS

## River John nicknames

by Anne Patriquin

I thought that everyone could test their memories with these River John nicknames:

1. Papa Bear
2. Powder Hole
3. Angelo
4. Coup
5. Snake Eyes
6. Percy Q the Kid Pester
7. Mouse
8. Bunk
9. Hay Wire
10. Liver Lips
11. The Golden Girls
12. The Wooden Indian
13. Roger Dodger
14. Soup Bone
15. Jock a Mores
16. Konk
17. Turkey Neck
18. Rabbit
19. Spider Legs
20. Flop Ears
21. Turp
22. Three Finger Jack
23. Crow
24. Barber
25. Eagle
26. Rooster
27. Plow Shed Bill
28. Milk Man Bill
29. Little Aubrey
30. Boomer
31. Touse
32. Moose

LEETIK ESSO

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RR#1 River John

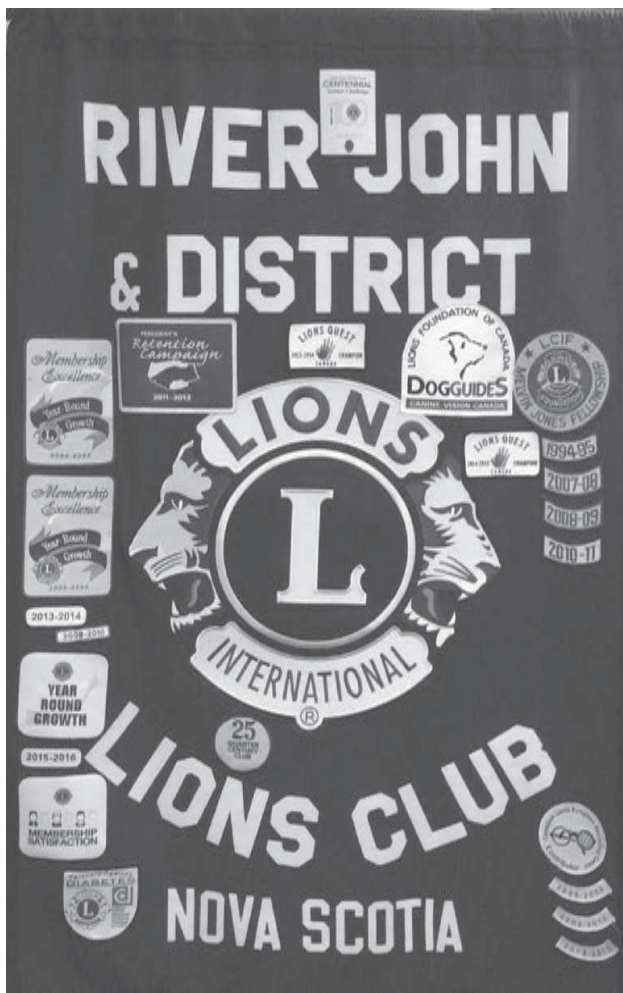
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# River John Memories



On a Wednesday night a group of musicians and singers get together to share talents at the West Branch Community Hall. One of these singers / musicians is John Crichton, how quiet the hall got when he began to sing a song he wrote about River John.

"Sitting on the bench at the end of the cape, watching a gorgeous sunset, can bring a feeling of peace and serenity that can put everything into perspective at the end of a hectic day. The second half has more to do with the awe and respect I have for the way in which members of this small community had a vision and made it come to life by pulling together to make it happen for the benefit of everyone"

— John Crichton



John's wife Fran, the inspiration for the song.

## River John Memories

J.C. Apr 17, 2019

Have you paused for an hour at the end of the Cape,  
 At the close of a fading spring day  
 With the cries of the Gulls and the smell of the tide  
 As the sun slips slowly away  
 The reflection of the burning red setting sun  
 As it gently sinks out of your sight  
 Creates a feeling of calmness, a sense of real peace  
 A moment of pure delight  
 These are things in my life I'll try not to forget  
 Places and people and moments in time  
 Special memories locked away in my brain  
 Until I might need them again  
 Have you stayed for an hour at the Bissel park dock  
 On a warm tranquil day in July,  
 On a bench watching kids jump from the bridge  
 Under an azure blue sky  
 Or up in the park on a warm summer night  
 With music being played for the crowd  
 And everyone there enjoying their time,  
 clapping or singing out loud  
 These are things in my life I'll try not to forget  
 Places and people and moments in time  
 Special memories locked away in my brain  
 Until I might need them again

— John Crichton



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The market bottomed out from 2009-2016, with property prices falling and it became a 'buyers' market. Meaning buyers could pretty much name the price they would pay for a property, to the detriment of property owners. A couple of years ago we started seeing a rebound in the market, with more buyers and therefore owners being able to achieve higher prices for their property. The past two years we have experienced a much higher demand for property, with buyers from Ontario, Alberta and BC looking to relocate here. Our property prices are a bargain compared to those in the western provinces.

