



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

Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award

The Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor announced recently that River John has won the Community Spirit Award.

Past Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis established the award to raise awareness about and celebrate what it means to be a community that makes Nova Scotia a better place to live, work and play.

Our current Lieutenant Governor, His Honour, Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd) continues to use the award to recognize the many unsung heroes of Nova Scotia that, collectively, make their community a great place to live.

In mid-January of this year, Monica Graham suggested that River John should be nominated for this award and offered to help put the application together. The request went out to various organizations and individuals for stories that exemplify the community spirit within River John and the surrounding area.

Monica received responses from a number of community organizations and individuals, and then

consolidated and edited these stories to fit the format required for the award application. A total of 22 stories were condensed into less than 300 words each and submitted in a ten-page document.

On May 27th, a news release was issued by the Lieutenant Governor announcing the four Community Spirit Award winners for 2015. Along with Mabou, Spryfield and Washabuck, RIVER JOHN was recognized for its civic and community spirit and will be awarded this year's Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

The Lieutenant Governor has accepted an invitation to celebrate this achievement with the community of River John on Sunday, July 19th at the luncheon, scheduled for the River John Legion, following the ecumenical church service. He will make some remarks and formally present the award at that time.

A beautiful handcrafted, mouth-blown Nova Scotian Crystal award piece, specifically designed for River John, will be presented to the community.

It's not just a flag

In March 2015, The Honorable Peter MacKay presented Branch 108 Royal Canadian Legion with a Canadian flag which was flown on Parliament Hill in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag.

Wallace Sutherland was on parade at Parliament Hill as a member of the Canadian Guards fifty years ago in 1965 when the first Canadian flag was raised.



Left to Right : Wallace Sutherland, who served with United Nations; John Murray, Korea; Hon. Peter MacKay; Marilyn Heighton, Br. 108 Legion President; Earl Holt, WW II; Harley White, United Nations and Bosnia with NATO.

Sunrise Festival hosts da Vinci College Course

River John Consolidated School was buzzing on the weekend of 13-14 June and its interior resembled a movie set, as the first film-making workshop organized by the Sunrise Film Festival and da Vinci College took place.

Da Vinci College instructor Ashley King led the weekend and provided instruction on lenses, lighting techniques and sound recording along with the chance to get hands-on experience with some digital film-making equipment.



As part of the course, some short scenes from a script written by participant Jake Brown were filmed to provide a very real experience of being on set. Jake's film is particularly poignant as "Flowing through a Solitary Place" is a fictional short film about the fight to keep River John School open.

Sunrise Film Festival's Stuart Cresswell thought that it was ironic that a rapidly growing film festival, and a major education provider, had come together to utilize the River John School facility and provide a valuable learning experience to a number of participants, at a time when the school faces closure. "The participants were then amazed on Sunday to see how many people turned up to act in the scenes they would be filming. And the story of the film is about the very school that has enabled their learning experience, being closed down! It makes no sense."

The workshop was the first of a series planned throughout the year and marks the start of a partnership between da Vinci College and The Sunrise Film Festival. "The weekend course and the filming of Jake Brown's script, leap out as an example of partnership between educators, business and community," said Cresswell. "Everyone is now looking forward to the next workshop, planned for August."

If you would like to take part in future courses, contact The Sunrise Film Festival at: festival@simple-films.com or write to: The Sunrise Film Festival, 2718 River John Station Road, River John, Nova Scotia. B0K 1N0.



MP Peter MacKay

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

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www.petermackay.ca



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

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

Pictou West
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Ronald Baillie, Warden County of Pictou

Welcoming all to River John Festival Days!

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

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

The federal election light is green and guess who's first out of the gate?

The most significant news leading up to this fall's federal election (expected October 19th, 2015) came May 29th when longtime MP Peter MacKay announced he would not be seeking re-election, in order to spend more time with his family.

"It is going to be more important than ever for people to learn about the parties and platforms, and vote," said David Hachey, the only confirmed candidate in the riding, running for the Green Party. Hachey, who studied economics at Harvard, moved to Meadowville five years ago to start a sheep dairy.



David Hachey. Green Party candidate for Central Nova

"The current structure of our economy creates few incentives for small businesses who tread gently and try to add value to our natural resources. Instead, we subsidize large corporations who export our overexploited resources while harming the environment," Hachey said, citing the pulp mill, open pen salmon farming and pipeline projects as examples of industries that have to prove they can stand on their own and be responsible members of our human and natural communities. "Environmental costs are real costs that have to be brought into the economic

calculation, or, in the end, we lose. A smarter system would also encourage small business and rural rejuvenation."

Liberal candidate David MacLeod, who fought for 27 years in the name of Canadian democracy, announced he was leaving the race on the same day as MacKay. It has since been learned that he stepped down because of the Liberals' support of Bill C-51, which he has called "offensive."

The Liberals are currently searching for MacLeod's replacement. At the time of our print deadline, only one person has entered the race, Janet Beigneul, a freelance consultant in Antigonish.

Party organizer Fred Delorey has announced he would seek the Conservative nomination, as has retiring Pictou Academy principal Jim Ryan. Katherine Reed's name has emerged as a possible NDP candidate. They will hold their nomination vote July 26th.

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Printer: Advocate Printing & Publishing

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

Pioneer subscriptions

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

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

The Pioneer is free to all residents and businesses within the B0K 1N0 postal code.

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Friends and neighbours

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

Ann Dolan

Q: What brought you to River John?
A: I grew up in Pictou County, the eldest of seven children. My father Dr Joe MacDonald was a Doctor in Stellarton. After I graduated from St FX, I got my second degree in the University of Ottawa. I stayed in Ontario for 40 years, where I worked and met my husband (from Windsor, Ontario) and raised our family of four. All are now settled in Ontario or Quebec and I have 4 grandchildren.

I always knew that I wanted to come back home and be near the water, so in 2004, we bought a house in Skinner's Cove East. (The house was originally owned by Allan MacKenzie.) It is 2 or 3 minutes from the water. My husband Gerry, a retired engineer, died in 2009 of lung cancer, so I remain.

Q: Do you have family in the area?
A: I have a sister and a brother in Pictou County. Both are doctors. One lives in Stellarton and one lives on Roy's Island, opposite Melmerby Beach.

Q: Are you retired or working?
A: We moved here a few years after we retired.

Q: What community groups are you affiliated with since coming to River John?

A: I attend the Coffee Club, the Book Club, the River John Festival Days Planning Committee and the Lions Club. I enjoy them all.

Q: Have you joined any groups and then left them?
A: Yes, the Knitting Group. I could not keep up with the knitting!

Q: What do you love most about River John?
A: The people, the spirit, the water. Pretty much everything! The food and the music!

Q: Are you aware that River John has won the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award? (One of only four communities in Nova Scotia) Why do you think we won?

A: Yes, and we won because we deserve it! River John pulls together for everything, rain or shine. For tragedies and for celebrations!

Q: Do you have any suggestions for anything that would continue to improve your experience of living in River John?

A: I feel strongly that we should keep the school open, no matter what! If we can't do it through the official board, then we should do it voluntarily like we do everything else.

Q: What if the cost of insurance etc. was prohibitive?

A: Then we should find a way to do it creatively. How many times were we at meetings when there were offers of free labour to help repair the building? We could use creativity and not be hamstrung by intransigence and hidebound bureaucratic controls!

Q: Do you have any suggestions for what we could do to help new residents feel more welcome in the community?

A: Each person reaches out to their neighbours and to new people. I think we do a pretty good job of welcoming new people to groups and organizations. On the whole it is a very safe, peaceful community.



Get your kids in the STREAM

In the second year of its new format, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) is offering the STREAM Summer Reading Program. The theme STREAM represents 'S' for Science, 'T' for Technology, 'R' for Reading, 'E' for new Experiences, 'A' is for Arts, and 'M' is for Math. The free program, aimed for children ages five and up, travels to different library locations Tuesday – Friday, July 7 - August 21 (excluding the Natal Day holiday) offering 1 1/2 hour sessions like Slimy Science, Hogwarts Hijinks Part 2 and Minute to Win It! Kids will also enjoy new sessions like Minecraft Mania, Art Attack (which uses the 3D printer), Engineering Challenge and the World Record Challenge.

