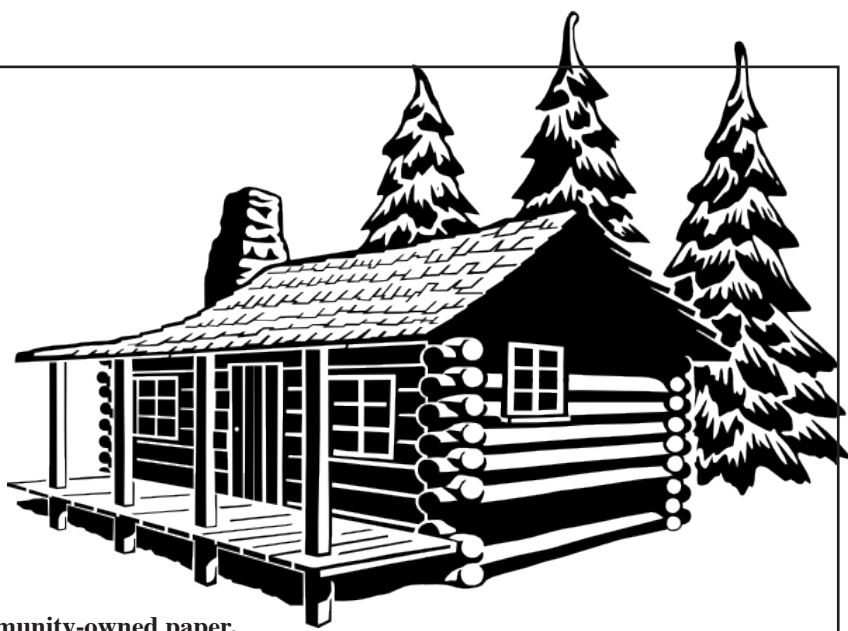


# THE PIONEER

Spring 2015

Volume 1 • Issue 4



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

## River John Support Our School ... thanks you and needs you still!



All ABOARD The SCHOLAR SHIP at the River John Community School Hub. We are sailing on until June! And after? We still have hope.

THE SOS wants to say thank you to everyone who has given us so much moral support and encouragement. From our Facebook page and our website we know how many of you are rooting for us and doing what you can--when you can, to help us help River John Students Soar.

Going to breakfasts and flea markets, attending or offering classes at our winter workshop series, donating money, writing letters of support, and yes, saying your prayers for the students and staff--- it all matters. A lot. The work has been constant and challenging. Creative and fun, too.

We finish up our business case for The River John Community School Hub this week. We will hand in the document (which seems like a PhD thesis) on March 31st to the Chignecto Central Regional School Board. We have had so much support. Ronnie Baillie and our municipality, Karla McFarlane, our MLA, Vivian Farrell, our school board member; places like The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and NSCC, to name only a few. Harvey Architects from Halifax have made all the difference in the world for us, from doing floor plans pro bono to steering us in the direction to look for expertise and resources.

Partnerships and a strong spirit of creative collaboration will be the way forward if the elected Board will take the risk and pioneer with us. We will give our last in-person presentation to the Board on April 15th. Then, well, we wait until June. But we won't be idle in the gap time.

Continued on page 4.

*Designers' rendering of the finished hub – harvey ARCHITECTURE ltd.*



To: the Support our School Committee

From: the entire community

Thank you

You put together the best possible case that could be made. It will convince any reasonable and caring person. You consulted with the community and kept us informed. You consulted experts. You became experts. You were asked to hit a moving target and you came back with a vision that we all endorsed. You met all the right people.

There is no stone left unturned. There is not a single thing that could be done that you haven't already done. You took the high ground. You kept the faith with the other schools. You made us proud and you made us believe. Now enjoy a rest.

You'll make believers of the CCRSB as well.



## MP Peter MacKay

Central Nova families will benefit from the incredible opportunities associated with our federal government's Comprehensive Trade Agreement with the European Union. This 500 million person, \$18 trillion dollar economy is the world's largest. By eliminating 98% of existing tariffs, Nova Scotia seafood, natural resources, and manufactured goods are made more affordable and desirable in European nations. Estimates indicate that CETA will lead to a 20% increase in bilateral trade and inject \$12 billion into our national economy annually. To help prepare ourselves, the Government of Canada has invested heavily in our province's highways, wharves, harbours and airports.

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## Karla MacFarlane, MLA

Thank you to the SOS Committee for your visionary efforts to keep River John Consolidated a part of this vibrant community.

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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



## IN THE SPIRIT

Reflections on  
Everyday Grace

Saturday, May 2nd

2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

River John Consolidated  
(Gymnasium)

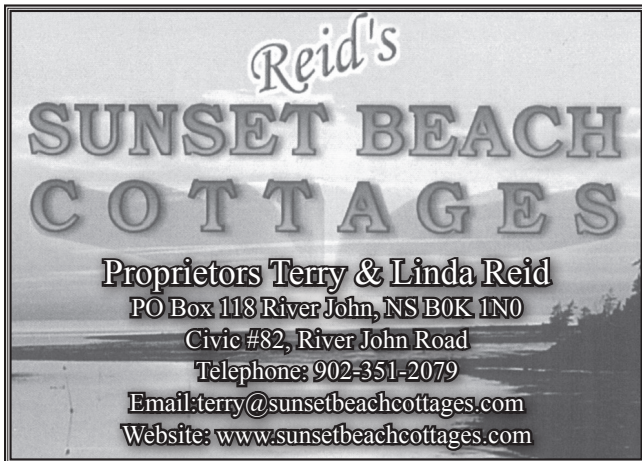
## A romantic thing? You decide

The year is 1991. My girlfriend, Christina, and I recently moved into our first apartment. Christina worked at St. Mary's University and I was a student there. We were new in our commitment to each other and both deeply and passionately in love. On one unusual day I had no scheduled classes and stayed home where I was looking forward to sleeping in, getting up late, and then cleaning the apartment. I also planned that I would make her a wonderful romantic evening dinner.

As I could not cook, and had limited groceries, I concluded that I would make my very best Kraft dinner and cheese with bologna. I would garnish it with a little parsley and serve it with water in a wine glass with ice cubes. I wanted to make the meal special and romantic so I found a heart shaped cookie cutter in a drawer and cut the bologna into 'heart' shapes. I was sure it would be a winner.

Well, Christina has told many friends about this dinner and those friends have even written articles about it for magazines. Not sure if I'm being laughed at or appreciated but, I think it was worth it either because Christina married me the following year and this coming May 30th will be our 23rd wedding anniversary and 25 years since I was overcome with any more romantic ideas. From that day on she has taken over the cooking duties and hardly ever serves heart shaped bologna. I don't know why.

Chris Silver  
aka: Addison Locke



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## Where are the farm(er)s?

Wilma van der Veen  
Windy Mountain Road Farm

This is the first in a series of articles to explore the current state of farming in the B0K1N0 postal code region, to uncover the changes to the farming culture & industry, and how we can contribute to its continued existence if we want there to be viable family farms in the future.

So where are the farm(er)s? I should qualify this question. As one drives around this region of the North shore, one does see some small herds of beef cattle, occasionally a large group of sheep, a horse or two here and there in a paddock, maybe some chickens and turkeys roaming around, and large hay fields. There are even a few Holstein cows but these are out of milk production for only a brief time while they give birth to the next generation of milkers, and will soon be returned to the barn where they remain for their short life. The actual farms making a livelihood solely from farming are few and far between, with even fewer younger generations taking over the family farm. So how did we get here?

