

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

Gloria's Market

by Chelsie Robinson

My name is Chelsie Robinson, and my partner, Brenton Brown, and I are the new owners of the Carlson Family Farm Shop. We are located at 5 Carlson Lane in Marshville, on Route 6, 4 km past River John bridge enroute to Tatamagouche.

Now known as Gloria's Market, we plan on continuing the high quality and value of locally grown, affordable produce that David and Anita Carlson have been providing the community for many years now.

We are Nova Scotia born and bred, and though we moved to British Columbia in 2020, we recently moved home to our new community of River John. We moved to BC so that Brenton (the green thumb) could pursue his passion of feeding people in a sustainable way. Through his studies at Dalhousie Agricultural College as well as his own personal gardens, Brenton really wants to be sure that the produce we deliver is nutrient-filled, sustainable and easily accessible to the community. His passion, simply put, is to feed people.

As for me? Well, I have been in the business sector for years now and have been looking for an opportunity to provide something to rural Nova



Scotia that I could be proud of. I grew up in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, and have always had a longing to return to rural living. I spent my youth helping family friends with their livestock. I look forward to not only feeding the community, but to hopefully provide employment opportunities that people working for us can be proud of.

The name "Gloria's Market" is dedicated to Brenton's late mother, Gloria Brown. She was a shining light in Brenton's life and was his biggest supporter during his education to pursue his passion in both Culinary Arts and Horticulture. We couldn't think of a better way to forever memorialize her and the bond that she and Brenton shared. She is forever missed, but forever in the front of our minds and hearts every time we break ground, plant a seed, harvest a vegetable, and put food on your tables. Thank you, Gloria.

So, now that we've introduced ourselves... we don't have a Grand Opening date yet, but that's coming soon. We ask that anyone interested check out our Facebook page for the latest updates. The favourites you're used to, (and maybe something new,) will be ready for opening day. You can check us out online via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; all by searching @gloriasmarket on those supporting platforms.



A Loop in Time

by Patsy Chapman

Ever want to step back in time? Mike Weatherby of Truro saw a vision from a run-down former store in West Branch. In the past 7 years he has made a museum and a tribute to his family, friends and members of our community. Well worth the drive to come see what he has accomplished and let him explain those he has memorialized there. One of these tributes is to his friend Bonnie. From this tribute came Bonnie's Little Library. Bonnie was born and raised in Rhode Island, moving to Nova Scotia where she had family ties. She was a librarian and worked at several libraries here in Nova Scotia as well as the United States, where as a librarian she would never have to pay a late fee again. She finished off her career at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. Come check out this tribute, have a seat, read a book, and enjoy a Loop in Time.



Talented young artist, Hanna Byers



12-year-old Hanna Byers is in Grade 6 at Tatamagouche Regional Academy.

She enjoys painting, drawing, clay work, animals, and anime.

Her mother is Tiffany Butler and stepfather is Nick Bigney.



It's BBQ time

by Chris Gill

It's BBQ time and with that it's high time for those quick, delicious side salads. These three salads are a single side serving but of course can be adapted any which way to suit all needs and tastes. With a slice of bread or roll (or two) added any larger serving of these salads can become a full meal. Do give them a try and have a wonderful, yummy summer.

TOMATO SALAD



onion, red or yellow; to taste; diced or thinly sliced
your dressing of choice; to taste; mix, knead into onions, sort of quick pickling the onions
tomato; up to 1 per person; slice or dice
add tomato to the onion-dressing mix just before serving to keep watering out to a minimum

ORANGE-FENNEL SALAD + VINAIGRETTE / DRESSING



orange - 1 per person - cut off peel, and cut into bite sized chunks
fennel leaf - 1 leaf to taste - cut into thin slices
salt - to taste
pepper, ground or crushed - to taste
sesame seeds, nuts, seeds of choice - optional / to taste
store bought vinaigrette, or homemade vinaigrette:
oil of choice - 1/4 cup
vinegar of choice - 2 tsp
mustard of choice - 1 tsp

APPLE-CARROT SLAW



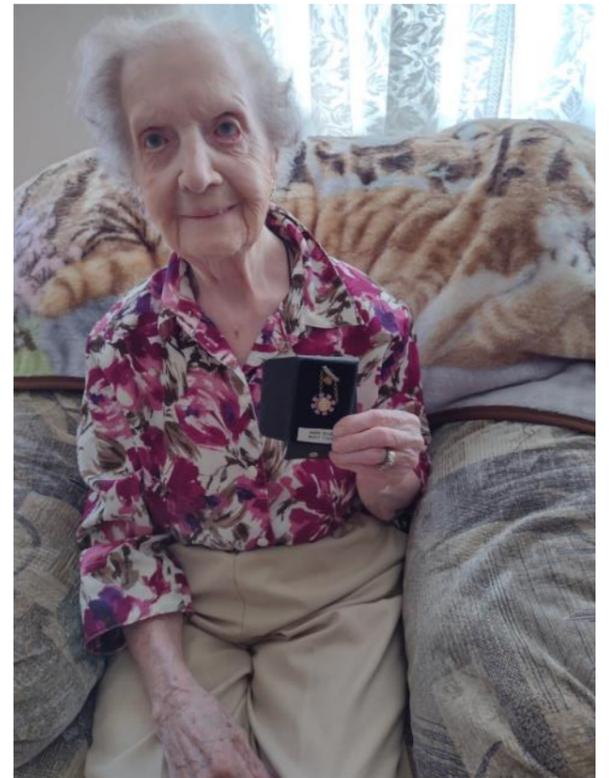
apple - 1 very small - cored and grated
carrots - 3 medium - cleaned and grated
oil of choice (vegetable, olive) - 3 Tbsp - to taste
vinegar of choice (apple-cider, white balsamic, ...) - 1 Tbsp / to taste
salt - 1/8 tsp / to taste
sugar - 1/2 tsp / to taste
mix everything in a (serving) bowl
optional add-ins:
*lemon juice - few drops / to taste
*ground / crushed pepper - 1/2 tsp / to taste
*raisins / dried fruit of choice / crushed pineapple - to taste
*nuts / seeds of choice

sweetener of choice - 1 tsp
salt - to taste
pepper - to taste

For the homemade dressing put all the ingredients into a small lidded jar, close firmly and shake until creamy or whisk vigorously in a bowl. Then pour over the salad soon, as the dressing will separate over time.



This is a picture of a banner that we had made and a plaque that was presented to the Sutherland Harris Veterans Wing in Pictou. It was on behalf of the three Lions Clubs in our district, River John Lions Club, Pictou Lions Club and Stellarton Lions Club. On it are the Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marine crests. The Lions presenting it were Anne Patriquin, Paul Doucette and Rod Buell on behalf of the clubs.



Mabel Zinck received a jewel as she celebrated 75 years as a Rebekah. The Frazee Rebekahs in River John thank Sister Mabel for her years of Friendship, Love and Truth.

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River John 4-H

by Christene Heighton

The River John 4-H Club is back for another year with 14 members and 5 leaders. Projects this year include beef, fisheries, crafts, scrap-booking, cake decorating, photography, light horse, draft horse, goat, building blocks, great outdoors, cloverbud, exploring 4-H, foods and rabbit. The year was again challenging with COVID-19 and unable to meet with members in person until February.

Our annual Public Speaking rally was held on March 17th, at the River John Legion with 7 members presenting exceptional topics to the audience. Thank you to Mike Topley for judging the members it was greatly appreciated and Congratulations to all members we are so proud of you all. Two members moved on to the County Rally on April 3rd in Scotsburn, Kay Lee Scotland for Junior Speech and Elizabeth Heighton for Ambassador. Kay Lee received first in Junior Speech and Elizabeth received first in the Ambassador competitions. They both moved on to the Eastern Regional rally on April 18th in Scotsburn, where Kay Lee received second place in Junior Speech and Elizabeth received a first in Ambassador competitions. Elizabeth moved on to the Provincial 4-H Day in Truro where she received second runner-up overall. Congratulations to both members!

On May 14th Kay Lee Scotland took part in a 4-H Rabbit Clinic at the Truro Exhibition grounds where she learned many skills such as showmanship and judging. There was also a fun "Dress your bunny up" competition. Congratulations Kay Lee for a job well done, we are all proud of your hard work.

We would like to thank Farm Credit Canada (FCC) for your funding of \$500 to help us with our club activities and Achievement Day.

We are now in the planning stages for Achievement Day, Pictou North Colchester Exhibition and the Provincial Show in Truro. Some our members are also in open class shows with their projects this summer. It will be a busy summer finishing their projects and taking part in many events this year. Best of luck to all.



Kay Lee Scotland and her bunny in the dressed competition.



4 H members assisted the River John Lions with roadside pick up on May 14th.

(Left to right) Aiden, Chloe Bezanson and in front Jennifer Ingemansen

Easter egg hunt

The Recreation Department organized an Early Easter egg hunt on April 10th at the Legion Remembrance Garden. Here are photos of some participants.



Violet Mulholland and Grayson MacLean



Faith Mulholland, Georgina Manning, Kinslee Carmichael



Hon. Karla MacFarlane
MLA, Pictou West

P.O. Box 310, 37 Water St.
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NS Power Outage Information...877-428-6004
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Senior's Outreach, Mary MacLellan...902-752-8400

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Mental Health Crisis Line...888-429-8167
Kids Help Phone...800-668-6868
Addictions Services...800-922-1122

Editorial "War in our time"

by Joan MacLeod

As a "baby boomer" child born after the Second World War, (1946-1964), "War time" was a common phrase, so was the expression, "The war to end all wars," but it never does, does it?

Since then, there have been the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Irish Troubles, the Falkland Crisis, Rwanda, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Bosnia, Iraq, Syria, the suppression of human rights in Hong Kong and the list goes on and on. There has rarely been a time in living history when there has not been one country either fighting internally (civil war) or a bigger county trying to overtake another, usually for material gain, oil, or other riches or just domination or sovereignty.

All wars lead to unjust suffering and death, and destruction of homes, businesses and infrastructure. And the weakest and most vulnerable suffer the most. Innocent citizens are often deliberately killed to instill fear and to terrorize the population. And who profits? Arms manufacturers mainly, as well as those who supply war equipment, certainly not the ordinary citizens. War creates refugees, who are displaced and live in substandard conditions awaiting placement.

The war in Ukraine is no exception. There are 6 million refugees created by this war, mainly women and children, who have fled, leaving behind their menfolk to fight the Russians. It is important to note that very many Russians are also opposed to this war, but when they held protest marches, they were imprisoned by a corrupt government which does not allow protest or dissent.

Sometimes I think that smaller communities and villages reflect what is going on in the outside world. We have seen dissent, criticism and infighting between our community groups. In my opinion this is not helpful and needs to stop. We are so much stronger when we can co-operate and work together for a greater good, rather than working against each other. Co-operation does not happen automatically, it takes time and sharing, with respect and patience.

So, it is gratifying to see the present support for Ukraine in our village. The IOOF passed the hat at their meeting and raised \$1,500 to send to a brother organization in the Ukraine. The Presbyterian Church held a soup luncheon and raised over \$1,075 which they sent to the Red Cross and Presbyterian World Development. And a group of us bought a Ukraine Flag to fly in the village and also bought fabric to decorate power poles in the village (for a donation), raising \$100 and counting. Donations may still be left at the Library.

Also, by the time this goes to press, the United Church will have held a hymn-sing with the goodwill offering also going to the United Church's Emergency appeal for Ukraine.

Well done everyone, this conflict seems to have captured our attention like none other. Peace, reconciliation, diplomacy, discussion on human and civil rights all take time, energy and commitment. But in a democracy, not a dictatorship, that is the only alternative to conflict.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

What a great issue! Bravo! Thank you for all your efforts and time in putting together this local newspaper.

It just gets better and better. I really like the range - from service club news to people profiles to articles about history, nature & community events. The advertisements, graphics and their placements are excellent as well. I read everything.

In appreciation,

Susan (Sellers Bain)

Letter to the Editors:

I am wondering if you, or anyone you know, might have knowledge of the fishing buildings that used to be at MacDonald's Cove wharf?

After the wharf was decommissioned, my father, (Harry Herring Jr.), bought one of the buildings. My dad and Austin Allen moved it from MacDonald's Cove to the cottages off Allen Road with one of Austin's tractors & trailers. We used the building as a bunkie and for storage. We are now restoring the building, got to talking and were trying to determine some more history.

Do you know anyone who might be able to help fill us in on the old MacDonald's wharf buildings? Thanks for considering.

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Oops! Editorial Error

Re. Letter to the Editor Winter/Spring Issue 2022:

The Mackay Road/James MacKay Road (Toney River) Fiasco, by Rennie MacKenzie

We made an error in this letter. We omitted a paragraph, which meant the following paragraph did not make sense.

The letter should have read:

"Reference Illustrated Historical Atlas of Pictou County J.H. Meacham & C. 1879 Section No. 3 Page 33

Reference: Atlantic Canada Back Road Atlas (Map Art Publishing Corp) Page 53 (key 68-L). They refer to it as the James MacKay Road. Who do you suppose didn't do their homework! I suspect the gentlemen in 1879 knew what he was doing."

We sincerely apologize for this omission.

The Editor

The Pioneer is published by the River John Community Action Society

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The views expressed in this newspaper are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editorial board.

The Pioneer is distributed throughout the BOK 1N0 postal area which is primarily River John and West Branch. We welcome any articles or pictures from any of our newspaper friends and areas. Contributions to the next issue should be sent to the editors. Please send text files and pictures as separate attachments. Text should have the bare minimum of formatting. Photos should be 400-1200 pixels wide, and be accompanied by a list of captions. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity and brevity. Profanity will not be tolerated and we have the right to refuse to print letters.

- Editorial board:..... Joan MacLeod, Linda Thompson-Reid, Beulah Wright, Debby Shaw, Mary Beth Sutherland
.....pioneereditors@outlook.com
- Photographer:..... Christiane Gill
- Advertising sales Julie Windebankpioneerads2000@gmail.com
- Advertising, accounts receivable Melanie Millerpioneerpayments2000@gmail.com for advertising
- Graphics Dylan Langille.....langille.dylan@gmail.com
- Typist Sandra MacKay
- Proof readingMarg Jones
- Layout Derek Andrews
- PrintingAdvocate Printing & Publishing Co Ltd

Community Announcements

Weekly coffee mornings

at the Presbyterian Church Hall have started again. They are held on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. All are welcome and it is a great time of fellowship and an opportunity to socialize after the isolation of COVID.

