

Let the festivities begin!

It's always good news when a community has a new festival or event that it can celebrate. River John has Festival Days and Read by the Sea. Pictou has the Lobster Carnival. Tatamagouche has Oktoberfest. Pugwash has the Gathering of the Clan and HarbourFest. Well now a new festival has been added to communities along the north shore. It is the Sunrise Film Festival. It will run from October 7-11. According to festival organizers Stuart Cresswell and Troy Greencorn, it will offer over 80 international films, workshops, panel discussions and parties ... lots of parties.

The festival kicks off at the Lobster Factory in Pugwash on Wednesday, October 7 with a launch party headlined by Christina Marin, multiple East Coast Music award nominee.

On Thursday, events and screenings can be attended in Wallace, Tatamagouche and River John. River John will have a Festival Opening Ceremony at the Fire Hall with the screening of an award winning Hawaiian comedy. The producer is coming all the way from Hawaii, so guests are being encouraged to dress the part ... grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. The party continues at the Legion with a cash bar and live music.

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Read by the Sea

Read by the Sea came off as a great success this summer if the reactions of festival-goers were anything to judge by. A beautiful day, an enthusiastic crowd, and four very different but equally riveting authors made for a delightful experience for all sorts of readers. While the recent school closure may lead some to think rural communities can be easily ignored, vibrant cultural events like Read by the Sea declare otherwise. We're here, we're living, we're thinking, we're acting! It is important to keep the energy flowing and Read by the Sea needs a few more people to keep the festival happening.



Linden MacIntyre signs a book for a fan.
 Photo: Monica Graham

A spirited community

This past winter, the community of River John under the guidance of Monica Graham, submitted an application to the 2015 Lieutenant Governor Spirit Award committee. According to the Spirit Award website, "The Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award celebrates the power, strength and diversity of vibrant communities across Nova Scotia. It profiles their achievements and increases their visibility through a formal recognition program". Each year this Nova Scotian Award recognizes four communities which meet their criteria, River John was one of the four chosen for 2015.

On July 19th the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor J.J. Grant and Mrs. Grant came to River John to make the official presentation to the community at the River John Royal Canadian Legion.



Lieutenant Governor presents award to Joan Sutherland
 Photo: Kathy Morrell



Monica Graham holds the Nova Scotia hand-crafted crystal Spirit Award. She compiled the information on River John and submitted it to the selection committee.
 Photo: Mary Beth Sutherland

There was a community luncheon as part of the presentation for all to come and be part of this event. On behalf of the community Joan Sutherland was asked to receive this Award from the Lieutenant Governor.

The Award itself is hand-crafted Nova Scotian crystal and each community receives their other own award. Our Award has been placed in the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library for all to see. This is an honour for our community and many individuals and groups have worked together to create this success for all.

If you have enjoyed Read by the Sea, please consider joining the volunteer committee to ensure that our seventeenth annual festival in 2016 is as lively as the first sixteen. You don't need experience, just a willingness to help. For more information contact Monica Graham 485-6210, Linda Little 351-2628, or Theresa Dickson 351-2108.



Authors and organizers of Read by the Sea 2015.
 Photo: Heather Forbes

About the Pioneer

A one-year subscription to The Pioneer is available for \$25.

People wishing to obtain a subscription for friends or family should contact Rob by email at r.assels@malatest.com and provide the mailing address and name of the subscriber and the details of where the invoice should be sent.

The Pioneer is free to all residents and businesses within the B0K 1N0 postal code. The Christmas Issue of the Pioneer comes out on or around November 30. We need your submissions by November 15.

Pioneer Editorial Board:

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Publisher: River John Community Action Society
Printer: Advocate Printing & Publishing

To get involved, contact Rob at 902-351-1476 or r.assels@malatest.com



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

Eligible seniors can receive a rebate on their 2015 property taxes. Criteria that must be met include the following: received or eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement, proof that 2014 Municipal Residential Property Taxes are in (or include) your name and that you own and are living in your home at the time of application, and proof that 2014 property taxes were paid in full (please include the bill with the receipt). Application forms are available at my office in Pictou. Applications must be post marked by December 31, 2015.

Pictou West
PO Box 310, 25B Front Street,
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
(902) 485-8958
pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com



Ronald Baillie, Warden

County of Pictou

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

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

Friends and neighbours

The Pioneer's Joan MacLeod is conducting interviews with some of the wonderful people who make up our community.



Lynne and Albert Legrow

Q: Where is your cottage?
A: Cape John
Q: How long have you owned it?
A: It has been in the family since 1958 or 1959 but we have owned it for the last 32 years.
Q: What attracted you to this area?
A: Family ties. (*In fact, my (Joan, the interviewer's) parents made friends with Albert's parents when they moved to River John from Newfoundland in 1945 as newlyweds. Albert's dad, Frank, was hired as the school principal of the old wooden, 4-room school. They stayed in touch after the Legrows moved and my dad later sold them a cottage lot near ours.)

Q: Where do you come from?
A: Dartmouth
Q: How long do you stay?
A: This year mostly on weekends and our 2-week holiday from late July to the first week of August. I retire in November, so next year it will be May to October. Yip-pee!
Q: What do you like about your cottage and the cottage community?

A: The fresh air, the ocean breezes, listening to the birds, morning coffee on the deck, being close to breweries and gardening. Also, we like the social life and reuniting with friends in the cottage community.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself?
A: Albert is a retired professional firefighter and Lynne is soon to be retired from the Halifax Public Libraries service. We have 2 grown children. Our son, Daniel, has been married for 3 years and lives in Elmsdale. Our daughter, Laura, is moving to Tennessee this year. Albert inherited the cottage from his dad in 1981.

Q: What is your favourite summer activity?
A: Our favourite summer time activities are reading, having company, seeing family and exploring the area.

Q: What local summer festivals and events do you like to attend?

A: River John Festival, Read by the Sea, the Lobster Carnival in Pictou and sometimes the Riverfront Jubilee in New Glasgow. Also, we love the local summer cottage parties.

Festivities

(from Page 1)

Friday the festival moves to the Thinkers Lodge in Pugwash where a panel of filmmakers discuss international co-productions. The Creamery Arts Centre will screen the film "Utopia", while the River John library shows a series of short films from 2-4pm. In fact, the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library will be showing shorts in Pictou, River John and Tatamagouche at different times throughout the festival. The DeCoste Centre in Pictou will hold a gala screening of Dam999 a controversial film from India. The Director will be in attendance.

Saturday is packed with activities from 11am to midnight with many events in River John and Tatamagouche. In Pugwash there will be a panel discussion about Women in film, with Lenore Zann and Annette Clark of the National Film board. Simultaneously, the Sterling Room in Tatamagouche will hold a panel discussion of the state of the industry in Nova Scotia, with Cory Bolwes of the Trailer Park Boys and Stewart Young from CBC.

Sunday, October 11, the Wallance Community Centre will screen "Big Horns at the Junction" which has been nominated for Best Cinematography. The festival will end with another gala screening at the DeCoste Centre along with the Award Ceremony and Wrap Party.

