



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



Vision plus volunteers bring riverfront alive again

They say "If you build it, they will come." Well, within hours of the new Bissell Park Riverfront Deck and Docks project being completed, the first boat arrived. The project is a testament to community members' ability to work together to accomplish something valuable ... and work together they did. Sixty-five people showed up to lend a hand in whatever way they could and the results are remarkable.

While many people pitched in, there was a core group of people who took on the responsibility for the design, planning, purchasing and coordination of the project. The following five people formed the committee overseeing the project and without whom the dock and deck would not have been built.

- Dan Ferguson
- Bruce Frizzell
- Mike George
- Gary Johnson
- Michael Topley

Thanks in large part to Barb Harris, the Pioneer has put together a collage of photographs showing the evolution of the project. Enjoy the memories. Better still, make some new ones. Come down to Bissell Park and see for yourself what community spirit and collaboration can look like. Pack a lunch and bring your kayak.

Join us for the official opening on Sunday, July 23 at 1:30 pm

What if ... a Dreamery Came True?

"A book shop on a dirt road! Are you crazy?" one interviewer asked when the idea of this venture was first hatched. My answer was "Yes," but as my children used to tell me, "It's a good kind of crazy." It reminded me of the question I used to get in my mid-twenties: "You want to go to university and become a writer? Are you crazy?"

After thirty years as a published author and literacy educator traveling across Canada and beyond, staying put in summers and still focusing on writing and storytelling but creating a space on our property actually made a lot of sense.

Sale of School Contents

A committee of the River John Community Action Society (RJCAS) organized the sale of the contents of the old school on June 24 and 25. The committee established minimum prices for many of the higher end items.

Any items not sold will be left in the school when the Municipality takes possession of the building on June 30.

While the exact amount raised was not known at the time the Pioneer went to press, it is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

A big thank you to the committee members who managed to organize the thousands of items in a very short period of time. The committee members were:

- Sandy Cameron
- Dave Cochrane
- Elaine Falconer
- Sterling Heighton
- Marg Jones
- Lesley Longhorn
- Lynn MacLeod
- Linda Thompson Reid
- Brenda White

The proceeds will go to the RJCAS to be used to benefit the community.



Dreamery

Continued from page 1

Caldera was starting up just down the road, maybe we weren't so off the beaten track after all. We started dreaming.

So, partly because the school closed and mostly because Gilles loves to build and I love books, we decided to open up Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery. Even though the shoppe's named after one of my more zany picture book characters, it's a place to browse for books for all ages, to sit and have a picnic, to hear stories, a chance to meet authors and illustrators, to take workshops. To wave to the horses and donkey in the field.

Our books won't be what you might find in a bigger box store or all the latest releases. They will be new. There will be novels, non-fiction, gift books, some activity books for rainy cottage days. Some music. Yes, there will be poetry because "a poem a day keeps the bugaboos away."

Mostly, we want to celebrate Atlantic Canada's publishers and writers and books about our region. We do have a natural resource in Atlantic Canada: storytelling. Some of those stories are ones we tell each other, some are put in song or hooked in rugs or carved in wood and some are in physical objects we call books.

We can celebrate and support our reading and storytelling culture and heritage every time we go to the library, or open a book.

"Every book is a gift and a friend." That's at the core of my personal philosophy. So "Buy a book as a gift for yourself or a friend."

Speaking of friends, Monica Graham, one of our more prolific local writers, has been vocal for local and she, alongside others, lobbied government to do more to support regional publishers. Her books will be in our shop but so will books with themes of multiculturalism, the environment and social justice. Friend Hanna Hunziker has been helping me with selections and ordering. Look for a reading this sum-

mer by friend Joan Baxter as she launches a book about food and Africa. My friend, Linda Little, co-founder of Read By the Sea and novelist will be working at Mabel Murple's and ready to help with suggestions and selections and so will I, most days. We are closed Sundays and Mondays but starting July 16th, Mabel Murple's will be a vendor at Lismore Sheep Farm's Sunday Market.

There's been a lot of buzz about what we're doing, maybe because we decided to make the making of Mabel's public on social media. Also, I am on a second generation of readers and they have children! From the Picton Advocate to Local Xpress to Publisher's Weekly (big book industry mag in the US) and CBC radio interviews, we've had great exposure. It's a pretty simple concept, literacy, literature and nature combined and we are just seasonal. We think books are going to be around for a long while - not in spite of technology but because of it. Even our brains light up differently and our respiration changes when reading from a book as compared to a screen. We slow down. We listen more deeply. We absorb at another level - even the smell of a book and the crinkle of pages add to the experience.

So yes, it's hard to believe two years have passed since the doors of River John Consolidated School closed but so much is opening up and going on that there's a good buzz and whirr and hum. There's a collective spirit in this village that seems stronger than ever. Just seeing what went on at the waterfront this weekend shows what can be done when people pitch in. It takes a village to raise a village. Like the little hummingbird says in one of the books that will be in our store, all any of us can do is "do" what we can. It's the doing that matters, sometimes even more than the results. That's what working on the Support our School team taught me. Also, that River John has always been and is now more than ever River John Strong. The chosen home we decided to retire in is a wonderful, beautiful community to live in.

Sundays starting July 16th Mabel Murple's will be a vendor at Lismore Sheep Farm Sunday Market and

July 23rd (at the Sheep Farm) we will launch Polly McCauley's Finest Divinest Woolliest gift of all, a folk tale set in River John that begins at Lismore Sheep Farm.



Karla MacFarlane, MLA

Please contact me with
your questions,
concerns, and ideas

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



River John gets a new Justice of the Peace

The Village has a new Justice of the Peace (JP). Theresa Dickson has been appointed an Administrative Justice of the Peace and is able to perform civil weddings. While the JP designation is valid in any part of Nova Scotia, as well as some other provinces, she expects to perform most weddings in and around the community on the North Shore.

"There are so many beautiful settings along the shore that make it a lovely location for a wedding," Dickson said. She says most couples getting married these days have a unique approach to the location and the ceremony. Beaches, barns and favourite childhood locations, like grandparents' property or a family cottage are often sought. "The new docks in the village would be a gorgeous place for a small wedding," she says. "Especially at sunset." She says the whole wedding theme is usually special to the couple. Approaches to the ceremony, from the bride and groom's outfits to the vows are as individual as

the couple themselves. "Some prefer a traditional approach to the tone of the wedding vows, and lots want their friends and family involved," Dickson says. "Poems, song lyrics and vows written by the bride and groom are *de rigueur* for ceremonies."