The developments in agriculture & food processing and distribution systems have seen to it that few can gain a livelihood by solely farming. Those that do, require substantial capital for the various farming implements - land, equipment, seeds, fuel, etc., and thus are often in a state of perpetual debt. They are, of course, captive to the ups and downs of commodity trading, legalized gambling that occurs in cities very far away from the actual farms, global economic forces playing with interest rates and capital investments.

In researching this article, I had a number of informal conversations with folks in the area - Margaret MacLean at the library, Peter MacDonald at the liquor store to name a few - and was surprised to learn that no one could think of a local resident who was making a living solely off of farming, with a family tradition of farming going back generations. The current farmers in the area that do make a living solely from farming include Rik Roeterdink in dairy, John and Margaret Minney in lamb & strawberries, Gillian and John Lismore in sheep and Leah and John Pembridge in cow calving. Dairy farming is one industry that does guarantee an income due to the quota system introduced in the seventies. While some may complain that dairy products are expensive, perhaps another perspective is to consider that this is the 'right' price if we want farmers to make a living from dairy farming. What do many if not most of all these farms have in common? They are operated by what locals would refer to as come-from-away folks. Generally speaking, the last generation of locals who farmed was the

baby boomers, most retired now, as most of their offspring chose, often out of necessity, to seek employment elsewhere.

There are also smaller, more recent operators, such as the Lavender farm, and others who engage in small scale vegetable farming, selling their produce at local farmers' markets. The new entrants to farming tend also to be come-from-away folks, but many have off-site employment. As may be expected, there are significant start-up costs to engage in farming, from the initial purchase of the land to equipment to marketing of products. This is out of reach for many locals who are victims of an economic system that plays to the lowest common denominator in all aspects from wages to benefits to prices to working conditions.

I for one like to know from where my food comes. Many of us do have our small garden plot to provide us with some time-honoured and enjoyed staples, e.g. potatoes and squashes. But we can't provide all we need. I also know that I do not want to be dependent on large grocery chains for my food, which in effect have a near monopoly on prices with profits not going to farmers; which contain a majority of processed foods containing all sorts of unpronounceable and questionable ingredients with high levels of salt, sugar and fats contributing to various epidemic ailments (diabetes, heart disease, cancers); whose food supply depends on increasingly more expensive and non-renewable fueled transportation systems, let alone climate-change-contributing industrial agricultural processes.

How much are we guilty of not supporting local food producers? I recall one story told to me by one of the blueberry vendors at a local farmers' market, where a customer stated they would not purchase this vendor's blueberries for \$10/5 pound box but instead would be going to the grocery store to buy the \$9.99 box, not accounting for the fact that the gas in order to drive to said store would easily eat up the few cents in savings.

I will leave you with the following food for thought (sorry about the pun but I couldn't resist): open your kitchen cupboards and fridges & freezers, look at all your favourite and staple foods and now figure out from where do all the ingredients stem - how local are you? Do you even care about local? Why/why not? There are many factors that have contributed to the breakdown of the family farm which we shall explore in subsequent articles. I welcome feedback. Please feel free to call me at 902-351-3183.

## Hub to get infusion of power!

The River John Support Our School Committee has received a significant investment from Bullfrog Power, Canada's leading green energy provider. This commitment by Bullfrog Power will be used to purchase and install photovoltaic cells on the River John Community HUB School to produce green electricity reducing the schools energy costs as well as its carbon footprint. This addition to our HUB School will also serve as an enhancement to the environmental education experience to be provided in our Scholar Ship Educational Centre.

### About Bullfrog Power

Bullfrog Power, Canada's leading green energy provider, offers renewable energy solutions that enable individuals and businesses to reduce their environmental impact, support the development of green energy projects in Canada and help create a cleaner, healthier world. As a Certified B Corporation, Bullfrog Power meets higher standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability. Thousands of individuals and businesses in Canada are doing their part to address climate change and air pollution by choosing green energy with Bullfrog Power. Sign up easily, quickly and affordably at [www.bullfrogpower.com](http://www.bullfrogpower.com).

### About The River John SOS Committee

The River John SOS Committee, a group of approximately 17 volunteers, has been working under the auspices of the River John Community Action Society to produce a plan for the River John Community HUB School. This group of parents, interested citizens, retired teachers and others is committed to the utilization of the excess space in the River John Consolidated School by creating a sustainable educational centre that enriches the lives of the students and community as a whole. For more information, visit us at [www.riverjohnsos.com](http://www.riverjohnsos.com)

## RJCAS Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The River John Community Action Society celebrated its 10th anniversary at its annual general meeting on March 10. Robin Campbell the RJCAS's Chair reviewed some of the past successes including the society's plan waterfront development plan, the Meals on Wheels program, the community forum and input into the Community Health Board's five year plan and the starting of this newspaper, which is now one-year old.

He also spoke to the group of 15 volunteers about the plans for the coming year, which include a retractable dock for launching small crafts down at the riverside in front of Bissell Park. The society is only spearheading an initiative to encourage local business people and would-be entrepreneurs to group their energies under the society's umbrella to be the first in the province to pursue trade directly with European Community. Meals on Wheels will continue as will the society's support for extraordinary efforts of the SOS Committee.

The AGM also saw the board returned by acclamation. The 2015 officers are:

- Chair: Robin Campbell
- Vice Chair: Dan Ferguson
- Treasurer: Bonnie Murray
- Secretary: Rob Assels

The RJCAS holds meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the River John Consolidated School library. If you'd like to get involved, you would be very welcome.

## Lieutenant Governor's Award

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.

Up to four Nova Scotian communities are honoured each year. Recipients are chosen by a selection committee based on community applications that best fit the award's criteria. Communities selected for the award promote citizen engagement, civic pride and a positive outlook on the future.

Guess who's in the running this year?

## Pioneer to offer subscriptions

The Pioneer is available free to all residents and businesses in the B0K 1N0 postal code, but ever since our first edition came out, people have contacted us from outside the area asking how they could get a copy.

At the last meeting of the River John Community Action Society it was decided that the Pioneer would begin offering one-year subscriptions for \$25. The cost is to cover the time and postage of mailing four issues anywhere in Canada or the US.

The Pioneer is also available as a downloadable PDF file from the River John Facebook page.

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

Support Our School... From Page 1

We still need all of you and hope you will come out to all the events we have planned right up until June. Just showing up tells our students and the staff we care for them. Below are some of activities and events at the school to take note of. (Keep checking notices at Post office and on face book)

- April 11th-- Writing on Fire Youth Writing Workshop and Literary Café
- April 15th-- Last presentation to Board. (Any-one can go!)
- May 2- Book launch? Monica Graham. IN THE SPIRIT 2pm.
- May 30st— The Atlantic Conference on Small Schools to be hosted by RJCS. (Volunteers welcome)
- June 6th, --A Music Concert with some AWE-SOME BIG NAME STARS. Secret for now. Stay tuned!
- June 7th –Celebration of Faith, Family and Children. Three churches of River John will unite to make a joyful event and invite their friends along the North Shore and Pictou County to come create, play and pray together.
- June 10-- CCRSB VOTE Day. We plan to organize a peaceable respectful rally and get as many to the Board office as possible.