TOADSTOCK 2022

is excited to be back in River John for the weekend of Aug 11-13th with even more entertainment and fun planned. Bike or no bike, it's a weekend you won't want to miss!

More information can be found at www.bikersdown.com

It's going to be a real "Ol' Skool Biker Party!"

All at the River John Old School, 2 School Street, River John.



River John Library and Innovation Centre

On behalf of
the Friends of the River John Library Society and
the River John C@P Committee

You are invited to the

20+1 Anniversary Celebration of the
River John Library and Innovation Centre

Time and Date: 11 a.m., Saturday June 18th, 2022

Refreshments will be served
RSVP by June 10th, 2022

River John Story Walk

by Beulah Wright

Read by the Sea, a favourite summer activity for which River John has become famous, is once again going to take place this summer and the River John and Area Historical Society is conducting a "Story Walk" as a part of the event. The pandemic put a cramp in the recent presentations and last year's offering was simply a video talking about some of the people and the artifacts at the local heritage museum, documenting the rich and varied stories of River John's past. But it is going to be an actual walk this year and we are excited!

We select a particular area of the village and point out the various interesting spots, and tell a story about that spot. This year we are focusing on the Station Road and we plan to begin at the Bissell Park and walk up the hill and stick to the right side of the highway, where we can view Holmes Hill, the site of the Welsford Tannery, and of the Methodist Church and talk about the past residents of the various homes. Not sure yet where we will turn, due to time constraints, but we shall walk back on the other side of the street until we get back to Bissell Park, where we might find some lemonade and cookies.

This will happen on the morning of June 30th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Dress for the weather, (remember how hot it was on the first story walk we conducted,) and maybe carry a small bottle of water in your pocket. It should be fun and perhaps you will learn something about our historic village that is new to you.

Heritage Museum

by Beulah Wright

The Heritage Museum is open again for the summer, earlier this year and hoping that reduced restrictions and open borders will allow for more tourists - more visitors! Because we have not been able to find a summer student again this year, it will only be open through the week, with Saturdays and Sundays closed.

We will have some new artifacts and are always willing to tell some stories, research your family tree or just talk about the way things used to be. We feel that we now have a wonderful collection on display. Now we need to plan some special events - might be possible.

We are very grateful to all the local people who stepped up and justified our existence the past two years when out-of-province travelers were just not around. River John is so rich in history, both in events and outstanding people and it is important to keep those stories and memories alive and share them.

Hope to see you there! You will be very welcome!



The Farmers Market is coming back!

July 3rd and every Sunday after from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

AND there will be a special market during Festival Week, July 24th.

Food trucks, local vendors and music - something for the whole family, all while supporting our local vendors.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, or would like to play music, please email bobbilebigney@hotmail.com

Card of Thanks

A Huge Thank You All!

I would like to thank everyone for all the nice flowers, cards, meals and phone calls I received during my recent illness. Your time and thoughtfulness were all so appreciated. Many thanks again from the bottom of my heart.

Shelley Bigney and Family

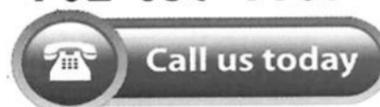


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by Debby Shaw

On March 26, at 2 p.m., a funeral service for Mary Bell Reid of River John was held in St. George's Presbyterian Church. Mary was in her 90th year and had not finished dispersing kindness to all God's creatures. Her bird feeders were always full, and any stray animal that came her way was sure to find food and maybe even lodging.

When Bruce and I moved into Sadie's place, next door to Mary, we became one of her strays, and were welcomed with a pie and a lovely neighbour. Mary's door was always open to me and she made sure I felt comfortable making tea for us in her kitchen. We sat and talked about the birds we saw and looked them up in her many bird books. She told me about her father going off to WWII and how her mother had their house built while he was away. One thing she didn't tell me about was that she had been Maid of the Waves in a pageant in Pictou. I read this in her obituary but wasn't surprised.

Mary told me of her children's younger years on the farm in Bigney with her husband, Everett Reid. Stories of sheep, horses and small children. Stories of going off to Nova Scotia Teachers College when her daughters were still young, after having completed a year at Mount Allison University. This reminded me of my own mother who went off to college when I was 13 and she was 43. They were

pioneers for women. I heard wonderful stories of her teaching years at the Falls and Tatamagouche. I also heard of her adventures in Australia, where she was an exchange teacher. While there she travelled extensively, visiting New Zealand, Tasmania, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok. When she came back, Mary settled in her mother's house where she ran a bed and breakfast, named "Brambles". Mary was also a well-travelled tourist, having toured parts of Europe and the United States. Like most people who have lived a full life, she loved to share many of her stories with me over our tea.

She talked of her family and of the terrible loss of her daughters, Beverly and Marilyn, phone calls and visits from daughter Linda in Ottawa. Mary was very proud of her children, as well as her grandchildren, Kelly, Scott, and Mark.

Mary said it was because of her childhood years with her father that she was so passionate about the welfare of birds and animals, remembering rescuing and raising baby raccoons with him. She was a supporter of Hope for Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. She wrote letters to government representatives about conserving our mainland moose and Sable Island horses and Nova Scotia forests.

In my first spring as Mary's neighbour, I was surprised to see about 100 daffodils sprouting on



her lawn between our houses. I'm sure others weren't surprised, but I was just learning of Mary's green thumb. Her lovely yard with its pond, benches and pretty gardens, and her beautiful view of the river gave her much joy.

Linda came home to care for her Mum during her illness. She arranged for the VON and compassionate homecare workers to help with that care, and made it possible for Mary to stay in her home. She enjoyed the many visits from family and friends.

The sound of Mary's voice, her laugh and her constant smile will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Are you on the Need a Family Practice Registry?

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Helping Hand Lodge #34 and Frazee Rebekah Lodge #33.

by Jacob Leegwater,
Recording Secretary

Since our last report in the Pioneer, we have overcome our structural problems. We are sorry that Fulton's Pharmacy had to close for three weeks, the first week was out of our control.

Due to COVID in January and snowstorms in February we were unable to hold our afternoon meetings on the second Monday of each month. In March we were pleased to have Brother Eric and Sister Diane Hann join us. On a couple of occasions we had a visit from Grand Master pro tem Brother Peter Richardson; on February 28, he presented Bro. Patrick Heighton with a 5-year lapel pin. On March 14 Bro. Hugh Langille was presented with his 50-year jewel. Congratulations to both.

With the war ongoing in the Ukraine, it was agreed by the Lodge to raise funds for a newly instituted Lodge in Ukraine. When all was said and done, we were able to send \$1,500.

Notice was received for Grand Lodge Sessions in Truro to be held on Friday 13 and Saturday 14. Several Brothers indicated they would be

attending. We had honoured Raymond MacKenzie on his 91st birthday. Though not a lodge member he has made and donated many handcrafted items to the Lodge.

We were very pleased to have three applications for membership. Initiation is hopefully before Lodge closes for the summer.

On April 18th, Bro. Steven Craib was presented with a 25-year jewel and Bro. Hugh Langille was presented with a 50-year universal jewel, both presented by Bro. Peter Richardson. Our district meeting was held in Liberty Lodge #120 on April 20th. This was chaired by Bro. Kennie Snook. Next term the D.D. Grand Master will be Bro. Mike MacKenzie of Eastern Star #1 in Pictou.

During our Grand Lodge Sessions in Truro on May 13th and 14th, one highlight was the election of Bro. Dan Ferguson to the position of Grand Warden. This is the first step to the office of Grand Master, a position that we are sure to be of great significance. Congratulations.

We are selling tickets on three lobster

draws - 3 lots of 10lb of Lobsters. Tickets are 1 for \$2 and 3 for \$5. They can be purchased at Fulton's Pharmacy, River John. The draw will be held on June 18, just in time for Father's Day.

On the Rebekah side of the coin, we too are fundraising. Tickets are 4 for \$5 with only 200 tickets being sold; this will be a 50/50, with the winner taking home \$500.

Three of our sister members attended the Rebekah Assembly Sessions held the same time as Odd Fellows in Truro. Attending were Noble Grand Sister Joanne Ferguson, Sister Margaret Langille and Sister Agnes Murray.

We hope you all have a great summer and we'll see you on July 28th at the Festival Days breakfast at the Lions Verandah.

Noble Grand Helping Hand – Bro. Willis Langille

Noble Grand Frazee Rebekahs #33 – Sis. Joanne Ferguson

Recording Secretary Helping Hand – Bro. Jacob Leegwater

R. S. Frazee Rebekah # 33 – Sis. Greta Langille

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Helping Hand Lodge #34

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2021-2022 Noble Grand, Willis Langille



River John Legion News

by Mike Topley, President

The Legion is heading into what we hope is a full swing summer. There's lots being planned, first and foremost a restart of Chase the Ace. Tickets go on sale at Fulton's Pharmacy on Monday, June 6th. Starting jackpot is \$2000 and the first draw will be on Friday, June 10th. Come on out and enjoy the music by Geezer. Line dancers are welcome; speaking of which, many thanks to Jocelyn Heighton for leading an enthusiastic group of line dancers on Friday evenings right up to the Chase the Ace restart.

Summer washer tosses are being planned and will be announced in plenty of time to sign up. These will be along with a full slate of activities during Festival Days including a strawberry tea, bingo, a crib tournament, and a euchre tournament; and don't forget Read by the Sea in our Memorial Gardens. Legion members have been busy with spring cleaning and freshening indoors and out.

Finally, our partnership agreement with the River John Pickleball Club is proceeding nicely. Hopefully some recreational grant money will find its way towards this project. Once constructed, (hopefully this summer/fall,) pickleball club memberships or day/game passes will be available along with lessons and plenty of court time.

See you at the Legion.

Chase the ACE

At the River John Legion
Supporting the Legion
and Action Society
Music by Geezer

Restarting mid-June 2022
Tickets will be for sale
at Fulton's Guardian Pharmacy
through the week,
and at the Legion 6:30-8:30pm
every Friday

**JACKPOT starts at
\$2000**



Pau Wau/Mawio'mi Time In The Maritimes

by Paul Martin

Kwe' (gway) means Greetings in the Mi'kmaq language. The people of Katjipokoek, (a lonely river flowing through the wilderness), or River John, may recognize this word as it formed part of the name of my mother Jean's basket shop in the early 90's in River John which she called Kwe' Country Basket. A word that many are perhaps more familiar with is "Powwow." I have heard this word used loosely over time in various settings. The word Powwow never seemed to be used in a manner that indicated its correct meaning or given the importance it evokes in the M'ikmaw culture or for that matter many North American Indigenous communities.

As I understand it the term "Powwow" is derived from "Pau Wau," meaning "medicine man" or "he who dreams" in Narrtuck, a language spoken by the Algonquian people of Massachusetts. As with numerous Indigenous words, settlers not only spelled pau wau incorrectly but began misusing the word to refer to the meetings of Indigenous medicine men, and later to any kind of gathering of North American Indians. In recent times, and in some circles, it has even become a more general term for meetings and conferences, especially brief ones. The spelling of Powwow has become generally accepted but when attending such an event in the land of the Mi'kmaq it is properly called a "Mawio'mi (ma wee oh me). The word "Mawio'mi" in the Mi'kmaq language means "gathering." The event is intended to gather with friends and family to celebrate the beauty, strength, spirit and endurance of the Mi'kmaq Indigenous peoples and their culture and traditions. This event includes Mi'kmaq ceremony, storytelling, singing, dancing, drumming and praying. It is a time of reflection, sharing and feasting.

Gatherings similar to Mawio'mis existed in most native communities long before European settlement. In fact the Mi'kmaq, who are the original inhabitants of the Atlantic Provinces of Canada and parts of Maine, have been here for over 10,000 years and have held Mawio'mis as a way to gather and celebrate. One major difference between old-time Mawio'mis and more contemporary ones is that pre-contact events allowed only tribal members and those from friendly neighbouring tribes on the dance grounds whereas modern Mawio'mis are all inclusive or "intertribal" meaning they are open to all who wish to attend; including non-Indigenous people.

Mawio'mis are not "brief meetings"; they can take place over a period of one to four days and often draw participants from hundreds of miles away. Modern Mawio'mis are grouped into two broad divisions: "competition" (or contest) events and those referred to as "traditional." Traditional Mawio'mis offer small amounts of "day money" to all or some portion of the participants to help defray the cost of attending and do not have competitive dancing or singing. In contrast, competition events offer prize money in various standardized dance and music categories.

Both divisions share the same general order of events and styles of singing and dancing. A typical Mawio'mi starts with a grand entry whereby flag bearers and elder members of the community are invited into the inner dance grounds to be honoured. Among many dances performed by men and women of all ages dressed in colorful personalized regalia (not costumes) you will witness a Grass Dance, Healing Dance, Fancy Shawl Dance and a Men's Fancy Dance. In addition, there are usually several drum groups to add to the atmosphere. More detailed information about all the dances is provided at the events.

Although there are over 25 planned Mawio'mis across the Maritime Region, the local events of the 2022 season are currently scheduled as follows:

Pictou Landing First Nation; June 4-5. Contact Haley Bernard (902 301 0256)

Sipekne'katik First Nation (Shubenacadie); July 8-10. Brian Knockwood (902 750 0567)

Millbrook First Nation (Truro); August 13-14. Mike Stephens (902 805 1752)

Paqtnkek (Afton Station) September 24-25. Rose Paul (Call Band Admin.)

Only the Millbrook Powwow is a "competition" type. A more comprehensive list of powwows can be found by searching online; Mi'kmaq Powwow trail 2022

It is important to note that this is a tentative list and schedule so please be sure to check to see if the event is still going ahead.

A Mawio'mi is a culturally rich, well organized, fun, safe, colorful, interesting and an awe-inspiring event. A few things to know before attending is that there is no admittance charge, there is an M.C to conduct the schedule of events and provide

needed information, there are lots of food and arts and crafts vendors and security on site. There is a nightly feast where all are invited and can eat for free and there is no picture-taking allowed during certain ceremonies, especially of the sacred fire which burns continuously during the event. The Mawio'mi grounds are considered sacred and as such alcohol is not permitted and there is zero tolerance for intoxication.