Dickson says she saw an ad for Administrative Justice of the Peace in the Chronicle Herald and applied. It required a series of interviews, a criminal record check and some training. "I thought it would be a great way to get to know the community," she says. "Weddings are such joyful occasions. Everyone is happy and looking for a great experience."

Dickson and her husband have owned property in River John since 2006 and spent a few weeks each summer here. In 2014, they decided to build and move back to the province full-time. Originally from Bedford, she and her husband spent 30 years in Ontario, where she worked in corporate communications for Bell Canada for most of those years. She can be reached at dickson.theresa@gmail.com and 902-351-2108.



Ronald Baillie
Councillor, District 4
County of Pictou

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

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

SEAN FRASER, MP
CENTRAL NOVA

Install a quality heat pump to enjoy year round home **COMFORT & SAVINGS!**

Make your home cozy in the winter and cool in the summer with dehumidification, while saving up to 70% on your heating cost. Purchase is easy and affordable through Nova Scotia Power's Heat pump Financing Program. We have qualified and licensed technicians for installations and after sales service with a 10 year parts and labour warranty on ductless heat pumps.



Our goal is always to surpass your standards and expectations. We believe in quality, and we work hard to ensure that every customer is a satisfied one.

**We Sell, install and service our ductless
and central heat pump systems
Since 1974.**

Call: R. H Winmill Electric Ltd today at
(902) 351-2660 for a free heat pump quote.



**HERE
TO
HELP**
RIVER JOHN

(902) 752-0226
Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca



Sean Fraser is a Member of Parliament for the riding of Central Nova. He is a member of the Liberal Party and has been serving the constituents of Central Nova since 2015. Sean is a dedicated public servant who has worked in various capacities within the federal government, including as a member of the House of Commons and the Senate. He is committed to representing the interests of his constituents and working towards a better future for all Canadians.



SIMPSON'S
APPLIANCE AND FURNITURE LIQUIDATION
2755 River John Station Road
River John, NS
902-351-2200
Appliance Sales & Service
Find us on Facebook

The Next Pioneer
Ad bookings: September 1, 2017
Artwork: September 7, 2017
Content: September 7, 2017
Distribution: September 30, 2017

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PIONEER

Derek Andrews
Rob Assels
Sheree Fitch
Dan Ferguson
Cheryl Frizzell
Barb Harris
Marg Jones
Joan MacLeod
Jill Munro
Linda Thompson Reid
David Sutherland
Mary Beth Sutherland
Wilma van der Veen

Publisher:
River John Community Action Society

Printer:
Advocate Printing & Publishing

To get involved,
contact Rob at 902-351-1476 or
editor@riverjohn.ca



Our research shows over 90%
of BUYERS start their home buying search
on the WORLD WIDE WEB.
VISIT US 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT
www.sunrisebrokerage.ca

LOCALLY owned with GLOBAL reach. www.worldproperties.com
Our REALTORS® can show you any property on www.realtor.ca



Cathy Covey,
Broker/Owner
Serving Nova Scotia
Call or text
902-956-3301
ccovey@sunrisebrokerage.ca

Donna Fitzgerald,
REALTOR®
Serving Nova Scotia
Call or text
902-897-5154
dfitzgerald@sunrisebrokerage.ca

Kathy Kenrick,
REALTOR®
Serving Tatamagouche & Area
Call or text
902-899-5018
kkenrick@sunrisebrokerage.ca

Shelley Goldie,
REALTOR®
Serving Colchester &
Cumberland Counties
Call or text 902-897-3721
sgoldie@sunrisebrokerage.ca



*Sunrise Sells residential, commercial, land, cottages &
multi-unit properties throughout Northern Nova Scotia.*

- Professional members of NSAR (Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS®)
- Experienced REALTORS® who know the real estate market in our areas.
- Confidentiality. We protect your interests.
- Good listeners. We are here to address your real estate concerns.
- Knowledgeable. We have answers to your real estate questions.
- Local knowledge. We know local events and attractions, schools, shopping and can refer you to home inspectors, tradespeople, etc.
- Connections through agent to agent

Give us a call for all of your real estate needs, we are here to help!



River John
Sunday Market

River John Sunday Market
Fresh produce, baking, crafts and talented artisans.
Live music, demonstrations.

Join in the River John Festival Days Fun!!!

Lismore Sheep Farm, 1389 Louisville Road, River John
902 – 351-2594
www.lismoresheepfarmwoolshop.com

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



Local writers read to local readers

Read by the Sea 2017 will celebrate the local literary scene with presentations by area writers.

With more than 20 writers attending the 2016 festival - not counting the featured authors - it appears that River John and Read by the Sea are fertile ground for literary endeavours.

To encourage their efforts, a handful of local authors will share their works on July 4-6 at venues around the village of River John.

At 6:30 p.m. on July 4, Monica Graham will read from The Great Maritime Detective at Caldera Distilleries. The next morning, Wednesday, at 10:15 a.m., Sarah Butland will read her children's book, Sending you Sammy, at the River John Library. At 6 p.m. Story Time at Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery, Shanda Cameron will read her children's story Snow day at Farmer Brown's. At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday at St. George's Presbyterian Hall, John Ashton will share The Haunting of Cape John - and some other stories.

There is no admission fee for any of the readings.



Chase that Ace

At the time of printing (June 27), the prize pool was over \$5,000. 16 cards have been drawn.

Tickets go on sale at 6:30 at the Legion and close at 8:30. The draw is at 9 pm. While you wait you can listen to live music and get drinks at the Legion's bar.

Last year, Chase the Ace raised \$21,000 for both the Legion and the River John Community Action Society (RJCAS). It was the proceeds from Chase the Ace that allowed the RJCAS to go ahead with the new docks down at Bissell Park.

So it's not your typical lottery ... you win either way. Join us in supporting these two worthwhile community organizations and enjoy good music and the friendly atmosphere at the Legion ... and maybe win \$5,000 as well.

A tale of three communities

The 2016 census data is out. How do we compare to 2011? The Pioneer looked at three communities: The Town of Pictou; Pictou Subdivision A (which includes River John); and the Village of Tatamagouche.

Both Pictou and Subdivision A experienced a drop in population (7% and 5% respectively). Tatamagouche's population remained largely unchanged.

While it is important for communities to hold on to their residents (collectively known as their tax base), it is also important to understand the make up of the population.

