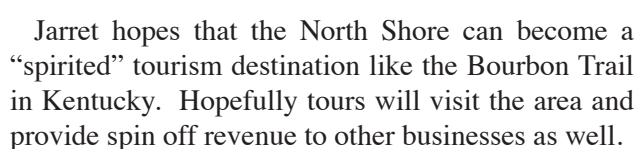
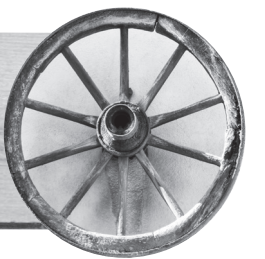


A black and white illustration of a log cabin with a chimney, surrounded by evergreen trees, enclosed in a double-line border. The cabin is constructed from horizontal logs and features a gabled roof with a chimney on the left side. A small porch with a railing is attached to the front. Three tall, stylized evergreen trees stand behind the cabin. The entire scene is framed by a double-line border.

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

From all appearances, he has the expertise, the location and the business model, now he just needs a few folks willing to bend an elbow. So raise a glass to the Caldera. May she bring fair winds and good fortune to all who sail in her.





Plan in the works River John Community Action Society

Community health boards (CHBs) play a number of roles in our communities. They help identify the local health issues and assist community organizations in addressing them. CHBs organize awareness campaigns and promote healthy lifestyles. They collaborate with and financially support a network of local organizations using the Community Wellness fund.

Last year the Pictou West CHB gave out over \$50,000 in grants to community groups involved in a wide range of activities from mental wellness to healthy eating. Perhaps most importantly, CHBs develop five-year community health plans that help target resources to health issues that matter most to communities. Last fall, the Pictou West CHB held 13 community meetings to meet with residents. In addition, over 550 residents responded to a survey. Based on that feedback the CHB formulated our five-year plan and obtained the approval of the Pictou County Health Authority.

Over the fall, the CHB will be organizing community meetings to inform residents about the details of the plan and how community organizations can tap into the available resources.



*Pictou West Community Health Board
Back: Dylan DeYoung, Mary MacLellan, Trecia Schell,
Holly MacLean, Alice Williams
Front: Rob Assels*

Celebrating near perfection!

The Pictou County Health Authority (PCHA) recently underwent an assessment by Accreditation Canada, the non-profit organization that measures the quality of healthcare delivery across Canada. The week-long assessment involved site visits to the Aberdeen Hospital, the Community Health Centre, the PCHA's Addictions Services and the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital.

The assessment was comprehensive. It looked at overall healthcare management, population-wide standards for public and mental health, and the service standards in 25 different health delivery areas including emergency rooms, laboratories, long-term care facilities, and infection prevention and control. It also took into account patient and physician satisfaction with the quality of the service PCHA delivered.

What were the results? The PCHA received a 95.5% compliance rating. According to the report: "The PCHA has well-maintained, clean and safe facilities, and, despite some challenges with an aging infrastructure, has demonstrated a responsive and prioritized approach to addressing these. The organization is well-prepared to address any potential emergencies that may arise, and has good risk assessments of the potential for hazards, and contingencies to respond to those."

Were any improvements required? The assessment noted that there are inconsistencies across the health authority in terms of how medications are reconciled, particularly upon admission, transfer and discharge. It also suggested that endoscopy reprocessing (the cleaning and sterilizing of medical instruments) at Aberdeen Hospital is located too close to patient care areas. The PCHA already has a plan in place to move the location.

It is very encouraging that such high standards can be achieved and we need to acknowledge the nurses, doctors, housekeeping staff, administrators, technicians and volunteers who help maintain them.

The next six months will be very exciting for the River John Community Action Society (RJCAS) as it looks to purchase or lease waterfront property on the River John. According to the RJCAS' new Chair, Rob-in Campbell, the society is hoping to build a multi-purpose launch that could help increase the recreational use of the river. The society would like to recognize the excellent work done by the River John Festival Days Committee and wants to support the growing kayaking community that turned out in droves at last year's festival. While the property and the launch won't be ready for this year's festival, the RJCAS hopes to have it up and running next year.

Out-going Chair, Dan Ferguson, is proud of the RJCAS' recent accomplishments. Ferguson has been Chair for the past five years. He points out that the RJCAS supports the Meals on Wheels program which served almost 600 meals in 2013. It also obtained funds for a community coordinator, who has been instrumental in securing grants, student employment and grounds upkeep in River John and surrounding areas. As Chair, Ferguson also lobbied repeatedly for

road repairs for the Cape John Road. The society also launched the Pioneer newspaper. This was made possible through a start-up grant from the Pictou West Community Health Board. Marshville resident, Rob Assels, represents the area on the health board and is also Secretary of the RJCAS. Ferguson notes that close ties between the health board and the newspaper will benefit all the communities in B0K 1N0 because health board initiatives need to be rooted in local communities and local communities need to be aware of the grant opportunities available to them.

When asked what the society was planning for 2014 in addition to the boat launch, Campbell pointed to a number of new initiatives including the possibility of a Cape John Marathon. The society is also going to strongly promote the River John Film Festival and encourage all communities and businesses along the north shore to get involved. He also encourages residents to get involved in the society. "We're as strong and creative as our volunteer base. Our meetings are open and everyone is welcome."



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

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



Congratulations River John on the launch of the "Pioneer" ... what a great way to keep our residents up to date on what is going on in our community ... and what a great way to let our visitors know how active our community is.

Wishing you much success.