For those who still might not know – this is the first time in the history of Nova Scotia that members of a community have been given an opportunity to create a “hub” school proposal to present to a School Board. It’s groundbreaking territory not just in Atlantic Canada but also in Canada as a whole. The communities of Wentworth and Maitland are also creating Hub proposals. The particulars of each school situation calls for a different vision of what a HUB might be for an individual community. The Minister of Education, when she graciously met with us one-on-one, admitted that even experts didn’t really know what a HUB was or would look like.

River John’s vision of HUB is “H” for Health and Wellness, “U” for Unity, and “B” for Building a Brighter Future. As Kate Oland, a library manager, farmer and community activist for Cape Breton m described us in her address at the Shift Rural Conference at Dalhousie University last week:

Book Review

The Great Maritime Detective: The Exploits and Adventures of the Notorious Peachie Carroll

This is the story of a remarkable man who lived an extraordinary life, which was documented by an exceptional writer. Peter Owen Carroll, “Peachie,” was a man who could not sit still. He lived from 1860 to 1933, most of it in the Town of Pictou, although he saw more of the world than most of his peers. He initially aspired to be a sailor and was quite accomplished, although the sea was not kind to him. The ships he signed up with met with severe storms and he lost shipmates on almost every voyage. He decided on a different career just before the ship he was assigned to went down with all hands.

Over the course of his life Peachie held many jobs, including prospector, fire chief, police constable, detective and bounty hunter. It was for these last two that he built an unsurpassed reputation. Peachie solved some of the most notorious cases of his day including murders, thefts and bank robberies. This was back in the day when bank robbers had to blow up safes with dynamite and would get away on foot or horseback. In Nova Scotia, Peachie travelled from Pictou to Cape Breton, Amherst and Yarmouth, bringing felons to justice, usually without firing a shot. He was a big man and was good with his fists. His mere stature was enough to make most criminals pack it in when he apprehended them.



Designers’ rendering of the finished hub – harvey ARCHITECTURE ltd.

“Building on the community’s wants and needs, the (River John) Hub development group developed a plan for the North Shore “Scholar Ship” Discovery Centre– a place-based, experiential learning hub housed within the school library space, utilizing the shop, kitchen, and outdoor space as well, and incorporating new technologies and local expertise. This hands-on learning center would enhance and support learning outcomes for school children, and for the broader community – including other schools within the school board. It would offer health services such as blood collection, foot care and wellness clinics, and fitness classes. There would be adult education courses, an art gallery, and walking trail. In summer, it would operate as a destination where tourists could stop and view displays about River John’s shipbuilding heritage. The plan would help defray the overall operating costs, add capacity to the community, and bring people together around local interests and initiatives. River John’s group has secured promises of in-kind contributions, grants, and support from the municipality. They’ve done all of this work as volunteers.”

I’m writing this update on the SOS as only one of those volunteers. It’s an amazing team and if we do get a green light we will need more volunteers in the years to come. We do have a fighting chance. For one thing, people are watching from all over Canada to see what this elected Board will do and watching what is happening right here in River John.

One of our letters of support going into our business cases comes from the writer Margaret Atwood. She describes a school as being “the center of gravity“ for a community like ours. She writes :

“It just doesn’t make sense to close a local school that has the passionate support of its community, in order to stick kids on buses for many hours a week. And for what? What will really be gained? Unless the idea is to destroy the community so the province doesn’t have to be bothered with it anymore.

I know that if the River John hub plan gets the go-ahead, it will be supported, not only from within Nova Scotia, but from people outside it as well. Me included.

Here’s hoping for a sane, child-centered, family-friendly outcome.”

Sanity for our children. Hope for our future. We still have hope. Our students deserve this school in this community. We are already a Hub School. We can only improve on it. River John loves its children enough to stand up for them, for their small school and for their future.

www.riverjohnsos.com

Facebook at River John SOS.

Author:	Monica Graham
Publisher:	Nimbus Publishing
205 pages	
Reviewer:	Rob Assels

husband. He was also morally flexible. He would drink excessively and then arrest bootleggers under the prohibition laws. It’s a testament to Graham’s writing style that I wished Peachie had lived longer so she could have had more material to write about. She endears this flawed man to the reader. There is so much more to Peachie that this review hasn’t touched on and so many additional stories in the book that make it worth your while. The book gives incredible insights into the history of the North Shore and the rough-and-tumble existence of our predecessors. It was hard to put down.

Monica Graham has other books as well: *The Historic Town of Pictou, Scotch Willy and Other Nicknames from Pictou County, and a new book out shortly entitled In the Spirit: Reflections on Ordinary Grace.*

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The Dolphin

by Chris Giles

Historical Fiction

Growing up in River John in 1884, every child looked upon the sea as a part of his/her life. At the age of 10, I remember the long days of beachcombing, swimming, and raft-building on the shore. Watching the sails of the fishing boats, you would dream about sailing away to foreign shores. We were taught early the art of handling an oar, and I felt like we were born sailors, whatever we turned out to be afterwards.

River John is a seaside village. The gables, roofs, and windows of the houses face mostly west toward the Bay. There’s always a salt smell in the air and the sounds from the shipyards and fishing boats tied up to the wharves echo through the village. The prevailing winds come across the water from the Northwest and blow right up the River John. You can see the power of the storms in the piles of seaweed and the parts of boats and docks on the beaches after a big blow.

To be out on the water was my earliest love. Although it would be a long time before I had the money to buy my own boat, I was lucky to have a “Dutch Uncle” who fished. Uncle Henry was one of Grandpa’s four brothers. Like the other fishermen of River John, he fished with the season; smelts in January, mackerel in April, lobsters in May. After many times out with Uncle Henry, around the Cape and even out to Amet Island, I was trusted to help him on the water. His boat was a twenty-foot dory, painted yellow



inside and out, and green on the gunnels, and she was called the Dolphin. Like the other dories, she had a flat bottom and was high on the bow and stern due to the natural curve of a sawn plank. The planks overlapped and she had a narrow transom, where Uncle Henry had painted a green dolphin. She had a mast and sail that could be raised if the wind was right, and of course, a pair of oars. The Dolphin was tied on the shore with a lot of others, near the Haydens’ place, at the end of the Cape road.

Whenever I helped him, we were up before sunrise. Provisions were stored in the stern of the Dolphin and were made up of a generous bag of hard-tack, a keg of spring water, and if we were lucky, Grandma’s apple pie. We would unshp the mast so we could row a bit to start. Henry would throw in an extra oar, push off from the shore, and ship shape and Bristol fashion, we were on our way.

The shoals off the Cape are very shallow and we would often use our boat-hook on the shelving banks below us. The big red cliffs drifted past us and we soon came up to the bare rocks at the end of the Cape. It was here that we entered the real Northumberland Strait. The breeze would usually pick up and we could raise our lateen sail. Then it was off to Henry’s favourite fishing spots. We had a lot of time to talk and Uncle Henry would tell me stories about when he used to work on the iceboats that carried the mail to PEI in the winter, but that’s another story.

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Publishing Company in River John?

The River John Community Action Society (RJ-CAS) has received such positive response to the newspaper that we have decided to start a publishing company. Like The Pioneer newspaper, Pioneer Publishing will be a not-for-profit. The revenue from any of the titles will go to the RJCAS to use in support of community initiatives like the Meals on Wheels.