In the case of Pictou, 28% of residents are 65 or older. That percentage is only 25% in Subdivision A. In Tatamagouche, 38% are 65 or older.

Communities are defined by more than the age of their populations, so the Pioneer will continue to provide details from the census as they become available.

River John's Hidden Secrets

(Compiled by Barb Harris)

Q: Where is a good spot for a picnic?

A: There are lots of choices. You can picnic on the new riverfront deck at Bissell Park, or drive to the end of Cape John Road for an ocean front picnic. Rushton's Beach Provincial Park is just a few kilometers west of River John along Highway 6, towards Tatamagouche. Rushton's has shaded picnic tables and a long, sandy beach for walking and swimming. You may even see some seals. There are picnic tables at Lismore Sheep Farm or you can picnic on the benches at the Legion Memorial Gardens -- about a kilometer from town along the River John Station Road (pass the pharmacy and the library and keep going.)

Q: Where can I buy an ice cream cone?

A: Fulton's Pharmacy near the bridge, and Meh's Quick Mart (behind the gas station) both sell ice cream cones.

Q: Where can I get cash?

A: Meh's Quick Mart also doubles as River John's "bank." If you need cash and have a debit card, you can get cash back at Meh's.

Q: Where can I launch my canoe or kayak?

A: River John's new Riverfront Project is located at the centre of the village, near the bridge. It will soon be open to the public for launching small craft, or tying up for a short visit to town (to get that ice cream.)

Q: Where can I buy ingredients for a picnic?

A: Meh's Quick Mart again. Everything you need from bread to cheese, hotdogs to pop, local baked goods to work gloves. Meh's has it all and more. DVD's to rent too, even school supplies.

Q: Where is a good spot for a picnic?

A: In summer, there is a Farmer's Market on Sundays at Lismore Sheep Farm. There are fresh veggies, but get there early because they often sell out. You can also find local baking, preserves, crafts, and locally roasted Ceilidh Coffee, by the cup or by the pound.

Q: Forget the veggies. I want meat for a barbecue.

A: If you time it right, you can find the Beefmobile on Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:00 in front of Meh's, selling local pasture-raised beef from Linden Leas Farm. If you're partial to lamb, Lismore Sheep Farm sells farm-raised frozen lamb sausages and also Highland ground beef. You can buy lamb sausages hot off the grill at the Sunday Farmer's Market at the sheep farm. Lobster in season until end of June, from Landlubber's Lobster on the River John Road just off Route 6.

Q: Where can I get a meal in River John?

A: Your choices depend on the day of the week. Yap's Place serves Chinese and Canadian food and is open from noon to 7 pm. In the summer months, they are open every day except Monday, otherwise open Thursday through Sunday. Mammy's famous local pizza is open from May through September, Thursday to Sunday from 4 pm to 10 pm. Jo Dearing's Smoked Southern BBQ features pulled pork and other BBQ specialties. Open times vary, so phone or check their Facebook page to see if they are open. The food is worth it. From early morning to 10 pm, you can grab coffee and a muffin at Meh's. They also have sandwiches to go.

River John's food strip is located along Highway 6 from the Pictou side of the village to the bridge.

Watch for special events, including chicken barbecues (July 2 at RJ Lions Club, July 23 at Toney River Community Hall, August 20 at RJ Fire Department,) and the RJ Fire Department Lobster Dinner July 22. There are church breakfasts, suppers, and strawberry teas throughout the summer. Daily breakfasts in Bissell Park during Festival Week, July 24 to 29.

Q: What can I do with my kids on a rainy day?

A: The River John Library is a great place to hang out on a rainy day. Books for all ages, and internet access at the C@P site computers. Saturday is Imagination Day all day, with lots of craft activities. Tuesday evenings are LEGO evenings, starting at 6:15.

Q: Where can I find a public washroom?

A: The River John Library, across from Bissell Park and the Heritage Museum, on Rt. 6 next to the Historical Kiosk, have washrooms you are welcome to use during open hours. The Esso gas station/ Meh's Quick Mark has washrooms for customers. During the summer, Lismore Sheep Farm and Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery have port-a-potties available.



Weddings on the North Shore
Justice of the Peace

Theresa Dickson
(902) 351-2018
(416) 526-4213
dickson.theresa@gmail.com
64 River Road, River John, Nova Scotia



Uncle Mike's Property Management

- Lawn Care
- Snow Removal
- Property Check
- Animal Infestation
- Water Leakage
- Picture / Video Confirmation

We offer a very friendly and reliable service that you can trust!

Let Us Take Away the Worry!

Need maintenance and a check up on your home away from home?

Call us today at (902)221-5840

www.unclemikespropertymgmt.com

Email: unclemikespropertymgmt@gmail.com

LEETIK ESSO YAP'S PLACE RESTAURANT

RR#1 River John
Pictou County, NS B0K 1N0
Tel: 902-351-2515 Fax: 902-351-2145

Read by the Sea 2017

River John, NS

The Read by the Sea 2017 committee has finalized the roster of authors and other participants for the 18th annual literary festival in River John, including exciting news about the children's part, Word Play.

WordPlay, the extraordinary literary festival for children of all ages, has moved back to its beginnings in River John, to a new date on July 3, the Monday after Canada Day, and a new venue on the grounds of the community's new bookstore, Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery. That's a lot of news!

WordPlay coincides with the official opening of Mabel Murple's, a venture by River John children's author and poet Sheree Fitch and her husband Gilles Plante.

The shop is located on Allan Road on the east side of the river. From highway 6 (Sunrise Trail), turn onto River John Road (paved) opposite Meh's Esso and Yap's Place restaurant in River John. Allan Road is the first (gravel) road on the right, at a sharp left curve in River John Road. You can see Mabel's from the intersection. There will be signs! Maybe even balloons!

Schedule for WordPlay:

1:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony for Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery. Everyone is welcome to attend. Former CBC radio host Costas Halavrezos is master of ceremonies.

1:20 Wild City Roses will sing a song composed especially for the event: 'Happy Birthday, Canada!'

1:30 WordPlay opens with mistress of ceremonies Starr Dobson (children's author, television personality and mental health advocate).

1:30 Prominent Mi'kmaq author, artist and musician Alan Syliboy tells the story Thundermaker from his 2015 children's book of the same name. Syliboy is an alumnus of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, a Queen's Jubilee Medal recipient, and 2016 Coady Chair in Social Justice at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS – as well as a filmmaker, musician, community leader, curator, business executive and consultant.