Ronald Baillie, Warden
Municipality of the County of Pictou

The Pioneer: 135 years ago

Some of you may be wondering where the Pioneer newspaper got its name. It is actually the resurrection of our local Pioneer newspaper from 1879. When you visit the River John Museum you will find a photocopy of it on display along with many other treasured bits of our heritage. Then the Pioneer was a weekly paper. It had local news and news from around the world. For example, in the January 23, 1879 paper the following stories could be found:

- During 1878 two attempts have been made on the life of the Emperor of Germany. King Alphonso of Spain and Prince Humbert of Italy have also been attacked and a threat has been made on the life of the Queen.
- Mr. James Kerr died very suddenly in Chatham NB on Sunday last. He had complained of a pain in his

head during the morning and after dinner sent for a doctor, to whom he said, "Whatever you are going to do, you better do it immediately" and with these words on his lips fell forward and died.

- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in the Kirk on Sabbath first, the Rev. A. W. Herdman assisting. The usual service was held today (Thursday), there will be services on Saturday and Monday, but no Prayer-meeting on Friday evening.

And what sort of goods did the drug store in River John sell in 1879 ... Patent Medicines, Fancy Goods, White Sugar, Candied Lemon and Orange Peel Gelatine. You could also buy the Pioneer newspaper for 50 cents ... for a year's subscription. Today, it's free ... we've come a long way.



River John Consolidated School



Heritage Fair 2014:
Another Walk Through Our History
By Julie Cameron, Skye Redmond, Olivia Pretty, Olivia O'Brien, Elizabeth Heighton and Adam Langille.

On Monday, April 14th and Tuesday, April 15th, the students from Grades 4-9 participated in their annual school Heritage Fair, with many different projects on people, places, animals and more. On Monday, grades 4-6 got judged and grade fours got to experience their first Heritage Fair ever! On Tuesday, the grade 7-9 students got judged. This year's Fair was phenomenal! There were tons of very well done project topics: Camp Rankin, Look How Far We've Come with Diabetes, Cape John, Caribou Island Lighthouse, Mary Ellen Spook, 4-H and many more.

This event is always a great opportunity for not only the students to learn, but also teachers, parents and community members that were able to view the projects Tuesday night.

"I enjoyed learning about my topic," said Skye Redmond. Her project was about Mary Ellen Spook and the

Spook House. "I was ecstatic about seeing everyone's interest in their topics." This year is Skye's final Heritage Fair project at RJCS. "I'm disappointed it's my last year. I'm going to miss Heritage Fair."

"The topics were really well done and very interesting," according to Julie Cameron. "It is always neat to explore your own heritage - or someone else's. You really learn something!"

Jennie MacLean said that she was nervous at first, but it turned out to be "just like a conversation in the end", as she presented her project on her family's involvement in the River John Fire Department.

After viewing the work done by the older students, Victoria Langille can't wait for next year. "Awesome projects," she exclaimed. "When I go into Grade Four, I am going to do the town of River John. I'm so excited!"

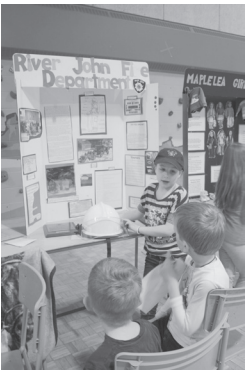
Students from both the 7/8/9 and 4/5/6 classes had the opportunity to represent RJCS at the Regional Heritage Fair at the Truro NSCC on Friday, May 2nd, and many received awards in recognition of their hard work. Final results from the Truro Fair will be included in a future issue.

In Elizabeth Heighton's words, "Everyone did an amazing job on their projects and everyone should be proud!"

The students and staff of RJCS wish to extend thanks to Mrs. Little, Mrs. Wynne and Mrs. Reid for all their hard work in helping the students prepare for the local and Regional fairs, and to all the parents who helped with the research and in transporting the presenters and their projects!



Top: RJCS student Jean Craig presenting her project on Leaf's great Johnny Bower to an interested group of Primary/One students during the Annual Heritage Fair. Her display included an autographed Bower jersey and was a popular attraction to many visitors of the event.



Right: Grade 4 student Jennie MacLean explained her project focusing on her family's long-time involvement with the RJ Fire Department. Participants were judged by community members, while their classmates had the opportunity to do peer judging as well.

Discovering Chemistry
By: Olivia Pretty, Gage MacKenzie & Patrick Heighton

On Monday April 28th, the grade 7/8/9 class travelled to Halifax to take part in the Discovery Centre's Chemistry Day at King's College. The day was a chance for students to learn and work in a proper lab and most importantly to have fun!

Students carried out experiments with pennies, by changing their colour from copper to silver with a zinc mixture and then to gold (brass actually) by heating the penny. They then mixed three chemicals together inside small clear jars that created a chemical reaction which created a mirror coating on the inside of the jar.

Next, one of the lab directors taught the students about liquid nitrogen and how it can be used to cool chemicals and objects, as well as create unique chemical reactions. The students then moved to another lab where they learned about indicators made from plants. They worked with blueberries and purple cabbage, and learned how they can help detect the pH of a solution. Another lab director created a solution in a tall beaker with various chemicals, with the addition of dry ice the reaction created a bubbling concoction that changed colour. All in all, it was an interesting day for the students, teachers, and chaperones.

Thank you so much to all our drivers and chaperones for making this possible!



Left: Grade 9 student Olivia Pretty demonstrated her results of a chemical reaction, as RJCS students took part in the Discovery Center's Chemistry Day at King's College.



Top: " RJCS Grade 7 students Parker Keatley and Ryan Bezanson observed an experiment with pennies and zinc, during the Discovery Center's Chemistry Day at King's College.

A Day With Our Resident Author

May 22, 2014 was a deee-light-ful, dee-dragon-dee-licious day at RJCS with our resident author, Sheree Fitch. We wore our pajamas to school and carried dragon masks in the theme of her book Sleeping Dragons All Around. Our day started with Sheree reading two of her best selling children's books Sleeping Dragons All Around and Mable Murple. Sheree also took the time to share some of her inspiration behind these books. The music classes shared their song Ed the Invisible Dragon, which everyone enjoyed.

