



Two New Businesses in River John

by Cheryl Frizzell

Old School Storage and Rentals

Despite a long and valiant battle to save River John Consolidated School, the verdict was in. At the end of June, 2015, the school would be closed for good.

After being vacant for some time, the school was sold to a local former student, Nick Bigney. Nick was out fishing one day on board his parents' boat when he heard on the radio that the school was for sale. He and his parents joked about him buying the school and what it could be used for, and after a few days he thought, "Why not?" Now he is the owner and has started a new business, Old School Storage and Rentals. After various renovations, Nick has saved the school from demolition and the school house is ready to be part of the community once more.

At the time this article was written, most of



Nick Bigney, owner of Old School Storage and Rentals

the units on the main floor were rented out, with the exception of a large space that is set up so it could be rented and used as a bakery or café. Other units on the second floor would be suitable for small businesses, with access by stairs or an elevator. All units have access to heat and power. Anyone interested in renting one or more units should contact Nick Bigney at (902) 956-1466.

They are holding a Vendors Sale on Saturday, June 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be a good opportunity to visit the new facilities and maybe get ideas for your starting your own business at the Old School.

It's a Good Pizza

When Adrian Good and Brooke Williams-Good moved to River John they had originally intended to start a campground. Adrian had just retired as an Armourer from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Brooke had just spent almost a decade working in the oil field as an Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Advisor and Location Manager for a large environmental engineering firm. After many years working for both the government and large corporations it was a time for a change. They were looking to semi-retire and only work seasonally, giving time to hang with their son Quinton, also known as Q, who will be a fixture at the pizza shack too.

Adrian has no cooking experience whatsoever. He says that in his day he was really good at eating pizza though. And really, baking a pizza can't be any harder than loading bombs, right? Brooke attended cooking school on Northern Vancouver Island



Quinton, Brooke and Adrian Good will soon be reopening this popular pizza business under the new name of It's a Good Pizza.

right after high school, and is a classically trained French Chef as her first trade. Q will be manning the window and phone. He is a student at Tatamagouche Elementary, an avid reader, newbie cartoonist and is giving writing for the Pioneer a try. Together, along with Q, they will be in the shack learning, creating and cooking out their little hearts.

Brooke plans to start off with a small menu and increase as time goes on. They want to produce a good product for their customers before expanding. Some of the recipes will be the classics from Mammy's, some will be new recipes and others will be hybrids. The Good's have lots of plans for their menu and it will be interesting if not tasty to try. Using their last name for the business and with the family working together, it will be the definition of a local family-run business.



Photo: Chuck Burdick, www.crbphotography.ca

International Travellers passing through the North Shore

by Joan MacLeod

You just never know who you are going to run into when you take a trip to a neighbouring village. On June 6th at the Tipperary Cafe in Tatamagouche, I met a young couple from Spain. She is Teresa Duran from Salamanca (near Madrid) and he is Francesc Serra from Girona (near Barcelona). They are on a 3 year bicycling trip around the world using (in Canada) the Trans Canada Trail network. Teresa worked as a teacher but more recently as a free lance translator. They both work as translators and feel that if they need to stop they can do some translating online to make money. They are both fluent in English. They have been planning this trip for 5 years.

They plan to get to Vancouver by the Fall and then head on down through the States to South America. In fact Canada is a training ground for South America.

Their first stop in Canada was St John's Newfoundland where they were greeted by snow. I am not sure if they camped or not but they did say they were forced to take the bus. They did not find Spring until they landed in NS. They bypassed our village on the trail but did remember the beautiful iron bridge and the River John Legion.

If you want to follow their trip they have a blog: www.pakette.org

Pioneer community

Belated Thank You to our Community

(This letter was supposed to be submitted to last fall's edition)

It's been over a year since Jessica Dunphy received news no woman ever should; she was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 27. Just starting her teaching career, such devastation could not have arrived at a worse time.

As many of you know, as a community we were able to come together and help raise funds towards her time off work, travel to treatments and the many expenses which arise when you are diagnosed with cancer.

Jessica's friends and family would like to thank the community for the endless support over the last year. The fund-raising dance and silent auction in October 2016 was an incredible success. Jessica, Gordon and their families were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who attended, and the many more who sent gifts. Local businesses, including those from Tatamagouche through to New Glasgow, made the silent auction possible, which really boosted the fund-raising efforts. We are so truly fortunate to live in such a wonderful community.

As a friend of Jessica's, it has been inspirational watching her face the journey head-on. Shortly after her diagnoses she contacted many of the young women in her life and community, to let us know what was going on; encouraging us to practice breast awareness and to be our own advocate, should we be concerned. This was such a courageous thing to do, and

truly shows her selflessness! Despite what she was going through she wanted to help ensure that others didn't have to experience what she had, if she had anything to say about it!

Jessica grabbed the bull by the horns from day one, and made it clear cancer was not going to define who she was. She was asked to be the guest speaker at the 2016 Pictou County Run for the Cure, only weeks after she had surgery! Being the advocate she is, she did it, and prepared a wonderful speech that there were tears throughout the crowd. She even participated in the walk; she was such a trooper!

Here we are today, and Jessica continues to face the journey she started last year. Seeing how bravely she has been going through surgeries and chemotherapy, and still making time for friends, family and extracurricular has been spectacular! Oh, and she has returned to teaching, recently accepting a position at A.G. Baillie Memorial School for the year! She has also taken on the role of Team Captain for next year's River John Rubber Booters Run for the Cure Team, so please keep your eyes open for updates, we would love to have you join our team!

Once again, Jessica sends a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who has helped her through the last year-and-a-half. We are lucky to be River John Strong.

Sincerely,
Santina Weatherby

River John Community Action Society (RJCAS)

by Joan MacLeod

The Pioneer newspaper operates as a subcommittee of RJCAS. As the Action Society has never submitted an article to the Pioneer, it was suggested that we do so as it might be useful to folks to understand the structure of the Society.

RJCAS, in a way, acts as the council for River John as we are not an incorporated village or town. Everyone over 18 residing in District 4 is entitled to be a member. The Society came into being when a series of meetings with Pictou County Community Development took place, and it was incorporated as a Society on May 31, 2005. Eventually we formed a non-profit organization (NPO) under the Societies Act. One of the first things we did in that group was create a little pamphlet called "Beaches of River John," to enable tourists to find our hidden beauty spots.

The goal of the RJCAS is to improve the village. The work of the Society is done by committees: Fundraising Committee, Pioneer Committee, Dock & Deck Committee, Park Committee, School Sale Committee etc. Committees are struck for specific purposes, but it seems that some committees are standing committees and this needs to be addressed by

amending our constitution.

The first successful Chase the Ace game, netted us a considerable profit which we used primarily to buy the floating dock and lumber for the deck and for landscaping. We also were able to realize a considerable profit by selling off the school contents.

The existing board elected at our March 2018 Annual General Meeting is as follows:

Chair:	Ronnie Baillie
Vice Chair:	Dan Ferguson
Treasurer:	Robin Campbell
Secretary:	Joan MacLeod & Marie Farrell, until June 12 Shar MacLean, after June 12
Directors:	Linda Thompson- Reid Elaine Falconer Anne Patriquin

The RJCAS meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesda of every month (except July and August) at the River John Legion. Everyone who lives in B0K1N0 is a member and is welcome to attend meetings.

Finally, we would not be able to achieve any of our goals without the dedication of all our volunteers. Thank you.

Al-Anon

by Joan MacLeod

Are you affected by the abuse of alcohol of a friend or loved one?

Al-Anon is a support group for people who are affected by another's misuse of alcohol. It is anonymous, so no one needs to know if you attend. Starting in September, Salem church is starting an Al-Anon group, which will meet on Thursday nights at from 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Contact Lynn 902-351-2640 or Joan 902-351-2759 for more details.

Congratulations Emily



Emily Sutherland, daughter of David and Mary Beth, graduated from Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture in Truro with BSc (Agriculture) major in Animal Science on May 11, 2018. Her family are proud of Emily and her accomplishments.

Pioneer Editorial Team

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The River John Lions Club

**by Lion Ann Patriquin
and Lion Cheryl Frizzell**

Who is a Lion?

He who achieves success, lives well, laughs often, loves all humankind;

Who gains the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children;

Who fills a niche, does well his work and makes God's world a better place than it was, whether by a brighter flower, a perfect poem or a rescued soul;

He feels the glow of beauty in all life, and never fails to voice his praise of it;

Who sees the best there is in others and gives to them the best there is in him; Whose life is one vast inspiration, whose memory is a benediction.