2:00 The Fancy Shawl Dancers from Millbrook First Nation perform a traditional Mi'kmaq dance.

2:20 Multi-award-winning children's author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay reads from one of her many books. The Montreal resident writes in both French and English, and her books are translated into more than fifteen languages. Her illustrations need no translation, and her popular characters - Stella and Sam, Caramba, Roslyn Rutabaga, and more - reach children around the world.

2:50 Wild City Roses perform their usual repertoire of musical hilarity

3:00 Authors sign books, while Wild City Roses provide background music, kids make their own petroglyphs, and shawl dancers teach a thing or two.

Kids – Bring your grown-ups!

If it rains, both the official opening of Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery AND WordPlay will move to the River John fire hall, across the bridge. Start time remains at 1 p.m. Watch for signs.

WordPlay is just the beginning of a week of literary experiences in the community that culminate in the Read by the Sea main event on July 8.

The Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday events are still under construction, but watch for a variety of presentations by local writers in venues around the village of River John. Details later!

Here's a TIP! Study the local book and author scene – past and present – to prepare for a literary scavenger hunt that begins on Monday and ends Saturday at the main event. This hunt takes the form of a quiz that tests your knowledge – or your ability to find answers – about River John writers, books, and related topics. More details later.

The July 8 Read by the Sea main event offers a mixture of tried-and-true, back-by popular-demand, and new features.

The authors are NEW, as they have been for the past 17 years.

Our tried-and-true format is back. The venue remains the River John Legion's lovely memorial garden, with shade canopies, the gazebo, the wagon-stage, on-site food concessions, large parking lot, Coles' mobile book shop, souvenir stand, and washroom facilities. Bring your own lawn chairs and sunhats. Rare experience suggests a sweater is a good idea – just in case there's a chilly north wind off the Northumberland Strait.

The Legion is on Welsford Rd: turn off Highway 6 at the western end of the bridge in River John, and follow the road on your left past the library, Lions Club, and ball field. There will be signs.

Rain venue is the River John Fire Hall, on School Street near the west end of the bridge. Watch for signs.

Back by popular demand, and the generosity of the Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association, Pitch the Publisher will again be part of Read by the Sea. It begins 9 a.m. sharp indoors at the Legion (rain or shine). Writers who wish to pitch their books to a real live publisher are invited to prepare an outline of their work, and make a verbal submission to a panel of publishers – think of Dragons' Den. Visit www.atlanticpublishers.ca to see what kinds of manuscripts interest the publishers. 'Pitchers' have two-three minutes to hook a publisher and reel him/her in. More details will be posted, and how-to information is available upon request. Pitching authors must submit their pitches through the website or to this email address before June 1. A committee will select the most promising submissions and assign them a time slot. If time permits on July 8, more authors may be invited to pitch.

Our Read by the Sea featured authors are NEW, as they are every year, but the reading schedule is tried and true:

11 am – the 'Dark Arts' stage

Christy Ann Conlin reads from her 2016 novel The Memento. Conlin is a writer, broadcaster, motivational speaker and teacher living in Wolfville, NS. Her first novel, Heave, a 2002 national bestseller and a Globe and Mail annual 'top pick,' was short-listed for the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award. As well as novels, she has written a novella, anthologies, short fiction, essays and book reviews.

Dean Jobb reads from his 2015 non-fiction work, Empire of Deception, the story of an early 20th century con man who ran to Nova Scotia to hide from the law. Jobb is an award-winning author, investigative journalist and journalism professor living in Wolfville, NS. He writes about history, current events, law, business, and other topics. He has published seven non-fiction books, including the 1994 award-winning Calculated Risk about the Westray mine disaster.

Interviewed by Lana MacEachern

12:15 lunch break – with live music by East Coast performer Doris Mason, back by popular demand. Mason is known for her involvement in the Mason Chapman Band, the hit DRUM, her roles in Dream a Little Dream about the Mamas and the Papas, with Symphony Nova Scotia and a prominent solo career. Visit food concessions, enjoy your picnic lunch, shop for books and get them autographed, schmooze with your friends, meet the authors.

1:15 p.m. – the 'Redemption' stage

Lesley Crewe reads from her 2016 novel Mary, Mary. A Montreal native who successfully transplanted to Cape Breton, Crewe has published a boat full of novels, as well as columns and feature stories. Her first novel, Relative Happiness, was made into a 2014 movie, and her 2015 novel Amazing Grace was named as the 'Together We Read' national digital book club selection for Canada.

Terry Fallis reads from his 2017 novel One Brother Shy. Twice the recipient of the Stephen Leacock Medal for humour (plus multiple nominations), Fallis has penned six novels. He uses his knowledge as a marketing strategist to promote them – you can follow his progress online via a podcast. The Ontario resident and former federal government advisor was Canada Reads winner in 2011 and the Canadian Booksellers 's 2013 Author of the Year.

Interviewed by local author and journalist Joan Baxter.

2:30 p.m. All-author panel, audience Q & A, all moderated by Joan Baxter.

Festival wraps with prize draws, scavenger hunt prize, announcements – but don't go too far away! Visit the local beaches, museums, eateries, shops – while the committee clears the site and the authors rest –

And.... <NEW FEATURE ALERT!>

Return to the Legion hall for an evening community kitchen party, hosted by Cape Breton performer, author and humorist Bill Conall. Bring your stories, your jokes, your music, your musical instruments – and join the community and the authors in a ceilidh. Time to be announced.

Bill Conall will host a writing workshop on Sunday. Topic: Writing Humour. It's not officially part of Read by the Sea, but anyone who remains in the area overnight may want to participate. We'll provide a link to the details as they become available.

Rain venue for both WordPlay and Read by the Sea is the River John Fire Hall, on School Street at the western end of the bridge – watch for signs.

There is no admission charge for WordPlay or for Read by the Sea, in order to make the festival accessible to as many people as possible. With that in mind, we encourage you to patronize our on-site fund-raising efforts - raffles and souvenir sales - and the businesses and organizations that support us. A list is being developed for our website. So far, they include Caldera Distilleries, Advocate Printing, Pictou Antigonish Regional Library, Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery, Atlantic Publishers' Marketing Association.