"Everyone has a different way of learning, and we try to take that into account when we're creating programming," says Kristel Fleuren-Hunter, Children's Services Librarian for Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. "The program was a big success last year, and with a few new sessions this year we hope that it will encourage families to explore arts, science, technology and much more, not only at their public library but in their whole community."

After pre-registering, children can also pick up a logbook at the library to track their learning activities throughout the seven-week program. Once their logbook is complete, they are given a chance to win two brand new bicycles donated by the Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program along with other prizes. The program provides fun learning experiences at the library for kids and for newly-hired program leaders Erika Hunter and Melanie Pos too.

"I'm excited about leading the program because it's about reading and experiencing things too, which is so important for children and the overall learning experience," says Hunter, a recent graduate of Mount Allison who will be attending the Dalhousie School of Social Work in the Fall. For Pos, going into her fourth year of studies at Acadia University, she also sees it as an opportunity to learn how to use new items, like the 3D printer and MaKey MaKey kits, incorporating them into her programming now and potentially in the future.

The STREAM summer reading program starts July 7 and is sponsored by the Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program. The program is free but pre-registration is required, since space is limited. For those who pre-register before July 10th, their name goes into a draw for a chance to win a Nova Scotia Museums Family Pass, valid for one year. The pass can be used to visit any of the 28 Nova Scotia Museum sites throughout the province. Dates and times vary for each branch, see below for dates, go to www.parl.ns.ca or call your local library to pre-register.

STREAM Summer Reading Program Timeslots:

Thursdays starting July 9

- Pictou Public Library, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Contact: (902) 485-5021 to register.
- River John Public Library, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm. Contact: (902) 351-2599 to register.

Notable quotables

"The best way to knock the chip off your neighbour's shoulder is to pat him on the back."

Author unknown

"When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people."

Abraham Joshua Heschel

"I always prefer to believe the best of everybody. It saves so much trouble."

Rudyard Kipling

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Mark Twain

"Today I bent the truth to be kind and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true."

Robert Brault

"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble."

Charles H. Spurgeon



L-R: Cohen Cameron, Justin Heighton, Alana Tattrie, Casey MacGregor, Jack Reid, and Logan Munro

Your free public library!

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Antigonish ... 863-8233 New Glasgow ... 752-8233 Pictou ... 485-5021
River John ... 351-2599 Stellarton ... 755-1638 Trenton ... 752-5181
Westville ... 396-5022



The Westerly School

Historical Fiction

by Chris Giles



From the collection of Kenneth Holmes

In 1884 I was 10 years old and in Grade 4 at the Westerly School on Cape John. My teacher was Mr. J.P. Gollan. He had been wounded as a soldier in the Red River Rebellion fourteen years ago, and now walked with a bad limp and was unfit for hard labour. He had no training to teach, but he could read and write. This was his second year at the Westerly School. He was responsible for teaching us reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as good manners, and I thought he was strict but fair. I remember he could tell lots of stories.

There were about thirty farms on the Cape Road and usually twenty to thirty children in school. Our teacher walked with us to school because he was staying at the farm next door. Kids had to walk as much as two miles from either end of the Cape. I had to be out of bed by 6:30 every day to have breakfast and then help my Grandpa with chores for a hour before heading down the road.

Of course, chores would have to be done after school too. The snow could be deep and the roads could be muddy, but the worst of it was the wind, especially for the little ones. Sometimes a parent would hitch up a buggy or a sled to give us a ride.

The post and beam school house was built in 1860 and was covered in clapboard. It was painted yellow with a brown trim and had a large sign above the door. There were two windows in the front and three large windows on each side. These were our only source of light. Behind the school was a two-room outhouse, and beside that was a wood/coal shed. The school yard in front was a place to play marbles and jacks, as well as baseball, dodge ball, shinny, hopscotch, leapfrog and tag.

Inside of the front door there were rows of hooks on the wall on both sides of the door where coats and hats were hung. The Union Jack hung in the right front corner of the room and above the chalkboard was a picture of Queen Victoria, dressed in black.

Be a Pioneer

The Pioneer newspaper is always looking for people who are interested in covering the events in the community. Articles from seniors and youth are always welcome. We particularly like articles that come with photos.

Our volunteer editorial board is holding an outdoor meeting on August 8 for a brief brain-storming session.

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

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Stagecoach

In our winter edition, volume 1, issue 3, we had a story about the Gammon Brothers Stage Coach Line. It was a conversation in 1964 with Joshua Miller age 90 at the time. The story was about his childhood memories of the stagecoach in River John.

I found the article so interesting that I was curious to learn more about the stagecoach and its history.

I did some investigating and the following information is what I found and will share with you here.

The Gammon Brothers Stagecoach as we know it, was built in 1854 by Abbot-Downing Company of New Hampshire. It was the Concord Model number 306. Hiram Hyde of Truro purchased the coach for his mail and passenger service from Halifax to Truro to Pictou.

In 1860 the stagecoach carried Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward the VII, on his royal visit to Pictou. Realizing the historical significance of this coach, William Gammon later bought it for his stagecoach line from River John to Pictou, going by the old Post Road and then to Truro.

The Burke House Hotel was the coach stop in River John. Mail bags and parcels plus passengers were loaded there. Burke's barn nearby was where the horses were stabled and goods brought in and stored.

The Stagecoach line operated until 1890 when the Shortline Railway from Oxford Junction to Pictou was completed.

The coach stayed in storage with the Gammon family until 1923 when the Pioneer Museum in Greenhill was opened. It was on loan there for many years. In 1939 the Gammons offered the coach to the dignitaries of Pictou to carry King George and Queen Elizabeth on their Royal visit but were turned down.

Some time after, the coach was on the move again to its new home in Banff Alberta. Bill Gammon's son Earl owned the Homestead Hotel and used the coach to pick up guests from the train station. It was also used for weddings and photo ops for the tourists.

In 1951, Princess Elizabeth, future Queen Elizabeth II was taken around the grounds of the Calgary Stampede in the same coach that had earlier carried her great grandfather, Prince Edward.



Princess Elizabeth at Calgary Stampede grounds - October 18, 1951

Collection of the Glenbow Archives (File No.: NA-2785-21)

[ST 7.8]

Abbot-Downing coach #306

Wells Fargo purchased the coach in 1991, restored it and it is now the centerpiece of their Portland Oregon Museum.

I spoke to Steven, curator of the museum, and he told me it is the oldest coach of a fleet of 11 that Wells Fargo owns. He said they are very proud of its history.

All from River John and area will be very welcomed to visit the museum if any should make a trip to Portland Oregon.

Daniel Ferguson

Friends and neighbours

John and Kathy Morrell



Q: Where is your cottage?
A: Marshville
Q: How long have you owned it?
A: Over 25 years; we bought it from my Aunt in 1983
Q: What attracted you to this area?
A: Kathy: I was raised in Truro and have come to this area since I was a child. My father was one of the first people to put a cottage up in the Marshville area.
Q: Where do you come here from?
A: At present we have an apartment in Halifax where John is working as a pastor. Originally we lived in Montreal where we raised our family. We have also lived in Vermont, the Middle East (Qatar), and the Caribbean. The cottage has been the constant.
Q: How long do you stay?
A: We stay from May until October. However John is still working in Halifax (as a pastor). Our weekends are Sunday afternoon until Tuesday. John takes the bus back and forth from Truro.
Q: What do you like about your cottage and/or cottage community?
A: We know everybody and have known everybody for so long. When we chose the name for the lane, we chose "Generation Lane," because the majority of the cottages were still with the original families but had passed along to the next generation. Last summer was the first time that our 8-month-old grandchild came to visit. We love our cottage; it is absolutely perfect. In 2009 when we were in Qatar, we had the old cottage torn down and a new one winterized home with a basement built on the same spot.
Q: Tell us a little about yourself?
A: We are world travellers. Kathy is a retired teacher. However in 2004 she went to Qatar to teach for the last 5 years of her career; John followed her in 2005 but then took a break from ministry. Then he took a posting in the Caribbean for 6 months. They returned in 2010 to their new cottage/house and ended up spending the winter there. It was an issue when they ran out of wood. So they posted on Facebook that they needed wood and by the time they got home there was a load already delivered. John now plans to retire in 2018.
Q: What is your favourite summertime activity?
A: John likes to do handyman stuff. There is little to do in the Halifax apartment. John also does the mowing. Kathy likes gardening and swimming.
Q: What local summer festivals and events do you like to attend?
A: River John Festival Days (In fact I post the online communications on Tourism Nova Scotia); Read by the Sea; and the Anglican Church. In fact I take the last service in July, so the minister can be on holiday. In the Fall, we time our trips back and forth from the city so we can attend the soup luncheon. The Library is huge. We have never had a TV at the cottage. When the children were smaller, we visited the Library every few days, so the kids could load upon books and games. Now our son and daughter read books to their kids. In fact, when Kathy was working on her master's, she needed a reference and could not find it in the Montreal system. She asked Margaret at the River John Library and she took the time to find the reference and emailed it to Kathy. That is service!