That person is a Lion

As you probably know, the River John Lions Club has been in existence for a number of years, having been first established April 3, 1969. The first Charter Night was April 3,

1970. The Club received its Charter on January 30, 1970, sponsored by the Tatamagouche Lions Club. Thirty-one charter members were inducted that evening. Harold Winmill was the first King Lion, with Donald Bowness as Treasurer and Raymond Thompson as Secretary.

A welcome from the village of River John was given by Municipal Councillor M.A. Gunn, M.M. He referred to the members of the new club as "...a very able group of young men, leaders in the community, honestly."

Harvey A. Veniot, MLA for Pictou West and Provincial Minister of Agriculture, and Russell MacEwan, MP for Central Nova also spoke briefly. Speakers noted that the new club in River John had 31 members, which to many seemed to be a record for such a small community and a new club.

Harold Winmill, president of the new club, said, "The formation of a Lions Club is a very important event in the life of River John. Let us not forget our Motto, 'We Serve,' and by serving, let it be said that River John will be a better place to live because of the services provided by the River John Lions Club."

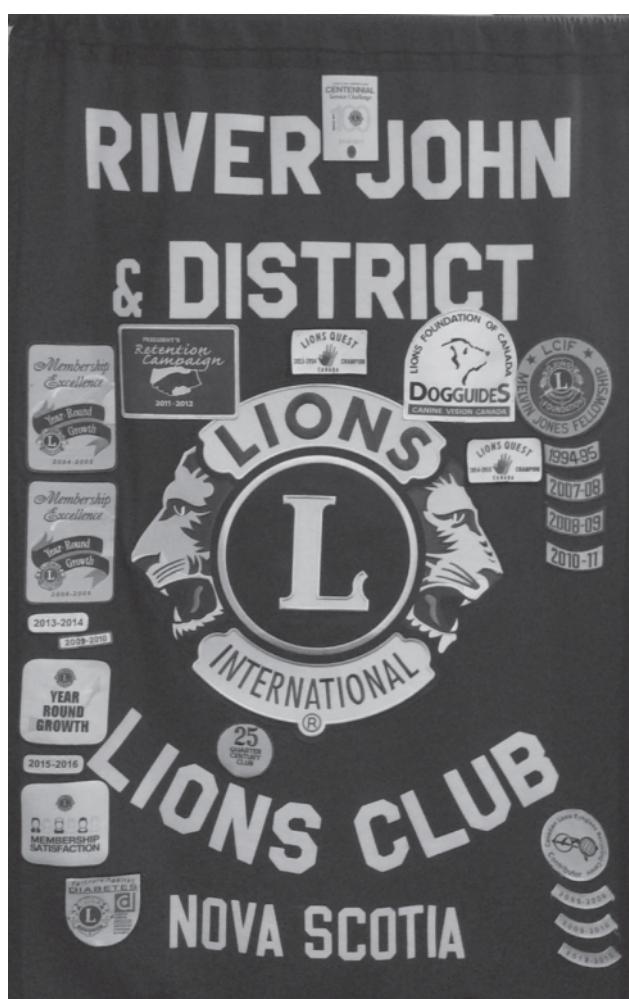


RIVER JOHN LIONS CLUB

FRONT ROW L - R
DOUG LANGILLE / JOHN CRAIB / LEROY CLARK / HAROLD WINMILL / CHESTER LANGILLE / DOUGLAS CRAIG / KENNETH CLARK / MURRAY GRATTO :
BACK ROW L - R
ALISTER MACKENZIE / DONALD CRAIG / DONALD REDMOND / DONALD BOWNESS / RONALD LANGILLE / CAMMIE MACKENZIE / ROBERT LANGILLE / BILL
BAILLIE / JIM CRAIG / BERWIN MACLEOD / RICHARD LANGILLE / WILLIAM MACDONALD / KEITH BENJAMIN / NED MACLEOD ::

We thought it would be interesting to interview some of the older Lions members to get an idea of what things were like back then. The three members that we interviewed are Harold Winmill, Donald Redmond and Raymond Langille. All three were excited to share their stories of long ago. They did not always meet at the present-day Lions Club location; that came later on when they bought the building from Raymond Langille. They used to meet at the IOOF hall and the hall in Welsford. They told us of the many bus trips and gatherings they enjoyed, visiting other Lions Clubs and sharing ideas together to make this world a better place. They also told us of the numerous fundraisers they held to support many needy causes, some of which were a ball field, renovations to the old wharf, a disaster fund to assist those in times of need, house fires, sickness, sudden death, Christmas Treat Program, children's park, Aberdeen Hospital Fund, River John Library, River John doctor's office, annual support for CNIB, River John War Memorial Fund, Festival Days and many more.

One of the largest contributions the club has provided for its members and community at large is the countless opportunities for fellowship and promotion of friendship. Our doors are always open and we are always looking for new members, so come and visit us. We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, we would love to have you become a member of our club.



SEAN FRASER, MP
CENTRAL NOVA

I.O.O.F. Helping Hand Lodge #34

by the Oddfellows Lodge, River John

Helping Hand Lodge #34 was begun in 1878 with the following men as charter brothers: Elea Tupper, George Jordon, D. Gould, Wm. Mathewson and James Langille. The meetings were first held at what was then known as MacKenzie Hall, then the Temperance Hall. They then rented the building that stood where they meet today. They eventually bought the building and rented the front part downstairs to the post office for \$15.00 per month.

On August 16, 1944, a fire burned through the village and the Oddfellows Hall was lost. The next day they regrouped and formed a committee to rebuild their hall. They moved back temporarily to the Mackenzie Hall to

hold their meetings until the new building was built. On May 21, 1946, the work on the new building began. The cornerstone was laid in place by Brother Edward Watt on June 10, 1946, (he was 90 years old at the time). The contract to build the new building was awarded to Eastern Woodworkers of New Glasgow for \$15,000.

The Oddfellows and Rebekahs raised money to build the new hall by having suppers, card parties, dances and a big community auction. The Oddfellows sold \$10,000 worth of bonds to members and interested friends at 4.5 % interest. As money became available they drew names out of a hat to see who would get their money back. They received \$2500 insurance on the burnt

building.

The new building was officially opened on October 31, 1946, with Eastern Woodworkers passing over the keys to Brother W.C. Vincent, Grand Master of the Atlantic Provinces, who then passed them on to the Noble Grand of Helping Hand Lodge, Brother Ernest Langille. To raise more funds, a chicken supper was held that evening at a cost of one dollar per person, which raised \$471.

As all Lodge rooms must be on the second floor at that time, the big hall upstairs would be the meeting room for the Helping Hand and Frazier Lodges. This left a big space downstairs that would be used as a dining room and kitchen. These rooms were also rented out for meetings, etc. There was still a good-sized room in front of the hall downstairs which the Post Office rented.

When it was time for the Oddfellows and Rebekahs to move into their new hall, the Oddfellows made an agreement with the Rebekahs: "The Rebekahs would share the hall free of rent, however, if they had any extra money on the 1st of February and the 1st of August each year they would give some to the Oddfellows." This worked out quite well for both groups.

A bowling alley was built in the basement. Brother Willard Thompson did a lot of the work and even made the bowling balls that were used. With lots of fun and hard work the Oddfellows and Rebekahs had made enough money over the years to pay off the bonds by 1967. The lodges were now debt-free.



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



I.O.O.F. Helping Hand Lodge #34 and Frazee Rebekah Lodge #33

Back Row L-R: Bob Dwyer, Sandy Sutherland, Dylan Joudrie, Dwayne Heighton, Dan Ferguson, David Sutherland

Middle Row L-R: Diane Hann, Ron Langille, Marie Langille, Joanne Ferguson, Roxanne MacKenzie, Chris Patterson, Edie Bellefontaine, Margaret Langille, Agnes Murray, Sally Fiske, Greta Langille, Eric Hann, Ellen Richardson, Jacob Leegwater, Steven Craib, Raymond MacKenzie, Hughie Langille, Earl Johnson

Front Row L-R: Mattie Dwyer, Janet Baillie, Audrey MacLellan, Marie Henderson, Noble Grand Elsie Langille, Noble Grand Willis Langille, Sadie Craig, Kathleen Baillie, Mabel Zinck, Marie Sellers.

Photo by Rob Johnston

Thank You from Pictou County 4-H

by Margaret Cripps

On behalf of Pictou County 4-H we would like to thank River John IOOF Helping Hand Lodge #34 for their donation of \$500, and the River John Soup Luncheon Group for their donation of \$300 to the Pictou County 4-H Legacy Building.



The cheques were presented by Willis Langille and Earl Johnson and accepted by Bonnie Allan and the River John 4-H Club at the club meeting on May 7, 2018.