Each class had an hour with Sheree to talk about literature and to create some poetry. The P/1 class heard a few more of her stories and poems and the students shared a book they wrote and illustrated called Callissa and the Friend. The 2/3 class wrote a poem with

Sheree about what they loved in their lives. The 4/5/6 class shared some of their tongue twisting poetry with Sheree and had some great discussions. The 7/8/9 class learned about the fascinating history behind her novel The Gravesavers and talked to Sheree about some of her more recent experiences. Sheree's energy and openness helped inspire creativity and motivation for our students to read and write.

Elizabeth Heighton, a grade 7 student, said, "Our time with Sheree was very interesting and I learned a lot. I look forward to reading The Gravesavers someday."

Logan Munro summed up the thoughts of many students and staff very well when he said, "The best day ever!"

At the end of the day, we had some of the students share their poetry and the Leadership Team presented Sheree with a token of our appreciation in the form of a picture of our students dressed as sleeping dragons, and a school mug. As Sheree Fitch says, "As long as we have stories, we will never be alone." Sheree and all of her creations will always keep us company and our minds inspired!





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Fire Spook
Monica Graham
History | \$15.95



I'm Movin' On
Vernon Oickle
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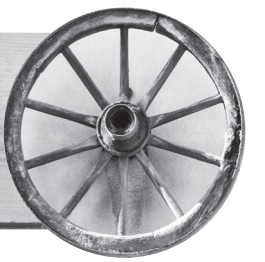


Singily Skipping Along
Written by Sheree Fitch
Artwork by Deanne Fitzpatrick
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Flight of the Griffons
Kate Inglis
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Great local reads for under \$20



Hodson headlines

Hodson may be a small population of BOK1N0 but it seems to be growing in numbers . There are a number of children in the area and if you add in all the extra wildlife this year, we are downright booming!

I'm not sure if River John itself is the same, but there seems to be an abundance of rabbits, partridge and deer. There are also a few bears lurking around the garbage bins.

If you are looking for a small hobby farm, there is one for sale in the Hodson Hollow, listed with Sunrise Brokerage & Sales Ltd.

To report any news, announcements or events for the Hodson area, please send them in for the next issue of the Pioneer at RJCAS.PIONEER@gmail.com.

How Welsford got its name

Welsford was known in the early days as River John Village In 1858, the name was changed in honour of Col. Augustus Frederick Welsford. Born in Windsor Nova Scotia in 1811, Col. Welsford was killed while leading a charge during the battle of Redan (1855) during the Crimean war at the Siege of Sevastopol. One of most famous people of that war was English nurse Florence Nightingale. The Welsford-Parker Monument in the Old Burial Ground in Halifax is also in honor of Col. Welsford .The only monument to the Crimean war in North America. A county militia known as the Welsford Rangers existed in the River John area from 1860-1865. There were 51 members including Ship builder Capt. James Kitchen.

Cape John wakes up to Summer

Take the 8 km drive down the Cape, no matter the time of day or the weather, and you're in for a surprise. If you're an early riser, you'll see sleepy-eyed fishermen going out to sea at 5 a.m. every morning, to make their lobster catches.

A little later in the day, watch out for highway crews preparing to resurface our road. Be sure to wave to the summer residents of over 100 cottages who are returning to paint, build decks or just sit in the sun. Even the beach glass collectors are back on the job on Murphys, Prettys, Mittons, Megs and Skinners.

Even after the long winter, the cliffs, beaches and ocean are still here, waiting here to enchant you. Come on down.



Lobster boats tied up at the Cape John Wharf at the end of the day.

River John and Area Historical Society

During the River John Bicentennial celebrations in 1985, historical information and items of interest were displayed at the IOOF Hall. This display was the beginning of what has become an annual exhibit. The foyer at River John Consolidated School was also a location utilized by area residents to display information and artifacts. Former members of the Congregation of Disciples of the Church of Christ, Erma Roberts, Edith Roberts and the late Alice Roberts, generously donated the former church building to the River John and Area Historical Society. Their generous gift made it possible to have an annual display of historical information and artifacts at a permanent location.

A group of interested area residents held meetings and paid a membership fee, to form a society and society by-laws were established. The late Maurice Holmes, Janice Murray-Gill and Raymond Thompson were knowledgeable about the history of River John, and keenly interested in the preservation of the heritage of the area. The interest and dedication of these individuals constituted the foundation of the River John and Area Historical Society. The Society had an active executive, who applied for municipal, provincial and federal grants, in order to hire a seasonal student dis-

play coordinator and to cover the costs of building and yard maintenance. A number of local students have had employment at the Museum during its 20 years of operation. As well, a Visitor Information Centre, operated by the provincial government, is located in the building.

The River John and Area Historical Society has had a re-birth of sorts. We have had several monthly meetings, with new members joining the society and we have nominated a new executive. As well, we have hired a student to coordinate the display of historical information and artifacts. We are very pleased to be hosting Terry Punch, who is a well-known genealogist, at the River John Consolidated School Library, on Thursday, July 24, from 1:30 until 3:30. Mr. Punch will be speaking about the Montbeliard Immigration to Nova Scotia, 1749-1752, and he will have copies of his book for sale (\$22.00).

Are you interested in heritage, traditions and customs? Would you like to hear more about the history of River John? If you have answered yes, join other interested folks at the monthly meetings of the River John and Area Historical Society! The Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the River John Consolidated School and new members are always welcome.

Fishermen need a fairer price

Lobster fishermen in Area 26a-1, which stretches from Chance Harbour to Barrachois, set their traps on April 30th, 2014. Catches were good along most of the shore and the price was reasonable, with fisherman receiving \$5.00/lb for markets and \$4.50/lb for canners at the beginning of the season. A few days after Mother's Day, only 2 weeks into the season, prices dropped 75 cents per pound.