River John has a proud literary tradition with many local writers and one of the most successful literary festivals in the country, Read by the Sea. Launching Pioneer Publishing will help inspire writers who have stories to tell but who do not want to pursue mainstream publishing. There will be no charge to the writers who are selected for publication, but they will not receive any revenue from the sales of the books either. The RJCAS will pay to have the books printed

Crossword winner

The Pioneer’s rules call for the prize to be awarded to the first correctly answered puzzle received in our post office box. Annie Jollimore of River John was our winner of last issue’s crossword puzzle contest. She received a copy of Addison Locke’s CD “I am a lot like you” and a \$25 gas card. Hers was the first fully correct puzzle we received. For the clue “A staple at Jo Dearing’s” she answered BURGERS. We were looking for BURITOS, but when it comes to Jo Dearing’s Southern Smoke BBQ and Grill, we have to say we like both ... besides, her answer fit, so she’s a winner.

The prize for this edition’s crossword is a copy of Monica Graham’s book *The Great Maritime Detective: The Exploits and Adventures of the Notorious Peachie Carroll*.

Make sure when you submit that you let us know how to contact you.

and will look for local retailers willing to stock the books. It is also looking at having the books made into e-books and sold online.

Pioneer Publishing is interested in short stories, novels, poetry and biographies. If all you have is one short story or poem, Pioneer will help create an anthology by pairing your work with others. We are also interested in people who are willing to help. Like the newspaper, Pioneer Publishing will need volunteers to help with illustrations, proof reading, editing, online programming and publicity. Once a year, the RJCAS will hold a volunteers’ appreciation night at which we will provide dinner and awards.

If you’d like to get involved, contact Rob Assels: 902-351-1476 or by email r.assels@malatest.com

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Next issue

The Summer Issue of the Pioneer comes out July 4. We need your submissions by June 15. It promises to be a big and colourful issue.

We will print an extra 1,000 copies so we can provide businesses involved in tourism with extras so they have enough throughout the summer.

# CETA activity in our region

It’s still a ways out, but it’s coming quickly. The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) that was signed between Canada and European Union (EU) comes into effect on December 31 of this year. In a nutshell, CETA removes tax, technical and regulatory barriers between Canadian and European companies. How does that affect us on the North Shore? The Pioneer asked our Member of Parliament, Peter MacKay. He began by pointing out that the EU is a market of almost \$18 trillion. What does Nova Scotia have that might sell well in the EU? MacKay thinks that many of the things that Nova Scotia exports now will fare even better under CETA, “From lobster to Christmas trees, our products will be less expensive now in Europe.”

Nova Scotia is also the most convenient point of entry for European goods to enter North America. With that in mind, the federal government in preparation for CETA, and perhaps with an election about the same distance out, is investing in many of its ports and wharves. One such investment is \$69,500 to dredge the channel at Skinners Cove. That work is to begin this spring. Similar work and upgrades will be happening at ports around the Atlantic Provinces.

MacKay was asked how communities like River John could take advantage of CETA or whether it was only something larger corporate players like Clearwater or Irving could take advantage of. He suggested that one in five Canadian jobs across the country is connected to trade, so even if there were larger players who were involved, it would have an impact on all Canadians. The Pioneer suggested that perhaps the community could start its own internet portal and be a virtual storefront to promote local services such as

real estate, music, cottage rentals and our upcoming film festival. In addition, River John could become a source of information for European companies looking to understand the Canadian market. MacKay was strongly supportive and suggested possible government supports for the initiative. “Whoever is first with these types of ideas,” he said, “is likely to be the big winner.” Apparently, while businesses in Belgium have likely never heard of River John, they probably haven’t heard of Moncton or St. John’s either, and when they think “Halifax,” they’re thinking Halifax, United Kingdom. The internet levels the playing field between rural and urban businesses. MacKay also noted that the federal government will use trade missions to support innovative approaches.

The River John Community Action Society has formed a business committee to explore how the portal would work, what products would be sold and how payment and shipping would be arranged.

The committee is holding meetings with federal and provincial funding agencies including ACOA, Nova Scotia Business Inc. and the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism. Officials that the Pioneer spoke with were very enthusiastic. They felt that if River John could get a core group of vendors together, the site could be up and running before CETA launches.

A huge advantage the River John portal would have is that the Canadian dollar has dropped nearly 30 percent against the Euro over the past two years.

If you would like to get involved or would like more information, contact Rob Assels: 902-351-1476 or r.assels@malatest.com

# WordPlay

This year our children’s WordPlay event will be held at the Tatamagouche Farmers’ Market on the morning of Saturday June 20th. We are featuring Andy Jones from St. John’s NL of past Codco fame. His newest children’s book is Jack, the King of Ashes. He is a great storyteller and a superb entertainer. Further adventures are brought to you via Starr Dobson with her newest Gertrude the Goat book and me, Linda Little, with my first ever picture book: Work and More Work. Music and other shenanigans will be brought to us from the Wild City Roses and Sheree Fitch is going to emcee. We are expecting a fabulous time for all.

The main festival is in River John on Saturday July 11th, beginning at 11:00am. We are starting things off with our “Mystery Stage” with Maureen Jennings of Murdoch Mysteries fame. She will be accompanied by Giles Blunt, another great favourite in the genre. The afternoon stage will feature Linden MacIntyre with his new novel, Punishment, and Isabel Huggan with her memoir Belonging: Home Away from Home. There are lots of extras being planned: interviews, Q&As, live music, and a food fair at lunch. And be prepared for our new-this-year pop-up poets!

People can like us on Facebook and can find updates on our web site at readbythesea.ca.

# Up in the sky past the moon and the stars there is a beautiful land named Halo

## A short story by: Christy Ann Langille



And they flew off. Whoosh. They ran into their friends, Sophia and Cassia. “Hi, we want to help the children of Earth, we are going to see God. Would you like to help us?” Raphael asked excitedly. “Yes. We just finished our trumpet class and would love to help,” Said Sophia. “Let’s go.” “Why, hello my Angels. I see you are working hard. And I already know your idea.” “And what do you think?” asked Michael. “I love it!” replied God. “I see your consideration and I’m so proud of all of you. So I am going to honour you for your kind act. I am going to name you the Halo Babies, Angels of Virtues. And every time you help a child learn a new virtue I will reward you with your halo.” You see, the Angels of Halo Land work very hard gathering up sparkling clouds that give special raindrops. God uses these raindrops to help make Angel wings so beautiful. When the angels help they can receive their Halo, which is very important to an Angel.