Pioneer home

Mary's whole wheat biscuits



by Cheryl Frizzel

After the recent monthly soup luncheon at St. George's hall, I meet the famous whole wheat biscuit lady, Mary Langille. I promptly ask her for the recipe and a few days later I am given a special treat, a chance to watch her make her biscuits. Now anyone attending the soup luncheons knows of the race to get one of her biscuits.

As Mary goes about getting ready to make her biscuits, she pulls out a large cutting board which is well-worn and shows years of kneading all kinds of doughs, she tells me it is probably over 100 years old and once belonged to her mother-in-law. Then she produces a faded orange cup which she tells me came with other dishes as a wedding gift some 70 years ago. She uses this to measure flour. Next, with a chuckle, she asks me if I know what her biscuit cutter is made of. After looking it all over I decided it was a small soup can (as that's what mine is) but, chuckling again, she tells me it came from a clock at the old home place.

While the biscuits are in the oven, Mary takes me on a tour of her home. She proudly displays family pictures on her walls and stands, along with numerous 1st place ribbons from baking competitions.

Meeting and visiting Mary has been such a treat - from the tips her nanny told her:

"Lightly grease your pans before putting them away," and "Never wash your board," - to a chance to sit with her for tea and a warm biscuit.

Now for the recipe:

Set oven to 480 degrees F (250 degrees C)

Using a large 4 c measuring cup,

Pour in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil

Add 1 egg

Beat fluids together

Add to fluids $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses, to make 1 cup fluids total

Add enough buttermilk to bring total fluids up to 3 cups on measuring cup. Mix well

In a large bowl put 3 cups whole wheat flour

Sift together

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups white flour

a good 3/4 tsp salt

a good $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp soda

3 rounded tsp double acting Fleischmann's baking powder

Put in bowl along with 1 1/3 cups brown sugar

Mix fluids in with dry ingredients, every so often add a little bit more buttermilk.

Lightly dust board with flour and knead dough.

Mary likes to smooth and shape the sides of her dough while flattening the top with the palm of her hands, she explains that this makes them come up straight. Cut out biscuits



Mary at work in her kitchen

with cutter.

Cook for 10 minutes and if you like them a little darker on top turn the broiler on for just a minute.

Mary makes 4 dozen for soup luncheon every month.



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

Please contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas

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"If we don't have it, we'll find it!"

Keep Potted Plants Bright All Summer

By Angie VanKessel

Have you ever taken home a beautiful container or hanging basket only to find it lacking blooms and looking like a mess only a few weeks later? Here are a few tips to keep your plants in pots looking amazing all summer long!

Water – Plants in containers are dependant on you checking their soil every day. Too much water and too little water can both be equally harmful. You want evenly wet soil which isn't dripping out the bottom.

Food – It is very important to feed your plants. They need nutrients just like we do to thrive, and water alone cannot supply that. You can use a slow release granular fertilizer on the surface of the soil which feeds your pot each time you water or you can use a water soluble fertilizer and water it on once or twice a week for full happy plants.

It is important to never put water soluble fertilizer on a dry plant, make sure to water or check water at least an hour prior to fertilizing.

Protection – Most annuals can't survive frost or temperatures below 5 degrees so it is important to keep plants inside during cold and covered during frost. The best rule to follow is to not put annuals out before the full moon in June.

If heavy wind or heavy rain is in the forecast, place your containers and hanging baskets inside or under protection. Heavy wind and rain can break plants and pull moisture out of soil which will harm your beautiful plants.

If you live where it is windy, when you first take a plant home cut it back with scissors (I know you bought it for how beautiful it was and I promise it will be beautiful again!) This will allow the plant to grow into its new conditions – remember it is coming out of the perfect environment and you are placing it into a harsh environment, it will need adjustment time.

Deadheading – When a flower is done blooming it is important to remove it from the plant. If you don't take the flower off the plant will put energy into creating a seed, but you want it to bloom more! This is done best with snips or scissors for a clean cut.

The plants themselves may also need a trim. If you notice your plant looks stretched out and sprawled it may be time to cut it back. Using clean snips cut your plant stems back to encourage it to bush out and bloom better – sounds scary but it works.

Learn more about how to create and care for the perfect containers at our next Ladies Plant Night! We talk soil, fertilizer, colour combos, shapes and help you make a beautiful show piece for your home. Always a fun time!

June 30, 6pm, Nature's Nook & Kranny. \$5 to attend. You can take your own planters or purchase some from us. Please contact us to register or find out more: Patsy at 902-351-3444 or email patsymurray1967@hotmail.com

Angie VanKessel is a Horticulturalist specializing in garden workshops, maintenance & design. Book your garden consult today! (902) 301-6556

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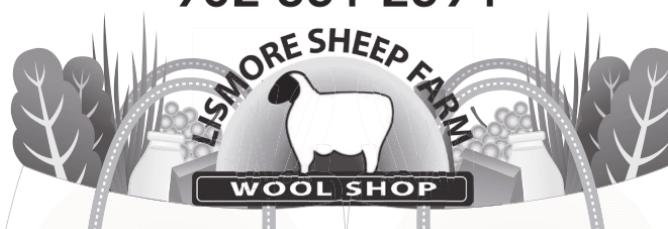


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Life on the Farm

by Shirley Roberts

No matter what type of farm you may think of, most days are busy and the days at Sunny Mount Farm are no different. Sunny Mount Farm is located on the Cape John Road, River John. It has belonged in the Baillie family for close to one hundred years and is now operated by James Jr. (Jimmy) and his partner, Shirley.



Maggie the LGD, a Maremma and Pyrenean Mountain Dog cross is patrolling the field watching her flock.

Mainly a beef farm with Black Angus cattle, you will also find a small herd of sheep, two miniature horses, several barn cats and their LGD (Livestock Guard Dog), Maggie. At present there are about fifty head of cattle and calf season is well underway. The eight sheep are mainly Leicester crosses with a Border Leicester ram. Fourteen lambs were born to seven ewes in mid March and early April. The ram lambs will later be sold and the ewe lambs will



Lambing season started with a bang, a set of Romanov x Border Leicester triplets.

be kept in hopes of building up the sheep herd.

Days are rarely boring on a farm, no lack of things to do. It could be fencing, planting, making hay or perhaps tending to a sick animal. Shearing on the farm was done early this year compared to previous years and Shirley hopes to be spinning her own wool again later this summer.



Shearing time is done for us already; Peter Kozier is seen here shearing the ram, Duke.

Out of Reach

by Rob Assels

Cave paintings were the inspiration for a new kind of paint developed in Nova Scotia. It's the first of its kind in Canada. It's a paint that is composed of plants and minerals; there are no petrochemicals in it. It is fully biodegradable and can be disposed of in your regular household waste or added to your compost. The paint was developed at the research centre at Agritech Park in Bible Hill. The thought was, if cave paintings have lasted for thousands of years it must be possible to develop a formulation that does not require the environmentally damaging components in oil-based and acrylic paints. The result, after nine years of research ... PURE Paint.

PURE Paint comes in a limited range of colours, but is available for interior or exterior use. The paint claims to dry in one hour and covers twice the area that conventional paint does. I tried it out in our bathroom. I was painting blue over white. It took two coats to cover, which is fair, because I hadn't primed the wall first. I didn't find that it went twice as far as traditional paint, which is unfortunate because that would have offset the paint's biggest flaw; it's very expensive. I purchased a 1-litre bucket for \$39. Compare that to Benjamin Moore's high-end Aura paint at \$90 for a 4-litre can and you can see that buying the environmental product is a punishing experience.



PURE Paint is carried by Home Hardware in Stellarton, but only the interior variety. They have the paint displayed prominently next to their paint service centre. I ask the representative how sales have been. She told me I was the first person to inquire about it. I called the company that makes it, Pure Paint Labs. I got an answering machine. I left a message and followed up with an email inquiring about their exterior paint along with some background for this story. No one got back to me.

I found the paint to be very good. It covered well and cleaning up was a breeze. They have an excellent product that everyone would appreciate, but the price point is just not viable.



Weddings on the North Shore
Justice of the Peace

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Pioneer events

Read by the Sea 2018

by Monica Graham

It's getting closer – the annual literary extravaganza that is Read by the Sea!

The 19th annual summer literary festival, the oldest of its kind in Atlantic Canada and the only one with a dedicated children's festival, takes place July 2-6 in the Nova Scotia coastal village of River John.

The festival begins at 1 p.m. on July 2, the Monday after Canada Day, with WordPlay - a literary festival for children of all ages. It's hosted by Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery on Allan Road in River John (Rain venue is the River John Fire Hall). Sheree Fitch, children's author and shop co-owner (with her husband Gilles Plante) serves as MC.

WordPlay

WordPlay features three children's authors: Paulette Bourgeois, Wesley King, and Justin Gregg.