So take the mystery out of a Powwow or Mawio'mi and plan to attend one near you this summer. Don't be surprised if you hear someone say Kwe' to you as you enter, that is your chance to let them know you are from the area of Katjipokoek.

Wela'lioq (well a lee oog) Thank you to all.

River John Square Knitters Update

by Netta Heukshorst

Hello everyone, in my last update on the RJSK I mentioned that we would soon be meeting back at the library as COVID restrictions were being eased.

Well, back we are there! It had been lovely though to meet in small numbers at various knitters' homes. Thank you to all who volunteered to host.

As always, the knitted squares keep materializing to keep little children in Africa warm, where they are made into blankets for their most vulnerable little ones.

So now we meet every Friday morning at the River John Library from 10-12, give or take a few minutes, LOL. Even coffee and some treats are enjoyed as we knit and chat together.

All knitters/crocheters are welcome. Please do not buy yarn as it can be provided for you, as well as needles. Donations of yarn always welcome.

This summer we will once again host a craft table at the RJ Market at the Old School; various knitted articles are for sale to help with the cost of shipping the bundles. All monies from the sales and donations go towards this expense.

Smile, keep knitting and above all be kind.

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Apology to the Soldiers of the No. 2 Construction Battalion

by **Mary Beth Sutherland**

On March 28, 2022 the Canadian Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Anita Amand, announced that “the Canadian Government would apologize to the descendants of the No. 2 Construction Battalion members, for the racism men of this Battalion faced.” The date was significant, 105 years to the day, the Battalion had shipped overseas from Halifax to England and military service in the First World War.

Can you imagine volunteering to fight for your country, yet when you went to sign up for active service, you would probably be told you were not wanted due to the colour of your skin and not because of your ability. Unfortunately these were the experiences of these men from 1914 to 1916, until the formation of the No. 2.

William Pugsley, a New Brunswick Member of Parliament, wrote in regards to the situation, “There is a good deal of complaint and a very considerable amount of feeling among our coloured



The Battalion's Band is on the left, then some of the soldiers and officers in front, Col. Dan Sutherland in front centre.



citizens, that they have not been treated fairly. They have been told that their services would be accepted, and when they go to the recruiting office where they are told to go, they have been sent away without receiving any satisfaction.” These Black men were refused acceptance into almost all military units.

The formation of the No. 2 Construction Battalion was announced July 5, 1916, when Daniel H. Sutherland of River John, NS, accepted the role of Commanding Officer. He was an engineer by trade and his company had already built roads, railway lines, bridges and dams. The men of this Battalion would not be involved in fighting, but would build and maintain infrastructure needed to support the troops on the front lines. Although their work was valuable, they wanted to serve their country as soldiers fighting with guns, not shovels and picks.

The Battalion officers were all white, with the exception of the Chaplain, Rev. W.A. White. He had supported the creation of this Battalion so that

Black men could serve their country, as they felt was their right. Rev. White was the Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Truro, NS, when Sutherland asked him to join the No. 2 as Chaplain. He was highly regarded by the officers and men of the Battalion.

When these soldiers returned home from serving their country they continued to be treated as second class citizens.

To deliver this apology, our Minister of National Defence will come to Truro on July 9, 2022, 1 p.m. at the Truro Amateur Athletic Club (TAAC) Grounds, near the Truro Golf Club. This site was chosen because the Battalion trained there, after relocating from Pictou. Preceding the apology there will be a military parade from the Zion Baptist Church to the TACC grounds.

This event is open to the general public for anyone wanting to witness this historic occasion. It will also be available for online viewing, for those unable to attend in person.



This photo shows the mill site where the lumber was produced; a team of horses is used to assist the men in their work, in the La Joue region of France.

River John Community Food & Health Centre: Perfect Timing

by **Bernadette Macdonald**

When the Pictou County Community Health Centre Working Group heard about the work the River John Community Support Society was undertaking, a meeting was quickly arranged between the two groups to discuss future cooperation.

“With both volunteer groups having a similar vision of enhancing services in the community to improve access to primary healthcare and food security, we had a lot to discuss,” said Sue Arsenault from Elmfield, a member of the Community Health Centre Working Group.

“Both of our groups are interested in improving food security across our community,” explained John McKim, Chair of the River John Community Support Society. “Not only do we want to ensure any household that needs food has it, as much as possible we also want to ensure that food being offered is grown locally, and is as fresh and nutritious as possible.”

To that end, both groups want to take a Food Centre approach to food security. “Food Centres are a growing model on how to approach food security in communities across the province and country,” added Kelley Cavan from Public Health and a member of the Community Health Centre Working Group. “Food Centres can have food preparation programs where people learn new skills, a grocery store component where people can buy fresh food at a very affordable price, a community garden that can supply some of the food seasonally, and can offer donated food that can be

stored or frozen. It takes the stigma of poverty out of using services. It is for everyone.”

As part of the facility, there will be a community kitchen for food processing where groups of people can come and prepare food together. The food can then be eaten on-site, handed out fresh, or put in the freezers for future use.

The other usage being considered for this new space is providing access to primary care, including space for health professionals to come to River John and provide services.

The Pictou County Community Health Centre Working Group has just completed its business plan to establish a Community Health Centre in Pictou County. A Community Health Centre is a not-for-profit service owned and operated by the community, and provides primary care together with health promotion, community programs, and social services in one-to-one and group settings. The plan includes a proposal for a main location in New Glasgow as well as satellite sites and mobile access in more rural areas of the county.

“It is very important to us that the health and other services we will be providing are mobile, enabling us to reach citizens across our large geographical county,” explained Ms. Arsenault. “This new initiative in River John by the Community Support Society fits perfectly with our vision of a satellite health service and being able to provide our services and programs within their facility. The timing couldn’t be better.”

Construction of the new River John Community Food and Health Centre will commence this spring, and the timeline to get the Community Health Centre operational is in the coming year.

If you have any questions for the River John Community Support Society, please contact John McKim at mckimjohn55@gmail.com and for the Pictou County Community Health Centre please contact Keith Collier at pictou-countychc@gmail.com



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Allan Fraser

Conversion Therapy Bill Issues

by **Bernadette Macdonald**

In December 2021 I wrote to all Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators asking them to not support the proposed Conversion Therapy Bill (C-6). As I said in the letter, this is an odd position for me to take as I am a lesbian and have witnessed the impact “conversion therapy” has had on lesbians.

Unfortunately, in the name of trying to be “politically correct,” the bill passed unanimously in both the House of Commons and the Senate.

Below is the letter I wrote.

Dear Members of Parliament/ Senators:

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill C-4 Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy).

I take offence to a number of points in this proposed amendment to the Criminal Code, which may seem odd for me, as I am a lesbian who knows the harm Conversion Therapy programs have had on homosexuals. If the bill focused on what we all understand as Conversion Therapy, which pertains to a person’s sexual orientation, I would welcome the bill.

Unfortunately, this bill conflates sexual orientation with gender identity. To begin, I object to the use of a recently made up word “cisgender” being enshrined into judicial language. Cisgender refers to people whose gender identity matches the sex they were born in. As a feminist I have been work-

ing most of my life to address the harms, to both girls/women & boys/men, from sex role stereotyping. The successes of both the women’s and gay and lesbian liberation movements have depended in large part upon challenging sex stereotypes, which includes reflecting critically on gender identity and gender expression. To use this word (cisgender) in government legislation cements these sexist notions into law.

By adding gender identity to this bill, I understand the government is trying to protect people who feel they want to transition to the gender they were not born in (not sex as that is not possible, no matter how many surgeries). You want to ensure “trans” individuals do not suffer some sort of Conversion Therapy, as many homosexuals had to endure.

Unlike our biological sex, gender identity and gender expression are fluid and change over time. Young people, in particular, need the freedom to explore and discuss their feelings about gender, their bodies, their mental health, and the puberty process with others. Bill C-4 limits this.

Ironically, what Bill C-4 does is encourage Conversion Therapy for many young people experiencing gender dysphoria. The bill is designed to ensure medical transition is the only option and threatens to penalize services and therapies that do not encourage hasty transition for these young people. This rush to medicalization has a harmful, disparate impact on all youth, and vulnerable girls especially. Once a girl is “affirmed” as a boy, the

opportunity for clinicians to identify and treat any distinctly female experiences (body image, misogyny, homophobia, sexual abuse) that led her to seek transition is lost.

Another ironic twist to Bill C-4 is the threat of being charged with a criminal offence, if you are a health professional/ health service provider who believes a “watchful waiting approach” is more appropriate than swift medical or surgical interventions. This “watchful waiting approach” can be interpreted as a type of “Conversion Therapy”. This threat will create a “chilling effect” in the health care community and many may not want to provide any services to people with gender dysphoria.

As a lesbian feminist I am truly shocked that, in the name of “criminalizing conversion therapy,” Bill C-4 will actually create a modern form of Conversion Therapy (converting young lesbians to “straight” “men”) and making it a legal obligation.

I trust you will help to ensure Bill C-4 is not passed into law as it is currently configured.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

I wish to thank Dr. Susan Bradley for helping me understand the importance of a “watchful waiting approach.”

Dr. Susan Bradley – Founder of the Gender Identity Clinic for Children & Adolescents (Clark Inst. of Psychiatry) and Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Hospital for Sick Children & Division Head of Child Psychiatry (University of Toronto).

On Weather Hold

by **Kelly Shaw**

As the COVID-19 pandemic begins to move towards a new normal many folks are booking travel to sunnier and sandier climes away from River John. This shift also allows travel outside of our community, province, and country for pleasure, yet also allows travel for work in ways that have been restricted over the past many months. Because of this recent change I have engaged in teaching and training again face-to-face with students both in Nova Scotia and in Nunatsiavut. (Nunatsiavut is an Inuktitut word meaning Our Beautiful Land.)

Since 2017 I have been afforded the opportunity to work with the Nunatsiavut Government, in contracted training. Travel to remote “fly in” Inuit community along the north coast of Labrador is “interesting,” to use a euphemistic term.

I wrote this piece while on “weather hold” for the third day, in beautiful Nain, NL. Nain is, at this time of year, an icy, rocky, sunny, and warm community. “Weather hold” means that flights cannot safely take off, fly, and/or land, but it offers the opportunity to pulaak, (the Inuktitut word for visit) with friends at their cabin off Akpiksai Bay, traveling the ice trail on skidoo over Unity Bay to have a boil up of roast hotdogs and marshmallows while watching the sunset, waiting for the Northern Lights to dance in the sky.

Over the last week or so my Facebook was filled with friends’ stories of delays returning from trips to Southern countries because of problems with air carriers. Today, I sit in Nain, enjoying the blue sky holding my privilege.

Once I leave here, when the weather clears along the coast, I will have to spend a night in Goose Bay before I can get a flight to Halifax, so my delay will interfere with meetings I have sched-

uled. These can always be rescheduled. However, for the residents of the North Coast of Labrador, weather hold means no flights to medical appointments in Goose Bay or St. John’s. These appointments will require rescheduling which could mean that they will wait many more months or years for needed medical tests or procedures. It means no emergency medical evacuation, leaving the health clinic and nurse practitioners to manage sometimes life-threatening illnesses. It means no cargo arriving to restock grocery store shelves. It means no family returning from needed travel away. The runway in Nain is less than 2000ft long and does not have lights. That means that the size of the aircraft and the time-of-day that aircraft can land are both limited; add the complexity of weather, and the landing and take-off window gets even smaller.

As a Kallunât (non-Inuit) guest here, I have privilege and responsibility. As a country we cannot move to reconciliation until we have truth. We are all treaty people and as such those of us with privileged voice have a responsibility to amplify circumstance. Weather hold is a regular occurrence in Nain. Before you pass judgment on the location where Nunatsiavummuit (the Inuit who live in Nunatsiavut) choose to live, recognize that many of the complexities they encounter are the impact of colonization. For those of us who are descendants of people who invaded Turtle Island, (Turtle Island is the name used to refer to North America and stems from creation stories in many Algonquian and Iroquoian-speaking peoples tradition, including the Mi’kmaq language which is part of the Algonquian language family), recognize modernity as an impact of our choices, beliefs and values and accept that we imposed, often through violence, these values on Indigenous people, and many of the social problems in Indigenous community are a

direct outcome of this colonizing behaviour.

Etuaptmumk is the Mi’kmaq word for Two-Eyed Seeing. Two-eyed seeing is often explained as a way of learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing, then learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

Living on traditional land should afford the opportunity to be on the land in traditional ways while accessing the benefits of modern convenience, as one chooses. It should not mean marginalization and continued oppression. Boil water orders, (a violation of basic human rights), and lack of access to services should not be seen consequentially for choosing to live on traditional land. Rather, our colonial government who benefits from the wealth of natural resources, (a colonial construct) they take, has a responsibility to provide equitably for all the citizens of this country, settlers and Indigenous alike. And it is our responsibility as descendants of colonial invaders to hold our elected officials accountable.



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7 days from Janice Murray Gill's Rye Bread to Mother's Day Lobster Roll or What you have always wanted to know about lobster fishing but were afraid to ask.

by **Chris Gill**

It was Friday afternoon. I was up to my elbows in rye bread dough and the kitchen looked like an exploded flour mill - that's what you get when you add flour while your stand mixer is running on high speed - when the phone rang. It was MB asking if I could grab a snapshot or two of some fishing boats and lobster traps before they set out for this year's lobster season. Sure, I could - easy peasy - or so I thought.

I actually got the bread baked and the kitchen cleaned. Well, there was still a light layer of flour here and there but these pictures were more important than a spring cleaning of the kitchen. So I got into the car and off to the Cape I went (Cape John, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, that is). I got out of the car and was glad I had bundled up. It was not nice but little did I know what lay ahead. I took pictures, walked around and took more pictures, walked around to the more obscure areas and took even more pictures. Nothing really worked the way I had thought it would. The pictures weren't bad but, hmmm, they seemed "empty" if you know what I mean. Then I talked with some guys asking when the big day was. I learned that that day is called Drop Day and nobody really knew when exactly it was going to be this year except that it was at 6 a.m. on whatever day. I got guesses from the next day to Tuesday.

That's when it hit me/bit me. I was bitten by the Drop Day Bug.

No! I was not going to miss that big moment!

Yes, this was the purpose my pictures were lacking. The next set turned out better, not much, but a bit better. I found the best positions and angles that presented themselves that late afternoon. But I knew that very early morning pictures presented new challenges of their own, so I set my alarm for 4:30 am.

