



Melville-Seafoam Community Hall Welcomes You

by **Elaine Falconer**

Things have been happening at the Melville-Seafoam Community Hall and we welcome everyone to join us in our hall on the back shore. We are very proud of our new sign on the front of the building, we have had the roof repaired over the entryway, and we have had a new heat pump installed which will alleviate the cost of the electric baseboards.

The hall is located in Seafoam, but is called the Melville-Seafoam Community Hall. In 1968 the one-room school houses in the area



were left standing empty when the River John Consolidated School was built. In the late seventies The Little Red Schoolhouse project was offered by the provincial government to turn the buildings over to the communities. Being the practical folks that we are on the back shore, we amalgamated because we needed each other. The Melville School House, (where Earl Johnson currently resides), and the Seafoam School House were geographically too close together for the two small communities to be successful as individuals. That is how the Melville-Seafoam Community Hall was born.

Our current executive consists of David Allan, Lynda Manning and Elizabeth Elliott. David replaced our long-serving hard-working past president of forty years, Earl Johnson. Elizabeth is the vice-president, and Lynda is the secretary-treasurer. The members consist of anyone who lives in the Melville or Seafoam communities, so please come out. We are always interested in ideas people may have to bring the community into our hall.

The hall is also available for rentals. There is a kitchen that is suitable for a prepared

lunch. A refrigerator and a stove is available as well as tea and coffee urns. We have two single washrooms. We also rent out our chairs. Please contact Elizabeth Elliott for information on hall rental. (902-351-2873)

What have we been up to, you ask? Well, we have had three well-attended jamborees, a Family Day in conjunction with Sunrise Trail 4H and a Paint Night.



River John film to screen in Las Vegas

by **Stuart Cresswell, Simple Films**

The Only Game in Town, a film by River John-based Simple Films and which was filmed around River John in 2015, has been selected to be screened at a film festival in Las Vegas.

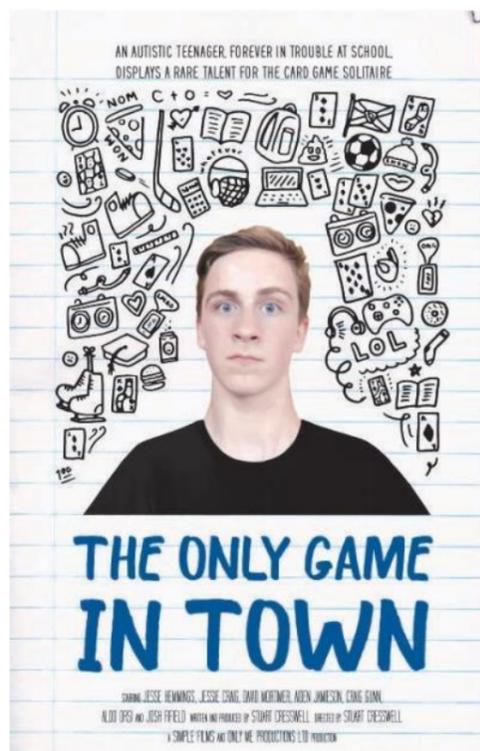
The film was shot through 2014 and 2015 and featured some 30+ young people with speaking roles. It was beset by problems when the film-making landscape changed in 2015 but the producers stayed loyal to the young people involved and have pushed on to release the film internationally this year.

The film has already reached the semi-finals of Australia's Sydney Indie Film Festival, getting those all important first laurels. A week later, the company learned about the selection by Las Vegas's Comedy World Network International Film Festival and the very real chance of further recognition.

The producers have also learnt that a group of international producers are keen to turn the story and characters of the film into a TV sitcom and success at film festivals can only help in that process.

Nimbus Publishing have published a book

about the journey of film - *The Only Film in Town* is available online or at most bookstores.



What do we have planned, you ask? Well, we are starting to have Euchre Tournaments on the third Thursday of the month, beginning October 18th. The cost will be \$6 per person and you don't need to bring a partner. It is a fun evening, and is like playing cards at the kitchen table with your friends. We invite experienced and inexperienced euchre players.

We are also putting on a concert Sunday, November 25th at 2:00 pm. We have titled it *The Month Before Christmas*. It is rated PG, so bring the whole family. There will be singing, maybe dancing, skits, and of course we are selling fudge. Watch local bulletin boards and social media for more information.

We have another jamboree planned for Sunday, December 2nd. It is titled the *Grand Ol' Opry*, with many performers from around the province taking part. We haven't established a time yet, but will keep you posted.

We hope to see you sometime at our hall.

Pioneer remembrance

Freedom is Never Free

Written by MCpl Ron E. Williams on his way home from Afghanistan

When I called home to my Mum and Dad
Pride welled up in my voice
See I got the call for Afghanistan
And this time it was my choice
Now I know y'all have some sleepless nights
And shed some tears for me
But I'm gone to fight for our
freedom And freedom is never free

When the plane touched down in Kandahar
The heat and the dust hit us in the face
And I thought for just a second
That it seems such a peaceful place
Then a midnight flight on a chopper
Took us far into the war
And the peacefulness was left far behind
For some to see no more

Well it didn't take long to see the
hatred in this place
And the shots and bombs rang out daily
Leaving such a bitter taste
When the roar of the battle reached deafening
And then silence filled the sky
Seems the price of freedom just went up
And someone had to die

By the time you get this message
I'll be on my way back home
Hold your head up high, don't cry for me
Because I am not alone
For so many have gone before me
From the land, the air, and sea
To pay the price for freedom
For freedom is never free

When you look around and see our flag
Flying high near land and sea
And the pride wells up inside you
For our country as should be
Know that I have defended her
And I'm as proud as can be
To give myself for freedom
For freedom is never free



Sketches from
"A Canadian Soldier's Diary"
by R.H.Rabjohn



Quiet Hero

Written by Kathleen Mills

She wakes very early, he's leaving today
She will stand tall and proud as he's walking away
He glances back warmly at his children and his wife
Knowing they will bravely carry on with their life
Her strength and her courage only one understands
He is walking away with her heart in his hands
For he knows that without it he would be lost
But they both know freedom comes with a cost
She walks away holding her children so close,
Swallowing her tears for the one she loves most
This quiet hero does not walk into war
She soldiers on behind her front door
She will move through her life
The wind at her back
Determined to keep her family on track
Her tears fall in silence while she lies in her bed
Her fear is right there, but nothing is said
She will ask that no medals be pinned to her chest
Her husband's safe return her only request
Few understand her commitment, her life,
She is the quiet hero, the brave soldier's wife

Digging out an artillery horse: a halt in an advance over one of the "roads" on the Western Front

The illustration below is one of the many pictures you can find in the copies of *The Illustrated London News* available in the reference collection of the River John library.



Pioneer community

A Thank You to the Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital

by Dal Robinson

When you are lying back in your hospital bed
Waiting for your body to heal
You're feeling grateful and think that you
should
Give voice to thanks that you feel.

My first thank-you would go to the doctors
With such a clever and a capable hand
And very devoted to their profession
Is something we all must understand

Of course we'll have to thank those nurses
Angels of mercy dressed in white
It wouldn't be a hospital without their care
But oh how, they will like to keep your bed
sheets tight.

I would have to thank my fellow patients
Always like one big family in the wards
Through pain or not never a murmuring word
To them goes my best regards

My last thank-you would go to the Manage-
ment
You're their guest when you enter the door
And you couldn't be used any better
Until they carry your grip to the door

Isabel Cripps

William and George Cripps are excited to announce the arrival of their new sister, Isabel May, who was born September 12 at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, weighing 6lbs.

Proud parents are Sam and Margaret of Middleton. The equally excited grandparents are David and Mary Beth Sutherland of River John and Matthew and Naomi Cripps of Middleton. Great-grandparents are Joan Sutherland of River John, Frances Sutherland of Alma, Shirley Hiscocks of Honiton, England, and Dr. Malcolm and Jennifer Bonnington of Somerset, England.



Congratulations, Julia Reid!

Julia graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in May, 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts, Major in History and Minor in Women and Gender Studies. She graduated in June, 2018 from the University of New Brunswick, with a Bachelor of Education, Major in History, Social Studies and Visual Arts. Julia is living in Tampico, Mexico and teaching at the American School of Tampico. Julia is the daughter of Terry and Linda Reid, River John, and the granddaughter of the late Raymond and Verna Thompson and Maynard and Jean Reid. Julia's family and friends are wishing her success, as she begins her teaching career.



River John Festival Days – 2018

The River John Festival Days Committee members wish to thank everyone who attended and participated in the various events which were held during the week-long festivities. Also, thank you to the many volunteers and service groups who planned and organized specific events. We are grateful to the sponsors, who have assisted in the cost of prizes, parade entries and hall rentals. The scheduled activities are enjoyed by residents and visitors, who look forward to River John Festival Days as an annual celebration!

Sawyer Langille

It is with great joy that Emma Langille Balodis and Jaret James Harold Langille welcomed Sawyer Harold Langille on August 15, 2018. Born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, weighing 9 pounds, 9 ounces.



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Karla MacFarlane
MLA, Pictou West

Please contact me with
your questions,
concerns, and ideas

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(902) 485-8958

pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com



Third Annual Coat Drive

**by Odd Fellows
Helping Hand Lodge #34**

Gently used children and adults warm winter coats can be dropped off just inside the door of the Odd Fellows Hall, which is just to the left of Fulton's Pharmacy door. The door will be unlocked for drop off Monday, Wednesday and Friday until November 30th. Thank you for your donations.

Who is a Lion?

by Cheryl Frizzell

Who is a Lion? He who achieves success, lives well, laughs often, loves all humankind. After meeting Don Redmond, in my opinion that describes him.

Don was one of the group of men from River John and Area who attended meetings in Tatamagouche back in 1968 to observe how a Lions Club worked. After attending these meetings, the group decided that River John and area could benefit from such a club. So in 1969 the River John and District Lions Club was formed and is still in existence nearly 50 years later. That makes Lion Don Redmond a Charter Member.