Thanks for sharing with our readers



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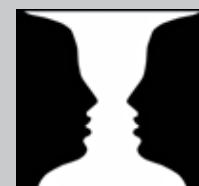
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Next issue

The Fall Issue of the Pioneer comes out September 30. We need your submissions by September 10. It will be the Sunrise Film Festival Issue, with an overrun of the publication to be distributed from Pictou to Pugwash.

If you would like a subscription to the Pioneer, please email Rob at r.assels@malatest.com. The cost is \$25 for four issues, mailed by Canada Post. An invoice will be mailed to you with your first issue. Nice birthday present for friends or family who are away and want to stay in touch.

Festival Days Photo Contest

We are offering a \$50 gift certificate for the best photo of River John's Festival Days activities. Please email us your photos with the subject line: Photo Contest. Submissions should be received by August 20 to qualify ... to give the editorial board a chance to judge them. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Photos can be colour or black and white. Photo should be sent to r.assels@malatest.com



The Sunrise Film Festival is an international film festival that will take place along the North Shore from October 7-11. It will have venues from Pictou to Pugwash, with at least three in River John, where the festival is headquartered. The festival is the brain-child of Stuart and Josephine Cresswell, whose film company, Simple Films, is based in River John.

The festival has a committee of over 15 volunteers who have been identifying venues and sponsors. They have also been charged with reviewing the films that directors from around the world have submitted. To date, over 100 directors have paid the \$25 entrance fee and submitted their film for consideration.

Films have been submitted over a range of categories including International, Young Filmmakers, Canadian, Short films and Documentaries. The final date for submission is August 20; however, committee members have been reviewing the films as they are submitted. "The first job," says Stuart Cresswell, "is to eliminate the submissions that aren't a good fit. Later, once we have a pool of high quality films, the venues will help finalize the festival offering." Venues will have different themes. For example, the River John Library will hold only short films. Others, such as the Tatamagouche Centre may focus on social justice films. "It's up to each venue," says Cresswell.



Call anytime at:
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2679 River John Stn Rd., River John

This home is a beauty you don't want to pass by. Five bedrooms, two baths, lovely manicured lot with flowers, shrubs and vegetable gardens. And a carriage house, could be used as a garage or workshop, sitting on five acres. Make an appointment to come see this lovely home!



840 Toney River Rd., Toney River

Pride of ownership! This is what comes to mind with this rural property. This immaculately kept rural property borders on a river. Metal roof, hardwood floors, a large deck overlooking beautiful landscaping and a bathroom on the main floor are only a few of the major features that come with this property. Only minutes from the ocean and public beaches.



75 Redcliff Drive, Seafoam

Ocean Front Cottage at an affordable price! This sweet two bedroom cottage fronts on the Northumberland Strait. It comes fully furnished with all appliances. The best feature of this property is the full length deck overlooking nothing but beautiful ocean. What an opportunity to start living the dream!!!



2615 River John Stn Rd., River John

Horse lovers this is the place for you! 28 acres with a fantastic horse barn and fenced fields. The house has new roof shingles and there is a garage to boot!



2673 River John Stn, Rd., River John

This little cutie shows the pride of ownership, with three bedrooms and full bath upstairs, and den or bedroom with bath downstairs, live on one floor or enjoy the entire house. Private back yard and just a few short steps to Village central!



36 Andersen's Lane, Marshville

What an affordable price for a cottage with ocean access! Give us a call to have a look at this one!!



1850 Hwy 6, River John

River Front in River John! This is an immaculate two bedroom, two bath home, nothing to do but move right in and enjoy Village life!

Other venues in River John include the Legion and Rob Assels and Lesley Longhorn's barn. "It will be a unique place to show films," says Assels. "We're planning on having seats made of stacks of straw bales." There will also be live music. Their venue will also have a craft brewery taste tasting as well with at least four different craft brewers from across Nova Scotia including Uncle Leo's and the Tatamagouche Brewing Company, which is one of the festival sponsors.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to anyone who would like to see this festival become a successful part of the North Shore tourism offering. The event is likely to attract people from the film industry from outside the area who will need food and accommodations.

The September issue of the Pioneer will be a film festival edition and include an insert of the festival's schedule, events and parties. There will be an opportunity for local businesses to have ads in the insert which will have distribution across the North Shore.

The festival committee also hopes that the communities along the shore embrace the festival and want to get involved. "We want film festival guests to fall in love with the area and want to return every year," says Cresswell.

Rural Nova Scotia: Not just another dirt road

Santina Rushton's social media campaign to bring attention to rural Nova Scotia in general and River John in particular was started on June 20, 2015 and already has 1,650 Facebook users who have "liked" the site. We're sure you'll like it too. Maybe post more photos in the River John area.



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75 Redcliff Drive, Seafoam

Ocean Front Cottage at an affordable price! This sweet two bedroom cottage fronts on the Northumberland Strait. It comes fully furnished with all appliances. The best feature of this property is the full length deck overlooking nothing but beautiful ocean. What an opportunity to start living the dream!!!



1850 Hwy 6, River John

River Front in River John! This is an immaculate two bedroom, two bath home, nothing to do but move right in and enjoy Village life!

United Church turns 90!

Salem United Church of River John celebrated the 90th Birthday of the United Church of Canada on June 10, 2015, the church bells were rung 90 times, then cake and ice cream were served to all who dropped in to join the celebration. The cake was cut by Salem members Sadie Craig and Marie Sellers.

The United Church of Canada was officially formed on June 10, 1925 formed from the Canadian Method-

ists, Congregationalists, and 70% of Canadian Presbyterian Churches.

The congregation of Salem was founded (as a Presbyterian Church) in 1808, celebrating its Bicentennial in 2008. The present church building (our third) was built in 1875. Our current minister is Reverend Christine Johnson.



Back Row. Left to Right: Della Jefferson, Ann Dolan, Susan Robinson, Jacob Leegwater, Buelah Wright, Mary Langille, Irma Legrow, Eunice Sutherland, Ethel Langille, Marie Sellers, Sadie Craig, Joan Sutherland.
Front Row, Left to right: Marie Farrell, Reverend Christine Johnson, Mary Beth Sutherland, Joan MacLeod, Lynn MacLeod.

Photo taken by Murray Legrow

Let's Talk: Community Health Board's dialogue with seniors

A group of 22 River John seniors were engaged in a conversation about what it's like to grow old in River John. The dialogue was commissioned by the Picton West Community Health Board. Here's what the board learned.

When asked what supports they access in the community, the top answers were:

- churches
- family, friends and neighbours
- drugstore & pharmacy (Fulton)
- gas & grocery (Meh's)
- school
- post office
- police
- library
- public housing

The fire department, Meals-on-Wheels, the VON foot clinic, the music jams, the Rebekahs and the RJs were also mentioned. Notice (Ms Casey) how high the school ranks for seniors.

What are the biggest barriers to their participation in community events?

- Age
- Health issues
- Lack of transportation
- Finances
- Isolation

What are the opportunities as they grow old together?