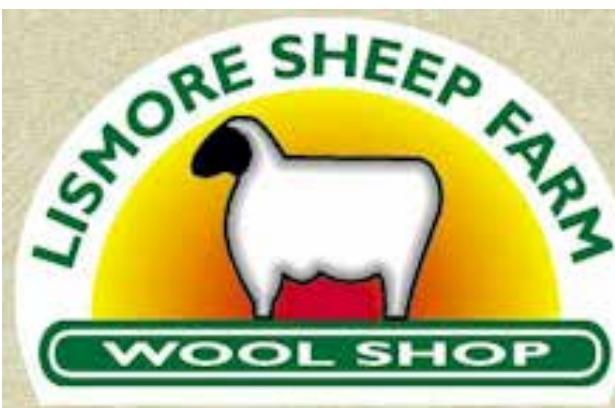
Read by the Sea also receives funding from the Government of Canada, through Canada Council for the Arts, and from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and the Municipality of Pictou County, and from private donors.

We hope to see you in River John this summer!

Sheep and Wool Day

Sunday July 23

10 am – 3 pm



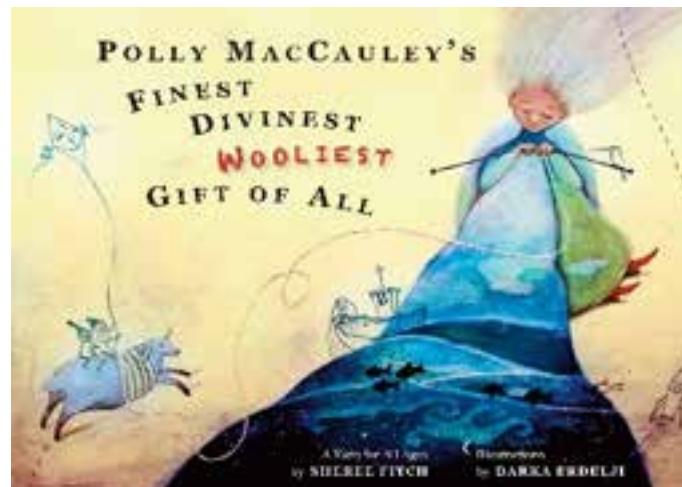
Sheep Shearing, spinning, wool crafts, wagon rides, sheep and lambs to pet, learn all about sheep and their wool, Canadian champion dog agility demos, archery.

Book Launch

Sheree Fitch's newest book

"Polly MacCauley's Finest, Divinest, Wooliest Gift of All" A tale about a lamb, wool, and the wonderful community of River John.

Readings and book signing beside the sheep!



1389 Louisville Road River John, NS
902.351.2889

www.lismoresheepfarmwoolshop.com



Letters to the Editor

A group of recreational boaters has been working to secure a community docking facility at Skimmers Cove since 2016. This has led to the formation of a non-profit community group called Skimmers Cove Community Development Association.

Following a September 1st meeting last year with Federal Member of Parliament, Sean Fraser, and some of our local fishermen who represented the Skimmers Cove Harbour Authority, it was proposed that the Harbour Authority and the Development Association join together for a major project

which would benefit everyone.

On November 4th, the Development Association responded to an application received from Skimmers Cove Harbour Authority with an expansion proposal for facilities at Skimmers Cove. We also invited the Harbour Authority and members to attend a meeting on November 27th to discuss this project.

Bruce Frizzell

frizzellsretreat@hotmail.com

I am sorry to report that neither the Skimmers Cove Harbour Authority, nor any of its members, attended this meeting. On December 19th, the Skimmers Cove Harbour Authority responded to the proposal with a two-line refusal with no reasons given and no option for future talks. They also indicated that Small Crafts and Harbour did not support the proposal.

At present time we are asking questions and exploring other possible alternatives. Anyone interested in becoming involved or just wanting information please contact me.

Looking for a place to hold an event in River John?

The new inventory of all spaces available in the River John area makes it easy to find out what your choices are. The inventory lists each space with details such as how many people it can accommodate, what is included, for example kitchen facilities or a sound system, the rental fee, and whom to contact.

There is also a listing of regular community activities, when and where they take place, and whom to contact for more information. You'll be amazed at the variety of activities that are going on.

The inventory also lists outdoor spaces, including the ball field and beaches in the area.

The River John Facilities and Activities Inventory was compiled by a committee of the River John Action Society and has been inserted in this issue of The Pioneer.

A copy will be available at the River John Library, and on-line at the Pioneer's website:

www.riverjohn.ca

The opinions expressed in the Letters section are those of the letter writers and not necessarily those of the River John Community Action Society or The Pioneer.

RIVER JOHN FESTIVAL DAYS

JULY 21ST TO
JULY 29TH
2017

WELCOME
HOME TO
CELEBRATE

FRIDAY JULY 21ST

6pm Baseball Tournament begins at the ball field. Contact Jay Reid to register.

SATURDAY JULY 22ND

9am Baseball Tournament cont'd
12pm Lobster Dinner at the Fire Hall - until sold out
1pm Bridge to Bridge Fun Paddle - Kayak, Canoe
2pm Cardboard Boat Races at Bissell Park - pre-register and bring your own boat

SUNDAY JULY 23RD

9am Baseball Tournament cont'd
10am-3pm Sheep and Wool Day at Lismore Sheep Farm. Sheep shearing, wood demonstrations, Sheree Fitch Book Launch "Polly MacCauley's Finest, Divinest, Woolliest Gift of All".
10am-3pm River John Sunday Market - Produce, baking, artisans, live music, BBQ, wagon rides, at Lismore Sheep Farm
11am Church Service at Salem United
12pm Festival Lunch at the Fire Hall (\$5)
2pm Tug of War Weigh-ins at the Ball Field - Tug of War Pulls to follow Ball Tournament Championship Game. Woodsman Competition/Demonstration to follow Tug of War
2pm-4pm Open House at the Salem United, St. George's Presbyterian and St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, sponsored by the River John and Area Historical Society.
6pm Children's Parade and Family BBQ at the Lions Club Playground. Participants meet at St. George's Presbyterian Church. Categories include story book characters, cartoon characters, and festival theme "Welcome Home to Celebrate".
7pm Gospel Sing at the Veranda, led by "The Village Sings". All singers welcome!