“Michael, since this was your idea, you can help first. I know there is a little boy, who needs your help to become more assertive. Can you help him?” God asked. “Oh yes,” Michael said. And off he flew. Whoosh. Jonathan is walking home from school when all of a sudden he sees something sparkling in the distance. “It’s coming right at me!” and he jumps right in time. Whoosh! Bang! “I don’t think I will ever get this flying on Earth right!” Michael laughed. Jonathan stares wide eyed, his mouth opened, so surprised at this little creature that can actually talk. “Don’t be scared. My name is Michael and I am one of the Angels of Virtue.” “Okay,” Said Jonathan, and he started to run. “Wait! I will not hurt you,” Said Michael. Jonathan stopped and turned around. “Okay. Well, what are you?” “I am an Angel that helps God, and I want to help you.” “With what?” asked Jonathan. “You need to be more assertive. You are very shy.” “Well, how do I become not shy?” “Listen, Jonathan, it is okay to talk to people and to

go up to them and have an opinion. If you are more open and actually talk to people they will invite you to do more things with them,” explained Michael. “Don’t be afraid.” “But what if they don’t like me?” asked Jonathan. “I know they will like you, I know they will. I love you and I believe in you,” Michael said. “Okay, then tomorrow I will try to do better.” The next day Jonathan woke up. He got dressed, washed his face, and grabbed his soccer ball. He went downstairs, Thump, Thump, Thump, and ate his breakfast. Then he brushed his teeth and ran out the door to school. “Okay, today is the day. I am going to play soccer,” he told himself. Then, he saw Michael. “Hi, Jonathan. Are you ready for today? I know you can do it. Just go up and start talking to people.” They got to school and Jonathan started up the walkway. He turned and said, “Thank you for caring enough to help.” Then Jonathan walked up to one of his classmates and said, “Hi, I see you like soccer and you’re really good at it. Well, I like soccer too and I am trying to join the team.” “Well, I am the team captain. My name is Charlie. So, you like to play soccer. That is really cool. Why don’t we go and play a little before school starts.”

Jonathan smiled. “Okay,” he said. Back in Halo Land Michael was sitting on his favorite cloud. All of a sudden, he saw his friends. And is that a trumpet I hear? Cassia and Sophia headed toward him playing their trumpets. “Do you see Jonathan? He met new friends today, and he is playing soccer. This is because of you, Michael!” exclaimed Sophia. “Michael,” God spoke. “It is now time for you to celebrate a new Angel club, and your new achievement, and your new Halo. Bing! There on the top of Michael’s head was his new gold, shining Halo floating. “I am so thankful I could help Jonathan. I feel like I did something so wonderful.” “You did,” said his friends. “This was the best idea ever,” God told him. “I cannot wait to see what is in store for our future. I am sure there will be easy tasks and hard ones. But together we can do anything.”



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**2679 River Road Station Road, River John**  
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**2708 River John Stn Road, River John**  
Three bedroom home on the River John waterfront. Enjoy the beautiful River John sunsets, peace, tranquility, and camaraderie of a small village! Walking distance to the local pharmacy; post office; restaurants and other amenities. \$59,900.



**772 MacKay Road, Welsford**  
This two bedroom, two bath home is nestled on 20 acres beside a pond, this little retreat is an outdoors person’s dream! \$99,500.

# Brandon, Manitoba – River John, Nova Scotia



What do these two areas have in common? Recently the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108 River John received a letter from the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum informing us of a memorial book they have published as fund raiser for a new memorial they have built. Names on this memorial link our two communities. On Sept. 10, 2014 the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum unveiled a 300 foot black granite memorial wall in Brandon, Manitoba. This monument contains the names of 19,000 members of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and all Canadians who served in any Commonwealth air force. Also included are members of the Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force who lost their lives on Canadian soil during World War II. Brandon was one of the WWII training sites of the RCAF and other Commonwealth aircrcws and this area wanted to remember this important part of Canadian history. This monument is connected to River John by three names listed on it. The names are as follows:

- Baillie, Alexander J. Killed Mar.23/43 Brother to Ralph C.
- Baillie, Ralph C. Killed Jul.30/43. Brother to Alexander J.

- MacLeod, Malcolm G. Killed Mar. 11/43

These men were each members of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) during World War II and listed River John as their home on their enlistment papers. Alexander (Jack) and Ralph were the sons of George and Myrtle Baillie and brothers of Jim Baillie of River John. Those of you who attended the River John Consolidated School Remembrance service in Nov. 2014 will have heard the story of Jim’s family during WWII.

Malcolm MacLeod was from Pictou but loved River John and spent much time here with his grandparents Malcolm and Lil MacLeod. Several years ago the CBC did a documentary film entitled “The Boys of Pictou” and Malcolm was one of the men featured in it. His sister was the late Gretrude Holten.

Another name listed on this wall is that of Robert L. (Bob) Sutherland. He was from Pictou but his father’s people were from River John and he was the first cousin of the late Rev Donald Sutherland. There are other Pictou county connections on this memorial.

If you are interested in more information on this memorial go to the website [www.airmuseum.com](http://www.airmuseum.com).

# River John 4-H

The River John 4-H Club is an active youth organization in the area with 33 members ranging in ages from 7-21. The club is run by Margaret Cripps as General Leader and Christine Heighton. Offices are held by President- Elizabeth Heighton, Vice-President- Hayley Murray, Secretary/Club Reporter- Morgyn Hynes and Treasurer- Kaitlyn Heighton. The club would like to thank all of their leaders, who are volunteers giving their own time in order to help the members succeed and complete their projects, always keeping with the motto of “Learn to do by Doing.” The club is grateful for all the community’s help and support which they have been given over the years in whichever fundraiser or community project they are working. It is a great program which teaches the members leadership and life skills that they can hold onto for the rest of their lives.

Some activities they have done this year so far include: a Halloween party, complete with costumes, games and prizes; laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day service; Christmas skating party; bowling; swimming; and outdoor skating at the West Branch rink, to name a few.

As part of their completion for the year, the members participate in doing a speech or demonstration on a topic of their choice. They held their public speaking and demonstration competition on March 7 at St. George’s Presbyterian Hall. All members did a wonderful job, especially the Cloverbuds (ages 7-8) which would be their first time speaking in front of a large audience. The judges, Nicole Lennerton and Alana Tattrie, were very impressed and had a hard time selecting the top member in each age division to move onto the county competition being held March 27th. The winners were:

- Junior Demonstration- Jennie MacLean
- Junior Speech- Madison Cantley
- Junior Introducer- Telsey Smith
- Junior Thanker- Emily Heighton
- Intermediate Speech- Elizabeth Heighton
- Senior Demonstration- Hailey Scotland
- Senior Speech- Morgyn Hynes

The members hold their monthly general meetings the first Monday of the month at RJCS.

Submitted by  
Margaret Cripps

# Our Farmer’s Market

*River John Sunday Market  
will be returning this summer*



## April Hours

*Saturdays*

*10am - 3pm*

*Other days*

*by appointment*

Check our website for extended “Open Hours”  
as the warm weather approaches!

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The communities of the Sunrise Trail on the North Shore of Nova Scotia, are coming together to launch an exciting annual international film festival.

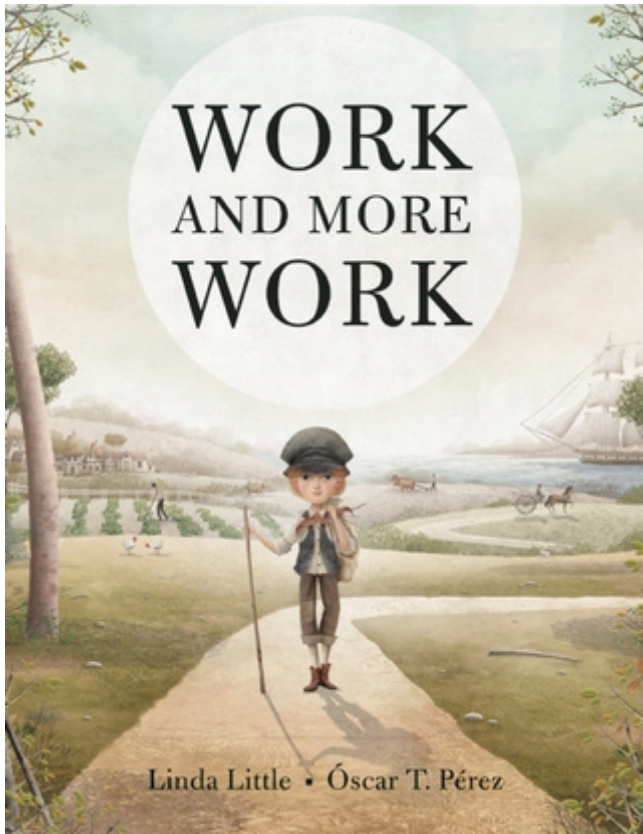
The Sunrise Film Festival will run Oct 8th -11th 2015, screening international films at a range of community venues from Pictou to Pugwash.