- Volunteering
- Visiting family and friends
- Showing compassion
- Sharing
- Having a little fun
- Taking one day at a time

What are you taking away from this discussion?

- Fun
- Different ideas
- Helps to chat with your peers
- Blessed to live here
- Coping skills
- Common people, common needs
- Being old can be fun
- Health is important

It would appear that our seniors very much like it here in River John, but would like us to give them a hand. No one should feel isolated. This last winter was particularly hard on seniors. We all have to take care of each other, so it should be a knee-jerk reaction that we all look around and ask if the seniors in our community would like an invitation and maybe a lift to attend an event. We also need to defend the remaining supports in our community. We need to buy local, support our library and celebrate our seniors.

Friends and neighbours

Charlie, Oliver, Stuart and Josephine Cresswell

The family moved to Welsford from the "village" of Shepshed, Leicestershire UK.



Q: What brought you to River John?

A: We decided that we wanted new challenges in our lives which were pretty comfortable. We needed to do something new and things that were important to us. Then we thought of where we would like to do that in the world. We chose Canada. Then we started a three-year process of applying for residency. We had never been here before. As part of the process we had to choose which province to live in. We chose Nova Scotia, partly because it was cheaper than BC and Ontario but that was not the only consideration. It is also closest to the UK for family to visit. Nova Scotia seemed to have the values of community and rural lifestyle that we were hankering back for. It has a slower pace of life.

Q: Has this dream been realized?

A: Absolutely 100 %

Q: Do you have any family connections in the area?

A: None at all.

Q: Are you retired or still working?

A: I am far from retired. At the rate I am going I will be 103 before I can retire! I create my own work, doing things I enjoy. My occupation is a film producer. Since moving to NS I have made 6 films and I am working on a seventh.

Q: How will the loss of the film tax credit affect your work?

A: The loss of the film Tax Credit will have an effect going forward, but we are not sure quite what that means yet and there still are some incentives; we have to learn the new framework. Some people are leaving but we are not.

Q: What do you love most about River John?

A: The "village" in which we lived in Britain was originally 8000 people, but by the time we left it had grown to 16,000! What we love about River John is the peace and quiet. We love the closeness of the natural world. All we can hear in our back garden are the sounds of nature. This is quite rare. They aren't making any more silence. (And incidentally we have toughened up to mosquito and black fly bites!)

Q: Do you have any suggestions for anything that would continue to improve your experience of being in River John?

A: What would I like to make my life perfect? Peace and quiet and the community, that's enough! What's here is really good compared to a lot of places and needs to be held onto. Yes, it is harder to establish a business. Rural areas have problems. The government needs to step up. Internet needs to be affordable and reliable. We are all consumers of energy, the internet and phone and the long distance between places makes it more expensive. The lack of competition means that costs are not driven down.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for what we could do to help new residents feel more welcome in the community?

A: A large crate of wine on my doorstep every weekend and a package of all the goodies which I miss from home, like "HobNobs" and pork pies and nice cheeses. Seriously we have felt very welcomed here and have made great friends quite quickly!

Thanks for sharing with our readers

RIVER JOHN FESTIVAL

Friday July 17
6:00 PM
Ball tournament

Saturday July 18
9:00 AM until dark
Ball tournament



Sunday July 19
9:00 AM
Ball tournament

10:00 AM -3:00 PM
Lismore Sheep Farm Festival Day
Farmer's Market, Wagon Rides
Bar-b-q, Wool Demonstration

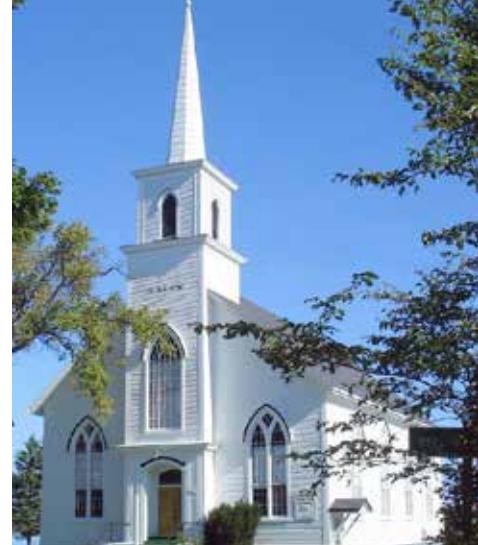
11:00 AM
Church Service
At Salem United Church

12:00 PM
Festival Lunch at
The Legion

6:00 PM
Children's parade / Family BBQ at
The Lion's Club Playground
Categories:
Storybook characters
Cartoon characters
Festival theme:
Set your sails for River John

7:00 PM
Adult Scavenger Hunt
Register in Bissell Park

7:00 PM
Gospel Sing on
The Lion's Veranda



Monday July 20
6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by
Sunrise Trail 4H Club
At Lion's
French toast, sausage (\$5 / \$3)

1:00-4:30 PM
Sunrise Trail 4H Club
Achievement Day at
Melville-Seafoam Community Hall
Hot dogs, cake, ice cream

2:00 PM
Strawberry Tea by RJ's at
Presbyterian Church

6:00 PM
Scrabble walk at
The Lion's Veranda (\$2)

7:00 PM
Entertainment - Addison Locke
The Lion's Veranda

7:00 PM
Cribbage Night at
The Fire Hall
Age 19+
\$5 per player, Teams of two
Winner takes all!



Tuesday July 21
6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by
River John 4H Club
At Lion's
Bacon, eggs and beans (\$5 / \$3)

1:00-4:00 PM
Petting Farm - Puppet Show at
The Legion

7:00 PM
Entertainment - Jam Session
The Lion's Veranda

6:30 PM
Tug of War
The Ball Field

7:00 PM
Fiddling Contest
The Fire Hall



Join us for a week of fun!

(NOTE: In case of rain, all outdoor events will be held indoors.)

FESTIVAL DAYS

Wednesday July 22

6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by
Toney River
At Lion's
Ham and eggs (\$5 / \$3)

11:30 AM
UCW Soup Luncheon at
Salem United Church

1:00-4:00 PM
Washer Toss at
River John Legion

1:00-4:00 PM
Community Picnic at
Skinners Cove (East Side)

6:00 PM
"Thursday Night Players"
The Lion's Veranda

6:30 PM
Soft ball game - East vs West
The Ball Field

7:30 PM
Trivia Night at
The Legion
Age 19+
\$20 per team, Teams of 4
Winner takes all!



Fun and entertainment

oor events will use the Fire Hall)

Thursday July 23

Piper/Drummer in attendance

6:00-10:00 AM
Morning Show with Ann and Gene
CKEC

6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by the
Oddfellows / Rebekahs
At Lion's
Ham and eggs (\$5 / \$3)

9:00-11:00 AM
Children's Cup Cake Decorating
Contest at Simpsons

9:00-11:00 AM
River John "Run by the Sea"
Walk/Run (5km/10km) 10 AM start
Registration at 86 River Road at
9AM \$5

2:00-4:00 PM
Warden's Tea / Birthday Cake / Art
Exhibit at
The Fire Hall

2:00-4:00 PM
Art artisans photography show and
sales at
The Fire Hall

6:00-7:00 PM
Children's Scavenger Hunt
Bissell Park

7:00 PM
Bingo
The Legion

7:00 PM
Entertainment - Route 6
The Lion's Veranda



Friday July 24

6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by
River John Action Society
At Lion's
Bacon, eggs and beans (\$5 / \$3)

1:00 PM
West Branch UCW Pie Sale
Bissell Park

1:00-3:00 PM
Art in the Park
Bissell Park

6:00 PM
Bed Races
Starting at the St. Georges Church
parking lot.
Teams must pre-register by calling
Joanne at 902-351-2143.
1st place = \$100
2nd place = \$50

7:00 PM
Open Mike with Dana Jefferson
The Lion's Veranda

9:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Over 40 Dance (Band)
Fire Hall
\$10 admission



Saturday July 25

6:45-10:30 AM
Breakfast by the Lion's
At Lion's
Pancake and sausages (\$5 / \$3)

8:00-11:00 AM
Mile Long Yard Sale

11:30 AM
Lobster Dinner at
Salem United Church Hall

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Antique Car Show
Location To Be Announced

2:30 PM
Meat Roll
River John Legion

3:00 PM
Lobster Crate Run on the River
Registration in Bissell Park
Cash Prizes

5:00 PM
Lucky Duck Race
On the river

6:30 PM
Street Parade

9:45 PM (Sunset)
Fireworks
Over the river

10:15 PM - 1:00 AM
Festival Dance (DJ)
Fire Hall
\$10 admission



The school, the community and the future

A newspaper is supposed to give voice to a community's aspirations, but it is also supposed to provide a vehicle for its frustrations. To that end, the Pioneer offers the following assessment of a school board that lacked a collaborative spirit, a bureaucracy that lacked imagination, and a resilient community with a plan that deserves to be tried as a pilot project.