There are events for all ages and directors coming from around the world. Did we mention parties! Some events have limited seating so the Festival committee has set up a website where tickets can be purchased in advance (sunrisefestival.com). All in all, a wonderful addition to the tourism shoulder season with the hope that next year's festival will be even bigger and attract even more visitors. Congratulations to the festival organizers.

Photo Challenge

No one took us up on our photo contest in the last issue, so the \$50 prize for the best photo of Festival Days went unclaimed.

We're offering the same prize (\$50) for the best photo of Sunrise Film Festival events. Must be submitted by email to r.assels@malatest.com by November 1st. Photo and winner's name to be published in the Christmas issue of the Pioneer.

Paparazzi may want to pay attention to the Hawaiian theme party at the Legion on October 8.

Community Wellness Funds

The Pictou County Community Health Board is now accepting applications for its Wellness Funds. Funds are available to non-profit groups that have been together for a minimum of six months and are able to receive, manage and track funding.

The deadline for submitting applications is November 1, 2015. If you would like to make a submission, or would like an application package, please contact:

Martin Fisher
Community Health Board Coordinator
Aberdeen Hospital
835 East River Road
New Glasgow, B2H 3S6
Phone: 902-752-7600 ext 3875
email: martin.fisher@nshealth.ca

The funds cannot be used for operational expenses. Grants are typically under \$3,000; however, requests greater than that amount may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Groups in River John have been fortunate to receive funding in the past. Make sure you do not miss the deadline.

LEETIK ESSO YAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT

RR#1 River John
Pictou County, NS B0K 1N0
Tel: 902-351-2515 Fax: 902-351-2145

Take a drive down the Cape

It's still summer here on Cape John. Got a spare half hour (or more!)? Join me as we roll down the 7.5 km. of the Cape in a car, motorcycle, bicycle or on foot. You'll be glad you did, but first stop in at Meh's, there's always someone there you know. As you make the turn onto the Cape John Road you'll notice the smooth tarmac. Even though we had to wait fifty years to get it paved, it was worth it. For fun, see if you can identify all the new farm and cottage construction since you last came out.

The big fields at the beginning of the Cape are green and gold with soy, hay and oats. As you take the dip down to the "Crik" you might recall this as the place where the snow plows had to stop last winter. A little further along, as you crest a hill then drop down to Pretty Beach, you can feel the Cape start to narrow. The community pasture begins to open out to your right and you can see hundreds of multicoloured cows in herds roaming the fields that stretch to the other side of the Cape. Cottages in every shape and form become more evident now, and even some that have become year-round retirees' dream homes.

You reach a large pond now, called the Marsh. It stretches right across the Cape, and except for the road, would make the rest of the Cape an island. The beach on your left some people call "Mittons" but the locals will tell you it's "Salisbury Bight." As you pass the fish factory, take a glance to see what's going on. Now you have a clear view of the Cape John Harbour where your drive has to end. Be sure to go down the steps to the beach there for some great views of the cliffs, and Amet Island in the distance. If the tide is out you may be able to spot seals clustered on the rocks that jut out from the actual Cape. If you want to walk all the way to the point, be sure you know the tides before you try this, as there are no exits once the tide has returned.

You may want to take a different route on your way home down New Road along the back shore to visit Skinners Cove, or come back down River Road where the sea comes right up to the blacktop. Open your window and let the sea breeze flow in, and listen to the waves.

Maybe you're coming out to the Cape to buy a nice hat at Marg's Little Shop of Crafts, for chard at That Guy's Veggies, to visit an old friend, see a sunset, or look for glass on a secluded beach. Or maybe, you just love the way the vistas of cliff, farmland and shore appear and drop away as you drive down the Cape John Road. Any reason is a good reason to visit the Cape this fall.

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St. John's Anglican Church

- Services are held at 11 am each Sunday.
- Last Sunday of each month is our regular breakfast in the church hall beginning at 7:30 am-10am, \$6.00 each.
- Our regular Jam session for October 10th has been cancelled due to other commitments. See you on November 14th.

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Friends and neighbours



Dr. Allan and Sharon Marble

Interviewed by Joan MacLeod

Q: Where is your cottage?
A: Cape John
Q: How long have you owned it?
A: Since 1988. (27 years) I bought it from your brother, Ned MacLeod. His son was staying with us when he attended Dal and he told me that Ned was selling the cottage as he was divorcing. We had stayed at the cottage many times and loved it. I left the dinner table and telephoned Ned, he told me his price and I said “sold”! This was in February. My brother and Dad and I drove down in a jeep and drove in to see it. It was just as it had been left, all the furniture in place, as is.
Q: What attracted you to this area?
A: I grew up in the Truro area. As a cub scout, aged 10 or 11, I was brought out here by my cub master, Mrs. Townsend (who had a cottage on this beach). At the time, there was a dusty, dirt road. It seemed like the end of the world. But I just loved the openness of the landscape; being able to see the trees, the fields, the ocean and the sky. When I returned from Ontario in 1966, we wanted to rent a cottage in the area. We asked Sharon’s Aunt (who co-incidentally had gone to Teacher’s college with your mother, Irene MacLeod) if she knew of any one who rented out cottages in this

area. This was the first cottage we rented. We came to this area for several weeks in July for 22 years (except for 3 years, when we vacationed elsewhere), until we bought.
Q: Where do you come here from?
A: Halifax
Q: How long do you stay?
A: All summer, from the end of May until the end of September
Q: What do you like about your cottage and/or cottage community?
A: Sharon: Everything ! The ocean, the relaxation, the ocean breezes, the sunsets. (Sharon has also kept a journal of all the years at the cottage). We feel fortunate that there are no noisy Seadoos in this area.
Allan: The openness. You can see the field, the trees, the water, the islands, the sky, the shore. We like the people too!
Q: Tell us a little about yourself?
Allan: I am a retired professor from Dalhousie and TUNS. I taught Electrical Engineering, Math, Physics and Biomedical Engineering. My claim to fame is that I established the School of Bio Medical engineering at Dalhousie. (for example dealing with such devises as implants, pacemakers, artificial heart valves and artificial arteries.) It started when I was doing my Phd at Dal on physiology and biophysics, focusing on the electrical stimulation of the heart. Dal really needed engineers to get involved in Medical School to teach Physicians and Surgeons how to use instruments and medical devises (MRI’s etc) . Doctors needed to learn math and physics and the help of engineers in order to design things. I was able to get a grant to set up the school. Now it contains 22 faculty and 48 graduate or Phd students. This also helped me develop my interest in history as I researched the introduction of medical devises into medicine in Nova Scotia. I have written 10 books; 5 on genealogy and 5 on history. (For example, I was asked to write the history of TUNS (Technical University of Nova Scotia)- now part of Dalhousie) when they celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2007.
Sharon: I am a registered nurse. I graduated from the Grace Maternity hospital and worked mainly