MONDAY JULY 24TH

6:45-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by Sunrise Trail 4-H Club- French Toast and Sausage (\$6/\$4)
1-4:30pm Sunrise Trail 4-H Achievement Day at Melville-Seafoam Community Hall
1pm Strawberry Tea by the RJ's at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall (\$6/\$3)
6pm Scrabble Walk. All ages, register at the Lion's Club (\$2)
7pm Cribbage night at the Fire Hall, ages 19+ (\$5 per player), teams of two. Winner takes all.
7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "Addison Locke"

TUESDAY JULY 25TH

6:45-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by River John 4-H Club - Bacon, Eggs & Beans (\$6/\$4)
1pm-4pm Petting Farm at the Legion, rain or shine.
6pm Mackerel Fishing Tournament. Register at the Bissell Park (\$5, free for 12 and under)
6pm Adult Scavenger Hunt. Register at Bissell Park 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
6:30pm Northumberland RC Modelers - Demonstration at the River John Airfield, Mountain Road. Sticky Buns for Sale
7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "The Thursday Night Fiddlers"
7pm Comedy Show at Fire Hall (\$10). Doors open at 6:30, ages 19+

WEDNESDAY JULY 26TH

6:45-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by the River John Action Society – Bacon & Eggs (\$6/\$4)
10am-5pm Craft Sale Anglican Church Hall
12-8pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field Water Bobbles - \$7 per ride or 2 for \$10 Soccer Bobbles - \$5 per ride Giant Slide - \$2 per slide, 3 for \$5 or unlimited for \$10 Bracelet - All rides all day for \$30

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Atlantic Lottery
Loto Atlantique

GOLD SPONSORS

MacLean and MacDonald 902-485-4347
Leetik Service Ctr. Ltd. 902-351-2515
Turn-Key Construction & Properties Ltd. 902-631-5369
Seafoam Lavender Company www.LavenderCanada.com
The Pork Shop www.theporkshop.ca

SILVER SPONSORS

Tatamagouche HHBC
Pictou Pharmasave
T&E Heighton Construction Ltd.
Hector Building Supplies
Happy Harrys
Marshville Auto Centre
Reid's Sunset Beach Cottages
Proudfoots Home Hardware Building Centre

1pm-4pm Washer Toss at the Legion, ages 19+, first 30 Teams to register

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

7pm Tupperware Bingo at the Fire Hall

7pm Trivia Night at the Legion, ages 19+ (\$20) teams of four, winner takes all

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "Geezers"

THURSDAY JULY 27TH

6:45am-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by the IOOF & Rebekah's - Ham and Eggs (\$6/\$4)

9am-11am Cupcake Decorating in Simpson's parking lot

9am-11am "Run by the Sea". Start time 10am Walk/Run (5/10 Km). Pre-register at Library (free) or at 86 River Road (\$5) from 9am-9:30am.

10am-5pm Craft Sale at the Anglican Church Hall

11am-7pm Route 6 Food Truck Co., Simpson's parking lot

12-8pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field

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

6pm Children's Scavenger Hunt - register at Bissell Park

7pm Bingo at the Legion

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "Route Six"

FRIDAY JULY 28TH

6:45am-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by Toney River Community Group - Bacon, Eggs and Beans (\$6/\$4)

1pm West Branch UCW Pie Sale at Bissell Park

1pm Art in the Park, Bissell Park (If raining, will be at the Fire Hall)

11am-7pm Route 6 Food Truck Co., Simpson's parking lot.

1:30-1pm Friends of the Library BBQ, outside of the library.

12-8pm Got Bobbled? at the Ball Field

2pm-4pm Heritage Circle at the Presbyterian Church Hall

6pm Bed Races - bring your own bed (\$5 a team)

7pm Mackerel Fishing Tournament - weigh-in at Bissell Park

7pm Entertainment on the Veranda, "River Run"

8:30pm-12pm Dance, ages 19+ (band Derailed) at the Fire Hall (\$10 per person)

SATURDAY JULY 29TH

6:45am-10:30am Breakfast on the Veranda by The Lion's Club- Pancakes and Sausages (\$6/\$4)

11am-2pm Car Show at the Legion

10-11am Registration

11am-2pm Open to public

2pm Presentation of Trophies & Prizes

11am-2pm Route 6 Food Truck Co., Simpson's parking lot.

11:30am Lobster Dinner at the Salem United Church, until sold out. (\$20/\$10). Ham dinners available. Take out only!

TBD Lucky Duck Race on the river

2pm Lobster Crate Run on the river. Register at 1:30 (\$2 per registrant).

6:30pm Street Parade

9:30pm Sunset Fireworks over the river.

10pm-1:30am Festival Dance (DJ Dave), at the Fire Hall, ages 19+ (\$10 per person).

River John souvenir t-shirts will be available for pre-order and sold throughout the week. Contact dylan@brokenstarproductions.ca for more info.

Photo Contest

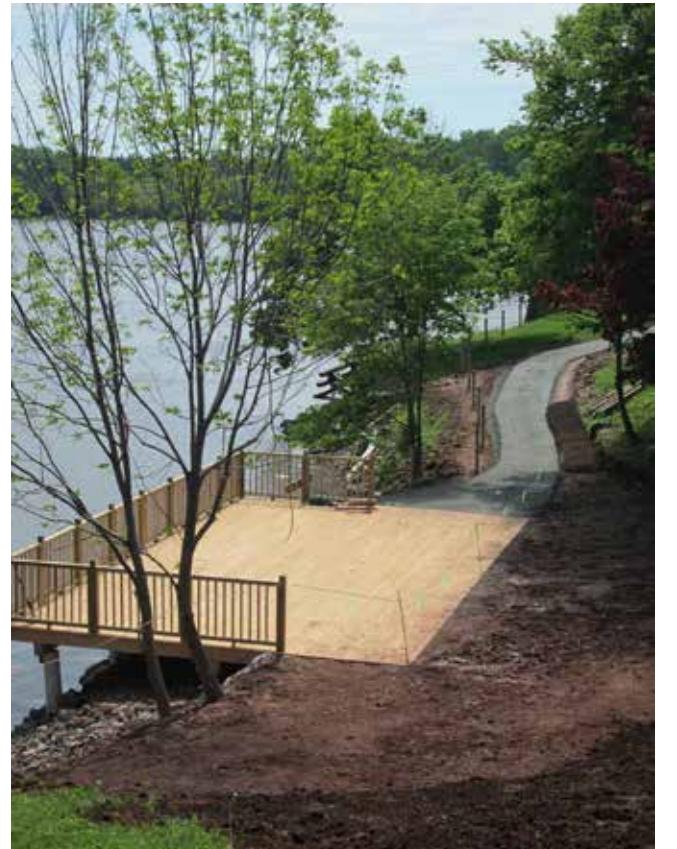
Theme: 'Welcome Home to Celebrate"

Photos should be 5X7" matted. Submit your entry to Simpson's Appliances by July 15th! Cash prizes to be awarded during Bingo at the Legion on Thursday. **Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$15**

Brochure design by
Broken Star Productions

Community Building Looks Like This

The Bissell Park Riverfront Deck and Docks project is a living example of community in action. The idea for a waterfront development in River John was first floated 50 years ago, and resurfaced in 2009. This year, with the right combination of volunteers and vision, the project came alive.