As with other Lion members, Lion Don has lots of stories to tell of charity fundraisers, "the Bus," conventions and visits to other clubs.

You will see Don always smiling; he is not one to shy away from volunteering to help out with any fundraising events, from the annual chicken barbeque to the annual bottle drive or any other events that come along. For nearly 50 years Lion Don has been lending a helping hand and showing what it means to be a Lion.

Don has received many awards, some being the Life Membership Award, Melvin Jones Fellowship Award and has served as King Lion 4 times.

Funday Fundraiser For Paige

The River John and District Lions Club would like to thank friends, neighbours, businesses and all those who helped make our Funday Fundraiser For Paige a success.



Lion Cheryl Frizzell, Heidi Gould, Paige Doucette, Lion Anne Patriquin



RCMP Constable welcomes children and adults to ask questions and have a look inside a police cruiser



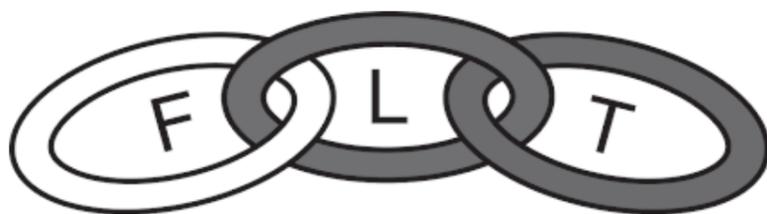
Rose Bezanson donated all proceeds from a wagon ride around the village



Washer toss

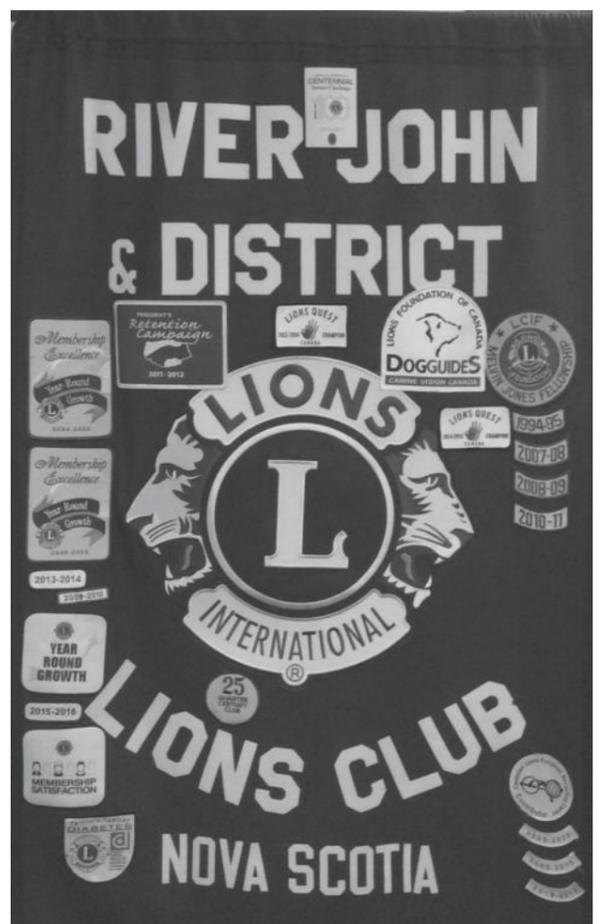


The band Geezer donated the entertainment



If you are interested in joining an organization that believes in making the world a better place to live, by aiding each other in times of need and organizing charitable projects that benefit the less fortunate, then call today 902-897-3883 or check us out on Facebook, Helping Hand Lodge #34

2017-2018 Noble Grand Willis Langille



River John's first King Lion

by Cheryl Frizzell

There were 31 members that formed the first River John and District Lions Club in 1969. Led by the first King Lion, Harold Winmill.

Harold remembers the lions club as being very active in the community and all members working together for the good of the club and the community. Harold worked along with other members on various fund raisers (dances, barbeques, and ticket sales). Monies raised would be used to help out anyone needing a helping hand and the purchase of the "bus", it was used to transfer members and local groups to different events. Harold has many fond memories of the club meetings and events, but one in particular sticks out. On one of the many trips on the "bus" to an event, someone brought along a laughing box. The laughing box kept them laughing and carrying on "for the whole trip".

Harold was a member for quite some time until life became too busy. He was starting up a new business and was working away from home a lot servicing diesel generators for the

telephone company in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick while also having a young family to provide for at home in River John. It became very hard to attend the Lions meetings and events so after a very hard decision he felt it only right to resign as a member of the River John and District Lions Club. Harold has never lost his lion spirit which is evident as we talked, and he told of various "Lions" stories. I was amazed at all the different ways this club and its members had and still do contribute to their community.



Ronald Baillie
Councilor, District 4
County of Pictou

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

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

West Branch welcomes the McKay family



by Faith Slayter

Matthew and April wanted to be home owners and were living in Cranston, a community in the suburbs of Calgary, Alberta. They started searching online near and far and came across the "MacLean Home" owned then by John and Fran Crichton. They wanted a redo in the country and a life change so it was decided West Branch would be their new home. They purchased the home December of 2016 and moved east to West Branch June of 2017. Besides furniture and all belongings, they brought their beloved pets, now three house cats and three dogs.

Matthew was born and raised in Revelstoke

B.C. but relocated to Alberta. April was born in Stephenville Nfld and relocated to Summerside PEI where she had a daughter Isabelle and moved to Alberta in 2008.

Matthew and April have a son Harper who is 6 years old. Matthew is still employed in Alberta as a driller and April is your friendly neighbourhood cashier at Foodland in Tatamagouche. April also sews and owned her own business back west called "Minor Mending". Her mother taught her as a young girl. She also attends NSCC and maintains the family home.

When they first arrived the Sutherlands came over with strawberries and maple syrup, their first taste of fresh syrup. Audrey Weatherby brought over fresh green tomatoes and they made salsa. The Crichtons bring surprises from time to time and the O'Briens tasty oatcakes.

April says they have become extra close to their neighbours. Faith Slayter has been extra helpful since Matthew works away long periods of time. She has hosted us for meals and is the reason we have met so many people in the area. The kids enjoy going down there for a Sunday visit and Faith keeps Harper after school 4 days a week; they have become close and have a special relationship, one which April says she is very grateful for. She has also met some wonderful people working at her cashier job. They continue to renovate their new home. Isabella takes piano lessons

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on Tuesdays in Scotsburn and Harper is busy with hockey in Tatamagouche. They try to attend many community events at West Branch hall, and River John Days has been a favourite. They are very happy they found West Branch.

A Life Remembered

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened! - Dr. Seuss

On July 4, 1935 Fluff entered this world and on September 22, 2018 her journey with us ended.

Fluff's accomplishments throughout her life were many.

The daughter of Wilson and Myrtle Langille, born Muriel Unice. When she was just an infant, her Dad called her "Fluff" and it stuck. She grew up on the River Road with 11 siblings. Continuing into her adult life, she married the love of her life Bill Baillie, raising three children in her beloved home she referred to as "The Elms" in River John. What incredible memories we all have of "The Elms". Family, Friends & Fun were so important to Fluff! She always enjoyed having a full house to cook for, dance with, play a musical instrument together, sing and laugh with. She was an amazing lady who always had time for everyone!

Fluff had a strong work ethic in everything she put her hand to. Graduating from Normal College, she began her teaching career in a one room school house. We've been told she wouldn't hesitate to join the students in a friendly game of baseball during the lunch break. Later on Fluff became a teacher at the River John Elementary school, where she also advanced her career as principal. After retiring from education in 1991 she didn't slow down, learning to play guitar, camping and travelling and then in 1999 she was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Withdrawing from public service in 2003, her new pursuits were golf and curling and she also became a faithful "Pictou County Crushers" fan, attending every game possible!

Fluff's commitment to supporting the com-



munity was unwavering and she would be the first to tell you "I don't like pancakes" while preparing to go to a pancake supper or breakfast.

In the days after her passing, many words were used to pay tribute to Fluff. For anyone who didn't know her, this will give you a glimpse into the kind of person she was: "a well-loved lady," "a remarkable lady," "a champion of her community," "a trailblazer in politics," "a dear friend and mentor," "I will miss her smile," "an amazing woman," "she had a keen sense of humour," "she was always so much fun," "she will be a part of all our hearts and memories," "a good teacher, a friend and role model," "a people person politician," "she could light up any room," "a kind and generous lady."

We have been very fortunate to have had this extraordinary lady in our lives.

The River John Square Knitters

Since its beginnings in the fall of 2014, the River John Square Knitters (RJSK) and friends, both near and far, have produced over 12,000 squares which are then parceled and posted to Knit-A-Square South Africa to be made into beautiful warm, bright blankets for AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. The group formed in response to a poster inviting interested people to "come and share a yarn" on Friday mornings at the River John Public Library. The handful of women who showed up on that first Friday morning soon learned that the woman who had posted the sign (Gloria Grandy) was indeed on a mission. That mission was Knit-A-Square, which is a charity organization that collects knitted or crocheted 8" squares from people around the world! She knew there was potential to expand and share a very worthwhile cause with like-minded people, especially the women of River John and area.

The need is immense with over 1.5 million orphans and other vulnerable children in SA, the plight of which inspires the RJSK to live out their motto of: Knit Locally – Share Globally. To help cover postage costs to South Africa, RJSK members sell their handmade boutique items such as sweaters, hats, scarves, texting gloves, wrist warmers, hand puppets, shawls, socks, baby blankets at various craft events throughout the year. As well we have promotional material and a jar for cash donations at the RJ Library.