as a psychiatric nurse from 1963 until 1978, I was supervisor at the Abbey Lane Hospital from 1972-1975. I left because there seemed to be enough nurses but not enough mothers. My daughter Michelle had learning difficulties and needed my help and the hospitals were well staffed. We have 3 daughters, and 3 grandchildren. She continued to nurse relatives and provide palliative care as family needed it.
I am also a self taught artist and photographer and do flower arranging. I was President of the Horticultural Society of Halifax for a time, which was fun.
Q: What is your favourite summertime activity?
A: Sitting down on our lower deck (on the sea wall) having lunch and listening to the ocean waves.
Sharon: My father in law once surprised me by saying “The sound of the waves lapping against the shore have such a calming effect, it must be the same is the fetus feels when it is in the uterus” It’s an almost Primeval need to be soothed. Sharon also loves the treasure Hunts which they have done on the Cape. In 2001 Allan has buried an old chest of pennies, about 3 feet down on the shore. Then he created (and antiqued) a map to the hidden treasure. He then watched with delight as his grandchildren and friends dug it up. Her has done the same thing for his youngest granddaughter, aged 6 and it will be dug up next summer, hopefully with other children in attendance. Allan also loves to garden and to paint, build or potter about. We also loved our annual beach parties which were held for 10 years, hosted by the Molands.
Q: What local summer festivals and events do you like to attend?
A: We love “Read by The Sea” It’s our favourite. We also love the River John Festival Days and Allan always attends the fiddling contest. Allan used to attend the Hector Festival in Pictou and ran a genealogy booth, helping people trace their ancestry. That festival no longer exists.
Q: Are there any organizations or clubs which you would like to join during your summer time at the cottage.
A: Allan: Yes, I would like to join the Historical Society and I would even throw in a few free talks, which I do for other communities already.

Community and gratitude

Every day, I stand in my kitchen and look out towards the iron train bridge that stretches across the River John and is now part of the Trans Canada Trail. It’s that view that made us say this is it - this is where we choose to settle, to grow old together; this will be the place we call home.
I’ve been thinking a lot lately about bridges. How bridges need to be built before we can reach the other side, before any conflict can be resolved or better yet, transformed. I’ve been thinking about how community depends upon a willingness to build bridges and stand on them together - like we did on our village bridge - which has, thanks to the spirit-led creativity of Rev. Christine Johnson, become an art installation. Those rows of backpacks are such a powerful testimony to our community’s resilience and tenacity in the face of the closure of River John Consolidated School.



We go forth. This community goes forth and keeps on.



So yes, I’ve been thinking a lot about bridges real and metaphorical and the word “community” and what it means - not just to me, but what it means in the larger world, this planet earth we all call home.
Community. I’ve concluded it’s not a one-sentence answer or a definition. Maybe I see community more as a verb than noun. Community “evolves” as it revolves around souls who find themselves in proximity to each other. At best, these are souls who understand we are each of us fragile, imperfect, and vulnerable, have strengths and weaknesses and WE need each



other. Need every one of us in order to make a community work. No exclusion for any reason. EVERY body, every soul, matters, makes a difference and everyone has something to offer.
Community is no easy thing. It often means getting over ourselves, looking past our pasts, respecting someone with whom we may not have much in common, so we can do the work needed doing. I learned, for a community to work well, it meant as an individual I had to admit often I JUST don’t know. It meant asking for help from those who might know and finding out so many were willing to help. Being part of any group working towards a goal means a willingness to change our minds, open our hearts, and that process alone can challenge us. Stepping up. Stepping in. Leaning close. Looking each other in the eye. Seeing ourselves in each other. A healthy community requires asking how do we put in action the words: love one another. Can we, do we, value and love ourselves? Who are we? What do we need?



Where will we go? What can we dream?
I know this community loves its children. I know this award-winning community has spirit and... soul.
On the wall, next to that window that frames the iron bridge, is a picture of a heart with 70 different multicoloured fingerprints from the students of River John School. At the top of the picture it says *You touched our hearts.*



This was one of the many gifts of gratitude that those students and staff created to give to members of the larger community.
I wasn’t going to write about the school specifically here - that’s a topic for a book in the future - but as Thanksgiving approaches, I just wanted to talk about how the school staff, the parents and the students at River John Consolidated School and this community have touched my heart and taught me what community is.
Even more, I realized how important gratitude is in the building of community, and how above all else, no matter what - it is important to say thank you. Every day, as I stand looking out at the bridge, I am grateful this is the community we have chosen to call home.

Sheree Fitch

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Notable quotables

“The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.”
Winston Churchill
“Democracy is not just the right to vote, it is the right to live in dignity.”
Naomi Klein
“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”
Larry Sabato
“There are two political truisms: Old people vote and Republicans eat their young.”
Eddie Whitlock
“If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.”
Jay Leno
“Do the unexpected. Take 20 minutes out of your day, do what young people all over the world are literally dying to do: vote.”
Rick Mercer

Legion to host fundraising fashion show

Mark October 3 at 7pm on your calendars. That’s when the River John Legion will host a fashion show to help raise funds for the River John Hub School. Coffee and desserts will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Tickets will be \$10 at the door. There will also be an opportunity to purchase tickets to win a harvest gift basket including pickles, jams and ... wait for it ... wine! You can see the basket in advance at the drug store. ave some fun while you raise some funds.

Colin and Bertha Douglas

Interviewed by Joan MacLeod

Colin and Bertha Douglas are an elderly couple who have lived in River John all their lives. Colin, born in 1922, is 93 and Bertha is 87. They welcomed me into their living room where Bertha had a lovely baby quilt on a form for their expectant great grandson. Their health is still good but Colin is a little hard of hearing.
Colin grew up on a farm about a mile up the road closer to Middleton. He has a younger sister, Irene and a brother Bob, both still living. Bertha (Zinck) grew up on Cape John in the house now owned by the Patriquin family. She was one of 7 children. Unfortunately, she is now the sole surviving member of her family.
Colin’s schooling was initially marred because his family kept him home an extra two years so he could take his younger sister to school in the one room school in Middleton. This meant that he was always the oldest and biggest child in his class. He feels it is a lot different nowadays with nursery school; the children are half taught before they go to school. Colin was good at spelling but not so good at fractions and his teacher at the time was not helpful in teaching him. She gave him so many x’s on his work that he left in frustration and went to work in the woods when he was only 15.
Although the children all had shoes going to school, they often wore patched clothing, which would be a little shameful, unlike nowadays when the teenagers deliberately wear patches on their jeans and it is considered stylish!
Colin was ambitious. He saved for 2 years until he had enough to buy his farm where he still lives. He paid \$800 cash. This was quite an accomplishment considering he earned only \$1.25 per day by working in the woods and driving trucks. He bought the farm two years before he was married. A number of