Cathy is extremely proud of her roots in River John and we are pleased to be able to provide knowledgeable and professional real estate service to this beautiful community! Go Local and Call Cathy or Donna for assistance with your real estate needs. Or visit our office at 45 Water Street, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

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# Pioneer photos



District Zone Chairperson Catherine Gibbs and Kenny Langille welcome new member John Blair to the River John and District Lions Club.

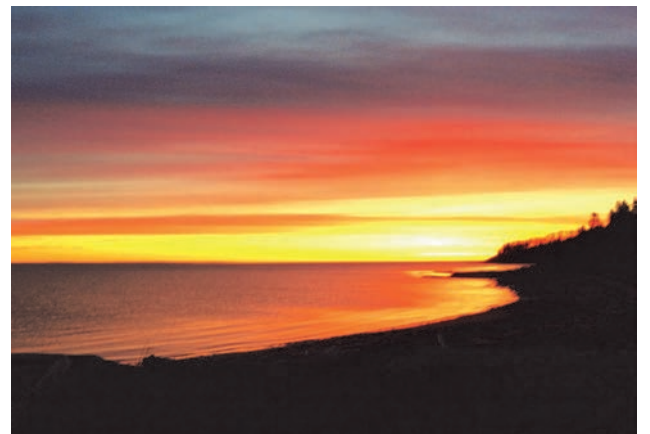
## Bissell Park Floating Dock

A group of volunteers gathered at Bissell Park on an early May afternoon to put the floating docks in for another season.



## Running Day at Skinners Cove

The season began on a cool, +1 degree sunny morning. Head lights began to appear heading down the roads to Skinners Cove Wharf. Voices carry from one boat to another as the hype begins. The boats are all loaded and ready to go when the hands of the clock it 6 am. I watch as 5:59 am approaches (along with others) as the motors begin to rev up, they start to creep away from the wharf. Then its 6:00 am and it's full throttle as they leave the wharf for the outside waters. Mother Nature has provided a beautiful sunrise and calm sea with the promise of a nice day for setting traps.



Sunrise at Skinners Cove



Land and Sea Carvings and Hookings is located on the Cape at 516 New Road. Leroy and Brenda Penner make wonderful carvings in wood and soapstone, as well as 100% wool hooked rugs. Phone 902 301 8300 or email leroycarver 1949@gmail.com



A boat loaded with traps leaves the harbour



The blossoms at the Remembrance Gardens at the Legion are beautiful in June



Calm waters



Family and friends come to watch the boats leave

# TATAMAGOUCHE TRAIN STATION INN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



Since 1989, The Train Station Inn has seen itself grow from a three bedroom accommodation into the most unique tourist experience in Nova Scotia. Proudly Tatamagouche, Jimmie and Shelley Lefresne, family, and staff have created a space that continues to grow. We hope you will join with us as we celebrate 30 years of hospitality, community involvement, and an unparalleled East coast experience. Join us for dinner in the Dining Car, breakfast and a paper in the cafe, and an unforgettable night in a caboosel! We can't wait to see you and to celebrate not only the last 30 years, but the next 30!

## THE DINING CAR



Rich in history and character, The Railway Dining Car is the place to go for lunch or dinner in Tatamagouche. Our modern menu features the Chef's daily choice along with your favourites. Try our local lamb, fresh salmon, tasty seafood chowder, and seasonal desserts. Your children--the little conductors--will love their menu choices like Engineer's Mac & Cheese, Box Car Grilled Cheese and more.

Built in 1928 the Dining Car has kept the nostalgia of days gone by with original hardwood floors and baggage rails. Allow the charms of the past to enhance your meal, whether it be a casual lunch or a special night out. Stepping inside you can almost envision a life of the past when soldiers and immigrants used the car to travel across Canada, departing from Pier 21 in Halifax. Make your vacation a part of this rich history!

## THE JITNEY CAFE, PLATFORM, AND GIFT SHOP



More than 130 years old, the Train Station now houses the Station Master's Suite as well as the Jitney Cafe and Platform and our eclectic Gift Shop. Enjoy a cup of coffee made from locally roasted beans and the antique filled cafe as you wait for your breakfast. Before your afternoon adventure begins, peruse our gift shop filled with an extensive collection of clothing, gifts, books, and children's toys. Then, as you wind down from your day or get ready for your evening, relax on our platform while admiring the train cars and beautiful Tatamagouche sunsets!

While you stay, watch out for upcoming events like music, painting, and children activities--the perfect way for the parents to relax while the kids have some fun! Or, before you head for your evening meal in the Dining Car, enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of our cafe patio, tucked away from the bustle of the tourist season village. Rainy day? Visit the Vice Royal Lounge Car to unwind in style or for an energetic weekend event!

Our goal is to not only accommodate your stay in Nova Scotia, but be an iconic and indulgent facet of your vacation or weekend getaway! Let us know what you need to get your visit right!

**DINING CAR: 902 657 9091 -- INN: 902 657**

 /TrainStationInn  @TrainStationInn