Saturday

Needless to say, I was up at 4 a.m.. While waiting for 5 a.m. to start chiming I had the smarts to check the weather and decided to break out all my heavy winter gear - again. Yes, I grew up in Montreal where -25C, -30C plus wind chill are quite common but I also know that the moisture that comes with the seaside, aided by wind can make a +2C feel just like a -20C so please don't judge me too harshly. Besides, just standing around is quite a different matter from moving around under the

same circumstances. By the way, it was a dark, miserable, windy, rainy, +3C.

Oh dear, I was really infected. The closer to Cape John I got the more I felt a tingle inside of me. No, I was all alone, not a soul in sight, so I set out in the 5:15 morning darkness illuminated only by the harbour lights to find the best angles. As dawn shyly started to peek over the horizon, I tested shutter speeds, F-stops and so on. One might think that that was a waste of time, but let me assure you it most definitely was not! Besides all the insights I gained and a few nice pictures I also got this feeling of accomplishment - having gotten out of my cozy, warm bed in the wee hours of a Saturday, defied not nice weather, having a few pictures to show - and then warming up back at home with a hot cup of tea and a slice of toasted and buttered rye bread with honey, freshly baked the day before, while listening to the (gas) fireplace crackle with the kitties by my side. Oh, the luxury!

Sunday

Same stuff, different day: the alarm was set for 4:30 a.m., I was up shortly after 4 a.m. waiting with some hot tea for 5 a.m. to roll around. I didn't think that much of anything was going to happen today but if our lobster fishers were going to get up that early all during the season, the least I could do is make sure I didn't miss their day. Sure enough, the boats were still empty, no loaded lobster traps strapped to their decks. It was even colder, 2C, very windy and "only" drizzling. Again, you might think that that had been a waste of time but again I had come home with a few more insights and some nicer pictures. And again, there was that wonderful feeling of accomplishment. Later, hubby found a news article that said that Drop Day for our region was Tuesday, not only because of the weather but because dredging some harbours hadn't quite finished then.

Monday

Why change a good routine? Since I had no good answer to that I got up shortly after 4 a.m. - I hadn't even bothered to set my alarm - and went to the Cape John Harbour again. It was amazing to see just how dawn had changed over that short period of time. Plus, it was going to be a windy yet sunny day, so, big smile here - but I did keep wearing my winter parka.

Serenity, thy name is dawn at the harbour!

What I wasn't prepared for was the change of vibes when I returned to the harbours (Skinner's Cove and Cape John) in the mid-afternoon. There was a hustle and bustle and a general feeling of anticipation that was so contagious. Some boats were already loaded and raring to go while others were in the thick of preparations. Yes! Tomorrow was the day and we all were ready for it. Serenity was out the door.

Excited anticipation was now the name of the game.

Tuesday

Finally! It was a picture-perfect day, chilly but sunny with only a very light breeze. Someone suggested that I come around 5:45 a.m. Needless to say, I was at Cape John well before that time. The excitement was tangible even then. I had goosebumps of anticipation just being there. At first it was quiet, serene, dark with a hint of the bluish-orange sunrise softly marking the horizon. All the lobster boats, closely moored like sardines in a tin can, were bursting with readied lobster traps secured to their decks. Then the first pickups arrived. Human figures strode purposefully towards their

boats, interrupting the hushed early morning tranquility. A shout here, a murmured response there. More arriving car motors droning, more determined footsteps, more shouts, some hollering, more laughter as more crew arrived, all coming together in a symphony of anticipation. Suddenly, like a roaring thunder, the first diesel engine roared to life, giving the symphony its leading base beat. The next engine roared to life and the next. I could physically feel their vibrations resonating in my body. As some of the fisher men/women were finishing their cigarettes the biting smell of the diesel exhausts covered up the cigarette smell with ease. A last drag, a snip of the fingers, gone was that last cigarette and ready were all the lobster fishers, chomping at the bit. Dawn had sprung. A warm hue of yellows to oranges to deep red lit the horizon, setting it ablaze, accentuating the symphony of anticipation. Almost unnoticeable, as if by magic, the fishing boats suddenly started to move into position - much like a well attuned ballet. Without any warning, the lobster fishers on their boats started off to the races. There they went, hurrying towards their fishing grounds, some even beyond the horizon, and once there swaying almost gently as the fishers dropped their lobster traps overboard, only to return a few hours later to load up the last lobster traps that hadn't fit onto the deck for the first tour.

And then there was silence again, but a different silence, a waiting silence, a patient silence, an anticipating silence.

It was strange to see the jam-packed parking area at the harbour and not a single person, let alone boat, in sight. After a fast breakfast at home with hubby I went back for a quick, up-close, peek at the reloading of the first boats back with the last of the lobster traps.

And again, I realized that that wasn't the end.

Wednesday

So, I went back Wednesday and Friday afternoon to catch a glimpse of our first lobsters. And boy, there were some big, bad boys among them. I learned that the big shipping containers on the parking lot were adapted to hold mega tons of bubbling salt water constantly being pumped keeping the lobsters as happy as they can be in their boxes, with the boxes securely strung on ropes like pearls in two vertical layers and up to four horizontal strands until the lobster boxes get reloaded onto special trucks and hauled off to finally find their places on our tables.

I also learned that you can buy lobster straight from the fishers. If you don't know any lobster fishers and don't have a phone number you might need to talk to the lobster fisher directly at the harbour about some lobster for the next day or so but you sure won't be disappointed, believe me. I also learned about the meaning of the printing you can find on some lobster claw rubber bands. If you go to the website printed on the rubber band and then enter the number you can see where your lobster is from. Who knew?

Well, long story short - sort of - that is how this Drop Day journey started with Janice Murray Gill's rye bread and ended with Mother's Day lobster rolls.

Thank you, MB - and a huge THANK YOU! to all our lobster fishers for being so kind and putting up with this silly "landlubber."

See photos on next page

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From Rye Bread.....



It all started when I was making rye bread



David Dwyer, Cape John



Allen Elliott, Cape John



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Lobster fishing areas in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. (Department of Fisheries and Oceans)



Baiting and loading traps, Skinners Cove



Skinner's Cove



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Coming back to reload



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"Not sure if I would like the hot tub, I would rather be back with my buddies."



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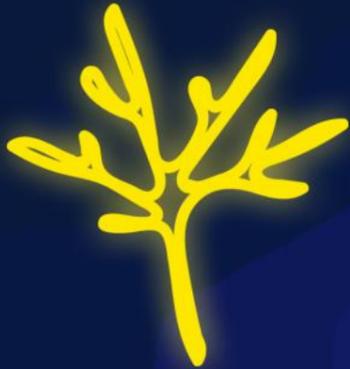
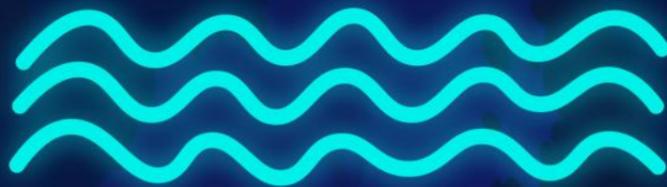
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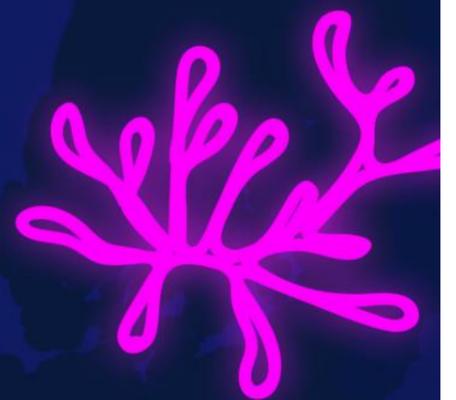
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Please join us in the return of the annual River John Festival Days! Take part in the many activities and events scheduled for our week long celebration!

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 35 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.

SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE:

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please watch for our brochures and Facebook page to keep up to date!



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

RIVER JOHN FESTIVAL DAYS

FRIDAY JULY 22

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

SATURDAY JULY 23

9am Baseball Tournament cont'd

2pm Cardboard Boat Races at Bissell Park dock. Build your own cardboard boat and compete to cross the river!

SUNDAY JULY 24

9am Baseball Tournament cont'd

10am-2pm Farmers Market at Old School

10am-3pm Sheep Shearing Day at Lismore Sheep Farm. Come and see sheep shearing, felting, knitting, spinning demonstrations and learn all about wool. A special visit from Polly MacCauley who will be spinning her yarn, and Sheree Fitch reading Polly's Story. Fun for all.

11am Ecumenical church service at Salem United Church

2pm 4-H Tug-of-War Competition at the ball field. Come watch and cheer on the teams!

TBD 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 with the "West Branch Singers"

MONDAY JULY 25

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by Sunrise Trail 4-H Club. French Toast and Sausage (\$10 adults/\$8 children)

1-4:30pm Sunrise Trail 4-H Achievement Day at Melville-Seafoam Community Hall

1pm Strawberry Tea at the River John Legion (\$6 adults/\$3 children)

6pm Scrabble Walk. Register at Bissell Park, \$2

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

7pm Firefighter Competition/ Demo on the old school grounds

7pm Cribbage Night at the Legion. Ages 19+, \$10/player, teams of two, winner takes half. Prize for biggest regular hand, prize for biggest crib hand. Cash bar.

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, Open Mic Night

TUESDAY JULY 26

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by River John 4-H Club. Bacon, Eggs & Beans (\$10/\$8)

1:30pm Kite Flying at Caldera Distilling Inc (65 River John Road.) Prizes for best decorated, and other prizes to be won.

7pm Trivia Night at the Firehall. Ages 19+, \$20. Teams of Four, winners takes half.

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "The Scotsburn Connection"

WEDNESDAY JULY 27

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by Pictou County 4-H, proceeds to Legacy Barn, Eggs, Bacon and Hash-browns (\$10/\$8)

12pm Washer Toss registration at the Legion. Games to immediately follow registration. 30 teams max.

1-4pm Community Picnic at 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, "Geezer"

THURSDAY JULY 28

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by the Oddfellows & Rebekah's. Ham + Eggs (\$10/\$8)

2-4pm Wardens Tea at the Fire Hall

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

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 29

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by the Melville/Seafoam Group, (\$10/\$8)

1:30pm Tie Dye in the Lions Club Park, sponsored by the River John Lions Club. Ages 12 and under. Dress in old cloths it could get messy. Supplies provided, come have some fun. Register ahead by calling 902-351-2898 by July 23rd. Please leave a message.

1pm Pie Sale at the Firehall by the River John Festival Day Committee

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "River Run"

7pm Dart Tournament at the Firehall

8pm Caldera Distilling Inc. bonfire, music and cocktails at 65 River John Road. Bring your own instrument and join in!

SATURDAY JULY 30

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by The Lions Club. Pancakes and Sausages (\$10/\$8)

10-11am Antique Car Show Registration

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

2pm Antique Car Show trophies & prizes

TBD River John Volunteer Fire Department Lucky Duck Race on the River

2pm Lobster Crate Run on the River. Register at 1:30, Bissell Park dock, \$5.

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

9:45pm/Sunset Fireworks over the river

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

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More AirBNBs of River John

by **Lynn MacLeod**

I did an article on AirBNBs in the River John area for last fall's edition of the Pioneer. In that article I stated there were over a dozen AirBNBs in the area, so below I have listed a few more. Again, just a few pictures of each and the owner's name. If you wish to read more about them you can find further information online by searching for "airbnb



A stunning dome haven located on the banks of the river in River John with its own hot tub on the outside deck. A place to relax and gaze at the beauty surrounding you.

Owner - Josh Mulholland

river john." I hope you will tell friends and families about these perfect places to stay and enjoy in our community.



The "Hay Loft" guest house is a must see, overlooking the river which you can see from your balcony. This beautiful guest house has all the necessities to make your stay a memorable one.

Owner: Kristine Stallman



This cute house is located in the village of River John. It has all the amenities to make your stay enjoyable. The home is within walking distance of all the activities our village has to offer. You can walk to the riverfront and enjoy the beautiful sunsets.

Owners: Bridget Faithful & Peter Daniels



Sunset Beach Cottage is a perfect name for this AirBNB as it overlooks the River John bay with its amazing sunsets. This cozy cottage has all the amenities and more to make your stay perfect as you relax or take a stroll on the beach, and as night falls, star-gazing is a must.

Owners: Terry & Linda Reid



The families of Joel Langille and Leigha Acott are thrilled to announce their upcoming marriage in July. Joel is the son of Tammy and Darren Langille of River John and Leigha is the daughter of Dr. Phil and Wendy Acott of Halifax. Best wishes to the happy couple.



Carlin Hart and John Heighton are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Samuel George Heighton, born January 8th, 2022, weight 7lbs. 14oz.

Proud Grandparents are George & Gayle Heighton and Ron & Jori Hart.

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With a few purple farewell tears, Mabel Murple's is not opening for the summer of 2022. We thank all of our loyal patrons and pals.

Mabel Murple's

Mabel says you can still peek in her purple house, stroll the property or walk the labyrinth.

Bring family and friends, spread the word, share the magic!

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River John Fire Department News

by **Santina Weatherby,**
Public Relations Representative

Summer is just around the corner and the River John Fire Department is looking forward to the community enjoying our summer activities, and local festivities! Since COVID restrictions have lifted and normalcy in the social settings the community are ramping up, we would like to remind everyone that burning restrictions across the province are in effect. These restrictions also apply to campfires. Wildfire season runs March 15th – October 15th, 2022. This means there is no burning permitted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily, and you are required to check for daily updates at 2 p.m. to ensure burning for the day is permitted, and what time burning is allowed. There are instances where burning restrictions are in place, meaning burning may not commence until 7 p.m., or there may be no burning allowed for the day. For industrial burning or burning brush piles larger than two by three metres, a permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables is required.

With the warmer weather upon us, it means department members can enjoy milder temperatures for outdoor training. May's training involved reviewing fire tactics for wildfires and having hands-

on training with foam, a material commonly used when fighting vehicle fires. Members also participated in pump training that consisted of supplying the monitor gun, (essentially a place holder for a hose to deliver water without needing several firefighters' manpower to hold the hose manually,) while drafting from the dry hydrant. Department members meet monthly to engage in pertinent training topics year-round.