years later, he was able to buy additional acres for \$700, which returned the farm back to one property (at 110 acres). Years later again, they were able to buy another 100 acres on the other side of the road (the lower barn) giving them 210 acres altogether. They started with dairy cows and also pigs and chickens. At one time Bertha used to sell eggs to the cottagers. Unfortunately Colin developed back trouble and had to sell the dairy quota. He was able to get a job as a bus driver, which he did for 21 years from 1956 until he retired in 1977. He drove the route to West Pictou Elementary and West Pictou District High. At that time the drivers were employed full time (rather than part time) and during the day they had a workshop at the old Lyons Brook School where they repaired desks, built shelves and generally did maintenance and repairs for the schools.
Farming and driving a bus lead to a pretty intense workload. Colin got up at 5 a.m. every workday to do the chores for about 30 beef cattle. By the time he returned from the lower barn, Bertha would have breakfast ready and he would leave at 7:30 sharp. He would return between 4 to 4:30 each day and have more chores to do. However, the good thing about having summers off was that he could get the hay made. Now, one cat, is the only animal which he and Bertha care for! Their daughter and son-in law who live on the Brook Road now make the hay and manage the farmland
The Douglas’s love the community of River John. They live in the last home on the Louisville Rd before the county line. They are the oldest and last remaining of the original families on the road. (The one exception is the MacLean family home but of course Donald, the youngest son has it) Colin thinks that River John is a pretty little place. At one time it was a thriving community with 3 working garages. They first took away our bank and that was a shame be-

cause there used to be a lot of money circulated with the lobster fishermen. Then of course you had to go to Tatamagouche for money and it was only natural to do your grocery shopping at the same time, so then we lost our grocery store. It put River John on the brink (and now of course we have lost our school).
They feel River John is a friendly community. They have good neighbours. But now they don’t know a lot of the people who live on their road.
I asked what they miss about the old days and they said that people used to visit more! As you get older you don’t get out so much. Colin says that so much has changed that it is too numerous to mention! For one thing the way people do farming has changed considerably. When he started it was just him and a horse and an old mowing machine. Nowadays farmers need tractors, loaders, balers, etc. The price of the tractor alone costs pretty much the price of the farm and you are only just getting started!
The other thing that has changed is the ready availability and variety of goods. In the old days about the only things that one bought at the grocery store were kerosene, molasses, oatmeal and sugar. (and farmers often bartered with butter or eggs for their goods)
The Douglas’s still grow a large garden and all their own vegetables. They pickle them and freeze them and they last the winter. In fact they have excess and give a lot away.
When the winter storms kept many people house-bound last winter, they had no difficulty as they had all their own vegetables on hand. Also their daughter Cindy who farms as well nearby, keeps them supplied with beef from their cattle.
Just as I was finishing my interview, the Douglas’s had a visitor who brought them a gift of oatmeal from the mill. Bertha rushed off to her garden to get her a present in return.

THE SUNRISE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

GO OUT. MAKE LOVE. GET DUMPED. GET EVEN.

NOT IT'S A DATE

IT'S PAYBACK.

River John School, Admission \$10.00
For Tickets and further details go to:
www.sunrisefilmfestival.com

Friday October 9, 7 pm



You Are Invited !

The first film festival will take place from October 7th-11th at various venues along the north shore of Nova Scotia.

Please visit the film festival website for full details:
www.sunrisefilmfestival.com

Wednesday 7th October 2015

Festival Launch Party 7pm-11pm THE LOBSTER FACTORY, Pugwash \$25

Price includes admission, complementary drink, food and live entertainment by CHRISTINA MARTIN

Thursday 8th October 2015

Noon-2pm "The Only Lunch in Town" Film Industry Lunch. ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH, WALLACE. \$15

2pm-4pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. RIVER JOHN LIBRARY, RIVER JOHN. FREE ADMISSION

2pm-4pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. TATAMAGOUCHE LIBRARY. FREE ADMISSION

2pm-4pm Opening Film "A Beautiful Equation" THE LOBSTER FACTORY, PUGWASH \$10

5pm-7pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. TATAMAGOUCHE LIBRARY. FREE ADMISSION

6pm-8pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. RIVER JOHN LIBRARY, RIVER JOHN. FREE ADMISSION

These films contain adult/controversial themes. Not recommended for under 18

6pm-7pm "Festival Opening Ceremony" RIVER JOHN FIRE HALL, followed by Gala Screening

7pm-9pm "Get a Job"

9pm-11pm Festival Party at RIVER JOHN LEGION \$5 plus bar and Live Music



The Sunrise Film Festival 2015

www.sunrisefilmfestival.com

80+ Films Screened

Friday 9th October 2015

Noon-2pm "International Co-Production Panel" THINKERS LODGE, PUGWASH \$15

2pm-4pm "Utopia" and other selected films at CREAMERY ARTS CENTRE TATAMAGOUCHE \$10

2pm-4pm SHORT FILM PROGRAM Including: "Birthday Boy" and "Cyclic" RIVER JOHN LIBRARY FREE

2pm-4pm "One Hundred Mules Walking The Los Angeles Viaduct" (Nominated best Cinematography) & "The Islander" PICTOU LIBRARY, PICTOU. FREE ADMISSION

2pm-3:45pm "The Sum Total of Our Memory: Facing Alzheimer's Together" & "Sit, stay, love" & "Asteroid" & "The things we used to do on grass" RIVER JOHN SCHOOL \$10

4pm-6pm "The Hero" & "Helio" RIVER JOHN SCHOOL. \$10

7pm-9pm "Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth" at CREAMERY ARTS CENTRE TATAMAGOUCHE \$10

7pm-9pm Screenings at THE RIVER JOHN SCHOOL, "It's not a date" - adult comedy starring ERIC ROBERTS \$10

7pm-9pm Screenings at ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH, WALLACE "A candle lights the heart" (nominated for best cinematography & best director), with supporting short films "Seeking Solace" and "Broken" (Made in Wallace!) \$10

7pm-9pm GALA SCREENING "Dam999" DeCOSTE CENTRE, PICTOU
 plus introduction by Indian Director Sohan Roy \$20

Saturday 10th October 2015

11am-1pm "The harmony of music and cinema" workshop presented by Ray Rolak
 - producer of "Get a job". RIVER JOHN SCHOOL. FREE ADMISSION

1pm-3pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. RIVER JOHN LIBRARY. FREE ADMISSION

1pm-3pm A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS. PICTOU LIBRARY. FREE ADMISSION

2pm-4pm "The State of the Nova Scotia Film Industry Today" Industry Panel,
 THE STIRLING ROOM, TATAMAGOUCHE \$15

2pm-4pm "Women in TV and Film" Industry Panel THE CHATTERBOX CAFE, PUGWASH \$15

2pm-4pm Screenings at SHARON UNITED CHURCH, TATAMAGOUCHE \$10

7pm-9pm Screenings at WALLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WALLACE \$10