This year too marks the 10th anniversary for KAS. *"What started as a small idea from women in two countries and oceans apart has grown to 50 countries. Crafters from 5 to 95 years old are making things for the children of South Africa."* Their website, knit-a-square.com tells how donated 8x8 inch squares of various colours and patterns are sorted and then assembled into warm blankets for these little children. KAS groups from around the world have sent in congratulations and shared some of the reasons for continuing to support this wonderful endeavor. This is part of what RJSK submitted for this occasion. *"Our group continues to use our hands to create warmth and comfort for the children of South Africa. The warmth and love we send comes back to us a hundredfold through the photos shared by the volunteers in South Africa, the friendships we've made at home and abroad, and the generous support and contributions we continue to receive from our local communities."*

RJSK members meet every Friday at the River John Public Library from 10-12. All are welcome to join us and/or to take advantage of the "knitting loan station" to borrow knitting needles or to take home balls of donated yarn.

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Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

SEAN FRASER, MP
CENTRAL NOVA

Pioneer recreation

Fox Fire Band

by Fox Fire Band

Pictou County's own Fox Fire Band was a local cover band that entertained audiences throughout Pictou County from 1984 until 2004. We were all introduced to each other by a then mutual friend, Myron Marshall.

The name "Fox Fire" was taken from an Avon perfume in the eighties, with the permission from Avon cosmetics, and remains with us today. The genres of music we covered were top 40 country, rock'n'roll from the 50's to the 80's. On any given performance people would hear songs by Alabama, The Eagles, The Beatles, Steve Miller Band, CCR, Garth Brooks, Travis Tritt, Steve Earle, Alan Jackson, Dwight Yoakam, Roy Orbison, The Rankins and many others.

During the twenty years together, we were fortunate to be well received, and played in almost every fire hall from River John to Westville, in every Royal Canadian Legion in the county, and in most beverage rooms like Diamond Jim's, The Glasgow Pub and the Highlander in Pictou. We played countless weddings and benefits and made a couple of appearances at the Pictou Lobster Carnival. We've made many friends on our journey and had a great "brotherhood" with other local bands of the day like Robert and The Country Express, and 4-Wheel Drive.

Band members include Joe Fraser on keys, guitar and vocals, Mike Shindruk, guitar and

vocals, Ronnie Fultz on lead guitar, Kevin Lamey on bass, and Mike "The Rabbit" Quinn on drums. We were fortunate to have a band at a time when live music was king. There were times when many venues were sold out by 9pm, but then we noticed a trend. DJ's, and karaoke were on the rise, and eventually many bands like our own found it difficult to compete with the economics faced by the venue owners. We all eventually went our separate ways, yet remained in the local music circuit. Fraser and Quinn are members of the Narrows Road Band, Shindruk is the worship leader at Master's Hand Ministry, and Fultz still jams with buddies in the basement for fun. Lamey, who has stepped in with many bands over the years joined us in 2017 for our very successful reunion.

You can visit and contact us on our Facebook page, Fox Fire Band.



Get active at the library.

**by Trecia Schell,
Community Services Librarian**

Did you know that you can borrow a number of recreational kits from the River John library?

For the children there are Play Packs that include active play equipment such as skipping ropes, balls, rubber chickens and lots more. There are also Fun Fit Passes which are a family pass to the Pictou County YMCA, the Pictou Fisheries Training Pool or the True Potential Fitness Centre.

If walking is your thing, then there are Pedometers available that will count your steps and tell you how far you have walked in a day, as well as Nordic Walking Poles that you could borrow and go for a walk with a friend.

For something more sedate, or for a day when the weather is inclement, there are also jigsaw puzzles that you may borrow to take home. The library also accepts gently used puzzles in good condition to add to their collection.

And if the grey, damp days are getting you down, drop by the library for some conversation and sunshine. Thanks to support from the Pictou West Community Health Board, the library also has a Light Therapy Lamp (located in the corner of our public computer area) for use by library visitors to help brighten your day.

Eco Friendly Septic Solutions

Ever wonder what happens to a septic system over winter? Well if you are using the septic system on a daily basis, bacteria in the tank, while liquefying the solids and toilet paper, produce enough heat that nothing will freeze. However, if you just leave it for the winter, no heat is being produced and because the septic tank is only about 1 to 2 feet below ground level, the contents of the septic tank can freeze depending on how cold our winters are.

Did you know that even going south for 2 to 4 weeks in the winter, your septic system can freeze in that time? A frozen or dead system takes 1 to 3 months to reactivate.

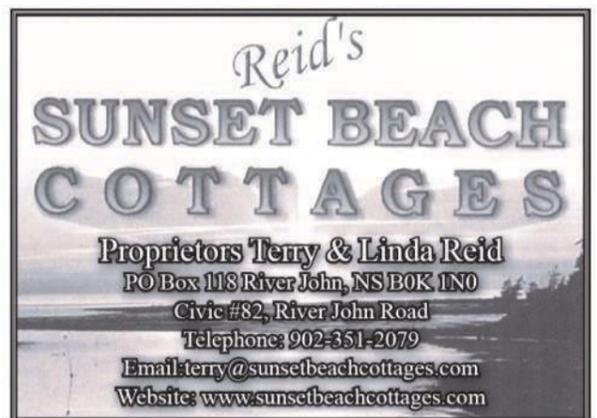
It is recommended that you add a dose of bacteria upon returning. It is also recommended that a dose of bacteria be added to your system before closing up for the winter. This should eliminate all solids and make it much easier to restart the system in the spring.

We are Eco Friendly Septic Solutions. We offer easy to use, eco friendly solution to maintain your septic system, to improve its health, functionality, and extend its longevity.

Everyday it seems like we are encouraged to buy and use antibacterial products. These may have some positive impact on our health, they are definitely detrimental to our septic systems. Detergents, shampoos and soaps cause scum to build up in the system and can shut it down completely with a replacement cost of minimum \$35,000.

With a small, monthly addition of our product, your septic system will gain the desirable bacteria needed to improve its functionality and the enzymes eliminate the scum build up. Instead of pumping your tank every 3 to 5 years, you will not need to pump your holding tank for at least 15 years.

If you have questions or just want to talk "septics" call toll free 1-844-476-2600.



Contributions to the next issue of

The Pioneer

should be sent to

pioneereditors@hotmail.com

Please send text and pictures as separate attachments. Text should have the bare minimum of formatting. Photos should be the best resolution available.

Pioneer home

River John moonshine



by Cheryl Frizzell

As many of you know my recipes usually have a story behind them and so does this one.

While sitting having tea with a friend one afternoon the subject of moonshiners in River John came up. As stories of various moonshiners in the area were told, my curiosity for the making and transporting of shine grew. I was told of family and friends back as far as the settling of River John to the 60's (and probably still today) making moonshine or shine as some call it. Most used the same basic recipe with a few tweaks to make the taste or colour different. I was told there were around 7 good moonshiners in River John at one time.

I was told lots of stories, unfortunately I cannot print them, but they were very interesting and most funny. One I can tell is about a raid where the RCMP were amazed at the size of the still, the house had been „built around it“ and it was reported to have been the largest still they ever saw “ in this part of the country “. When asked by the RCMP what the purpose for all the shine was, the moonshiner said it was for his friends and he added that when it's ready he has a lot of friends. Even though raids were made men still seem to have lots of shine available to drink when and wherever they gathered. One gentleman told me that good shine would sneak up on you and knock you on your “arse”. While some moonshiners had a delivery service others offered a pickup service. Moonshine was delivered in trunks of cars and taxis in beer bottles or mason jars, even in car radiators. I was told of shine being delivered as far as Truro by taxis, or hid in loads of wood. They had to be very inventive to out do the law.

This recipe comes from various sources, as some talk in what I refer to as circles, telling stories as they go, which makes it hard to actually get the recipe but here it is. I can't reveal names and most stories, but perhaps the recipe will start humorous conversations at coffee time.

Warm molasses and water, mix yeast and sugar together then add to molasses and water. Once it has started, you have to keep the temperature even while it's working, if it gets cold or too warm it will kill the yeast. After 10 days it should stop working. You can put a big handful of cornmeal on the top to get rid of the yeasty taste. Let it set there a couple more days.

When you open the crock, to make sure it is ready, you would light a wooden match, hold it over the mash about 1" above it and if it snuffed the match out it was ready. There is no oxygen on the surface. (continued...)

Ingredients.

4 gt. molasses
1 gal. water
1 yeast cake (royal)
Cornmeal
A little sugar to feed yeast.

Equipment

Wooden barrel
Crock
Butter churn
Bottles
Charcoal briquettes (they never had chemicals in them back in them the day)
Cloth or funnel
3/8" - 20 ft stainless or copper tubing
4-5 gal. Container



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RIVER JOHN PROUD!!

Sunrise Brokerage & Sales Ltd. opened its real estate door in June 2007 in downtown River John. Although based in River John we found that we were reaching property buyers from all across Canada and in fact around the world thanks to the MLS system and digital marketing. In 2007 the real estate market was booming, it was a good year to open a new business in the area! We were welcomed by the community which gave us a good start and we are forever grateful for that!

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

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

www.sunrisebrokerage.ca



(Moonshine, continued)

You then run it through a cloth with charcoal briquettes in it to purify and remove any sediments, as the sediments could plug the worm (still).

Put it in the still and heat it up to 180° this vaporizes the liquid and when it hit the tubes it would condense into alcohol running through tubes into bottles and making shine.

Some shiners put 1gal oats in a bag weighted with rocks on the bottom of crock then added their ingredients.

To make Ladies shine, they added russet apples in the top of mash.

Some added raisins and sugar, or just brown sugar.

Some preferred stainless tubing as copper leaves a residue and taste. That's one of the reasons for the second filter.

You had to watch there wasn't too much pressure it could "blow your head off."

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you could get them open to clean them and they had a gasket around them to make a tight seal so no vapour would escape.

Flour and water were used to seal any holes in the tubing.

You had a choice of Runs through the filter: 1st Shine, 2nd Hyoctane, 3rd Experience.

All three were referred to as Triple Run. Some prices were one pint, \$2.00 or 100 gals., \$200.00.