With activities and summer event schedules being released, we hope you continue to follow our Facebook page, to stay up to date regarding summer events. We are hoping to host in-person fundraising events this summer. We were unable to host several of our annual fundraisers over the last two summers due to COVID restrictions, and we are excited at the possibility of seeing many of you in person this summer!

On that note, we would like to thank our community, family, and friends for the generous support for the Firefighters 50/50 online weekly raffle. Your donations contribute to the necessary maintenance and upkeep within our department.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the summer.

PS: You can visit the following weblink for daily updates: <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/> or

by calling 1-855-564-2876(BURN).

In an emergency, wildfires can be reported by calling 1-800-565-2224 or 911.



Carson Bigney, Deputy Chief, providing instruction during recent training, Jamie O'Kane, Jordan Dares and Travis Heighton are also pictured.



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West Branch Maple Syrup Festival

On April 30th, West Branch served 140 takeout pancake breakfasts in the Community Hall. Volunteers were Jim and Denise White, Dave Luxton, Catherine Dagleish, Charlie Kennedy, Gary Johnson, Elizabeth Bezanson, Maggie Howatt, Jane Morgan, Patsy Chapman and others. The maple syrup was provided by Murdoch and Linda Sutherland, who also had maple syrup and other maple products on sale at the event.



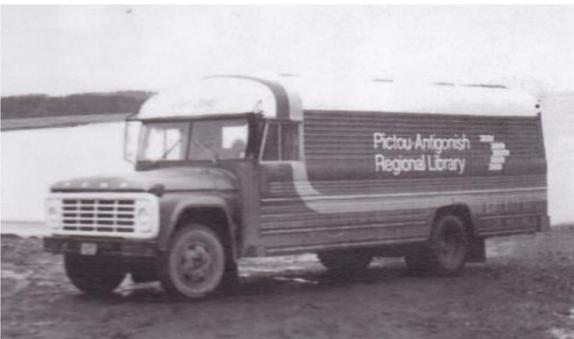
20+1 Anniversary Celebration of the River John Library and Innovation Centre

The Library - A Foundation of a Vibrant Community

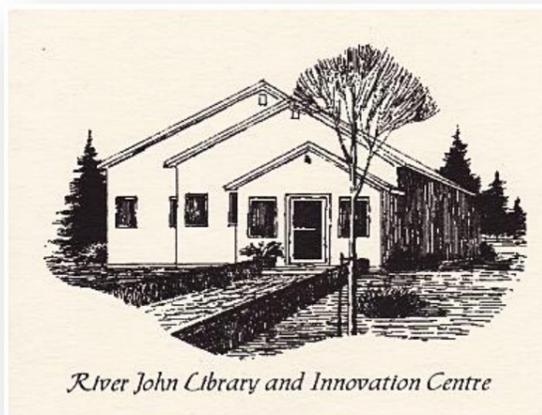
**by Wilma van der Veen,
Managing Branch Assistant,
River John Library**

River John is quite special. How many small rural villages have their own library? This is surely something of which to be proud. The story of how the library came to be and its development over 20+1 years is a testament to the tenacity of many of its community members. Of course, the River John library provides library service to River Johners; the library also serves patrons from Melville, Seafoam, Scotsburn, Marshville and the surrounding communities. The Janice Gill Memorial River John Library has a rich history if the included timeline is any indication. The evolution of a library mirrors that of a society; libraries are repositories of our histories, of our culture, of developments in ideas and technology, and River John is no different. Let's review some of the history of this pride of River John.

River John can lay claim to being the first standalone rural branch library in the Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC). As is so often the case with many a new project, it takes some very special people to turn a dream into a reality. Janice Gill, after whom the library is named, is one key person, but of course as they say it takes a village: Eric Stackhouse, Betty Zong, Ronnie Baillie, Elsie Langille. River Johners thank you for your service to the community.



Library services started out as a bookmobile in the 1950s and this continued well into the 1980s. A committee was struck in 1984 chaired by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library's Chief Librarian in New Glasgow, Ann Green, to look into establishing branch libraries in rural regions of Pictou and Antigonish Counties because of the great demand for the bookmobile. With monies from i) the province for initial operating costs (\$15,600), ii) the Municipality of Pictou County for book purchases (\$30,000), iii) a federal Canada Works grant provided to the River John Lions Club (\$35,000) to renovate part of the Lions club building, and iv) some community fundraising, the 545 square-foot space officially opened in August 1986 for 12 hours a week, with 3 staff, Denise MacLeod, Ruth Mary MacPherson and Heather Mulholland. Margaret MacLean came on board in June, 1987, working just 9 hours a week with Denise, later transitioning to the Branch Assistant position in July, 1988. In hindsight this was the beginning of a very long term relationship with the library - Margaret retired in 2019 after more than 30 years of service. As she noted, "I always had an interest in reading and I enjoyed helping the



River John Library and Innovation Centre

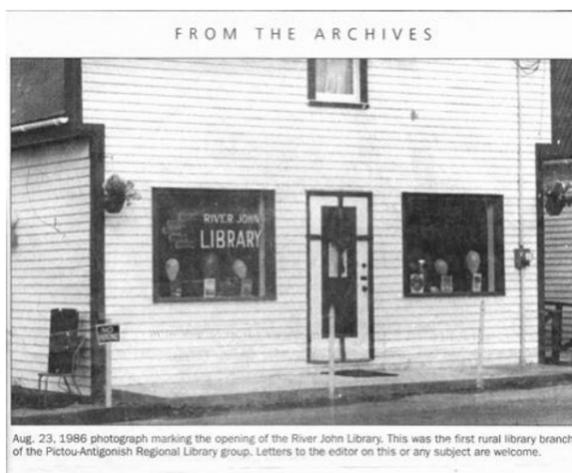
On behalf of
the Friends of the River John Library Society and
the River John C@P Committee

You are invited to the

**20+1 Anniversary Celebration of the
River John Library and Innovation Centre**

Time and Date: 11 a.m., Saturday June 18th, 2022

Refreshments will be served
RSVP by June 10th, 2022



Aug. 23, 1986 photograph marking the opening of the River John Library. This was the first rural library branch of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library group. Letters to the editor on this or any subject are welcome.

patrons with their requests."

At this time most of the materials were in paper form, either books or magazines or newspapers but Margaret tells me there were the occasional vinyl records and videos of movies, how-to books and travelogues as well. And of course, there were the encyclopedias - remember them? Many reference materials were in vertical file folders, many of which continue to exist today in order to preserve original hard copies of historical documents. Margaret visited the senior citizen apartments once a month bringing along a box of books to be checked out right on the spot, and River John students would come to the library to work on projects and assignments.

The Community Access Program aka C@P is born.

Back in the 1990s, the Federal Government made a decision to work to bring internet services to rural communities. "Community Access Program was an initiative of the Canadian government ...[aiming] to provide Canadians with affordable public access to the internet and the skills they need to use it effectively." In 1996, River Johners, along with the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL), applied for a grant to establish a C@P Site. The original grant saw to it the installation of several desktop computers along

..... Continued on page 19

Timeline of Events

1950s

Pictou County Regional Library (PCRL) established by the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou, Trenton, Westville and Municipality of Pictou County

Rural area library service established through the Pictou County Bookmobile.

1960s

Stellarton joins regional library 1963, Town and municipality of Antigonish join in 1964, establishing the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

1980s

It took 4 years of discussions with provincial and municipal government representatives but the special committee with Stephen Kirincich, Elsie Langille, Ray Langille, Ray Thompson, Janice Gill and former Chief Librarian Ann Green have realized the dream of a library in River John.

River John becomes the first rural branch (the 7th branch in PARL) in the region, officially opened, August 23rd, 1986, housed in the RJ Lions Club building.

Jane Hawken and Ben Otter are issued the first library cards.

First staff: Heather Mulholland, Ruth Mary MacPherson, Denise MacLeod working a total of 12 hours/week.

Special committee was formed by Janice Gill & Elsie Langille to explore having a standalone library.

1990s

Margaret MacLean becomes the librarian in 1995, working 15 hours/week 5 days including 2 evenings.

'High speed' internet installed to enable access to the NS library catalogue 1996.

The federal Community Access Program saw the creation of the 1st River John C@P committee with 12 community members.

The River John and Area Community Internet Access Centre officially opened July 1997 offering free internet access and training in the use of the internet and computer applications with many volunteers assisting.

Innovation Centre (C@P) opened July 24th, 1997, expanding library hours.

Sheila Newell hired as the Technical Trainer for the C@P Site in 1997.

RJ C@P committee approaches Pictou Antigonish Regional Library to explore creating a new library which would incorporate a large community access component. A non-profit organization was formed. Friends of the River John Library to begin designing new library, and a Building Committee begins meeting in January 1999.

River John website was created.

2000s

Sod turned for the new building September 29th, 2000.

More staff: A student is hired to staff the C@P site every year, C@P Technical Trainers are hired and have included Amy Sutherland, Linda Little, Marilyn Hynes, Cory Brown. Kelly MacLeod hired as the part-time library clerk 2001.

C@P equipment: 8 computers, 2 scanners, 1 digital camera, laser jet printer, color jet printer, projector, zip drive, CD burners, GPS units.

River John C@P News is published with the help of Ann Holmes, Nancy Langille & Janice Gill.

The new River John Library Book Club begins.

The first River John Picture CD was created and sold.

First Read by the Sea held, organized by many involved with the library.

Large-print books are acquired and available at the library and Virtual Library website is created.

Pictou Regional Development Commission (PRDC) opens a satellite office in library, open weekly.

Career Connections offer services at the library once a week.

Seniors' Computer Fun night was organized to great success.

River John webcam installed where you could watch the construction of the library.

Official opening of new library June 16th, 2001, a 3000 sq. ft. facility owned by the Friends of the Library and administered by PARL, with funding from the Municipality of Pictou County and other partners.

Story Time, a weekly pre-school program where the librarians read to children aged 3-5.

The federal former Human Resources and Development Canada and provincial Service NS have information kiosks for library patrons to access government services and programs in C@P space.

Many of the RJ churches create their own websites with the assistance of RJ C@P.

Adopt a Library Literacy Program created by former RCMP constable John Kennedy.

Friends of the RJ Library received the Random House Friend of the Year Award.

Free @riverjohn.com email accounts offered April 2001.

Wireless internet (Wi-Fi) hotspot is created.

Office rental offered with phone, computer and fax.

The New Glasgow credit union, Bergengren CU, installed an Automatic Banking Machine (ABM) in the front entrance foyer.

2010s

Library officially renamed Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library, February 14th, 2014.

C@P Maker Space is developed which includes equipment to make buttons, convert vinyl records, VHS and cassette tapes to digital files, Silhouette maker, 3D printing.

Margaret MacLean awarded the Emile Theriault Library and Information Award by the NS Library Association September 2012.

Margaret MacLean retires in 2019 with Samantha Allan stepping into the Managing Branch Assistant role.

2020s

PARL continues to operate despite the pandemic, offering masks, hand sanitizer and rapid test kits to patrons.

Virtual Care office is opened in the library February 2022.

PARL joins SAME PAGE consortium of 8 regional Public Libraries in Nova Scotia, and launches a new shared online collection search webpage, and new library cards in April 2022.

with a printer and scanner, as well as internet service in 1997. It was decided that all services would be offered for free other than incidentals, e.g., printing, with many volunteers staffing the C@P site, offering computer training. River John is the only remaining library in the MOPC that still has a Community Access Program committee, now referred to as @NS.

The arrival of the new library.

The space was quickly outgrowing the demand for its services, thus the idea for a new library was born. In 1998, the River John C@P committee approached PARL to explore creating a new library which would incorporate a larger community access point. In late 1999, a building committee was created, and a unanimous decision was taken to build a new library. In March 2000, the Friends of the Library Society was formed which included the late Reverend Don Sutherland, the former Constable Pat Gauthier, Eric Stackhouse, the current Chief Librarian of PARL, Rae Langille, Peggy Hiscock (NG library headquarters), Erica Heighton, Robert Heighton, Bette Zong, Ronnie Baillie, and of course Janice Gill. After years of planning the design of the building, getting architectural and engineering drawings made, costing the project, fundraising the necessary balance of monies having the three levels of government contributing to the costs, the ribbon to the new building was cut on June 16, 2001 by Elizabeth Langille and Peter MacKay. The new space boasted 3000 square feet. with a meeting room, an office, a children's area and a C@P area. A huge note of thanks to the Municipality of Pictou County Council, without their community support this would not have been possible.

The resiliency of library staff can be attested to by their ability to evolve, as information creation and access evolved from an analog to a digital world. Library staff are often exposed to the latest technology, at least at the level of mass consumption, and thus need to keep abreast of such developments. They can be at the leading edge of introducing people to new tech gadgetry: from the humble desktop computer to the fax machine, to the ring binder to the photocopier to the printer to the scanner to the laminator to the CD & DVD players to the digital cameras and video cameras to the tablets to the GPS units to the Daisy Readers to the Playaway readers to the Silhouette stencil maker to the vinyl/cassette & VHS tape converters to the 3D printers.

Library as neutral space.

In many rural communities, there are various places where community members gather - churches and service organizations. Some people may not feel comfortable in some of these places for a variety of reasons. Libraries are also gathering spaces in a village where all are welcome. They are one of the few remaining free spaces where you don't have to pay an entrance fee and you don't have to purchase anything. You get to borrow books on an honour system - that you will take care of the book and return it in its same state.

Fortunately, thanks to technological developments, the library offers reading materials in different formats, whether one has a reading challenge or not, for example: audio books, online books, large print books, graphic novels. All those materials found in a library were started and created somewhere. Where do writers get their first spark of desire to be a writer... a book read, a story told, a question answered or unanswered, a dream

dreamt, an idea born.... For such a small community, we certainly have a large number of writers (Sheree Fitch, Linda Little, Alex Harrington, Monica Graham, Susan Sellers, Joanna Skibsrud to name a few). I like to think libraries were key for them way back when, and are key for them today as citizens can access their writing right from our library.

Just in case you were not aware, here is a list of some of the services that the River John library provides:

Scanning, printing and photocopying of documents

Computers with Wi-Fi access

3D printer, button maker, Silhouette cutter

Reading materials in various formats: paper (e.g. books, newspapers, magazines) and digital (e.g. ebooks, audiobooks, playaway systems, ipads).