Paulette is best known for her beloved Franklin the Turtle series, but is the author of many other books including a new one about bees. From Ontario, she spends her summers in the Maritimes.

Wesley King used to live in Ontario, but now calls Nova Scotia home. He is the author of exciting and insightful novels for middle-grade readers, including OCDaniel, Laura the Monster Crusher and his newest, A World Below.

Justin Gregg is a Nova Scotia science writer, dolphin researcher, science-filmmaker and author of Fancy Goat, as well as other stories about animal behaviour. His work - currently at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish - takes him all over the world.

Crystal G. Mann and Melanie are Rainbow Express, WordPlay 2018 musical entertainment during WordPlay. Thanks to years of experience, the duo's extensive repertoire includes old-time favourites, traditional songs, the best of North America's top children's music of the last thirty years and original songs. Rendered in vocals, guitar and ukulele, the high-energy performance sets toes a-tappin' and encourages singing along.

A food truck will be on site, and packed lunches are also welcome. WordPlay wraps up at 3:30 p.m.

New this year: The Week Between

To keep the energy high between WordPlay on July 2 and Read by the Sea's main stage on July 7, the festival offers literary activities in conjunction with village partners.

On Tuesday, July 3, at 10 a.m., meet at the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library to go with Mi'kmaq educator and author Gerald Gloade on a Story Walk along the river that gives the village its name. The 90-minute exploration features Gloade's children's book about insects - Juji'jk. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Caldera Tall Ships and Tall Tales: Meet at Caldera Distilling Inc., 65 River John Rd. (watch for the vintage truck at the end of the driveway), to hear award-winning local author Linda Little read from her short story, The Still. Stick around to chat about stories and stills and ships and more.

On Wednesday, July 4, at 10 a.m. meet at the library for a second Story Walk, this time with members of the River John Historical Society as they point out historic sites in the community. The stories feature tidbits from The River John Reader, compiled by the late Janice

Murray Gill. The walk concludes at the Heritage Museum, which is filled with artefacts from River John's past.

Also on Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Mabel Murple's will host a family story time in the Dreamery - with a surprise guest reader. Children, bring your grownups.

On Thursday, July 5, come to the library at 2:30 p.m.. to meet members of The Pictou County Writers' Group, made up of new and established writers who meet regularly to encourage each other's work. The information-sharing session will include stories, games and a chance for everyone to share their talents. People with scribblers full of stories or poems, or who are hobby or closet writers are invited to come to the gathering to meet people with similar interests.

Now in its second year, the group includes everyone from brand new writers to those who have published a few books. Everyone is welcome to the meet 'n' greet.

At 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, return to Caldera Distilling Inc, for an evening campfire, with storytelling in the best oral tradition. All story-tellers welcome.



Pitch the Publisher

It's Dragon's Den with a literary twist. Authors pitch their writing projects to a panel of Atlantic publishers, who critique the presentations and - the writers hope - select a proposal or two for publication.

The event begins at 9 a.m. inside the Royal Canadian Legion, 2506 River John Station Road, River John. Writers who wish to pitch should pre-register by submitting their proposals by June 8. Each is allotted a 3-5 minute time slot to persuade the publishers to accept their proposals, with another few minutes allowed for publisher feedback.

If there is time, authors may be chosen from the audience to pitch, so even if you don't pre-register, come prepared. Spectators are welcome. Come and support the next Shakespeare or Atwood. The publishers' panel includes representatives from Goose Lane, Fernwood, and Nimbus.

Pictou County artist, historian and author John Ashton is moderator. The event concludes at 10:15, in time for everyone to head to the gardens surrounding the Legion for the 11 a.m. Read by the Sea Main Stage.

Read by the Sea Main Stage

Bring your own lawn chair, sun hat - and maybe sunscreen, bug spray or a sweater. This is Nova Scotia, and the weather can change in seconds. In the event of serious wet stuff, the rain venue is the River John Fire Hall.

The main stage begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 7, in the River John Legion Memorial Gardens. Featured authors are Sarah Faber, Lorri Neilsen Glenn, Pauline Dakin and Wayne Johnston; the MC is CTV television host Jayson Baxter and the interviewers are local writer Lana MacEachern and CTV morning show host Kelly Linehan.

Faber and Glenn read in the morning.

Sarah Faber's first novel, All is Beauty Now, honours the author's Brazilian heritage and explores how a family deals with secrets, betrayal, loss, mental illness and grief. The novel was awarded the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award in the fiction category at the 2018 Atlantic Book Awards. She was also a finalist for the Thomas Raddall Fiction award - which her husband Oisin Curran won. Faber, who wrote the novel over ten years before its 2017 publication, has an MA Creative Writing and English Literature from Concordia University. Her writing has appeared in Matrix and Brick. Originally from Toronto, Sarah now lives in Cape Breton with her husband and their children.

Poet, essayist, editor and author Lorri Neilsen Glenn was born and raised on the Prairies and moved to Nova Scotia in 1983. She has taught across Canada and in Ireland, Australia, Chile and Greece. Her multi-

Film and TV and special effects make-up workshop

by Josephine Cresswell

The Sunrise Film Festival returns to the north shore during 2018, with a wide range of screenings and events throughout the year.

A new feature of this year's Sunrise Film Festival is a one day Film & TV & Special Effects Make-up Workshop by professionally trained Make-up Artist Colleen



Patterson. Colleen trained at Blanche MacDonald in British Columbia and specializes in beauty, fashion, airbrush, TV and film and special effects and prosthetics. Colleen has worked on many projects in the area including the recently made documentary *The Ship Hector* and the recently completed film *The Only Game in Town*.

The workshop will take place on Saturday August 25th at the Toney River Community Hall from 10am to 5pm. All ages from teens to seniors are welcome but registration is limited to 20, so book early. For more information and to reserve a place, email: info@sunrisefilmfestival.com or call 902 701 2483. Prices are \$40 per person and include tea, coffee, snacks through the day.

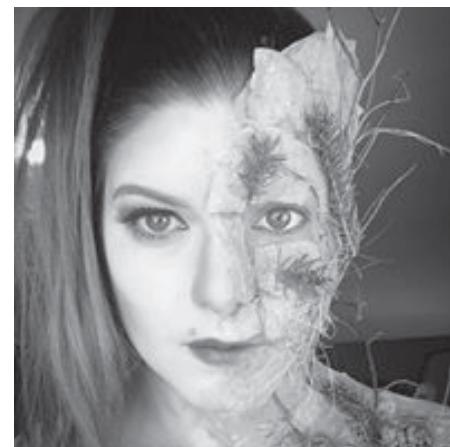
Participants should bring their own mirror and can also bring their own make-up if they wish to do so.

RIVER JOHN RUBBER BOOT EXPO

We are excited & would love to invite you to our Vendors Sale on Saturday, June 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the old River John School building. This is a "Must Do" Event so mark the date on your calendar.

Businesses from away & right around our area. There will be something for everyone to check out. Come and see our clean Storage & Rental Spaces for your very own business ideas.

There will also be treats from the Ice Cream Dream Bus or a sizzling hot dog from the grill. See you there everyone.



..... *Read by the Sea, continued*

award-winning writing focuses on women, arts-based research, and memoir/life stories. She was 2005-2009 poet laureate for the Halifax Regional Municipality, where she lives. A faculty member at Mount Saint Vincent University, she is a mentor in the University of King's College MFA program in creative nonfiction, and has served as a juror for regional and national writing awards. Her most recent book, *Following the River: Traces of Red River Women*, (2017, Wolsak and Wynn) compiles portraits of her Indigenous grandmothers and their contemporaries in 19th century Manitoba.

Lana MacEachern will interview the authors, and the festival breaks for lunch. Coles Books mobile store will be on hand to sell the featured authors' books, authors will sign books, there are fund-raising raffles and souvenirs for sale, and food concessions will be open. The audience is welcome to bring picnic lunches as well. Live music will be provided by Floyd Rudolph.

After lunch, Dakin and Johnston read.

Pauline Dakin authored the bestseller *Run, Hide, Repeat: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood*, released by Penguin Random House Canada in September 2017, under the Viking imprint. Her 30-year journalism career included award-winning work in film, television, radio and print, with a focus on health issues, documentaries, current affairs and production. Her awards list includes a citation from Canada's top journalism prize, the Michener Awards, three fellowships from the National Press Foundation in Washington, D.C. and a fellowship from the MIT/Knight Science journalism on medical evidence. Originally from British Columbia, she lived in Manitoba and New Brunswick before settling in Nova Scotia. Currently she teaches journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax.