Events related to the festival and film-making will take place throughout the year. During the festival there will be panels, workshops and other events - again at different venues along the trail. Our intention is to attract attention to the north shore communities; to extend the tourist season and to raise funds for the communities involved.

Films will screen in a variety of venues and a series of meetings have been taking place along the north shore, with people in attendance from all the counties involved.

The film is listed on Film Freeway and has been attracting films from around the world - our new web site includes information about the Sunrise Trail and its communities, accommodation, other festivals etc. (<https://filmfreeway.com/festival/SunriseFilmFestival>) The festival is creating a great opportunity for people from around the world to look at Pictou County, Colchester County, Cumberland County.

Be part of the fun: [festival@simple-films.com](mailto:festival@simple-films.com)



From Groundwood Books A STUNNING FIRST CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK by award-winning novelist and storyteller Linda little , co-founder of River John’s Read by the Sea. Gorgeous words: “The sailors set the sails. The fair winds carried them far out to sea. Tom climbed to the crow’s nest at the top of the mast to gaze at the endless blue of a world too vast for his imagination.”

When an excellent writer tells a story true and beautiful and it is published by an excellent publisher and the art is gobsmacking-- children’s literature is art. This is really such a book. I wish more of our brilliant “adult” writers would take the risk and plunge and pleasure and create tales for children. We adult readers are richer for it too. Simple does not equal easy. Picture book text is the art of distillation. The book tells an epic tale and does it exquisitely.

# Jim’s First Flight

The Wright brothers’ first flight was in 1903. A mere 26 years later, a plane flying overhead in the sky was still a relatively rare occurrence. Imagine the stir when one landed in a young boy’s back yard!

“The first plane that ever landed in River John was on September 25, 1929,” says Jim Baillie. “A pilot named Charles Terrace left the airport in Moncton and headed for New Glasgow. He didn’t make it. He landed instead in the field behind our barn.”



1929 - Charles Terrace lands his plane in a field behind Jim Baillie’s barn

The incident drew a crowd, says Jim, and one of the people who came to see the plane that day was Mackay “Kay” Ross. “Kay was a mechanic and had his own garage and also sold the first Ford cars in River John,” Jim explains. “That night Kay spent half the night in the barn talking to the pilot, asking him all kinds of questions about planes. The next morning we watched the pilot take off and continue on his way. It left quite an impression on all of us.”

The incident did more than just fuel Kay’s imagination.

“He got it in his head to build one of those himself – and that’s exactly what he did.” Apparently, Kay ordered a kit from an aviation magazine and started building.

Jim recalls getting out of school and spending hours helping Kay with his plane.

“I twisted the wires on the wings and he went behind me and soldered them. We did a lot of shellack-

ing, too.”

Finally, the plane was finished. Because Kay was diabetic, he couldn’t get his license to fly, so he hired himself a pilot. On a bright autumn day in October 1931, Kay’s plane took off.

“He was just supposed to circle River John but he ended up in Seafoam and finally circled back. Wasn’t very funny what happened after that. He had a crash



Three years later, “Kay” Ross builds River John’s first plane

landing.” The pilot was injured but okay and the plane was damaged but Kay Ross was undeterred.

In 1932, they watched as Kay’s plane took off and landed safely. Kay’s passion for airplanes helped make something else happen for young Jim. In 1932, five spray planes came over from New Brunswick to go to an air show in Trenton. After the air show they came and landed in the field in River John and offered rides for anyone who wanted to go up.

“The cost was one cent a pound,” says Jim. “I paid 78 cents.” It was quite a day in River John and an exhilarating adventure for Jim.

There were 37.4 million flights scheduled in 2014! That means an average of 102,465 flights per day. We’ve come a long way, maybe?

Few children today could say they went up in a plane with their brother and sister and looked down at the cows in the field behind their house. Jim Baillie can.

Kay Ross went on to work in the air force during the war and, as many River Johners remember, Kay eventually owned an appliance repair shop in the village.

Kay Ross was also a man who said, “I’ll build a plane myself,” and did. He inspired a young boy who has memories he’s never forgotten - and we’re richer for it.

Thanks Jim, for another great story.

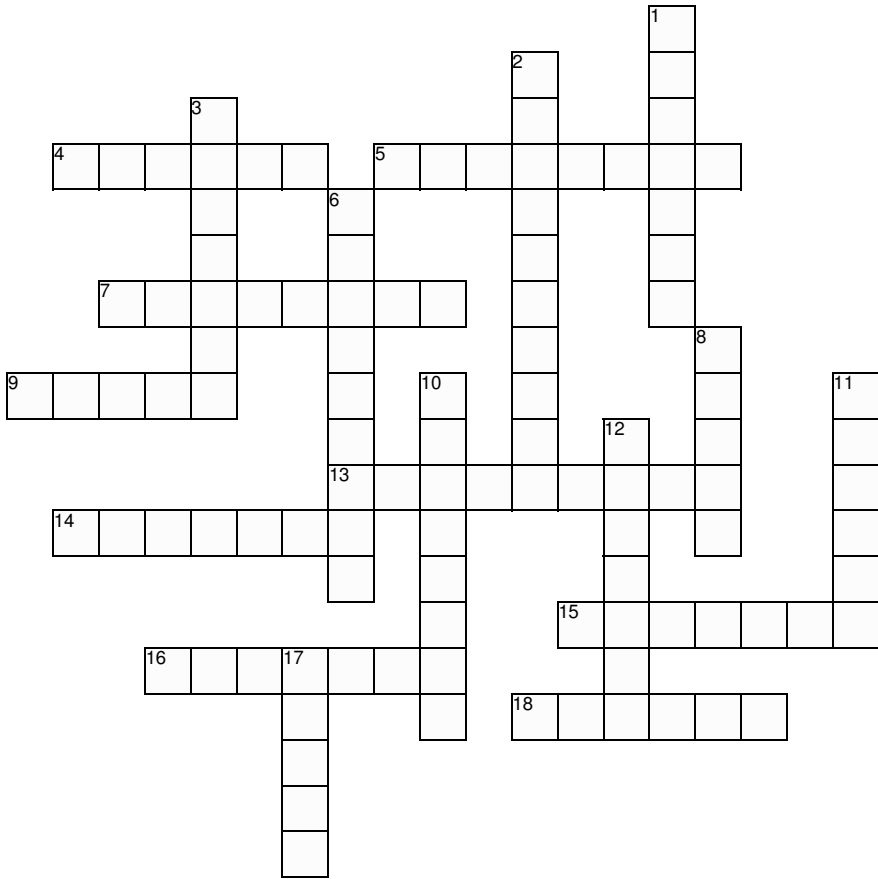


1932 - Jim Baillie gets his first ride in a plane. 78 cents.