Movie & TV series DVDs for all ages

Learning and mental exercise kits for caregivers and persons with dementia, Alzheimer's, autism

A Library of Things: snowshoes, walking poles, bicycle locks, radon detection kits, kill-a-watt devices to measure electricity usage, pedometers, GPS units, SADS Light Therapy lamps, De Coste arts passes, fitness passes to facilities in Pictou & New Glasgow, puzzles, board games, portable audio recorder, telescopes.

Library programs for all ages

Community group connections

And to the many groups who make use of the library, we thank you for your patronage: River John Square Knitters, the River John Community Action Society, the RCMP, Virtual (Health) Care, Read by the Sea. The Friends of the River John Library and the River John C@P Committee deserve special mention. The former group is responsible for caretaking of the building and grounds; the latter is responsible for contributing to the computer technology requirements.

As the library enters its third decade of existence, it continues to evolve. One new project is the Community Seed Library. As a result of world events which are seeing rising food prices, and with the renewed interest in gardening since the pandemic, the seed for this program was born, (pun intended). Other planned activities: Starting in June the Banned Books Book Club (1st meeting Tuesday June 7th, 5 p.m.), gardening workshops throughout the growing season, Astronomy 101 with David Hoskin with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Thursday June 9th, 6 p.m.), board game events, comic book drawing, graphic novel events, leatherwork and other crafts workshops, and technology training for seniors. Favourite activities are returning: Children's story time, children and adult arts & crafts, documentary film showings, and author readings. Thanks to government investment, internet technology will be boosted in the Municipality of Pictou County, including the library, with higher speed internet and new computers. The library is always seeking new ideas for programming, for patron requests for new technology and reading materials. Pop in for a visit, send an email or call us by phone.

See you soon!

Library photos



C@P Society members at the grand opening. Marg Jones, Anne Rio, Ann Holmes, Glen White (C@P chairperson), Charlene Wilton, Sebastian Rio, Abdul Rahman, Janice Gill, Elsie Langille, Margaret MacLean, Derek Andrews, Eric Stackhouse (PARL).



Friends of the Library members. Back row: Rev. Don Sutherland, Constable Pat Gauthier, Rae Langille, Peggy Hiscock, Eric Stackhouse, Erica Heighton, Robert Heighton. Front row: Betty Zong, Ronnie Baillie, Janice Gill.



Ribbon cutting. Pictured (L-R) are Allister MacDonald. (Library Board member and Councillor), Premier Dr. John Hamm, Elizabeth Langille, MP Peter MacKay and Janice Murray Gill.



Children using the computers in the new library



Learning traditions
Librarian assistant Kelly McLeod shared Thanksgiving stories with preschoolers and talked about traditional Indian corn while the children completed a holiday project at craft and story morning held at the River John Library every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Remembering Janice Gill as the River John Library Celebrates a Milestone

by Christiane Gill

*love and marriage
horse and carriage
pasties and internet
Sushi and golden ager*

How do these terms connect with Janice Murray Gill and the library in River John? Easy you might think. The library in River John is named after her because she was very much invested in it. You might say that Janice was surrounded by books and knowledge from the day she was born. After all, her grandfather and father had been the local physicians and pharmacists, and her mother was a dedicated educator so education and books were her natural habitat. However, this is only part of the story. Janice firmly believed that every single person has an innate talent and that one must find that within oneself and to nurture and grow that seed to the best of one's ability; the best way to do that was to explore the world from as many angles as possible and a simple way to engage in this self-discovery was through books and audiovisual materials. And wouldn't you know it, she led by example by combining two of her passions - namely cooking/baking and media by writing her very own cookbooks, hosting in-person cooking classes and radio phone-in shows, such as Maritime Noon on CBC, and creating her own cooking videos many decades before YouTube and TikTok.

If you had asked Janice who she would have loved to talk to over a glass of wine I am certain she would have answered Johannes Gutenberg while sitting next to his printing press. Or she might have answered Charles Babbage, the English mathematician who is credited with inventing the very first digital computer or Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee, the creator of the World Wide Web. But then again, knowing Janice, she would have invited all of the above and then some to dinner to enjoy her renowned cuisine and "talk shop."

Speaking of Janice's kitchen prowess, back in Montreal, back in the day, having been a frequent guest at the Gills' dinner table, I fell in love with a dish that was served with HP Sauce. As life goes, we got separated - that is, her son John and I and that dish (the name of which I forgot over time) and I. For years I looked for both but couldn't find either - until the internet. There I found both Janice's recipe for pasties - aha! - and her son John, and the rest is history as they say. A case in point for the written word and technology going hand-in-hand just as Janice believed.

The other day going into the library I met a contemporary of Janice. She and I indulged in a most delightful little chat connecting me with times gone by. On my way out I met "Sushi" and her mom (of course I am not going to mention any names but if you read the Fall 2021 edition of the Pioneer you might know who I am talking about) on their way into the library. The mom and I exchanged a few quick words, quick because "Sushi" was so eager to get in pushing the automatic door opener that she was barely able to reach on her own. These are examples of the library being the meeting point for all generations and community members; the starting point and the turning point of fascinating adventures and travels throughout time, space and all the imaginable and unimaginable frontiers; the place from where seeds are sown and saplings nourished. You enter the library as one person and you leave changed ever so slightly, but changed for the better nonetheless.

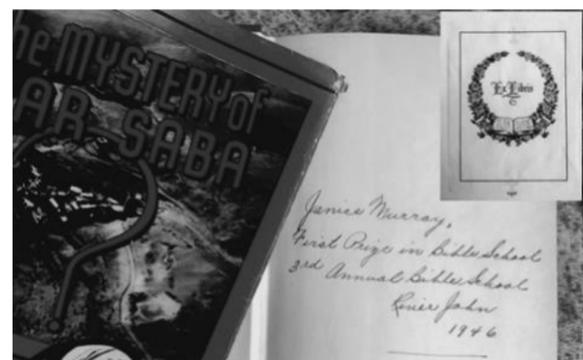
Janice innately knew that the most valuable gift one could give is the gift of knowledge, and



knowledge comes with time and dedication. To this she was dedicated with every fibre of her body. Yes, Janice and knowledge, be it in the form of books, bits and bytes or sound waves, go together like love and marriage or the horse and carriage. Today she would be overjoyed to see how her vision of this library has become the thriving, vibrant hub, nexus, of everything around us through old (books) and new (internet) technology.

Twenty-one years after the Janice Murray Gill Library was founded, this is truer than ever thanks to the wonderful, knowledgeable staff of the library and thanks to you, the River Johners and surrounding community members from all walks of life and of all ages keeping this dedicated vision alive and well with every single visit.

Thank you, Christiane Gill



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St George's Presbyterian Church News

by Rev Enjei Roni

Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The winter has come and gone and we are now enjoying the benefits of spring, with longer days, rainfall and some sunshine. Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the beauty of the weather. COVID restrictions have also been uplifted and as a church we are slowly easing into our activities. It might never be like before COVID, but it is definitely not going to be like during COVID.

We have enjoyed a beautiful Easter whereby we were able to gather ecumenically with our sister churches to celebrate the season. It was beautiful to get together at the Bissell Park for our sunrise Easter early morning service. It was good to gather with our Christian brothers and sisters for that service after two years of not being able to do so.

Our Sunrise youth group is going strong and they participated in the 30-hour famine event and raised enough money to feed at least fifty families in the Democratic Republic of Congo for a year. If you are a youth in our community, from grade 9-12, you are welcome to join us and have loads of fun. You can contact the minister, Melanie Cote or Cindy Langille on Facebook. You can also follow the Sunrise Youth Group Facebook page for upcoming events.

We had a "Souper" Support for Ukraine soup luncheon and it was a wonderful time of sharing and donating to a good cause. Our thanks go to Robin and Regan Campbell and all those who came out to support them one way or another.

We are hoping to have our Vacation Bible School in the first week of July. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a ministry outreach that churches provide to educate children about God, and engage them in fun games and activities. Dates will be

confirmed on our St. George's PC Facebook page later.

There will be a River John Festival worship service this summer on Sunday July 24th and a speaker will be invited to encourage us on that day. Everyone is invited.

St. David's Presbyterian Church will be celebrating a great milestone this fall - the church's 200th anniversary. Congratulations to them for staying strong in the Lord and serving their community for 200 years.

May God's grace, mercy and peace continue to be with us and our community now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Enjei can be reached at rev.enjeironi@yahoo.com.



Weekly coffee mornings at the Presbyterian Church Hall have started again. They are held on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. All are welcome and it is a great time of fellowship and an opportunity to socialize after the isolation of COVID.

Pictured at the first coffee morning on May 11th are (L-R): Earl Johnson, Margaret Cripps, Joyce Brown, Ann Dolan, Robin Campbell, Joan Sutherland, Mary Tohill, Charlotte Cripps, Mary Beth Sutherland, Isabel Cripps, Emily Sutherland and Millie Langille.

Photo by Christiane Gill

St John the Baptist Anglican Church News

by Rev. John Morrell

With the easing of COVID restrictions, we were able again to participate in the Ecumenical Holy Week and Easter Services. On Maundy Thursday, St. George's Presbyterian hosted a service celebrating the Last Supper of Jesus, which began the Christian Service of Holy Communion or Holy Eucharist (from the Greek meaning 'thanksgiving'). St. John's hosted a Good Friday Service where members of four denominations shared scripture readings about the last days of Jesus before His Crucifixion. Salem United Church hosted the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service in Bissell Park. This was followed by a delicious breakfast at Salem, shared by all four congregations. St. John's Easter Sunday was celebrated by Rev. Canon Lisa Vaughn, Parish Vitality Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of NSPEI.

On Mother's Day, May 8th, we had special music by Jim and Denise White. Mary Tohill had gifts for all the ladies.

The old fence around the church and church cemetery was taken down. New pickets are in the process of being made by Darryl Heighton and Dana Jefferson.

Sunday, May 29th was the first St. John's Breakfast for 2022. Some regular volunteers were unable to help, so we need more volunteers from the community for future breakfasts. Contact Mary Tohill if you can help in the future.

On May 29th we welcomed Tony Riddle from England, who joined us for the summer. This par-

ish service included members from St. Andrew's, Wallace and Holy Trinity, Middleton Corners. Rev. Morrell preached on Jesus' Ascension, (celebrated on May 26th,) and celebrated Communion.

A Committal and Graveside Service for the late Marge Heighton will be held on Saturday, June 18th at 2 p.m. at the Cape John cemetery.

Sunday, June 26th will be a special celebration at St. John's in honour of our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist, whose birth is remembered on June 24th every year.

Services at St. John's continue every Sunday at 11 a.m. with our dedicated licensed lay ministers or priest.

Some future events:

Thursday, June 16th at 7 p.m., St. Michael's Catholic Church will hold An Evening of Praise & Worship. Join us to kick off summer at the shore! Enjoy a few new, uplifting Christian tunes and some old favourites. Light reception to follow. Everyone welcome.

St. Michael's Church, 4542 Hwy 6, Brule, NS
Free Admission. Contact: David 902 497 5338

Sunday, June 19th, Pictou County Palliative Care Society is hosting a fundraising event: Shaun McLean and Musical Friends present an afternoon concert from 4-6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 208 MacLean St., New Glasgow, NS. Tickets \$25. <https://www.facebook.com/pcpcare>

Souper Support For Ukraine

by Regan Campbell

In response to the unprovoked attack on Ukraine by Russia in February of this year, a fundraiser was held in St. George's Church Hall on April 25th. This was the first soup luncheon held since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Our Souper Support for Ukraine was spearheaded by the Soup Luncheon Committee with help from many other members of the congregation. COVID precautions were taken with some in-house meals being served as well as many take-outs.

In total, donations of \$1,075 were raised to support humanitarian aid efforts in Ukraine. These funds were divided and forwarded to the Canadian Red Cross Society Ukraine Crisis Appeal and to the Presbyterian World Service and Development Fund Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

We appreciate the support of everyone from our community and beyond who responded so generously to help alleviate some of the urgent need arising from this senseless war.



News from St Michael's Catholic Church

by Netta Heukshorst

Regularly scheduled Mass is on Saturdays at 4pm.

Easter Sunday morning Mass was held at 9 a.m. with a large congregation present and a lovely Easter morning social was held afterwards with plenty of treats enjoyed by all.

May is the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary and the Rosary was said each Saturday before Mass. This is said for world peace, especially for Ukraine at the present time.

A special musical event titled "Praise and Worship Evening" will be held on June 16th at 7 p.m. featuring a number of local talents. All are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards in the hall. Admission is free.

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Bird's Eye View

by Maggie Howatt

Dear Gentle Reader,

Some of you may remember last fall I wrote about the tree swallows and the hardships they suffered because of the July long weekend inclement weather. Many chicks died in the nest boxes from starvation and hypothermia. It was heartbreaking, to say the least. We didn't know how that weather may have affected the adults that had to leave their broods in order to survive themselves. Well, they're back and in good numbers. It's been a great spring once it finally warmed up a bit, lots of black flies and mosquitoes.

There are fewer barn swallows than last year which is disheartening but lots of hummingbirds, going through the sugar water like maniacs, (no honey or other sweetener, folks).

The pair of kestrels are nesting in the area again, much to the swallows' consternation but the swallows aren't afraid to escort them out of the barnyard. There is a chickadee nesting in one of the swallow boxes and a phoebe in a barn swallow nest. Housing shortages are everywhere but we don't intend on raising the rent. All are welcome here. So we'll keep our fingers crossed that the fair weather holds for the birds, bees and bathers.

Till next time.



Tree swallow nest box

Connie's Comments

by Rev Connie McNamara

We are back to in-service worship, we are back to being able to share food again at receptions and fundraisers, and we are back to no mandate for masks or social distancing, although any who wish to observe such protections are welcome to do so until they feel comfortable and safe. This time of transition, as we get back to some old things, and as we look ahead to some new things, has me thinking about respect. "Why?" you wonder. Well, according to the Merriam Webster online dictionary, respect is "an act of giving particular attention," and "to consider worthy of high regard," and that is what I believe has gotten us through the years of COVID, and what will get us through these days and into the future. We are now being called upon to be respectful of the differing choices made by people who continue to wear masks and social distance, and those who do not, and we can do this with compassion and acceptance. And yet the idea of respect is calling to me about far more than COVID protocols.