If the River John Consolidated School (RJCS) is closed, we all know it was the wrong decision, but from the government's perspective it was the easiest one and saves it money that can be spent on other schools. So how does it happen that when an entire community wants one thing, its elected officials set in motion a process they know will produce a different result?

The Ministry of Education provides school boards with insufficient funds to do basic maintenance on the schools they operate. Unlike the government, the school boards are required to live within their budget. So they must pick and choose which needed repairs go unserviced. We all know the state in which the Chignecto Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) left our school - a school that belongs to the Municipality. The CCRSB was a long-term negligent tenant. As a result, the bill to address the repairs mounted to the point that it made more financial sense for the CCRSB to walk away from this community and bus our children to another.

The process the CCRSB was required to follow in deciding to close down the school is by all accounts unfair. The Fowler report said so; the community said so; the Small Schools Initiative said so; editorials and academics across the province said so; even members of the Legislature said so. But somehow, RJCS had gotten itself on a list that it could not get off and was stuck in a flawed process that no one in authority would lift a finger to stop. It resulted in the decision to close the school. A subsequent motion to reopen the decision was defeated by a tie vote. The CCRSB pointed to the Minister and said it had no choice but to cull the number of schools it operates in order to stay within its fiscal constraints imposed by the Minister. The Minister pointed to the legislation and suggested she was powerless, unable to overrule a school board decision. It seems unbelievable that the Minister can claim she has no recourse. In the past, Ministers have dissolved school boards whose decisions and management they found lacking.

As childish as her argument of impotence was, it paled next to her refusal to demonstrate any kind of respect to the community and its representatives in the form of the Support Our School (SOS) committee. The SOS was given the impossible job of developing a hub model that would not only cover the shortfall in revenue associated with low enrolment, but the cost of the CCRSB's negligent maintenance record.

Let's be clear, the development of models for the operation of public services such as education is a job for government. Government has the staff, expertise

and the financial and legal resources for precisely that job. Instead, it asked our SOS committee to do it, with no budget, resources or assistance. In fact, at every point when assistance, information or clarification was requested, the CCRSB and the Ministry stonewalled and delayed. Any reasonable person would have thought they both wanted the SOS to give up and simply accept the closure and get over it.

But the SOS didn't roll over. They stood up and shocked the CCRSB and the Department of Education. They researched the issue, informed the community, made connections, collaborated with professionals and built a hub model that embarrassed the CCRSB and the Department for their lack of vision.

So the SOS had done the government's job, without the money or resources. Then their model was rejected by the school board's functionaries, who did as functionaries do - pointed out that it is easier to close schools than adapt them for the future. The Minister of Education, who claimed she was powerless to interfere in the closure of a school, said the process was fair and the community had been given an opportunity to have its voice heard.

We didn't think we had, so we asked the Premier to weigh in. We wanted him to let the SOS committee know what he thought of the model. At this point there was no expectation that he would overrule the decision, but the amount of effort the SOS committee had put in, doing his Minister's job, deserved at least some heartfelt feedback. Something like:

- "Good job"
- "You've done your community and province proud"
- "Now I understand why you won the Community Spirit Award"
- "This is a model that we can use in other communities in the future" ...

something that would acknowledge the extraordinary lengths the community had gone to, to hold on to this precious resource. Rather than respond directly, he showed a distinct lack of judgement by having the Minister respond on his behalf to say that the decision was final. Another slap in the face, because the reason we had contacted him in the first place was her utter lack of responsiveness.

It was an opportunity lost. An opportunity for the government to show that it understood what the loss of a school means to a community. A little compassion would have gone a long way to repairing the damage an unfair process had inflicted.

The community kept up the pressure. It held protests on the Bridge (100 people in the pouring rain).

Up to 50 demonstrated outside Province House. The community went to Tatamagouche on Saturday, June 27, where we were joined by supporters from Tatamagouche. A group of protesters even went to PEI to protest outside the meeting of Atlantic Premiers, trying to show that this issue will continue to dog the government unless something is done.

So where do we go from here? How can a community that has rallied so well, deal with such a destructive decision and a dismissive government.

The answer is - forward. The community ties established through this fight have been remarkable. In the pouring rain, seniors protested with children, young adults and parents. The SOS committee showed us how to collectively approach the future. We have to be self-reliant. There is talk that the Premier may finally meet with the SOS committee. In fact, by the time this paper is printed, he may have already done so.

It would be a wonderful opportunity for the Government to save face. It could stick with the CCRSB's decision - to close the school, but then open a new and vibrant HUB model. It could establish it as a 5-year pilot project with support from all the appropriate government departments (Education; Health; Community Services; and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal) who could be responsible for the operational costs. The all have a vested interest in our success. It's all documented in the River John HUB submission.

Anything less will still serve as a valuable lesson and a timely one as well. Government is getting out of the business of governing. Crown corporations like Canada Post are cutting services; Air Canada and VIA Rail are eliminating routes and cutting down on the frequency of service. It's no surprise that schools are being closed. Expect it to continue in other communities. Expect other services we currently get to be cut in the future. But if government cannot afford to govern, if it cannot afford to provide the services we are entitled to as citizens, it should at least allow communities to provide their own.

We have demonstrated that, as a community, we are capable of greater creativity and strategic thinking than the Government of Nova Scotia.

Do we still have a fight on our hands? As a rural community, we will always have a fight on our hands, but let's start with the most enthusiastic Festival Days ever and let's accept the Community Spirit Award with the knowledge that the reason we earned it is just a sample of what's to come.

Our Councillor's Perspective

The River John School is exempt from paying property taxes as it is classified as an institution under the Education Act and is owned by the Municipality.

The municipality has number of options if the school closes. As of right now (June 23), the Municipal Council has not considered any options, because I feel the school closure has not been completely finalised. As Councillor for the River John area, I will



ensure that if the school is returned to the municipality that the residents of River John and surrounding areas will be made aware and updated on any decisions made regarding the school building.