The Village Sings

The Village Sings is a choral group formed in the fall of 2015 by members - and non-members - of River John area churches, to learn new music, have fun singing together and support community initiatives.



Seen here performing earlier this month at the Legion, they have previously provided entertainment during Festival Days as well as raising money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

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Fall Cleanup

**by Patsy Chapman,
Nature's Nook and Kranny**

It's that time of year again, summer is over, leaves are turning colour and the days and nights are definitely colder. It's time to put our gardens to sleep for the winter, but is there anything you should do first? This is a good time to pull your annuals if the frost has killed them off and to plant your fall bulbs and garlic. In the past I usually tried to cut back my perennials because I have more time in the fall, but now know it is better to leave them until spring. It adds food for birds and protection for them. Ornamental grasses and perennials with seed heads give a unique look in the winter landscape. This also gives beneficial insects a place to overwinter. An important thing to remember is if it is a dry fall, always water your gardens up until freeze-up. If you have a hardy selection of plants it isn't necessary to cover for winter, I only do this with tender plants or newly fall planted gardens. Flowering shrubs and trees usually only require minimal care. Again, keep them watered if there is little rain. With fruit trees it is a good idea to wrap with the plastic wraps that usually are on them when you buy them, this should go below soil level, to protect your tender trees from rodent damage; mice will chew the bark all around the base of the tree and above snow level, killing your tree the following spring. Evergreens and broadleaf evergreens require a bit more winter protection. Always keep them watered right up to freeze-up in dry conditions. These plants will lose moisture through their needles or leaves in the bitter winds of winter and with the ground frozen there is no way to regain that moisture, so the more plump the leaves and needles, the better they will handle winter conditions. It is a good idea to wrap with burlap to help protect from winter winds, but do this correctly. It can cause more damage by wrapping the tree directly, better to put stakes around the plant and wrap the stakes. Have a great winter, your plants are ready!!

Pioneer photos

School Days, School Days ...

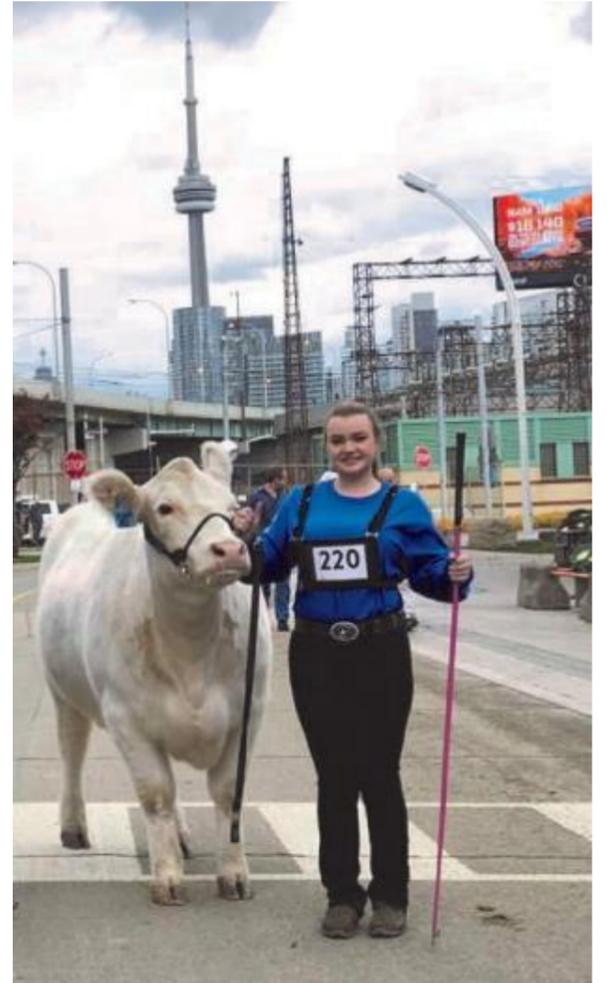
River John School Primary Class, 1951



Back Row (L-R): Leona MacKenzie/Murray, Heather MacDonald/Langille, Sissy Heighton, Mary McLean, Fay Thompson/Peters

Front Row (L-R): John Blanchard, Barry Holt, John Doohan, Ned MacLeod, Stanley Thompson, Douglas Sillers

Elizabeth & Emma go to Toronto



Congratulations to Elizabeth Heighton of the River John 4-H Club who competed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto earlier in November. Elizabeth and her calf Emma represented Nova Scotia and Pictou County on the Nova Scotia Royal Beef Team. Elizabeth and Emma made it into the semi-finals for intermediate showmanship and Emma placed 2nd in her heat in Senior Charolais conformation. This put Emma and Elizabeth into the Champion Charolais drive. Elizabeth would like to thank all her sponsors and support team for getting her and Emma to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair!

Fine Gents



This picture will bring back memories for sure. Can you guess who these fine gentlemen are?



Gravestone with unusual inscription in the Pioneer Cemetery, River John



Fall decorations in Bissell Park, created by the RJ Ladies group.



This bench and red maple tree were set in Bissell Park on August 9, 2018, by the IOOF Helping Hand Lodge #34 in celebration of their 140th anniversary.

River John Play Group

by Margaret Cripps

The River John Play Group had a wonderful first year. There were consistently 10 mothers and children each week with more that could come as work allowed. We were able to attend many activities and had a lot of fun. The group was started by mothers in the area who saw a need to get out and socialize with other parents in the community. It resulted in many new friendships, play dates, walks and outings that most would not think of doing by themselves, as well as Mom Nights and getaways.

This year's outings included swimming at the Pictou County Wellness Centre, visits to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, Lismore Sheep Farm for wagon rides, a community picnic, Word Play at Mabel Murple's, Funtopia and

sleigh rides. Some of these trips were planned for the weekend so the dads could join in. We also had themed days which involved dressing up and having potlucks. These included Halloween, Christmas, Olympics, Valentines, St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

We will again be meeting at the Legion each Wednesday from 9-11 if any parents or guardians with children from 0-5 years would like to join us.

Thanks to the leadership of Santina Weatherby who applied for grants, we were able to afford many of the activities after receiving funding from the North Shore Community Health Board. We would also like to thank the River John Legion for allowing us to use their space, and Joanne Wilkins for overseeing and helping with administration.



Wildlife park



Lismore Sheep farm



Sleigh ride



Word Play

The Old Man

by Michelle Jollymore

I was a small girl when I first saw the face in the rock formation on the edge of the shore overlooking the Northumberland Strait. I would play on the rocks and gather treasures along the shore while my father rigged his traps for another lobster season. At first, all you could see was an eye and nose. Over the years he became more visible to the naked eye, just sitting there on the shore at the end of the Cape John Road. Not everyone can see his face or what I see. So maybe take a minute out of your busy day and drive down to the end of the Cape John Road and see if you can see the old man that just sits there, looking out over the shoreline.



Every year the floating dock at Bissell Park is taken out of the water by volunteers before the river freezes up.



Mini-tornado



This "mini-tornado" was spotted in River John on October 16. The photo made the rounds of social-media, and meteorologist Kalin Mitchell tells us it is actually a cold-air funnel cloud. This can happen when a cold front passes over warm moist air and causes convection. Often weak and short-lived, they may form a weak tornado or waterspout if they touch down.

Pioneer events

Sunrise Film Festival Hosting Events Throughout the Year

by Josephine Cresswell

Our first event of the year was held in Tatamagouche in June, and was a one-day intensive Script-Writing Seminar, conducted by novelist, playwright, and screenwriter Gary Blackwood. Thank you to the North Shore Players for co-hosting and sponsoring this event. The event was a sold-out success and we had a lot of good feedback ... *"It was exactly what I think this small little burg needed. I went home and started from scratch with the lessons learned from Gary. I think that the North Shore would certainly benefit from similar events."* - Mike Purdy

Our next event, held in July, was the special screening of the feature film, *The Only Game in Town*, combined with a book launch hosted by Nimbus Publishing at the deCoste Centre in Pictou which was attended by over 200 people. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

In August we held a Film & TV Special Effects Make-up Workshop in Toney River, run by professionally-trained make-up artist Colleen Patterson. Colleen trained at Blanche MacDonald Centre in British Columbia and specializes in beauty, fashion, airbrush, TV and film and special effects and prosthetics. Attendees at this event had a lot of fun!

In September we hosted a film screening of award-winning *Roundabout* by Paul Kimball, Nova Scotia director and star of TV series *Haunted* at the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre. Paul was on hand to answer questions after the screening.

Look out for future events from The Sunrise Film Festival by visiting www.sunrisefilmfestival.com.



Film & TV Special Effects Make-up Workshop



Script-Writing Seminar



Screening of *The Only Game in Town*

November is Adoption Awareness Month

by Faith Slayter,
Reunited Sibling / Volunteer Searcher

Thank you to all adoptive parents who have taken a child into your home and raised him/her with love and care. Thanks to those who have always shared the truth to adoptees about their birth and adoption. Since September 1992, I have volunteered to help adult adoptees and birth parents reconnect with each other. Over the years I have helped many, only four said they did not want to meet.

Each province is responsible for its adoptive laws. Nova Scotia, PEI and Quebec are sealed, that means if you are adopted in one of the other provinces you are entitled to your birth name and birth parents' names. Although this may sound easy to find a birth mother, many may change their name or move away. Many adoptees wait until their adoptive parents have died to search for birth parents only to find they too have passed. A headstone cannot hug you; you cannot hear a voice or see a smile from a grave. With records being sealed in Nova Scotia an adoptee may date or marry a relative. How would they know?

For twenty-six years, a small group of us have lobbied for changes in Nova Scotia only to fall on deaf ears with governments of the day. The right to know one's heritage outweighs the right to privacy. Now with DNA testing sweeping the world some have found each other. That only works if both sides have sent it in. Some search on Facebook; it may help - I find that too public. I am discreet and careful when searching. One must never give up no matter how many walls stand in your way. It should be up to the adult adoptee, birth parents or siblings if they want to meet, not the government of the day.