On Easter Sunday morning it was a privilege and a pleasure to lead an ecumenical sunrise worship service at Bissell Park that was an amazing example of respect for people of different denominations coming together, and of respect for the old, old story that continues to hold both meaning and new life for us. The breakfast that followed at Salem United Church was a respectful time of fellowship as people gathered at table, and indeed respect was shown in the help and the generosity that was evident as people provided much appreciated hands-on assistance and donations of food.

On May 21st West Branch United Church held a yard and bake sale, which not only raised funds in support of the church, but also showed respect creation by helping to recycle and reuse items rather than throw them away, and respect for the talents of some great bakers in the area, as we got to enjoy some delicious treats.



Harley White, Carol Campbell-Smith, Jim White, Blain Brown, Denise White

"With Respect ..."

On May 29th Salem United Church hosted an Old Time Hymn Sing, which was a sign of respect for days gone by, and an opportunity for people from every background and every community to gather to sing old favourites, to learn more about the hymns they love so well, and to enjoy local talent who shared their musical gifts with us. The freewill offering at the event raised \$500 and was donated to United Church's Emergency Response Fund for Ukraine, through World Central Kitchen.

On June 6th, our shared ministry partner, Three Harbours Pastoral Charge, opened the doors of St. John's United Church in Wallace for a combined worship service which celebrated both Pentecost and the 97th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Occasions such as this enable us to respect our connections to the past, while still being encouraged to move forward in faithful ways.

Still to come this summer we are going to try to return to two practices that I brought with me to River John West Branch Pastoral Charge when I became minister in July of 2019, and that is "Beach Ministry" and "VBS Camp." So far, no dates have been chosen for either activity, but we will publish that information in our church bulletins and on our Facebook groups once they are set. The good news is that we already know that the theme for the VBS will be, "R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Find Out What It Means To Me."

May we all enjoy a summer that respects the beauty of nature, the joy of living, and the love of humanity. Blessings.



Breakfast helpers, Gillian and Katy Crawford.



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The Minneys



Scam Update

by Nick Gunn

It's been a while since I last wrote an article about computer scams, but unfortunately, they're more prevalent than ever. I'm currently getting a few calls a week from worried customers who believe they've been infected or scammed in one way or another.

There are a few simple tips I can give you though, which should allay your fears and hopefully prevent these scams from ever succeeding.

Let's start with phone scams.

Firstly, companies like Microsoft, Google, Apple etc. aren't going to call you. Period.

a) They really don't care if your computer has a virus

b) They have no way of knowing that your computer has a virus

If you get a call from Microsoft to tell you that your computer is infected and they're going to help you, they're not – they're going to scam you. Beware – they're often insistent and convincing that you need their help. They'll convince you to give them remote access to your computer, then they'll show you reams of errors and warnings on the computer to scare you. (Note: I've never seen a computer without errors/warnings if you look hard enough.)

Once they have remote access to your computer, they can do whatever they want. Maybe install some viruses (and then charge you \$100s to remove them). I've seen them change your password and then charge a ransom to let you know what it is.

A common tactic I'm seeing is for them to ask to check that your online banking is secure. Or perhaps they offer to help you make a payment for their "services" by logging into your online banking, or services such as PayPal.

You can see where this is going!

So if you get one of these calls, politely (or impolitely, depending on your mood!) refuse their help, and if you're still concerned, give me a call (902 957 2575 or ngunn@scotiasystems.com) and I can check your computer out for you.

The next scam leads to the same result – they want to get remote access to your computer, however they have a different way of getting there. With this scam, they convince you to call them!

It's all based around ads – in particular, ads that you see in Google searches. There are a few examples I can give you that will almost certainly lead to an attack:

Recipes

Printer Drivers

Computer Support

Search for any of these (or variants of them) and you'll likely see ads in the search results. You can identify these if you look closely as they'll be marked with the word "AD".

Ads are how Google makes money, and they're not all bad. Without ads we wouldn't have Google, but unfortunately they're becoming a common way to scam you.

For example, I just ran a search for "HP Driver Support", pretending to find out how to install a new HP printer. One of the top results to appear was for "Ad <https://www.justanswer.com>". Note the "Ad" at the start?. Do a little research and you'll find this site is a scam.

If you're unlucky (and I get several calls per week for this one!) if you click on the advert, you'll get a message take over the screen saying that your computer is infected. It'll play an alarm sound and warn you that you need to call them immediately for help. It might even have a countdown clock warning that things will shortly get worse! It's all a way to scare you and convince you to call them. Messages like this can be difficult to close as they fill the screen. Try pressing Ctrl-Alt-Del (at the same time) and then closing your web browser to remove the message or give me a call if you get stuck.

So be careful when searching – and avoid anything that mentions "Ad" as there's a good chance it's a scam.

Because I'm seeing so many of these scams, I'm working on building a dedicated device which you can connect to your router to block these ads on Google and most other websites. If you're interested in one of these, drop me an email at

ngunn@scotiasystems.com and I'll keep you posted.

Knowing how to avoid these two tactics (scam calls and ads) will save you and your friends from a lot of grief, so spread the word!

As always, if you need advice or have any questions, please get in touch!

Editor's note:

And then there are the numerous credit card scams: phone calls trying to convince you that a huge charge, usually from Amazon, has been placed on your Visa card, without even asking if you have a Visa card. The worst ones (in my opinion) are pretending to be Revenue Canada and saying you will be arrested if you do not pay them lots of money. The first time I got a call like this I was taken in for a few seconds and it can be rather scary. I have since threatened to call the RCMP, that is when they hang up!

The Railway and River John

by Beulah Wright

Remember when the train station was a happening place? When you could hear, from miles around, the train whistle blow? When the steel rails on the track were bright and shiny? Older people will, but it has been a long while. All gone now, but the railway was very important to the village of River John and the surrounding area for many years. Everything was shipped by train, coming or going - pulpwood and logs, cattle, sheep and pigs, parcels, Simpson's and Eaton's orders, especially at Christmas time, crates and boxes, mail - and people!

In the early years - too far back for any of us to remember, the shipyards began using the railway for huge spars, transported from the other side of Canada, unloaded at the station and loaded onto wagons and hauled down to the yards, and probably other supplies as well. And in those days many people travelled by train, for business or for pleasure. The Elms Hotel in River John sent a carriage daily to meet the train, so travellers could be transported back to the hotel. The Riverside Hotel was built mainly to accommodate the train travellers.

In the mid to late 1800s, rail travel was beginning to grow all over Canada, and it was decided that a line was needed between Oxford Junction and Pictou. There was coal, salt, quarried rock and other goods that needed to be transported. After a few false starts, it was eventually begun by the Shortline Railway Company and construction began in earnest; by 1890, the line was operational. Originally it was planned to run it near West Branch, but Charles MacLennan, River John shipbuilder, exerted all his influence to change the route to be closer to River John village. His efforts were successful, even though it was necessary to build an expensive bridge across the river, since known as the Iron Bridge. A large and handsome station building was erected, in much the same fashion as other railway stations, with living quarters for the station master on the second floor.

One of the most respected and well-known station agents was Albro Colter, who began his career with the railway service in 1884. He was employed as telegraph operator at various points until appointed agent at River John in 1890. He and his wife Elizabeth Gertrude lived and raised their fam-



An impressive building - the Station House



Station Master Albro Colter and his wife, Elizabeth Gertrude (Salter) Colter. Photo taken 1906 in their home above the River John Station. Children L-R: back: Trix, Jerry, Jack, Edna, Minn. Front: Marion, Edith

ily here until 1924, when he retired and removed to Tatamagouche. On the occasion of his retirement he was presented with the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service, with his name engraved upon it.

Unfortunately, the wooden shipbuilding industry declined and the hoped-for business was never as successful as expected. Times were changing. Large trucks took over the transport of goods. Cars became common and passengers no longer needed to travel by rail and by 1960 the passenger train stopped. The tracks were removed in the late 1980s - the end of an era. As the train replaced the stage-coach, so the highway replaced the railway track.

Book Review

“Buffy Sainte-Marie, The Authorized Biography” by Andrea Warner

by Joan MacLeod

Published in 2018, this book gives a full picture of the amazing phenomenon who is Buffy Sainte-Marie, a woman who has earned her living as a musician for 55 years.

Buffy, (christened as Beverley,) was born in Saskatchewan and adopted into a family in Massachusetts.

She has an innate creative ability whose expression helped her survive childhood abuse and triumph on the world stage. She studied philosophy in college and never really intended to be a singer. She is a self-taught musician and a brilliant songwriter, who writes songs of passion and protest, from her heart and her spirit. As a visible Native American, she continually highlighted and supported indigenous rights, long before it was fashionable. Her support of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and her songs of protest had her songs blacklisted on the airwaves by two American presidents.

She wrote the song Universal Soldier in 1962, at the height of the Vietnam war and one of the verses says

*And he's fighting for Canada,
he's fighting for France,
he's fighting for the USA,
and he's fighting for the Russians
and he's fighting for Japan,
and he thinks we'll put an end to war this way.*

She was a way ahead of her time.

Buffy is rare in that she loathes the trappings of show business, the pursuit of wealth and fame. She did not hire an expensive promoter to help her gain more publicity and increase her sales, and when not touring, she lives like a hermit on a farm in the mountains of Hawai'i, where she has a recording studio. She loves being in nature and close to her animals.

Buffy is also a philanthropist. She started two

different charitable organizations; one was called the Nihewan Foundation for American Indian Education (1969) supporting indigenous students through scholarships to college and helping them access other sources of funding too. The second was The Cradleboard Teaching Project (1996) which was a hands-on, multimedia learning curriculum for public grade school embedded in core subjects, but reflecting indigenous people. And who can forget her wonderful presence on Sesame Street where she had the distinction of being the first woman to appear on television breastfeeding her son Cody.

Buffy tells it like it is with anger but also with compassion. She knows that colonialism is the problem; she also has compassion for the ordinary people who she also feels are oppressed by the system. She says have you never read Charles Dickens? She says, "The basic colonial pecking order is wrong. It is not human nature. There are many other ways for human beings to live that many people have not observed. That's where inter-community comes in. A lot of us have decolonialized without hatred, without enmity, but with empathy and compassion. Colonialism is obsolete. It should have gone away a long time ago. It doesn't

hurt anyone to decolonize. And it does not cost nearly as much as maintaining it."

Buffy has won numerous awards: an Oscar for best original song, 1983, for "Up Where We Belong;" Canadian Music Hall of fame, 1995; Junos for Indigenous artist or group of the year in 2009, 2017 and 2018. In April 2017 at the Junos, Sainte-Marie received the Allan Walters Humanitarian award for "Exemplary dedication to social, environmental and humanitarian causes." She pulled no punches in her acceptance speech as she referred to Ottawa as the "unsundered" (rather than unceded) territory of the Algonquin and Anishinaabe nations. And went on to thank and honour the land and the people.

Buffy recently turned 80. She laughs that people said to her in the early days, "How can you be so wise when you are so young?" And in the later days, "How can you be so energetic when you are so old?"

I had the great honour to hear Buffy with her band in person at the DeCoste centre in 2019.

In short, I highly recommend this book as an inspiring read and more importantly listening to her amazing music.

Slow Summer Down

by Jay Reid

Time is flying. We are hurtling through spring. Summer is quickly approaching. Summer, 2022. That seems impossible. Yesterday, it was spring 2020. Then we all collectively blinked and BAM, summer 2022. Things that happened 2 years ago feel like 6 months ago. Time, it would seem, has accelerated.

At first, I thought this sensation was unique to me. Being the parent of both a toddler and a teen certainly makes the days disappear with vigor. But I have heard enough people echo this "time-flying" sentiment to believe that the phenomenon is real, and that it is widespread. It may be the psychological side-effects of navigating a pandemic, or it may be one of the consequences of living the busy lives we now lead. It could be a lot of things. Regardless of the cause, we are HERE now. Staring at another summer on the North Shore. And this time we shouldn't blink. We should slow down and savour all the big and little things that we might've let slip by, or sacrificed, these last hectic couple of years.

Lately, you may have noticed an increasing number of announcements highlighting summer events. Facebook posts about softball leagues. Spring hockey. Festival Days. Concerts. Yard sales. Ordinarily this wouldn't stand out as significant. Ordinarily, we would expect to see these unfettered advertisements in the spring, subconsciously absorb them as signs of summer and go about our lives. But the last two years were far from ordinary. The last two years saw a high percentage of our "annual events" either be cancelled or minimized in their scope. Such is the normal corollary of a pandemic, it would seem. Precaution trumped participation and we all hunkered down.

It isn't a stretch to say that the majority of us took for granted the summer activities we had become so accustomed to. COVID came along and restructured our appreciation of these things. When the ability to congregate was suspended, we were then able to contemplate what we had just lost. Some were able to adapt and embrace the more solitary society we quickly adopted; others suffered mentally, emotionally and financially under the strain. Largely though, the population longed for a return to a pseudo normal where concerts could be held indoors or out, where proms and graduations were unencumbered by proximity guidelines, and where handshakes and high fives were less controversial. It seems like we're almost there.

That isn't to say the coast is clear and normal is here. But we are getting there. We are all likely a little more hygienically aware, and health cautious, and maybe we should've been all along. All of this is to say that, as we enter this summer of 2022, we should do so with a heightened sense of awareness concerning the importance of the things that bring us together. If you're lucky enough to be out and about on the North Shore this summer, attend things. Be safe, but appreciate them maybe a hint more. Allow yourself the time to slow down and enjoy the company of others. Thank the people that organize things. Compliment a summer student who may be mowing a lawn or painting a deck. A lot of businesses need our support and attendance, and conversely, we need them for community and culture. So be excited for Festival Days. Support what you can. Play where you can and when you can, with the people that make it fun. Slow summer down and squeeze every last drop out of it you can this time. And when you're done loving summer, remember, they're having Oktoberfest this year in Tatamagouche, and that's pretty friggin' awesome, too.