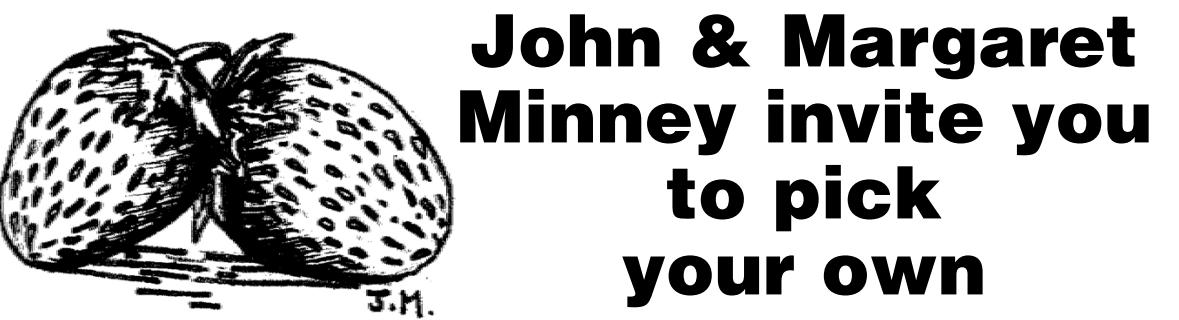
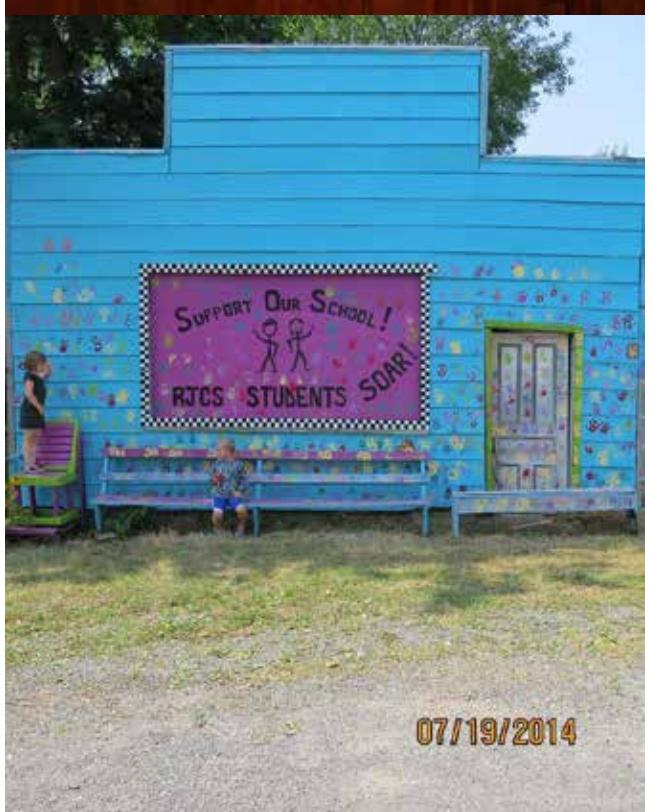


Some of the concerns that I and municipal council has are as follows

1. When government was campaigning two years ago Premier McNeil commented that school review study process was flawed; however, our school study continued under that process. If the review process was flawed two years ago, and the government has not made changes to it; then how can the process just concluded not be flawed?
2. The government campaigned that if they were elected they would support rural communities for growth and make them stronger. Closing schools in rural areas is counter to that statement. The action of the school board and acceptance of the decision by the Premier and Minister Casey are completely opposite to the Ivany Report that urged Nova Scotia to think and act differently.

Ronald Baillie
Warden, County of Pictou

More pictures of a community united



**John & Margaret
Minney invite you
to pick
your own**

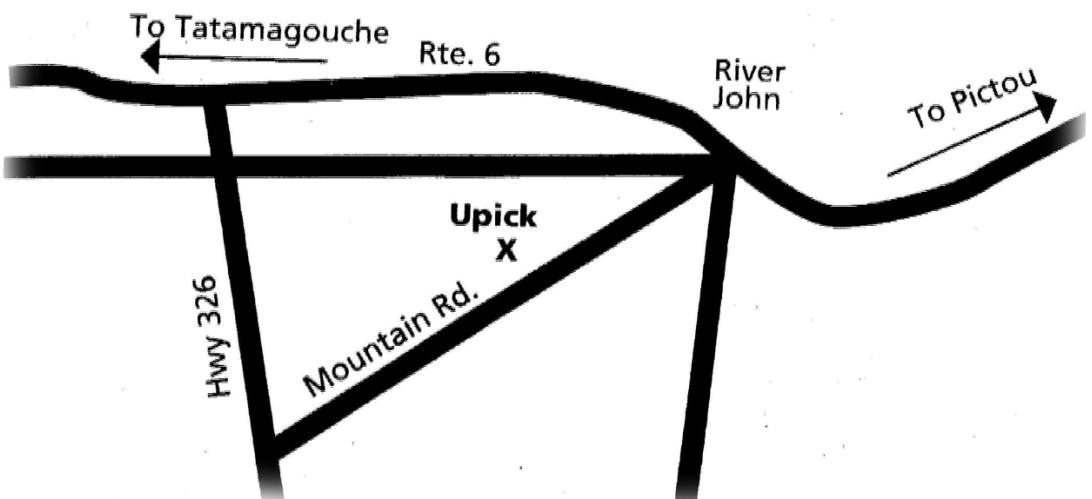
Strawberries
at Mountain Farm U-Pick
Mountain Road, River John

**EXPECT TO START PICKING EARLY JULY
Monday - Saturday 8 am - 8 pm**

Crop and Weather permitting

902-351-2821

Ready Picked Berries to Order



Friends and neighbours



Anne & Sebastian Rio

When I approached their cottage I found them sitting on the sheltered deck overlooking beautiful John's Bay, sipping sherry and eating MacLaren's Imperial Cheese. The temperature was 20 degrees at 5:30 p.m. on the deck as we watched the beautiful little purple finches eat from their bird feeder.

Q: Where is your cottage?

A: Cape John

Q: How long have you owned it?

A: For 29 years, we bought it in 1986.

Q: What attracted you to this area?

A: I have been coming to the area since the late 50's. My sister owned a cottage in Marshville and we would visit and often rent one nearby and we grew fond of the area. When a cottage became available near hers in Marshville, we bought it in 1964. Sebastian (an engineer) retired in 1986 and Anne (a public school nurse) retired in 1990. So we wanted to extend the season then and come to the cottage from May to October. We needed a warmer home with heating and a basement and fireplace. We found this place in 1986 in the depth of winter. We were here because Anne's mother had passed away in Truro. We had to walk in from the road through the snow drifts. It did not matter what was wrong with the cottage (in fact two basement walls had caved in). We knew we could fix whatever was wrong, but once we saw the view we were hooked. It was worth every penny!

Q: Where do you come from?

A: Anne is from Truro. Sebastian was born and brought up in Boston. Sebastian was in the US Navy from 1944 until 1946. When he left the navy, the GI bill came out which meant that all his school fees would be paid for. He went to school to study engineering. Anne was in Boston because they recruited Nova Scotians at that time to study nursing at the Boston Hospital, (no strings attached!) She accepted, even though she had already been accepted at the VG. Anne met Sebastian's sister at nursing school and went home one weekend with her. Seb. came home from college,

and the rest (as they say) is history! We now live in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We come back and forth from Virginia Beach to Cape John each summer.

Q: How long do you stay?

A: We take the first ferry we can get from Yarmouth, which this year was not until June 1st, later than our usual May arrival. We return after Thanksgiving in mid-October.

Q: What do you like about your cottage? And /or your cottage community?

A: What we love about the area is the peacefulness and the friendliness of the people. It is a whole different lifestyle from America. When you go to the drugstore, you do not just buy your drugs and leave, you have a pleasant conversation. Buying a loaf of bread gives you an opportunity to hear a story about the dreadfulness of the winter! After a dinner party, there is never a question about what to do, everyone brings out their instruments and makes music! We love the free and easy lifestyle and the fact that music is such a big part of everyone's life here. Everyone seems to sing or play an instrument.

Q: What is your favourite summer time activity?

A: We used to sail, but we gave our sailboat away to our son. We love to read, sit in the sun, drink sherry, swim, eat, socialize, and play music.

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

A: We love The Antigonish Theatre Festival. Now that they do matinee performances, we get the season pass and it is now one of our Christmas presents from our children. They now combine it with Gabrieau's Bistro in Antigonish, so we have meals out there as well. We attend the Anglican Church. We love the Piper's Picnic, which is now held at Sugar Moon Farm. We attend the Toney River Fiddlers (Thursday nights) and we love the Farmer's Markets! We especially like the new Lismore Sheep Farm Market on Sundays. We buy ground lamb and combine it with ground bison which we get at the Atlantic Super store and we love the delicious, low-fat patties made from the two!

Q: Do you want to add anything else?

A: We are continually "blown away" by the kindness and generosity of the people here. We are always asked over for a meal on our first night here. When I had a sailboat, a local fisherman devised an anchoring device, so it would be better anchored. We are routinely given lobsters and mackerel and invited for meals, offered winter storage for our sailboat (in the past) and the list goes on. Once my canoe was washed away and a few days later a local fisherman had found it, dug it out from the sand and brought it back to me in the back of his truck! The same thing happened to my sailboat which drifted to the opposite shore. The people here are kind, generous and hospitable. I cannot say enough good about them. They are wonderful!