### Photo Contest

The Pioneer is still looking for contributors of all kinds. Movie reviews, local sports coverage, cartoons and photos ... lots and lots of photos. In fact, we’re going to have a prize for the best colour photo of River John Festival Days 2015. The winning photo will be on the front cover of our September issue and the winner will get a \$25 Esso gas card. Send your photos to [r.assels@malatest.com](mailto:r.assels@malatest.com)

Fill out the crossword and mail it to The Pioneer, Box 124, River John, B0K 1N0. The first correctly answered puzzle will receive a copy of Monica Graham’s book: The Great Maritime Detective



Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net/Crossword-Maker](http://TheTeachersCorner.net/Crossword-Maker)

### Across

- What 'Mi'kmaq' originally means
- Black history month
- Long ago school on Cape John
- Fire Chief Dave
- Hated winter activity
- Local detective - long ago
- The 'F' in IOOF
- Plumbing and electrical supply store
- Root vegetable

### Down

- Name of local film festival
- Rushton's Beach community
- Reverend at St. George's
- Fish-eating duck
- Wells \_\_\_\_: Stagecoach museum
- Green vegetable
- Island seed co.
- New publishing company
- Local insurance co: A.A. \_\_\_\_

### Pioneer Contributors:

Bigney – Sheree Fitch  
Cape John – Chris Giles  
Hodson – Jill Munro  
Marshville – Rob Assels  
River John - Linda Thompson-Reid  
Seafoam – Georgie Fleck  
Toney River – Carolyn Elliott  
Welsford – Dan Ferguson

Agriculture – Wilma van der Veen  
Fisheries – Robert Heighton  
Forests, woodlots & forestry – David Sutherland  
Music - Addison Locke  
Wine Reviews - Craig Campbell

River John Consolidated School  
River John Historical Society – Doug White

Proof reading - Marg Jones  
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Printer: Advocate Printing & Publishing

To get involved, contact Rob at 902-351-1476 or [r.assels@malatest.com](mailto:r.assels@malatest.com)

# Locked on Music



There is a home for River John and area musicians, from singers to musicians of all kinds! The Tuesday Night Troubadours (TNT) are a group of musicians with a love of acoustic music from both traditional and new folk to country and light rock. I heard some sweet sounds while I was with them before Christmas. This group is attended via invitation but don't think for a second that they are exclusive. They simply must limit their numbers as they perform each week in a different member's home. Some homes are large and some are small but all offer down-home east coast hospitality. So, dust off your fiddle, guitar or mandolin and get ready to work your best songs in this super cool and safe environment. For more information contact Chris Giles at gilesc1950@hotmail.ca or Harley White at harleyw1956@gmail.com

At 8 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month this winter and spring in the hall behind John the Baptist Anglican Church in River John, musicians and audiences alike will find a relaxed evening of music. This night is led by the talented and beloved musician Dana Jefferson and his family band. It is open to early-comers who will enjoy listening to Dana and the band practicing their huge repertoire of songs. Soon enough, the microphone is opened to the drop-in entertainers. Each guest musician is invited to the mic where they can join the band or go it alone in the general order they arrive to the show. Each guest can expect to offer two to four songs, according to the time available. Five bucks at the door and there are sandwiches and non-alcoholic drinks offered toward the end of the show. You can't beat that deal!

Remember folks, send your musical events to silvercal@ns.sympatico.ca with the dates, locations, contact person and details.

Put 'LOCKED ON MUSIC' in the subject line.  
Addison Locke

# Wine Tasting at the Legion

It was supposed to be an event to chase away the winter blues ... a wine tasting at the River John Legion in March. But winter had other plans. The relentless number of winter storms and the huge amount of snow postponed the event into April.

The exact date wasn't known before the Pioneer went to press, but here's what we do know.

The wine tasting is organized by the Legion's Bonnie Murray. Tickets are \$20. It will likely be on a Saturday in April from 7-10pm. While the Legion will play host to the event, Craig Campbell is the certified sommelier who will lead the taste testing. Craig suggested that each person would get to taste about eight different wines. The event is approximately three hours long because he will explain why certain wines go well with certain foods and spices such as lemon and salt.

Keep an eye out. Posters will be put up around the community as soon as the date is fixed.

# Taxing literacy?

The Broten Report was released on November 19, 2014. The report is called *Charting a Path for Growth: Nova Scotia Tax and Regulatory Review*. If adopted, as it appears it may be, it will impact all Nova Scotians. Tax reform is complicated. It involves taking revenue from a variety of different sources and allocating them to meet society's needs. The revenues include personal and corporate income taxes, sales tax, licensing fees, energy royalties and even highway tolls. Lauren Broten, in writing the report, makes 22 recommendations about taxes and another 20 about regulations.

The recommendations try to streamline revenues and eliminate exceptions, which most experts say is generally a good thing. The report has many supporters including the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce. However, the report also has some detractors. The Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) strongly objects to Broten's suggestion that the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) exemption on books be removed. PARL is encouraging all citizens to contact their local MLA (Karla Macfarlane), the Department of Finance and the Premier's office to let their views be known not only on the tax, but on the chronic underfunding of libraries.

Library staff do not receive the salaries and benefits that civil servants do; only once in the past five years have they received a cost of living adjustment. According to PARL, if the PST exemption is lifted, not only will it affect citizens who want to purchase books, it will impact libraries;

PARL would be able to afford 400 fewer books each year.

The government has not said yet which of all the recommendations will be implemented, so your letters and emails may help change its mind. The Pioneer asked MLA Macfarlane her views on the tax reform report. She was adamant that the tax exemption for books be continued. She positioned it as a tax on literacy.

Other exemptions that may be lifted include the PST on children's clothing, feminine hygiene products and shoes.

To assist you in letting the government know how you feel, the Pioneer is pleased to provide the following contacts:

- MLA Macfarlane: pictouwestmla@bella-liant.com / 902-485-8958
- Minister Whelan: FinanceWeb@novascotia.ca / 902-424-5554
- Premier McNeil: PREMIER@novascotia.ca / 902-424-6600

Incidentally, our MLA has received many calls and emails about this and has spoken up in the house. There are only two issues she's had more public input about and those are the pulp mill in Pictou and the Turkey Marketing Board's rigid stance on small processors.



# ENERGY EAST: ENDANGERING NOVA SCOTIA?

The Energy East pipeline would carry 1.1 million barrels of crude per day from Alberta to export ports in Quebec and New Brunswick.

So what does this mean for Nova Scotians?

Find out with **Catherine Abreu**  
Energy Coordinator for the  
Ecology Action Centre



**Thursday, April 9th 2015**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Tatamagouche Centre**  
**259 Loop Route 6**

Sensible  
Energy for the  
North  
Shore

THE  
COUNCIL  
OF CANADIANS



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CONSEIL  
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**NORTH SHORE**  
**TRANSITION INITIATIVE**

# I'm very busy ...

Often when I meet a new neighbour or am introduced to a family member of someone in the Congregation, I invite them to come and worship with us on Sunday morning. Not very often is the response only a polite refusal and thank you. Sometimes it also contains a brief explanation of the shortness of the visit or the fact that they would be attending a service of worship somewhere else during their time here.