I feel very blessed and honoured to have helped many find their true heritage. Adoption most times gives you loving parents, siblings and a name, but not your roots or medical history. Our family is blessed to have found and been reunited with a brother and a sister. We are now all in our 60's and have a new beginning of sharing stories, laughter, holidays and each other for the rest of our lives.

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Library programs for the young at heart.

**by Trecia Schell,
Community Services Librarian**

Drop by the library, today – to discover, share, learn, and connect! We have weekly and monthly programs for the young to young-at-heart, and all library programs are free.

Join us Monday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00pm, at the River John Library's C@P site for Silhouette crafting sessions with Marg. Learn how to make fancy cards, little gift boxes, decorative display items, decals for stickers (for mugs, windows, skateboards...) or iron-on decals for fabrics. Sky's the limit! This is a drop-in program.

And Friday mornings, the River John Square Knitters meets at the library from 10:00am-12:00pm for a morning of stitching, crocheting and conversation in a cozy atmosphere, and all are welcome. (We have spare knitting needles, and yarn to share too!).



If you love reading and talking about books, the library's Book Club meets at 6:15pm on the first Thursday of the month. Space is limited, please call ahead to register for the program, (902) 351-2599 (and we can give you a copy of this month's book to read!).

The last Thursday of the month at 6:15pm join us for the monthly screening of a documentary film from the National Film Board of Canada. Thursday November 29, we have Finding Farley, in which a young family and their dog retrace the literary footsteps of Canadian writer Farley Mowat. We take a break in December, and start up again in the new year, with The Great Adventure on January 31, Black Soul, Christopher Changes His Name and Journey To Justice on February 28, Three Thousand, Stories From our land, and Lords Of the Arctic on March 28, If Weather Permits and People of the Ice on April 25.



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thanks

The Car Show Committee would like to thank Strait-Way Kia Pictou County for their generous donation to the River John Festival Days Car Show 2018. The Car Show had a total of 88 entries and prizes were donated by local individuals and businesses. The former River John Consolidated School, owned by Nick Bigney, was easily accessible to the spectators who attended the Car Show. Thank you to Nick, Leonard and Shelley Bigney for providing the space and assisting the Committee.

as told to Anne Patriquin

All day long I have been thinking
Thinking just of you,
Of the times we were together
And the things we used to do.

And I felt a lonely feeling
As I chased away a tear,
And a little wish came stealing,
That today was yesteryear.

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Pioneer youth

Sunrise Trail 4-H Club 2017-2018

by Bonnie Allan

The Sunrise Trail 4-H Club had a very busy year. The Club has members from communities all along the Sunrise Trail - all the way from Seafoam to Lismore, the Town of Pictou, Mount William, Three Brooks and Scotsburn. In October 2017, the Club registered 50 Cloverbuds & Members. 45 completed an Achievement Day.

Some of the projects offered this year were: dairy, sheep, rabbit, poultry, goat, beef, light horse, mini horse, draft horse, poultry, waterfowl, photography, sewing, scrapbooking, crafts, welding, small engines, vet science, heritage, fisheries, Great Outdoors, cake decorating and gardening. The Club also had 12 Cloverbuds.

The majority of our volunteer leaders are former Sunrise Trail members who still enjoy being involved with the 4-H program and passing on their expertise to the next generation. We have very few projects without Leaders. We are all there for the children & the program.

Throughout the year, each member did a speech or demonstration, remembered a "special friend" and hosted that friend at a banquet, sold baked beans, held barbecues; had a Woodsman team and attended many County events.

Parents are also very involved with the 4-H members, attending the General meetings, Project meetings and special events. Members need their support and encouragement.

Members, leaders & parents were up before sunrise on July 23rd getting the verandah in River John ready for a hearty breakfast. They served over 250 breakfasts of sausage and French toast. Following this, the members displayed their project work at the Toney River Community Hall. Livestock members started at 1:30 p.m. at the Melville-Seafoam Community Hall showing what they had learned in showmanship from working with their animals. The day ended with the presentation of certificates and the eating of hot dogs, cake and ice cream. Members of the Club went on to compete at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition.

Top Junior Judges were: Sheep - Olyvia Fleury, Waterfowl - Zachary MacInnis; Small Engines - Keagan MacDonald; Lego - Riley Allan.

Top Senior Judges were: Sidney Baillie - Sheep and Crafts; Madison Baillie - Rabbit, Woodworking and First Aid; Natalyah Allan-Okrainec - Goat and Scrapbooking; Megan

MacCarthy - Mini Horse and Draft Horse.

Top Junior Showmanship went to: Abby Rae - Light Horse; Zachary MacInnis - Waterfowl.

Top Senior Showmanship: Megan MacCarthy - Light Horse, Draft Horse and Mini Horse; Sidney Baillie - Sheep; Sydney Murray - Goat.

In Livestock Confirmation, Riley Allan had 1st place Ewe Lamb Dorset and Champion Lamb and Keagan MacDonald had the 2nd place Ewe Lamb Dorset. Allie Sutherland had a 1st for Ewe Lamb Other Crossbred; Sidney Baillie had a 1st for Ewe Lamb other Purebred and Reserve Champion Lamb. Olyvia had the 2nd place Ewe Lamb other Purebred. Natalyah Allan-Okrainec had a 2nd place Chevon and Alexis Buchanan had a 1st place Dry Yearling and a 2nd place Milking Doe, Junior Doe Showroom 6 and Senior Buck Showroom 4. Abbie Rae had Top Senior Doe Showroom 4, Junior Buck Showroom 4. Jorja Matchem had a Junior Doe Showroom 4 and Michaela Guitard had the Champion Pet Rabbit. Madison and Sidney Baillie had the 1st and 2nd place Senior Holstein Calf. Carson Campbell had a 1st in Intermediate Jersey, Abby Muise had a 1st in Senior Jersey Calf. In the Angus Calves, Abbie Rae had a 1st place Junior and Abby Falconer had a 1st place Intermediate Heifer. Allie Sutherland had a 1st place Senior Hereford Heifer. Madison Murray had a 1st place Junior Limousin Calf; Madison Baillie had a 1st place Senior Simmental Heifer & Sophie Heighton had a 1st place Junior Feeder Steer.

In English Light Horse, Chloe Murray had a 1st in Junior Pleasure, Megan MacCarthy had a 1st in Senior and Madison Murray a 2nd in Senior Pleasure. In Western Light Horse, Megan MacCarthy had a 1st in Pleasure Poles and Madison Murray had a 1st in Trail/Poles. Megan MacCarthy also had a 1st In Draft Horse Mane & Tail Braiding.

Allie Sutherland and Sidney Baillie will represent the County in the Sheep Clipping competition. Madison Baillie will partner with Ryan Dykstra from the Middle River Club to represent the County in the Dairy Clipping competition and Natalyah Allan-Okrainec will partner with Zack MacDonald from the Saltspings Club in the Goat Clipping competition.

Madison Baillie had a 1st for her soup & her cheesecake, and a 1st for her bench; Keagan MacDonald won a 1st for his generator and Carson Campbell a 1st for his Garden box. Natalyah Allan-Okrainec claimed a 1st for her First Aid poster and a 1st for her First Aid Kit; Megan MacCarthy a 1st for her Vet Science Specialty Item; Abby Falconer had a

1st for her Heritage Level 2 and a 1st for her scrapbooking Album. Riley Allan - two 1st for his Lego - a kit and his own design. In the Craft Competition, Morgan Bezanson won in the Senior and Olyvia Fleury won in the Junior. In the Wool Competition, Abby Falconer had a 1st for her pillow and a 1st with her tea-cup lamp in the Recyclable Competition. Abby also had a 1st place in the Recordkeeping Competition. 31 members participated with their projects at the Exhibition, and all of them placed somewhere in the top five places. All of these members went off to the 4-H Provincial Show in Bridgewater to represent Pictou County. At that Show, these are the placings:

Megan MacCarthy had a Champion English Equitation, Champion English Pleasure, Reserve Champion English Road Hack; Michaela Guitard had the Champion Pet Rabbit; Sidney Baillie was the Reserve Champion Crafts Judge and Champion Sheep Showman; Madison Baillie was the Champion Woodworking Judge and Reserve Champion Overall Judge, along with winning the Reginald & Donald Scothorn Dairy Clipping Competition with her partner, Ryan Dykstra, from the Middle River 4-H Club. Abby Falconer had the Champion Junior Heritage Project Collection, Champion Junior Recyclable Competitor & Champion Junior Record Keeping Competition. Keagan MacDonald had the Champion Junior Small Engines Article & Natalyah Allan-Okrainec had the Champion Senior First Aid Project.

The Club meets on the second Monday of the month at the Toney River Community Hall at 7 p.m. Cloverbuds have to be either 7 or 8 years old by January 1st, 2019. Members have to be 9 years old by January 1st, 2019.

For additional information, please feel free to call Bonnie Allan, General Leader at 351-2766 or email at allanse49@gmail.com. Final registrations have to be in to Bonnie by November 12th along with the \$20.00 registration fee.

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River John 4-H Club

by Margaret Cripps

The River John 4-H Club has had another busy year. They have 19 members, 10 leaders and 2 cloverbuds involved in 17 projects.

Their top fun club activity for the year was the annual Christmas skating party. They've also been actively involved in many county activities including hosting the county church service, junior tour, woodsmen, county fun day as well as the fund-raiser during Lobster Carnival. They put on several community service projects which included 2 chili suppers, family fun day at winter carnival, Remembrance Day service, served at Remembrance Day supper, highway clean-up and served at a wedding. During River John Festival Days the club had a float in the parade, and served their annual breakfast as well as helping oversee the first county breakfast.

They were actively involved in the work of the new Legacy Barn and want to commend their leaders Stirling and Christine Heighton for the unmeasurable amount of time and effort they personally put in.