Wayne Johnston is a multi-award-winning and highly acclaimed author whose latest (tenth) novel, *First Snow, Last Light* has earned rave reviews since its release in the fall of 2017. Born and raised in Goulds, Newfoundland & Labrador, Wayne earned a B.A. in English from Memorial University and an M.A. from the University of New Brunswick. He worked as a reporter for the St. John's Daily News,

before devoting himself to full-time writing. His first novel, *The Story of Bobby O'Malley*, won the W.H. Smith/Books in Canada First Novel Award for the best first English-language novel that year, and subsequent works received critical acclaim and attention. They include *The Divine Ryans*, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, *Baltimore's Mansion* (winner of the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction), and *The Navigator of New York*. Wayne lives in Toronto.

Kelly Linehan interviews both Dakin and Johnston. Then all four authors gather on stage for a panel discussion, followed by audience question and answer, moderated by Linehan.

Final raffle prizes will be awarded, and thank-yous and announcements distributed liberally before the festival closes at 3:30 p.m.

The Importance of Free Admission

No admission fees are charged to any of the events and registration is unnecessary except for Pitch the Publisher.

Festival organizers feel it is of utmost importance that all aspects of the festival are made accessible to everyone, regardless of economic status. When it comes to books and reading, everyone is equal - or they should be. Therefore, the festival works hard to present diverse genres, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

However, it costs a lot of money to put on a festival like *Read by the Sea*. Authors MUST be paid - writing is their livelihood. Transportation, meals, lodging, advertising, printing, renting festival venues, sound systems and hundreds of smaller details all add to the cost. The festival is largely funded by grants from various levels of government, by private donors and by the fund-raising effort of the festival's volunteer committee. Any of those may not be enough in any given year.

Even though we don't ask for admission fees, if you can afford to help even a little bit, please participate in our fund-raisers or make a donation. If you find yourself able to help on a larger scale, you may contact the committee sending an email to monicagraham@tncwireless.ca or via the website <https://www.readbythesea.ca> or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/readbythesea/>

RIVER JOHN FESTIVAL DAYS

July 20-28, 2018

Daily 50/50 draw at Entertainment on the Veranda during Festival Days

FRIDAY JULY 20TH

6pm Baseball Tournament begins at the ball field, contact Jay Reid 351-3396 to register

SATURDAY JULY 21ST

9am Baseball Tournament continued
12pm Lobster Dinner at the Fire Hall, until sold out

1-3pm Story Time at Mabel Murple's, dress as your favorite storybook character and pack a purple lunch

2pm Cardboard Boat Races at Bissell Park dock, \$2/participant, cash prizes, build your own boat, contact Joanne for info 351-2143

SUNDAY JULY 22ND

9am Baseball Tournament continued
10am-3pm Sheep & Wool Day at Lismore Sheep Farm, sheep shearing, wool demonstrations, wagon rides, BBQ

10am-3pm River John Sunday Market at Lismore Sheep Farm

11am Church Service at Salem United

12pm Festival Lunch at the Fire Hall (\$5)

1pm Bridge to Bridge Fun Paddle, start at Bissell Park dock, bring your kayak, canoe, etc. (weather permitting)

2pm Tug of War Weigh-ins at the Ball Field followed by Tug of war

6pm Children's Parade and Family BBQ at the Lion's Club Playground. Participants meet at St. George's Presbyterian Church. Categories include story book characters, cartoon characters, and festival theme

7pm Gospel Sing at the Veranda led by "The Village Sings" (rain location at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall)



COUNTRY ROOTS & Rubber Boots

MONDAY JULY 23RD

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

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

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

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

7pm Cribbage night at the Fire Hall, 19+, \$5/ player, teams of two, winner takes all

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda by "Harmony Trail", (rain location at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall)

TUESDAY JULY 24TH

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

1-3pm Maker Fair at River John Library

6pm Mackerel Fishing Tournament, register at Bissell Park, \$5 entry fee, free for 12 and under, cash prizes

6pm Adult Scavenger Hunt, register at Bissell Park, cash prizes

6:30pm Northumberland RC Modelers Demonstration at the River John Airfield, Mountain Road, sticky buns for sale

6:30pm Tupperware Bingo at the Fire Hall

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

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda by "The Thursday Night Fiddlers", (rain location at St. Georges Presbyterian Church Hall)

WEDNESDAY JULY 25TH

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by Pictou County 4-H, proceeds to Legacy Barn, Breakfast Sandwich, \$6/\$4

10am-4pm Craft Sale Anglican Church Hall

1-4pm Washer Toss at the Legion, 19+, first 30 teams, registration starts at 12 noon, no pre-registration

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

2pm-3pm River John Birthday Cake at Bissell Park dock

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6:30pm Family Chocolate Bar Bingo at Fire Hall, bring a chocolate bar to "buy" a bingo card (1 chocolate bar = 1 bingo card), open to all children with parent/guardian

7pm Trivia Night at the Legion, 19+,

\$20 per teams of four, winner takes all

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda by "Geezer", (rain location at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall)

THURSDAY JULY 26TH

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by the Oddfellows & Rebekahs, Ham and Eggs, \$6/\$4

9-11am Cupcake Decorating, Bissell Park

9-11am "Run by the Sea" Walk/Run (3/6/9 Km) Start time 10am, pre-register at River John Library for free, or at 86 River Road for \$5 at 9am

10am-4pm Craft Sale Anglican Church Hall

10am-6pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field, \$10 per Bobble ride

11am-7pm Route Six Food Truck Co., in front of Simpson's

2-4pm Warden's Tea at the Fire Hall

6pm Children's Scavenger Hunt, register at Bissell Park, cash prizes

7pm Bingo at the Legion

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda by "Route Six", (rain location at Fire Hall)

FRIDAY JULY 27TH

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by the Toney River Community Group, Bacon, Eggs and Beans, \$6/\$4

9am-5pm Atlantic Canadian Military Historical Association WWI/WWII Display behind the RJ Historical Society Museum

10am-6pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field, \$10 per Bobble ride

10:30am Mi'kmaw Dancer/Drummer Trevor Gould, singing/dancing demo and speaking, ages 5+

11am-7pm Route Six Food Truck Co., in front of Simpson's

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

1pm West Branch UCW Pie Sale at the Lion's Veranda

1-3pm Art in the Park, at Bissell Park (rain location at Fire Hall), first 25 participants, all ages, materials provided no exp. required

6pm Bed Races, St. George's Presbyterian Church parking lot, \$2/participant, cash prizes

7pm Mackerel Fishing Tournament continues, weigh in at Bissell Park

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda by "The O'Briens", (rain location at Fire Hall)

SATURDAY JULY 28TH

6:45-10am Breakfast on the Veranda by The Lion's Club, Pancakes and Sausages, \$6/\$4

9am-5pm Atlantic Canadian Military Historical Association WWI/WWII Display behind the RJ Historical Society Museum

10am-6pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field, \$10 per Bobble ride

10am Soccer Bobble Tournament, Ball Field, \$60/team of 6, contact Craig at 780-402-9424, or craighayman@hotmail.com, for info or to register

10-11am Antique Car Show registration

11am-2pm Antique Car Show open to public, Location: Parking area of former school, canteen on site

Antique Car show Sponsored by Strait-Way Kia, 2753 Westville Rd, New Glasgow

2pm Antique Car Show Presentation of Trophies & Prizes

11am-7pm Route Six Food Truck Co.

In front of Simpson's

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

2pm Lobster Crate Run on the River, Bissell Park dock, register at 1:30, \$2/entry, cash prizes

6:30pm Street Parade

9:45pm/Sunset Fireworks over the River

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

Pioneer environment

One Less Piece of Plastic

By Rob Assets

Plastic is everywhere. It's in our homes, vehicles and clothing. It surrounds virtually everything we buy. When River John conducted its spring clean up, plastic was a major component of the waste collected. Beezy Wrap, a company in Rines Creek, Nova Scotia, has developed a product that can eliminate the need for one type of plastic - "cling wrap". Most of us have rolls of cling wrap in our kitchens. We wrap sandwiches in it and seal leftovers with it. It all ends up in the landfill.

Beezy Wrap is not only the name of the company, it's the name of the product as well. According to the company's website, Beezy Wrap is "made with organic cotton fabric, beeswax, jojoba oil, cinnamon and tree resin. A unique blend of natural ingredients that creates a food wrap that can be used over and over again."

Lesley and I decided to try it. A package of three small sheets of different sizes cost \$10. However, because the sheets are washable and last for a year, it should be compared to the cost of a year's worth of cling wrap. At Walmart, a 90 metre roll of Glad Cling Wrap costs approximately \$5. If you cook and bake a lot, you may use 2-3 rolls in a year. Beezy Wrap also comes in larger sizes, large enough to wrap a loaf of bread. Those cost \$16 for a single sheet.