Much more often, however, my new acquaintance will say something like, "Well, Reverend, you see, we're not active in a Presbyterian church at home, and therefore do not know any of your traditions," or "Thanks, but we really do not know anyone in your church," or "I haven't attended church since I was in the Sunday School – it's really just a place my parents brought me when I was little. Besides, Sunday is when I play golf."

An invitation to go somewhere on a Sunday morning to worship Jesus seems often to be another unwelcome distraction from what we think is really important. We are too busy looking after our families and jobs and the health of our bank arrangements to set a little time aside to worship God. What is really behind these polite refusals and excuses is the cold, hard fact that we are too engaged in our lives; acculturated in a secular, Western mind-set and somewhat overwhelmed by the demands of consumer-driven society. There is just too much to do, to think, to react to and to become, that there's no room – no time in our lives to even think about, never mind do anything about God.

By the time this article is published, we will have come through another Lenten season, refreshed and revitalized by Easter, the holiest time of the Christian year. All the egg hunts, much of the seasonal ham/lamb/turkey and most of the children's chocolate will be gone...and maybe we'll even be finished with snow for a while. If we pause long enough to take a breath however, will many of us stop and ask whether there might be something more profound in Easter? Will we ask, "Isn't Easter beginning to look a lot like Christmas?"

Well, maybe it is.

At Christmas – the second-most important time in the life of the Christian church – we say Jesus Christ is the Reason for the Season. God's gift of His Son, Emmanuel – God with us - came into the world at Christmas. But we have to look at Easter to find out why...that is, why Easter is the most important time of a Christian's life. Although Jesus came into the world at Christmas, the reason for His coming was so that He could take away our sins through His death on the cross.

At Easter we celebrate His resurrection.

Friends, at this holy time of the year I invite you to remember the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He lives even today and in every season, in every event, every joy and every sorrow through the power of the Holy Spirit in every Christian heart. He promised to be with us always – filling us with His grace, love, strength and mercy at every step along the arc of our lives.

So take a moment to thank God for all He has done... and get right with the One who made you. No more excuses. Come to church.

*Rev. Gregory R. Dickson, Minister*  
*St. George's Presbyterian Church, River John, and*  
*St. David's Presbyterian Church, Toney River*

*The Pioneer is pleased to provide an ongoing column that will rotate between the community's churches.*

# Movie Night

## "Still Mine"

Playing at the River John Library  
Tuesday, April 28 at 6:15pm

Still Mine is a powerful story about a New Brunswick farmer who wants to modify his home so he can take care of his wife of over 60 years who is suffering from dementia.

He is stopped in his tracks by the local building inspector who refuses him a permit because the plans are not according to code.

Beautifully acted, brilliantly directed. Join us at the library for a really great film.

*Sponsored by: the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library*  
*Co-sponsored by: the Sunrise Film Festival*  
*and the River John Community Action Society*

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## WANTED

Seaweed for several gardens. Several truck loads would be nice. Contact Lesley 902-351-1476

## WANTED

Contributors from Shed-geville, East Branch, Louisville and Melville. Articles and photos from all ages, for all ages. Next submission date is June 15. Call Rob at r.assels@malatest.com

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# Seafoam Sage: Marie (Douglas) Henderson

Marie remembers the pew her grandfather sat in every Sunday at the Church is Garlich. The yard would be packed full of horses and wagons and everyone in their Sunday best. Through her own actions she's ensured that her grandchildren will remember their grandfather's chair.



Marie grew up in Marshville, where the Amet View Chalets are now. She spent her summers swimming and her winters skating and tobogganing. She had her chores to do. The one that particularly sticks out was going into the hen house to gather eggs. There was a rooster in the house and a few hens with attitude that used to take a run at her, so she learned to be quick.

She had one sibling, a brother, Gerald, who was mentally disabled. He had the amazing ability to remember anyone's birthday.

Marie attended Bugbee Business College in Stanstead, Quebec. Her working career was spent with the banks in River John and New Glasgow and on the ferries between Nova Scotia and PEI. On the ferries, she told me, she did what she did at home, cooked and cleaned, but the pay was better. She also worked alongside her husband Johnnie, a fisherman. She put her business training to use doing the accounting and taxes for the fishing business.

She met Johnnie at a dance, she just liked him right away. "That's it," she said, "I just liked him." She married her good looking fella almost 62 years ago and moved to Seafoam with him.



*Marie and Johnnie on their wedding day taken at Marie's family farm in Marshville*

When she was younger she'd go out with Johnnie in the fishing boat during scallop season and shuck the scallops. She picked the furcillaria out of the wagon loads of Irish moss that Johnnie would bring home before it was sold to the plant in Toney River. All the wives did, she said, it was just something you did. There was good money in moss.



*Marie and Johnnie with Johnnie's sister Jean (Jean married a Langille) and brother Fred – who stood for them and Rev. J.A. MacGowan in front of the manse at the Presbyterian Church in River John.*

The original fishing boat they had was an open boat. Over the years they were able to purchase equipment for it and eventually build a cabin with a sleeping berth. They had three children, Jack, Jimmie and Liz. When they were around 8 to 10 years old they started to help out too.



*Jamie taking the J Kids out to lay traps*

Marie takes special pride in her seven grandchildren. All of their first names start with J; they're referred to as the J Kids. Marie herself never knew her grandmothers, so she's always tried to be the type of grandmother she would have liked to have had herself.

Fishing and farming business traditionally have stayed in families. Liz's husband Jamie took over from Johnnie. "I'm not sure that would have happened if his name didn't start with a J."

She's a woman of great empathy for others; as a child she remembers visiting family in Truro and seeing the girls from The School for Girls walking with their caregivers and feeling sad for them, wondering where their parents were. Maybe that empathy was something she was born with or maybe it was helped along because of her brother, Gerald.

Marie enjoys genealogy and spending time outside tending her beautiful flower gardens but if it came down to it she'd give up the flowers before she gave up her vegetable garden. She enjoys watching the News, Wheel, Jeopardy, W5 and Fifth Estate, she's no dummy.

I asked her what's changed the most over the years. She was quick to respond, "People don't garden any-

more, none of our children do. The grandchildren help me and they're wonderful weeders. People go to the store more often than we used to. My mother would store the butter and milk in buckets down the well to keep it cool. We had our own meat and, of course, the eggs."

She said her favourite thing about living in Seafoam was the water. Marie likes to see the water from her window every day, just like she did in Marshville when she was a little girl.

Her fondest memories are of Christmases and birthdays with all the family together. At Christmas she likes to have the family "home." Johnnie had a chair he always sat in. He passed away November of 2013. On that first Christmas without him Marie announced that the youngest of the grandchildren would have his chair that year and the next year it would be the second youngest and so on. This Christmas she didn't mention the chair but was very happy to see that they hadn't forgotten and Jean (Craig), the second youngest grandchild, was sitting in Papa's chair.

Bored is not a word she takes to. Marie and her generation didn't waste time like we do, rushing from one location to another trying to fit in "leisure time." Leisure times were those moments, no more precious than the others, that happened when all

the daily living, working, nurturing and providing for family and friends was done.

The Pioneer is not printing Marie's age and that's not at her request – let's just agree on one thing, she's timeless.

Interviewed by Georgie Fleck



*Marie as an infant with her parents William and Jean Douglas*