We are very proud of all our members who competed at the North Colchester Pictou Exhibition. There were some excellent projects entered. We encourage you to take the time next year to attend and see what the county members enter. Congratulations to the following members who won in their various categories and moved onto the Provincial Show that was held in Bridgewater:

Kholey Bezanson - scrapbooking and mini-horse
Elizabeth Heighton - beef
Madison Langille - cake decorating
Jennie MacLean - rabbit
Hunter Matheson - goat
Shaelyn Matheson - sewing
Megan McDonald - light horse

Special congratulations go to Elizabeth Heighton for winning Reserve Champion

Purebred Other Breed Calf and being selected as one of ten beef members to represent the province at the Royal Winter Fair held in Toronto. This is a huge honour and an amazing opportunity to compete against the best animals across the country.

River John 4-H Club is very proud of all the work that the members and leaders have put in this year. They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm at St. George's Church Hall for anyone interested in joining as a member or leader, or simply wanting to learn more. Meetings are led by Christine Heighton and Margaret Cripps.



Imagine the possibilities

Programs for children and youth,
at the library.

**by Trecia Schell,
Community Services Librarian**

All are welcome to join us Tuesday nights at 6:15pm, and Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:45pm for lots of family fun, drop-in „as you wish“ programs at the library. It's Block Play (with gigantic blocks) on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and LEGO Night on the second and fourth Tuesdays. And every weekend, it is Imagination Saturdays, with board games and computer games, jigsaw puzzles, crafts, coloring, LEGOs and more! For more information, please call, visit or email the River John library at (902) 351-2599 or riverjoh@nsngp.library.ns.ca .

4-H Legacy Barn

by Margaret Cripps

Putting up a new barn is a real challenge and Pictou County 4-H is well aware of that, but has been able to accomplish it. A committee was put together which included co-chair Stirling Heighton of the River John 4-H Club, co-chair Mark Firminger, Christine Heighton, Sabrina Gladney, Paula Murray, Cathy Lavers, John VanKessel, JoAnne VanKessel, Ruby MacKenzie, Brenda Sharpe, Bonnie Allan, David Allan and Kelly McInnis, who stepped up to the challenge to make the dream a reality.

It was truly a devastating day when the official word was given that River John Consolidated School was to permanently close. However, if you walk through the new barn and canteen you will see numerous pieces that helped build the barn, such as cabinets, bathroom stalls and so much more, which allows the spirit of the community to live on.

Thanks to numerous monetary and in-kind donations, the 4-H members were able to display their amazing projects in their new non-livestock barn.

The River John club would like to personally thank all those - especially from this area - who gave to help make this barn a reality, and special thanks to Stirling and Christine for all the hard work they put in.



River John Sunday Market

Sunday Dec 2 10 am - 4 pm

Our Sunday market is back with a Christmas twist. Our crafters will have something for everyone on your list. There will be wood working, soap, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, Nova Scotia treasures, felted hats, maple syrup, birdfeeders, preserves and baking.

Local beef and lamb also available.

Christmas Goodies, Warm Cider and Lucky Draws!

Market is held at Lismore Sheep Farm

**1389 Louisville Rd, River John
902 351 2594**

Christmas Market



Christmas Sale

Friday Nov.30 - Sunday Dec 2 10 am - 4 pm

Lots of wool and sheepskin to keep you or someone you know warm for winter.

Blankets, slippers, mittens, pillows, rink seats, sheepskin insoles, wool socks.....

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Pioneer history

Village Life in the 1950's

by Diane Shink

I was born and grew up in the beautiful village of River John on Nova Scotia's North Shore. Our house was literally on the edge of the River John, which emptied into the Northumberland Strait. I learned to swim at an early age and the banks of the river and surrounding areas, including the cemetery, the Mitchell Mill and the old MacLellan shipyards were my playground. During summer I have memories of playing store at low tide using mussels as play money. There were numerous buildings where we played house; memories of a mock wedding and baking apples come to mind. Charles Haliburton and I flew all over the world in our imaginations when we sat in Kay Ross's old airplanes, housed upstairs at the Mill. As soon as I could count and was tall enough to see over the mahogany counter, I started "working" in the store. My grandfather was very happy to see me after school, he could listen to his CBC stories on the radio without interruption as I took money and practiced math skills by making change for purchases, such as chewing tobacco and candy bars and more. Those were the days when one could purchase three black candy balls, (which changed colour as they melted in your mouth,) for one cent.

As I depicted in the pictorial wool quilt which hangs in the River John Historical Display during each summer, the village had many buildings and businesses in the 1950's, including an electrical shop and three garages. Edwin Sutherland's four story building, was on the river's edge beside the Government wharf. Dorothy MacKenna's tea room was across the road beside the former iron bridge. (This is still standing as it is now the Lions club den). This bridge also had an attached pedestrian side walk on the east side. MacLeod's General Store was across the street on the South side beside the Co-op which was a brick and concrete building where the library is now located. These two general stores carried a variety of food for humans and animals as well as basic clothing etc. The store was started in Denmark, Colchester County by my great grandfather John Macleod. His son Edgar expanding business to River John opened as RE Macleod & Son in 1939. During WWII my Dad, Carl, enlisted in the army but after a few months of training at Camp Borden and Debert, he was honourably discharged because he was needed to help run the family business. My grandfather Edgar had TB of the hip and was not strong enough to do the work required in providing the necessities of life for

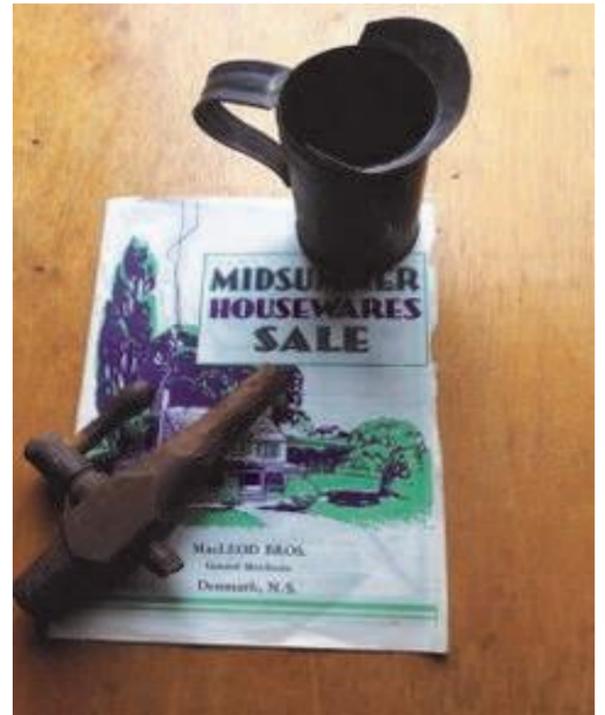
those who "kept the home fires burning".

When our business was first established the majority of customers were farmers and fishermen who provided for most of their own needs. I remember farmers coming down from the Cobequid Hills once a month or so, still using horse and wagons to get animal feed and make a few purchases. They had two pails to be filled, one for molasses and one for Kerosene oil. The list prepared by the woman of the house would be handed to a store clerk for a few items such as spices, baking powder etc. The man would buy tobacco, perhaps long underwear for the winter and maybe a spool of thread. The barter system was still in use, so in some cases the woman would bring in a crate of eggs. I can see them waiting patiently on a busy Saturday night to get the results of the grading to know the amount of money available to spend. There was a machine in a special dark room using a light to reveal the condition (eg freshness) of the egg. Perhaps this is where the term "pin money" came from. Extra money from the eggs sale would give the lady of the house money to buy pins.

At that time, the business consisted of at least three buildings. The area behind the main general store housed barrels of molasses, vinegar and sauerkraut and extra supplies. Behind the store another warehouse held building supplies, nails and glass etc. The large warehouse, big enough so a half ton truck could back into a landing platform housed many types of animal feed as well as fifty and hundred pound bags of flour and sugar. I recall going to the warehouse with a customer so the lady of the house could select a flour or sugar bag (cotton those days) with a design to match a previous purchase so that there would be enough material to make herself a dress.

During the post war 1950 years the variety of consumer goods manufactured increased tenfold and the business increased substantially. Supermarkets were being built so customers could select their own merchandise (rather than being waited on by the store clerks). We purchased a cash register for the check out counter by the door.

The food products crowded out the dry goods so another building was purchased and remodelled. The roof of the former hotel was lowered and shelves were built on the first floor to display clothing and assorted dry goods. The second floor housed furniture. The wonderful stair case and newel post are still intact in the building which is now used as a residence. The clothing and furniture and my grandfather were moved to the new location.



This advert was from the second Quarter of the 20th Century before Edgar and Carl moved to River John in the 1930's. The picture includes a spigot and a pint measure possibly used for dispensing vinegar. This was before the days of plastic bottles..

Another building was built behind the former hotel to house larger building supplies. These last two places are still standing.

The Night Dad did not come home

My father, Carl MacLeod, was a hard working man dedicated to his business. It was said that if Macleod's did not have it, it was not available. They sold everything from "Soup to nuts". There was a very large warehouse behind the original store which held all types of animal feed including chick starter, oats for horses etc. One section of the building was devoted to flour and sugar ranging from 10 to 100 pound bags.

In those days there was lots of physical work to be done so gym memberships and work outs were not on his agenda. He kept in shape by lifting heavy bags of animal feed among other items. The store served a large area and even in the 1950's farmers came to the village from the surrounding hills with a long list of items needed to operate their mixed farming enterprise.

The village was served by a railroad and there even was a siding where railcars could be placed until the goods were unloaded. The Farmers co-op had its own warehouse located close to the station but the feed supplies for Macleod's General Store needed to be moved by truck from the Railway station to the warehouse in the village.