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There is no Place Like Home

by Diane Macleod Shink

The saying you can never go home again is only partly true and depends on where your home is or was and what the definition of “home” is. I was born in the small village of River John, at home, in a wooden house by the river that drained into the Northumberland Strait in northern Nova Scotia. My family operated a general store, one of three in the village at that time. Once I could see over the mahogany counter and make change I was allowed to wait on customers, especially in the afternoon when my grandfather was listening to his “stories” on CBC radio. It will soon be 80 years since my birth and there are not many people alive who remember the event. I was born during WW II, so I belong to the smaller group of war babies, so called because the majority of young men were overseas on one of the war fronts. My father enlisted to go to war but was excused because he was needed at home to operate the family general store. Not all of the work could be performed by women; (Dad always referred to the hired female workers as his “girls”). A strong man was needed to lift 100 pound bags of flour, animal feed, sugar, and halves and quarters of butchered animals, beef, swine, etc., as well as building supplies. My grandfather also had a disability caused by tuberculosis in his hip bone and always had a limp. Compared to the

1950s baby boomers we were a small group and paved the way for the next generation.

I started school before turning 5, so graduated from Tatamagouche Rural High in my 16th year. It was there that I had my first Home Economics class. I started studying at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, that fall. I thus had my first Home Economics degree before turning 20. My first teaching position was at Amherst Regional High, NS. In the beginning I taught clothing construction both there and at Centennial High in Dartmouth, NS.

After a year’s break from teaching, I completed a master’s degree in Education, studying at Ohio State and New York State (SUNY). I settled in Montreal, my husband’s home town, married, and had two boys. Fortunately, we lived within walking distance from the school so I was able to combine motherhood and a teaching career where I taught Nutrition and Food Preparation. Family living was introduced into the curriculum as an expansion of the Cooking and Sewing subjects. I developed a vocational programme in Childcare and along with the students operated a play group twice weekly for the neighbouring children. In the 1970s it was generally frowned upon for married women to “go to business” as my mother-in-law called it. Daycare

centres were practically non-existent; I was fortunate to have housekeepers who looked after the children and also did most of the housework. We lived close enough to the school that our children, as pre-schoolers, were able to participate in cooperative nursery school. I was nominated to be president of the parent committee, the first mother who was allowed to assume that position. In the past the director insisted on having a man as president.

A large advantage of a teaching career is having the summer breaks. Many of us took advantage of the time to further educational qualifications which is how I acquired my first teaching degree. With one exception, during which I toured Europe using the book “Europe on \$5 a Day,” I have spent at least part of every summer in Nova Scotia. My favourite place is at my beloved Cape John surrounded by family and friends. After retirement my husband and I were able to build a summer home there. The joys of returning to a place where everyone greets you by name.

Summer is still my favourite time of year, “when the living is easy,” so the song goes. Now my grandchildren as well as children look forward to time spent enjoying the salt water and sand and carefree living at Cape John where everyone knows your name.

Exit from the Triangle

by John Blanchard

Last year in 2021, I received an e-mail that felt both creepy and bizarre. It was like an unexpected advance from a secret admirer who had been, unknown to me, harbouring fantasies that we were having a relationship that they regarded as intimate, while, to me, it was only about occasionally buying hammers and electric drills.

Things have changed a great deal in my time. It used to be that I could get a coffee at Tim Horton’s and Roll-up-the-Rim. If I was so lucky as to win a muffin, I could take the cup to the counter and select the jam-filled muffin of my desire from the display case. This would be given to me as an unknown agent by an anonymous agent at the counter. I had to know nothing of them; they didn’t need to know anything about me. They were a server; I was a muffin eater - nothing more. I kind of liked that. Tim’s didn’t want to know my name, and I didn’t need to know who baked the muffin or who rolled the rim down in the first place. I could then eat my muffin in happy anonymity while I sucked down another cup of mo-jo. Nowadays, I get an internet code that I need to enter into the cybersphere so that Tim’s cyber-being can download various bits of contact info and metadata about me and my personal space on the planet. I am getting worried that I may have eaten too many jam-filled muffins.

The e-mail of 2021 that further prodded my concerns about invasive personal data collection was from Canadian Tire Triangle Rewards. I used to have a Triangle Rewards loyalty card to collect monetary rewards when making purchases from Canadian Tire. I am sure many others who used these Triangle Rewards also received similar e-mails. I still found the e-mail intrusive, disrespectful and ridiculous.

I’ll quote some of the high lights from that e-mail:

It started off, “Hey John, 2020 was quite the ride. Thanks for spending it with us and being a loyal Triangle Rewards Member. Take a look at

your highlights and let’s make some moments together in 2021.”

They went on to tell me that I shopped at Canadian Tire twenty-eight times in 2020; I made twenty-nine purchases; I shopped on two Triangle bonus days; my favourite purchase was tools and hardware; and Thursday was my favourite day to shop at Canadian Tire.

They concluded with, “Well, that’s a wrap for 2020. We can’t wait to see what 2021 has in store for you.”

They were right; that was a ‘wrap’ for 2020, and for every year thereafter. It creeped me out.

I wrote the following e-mail to customerservice@triangle.com:

“I received the e-mail report on my Canadian Tire purchasing activities tracked using my CT Money Advantage card. The level of information you have directly attached to my name is much more than I imagined. Most of the computer net information collected by corporations is claimed to be only metadata used to track social trends. It

feels a little uncomfortable to know that you have an actual record attached to my identity that records all of the dates, locations and specifics of all of my CT purchases. I think that this is too much of an invasion of customers’ private lives. I also suggest that this e-mail to me and other customers of CT was a PR blunder. You should not have made your customers so shockingly aware of the level of person observation and data collection you do to Money Advantage Card holders. The next time I shop at CT, I will use my existing CT money and then destroy my card. In the future, I will avoid using or having loyalty cards from any corporation. Thank You. Have a nice day.”

They replied with a short e-mail thanking me for my comments. But they did not make any comments or observations about my comments.

Since that time, I avoid all loyalty points cards. I don’t think it is worth giving any of my personal information to the corporate internet in order to save a cent or two per dollar of spending. No more loyalty card love Triangles for me.

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Julia Reid of Fredericton (formerly of River John), daughter of Terry and Linda Reid, participated in the 44th Annual Stewart McKelvey Fredericton Marathon weekend in early May. Julia ran in both the 5k and half marathon races, placing second overall and first female in the 5k with a time of 19:11, and second in her division for the half marathon with a time of 1:32:19. Julia defended her 5k title from the previous year's race.

Follow up to the Story of the Bus stuck in the snow from the winter/spring issue

by **Jeannie (Gollan) Langille**

On January 3rd, 1961, a new adventure started for me. I was a student at Seafoam school until this time. There were approximately 18 students from primary to grade 7. Because West Pictou District High was not completed yet, I had to stay at Seafoam school until Christmas of 1960.

After Christmas, the new school was ready. January 3rd was my first day on the school bus, driven by Bob Bain; the bus turned at my driveway, and went off to West Pictou.

On the 4th, after we got to school, a snowstorm started so we were dismissed about 2 p.m. Everything was going fine until we got back to Seafoam. After letting Cairns Henderson off the bus and starting up Jim MacKinnon's hill, the River John bus, driven by Roy Sellers, was stuck ahead of us. It would be shortly after three. Thankfully, after some time, Wilbert and Della Henderson, Cairns' parents, sent him to us with a message that anyone who needed the washroom could go to their house. I think we also got a drink while there.

Some of the kids from the River John bus would come back to our bus because their bus was full and we only had a couple of students left on ours. Finally, between 7 and 7:30, the plow came and opened the road. But then at Johnny Gollan's driveway there was a car stuck in a drift, so the busses were stuck again, except this time my Dad was out helping shovel the car out to get it into my driveway. He came to Campbell's Brook bridge and got me off the bus and we walked through the field to my house. Because I was the last one off the bus, Bob was able to turn his bus and go back to Toney River. My friend who lived about 1/2 mile up the road took almost another hour to get home.

(Editor's note: By the time all the rest of the students were dropped off at their homes, it was 10 p.m. before my brother arrived home from school! He had a well-deserved day off the following day.)

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River John Garden Club

by **Joan MacLeod**

Did you know that River John now has a Garden Club? We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the River John Library.

We have had a great time trading perennials. And we also planted the raised bed underneath the River John sign with blue and yellow flowers in solidarity with Ukraine.

One of our goals is to tour each other's garden, and later, to have guest speakers.

Did you know that the library also has a lot of information and support on gardening.



All planted, blue and yellow in support of Ukraine. Garden club members, left to right: Melissa Algarra, Linda Maclean, Joan Macleod, Maureen Topley

They also have a seed library, if people are in need of seeds for the upcoming planting season.

Whether a novice or an experienced gardener, everyone is welcome to join this newly-formed group.

Our next meeting is June 14th, hope to see you there!

Hockey win



On May 24th, 2002, a local River John youth, Jacob Clough, was on an Under-11 AAA Team (Tidal Wave) based in Truro, which won gold and the NS Cup. They defeated Blue Thunder, a team from Halifax, by a score of 4-3. Jacob, who plays centre forward, is in the back row 5th from the left (between the two coaches). His proud parents are Mike and Kathleen Clough. Well done Jacob!

Bridal Shower

A lovely afternoon bridal shower to honour Rachel Joudrey was held on May 28th at the Presbyterian Church Hall. Rachel is the daughter of Mike and Lynda, and granddaughter of Marie Joudrey, all of River John. Rachel will be marrying Johnathan Nicholson, son of Marlene and David Nicholson, all of Bedford, at Whitepoint Beach Resort in early July. Wishing the bride and groom a lifetime of happiness, love and laughter!



Suzanne Nicholson (sister in law to be), Julia Reid (bridesmaid), Rachel Joudrey (bride), Alana Tattrie (maid of honour), Haily Josey (bridesmaid), Oree Weatherby (friend and wedding decorator).

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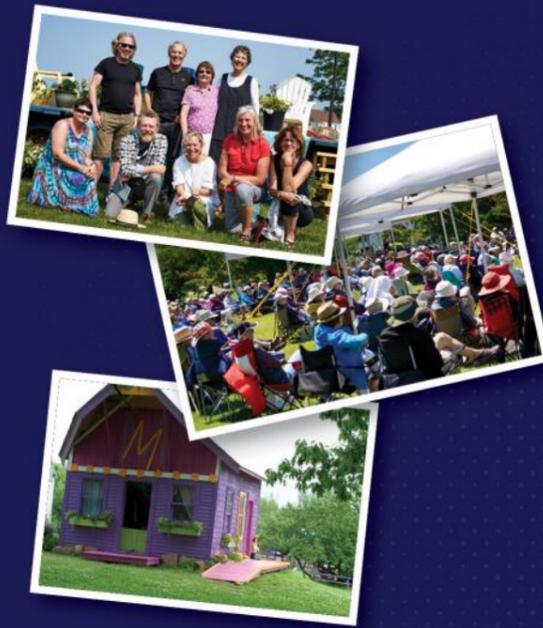
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Read by the Sea is a summer literary festival featuring readings by outstanding Canadian authors. The three-day festival includes **WordPlay**, a fun-filled mini festival for children of all ages; **OnWords**, a brand new event for middle-grade and young adult readers; **Wordstock**, a series of literary and storytelling shenanigans; and **Main Stage**, a day of author readings and Q&A.

Thursday, June 30th

10 am - NOON ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL
WriteWords - a non-fiction writing workshop with Stephen Kimber
 REGISTRATION REQUIRED

10 - 11:30 am
 RIVER JOHN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
Heritage Story Walk

1 pm ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL
Open Mic, by Pictou County Writers

6:30 pm CALDERA DISTILLERY
Family Story-telling Campfire

Friday, July 1st

12:30 - 1:45 pm
 RIVER JOHN FIRE HALL
WordPlay, featuring Lana Shupe, & Gail Francis.

2:15 - 3:30 pm
 RIVER JOHN FIRE HALL
OnWords, featuring Lawrence Hill, & Lisa Harrington.



Saturday, July 2nd

9 - 10:45 am RIVER JOHN LEGION HALL
Pitch the Publisher

11 am - 3:30 pm (lunch from 12:30 - 1:15pm)
 RIVER JOHN LEGION GROUNDS
Main Stage, featuring Lawrence Hill, Jon Tattrie, Morgan Murray, & Dr. Afua Cooper.

Book sales and author signings available at WordPlay, OnWords, and Main Stage.

Bring your own lawn chair, hats, and sunscreen. Dress for the weather. Food concessions on site, picnics welcome.

Tree Planting to Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change

by Diane and Ed Kennedy

Recognizing the impacts of climate change in the County, in 2019 the Municipality of Pictou County Council formed a Climate Change Advisory Committee composed of county councillors and citizen representatives. Ed and Diane Kennedy joined the committee in Spring 2021. In February 2022, the County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and committed to reducing its carbon footprint to net-zero by 2031 and to assist its citizens, businesses and community organizations in reducing fossil fuel consumption by at least 50 percent in the next 10 years. To follow through on this commitment, the Committee is developing a few key action plans to address climate change impacts.

The Advisory Committee decided to develop a Tree Planting Program as one such action that would provide visible evidence of progress and op-



Sub-Committee Advisor George Dempsey gives instructions on seedling spacing.

portunities for individual landowners to take action. Planting trees is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change impacts. The Program is designed around two types of activities:

1. **Afforestation:** This process involves planting large quantities of trees on marginal crop and pasture land sites by groups of volunteers for carbon capture
2. **Property Beautification:** This process involves individual landowners planting trees to enhance their properties while, at the same time, contributing to carbon capture.

The Advisory Committee created a Tree Planting Sub-Committee to work on this program. To provide input and professional advice, the Sub-Committee invited several professional foresters in the County to join the team as advisors. The Sub-Committee developed a pilot project to plant 2,500 spruce seedlings acquired from the Strathlorne Tree Nursery as the first step. The pilot planting site was on a property at 421 MacBain Road near Scotsburn, close to the Pictou County Forest School (see article about the School in the Winter/Spring 2022 issue of *The Pioneer*).

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, some 50 hardy volunteers ranging in age from 4 to 75 years planted seedlings, including our Member of Parliament, the County Warden and several county councillors. Media representatives from the Advocate and Saltwire/The News were on hand to interview participants and record the event.

The Sub-Committee is now discussing a possi-

ble homeowner tree planting pilot project as a second phase of the program, in early fall 2022, using a mix of hardwood and softwood seedlings. The Sub-Committee hopes to build on the success of the initial pilots by repeating mass and homeowner planting projects on an annual basis.

Delicious summer



Summery deliciousness is back in River John with the re-opening of Cohen's Cones on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Photo is of Chris Cameron, Owner.