Thanks for sharing with our readers

Lighting the Darkness of Elder Abuse

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was held on June 15th at the River John Legion. It was hosted by Pictou County Municipalities Crime Prevention Association (PCMCPA) and funded by the United Way of Pictou County. With approximately 75 people in attendance, those who were able had a tour of the gardens followed by a presentation and a tree planting ceremony.

Councillor Ron Baillie, Constable Bob Cullen of the RCMP, MLA Karla MacFarlane and a member of the PCMCPA, Jack Blakeney, all carried greetings and a message relating to elder abuse. They then assisted our own Jim Baillie as two flowering crabapple trees were planted in honour of the occasion.

Following this, everyone returned to the Legion where they were served a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and cake. They were then presented with a night light as a reminder that we are all responsible for Lighting the Darkness of Elder Abuse.

Older adults are often affected by emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse. Their rights and freedoms may be violated, or they may be neglected. Often this abuse comes from within their own family, or from care providers or people in positions of power, trust or authority.

Those present were reminded that if they know of such abuse, they have a responsibility to report it to the RCMP with assurances of confidentiality or by calling Barbara Smith, Senior Safety Coordinator at 902-755-2886.

Locked on Music



On June 6th I attended a wonderful 'Support Our School' fundraiser at the River John Consolidated School. The evening featured Pictou County's wonderful folk and roots music entertainer Dave Gunning and his friend and internationally recognized blues/folk entertainer Thom Swift.

The school rocked with the amazing guitar and vocals and storytelling of Thom Swift. Thom wowed us with the unique sound of his vintage metal bodied guitar with finger slide and steel picks. The highlight of Thom's act for me was his original guitar instrumental about his beloved Seafoam.

Dave Gunning sang many of his current hit songs such as Daddy's Beer and These Hands. Sing along songs ruled the night which showcased Dave's unique sense of humour and beat keeping foot tapping. Dave ended his act with his national award winning hockey song, 'There's a Game Goin' on Goin' on Forever'. What a pro!

Both Dave and Thom performed a couple of closing tunes together. They featured their amazing guitar skills even offering and impromptu guitar battle. It was clear that they were having fun. Both Thom and Dave volunteered their professional skills in sincere support of River John and our school.

The community is still abuzz and why not. Thank you to the Support our School committee for this gift.

Remember folks, send your musical events to silverca1@ns.sympatico.ca with the dates, locations, contact person and details.

Put 'LOCKED ON MUSIC' in the subject line.

Addison Locke

Voting Green? Want to meet the candidate first?

If you are considering voting for the Green Party in the upcoming federal election in October, there's plenty of opportunities to kick the tires of our local candidate, David Hachey. A "getting to know you" gathering will be held at 821 Hwy 6, on Friday, July 10th at 7:30 p.m. David will be available to answer questions about the Green Party platform as well discuss his personal views about issues he believes matter to the voters of Central Nova.

He will also be campaigning with the support of Party Leader, Elizabeth May on July 17, when they will be at the Celtic Circle in New Glasgow from 7-9 p.m. Ms. May campaigned against our current MP Peter Mackay back in the 2008 campaign. She came in second after the Liberal Party agreed not to run a candidate in Central Nova.

With Mr. Mackay decision not to run again, Central Nova is likely to be a hotly contested race.

Farmers' markets

Something old and something new

Summer is here and that means lots of fabulous fresh local produce to be had and farmers' markets to acquire said produce. We are very fortunate that there are now several farmers' markets in the region – Truro, New Glasgow, Tatamagouche, Pugwash and River John.

Some may think that farmers' market are a new phenomenon growing in popularity this past decade. However, the history of such markets goes back at least 2500 years according to Dr. Michael Basil, professor in the Faculty of Management, University of Lethbridge in Alberta, who has researched the history of these markets with some interesting findings. In ancient Athens, there was the agora, a place where political, cultural, administrative and commercial activities, including a food market, took place. In various regions in Europe, markets were the main centres of trade. For example, in what is now Italy, the Rialto in Venice was the commercial centre beginning in 1811.

Closer to 'home,' in the Americas, trade amongst Indigenous Peoples and subsequently with various Peoples from faraway lands took place even if not always in permanent locations, so in essence the idea of markets as centres of trade is indeed very old. In more recent times in Canada, specifically three eras of farmers' markets have been delineated, with the last two eras definitively correlating to the developments and waves of progressive social movements, e.g. the women's movement and the environmental movement. Basil identifies the first era as between 1800 and 1915 with the establishment and expansion of these markets stemming from immigrants bringing their experience of public farmers' markets from

Europe to the early settlements, situating them in the centre of towns and cities (consider the market squares of many communities). Of course, there was no such thing as a grocery store, and the large urban centres catered easily to market squares. This period is often referred to as the 'golden age' of farmers' markets. A slowdown in immigration, growth, and public ownership marked the end of this "golden age."

The second era was between 1916 and 1970, with the continuation of settler peoples moving west and colonizing the entire continent, but this era was characterized as one of decline of farmers' markets because of self-reliance and subsequent modernization. Around WWI, immigration drastically declined; this combined with the realization of the separation from Europe and the establishment of the dominion resulted in a sense of independence. The importance of self-reliance was reflected in calls for people to plant their own "victory gardens" during the World Wars, and of course during the Great Depression, thus a significant portion of food came from family gardens at this time. As well, the westward expansion often was comprised of farmers who had their own gardens, and because of great distances and low population density, general stores at key junctions came to supply the people with their goods, those mainly of a non-perishable variety. With the industrialization of agriculture pre- and post-WWII and its mass production of food thanks to cheap fuel and technological developments (automobiles, refrigeration, transportation infrastructure), the modern supermarket developed because of their economies of scale.

In the third era, beginning in the 1970s, farmers'

markets came into a resurgence, largely as a result of a growing interest and concern for the environment. Many problems were being identified from pollution, acid rain, deforestation, ozone layer depletion to name a few. Associated with this were concerns which developed about human health, and more specifically the quality of food. Sustainable development including sustainable agriculture became a new concept, raising alarms about the industrialization of the food supply highlighting issues of corporate control, the use of non-renewable energy sources (petroleum) for agricultural production, toxic fertilizers and food distribution, and factory farming to name a few. The concerns about these issues have been amplified during the past few decades as further research provides the evidence of the harmful impacts of industrialized agriculture and the public is educated about food production. This latest era of farmers' markets reconnected consumers with local small-scale food producers.

The River John Farmers' Market is now in its third year. Gillian Crawford of Lismore Sheep Farm explains that the idea stemmed from the River John Festival Days where they would open their farm to the public for a day during the festival. With many interested in this event but often not being able to attend this one day of the year, the idea to somehow expand this to offer more folks the opportunity to visit a local farm developed into that of a farmers' market. Around the same time, from a request of members of the community, Rob Assels and Lesley Longhorn of Marshville were planning to organize a farmers' market to operate out of the River John Legion. So instead of duplicating efforts, it was decided to go with the Lismore Farm location.

Most farmers' markets take place on Saturdays, but River John's is on Sunday as an alternative - a place for tourists, cottagers and locals to go and enjoy a Sunday outing - to have a bite to eat, or to pick up some food for the coming week's meals, or to acquire a souvenir or a gift for that someone special. The list of vendors includes: Red Road Farm (West Branch); Free Spirit Farm (Tatamagouche); Glen Boutillier (Louisville Road); Marg Jones (Cape John); Margaret Earl (Seafoam); Seafoam Wood Turning; Michelle Foster and Nic Gunn (Louisville Road); Caledon Jewels (Malagash); Long Point Treasures (Seafoam); Windy Mountain Road Farm (River John); Lismore Sheep Farm (River John).

There are regular vendors but also one-off vendors. The market is always looking for more vendors so if you have something you create whether of the edible variety or not, consider selling your wares at this local weekly happening. There have been and will continue to be showcases of local artisans providing demonstrations of their craft, as well as special presentations and workshops. For example, a local author, Sheree Fitch, gave a well-attended reading on one Sunday last summer, despite a downpour.