I Presume that the station master kept

track of the length of time the railroad cars were able to sit at the siding. At any rate, one night after supper, Dad announced he had to go back to work. Most of the bookkeeping and record keeping was done at night when the store was quiet. During the day, Dad spent lots of time socializing with customers and all the travelling salesmen to get the latest news locally and nationally. These were the days before television or internet. The business required a small truck to move merchandise and also to deliver groceries. Some people in the area of the village community would walk miles, often with young children to shop at the store. When their order was complete, Dad or a hired man would drive them back to their residence.

Dad always drove the truck for business and that night he went to the station to check the contents of the car load of animal feed I think he probably finished unloading the car just as a wind came up and blew the huge door closed, locking him inside the boxcar. Possibly the railroad car was a newer design with better rollers.

My mother stayed up fairly late at nights finishing household chores and maybe doing a bit of reading or letter writing. At midnight my father was still not home, so she woke up my brother, they got into the car and drove up the hill to our store, No lights, no husband in the village. My parents had a good marriage and if Dad was going to a meeting or another

community activity or visiting friends or family he probably would have discussed it with Mother. And he certainly would have been home by 11! My parents were "Tea Tootlers" so my father did not frequent the known "boot leggers", or blind pigs although they operated in the area. At that time the closest Liquor store was in Pictou or Truro. After a search of the village Mother remembered Dad saying something about a railroad car being at the station. You can imagine Mum's great relief, when they drove into the station and saw the store truck parked by the siding. Dad was hoarse from hollering when rescued from a possible night of sleeping on animal feed bags.

River John, 1907



Let's Talk! (About River John)

by Beulah Wright

This summer, the River John Heritage Museum offered a series of talks by local presenters, about local topics, which were interesting and a lot of fun. Frances Sutherland organized the topics and the speakers, assisted by other members of the River John and Area Historical Society, and they were held right in the Museum on Wednesday mornings.

The series began with the recounting by Beulah Wright, of the life of Phoebe Patriquin, an ordinary lady who gained fame by being the first white child born in the new community of River John, a life begun in hardship and primitive conditions, but survived for ninety-two years.

That was followed by Jack and Jim MacLeod who presented Fiddlers and Fiddles, an interesting history of many of the local people who were talented and willing to entertain at house parties and dances. Of course, the MacLeod brothers themselves, their father, and lots of relatives were among the gifted entertainers in the days before television and other electronic distractions, when people made their own amusements. Good fiddlers are still appreciated in the village today though! Included were the craftsmen who made their own instruments.

Minnie Cormier awakened many memories among her listeners with her tale of her father's ice cream parlour, the only such establishment in rural Pictou County and beyond. Her father is also remembered for his

musical talent, his wood carvings, his dress-making ability and his friendliness. Many still recall the ritual of being taken for an ice cream treat at Frenchy's, after the parents finished their shopping on a Saturday evening. The Haliburton family all played their role in the operation of River John's ice cream parlour.

Raymond MacKenzie, himself a lifelong fisherman, gave a very interesting talk on the history of the fishing industry in River John, the methods, the boats and gear and the catch. He included many stories of the fish plants as well, and the people who ran them. The business of fishing began when the shipbuilding era ended; youngsters began at an early age and fished all their lives, many of them fishing all summer and running a farm the rest of the year. Fishing is still a viable source of income for many area residents, as handsome vessels line the wharves of Cape John, Skinner's Cove, and Toney River.

Robert Heighton, accompanied by the Fire Chief, David Brown, delivered a well-researched history of River John's volunteer fire department, from its beginnings, with basic equipment stored at a local garage, to today's fine fire hall, modern equipment and well-trained firefighters. The department has maintained today's standards, kept up with increased costs and has a good crew, all volunteers. His talk was a good reminder of how much we owe these men and women who are dedicated to keeping us and our properties safe.

Jacob Leegwater recounted the history of

another public service institution of the village, the Helping Hand Oddfellows Lodge, which has a healthy status with a good enrollment that includes several young members. Jacob explained the aims and purpose of the Lodge and described some of the good deeds carried out each year. They also have a debt-free hall, in spite of having suffered a fire which destroyed all of their records and regalia. They also have a sister organization, the Rebekahs, who partner with them and share like aims and purpose.

The series ended with the presentation by Dr. Allan Marble, on research and genealogy. Dr. Marble, who spends his summers in the area, is a noted educator, author and genealogist, and he presented lots of possible sources for research for persons who are interested in their family history. He pointed out that we should be always looking for primary sources, such as census records, church records, family Bibles and cemeteries. rather than depending on online sources alone. But he also gave some tips on how to effectively use the Internet. His talk was followed by a lunch provided by the Historical Society members.

The consensus was that since all the presentations were much enjoyed and the audience participation was valuable and informative, we decided that we may do this again, as we already have a list of topics. We may make a few changes, but have a winter to plan and prepare, and are always open to suggestions. If you missed Let's Talk this summer, watch for news next Spring.

River John's Ice Cream Parlour

and the story of Frenchy and Dorothy Haliburton

by Beulah Jane Wright

Chesley Haliburton (always known as Frenchy,) was one of nine children, born to Harry and Ada Haliburton, in Port Au Port, Newfoundland, in the days when you had to go through customs to get into Canada, because Newfoundland was a foreign country. Eventually Harry sold his store in Newfoundland and with his family immigrated back to Nova Scotia.

As each child finished grade nine, they were sent elsewhere to finish their education. Chesley moved from Newfoundland to attend Pictou Academy. In 1920 he happened to meet Charles MacLennan from River John, and they became very good friends. Charlie invited him home to River John one holiday and Chesley agreed "as long as he didn't have any sisters." Well, Charlie had six and one of them was Dorothy, who eventually became Mrs. Chesley Haliburton! Many of the young people of that era moved south to the United States for employment and Frenchy joined a group of young people from Pictou County and headed to Worcester, Massachusetts. For the next eleven or twelve years he found employment, in the New York Transit System, working in an ice cream parlour in Worcester, which provided good experience for later endeavours, then in Providence, Rhode Island, where he became employed as a costume designer for the stage and theatre. Dorothy studied nursing and graduated in New York, as did two of her sisters.

Chesley and Dorothy were married in River John, and returned to the U.S. where their first child, Minnie was born. Their second child, Charles was born later in River John. It was "the thirties" in the midst of the Depression

and times were hard, and in 1935 they decided to return to River John and settle, so packed up their belongings and drove home. They had everything they owned on the back of a truck, but the weight of Frenchy's piano was blowing too many tires, so it had to be unloaded and left behind!

Now, what was he going to do in River John? Costume designer for a theatre was definitely out! But there was a run-down building for sale in River John right next to the Bank, and Frenchy had a talent for "fixing" things so began the establishment of an Ice Cream Parlour - the only such business along the North Shore. He had a new well drilled and the transformation of the building began. He installed mirrors, built cabinets, bar stools and bars, counters and display cases and he was particular about cleanliness and presentation. He offered milk shakes and sodas, ice cream cones and specialties like banana splits and banana royals, floats and sundaes, which he always made up himself. His ice cream came from Pictou, wrapped in jackets filled with "dry" ice, but the milk for the shakes came from the cows he kept on a growing small farm in the village. Before long he renovated a back room, opened with an archway and included five booths, to allow more patrons to sit and enjoy their cold treats while Frenchy, when he had time, would play the piano, a replacement for the one he had to discard. His dishes were specifically for the treats he served and were of sparkling clear glass accompanied by polished silverware. The parlour was staffed mostly by himself and his family, with occasional outside help, and all were dressed in

pristine white.

He added other things, like cigarettes, candy, cards and a shelf for over-the-counter medicines selected by his wife, from her nursing experience. He was an accomplished wood carver with his jack knife, so added the carvings for sale as gifts. It was a popular spot. Never open on Sundays, but Friday and Saturday it became the custom to shop for groceries, etc. and then "go for an ice cream at Frenchy's." Probably the atmosphere, as well as the treats, drew in the crowds. Also, Frenchy was always friendly, kind-hearted and ready to chat. His wife, Dorothy, was a true helpmate, and shared in all his endeavours..

Not only did Chesley call on his ice cream parlour experience to be successful - he also used his designer skills, and created lovely wedding dresses and prom dresses for the ladies of the village, as well as other articles of clothing. He could build things and create things - from houses and boats to a handsome cross that graces Salem United in memory of his wife, Dorothy.

There was always music in Chesley's life and his home. An accomplished pianist, he provided music for many dances in the Community Hall. He also played the saxophone and other instruments.

Dear, yet, to the hearts of many River John folk are memories of Haliburton's Ice Cream Parlour!

This story was recounted by his daughter, Minnie Cormier, at the Heritage Museum's summer series of Let's Talk.

The Story of Phoebe Patriquin

by Beulah Wright

It was probably a cold and snowy day, February 2 1788 or 89, on the west shore of River John. The river would likely have been frozen over and the wind blowing cold from off the Northumberland Strait. On Smith's Point, there were at least four rude cabins recently built clustered near one another for protection, little more than huts. In one of these houses, without the benefit of a doctor or medical aid, a baby girl was born, Phoebe Patriquin, the first white child born in the new settlement of River John. A rough beginning for a life that survived for ninety two years.

Some years before, a group of settlers left Montbeliard, and settled in Nova Scotia, first in Halifax then on to Lunenburg, where they farmed for a few years.. Montbeliard was not part of France but bordered on France as well

as Germany and Switzerland. They were French speaking, but were Protestant in religion and trying to hold out against France and the Catholic church who were steadily encroaching with plans to take them over, so many decided to leave for North America.

Colonel Desbarres, from Montbeliard himself, had been given a huge grant of land in Tatamagouche. And he persuaded 15 or so of his countrymen, living in Lunenburg, to move with their families to settle in Colchester County.. The only problem was that he refused to sell the land, but wanted them to live as his tenants. After a few years, four of them decided that wasn't what they had planned and moved down to River John, and in 1785, Jean George Patriquin, Jean Frederic Patriquin, George Frederic Langille and James Gratto

founded the village of River John, soon joined by others, Bigney, Joudrey, Perrin, Tattie etc. Three English speaking settlers joined them, Gammon, West and Hinds.