7pm-9pm Screenings at SHARON UNITED CHURCH, TATAMAGOUCHE \$10

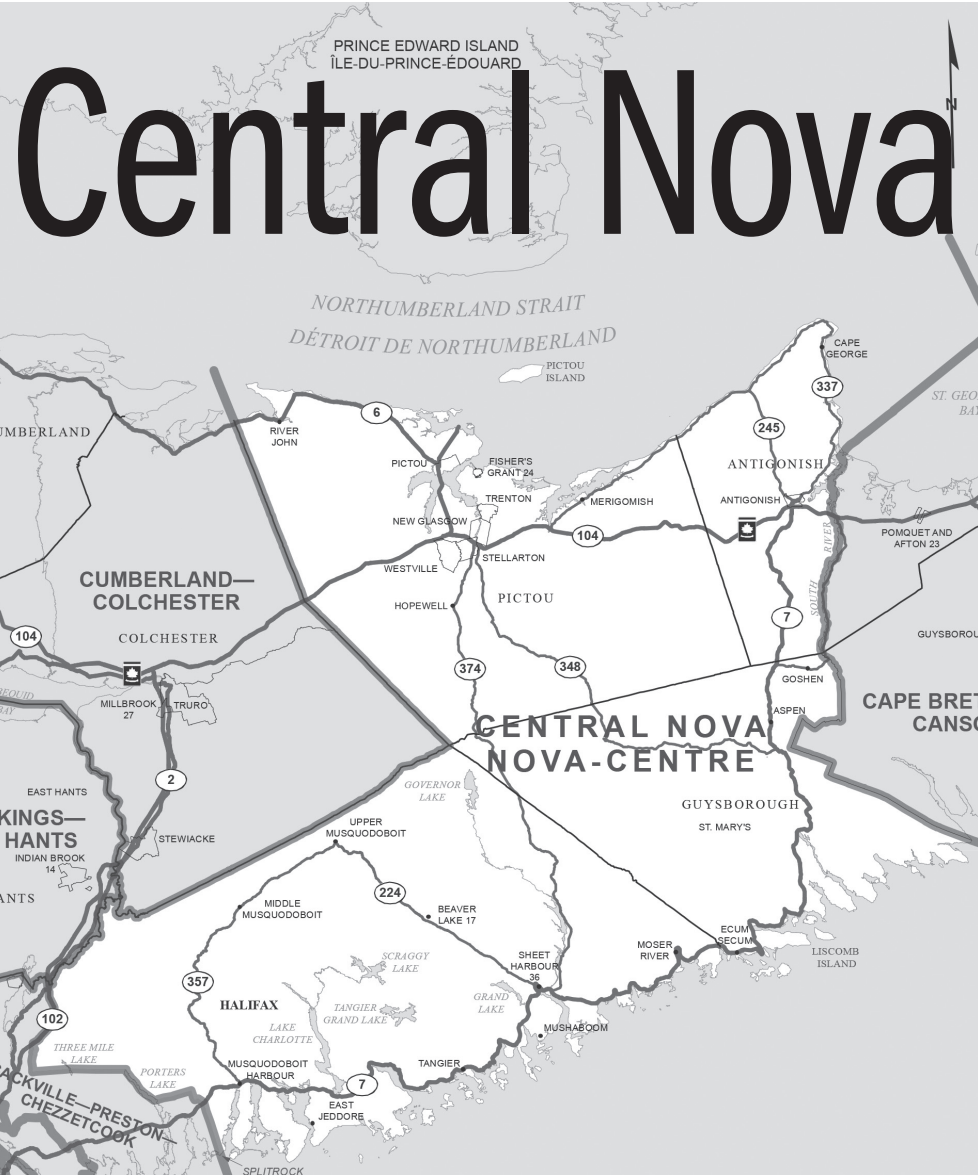
7pm-12am Screenings at THE LONGHORN FARM BARN, MARSHVILLE (RIVER JOHN) \$20

Sunday 11th October 2015

1pm-3pm GALA MATINEE "Big Horns at the Junction" nominated for best cinematography
 WALLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE \$10

7pm-9pm GALA SCREENING and FINAL AWARD CEREMONY, deCOSTE CENTRE, PICTOU.
 Plus FESTIVAL WRAP PARTY \$20





And we had some questions ...

The Pioneer’s editorial board met during the summer to prepare three questions for the four candidates in the upcoming federal election. We contacted each candidate by email, gave them the same questions and told them we would print their answers unedited. They were allowed up to 200 words to answer each question. Their answers are provided in descending order by party name. We hope that their answers help you when you cast your ballot on October 19.

As the Pioneer was looking up info for voter registration we noticed that there are FIVE confirmed candidates for Central Nova:	
Fred DeLorey	Conservative Party of Canada
Sean Fraser	Liberal Party of Canada
David Hachey	Green Party of Canada
Ross Landry	New Democratic Party
Alexander J. MacKenzie	Independent

Alexander MacKenzie was a late addition to the race (and to our inquiries), so to be as inclusive as possible, we conducted a telephone interview with him using the same questions.



Votes

Question 1: Are there any issues with which you disagree with your party? Please explain why and how you will handle this?

Conservative Party of Canada - Fred DeLorey
One thing I am proud about my Party is the fact we are the only major political party in the House of Commons that allows members of parliament to vote freely on matters of social conscience. While both the NDP and Liberals believe MPs should only vote in the House of Commons how their leader wants them to, I will be free to vote how my constituents want me to - which is the way it should be. In fact, under our Conservative government we had more free votes on private members business than any other government in history.

Green Party of Canada - David Hachey
I disagree with the Green Party stance on the long gun registry. While I understand the position, I feel it unnecessarily burdens farmers, hunters and First Nations. I do support a handgun registry as well as significant regulation and restriction of automatic weapons. Green MP Bruce Hyer left the NDP in 2011 because they were for the long gun registry and he made promises to his constituents that he would oppose it. With the system of “whipped” votes employed by the Conservatives, Liberals and NDP he was kicked out of the party for refusing to vote along party lines. He served as an independent before joining the Green Caucus in 2014. They Green Party supports a limited long gun registry but Greens are the only party committed to not whipping votes so he, and I, would be free (and encouraged) to represent the desires of our constituents as our primary job.

Liberal Party of Canada - Sean Fraser
When I consider the platforms of each party in this election, it is clear in my mind that the Liberal Party of Canada is the only party that has a plan that will serve the interests of Central Nova. Although there are no policies I have a categorical disagreement with, there are certain instances where I believe my party’s general approach to an issue can be improved with feedback that provides a background on how its policies impact rural Nova Scotia. For example, my party generally supports the notion of reducing trade barriers to encourage economic growth, which may include entering into the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. Although I believe increased international trade provides a net benefit to our country, we need to ensure that the concerns of rural Nova Scotia form part of the discussion so agriculture and related industries that we depend on do not experience undue harm.

New Democratic Party of Canada - Ross Landry
I choose my allegiances carefully. The NDP is all about principled leadership, social justice and creating a government that works for everybody. I can’t disagree with that. We do see situations where politicians must choose between their parties and their basic principles. Our original Liberal candidate, David MacLeod, faced this situation when his party supported Harper’s reckless Bill C-51, against the protests of international human rights groups and the Canadian Bar Association. David MacLeod took a principled stand for our freedoms and resigned in protest. If I were ever faced with a similar situation, the basic rights and freedoms of my constituents would come first.