Community work parties organized during May and June were productive and festive. Many people joined in hauling, sawing, hammering and drilling, moving gravel and dirt, raking, seeding, and laughing together. Old friends reconnected and new friendships started as a pile of lumber grew into a deck, a cliff became a terraced slope, and community pride blossomed.

Many Hands Bring Waterfront Dream to Life

In just a few weeks, the old waterfront was transformed. The 40 ft. floating docks are designed for launching canoes, kayaks and paddle boards, and provide temporary tie-up facilities

for small craft arriving by water. The 40 x 22 ft. deck is an inviting place to watch the river from early morning to late evening. The curving path and terraced slope invite people to sit and

enjoy the tranquility of the John River around which the town was built.

The project was built and funded by the community, with support from the Bissell Foundation and the Pictou West Community Health Board.



Grand Opening of the Bissell Park Riverfront Deck and Docks
Sunday, July 23
1:30 pm
Come Celebrate



Historical Society

The River John and Area Historical Society has been making some needed improvements to the museum recently, thanks to Terry Heighton and his crew who placed new floor joists under the building floor for needed support. Thanks also to Mike Joudrey and Doug White for their contributions to the project. Also, a big thank you to the community for their help in the fundraising efforts during Winter Carnival. There will soon be new flooring laid in the front entrance, which will improve that section of the building.

We are looking forward to a busy summer season in the museum. On July 6th at 6:30pm, local Pictou county historian, John Ashton, will speak on a local "spook", which will be part of the week leading to Read by the Sea. We are also hosting our annual Heritage Circle on Friday July 28th at 2pm at the St. George's Presbyterian Church hall. The speaker will be James Morrison, a Professor at St Mary's University. He will speak about Rev. Alfred Fitzpatrick, a Millville Pictou County native and founder of Frontier College.

The RJAHS is planning a display to commemorate a River John native, who fought at Vimy Ridge and also the local connection to the pre-Confederation on talks on Prince Edward Island to celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday.

To learn more about the area's past and our displays, as well as what is going on this summer in the museum, please stop in. We are happy to have our year round residents and summer visitors join our monthly meetings and enjoy our displays, to learn more of the history of the region. We will update our Facebook page with upcoming events.

Beulah Wright will be on duty during the summer months. She has a vast genealogical knowledge of local families and she is delighted to help you, in your search for branches of your family tree.

Also, if anyone has historical items to loan for our displays this summer, we would be pleased to use them, for everyone to enjoy. The items will be returned, when the museum closes for the season.

The donation box in the museum and all the monetary donations go to the regular upkeep and expenses of operating the building.

We plan to open the end of June and possibly go into the month of September.

Thank you to all members of the community of River John and our surrounding communities, everyone has rich stories to tell and pass down to our future generations!

Hospital Fundraiser

The Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will be holding their Annual Strawberry Fest on Wednesday, July 12th 2017 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until sold out at the Tatamagouche Fire Hall. A very generous strawberry shortcake is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and under. Sandwiches will also be available for \$3. Take Out or Local Delivery call 902-657-2321. There will be a Bake Sale with proceeds matched by Scotiabank, a New to You Table and a 50/50 draw.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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
Westville... 396-5022 www.parl.ns.ca
(902) 755-6031
(1866) 779-7761

Celebrating 30 years!

MAMMY'S PIZZA

Sunrise Trail River John

HOURS OF OPERATION
Thursday and Sunday 4-11
Friday and Saturday 4-12

351-2744

BOOK SAIL

Thank you, Michael

For sale are over 2000 gently used books, music CDs, and movies at bargain prices in a variety of genres. All proceeds from the permanent year-round sale go to the River John Action Society.

Michael Hagenbuch has been running Book Sail at the HUB for over a year now. He accepted donations of books, CDs and DVDs and sold them for a fraction of their value to raise funds for the River John Community Action Society.

As the HUB closed down the last week of June, he was selling books in bulk (\$5 for a bag full).

Over the past year he has raised approximately \$2,000 in book sales, proving once again, that River John is a community that likes to read.

Thank you Michael for time and effort you put in ensuring as many books as possible found a home. And thank you for the huge amount of money raised.

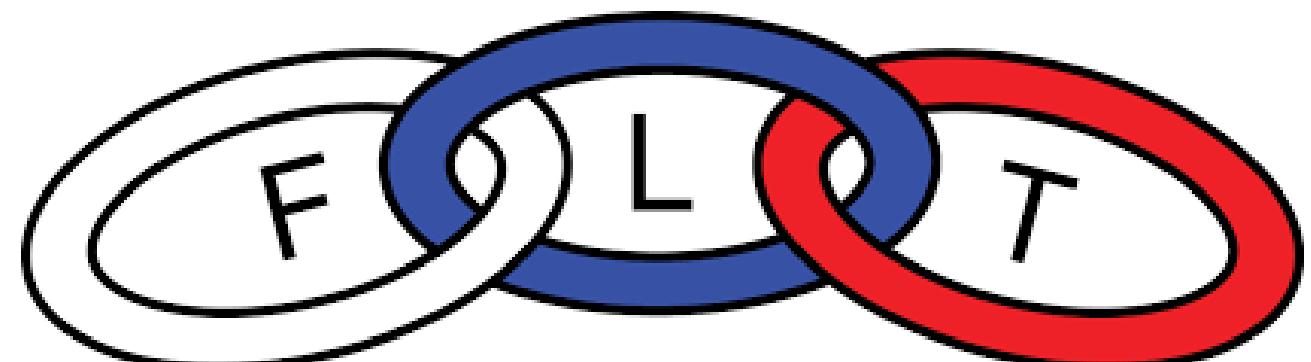
Eternity Mechanical

Gas & Plumbing

Owner- Tyler Lowden
(Red Seal Plumber/Gas Fitter)

902-890-1791

- Quality Workmanship
- 10+ years Experience
- Free Estimates Available



If you are interested in joining an organization that believes in making the world a better place to live, by aiding each other in times of need and organizing charitable projects that benefit the less fortunate, then call today 902-351-2010 or check us out on facebook, Helping Hand Lodge #34