Phoebe's father Jean George Patriquin, was born in Lunenburg, as was his wife, Maria Catherine Langille. They had two children when they arrived in River John, but lost their oldest son Frederic., soon after Phoebe was born. The father, Jean George with his brother who had decided to return to Tatamagouche, were driving cattle, and five year old Frederic was determined to go with them, so followed. The men thought the trip too much for the little boy and sent him back. Sadly he never reached home. The family wondered if the Indians had taken him and always looked for him, but there could have been so many tragic mishaps befall

a child of that age – a mystery never solved.

Other children were born to the family and they grew up with neither church nor school, but didn't lack for religion nor learning, as the settlers managed both, for 23 years.. It was said, in his obituary, that Phoebe's father had never attended school, but as an adult had learned to read and was familiar with the Bible and deeply religious.. Somehow, they managed to learn some English in that time as well, because, when Rev. Mitchell visited River John in 1803 he recorded that they understood English very well.

No record of Phoebe's marriage has survived, but she may have been married by Rev. Mitchell, as he bought her Father's farm, settled his family and established the Presbyterian church, of which her Father, Jean George Patriquin became an elder, about this time. Phoebe married Joseph Langille, another descendant of Montbeliard and they had four sons and three daughters in the next thirteen years. Unfortunately her husband died in 1820, leaving Phoebe, a widow with seven young children, at age 32. She never remarried. Her descendants can be found far and wide and are many.

Phoebe lived with her oldest daughter, Catherine for many years until December of 1880, when they both contracted measles. Catherine died of them on December 10, and 4 days later, 92 year old Phoebe also succumbed to the disease.. There was one obituary for them both in the Truro Guardian, which states in part: "The name of this old lady apart from her merits deserves more than a passing notice. Her birth forms an important event in the history of this place, she being the first child born in the county of Pictou. She was universally admired and beloved for her amiable and kindly disposition and her scrupulously cleanly habits. Phoebe had been a widow indeed, for upwards of three score years and had lived with her eldest daughter for over seventy years. They were both humble Christians of whom it might justly be said- They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in death they were not divided"

Phoebe must have seen many changes in her long life, her family being pioneers in River John, French-speaking, carving out a settlement in the wilderness. Her father's name is on a petition for a bridge across the River in 1825, in another 25 years the first ships were built and by her death the village had grown into a thriving community with several shipyards creating beautiful sailing ships that were known throughout the world. Churches, businesses, stately homes, had replaced the log cabins of her childhood, as River John grew and prospered.

But the well that was dug into the hillside of Smith's point, is still in existence and is referred to as "Phoebe's Well".

[ED: Smith's Point is the piece of land alongside Johnson Street at the western end of the village.]

The article below first appeared in 1985 in a publication celebrating the bicentennial of River John.

River John A Century Ago

And so, my dear editorial friend you want to have a brief history of River John. If you will be content with a quarter century around the Jubilee period you may have it.

Churches, schools and shops will be about the proper order; then the farms. The farms are all here that were here 25 years ago (1860) but churches, schools and stores are all new and handsome buildings. 25 years ago the Kirk was being erected and the staunch kirkmen of the past generation, Camerons, Chisholms, Sutherlands, MacKenzies and Holmeses were proud as they saw the realization of their hopes in the church named after Rev. George M. Grant. Salem Church is a brand new, commodious building with the older church building serving as a hall for prayer meetings, lectures and the like. The Episcopal and Methodist Churches are both handsome buildings. During the past 25 years all these churches have been served by devoted ministers. Besides these larger buildings there are two smaller Churches belonging to the Baptists. Twice within the past 25 years there have been waves of religious revival and ex-

traordinary manifestations of religious zeal.

Our schools comprise, besides the four village schools the following eight, viz: Welsford, Bigney, Mountain Road, Louisville, Elmville, Melville, Cape and Marshville. In every one of these old buildings have given way to new, commodious and comfortable schoolrooms. Thanks to Sir Charles Tupper and the Education Act the period has been one of decided improvement in school matters though we should not forget that here in River John we have enjoyed a free school for over thirty years. Many of those who 'wielded the birch' in River John School are now clergymen, medical men and M.P.P.'s carrying with them pleasant memories of our fair village.

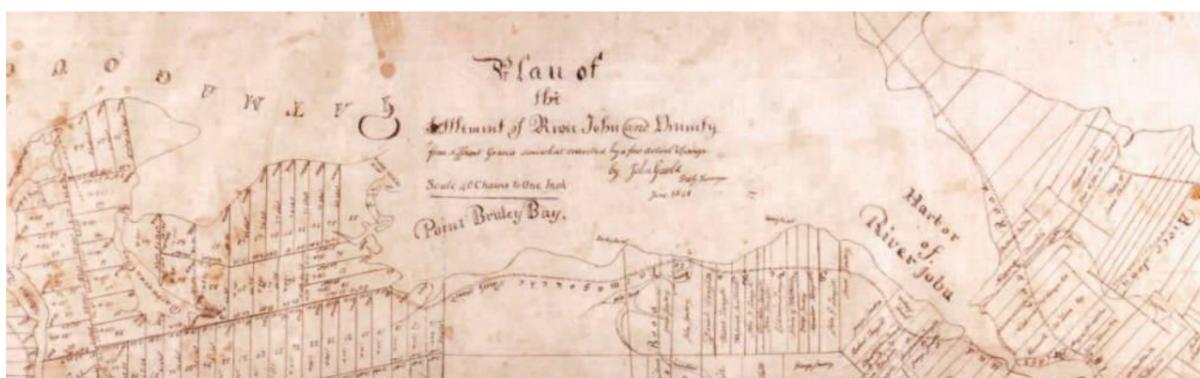
The stores are all modern buildings or enlarged and improved within the last few years. Crossing the new bridge from the east you find yourself in the business part of the village, substantial shops on every side and substantial shopkeepers too for most of them are either deacons already or desire soon to be.

Honest, upright, prosperous merchants...not perhaps as much wealth as they would like, but as

much as is good for them and the prospect of more next year when the railway comes.

The farms are considerably improved in the last 20 years. For example take 2 points. Then, about 3 farmers thought it possible to raise turnips successfully, now it would be nearer the mark to say a hundred. Then no one thought of hauling kelp from the shore, now there are usually a score of teams ready to haul up after a good blow. Orchards are receiving a good deal more attention than before and we have quite a number of enthusiastic grangers. Almost every family takes one or more weekly papers and a large and increasing number consider the 'STANDARD' indispensable.

Few people have an adequate idea of our beautiful river and fine glimpses of scenery. When you cross next year, the new railway bridge near David Hines' take a look down the river and you will see some very pretty scenery. Gammon's stage will be one of the pleasant memories of the past but at the new station we hope to meet our old friend William, and to hear his cheery voice calling out, "All aboard for Pictou."



Settlement Plan of River John and Vicinity, 1841.

The original, prepared by Deputy Surveyor John Gauld and drawn on cotton with ox gall ink, shows the area from Seafoam to Tatamagouche indicating land grants and their owners. It is now reframed to museum standards and is permanently displayed in the public library in River John.

Reproductions of the Plan are available for purchase at the River John Library.

From Canada to Guatemala



by **Sadie MacDonald**

This past August, seven students and eleven adults travelled from their home of Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia to Rabinal, Guatemala. This delegation was in partnership with Breaking The Silence and our goal was to form a relationship and connection through intercultural learning with the New Hope Foundation School community. This school is one of a kind in Guatemala as well as nothing like we have seen in Canada. It aims to teach a truthful history, one that includes accurate information about the genocide of the Maya Achi people that occurred in Guatemala in the 1980's. We were unsure of what to expect but were overwhelmed by the generous welcome and comfort we found at the school. The students we met shared our excitement and joy, which was an incredible feeling. The language barrier made us get creative with relationship building. We connected with the students there by teaching them to play mini hockey, joining in on a game of soccer (which we epically lost), having a campfire, and doing cooperative puzzle activities. Both groups of students gave cultural presentations and participated in a traditional Mayan ceremony which remembered the lives that were lost to genocide.

A highlight of our delegation was our weekend spent in Rio Negro. We had the honour of having eight students from the New Hope Foundation School accompany us. The families of these students were directly impacted by the massacres that happened in Rio Negro and hearing their stories was heartbreaking but necessary in order for us to understand the significance of the place we were visiting. We retraced the steps up the mountain that the women and children were forced to march on the day of the massacre. This day was very powerful to us because we didn't just read the stories, we heard them from the nieces, nephews and grandchildren of those killed.

Our plans for the future of this group include providing scholarship money to allow girls in the junior classes to finish high school. There were significantly fewer female students than male students in the final year of school, about two females and fifteen males. We have also invited a teacher and a few students from the New Hope Foundation School to visit Nova Scotia in May of this year. Although we are now home, our commitment to this relationship is only just beginning and we look forward with joyful hearts for what is to come.

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The Pioneer editors

Well here we are, our second paper under new management is out. The summer issue was a great success and we received lots of positive feedback. We would like to thank all those who sent in information and pictures. We appreciate any pictures, family history stories, past or upcoming events, etc., please forward them on as it makes for an interesting local paper.

Here's to a vibrant Newspaper

Ann and Cheryl,
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Recycle your old eyeglasses



The River John Lions Club collects new and used reading, single vision, bifocal, children's, safety, and both prescription and non-prescription Sunglasses (clip-ons and glasses). Glasses may consist of glasses in frames, frames only, or uncut lenses.

They are sent to The Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre in Calgary, where Lions volunteer their time and services to prepare eyeglasses for distribution, cleaning and classifying each pair by prescription.

Optical missions sponsored by Lions clubs and other groups distribute the donated eyeglasses to needy people throughout the world, in accordance with local laws.

You can leave your unwanted glasses in the collection box at the River John library.