Independent - Alexander MacKenzie
I don’t believe in political parties. They undermine democracy. I’m known as the “Ballot Box Bandit” because of my views on the electoral process and my willingness to take action. I will listen to people of River John and the rest of the riding and vote they way they want me to.

Question 2: How would a vote for you benefit a rural community like River John?

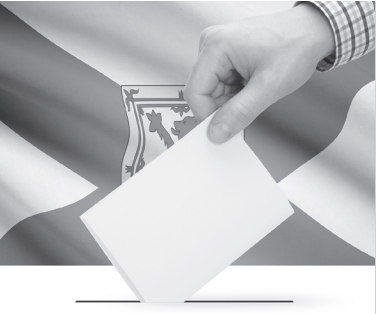
Conservative Party of Canada - Fred DeLorey
Growing up here in rural northeastern Nova Scotia, I have a deep understanding of our rural way of life. I understand the importance of our community and the things that keep these communities together - like our schools. Unlike the Liberals who closed our school here in River John, I will be a champion of rural Nova Scotia and will fight for the people. Not only do I have the passion to work for the people here, I also have the knowledge on how to get things done. I’ve been very fortunate to work closely with Peter MacKay over the years and with that I have gained a deep understanding of how Ottawa works, and will be able to hit the ground running on October 20th so that I will be able to deliver for Central Nova.

Green Party of Canada - David Hachey
The Green Party is committed to a consultative relationship with local communities and all levels of government, including the establishment of a Council of Canadian Governments that would bring together all levels with First Nations to chart a sensible and sensitive path. Too many decisions are made FOR the people which ignores the wisdom of the people who have the best understanding of the situation. Stephen Harper has maintained a very poor relationship with the other levels of government and people are suffering for it. I believe strongly in rural Nova Scotia, having chosen to move here with my wife and grow roots. Creative solutions must be encouraged and honoured. Our arts, fisheries, agriculture and forestry industries must be made sustainable. They have been undermined by bad economics and poor environmental protection for too long. Tourism, too, has been systematically ignored by the current federal government and could be a boon to our region.

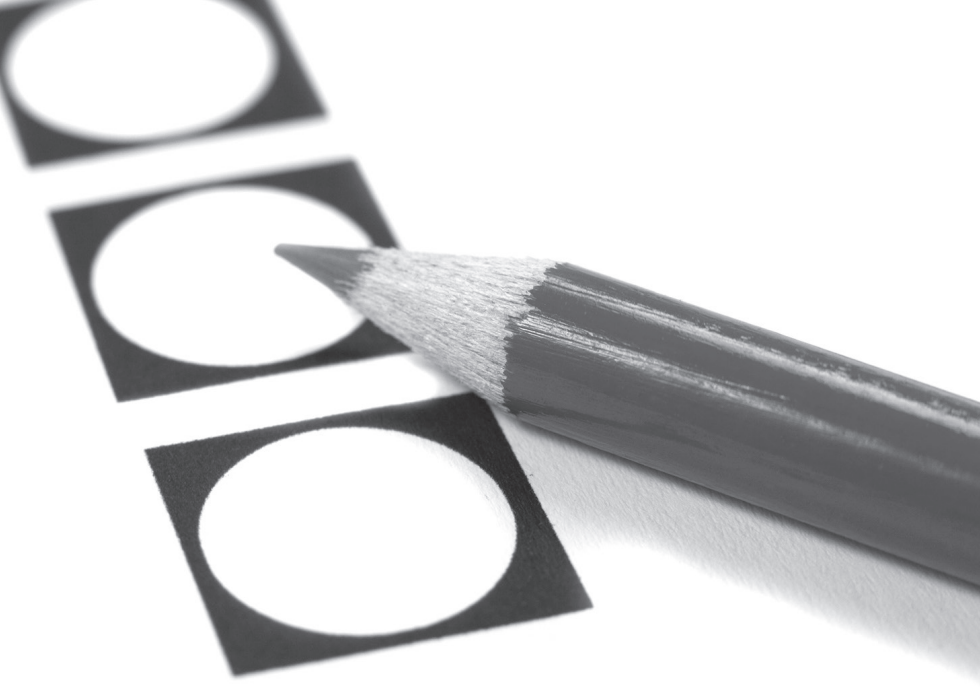
Liberal Party of Canada - Sean Fraser
By supporting our campaign in this election, you will be supporting the party that has the best plan that to help restore small towns and rural communities and the candidate that will stand up for rural communities. Our party also has the best economic plan that will provide a boost to rural economies by investing in infrastructure projects that we need and that will put our people to work in good-paying jobs. This investment will include projects such as roads, ports, wharves, and other important features that serve rural communities. In addition, I am from Merigomish - a rural community in Pictou County that shares many common features with River John. I have an understanding of primary industries that make rural economies tick, such as fishing, forestry, and agriculture. We have the raw materials in our own backyard to create a bustling economy based on renewable resources and I believe we can make use of our land and our coast to ensure prosperity in rural Nova Scotia for generations. I will work with members of rural communities and other representatives from the region to help lay the groundwork that will bring opportunities in these primary industries to rural communities. *(Editor’s note: This answer was cut short to comply with the 200 word limit).*

New Democratic Party of Canada - Ross Landry
All too often we see young people, who want to stay here and build a life in the place they love, having to fly out west to work. This is a perfect example of why Harper’s plan is not working. 200,000 more Canadians are jobless now than before the 2008 recession. The quality of new jobs is at a 25-year low, with more part-time hours, lower wages and fewer benefits. As MLA, I worked hard to bring in jobs and businesses, and I look forward to continuing that work as part of Canada’s first NDP government. The NDP has a concrete economic plan to create jobs all across Canada. It includes cutting small business taxes, offering incentives for manufacturing and innovation, boosting tourism, which is of particular interest to Central Nova, infrastructure spending that will create 54,000 construction jobs, and much more. All of this will be paid for with measures like ending Stephen Harper’s tax breaks for large corporations, ending income-splitting except for seniors, closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and ending fossil fuel subsidies. *(Editor’s note: This answer was cut short to comply with the 200 word limit).*

Independent - Alexander MacKenzie
I sat on Municipal Council for two terms. I’ve heard and understand the needs of the Village. Their principles are mine. When I was on Council I lobbied the provincial government to get our roads paved. While they talked, our cars and trucks broke down. I bought a truck load of asphalt and personally started paving the worst of the pot holes. I was fined for that, but it was the right thing to do. It got them to act.



Did you know... There are 58,513 electors on the list for Central Nova with Elections Canada. All registered voters will receive a voter information card at home by October 1, 2015. It tells you when and where you can vote. If you do not receive a card check you are registered to vote at: <https://ereg.elections.ca/CWelcome.aspx> or call: 1-800-463-6868



Question 3: What plank in your platform best demonstrates your party’s sense of urgency in addressing climate change?