Gillian states that weather does present a challenge at times as there are many vendors who have their tables set up outside, and thus attendance can suffer, but as we know, farmers farm rain or shine. In just two years, the interest from both the public and vendors has been better than expected. Pictou County has helped to increase the profile of the River John Sunday Market by providing some funds for various promotional activities, including advertisements.

So come out and support your local producers and artisans, enjoy a family outing, or just dig into some delicious healthy or sinful locally grown and made food. See you there.

Note: A special thanks to Dr. Michael Basil for the access to his 2012 article, "A history of farmers' markets in Canada", Journal of Historical Research in Marketing, Vol. 4 Iss: 3, pp.387 - 407



Market Hours
Every Sunday
10am - 2pm
July - mid-September

A great variety of local vendors including fresh produce, baking, jewellery, wood turning, photography, prints, preserves, soap, bird feeders, beef, lamb and eggs.

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Cancel family income splitting
Save \$2 Billion

Poverty reduction transfer to provinces
Cost \$2 Billion

Remove capital gains deduction
Save \$3.5 Billion

Create national pharmacare program
Cost \$3.4 Billion

Introduce inheritance tax on estates over \$5 million
Collect \$2 Billion

Reduce post secondary tuition to 1992 levels
Cost \$1.9 Billion

Reduce fossil fuel subsidies
Save \$600 Million

Increase contribution to climate change initiatives
Cost \$500 Million

Eliminate corporate meal & entertainment deduction
Save \$400 Million

Create 149 community health centres
Cost \$300 Million

Implement a tax haven withholding tax
Collect \$2 Billion

Invest in affordable social housing
Cost \$2 Billion

There are no right or wrong answers. Each is a choice. Once the money has been allocated, the pool that is available for other choices shrinks. Politicians make these choices on a regular basis. As we approach a federal election in October, these choices are worth thinking about.

What questions would you like the Pioneer to ask of each of the candidates? Would you like the Pioneer to hold an all-candidates debate? Send questions to: Candidates, Box 124, River John, B0K 1N0

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Contributors from Hedgesville, East Branch, Louisville and Melville. Articles and photos from all ages, for all ages. Next submission date is September 10. Email Rob at r.assels@malatest.com

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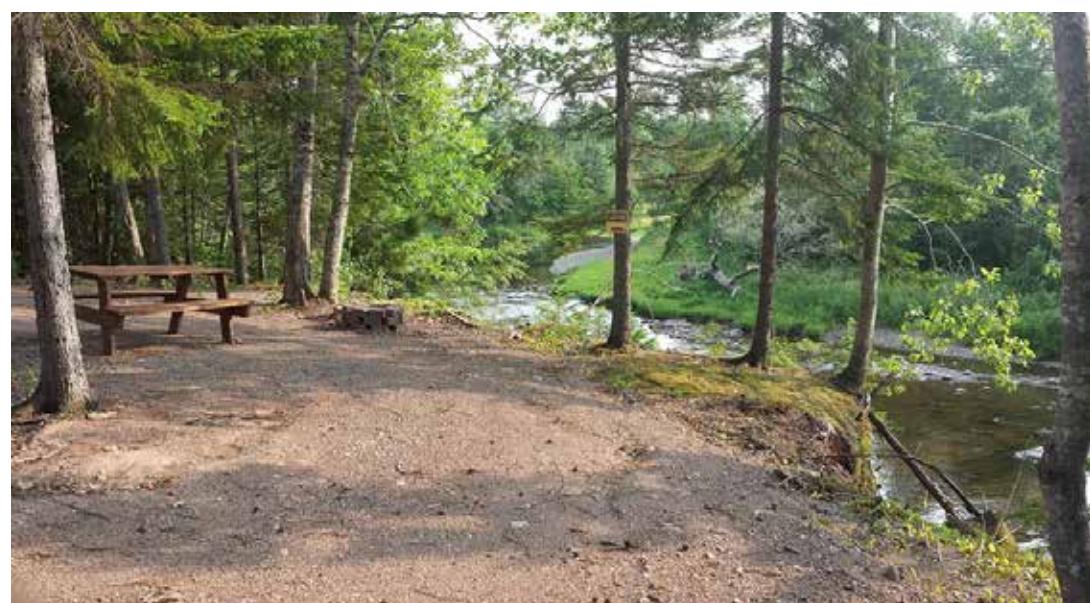
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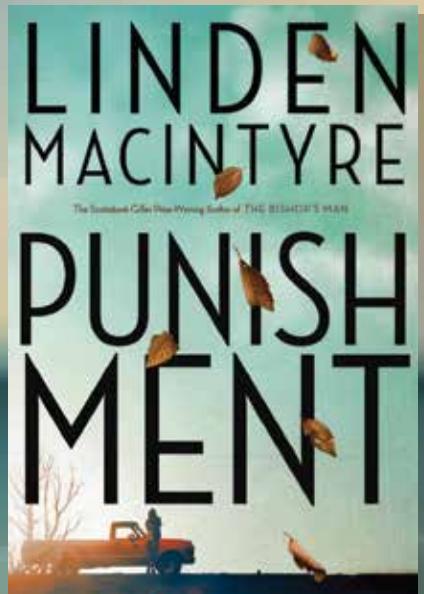


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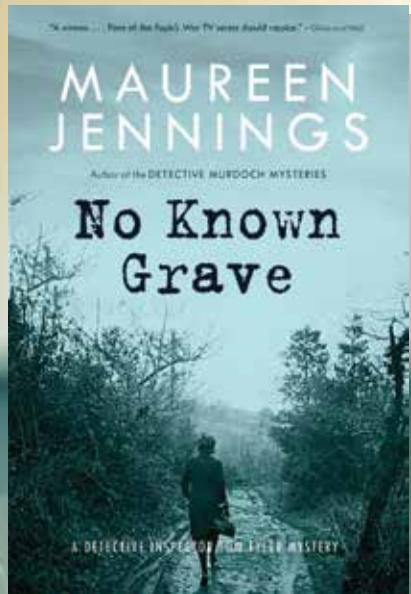
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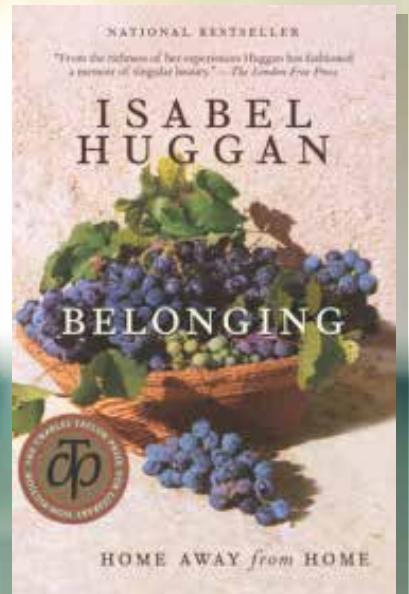
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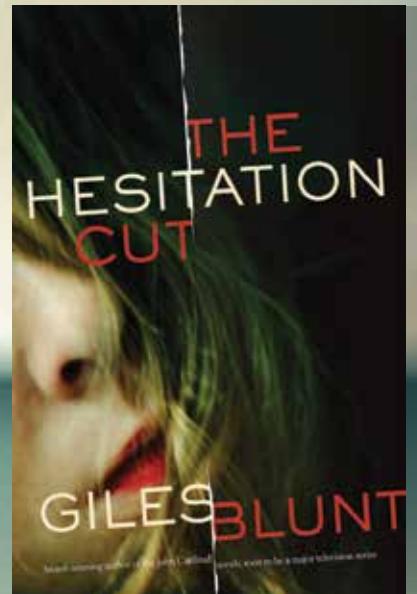
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MAUREEN JENNINGS



ISABEL HUGGAN



GILES BLUNT

 SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

11am - 3:30pm LEGION GARDENS, RIVER JOHN, NS ~ RAIN VENUE: RIVER JOHN FIRE HALL

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