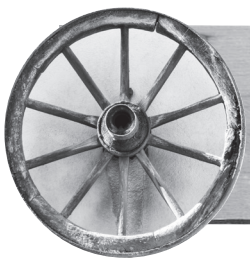
As I write this article, we are a little past the halfway point of our short two month season. Alan Jackson once said in a song that, "too much of a good thing is a good thing". It would appear Mr. Jackson never had to deal with a large quantity of lobsters and no market for them. That is the situation right now with storage for live lobster at capacity and buyers and processors unable to move them. The majority of buyers in the area didn't buy lobster yesterday, June 3, 2014, but resumed today, many imposing restrictions on fishermen, either by size or volume.

To add insult to injury, at least one buyer dropped their price yet again today, leaving it at \$3.75 and \$3.25 for markets and canners, respectively. This leaves many fishermen in a state of uncertainty, wondering how the remainder of the season will play out. One thing is certain, things must change to ensure there is a viable future in this industry.

School board continues to amaze

On June 11, the Chignecto Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) decided not to provide schools in Maitland, Wentworth and River John with an additional year to prepare their business cases for a "Hub" model to help offset deficits that all three schools are running. The Ministry of Education is developing the criteria that would allow schools to be used to generate rental income from appropriate businesses and organizations. Those criteria are expected to be made public in September. The three communities that are at risk of

having their schools closed were supposed to have two years to prepare their business cases. They have been stymied by a lack of timely information such as the schools' detailed operating costs. In the absence of provincial criteria it has also been a challenge to develop a vision for what a school hub would look like. Minister Casey asked the CCRSB for a year extension. That decision has been postponed until March, 2015 - three months before the schools are slated to close.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Beer review



Broadly speaking an India Pale Ale is a style of beer that is generally hoppy (highlighting the distinctive flavour that hops give to the recipe of that style of beer). Its name derives from the popularity of this type of beer that was shipped to India from England in the early half of the nineteenth century. Beer, as with most things integral to the human race, is susceptible to fashion. Craft or artisanal (small batch) breweries are in great favour in recent times and one of the latest to set up in Nova Scotia to great acclaim is Uncle Leo's in Lyon's Brook.

I had the pleasure of trying out their IPA, and you should too. This is not a bland or light beer. For me, that is a positive trait. Artisanal beers have personality and this is quite the lively character.

The colour gives off a burnt orange hue. The nose shows vibrant cherry, apricot and citrus aromas. I was impressed with the lively and relentless fizz in the glass. In the mouth it shows a pleasurable creamy body. It is clean, crisp, and finishes dry with the typical hoppy bitterness on the back palate that fans find thirst quenching. I would recommend this as an excellent beverage to be enjoyed on its own or with some cajun inspired food, curry, or spicy bbq fare ... like you would get from Jo Dearing's in River John. Uncle Leo's products are to be found on site at the brewery or at any of the private wine shops in Halifax. Not so much at your local NSLC, unless you pester them to the breaking point...that's a whole other topic for another time.

Craig Campbell is a certified sommelier and is Retail Manager at Gaspereau Winery. The Pioneer is hoping to convince him to hold wine and beer tastings throughout the year in River John where he has family.

A market to call our own

Because we live in rural Nova Scotia, few of us are far removed from farms. Until recently however, we've been more than a stone's throw from a farmer's market. There are farmer's markets in New Glasgow, Pictou, Truro and Tatamagouche – all just far enough away to know they're not ours. A year ago, we got our own! The River John Farmer's Market opened at Lismore Sheep Farm and it was a huge success.

Now it's open again and celebrating its first anniversary. Last year it had an exceptional mix of vendors. Most will be back. Like last year, there will be seasonal vegetables and fruit of all types. There will be mushrooms, tea & coffee, bread, cookies, eggs and the best lemon meringue pie in the country (some would say on Earth). There are jams, jellies, honey and pickles and there is ground Highland beef and lamb for sale. While you browse you can listen to live music that ranges from bluegrass and country to fiddle and bagpipes. You can also pick up an original painting or print by local artists. If you're peckish, the Crawfords, who run Lismore Sheep Farm, are always barbecuing lamb sausages.

Derek Andrews will be back with his lathe demonstrating how to make the most gorgeous wooden bowls. The kids can go on hayrides or pet the lambs in the barn. And then there is a whole building dedicated to the kinds of functional crafts we all need, from woolen blankets to pillows and felted hats.

This market belongs to all of us, so we've all earned an extended birthday party, every Sunday from 10am to 2pm.

Skills inventory and asset mapping

The Pioneer would like your help over the coming year in conducting a skills inventory and asset map. Over the next four issues of the Pioneer, we will be asking residents to provide information about their community.

- In the Pioneer's September issue, we'll want your help in identifying our human assets. What skills are in our community that could be passed along to others. We'll look at how courses can be developed and offered by locals to locals. What courses would you take, if offered? What courses would you consider offering, if you had support?
- In the December issue, we'll be asking about available supports for daycare, transit, literacy, early childhood education, senior supports, mental health, nutrition and social clubs.
- In the April issue, we'll be focused on supports for business, innovation, marketing, human resources and online services. How diversified is our rural economy? How easy is it to start a business? What is the state of farming, fishing and forestry?
- In our anniversary issue next July, we'll be asking about physical assets such as schools, wharves, community halls, recreation centres, trails, beaches, parks, libraries, churches, rivers, wetlands and roads. We'll want your help in identifying what's in your area and what isn't.

You'll be able to provide your feedback by mail or by filling out a short online questionnaire. We will also look at sponsoring town hall meetings to allow you to discuss where you think the community should focus its efforts.

We hope you'll join us in connecting the dots that make up our community networks.