Conservative Party of Canada - Fred DeLorey
Our Conservative government is the only government in history to have actually lowered green house gas (GHG) emissions. For all the rhetoric we hear from the Liberal Party, it was under their watch that GHG emissions rose to record levels. So on that front, our record speaks for itself.

Green Party of Canada - David Hachey
Climate change must be addressed and Canada needs to act quickly to be ready for the Paris Climate Change Conference in November. I would get to work preparing for this the day after being elected. Carbon pricing is the best solution and the Green Party has the best, fairest, most transparent plan. It is quick to implement and uses market forces to deliver predictable pricing with no expensive overhead to businesses and consumers. The carbon fee would be collected at production or importation and all the money collected would be returned, per capita, to Canadians. Lower income Canadians would find the value of their carbon dividend cheque would be greater than the fees they paid. Those who consumed more resources would find their cheque would not have covered the additional carbon expense of their high impact lifestyle.

Liberal Party of Canada - Sean Fraser
Our party has committed to attending the Paris Conference on climate change in 2015 and has also committed to hold a First Ministers meeting to work together on a framework for combating climate change and reducing Canada’s carbon emissions within 90 days. Although there are many other pillars of my party’s platform in respect of climate change and the environment that I fully support, these two commitments best demonstrate the urgency behind the need to address climate change and my party’s willingness to act.

New Democratic Party of Canada - Ross Landry
The Conservative environmental record is passing an enormous debt on to future generations. We don’t have to choose between a strong economy and a clean environment. It’s a false choice. In the last ten years, the Conservatives have dismantled the laws protecting our air, land and water. They’ve hidden their attacks in budget bills, targeting the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Environmental Assessment Act and the Fisheries Act. They’ve muzzled or fired scientists working on environmental research. They’ve handed billions in subsidies to their friends in the fossil fuel industry. Justin Trudeau has rejected a federal role in carbon pricing. Trudeau, like Harper, is ignoring the duty the federal government has to live up to international commitments and standards. The NDP will rise to meet our international climate change obligations through a transition to a clean economy, which, by the way, will also be a massive job creator. We’ll reduce Canada’s reliance on fossil fuels and implement a cap-and-trade system that puts a price on carbon. We’ll kick-start our clean energy sector to make Canada a global market leader in this field. And we’ll eliminate the Conservatives’ billion-dollar subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. *(Editor’s note: This answer was cut short to comply with the 200 word limit).*

Independent - Alexander MacKenzie
Citizens need to take responsibility for their environment and force government action. Take Boat Harbour. I organized a small army of volunteers to clean it up. I was arrested for trying to do what everyone knows needs to be done. Sometimes you need to stand on principle.

Transformations in Rural Education

Education used to be the purview of elite males. Education for the rest of us used to be whatever you learned on the farm or on the streets. For example, children learned skills such as gardening, spinning and land clearing from other family members. Public education for the masses only came to be during the 19th century as colonization progressed and later industrialization. Young folks used to be considered assets in families as more hands were needed to help with the farm. With the growth of manufacturing and associated factories which required lots of bodies to operate all the equipment and produce all the consumer goods, many folks were drawn to the cities hoping for a better life, so many families left the farm. As on the farms, children contributed to the household income where they worked in the factories alongside adults. Alas, the working conditions were horrendous, where injury and death were not uncommon, long before anything akin to industrial health and safety regulations came into being or something called child labour laws. Different segments of the citizenry, e.g. religious leaders, saw the consequences of the dangerous work environment, and lobbied for the introduction for what became, in essence, the industrializedworld’s first labour laws.

However, as is always the case, introduction of laws & other rules often has unintended consequences. What to do with the idle children who roamed the streets while their parents toiled in the factories (at this time both men and women worked outside the home, the myth of the homemaker only pertained to wealthier folks, so often mothers were not at home watching the children). These children who were previously seen as productive assets on the family farm now became burdens as they were left to their own devices. Solution: let’s take them off the streets, put them in rooms where they have to sit still for hours each day, throw in the teaching of some useful skills but also the learning of the supposed shared values and morals (of the Christian variety of course) of the greater society (read the values of those who held power). Thus a public education system, alongside religious organizations providing schooling, was born with two components. Firstly there was a formal curriculum teaching children the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as catechism, and for girls ‘useful’ skills like how to clean the home, do needlework and cook meals, for the boys some trade-related skills. Secondly, an informal curriculum was provided where children were taught obedience and respect for authority, (where do you think the expression children were meant to be seen and not heard came from?), so that said children would become good productive workers knowing full well their place on the hierarchy of life, not questioning or challenging the status quo. As Dr. Chad Gaffield, Professor of History at the University of Ottawa, writes (2013), “mass schooling could be an effective instrument for instilling appropriate modes of thought and behaviour into children. The purpose of mass schooling did not primarily involve the acquisition of academic knowledge. School systems were designed to solve a wide variety of problems ranging from crime to poverty, and from idleness to vagrancy.”

Of course, farming (fishing, mining, logging) still continued for a large portion of the population and so the one-room school house was born where children of all ages learned together. Various farming and other trade skills continued to be passed on to the younger generations in addition to being sent to school if and when the family could afford to be without the children’s labour. The Maritimes has consistently maintained a significant albeit minority rural population (upwards of 40%), as compared to the rest of Canada and an extensive natural resource extraction economy. This has seen that graduation rates have not been high as compared to most other provinces in Canada. Dr. Michael Corbett, Professor in the School of Education at Acadia University, notes (2001, 2009), that “many established historical accounts of the development of Canadian education contain a significant urban bias which imposed itself upon rural areas in terms of schooling [where] the idea that a young person would continue in school even until the beginning of high school was not well established in many parts of rural Canada until the 1980s and 1990s.”

We do have transportation infrastructure (roads) to thank for enabling rural children to attend school during and post the Great Depression, but also for consolidating education where children then travelled further distances to be educated in one larger entity, in particular, post-WWII. In time, hundreds of village schools were closed as children were bused to consolidated elementary and eventually to consolidated high schools. In particular, with the decline of rural coastal communities, as in River John, where the shipbuilding industry faded some two hundred years ago, a consolidated school was created, drawing in children from the neighbouring communities.

Thus we can see that the closing of rural schools is by no means a recent phenomenon. It has been happening throughout industrialization and its concomitant growth of urbanization so for a few hundred years. Alas, it was only a matter of time with the continuing rural economic decline before River John would see the closing of its school, which is where we find ourselves today. Despite the tremendous valiant efforts of a committed group of both local and come-from-away community members, and support from others both far and wide, the inevitable has happened. However, another transformation is underway.