So Beezy Wrap is not cheap, if all you count is the cost of the product and not the cost to the environment. How does it perform? Take a piece of cheese and place it on a small sheet. Fold the sheet to cover the cheese and leave your hand in contact with the wrap for just a few seconds. The heat from your hand will let the wax bond to itself and form a seal. The wrap takes the shape of any product. It will cover a bowl, wrap a sandwich or seal a cup. And it keeps everything every bit as fresh and moist as Cling Wrap, with no more cling wrap in the landfill. It also looks very attractive.

We've only started using it so we can't speak about how long it lasts, but it does seem very durable. At the end of its duty cycle, it will be a piece of organic cotton that you can compost in your yard.

The price may come down as the small company's production ramps up or competing products drive the price down. We bought it at the New Glasgow farmer's market. You can also purchase items online at www.beezywrap.ca.

Everyone complains about the weather ...

by Rob Assets

Well the Pioneer looked into our weather over the past 10 years. To be precise, we downloaded the daily high and low temperatures from Environment Canada's weather station at Caribou Point for the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2017.

What did we find? It turns out that there has been a bit of shift in the averages. The charts below show the average annual high and low temperatures.

As you can see, the dashed trend line in Chart 1 shows the average annual high temperatures have decreased 0.6 degrees over the past 10 years.

On the other hand, Chart 2 shows the average annual low temperatures have trended up 1.3 degrees.

So the days are getting colder and the nights are getting warmer. On the plus side, the difference is spread out over the seasons.

Chart 1: Average Annual High Temperatures

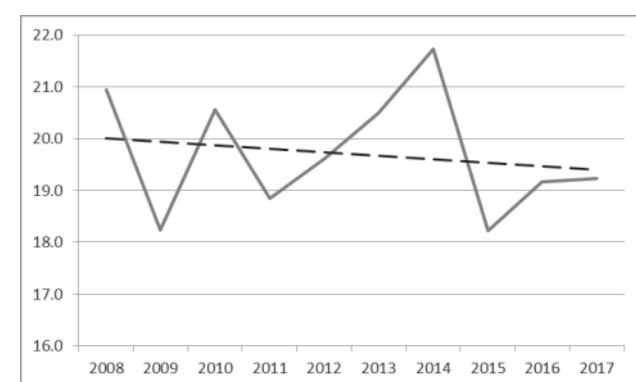
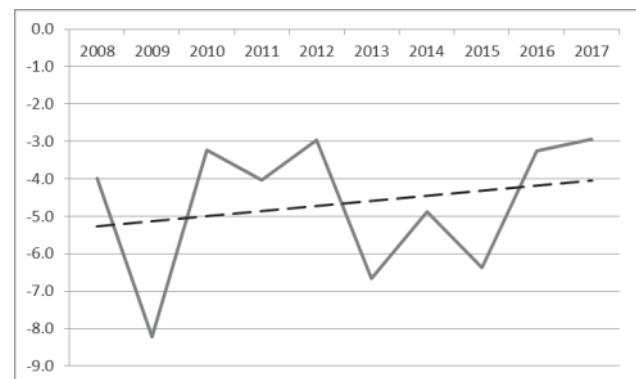


Chart 2: Average Annual Low Temperatures



Source: Environment Canada data from Caribou Point

Eco Friendly Septic Solutions

Did you know that a septic system not used for several months or longer is DEAD! It takes 1 to 3 months to get the septic properly working again once it is being used.

We are Eco Friendly Septic Solutions and we help people who are duking it out with their septic.

We offer an easy to use, eco friendly solution to maintain your septic system, to improve its health, functionality, and extend its longevity.

We are encouraged by big business to buy and use antibacterial products. These may have a positive impact on our health but they are detrimental to our septic systems, with a small, monthly addition of our product to your drain, your septic system will gain the desirable bacteria needed to improve its functioning. You will not need to pump your holding tank for at least 15 years, instead of every 3 to 5. Our product also eliminates the build-up of scum and sludge which can shut down your system completely. Replacing your complete system will cost you, on average, \$35 000.

We also offer similar products to keep your RV holding tanks clean and smelling fresh.

This is a Canadian manufactured product having been in business for over 40 years with no complaints. All products are tested annually by Environment Canada to ensure that they maintain their eco friendliness.

For more information on how we can not only save you money but also help save the environment call me at 1-844-476-2600 or 902-476-2600.

Join #NOPIPE Rally on Friday July 6 to protect the Northumberland Strait

By Barbara Harris

Do you live in River John, Toney River, Skinners Cove, or Malagash Point? Do you play in the water at Cape John, Tatamagouche Bay or Wallace -- watch the sunsets over Caribou, Seafoam or Pugwash? Do you enjoy lobster, scallops or oysters with friends and visitors? It's the Northumberland Strait that ties our communities together and provides the North Shore with so much that we love.

That's why Northern Pulp's proposal to discharge 70-90 million litres of treated pulp waste into the Northumberland Strait every day should concern all of us. This plan is a threat to the rich fishing grounds that provide jobs for so many in communities along the shore and to the clean waters that draw tourists, cottagers and recreational fishers to our area.

Many people can't believe that a proposal like this could be taken seriously in this day and age. Unfortunately, our provincial government seems ready to believe Northern Pulp's calming words that there is nothing to worry about. For those who remember 50 years ago,

when the pulp mill was first built, that was exactly what people were told at that time. Nothing to worry about. Now, we have seen first-hand the environmental disaster created at Boat Harbour, where pulp mill effluent destroyed the water and air for Pictou Landing First Nation and surrounding residents, and is now costing Nova Scotia taxpayers more than \$200 million in clean-up costs.

Since Northern Pulp's proposal was revealed late last year, determined fishermen's organizations, the community of Pictou Landing First Nation and people of all backgrounds have joined together to say loud and clear, "There will be No Pipe in Our Strait." From communities along the shore, and across Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick, people are sharing information about the serious risks of this proposal, and showing their determination not to allow the provincial government to make another costly mistake that hurts us all.

On Friday, July 6 from noon to 2pm, everyone is invited to join the first major #NOPIPE Land and Sea Rally at Pictou Harbour and Waterfront. Friends of the Northumberland

Strait and the Northumberland Fishermen's Association invite you to come by fishing boat, pleasure boat, kayak or foot. Bring your children, your grandchildren, friends, relations and visitors. Together we will be a voice that politicians cannot ignore.

The Northumberland Strait has sustained our bellies and our hearts for many generations. It's up to us to ensure that it will be able to do so for many generations more.

To learn more about the issue, the rally, and what you can do to help, visit friendsofthenorthumberland.ca.

See you in Pictou on July 6.



Fishermen demonstrate outside the Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister's Conference in Halifax.



Bruce Frizzel and Willie Patriquin installing new warning signs in the River John, a muddy job that will need to be done every year. The signs say 'Caution. Swimming area' and 'Slow. No wake zone'.

#NOPIPE

LAND & SEA

Rally

July 6

12pm-2pm

Pictou Harbour & Waterfront

SUPPORT A HEALTHY NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT!

RALLY BY SEA

12:30 PM
BOATS GATHER AT MOUTH OF HARBOUR

1:00 PM
BOATS CRUISE INTO HARBOUR

ALL BOATS WELCOME
fishing boats • pleasure boats

for boating info & details visit below website

RALLY BY LAND

12:00 PM
CITIZEN MARCH
Gather at Pictou Exhibition Grounds

1:00 PM
RALLY CENTRE STAGE
Hector Quay Marina

for directions & details visit below website

Friends of The Northumberland Strait • Northumberland Fishermen's Association
Pictou Landing First Nation • Gulf of NS Fleet Planning Board • PEI Fishermen's Association • Maritime Fishermen's Union • Clean The Mill
Pictou Lobster Carnival • Ecology Action Centre • Healthy Forest Coalition • The Council of Canadians • Sierra Club Canada
The David Suzuki Foundation • Nature Nova Scotia • Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia

for directions & details visit friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca

Pioneer youth

Running Day - April 30, 2018

by Quinton Good

The foggy dawn of April 30th was a cool one indeed. This was my first experience of running day, (we don't have it in Alberta). This was at Skinners Cove, River John. Of course, I was stuck on the sidelines, maybe next year will be different. At 6 a.m. Bite Me led them off, loaded with traps. All the boats behind her went except the last one. At 6:12 a.m. the last one Very Best left the wharf. As soon as possible they drop their traps. Feel free to join us in 2019 if you want to.



My Visit to Costa Rica

By Jamie Jamieson

Have you ever wondered what Costa Rica was like? I know I did, until I actually got to go there this spring! It was definitely a trip of a lifetime and something I am going to remember for the rest of my life.