*Come to River John on a Sunday.
Sundays are Market days.*



*Beginning June 29TH
10 am – 2 pm Every Sunday*

- Local Produce • Local Beef & Lamb
- Baking • Artisans • Live music • BBQ
- FREE Wagon Rides hosted by Lismore Sheep Farm



1389 Louisville Road River John, NS
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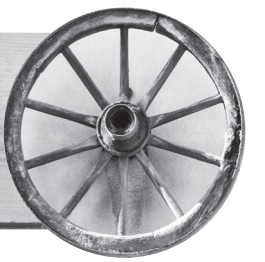
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Thursday and Sunday 4-11
Friday and Saturday 4-12

SUMMER HOURS
Wed, Thurs and Sun 4-11
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“Pretty” by Ainsley Cameron

The first time I became aware of my body I was ten.
Standing in front of the mirror, pinching my stomach,
breathing in.
I smiled in self-satisfaction when my mother, tall and thin,
told me that I was pretty.
And from then on in, it was feeling guilty when cake tasted
like heaven,
a champion in self-loathing, I was only in grade seven.
The mangled pieces of my gangly frame never fit in place,
the best compliment I could receive was that I had a pretty
face.
What happened when we played hopscotch?
now we measure our worth in pounds dropped.
Some girls would kill for a gap between their thighs,
but what they don’t realize is that they’re already dying on
the inside.
Women, girls, we must empower each other.
Be happy, look good for yourself, not a brother.
There is more to a person than a size or a weight;
stop being ashamed for that second piece of cake.
When our girls grow up in a society of double-edged
swords,
when our standard of beauty is defined by a society that
wants us to buy more,
don’t tell a girl she is pretty.
Tell her she’s pretty brilliant, pretty educated,
we are building the Margaret Atwoods and Michelle
Obamas of the next generation,
And that is pretty amazing.

Read By The Sea (including Linda Little’s Book-Grist)

River John’s Linda Little is a woman of vision and a woman of many talents. Teacher, organic farmer, actor, activist, writing mentor, engaged community member, raiser of pigs and hens, ice cream maker, fiddlehead picker, partner of Joel, reliable neighbour and friend to many---she’s also one of the original founders of Read by the Sea, now one the most respected summer literary festivals in Canada. The commitment and hard work of all of the festival’s founders has been worthwhile. The village of River John is now firmly planted on the literary map of Canada. Entire book clubs and readers plan their vacation around the Read by the Sea festival held this year on July 12th. Over the past 15 years many of Canada’s literary luminaries have appeared on the Read by the Sea stage. No wonder. It’s a rare and lovely space. Unique. Local residents, summer vacationers and “come from aways for a day” gather at the River John Legion Gardens. When the sun shines down, authors read beneath the gazebo to an audience of appreciative bibliophiles. Settled into lawn chairs or stretched out on quilts, the listeners enjoy interviews, poetry, music, lively conversation, and just being in community with others to celebrate the writing process, books and their creators. It’s a day where words swirl in the summer breeze and words do what words can do: touch us, change us, maybe even sting, or wake us up, but ultimately transport us to other worlds. When we come back from those worlds, we may know a little more about what it means to be human.

Linda Little’s latest novel, *Grist*, does all of this and more. Set in North shore Nova Scotia over one hundred years ago, Little has created a world that is immediately gripping and historically authentic.

Penelope McCabe is a spinster schoolteacher, “a horse of a girl,” who marries miller Ewan MacLaughlin and goes off to make a home and a life. She becomes more workhorse than cherished wife, however, tethered to both the mill and the man. Loneliness, silent endurance and tragedy mark her life, yet--- and this is Little’s gift ---the book is an engrossing read, a literary page turner and Penelope is an unforgettable character. Little explains how she discovered her character:

The main character, Penelope, came out through the walls at the Balmoral Grist Mill in Colchester County, in northern Nova Scotia. I spent eight seasons working at the grist mill as a tour guide and I had many hours to imagine the stories that could have played out there. Balmoral was the last commercially operating mill of its type in Nova Scotia. It was still running as a business in the 1950s despite being an essentially nineteenth century enterprise. How did the last miller maintain a living, I asked? His wife was a schoolteacher. Of course! Today in rural Canada we know the pervasiveness and importance of the off-farm job. How many of today’s small farms are supported by the professional salaries of nurses and teachers? It occurred to me that if a woman had been required to work in her husband’s mill this labour would have left no historical record. If the story were not passed down (and it may not have been spoken of because of shame and embarrassment) all traces of this labour would be erased. I created this story from this possibility.

Although Little is already the award-winning writer of short stories and two novels and her last novel *Scotch River* won the Thomas Raddall Award for fiction, the writing of *Grist* wasn’t quick or easy:

This book was eight years in the making. This is an inordinately long time. I struggled with the shape of the story, the voice, and the point of view. However, in the end, I’m glad I persisted. I have been both surprised and delighted by the strong emotional reactions readers have had to this book.

In *Grist*, Linda’s prose is lyrical yet sparse, every

word matters. The microscopic truthfulness in specifics from the grind of domesticity to the grist of the mill is reason enough to fall under the spell of this tale. There is an epic quality to this book and mythological layers in the arc of Penelope’s life.

Little’s masterful storytelling is in every well-constructed sentence. At the beginning of Chapter Four, for example, she reveals character, establishes the passage of time, creates reading pace and 19th century decorum.



Linda Little, in character as Penelope, reading from her novel *Grist* at Balmoral Mill on June 22.

A year and half has passed since our marriage and still no sign of a child. A full journey round the sun and more--- two springs, two summers and soon two harvests. I counselled patience for myself but this advice grew increasingly difficult to bear.

Although not overt or didactic, one of this novel’s themes is the need to be heard, to break silence, to tell stories. Little says “the question of interpreting silence” is a theme in all her novels.

In our culture silence is seen very differently for men and women. We have the notion of “the strong, silent type” but this idea is attached to men—to powerful, often contextually moral men. A silent woman simply disappears. Silence is forced upon my protagonist, Penelope, because she has no “listener.” Her husband will not hear her in either a literal or figurative sense. Her position in the community is defined by her roles at home. She is cut off at all paths. Looking at the position of women 100 years ago offers us enough distance to see how completely we can silence wide segments of our population by simply turning a deaf ear and diverting our attention.