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So as not to end on this recent tragic turn of events, according to a Pictou county councillor, River John has one year to prove to the municipality that the school can be used for another viable purpose(s), so there is a window of opportunity. There are already educational and other workshops and events scheduled but more can and needs to be done. Drawing upon the community hub model and the ideas stemming from the report the RJSOS committee submitted to the regional school board, a variety of interconnected purposes for the school can be enacted. One is, of course, the “Scholar Ship” Maker Space where a variety of educational projects pertaining to shipbuilding and related industries can be realized. This could be expanded to resemble more of a folk school so that all trades of old that are disappearing as we lose this current elder generation, and trades of new can be offered to students of all ages, open to all community members, where all can be teachers and learners. Are you willing to take up this challenge and put yourself forward to help transform the school, to be an educator or to be a student? The River Johnners Unite for Rural Communities (formerly RJSOS) need and deserve whatever big or small contribution you can make.

References:

Corbett, Michael, (2014), We have never been urban: Modernization, small schools, and resilient rurality in Atlantic Canada, The Journal of Rural and Community Development, 9(3), 186–202.

Gaffield, Chad, (2013), History of Education, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/history-of-education/>, Retrieved September 13, 2015.

Living without gasoline

Instead of thinking of cynical things to say on Facebook about no gas at Meh’s at the beginning of September, I decided to write a little article on what it might have been like to live in River John in the days when kerosene was the only fuel. The first thing that comes to mind is, of course, transportation. A horse and wagon could travel between 5 and 10 miles per hour on average roads in average weather with an average horse and buggy. That meant a trip of about 2 to 3 hours to Tata or 4 to 5 hours to Pictou. When the trains came to River John in 1890 the trips were shortened to about one hour or so. We all know that walking is about 4 miles per hour. The stage coach to Truro took all day and along with the train cost about a day’s wages. What this boils down to is that if you lived in River John in the late 19th century, you pretty well stayed in River John.

So, if you didn’t leave, then you had to get everything you needed right here or wait for someone to bring it to you, at a price. If you needed something repaired or made, then it either had to be done by someone here or you did it yourself or you did without. If you got sick, then your family, friends or perhaps the doctor in town might be able to help. Food had to come from your garden or your barn. Money was in short supply, so barter was the way most people went.

What this tells me is that this community of River John worked hard and worked together, not because they thought it would be nice, but because they had to, to survive. So for a few days at the end of August, we got a little taste of what it would be like to be without gas. And it also reminded me of how much I have come to take for granted that gas will always be there. My Dad was fond of the following Henry David Thoreau quote: “A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to leave alone.” Can we do without gas?

Chris Giles

A huge SCORE for River John

River John S.C.O.R.E. Preschool will once again be held at River John Consolidated School. The program will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9am -12pm. The program starts September 15, 2015. It is for children ages 3-5. They must be toilet trained. There will be an early learning afternoon once a week from 12:30pm-2:30pm for children who will be attending school in the fall. Day to be decided. We are also currently looking into holding an afterschool program for children ages 5-12 from 3pm-6pm.

Once we know whether our licence will allow this age group we will post it. For more information on this valuable program please contact Karin Fraser, program director, at 902-305-3554 or karinwillis@hotmail.com.

CLASSIFIED

NEEDED

We need drivers to help with Meals on Wheels. Doesn’t take long and would mean the world of difference to a neighbour. Contact Joanne at 902-351-2143 or email: bellwilk@hotmail.ca

WORK

Need someone to stack three cord of firewood. Pays \$12/hr. Good after school or weekend job. Email Rob at r.assels@malatest.com or call 351-3003 (day) or 351-1476 (evening)



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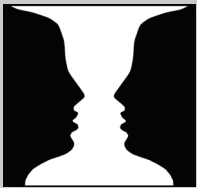
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Quilt Display during River John Festival Days July 2016

We have started planning for a display of historical quilts made in River John and area next July. Do you have antique quilts over 100 years old) or vintage quilts (over 50 years old) that you would be willing to loan for an historical display? It is hoped that you can provide history and background information,including pictures of the maker if available.

Please contact Diane MacLeod Shink at dimacquilt@sympatico.ca or cell phone 514-605-7845.

Friends and neighbours



Robin and Regan Campbell

- Q: What brought you to River John?
- A: We are both from Pictou county, (Regan is from Stellarton and Robin from Westville.) We were moving back to NS from the Island and we were looking for a place somewhere between Amherst, where our grandson lives, and Regan’s mother in Stellarton. So it’s kind of half way between those two places. It seemed like a good place and the area appealed to us. As a child, Regan’s family would sometimes take a drive on a Sunday out to River John. We moved here in 2008. We bought another house in October ’14 in Welsford and still have our original house near the bridge for sale.
- Q: Do you have family in the area?
- A: Robin has a brother in Westville. Regan has 3 sisters and a mother in Pictou County: Stellarton and New Glasgow.
- Q: Are you retired or working?
- A: Both Robin and Regan are retired, but Robin does so much volunteer work that it feels like he is still working!
- Q: What community groups are you affiliated with since coming to River John?
- A: Robin:
- 1) St George’s Presbyterian Church (Robin is the Treasurer)
 - 2) Co-ordinates the church’s Soup Luncheon held on the 4th Monday of the month, 6 months of the year
 - 3) Treasurer of Bellevue Cemetery
 - 4) Chair of River John Community Action Society
 - 5) Robin was on the SOS (Support Our School) committee.
- A: Regan:
- 1) Church, church groups, AMS and bible study
 - 2) River John Community Action society
 - 3) River Johners Unite for Rural communities
- Q: Have you joined any groups and left them?
- A: Robin: No
- A: Regan: Yes the RJ’s. I didn’t like long meetings late in the winter and getting home late.
- Q: What do you love most about River John?
- A: The most important thing to us was the acceptance of “Come From Aways” we felt by the local people. We have felt such a welcome, just felt embraced by the community. We also love the beautiful scenery and landscape of the area.
- Q: Do you have any suggestions for anything that would continue to improve your experience of living in River John?
- A: Robin: Sell our other house.
- A: Regan: Keep the school open.
- Q: Do you have any suggestions for what we could do to help new residents feel more welcome in the community?
- A: Robin: Our experience has been so good that it is hard to imagine any way to improve it. It felt like home as soon as we got here.
- A: Regan: It is the best community I have ever lived in! One day not long after we arrived, I wasn’t feeling well and I wrapped myself up in a quilt and sat on our deck overlooking the river. I made a little prayer and then the most peaceful feeling came over me and the feeling that I was in the right place. This feeling has never left.

MOVIES, & Music

Under a Marshville Moon

Longhorn Farm presents the German film “Schattenwald” (Amongst the Shadows). The film centres around young burned-out songwriter Julika who goes on a retreat to an abandoned house. Her creativity is stirred, but so are unnatural events linked to house. Schattenwald will be followed by “Lavandria” a short film by Catherine Bussiere. The short will introduce the audience to the band Fresia which will close out the event with selections from their most popular music.

This outdoor event (at 821 Hwy 6) is part of the Sunrise Film Festival; dress for the weather. Tickets \$20. Refreshments included. For tickets and more information call 351-1476 or visit the festival website: www.sunrisefilmfestival.com

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