Even after all those photos you may have seen of how beautiful Costa Rica is, it is even more breathtaking when you get to see it in person. There are so many beautiful views there, along with outstanding scenery. Of all the places I got to see and visit while there, my favourite by far was going to a VOLCANO! It was an amazing experience being able to go to the top of a volcano and looking inside of it!

There are many differences between our living style here in Canada, along with our culture, compared to theirs. The two biggest differences I found were their housing and their school system. While I was there, I got to visit a school with the rest of the group of students I went with. The method of teaching is not much different than it is here, but the way their schools are built and their school times are much different. The windows and doors are metal bars and the walls are very thin, you can hear everything going on in the

room beside you. Compared to our 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. or 9 a.m.-3 p.m. school day, theirs is broken up into three different times and a different group of students would go each time. They had morning, afternoon and evening classes. This was because of how hot it is there and because there are students who work to help their family.

Before I left home, people were telling me I wouldn't like the food because it was much different from what we eat here, but that wasn't true at all. The food was much the same, there was rice with every meal we ate. They also eat a lot of eggs, chicken and fresh fruits. There were new foods that I tried and I didn't like some of it, but the majority of the food wasn't much different from ours.

I would definitely recommend to anyone who has the chance, to go to Costa Rica. It is an eye-opening and life-changing experience that everyone should get to try. I know if I ever get a chance to return I would not pass up the opportunity. One day I do hope to go back and get to take my family with me.

Jamie Jamieson is a Grade 11 Student at North Colchester High School, Tatamagouche



TRIP OF A LIFE TIME — The route we took to see the volcano

Book Review

by Quinton Good

Book series: Dork Diaries

Name: Tales from a not so fabulous life.

Overview: This is a book about a girl named Nikki Maxwell starting at a private school called Westchester Country Day. She worries about fitting in, finding friends and not having a cellphone.

Audience: This book is mostly geared towards girls, not saying boys don't like it.

Rating: 4 1/2 / 5

River John 4-H

by Margaret Cripps

The River John 4-H Club would like to thank Farm Credit Canada for funding us to get new Woodsmen equipment. Our club has 20 members and 10 Leaders who participate in many projects such as cloverbuds, foods, crafts, scrapbooking, cake decorating, photography, vet science, goat, poultry, waterfowl, beef, sheep, rabbit, light horse, mini horse and draft horse and market lamb.

Our club meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. George's Church hall.



Pioneer recreation

It's Boating Season

by Cheryl Frizzell

It's boating season and whether you're a pleasure boater or a fisherman you need to put your boat in and out of the water. Such is the story for Bruce and me. We used to hire Theodore Shaw for the job, but since his retirement he left a big pair of shoes to fill. Taking over his business is challenging at the best of times I would think, but Roddie and Mike are up for the challenge. They both have years of trucking experience between them and are locals from Pictou County. Big or small, fishing or pleasure boats, they can haul it all up to 30,000 kilograms. When hauling our boat, Roddie and Mike realize how important the You'N'Me is to us and they handle her in a very professional manner, showing a lot of care not to damage her.



The You'N'Me gets her belly wet



After hooking up to her keel they pull her out a bit



They hook up the bow

Reid's
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Civic #82, River John Road
Telephone: 902-351-2079
Email: terry@sunsetbeachcottages.com
Website: www.sunsetbeachcottages.com

LEETIK ESSO

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The West Branch Collector

by Faith Slayter

My grandmother, Elinor O'Brien, started collecting model horses in 1948. When she was just nine years old, her father, John Munro, gave her her first model horse. The horse her father gave her was a glass china horse. Since she was nine, her collection has grown enormously over the years, and she now has approximately 1350 model horses. My grandmother collects many different types and companies of model horses. She has collected Breyer, Peter Stone, Hartland, CollectA, Royal Doulton, Sandicast and many others. All these model horses mean a lot to my grandmother so, as they mean a lot to her, they also mean a lot to me.



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Guardian



Pioneer history

The August Gale of 1867

Mary Beth Sutherland

Last fall, Hughie and Marie Langille brought to the attention of the River John and Area Historical Society an article which they had read in New Glasgow's The News. The newspaper was celebrating Canada's 150th birthday with news items from 1867, and one dealt with a local River John story. The item is as follows:

CAPE JOHN LOSS

Since the gale of last week, five men belonging to Cape John have been missing. They went out in a fishing boat and have been doubtless lost. Their names were Charles Strumberg, John McLeod and Paul McDonald, farmers of Cape John. Charles Strumberg, teacher in the River John Academy, and David Strumberg. The Charlottetown Islander states that their boat has been picked up at Point Prim. (August 10, 1867)

I was not aware of this incident, but did a bit of research. During my search at the archives of the McCulloch House Museum and Genealogy Centre in Pictou, I found these two articles from the newspaper "Colonial Standard", stored on microfilm.

A violent hurricane swept over this place on Saturday morning last. It commenced sometime after midnight, and continued for several hours to blow with unexampled fury. The streets and highways were strewn with the branches torn from trees, and garden fruit and vegetables were much injured. Some buildings which were not properly secured were blown down, and all moveable articles exposed to the action of the wind were indiscriminately scattered around. The waters of the harbor were violently agitated, and the spray taken up into the air and scattered in showers over the adjacent country, doing much injury to the gardens and vegetables which were blackened by the salt water as if a blight or frost struck them. We have not heard of any damage done at sea by the gale; but if it extended to any distance it is probable that there must have been injury to shipping. Two or three vessels went on shore near the lighthouse, but got off again without serious injury. Colonial Standard: Aug. 6, 1867.

MELANCHOLY EVENT

Five men belonging to Cape John have been missing since the gale of the night of the 2nd inst. They went out in a fishing boat shortly before dark, and have not since been heard of, they are undoubtedly lost. Their names were Chas. Strumberg Senior., David J, and Chas.R., sons of Alex. Strumberg, Paul McDonald, and John McLeod. The boat was picked up three miles west of Point Prim, and the sails were picked up in the Gulf. The men were all of most respectable character, and much esteemed by all who knew them. We sincerely sympathize with the afflicted relations, whose family circles have been sadly broken. Colonial Standard: August 13, 1867.

With some research we have been able to add a bit of information to the story, but we would like people to look into their own family

history to see if they can find more of the story of these men. Also, I would like to point out that you need to be aware of spellings when researching your genealogy. For instance, the spelling of Strumberg versus Stramberg. I have seen this family name spelled both ways, in both obituaries and newspaper accounts of this tragedy.

In looking at the Presbyterian Witness Vital Statistics 1848-1887 I found some information on the individual men who died, as follows:

MCDONALD, Paul: Drowned while fishing during a recent gale, he was of Cape John, formerly of Earltown, left aged parents. Presbyterian Witness, Sat. 24 Aug 1867

MCLEOD, John: Drowned while fishing during a severe gale, he was of Cape John, left a large family. Presbyterian Witness, Sat. 24 Aug 1867

STRUMBERG Charles: Drowned fishing during a recent gale, he was of Cape John, teacher in the Intermediate Dept. at River John, nephew of Charles STRUMBERG, Sr. Presbyterian Witness, Sat. 24 Aug 1867

STRUMBERG David: Drowned while fishing, during a recent gale, he was of Cape John, a student at Grammar School for previous 2 yrs. bro/o Charles, nephew of Charles, Sr. Presbyterian Witness, Sat. 24 Aug 1867

With more searching, I was able to add a bit more information on the Strumberg men. Charles Strumberg, the uncle, was a farmer at Cape John. He was born in 1812 at Cape John and died at age 55, on Aug. 3, 1867 and is buried in Charlottetown PEI. Charles R., the nephew, a teacher in River John Academy, was 27 years of age when he died of drowning. David (Charles' brother) was only 20 years old when he drowned. David and Charles were the sons of Alex Strumberg. The men might all be buried on Prince Edward Island as that was where their bodies had washed ashore.

Why did they go out when a storm was approaching? No one will ever know, but if you remember the night before Hurricane Juan hit on September 29, 2003, it was a beautiful still evening, and the hurricane hit with great force while most of us slept. We can't imagine what these men experienced - nor can many of us understand the worry of their families during the following days until their true fate was known.

We would like to know if you have these men in your family genealogy, and whether you have a family story on the August Gale of 1867. We want to preserve such local stories and events in our village Museum.

The Strong Man of River John

by Bobbi-Lee Bigney

A tale that never grows old, stories passed down from generation to generation. Once told to me about my great-grandfather, now me telling my children about their great-great-grandfather and hopefully the story will go on about the Strong Man of River John for decades to come!