A searing and powerful portrait of maternal love, through Penelope’s dignified telling and resilient spirit, we meet a woman whose response to loss, loneliness and silence is to connect and create. “This is the story of how you were loved,” Penelope tells her granddaughter.

In the end, it is love that infuses this hauntingly beautiful book.

Linda Little will be one of many volunteers again at the Read by Sea’s 15th Anniversary Festival. This year’s theme is East Meets West and six award-winning authors from across Canada will be featured. Musician Doris Mason will provide entertainment at lunch. Books (*Grist* included) will be available for purchase. Little and all the authors will be available to autograph their books. Personalized books make great gifts and are wonderful keepsakes from what will be another memorable Read by the Sea celebration.

Bringing Canada’s Finest Writers to Nova Scotia’s North Shore



EAST MEETS WEST

WEST:	EAST:
Guy Vanderhaeghe	Sylvia Hamilton
Sharon Butala	Russell Wangersky
Steven Galloway	Frank MacDonald

SATURDAY JULY 12, 2014

11am - 3:30pm LEGION GARDENS, RIVER JOHN, NS – RAIN VENUE: RIVER JOHN SCHOOL

www.readbythesea.ca

Read by the Sea Schedule

- 11:00 a.m. Western Stage with readings by Guy Vanderhaeghe, Sharon Butala, Steven Galloway. Discussion follows, moderated by Shandi Mitchell.
- 12:30 p.m. Music with Doris Mason, lunch in the park.
- 1:30 p.m. Eastern Stage with readings by Sylvia Hamilton, Russell Wangersky, Frank MacDonald. Discussion moderated by Sue Goyette.
- 3:00 p.m. East Meets West: a conversation with the authors moderated by Alexander MacLeod.

Rolling out the red carpet

When you think of film festivals, you think Sundance, Cannes, Venice ... what about River John and Toney River? If Stuart Cresswell and Troy Greencorn get their way, the North Shore is going to be rolling out the red carpet to an international film festival in 2015.

Cresswell is the owner of Simple Films based in River John. His 2010 film "Broken" screened at the Schull Festival in Ireland. He told the Pioneer that "I was so impressed by the way the entire village - a village with no cinema - threw themselves completely into the film festival. The little village of Schull now hosts one of the best annual film festivals anywhere. I thought that River John should be able to do the same sort of thing."

Enter Troy Greencorn, whose managerial credits include the deCoste Centre, StanFest Folk Festival and the East Coast Music Awards. Cresswell and Greencorn formed a steering committee to explore what a



Stuart Cresswell (L) and Troy Greencorn (R) going over details of Sunrise International Film Festival

north shore film festival would look like and they've been really pleased with what they found. "The level of community support for the idea has been great," Cresswell notes as he and Greencorn prepare for the first festival which will take place in 2015 in either May or September.

The festival will be based in River John, but it will use venues along the North Shore from Pictou to Pugwash. Greencorn will be in charge of the festival program and categories, which will be fairly open initially, but there will be a category for films made on the North Shore.

The festival will put out an international call for films shortly. Cresswell and Greencorn are keen to speak to anyone who has a venue that could be suitable for screening films. Depending on the venue, the event could include: Meet the filmmaker, Q&As, seminars and workshops. There will also be hands-on training opportunities guided by professionals. They also need to know about the available accommodations along the north shore. And like all film festivals, they need an army of volunteers. Think you can help?

Contact:
Sunrise Film Festival
2718 River John Station Road,
River John, Nova Scotia, B0K 1N0
T: 902-701-2483
e: festival@simple-films.com

Your free public library!

Wireless Hotspots & free public internet access, meeting rooms, local history information & much more!
...Books, eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines...

Antigonish ... 863-8233 New Glasgow ... 752-8233 Pictou ... 485-5021
River John ... 351-2599 Stellarton ... 755-1638 Trenton ... 752-5181 www.parl.ns.ca
Westville ... 396-5022 (902) 755-6031
1(866)779-7761

Landfill vouchers

Residential homeowners in the Municipality are eligible to receive 2 vouchers to deposit garbage at the Mount William Landfill Site free of charge. Vouchers are available at the Municipal Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive., Pictou, or by calling 485-4311 or 752-1530.

The vouchers will allow 2 free deposits at the landfill site any time between May and October. A weight restriction of 1,000 lbs of garbage per voucher will be enforced and all normal landfill regulations will apply to voucher holders.

Writing On Fire

River John Consolidated School was hub and host again this year to the very successful WRITING ON FIRE, writing workshops and literary Cafe for North Shore youth.



Helen Castonguay in RJSC library welcoming and setting up the day.

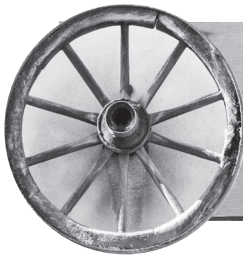
Professional Writers from across the province came to work with North Shore students.



Left to Right : James Leck, Keith Mullins, Sheree Fitch, Sylvia Gunnery, Don Acker, Catherine Martin, El Jones.

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CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

DRIVERS to help with Meals on Wheels.
Contact Joanne
351-2143
bellwilk@hotmail.ca

LIFE WRITING CLASSES

Adult evening classes with Sheree Fitch. Thursdays from 7pm-9pm.
September 18 to October 9. River John Consolidated School Library. \$80 registration fee. Register by September 5. Call 351-3285

TERRY PUNCH

River John Festival Days presents Terry Punch, Genealogist at the River John Consolidated School Library. July 24 (1:30-3:30). He will have copies of his book "Montbeliard Immigration to Nova Scotia" for sale (+190 pages \$22.00)

STRAWBERRY TEA

This year's Strawberry Tea will be held at St. George's church on Monday, July 21, 2014, from 1 - 3 PM. COST IS \$5.00

WANTED

SEAWEED needed for a large garden. 2-3 pickup trucks would be enough. Price negotiable. Contact Rob 351-1476.