Chalmers Bigney was born in 1894, the son of Nathan and Mary (Dunn) Bigney. He grew up as a normal child doing farm chores, etc. It was a \$10 challenge by a stranger in the local store that made people realize this young 14-year-old boy was much stronger than he appeared. The \$10 was to be given to the one who could lift a 350lb barrel of flour from the floor to the store counter. After Chalmers had done so, he re-offered the \$10 bill to anyone who could put the barrel back on the floor.

In Chalmers' prime he could easily lift 3000 lbs. Had he put his talents to the disposal of the circus or the sports route he could have easily been recorded in the Guinness Book of Records or Ripley's Believe It or Not. He toured PEI and NS known as the Pictou County Strongman, appearing at exhibitions and private shows, demonstrating his unusual strength.

While working in Halifax during the First World War, he amazed fellow workers by carrying a 1250 lb transformer by himself and placing it on a set of blocks; it took 8 men to return it. On another occasion, to demonstrate to doubting members of the Halifax police force, he lifted the patrol wagon with 3 officers clear off the ground.

Chalmers, a lover of animals, risked his life on several occasions to aid an animal in distress; once he went into the icy water to rescue a horse, got under the horse and raised it up enough so others on the surface could get it out. Another time, he went down a well to a rescue a dog.

My favourite story to tell is that he would lie down with a platform over his chest and an automobile would drive over him. He could bend bars over his arms that four men couldn't straighten; he could hold teams of work horses in a straight pull.

Although his title of Strongman of Nova Scotia has often been challenged, no one has been able to match the feats he performed, with only his son, Nathan Bigney, coming the closest. Even in his later years Chalmers maintained the massive muscles in his

.... *Strong Man (cont'd)*

shoulders and continued the fun of his strength until he retired in 1951. He settled in Keble where he lived until his death at the age of 82.

Chalmers Bigney - a legend of the 20th century that I call my Great-Grandfather!

Then and Now

by Faith Slayter

West Branch is a small and quiet community with the population changing over the past two hundred and thirteen years. The original settlers were mostly Scottish highlanders. Roderick Mackenzie, the first known settler in 1805, built the first water-powered sawmill in West Branch. His descendants were mill men for many years. There was a grist mill, three blacksmith shops, a woolen mill, a stone mason, three general stores, a shoemaker and the church. Over the years there was a post office, a race track, a stage for dancing and picnics. In the 1920's we had 3 doctors in West Branch.

Many descendants of the highlanders stayed and many moved away for work or the big city. Some went out west or Ontario to work and never returned.

Today in our community we have retired people, homemakers, carpenters, plumbers, a sheep farmer, mechanics, office workers, a jewellery maker, nurse and caregivers, a machinist, fish plant workers, restaurant workers, a lawyer, maple syrup growers, a greenhouse owner, a photographer, a seamstress, a cement/foundation builder, furnace installers, a cheese maker, volunteer fireman and young children and teenagers who bring us new life. A wonderful diverse group of people who continue to support each other in good times and difficult times.



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The Ladies Night Dinner Theatre is a very successful annual fundraiser for the River John Fire Department. This year's event sold out all 180 tickets on both nights.

Back: Millie Langille, Margie MacGregor, Daphne Mertin, Brenda Sellers, Valarie Langille.

Middle (1): Shirley Roberts

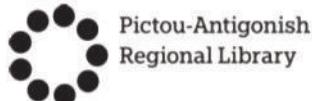
Middle (2): Lisa Redmond, Elaine Falconer, Jean Holt, Elizabeth Langille, Jean Langille.

Front: Lynn MacLeod

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Growing Up in River John

by Faye Peters

People in small towns often say nothing changes. Not so. My growing up in River John was quite different from today.

In my early years the village street was lined with stores, all open for business six days a week. Three well-stocked grocery stores, two restaurants, both with jukeboxes and one with ice cream fountains. Also in the village were the Bank of Nova Scotia, a hardware store, the funeral home and a little store where you could buy penny candy. Three garages lined the river side with a road down to the wharf between two. The post office was in the drugstore location. At one time there was a theatre above the post office. Admission for kids was 25 cents. Saturday night was open night and the street was lined with cars as the folk from the surrounding areas came in town to shop. In the early days of television, the men would stand outside the appliance & repair shop and watch TV in the window, while the women folk did their weekly grocery shopping. Us kids often went to his home one afternoon a week to watch Howdy Doody, all lined up on the living room floor.

Across the bridge was the telephone operator's office in her home. Few had phones and most were party lines. Talk about lack of privacy. Next door at one time was a variety store. A fire at one of the garages saw a new Shell station built at the crossroads.

You could get your education from grade primary to twelve in our four-room schoolhouse right in the village. No buses, everyone walked. If you were near to the school you walked home for lunch and back, as my brother and I did. If not, you carried your lunch and were permitted to eat at school. Recess was just running around the schoolyard or playing stickball or kick the can. The school bell atop the school rang three times daily, morning, recess and after lunch to call us in.

I learnt to swim by the cribwork under the bridge, with my Dad, and spent much time swimming and floating around in the water near my grandparents' home. In later years, many warm summer days were spent swimming at the wharf and jumping off the bridge with the boys.

Trips to the iron bridge to swim, or to the railroad tracks to pick blueberries, were summer afternoon fun. My Dad would take us for a sail in his fishing boat from the wharf to the iron bridge, down to the Cape or out to Amet Island just for fun. The channel markers were much needed on less than half-tides or you risked getting caught high and dry on a sandbar.

On the weekend there were weekly visits to the grandparents with our parents. On Sunday morning nearly everyone was at Sunday school or church. We girls wearing hats like our moms. The women and children were faithful attendees as well as some menfolk. All three churches were well-attended.

Christmas was the most special time of year. After my brother and I opened our gifts and while the turkey or chicken was cooking we would go to our grandparents' to see what Billy had gotten, then next door to Aunt Eileen's to see Richard, Jackie and Brent's gifts. One year Billy, Richard and Stan all received BB guns. They played cops and robbers on the shore.

Winter would see us skating on the river, jumping ice cakes in spring breakup, or sledding.

Money was scarce. Five-cent popsicles were broken in half and sold for three cents a half. Cigarette packages were opened and cigarettes sold individually for three cents each. In those days, the danger of smoking was not known.

Our river had unhealthy stuff being disposed of into it. Garbage from neighbouring houses and trash from the garages went over the bank. No garbage collections back then. Every house had its own trash pile out back. Not everything was good in the "good old days".

Few houses had indoor plumbing. Wells were often shared and buckets of water carried inside. Some had a hand-pump at a cupboard by the sink. Outhouses were not far from the house, but seemed so on a dark cold winter night. You always made sure you went before bedtime.

Houses were mainly heated by a single wood stove that was not kept burning overnight. On a cold winter night we were well-covered with homemade quilts that our mothers made. Water would freeze in a bucket on the kitchen counter. Parents had a warm fire going before

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A defibrillator is now available at the River John library, thanks to the support of The Friends of River John Library Society.

we kids got up for breakfast and school.

For the most part we were happy, we knew no different and we accepted what we had without envy or jealousy if we knew some who had more.

River John was a young child's haven. The older ones yearned to spread their wings and fly, as did I. "Go West" always lured some of our young people in search of adventure or a much-needed job. West in my day was Toronto.

Has much changed?

One thing is for sure, home is where the heart is and part of mine will always be in River John.

I've heard it said, "If you are lucky enough to be from River John, you are lucky enough!" I believe that's true!

The 19th Annual

Read by the Sea

WORDPLAY

An Extraordinary Literary Festival for Children of all Ages!

MONDAY, JULY 2

1:00-3:30pm WORDPLAY, the children's event at Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery, 286 Allen Road, River John, NS.

Meet the authors:

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Wesley King – *A World Below*
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MC – Sheree Fitch

Musical entertainment by Rainbow Express. Book sales and signing.



TUESDAY, JULY 3

10:00-11:30am STORY WALK leaves the library to explore the riverside with Gerald Gloade and his book *Juji'jk – Mi'kmaw Insects*.

7:00-8:30pm CALDERA TALL SHIPS AND TALL TALES – River John author Linda Little reading at the distillery.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

10:00-11:30am STORY WALK from the library to the museum, exploring River John's historic sites with Heritage Society members. Features the River John Reader by the late Janice Murray Gill.

1:00-2:00pm FAMILY STORYTIME at Mabel Murple's.

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Rain venue for outdoor events: River John Fire Hall.

As a fund-raiser this year we have posters that evoke the banners placed throughout the village. They are 24 x 36, printed on high quality paper, with vivid colours and suitable for framing. They were designed by River John's own Dylan Langille. They cost \$18, plus shipping should anyone want them mailed. Contact the Read by the Sea committee to get one – via the website, or Facebook page.