WANT TO GET FIT?

Come exercise with us. Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am there is an exercise class held in the Gym of the River John School. The cost is \$1.00 per class and they are one hour in duration. Hope to see you there.

If you have comments on the Pioneer or would like to advertise in it, you can mail us at: Letters to the editor, Box 124, River John NS B0K 1N0 Or you can email us at: RJCAS.PIONEER@gmail.com or rjcas.ads@gmail.com

RIVER JOHN DOES
IT AGAIN!

Festival Days schedule of events
Friday July 18 to Saturday July 26, 2014
(NOTE: In case of rain, all outdoor events will use the Fire Hall)

Yup, River John does it again! For the last 28 years the people of River John have been putting on a schedule of fun events for the whole community, right in the middle of the summer! As if the scenery, beaches, suppers, and friendly folks that happen all the time weren't enough, River John Festival Days offers northern Nova Scotia another great reason to visit us this summer.

If you like meeting new people, great music, good food, and all kinds of crazy fun, then be sure to mark these dates: Friday, July 18 to Saturday, July 26.

Sharpen your magic wands and brush off your wizard hats, because this Festival is going to be bigger and better than ever. You can find detailed information on our Facebook site, River John Festival Days, or the website www.riverjohn.com.

Our schedule is now being finalized, but it looks like the most popular events are back. The Lobster Crate Run, Kayak Festival, music on the Veranda, Run By the Sea, Dances, Breakfasts and Lawnmower Races. Don't forget the events for the kids, like the Children's Parade, Drive In Theatres, Cup Cake Decorating, and the Scrabble Walk. New events include the Antique Car Show, Beach Rock Sculptures and Scavenger Hunts. There's lots to see and do at this year's River John Festival Days.



Piper and Drummer from the Heatherbell Pipe and Drums entertaining the crowd during 2013 Festival Days Breakfast.

Friday (July 18)
6:00pm: Ball tournament (start)
Saturday (July 19)
9:00am-dark: Ball tournament (continued)
12:00-2:00pm: Fire Dept. Lobster Dinner
Sunday (July 20)
9:00am: Ball tournament (continued)
10:00am-2:00pm River John Farmers Market
11:00am: Church Service - Salem United
12:00pm: Festival Lunch @ Legion (\$5)
6:00pm: Children's parade / Family BBQ (Lion's Club)
7:00pm-9:00pm: Adult scavenger hunt
7:00pm: Music fest / Gospel sing @ Salem United
9:00pm: Drive-in Theatre @ Veranda (Free)
Monday (July 21)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by the Trail (4H Club @ Lion's)
1:00-4:30pm: 4H Achievement Day @ Melville-Seafoam
2:00pm: Strawberry tea @ Presbyterian Church
7:00pm: Entertainment on Veranda with Addison Locke
7:00pm: Cribbage @ Fire Hall – Winner takes all
Tuesday (July 22)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by the Trail (4H Club @ Lion's)
1:00-4:00pm: Picnic and Rock sculpture @ Skinners
4:00-9:00pm: Ball Hockey Tournament @ School
4-6pm (under 13), 7-9pm (13 and older)
6:00-7:00pm: Open House @ Squire Hill Stables
7:00pm: Fiddling contest @ Fire Hall
7:00pm: Entertainment on Veranda – Local Jam Groups
Wednesday (July 23)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by Salem Stewards @ Lion's
Sausage and eggs
1:00-4:00pm: Washer toss – RJ Legion
6:00-8:00pm: Thursday Night Players – Lion's Veranda
6:30pm: Old timer's softball – Ball field
7:00pm: Trivia Night @ Legion (19+)
Thursday (July 24)
(Piper in attendance morning of Thursday-Saturday)
1:30-3:30 pm: presenting Terry Punch - Genealogist at the River John Consolidated School Library

6:00-10:00am: Morning show with Ann & Trevor (CKEC)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by Oddfellows/Rebeccas
9:00-11:00am: Children's Cup Cake Decorating@ Simpson's Furniture Store - Prizes
9:00am-5:00pm: Quilt Fair
9:00-11:00am: River John "Run by the Sea"
11:30am: UCW Soup Luncheon @ Salem Church Hall
1:30-3:30pm: Historical Presentation Terry Punch @ School
2:00-5:00pm: Warden's tea & cake / Art Exhibit @ Fire Hall
2:00-5:00pm: Artisans / Photography @ Fire Hall
6:00-7:00pm: Scavenger hunt
7:00pm: Legion Bingo
7:00pm: Entertainment on Veranda – Route 6
7:00pm: Darts at the Fire Hall (19+)
Friday (July 25)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by Toney River Community Hall @ Lions
Ham and eggs
9:00am-5:00pm: Quilt Fair
1:00pm: West Branch UCW Pie Sale @ Bissell Park
6:30pm: Scrabble walk – Lion's Veranda
8:00pm: Lawnmower races @ ball park
9:00pm-1:00am: Over 40 Dance (with Derailed) @ Fire Hall
Saturday (July 26)
6:45-10:30am: Breakfast by the Lions @ Lions
8:00-11:00am: Mile Long Yard Sale
9:00am-3:30pm: Quilt Fair
10:00am-2:00pm: Kayak Festival "The Bridges of River John"
10:00am-2:00pm: Lismore Sheep Farm Festival Day
11:00am: Lobster dinner @ Salem Church Hall
3:30pm: Lobster Crate Run @ Bissel Park Waterfront
1:00-4:30pm: Antique Car Show @ School
TBA: Lucky Duck Race on the River
2:30pm: Meat roll @ Legion
6:30pm: Street Parade (6pm line up)
7:30-9:00pm: entertainment on Veranda - TNT Jam Group
9:45pm: Fireworks (Sunset)
10:15pm-1:00am: Festival Dance (DJ) @ Fire Hall

Pioneer Contributors:

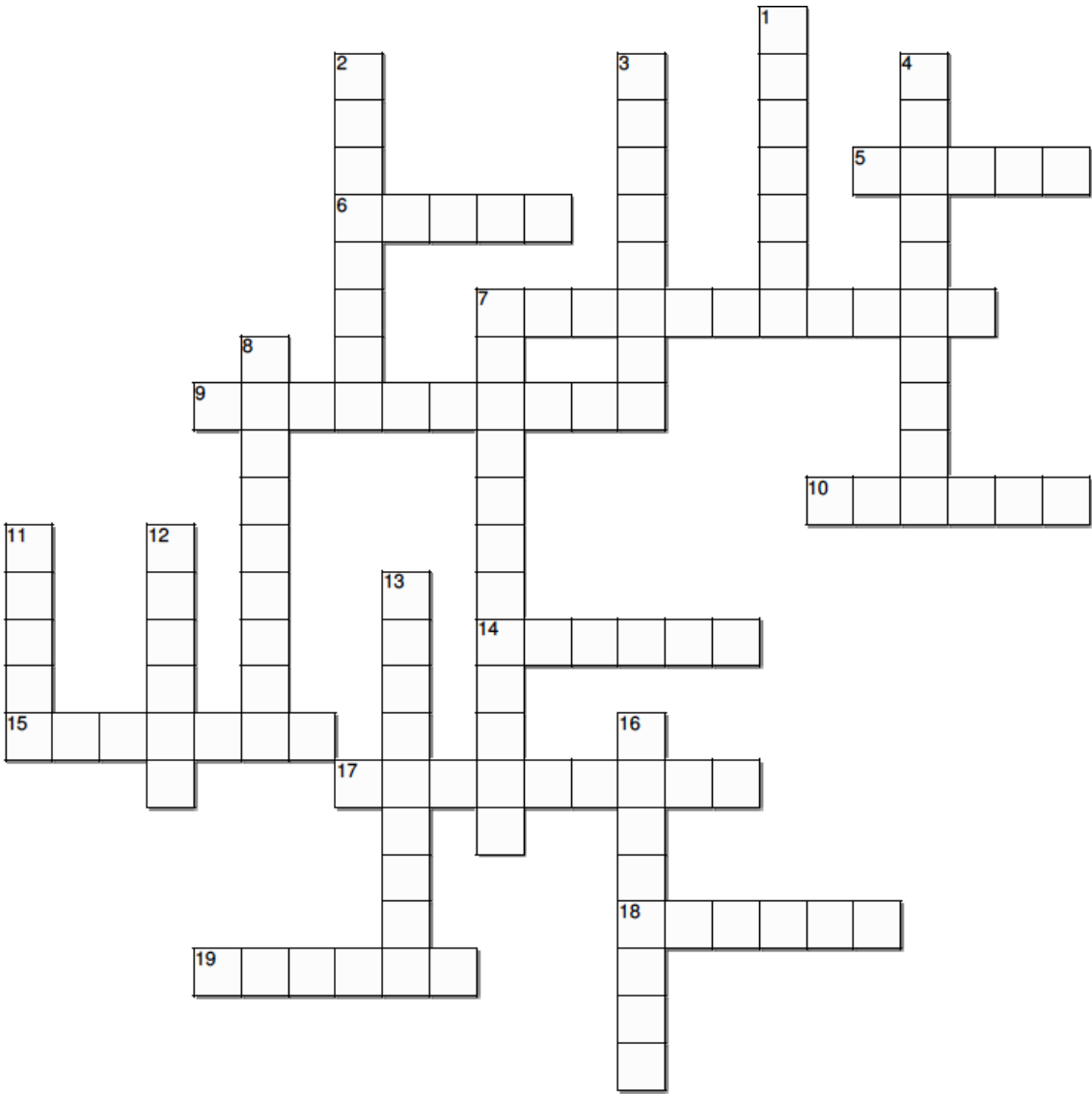
Bigney – Sheree Fitch
Cape John – Chris Giles
East Branch – TBD
Hedgeville – TBD
Hodson – Jill Munro
Louisville – TBD
Marshville – Rob Assels
Melville – TBD
River John - Linda Thompson-Reid
Seafoam – TBD
Toney River – Carolyn Elliott
Welsford – Dan Ferguson

Agriculture – TBD
Fisheries – Robert Heighton
Forestry – TBD

River John Consolidated School
Julie Cameron, Elizabeth Heighton, Patrick Heighton,
Adam Langille, Gage MacKenzie, Olivia O'Brien,
Olivia Pretty and Skye Redmond

Proof reading - Marg Jones
Publisher: RJCAS
Printer: Advocate Printing & Publishing

To get involved, contact Rob Assels
351-1476
r.assels@malatest.com



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

- 5. Vessel now part of festival (5)
- 6. What Seafoam used to export (5)
- 7. Legion garden (11)
- 9. Seafoam cove and former wharf (10)
- 10. Former use of Seafoam community hall (6)
- 14. Duncan Johnson was a resident in 1806 (6)
- 15. Nevin Settlement (7)
- 17. Early name for the river (9)
- 18. Big local author? (6)
- 19. Original bridge over the River John (6)

Down

- 1. Largest boat launched locally (7)
- 2. Formerly known as River John Village (8)
- 3. Melville's cove (8)
- 4. 1800's ride from River John to Pictou (10)
- 7. Literary extravaganza (4,2,3,3)
- 8. Worst road in Atlantic Canada (4,4)
- 11. 1962 disaster for Toney River (5)
- 12. East Branch campground (6)
- 13. Local folklorist (9)
- 16. Length of yard sale (4,4)

Fill out the crossword and mail it to The Pioneer, Box 124, River John, B0K 1N0. The first correctly answered puzzle will receive a signed copy of Linda Little's book, Grist.