2016-2017 Noble Grand Willis Langille

Bioagricultura Casa Blanca (The White House Organic farm)

Carmen is the inventor of the Biogestor akin to a human 'stomach'. She has devised a system where they process compost, inputs being the guano (aka shit) from the guinea pigs and waste plant materials. Using both aerobic and anaerobic methods in underground tanks, they create methane gas which is siphoned off and then used for cooking in their home and for gas lamps (also used for electricity with a converted conventional generator into one whose energy source was the methane gas). They create the



As is common with small scale organic farms they are diversified in their revenue streams. They have members of the public, school and university groups come to visit, combining education and eco-tourism. They sell their produce and their green gold – compost liquid. They sell their know-how encouraging others to adopt their practices, modified of course for the conditions in which others would farm. They have won awards for their work.



most nutritious dry and wet compost imaginable, the latter sold in old 2 litre pop bottles. It was truly an amazing system, a complete system with no need for inputs external to the finca except in the initial construction stages which required offsite materials, e.g. tractor and truck inner tube tires to store the generated methane, piping for the methane, farming equipment, e.g. wheelbarrows, hand tools, materials for the underground processing tanks.



I had my first taste (not literally – yet?) of guinea pigs, hundreds of guinea pigs. They have a capacity of 1000, but currently sit at 600. Those little buggers are so cute, especially when they make their sounds. When I walked into the barn, there began a chorus of wheeking as it is called and I couldn't help but imitate it. Well there was an even larger chorus in return. I have since learned, from research on the internet where you can listen to the different sounds guinea pigs make, lo and behold this sound is one they make calling for food associating it with humans, a sound they don't make in the wild.



Anyways, in the granga (barn) de cuyes (cuy singular) from the photos you will see they had many 'stalls', each having anywhere from 4 to 10 critters. There was a separate maternity ward/barn as they reproduce profusely. I did ask how were the guinea pigs killed since they don't really have visible necks from which to do the easy chopping off of the head like with chickens. Ulises said straight off he doesn't kill them but instead hires someone else. It seems their throats are simply cut and then they bleed out, similar to rabbits. It of course did cross my mind – what if we were to grow guinea pigs back on the farm – could this be a viable business? We thought perhaps with restaurants that were of a South American gastronomy, but otherwise Canadians might find it abhorrent, considering them to be a childhood family pet. But then people do eat rabbits and they are also considered cute.



They applied agroecological (what they call organic holistic agriculture) principles and practices stemming from traditional, scientific and empirical knowledge. They demonstrated that agriculture with this approach – not using toxic pesticides and fertilizers – is the best

alternative possible for the production of nutritious foods. With their small finca, they demonstrated the economic, environmental, social and technical viability of the small scale agroecological producer in Peru.

Alas we did not get to meet Carmen as she was away attending meetings. Ulises at 80 years of age is retired from the university. They have adult children who will be not be carrying on the operation of the farm and are unsure what will happen to their project. I got the impression that Ulises is disappointed that not more Peruvians have chosen to pursue a similar path in alleviating their own poverty. He stressed that he felt they had devised a way to empower people to address their own circumstances of poverty, but that individuals and governments, although impressed with the project, did not embrace it. Of course, land would be needed to start such similar projects, and many around Lima would not have \$ or access to \$, let alone land. The city of Lima has increased in population so dramatically over the past 20 years as a result of campesinos escaping the violent decades (1980-2000), leaving everything behind. Despite Peru/Lima having 60% middle class, the other 40% have little. As is so often the case, great ideas don't get replicated.

Wilma van der Veen is on contract with CUSO and living in Lima Peru for a year. Back in River John she operates Windy Mountain Road Farm. You can follow her adventures in Peru on her blog:

<http://professorasparagus.ca/>

Four Generations of Sutherlands

Wednesday morning coffee hour at St. George's Church is a River John tradition enjoyed by all ages, from the 90-somethings to the less-than-one year olds. Four generations of Sutherlands pictured below are not the only multi-generational family to attend. Sadie Craig and her great-granddaughter Janie, also enjoy catching up with neighbours and friends. Emily Sutherland and Janie Craig are two of the six summer students helping to keep River John parks and green spaces neat and clean this summer. Coffee hour is open to everyone on Wednesdays from 10 am to 11 am, St. corner of Hwy 6 and St. Andrew's St., River John.



L-R: William Cripps being held by Great-grandmother Joan Sutherland, George Cripps being held by grandmother Mary Beth Sutherland, Emily Sutherland (aunt) and Margaret Cripps (mother). All enjoying a multi-generational coffee time.

Glossy buckthorn: A not-so-exotic shrub

By David V. Sutherland, R.P.F.

If you have an old field or woodlot in the vicinity of River John, you are more than likely familiar with one of our worst invasive plants. Glossy buckthorn was introduced to eastern North America from Europe during the 19th century for use in hedges and as wildlife habitat. But the extremely invasive nature of the shrub soon became apparent, and it quickly colonized large areas of the continent.



These dark shrubs crouch at the edges of the abandoned fields and in small openings in woodlots, lending an air of melancholy to stands of spruce, oak and maple. Some buckthorn shrubs can reach a height of five meters (18 feet) or more, while others grow nearly horizontally, reaching into the soil with grasping limbs. Wild apple and hawthorn trees struggle to keep their crowns above the invading shrubs.



PRESENTS:
Local Children's Author
Sarah Butland
Reading

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 5, 2017
10:15am**

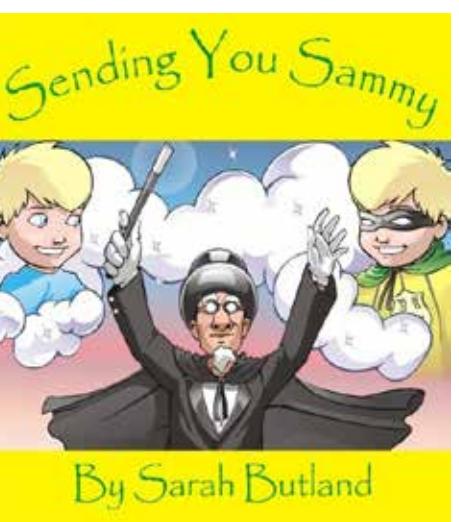
**Janice Murray Gill
Memorial Library,
River John, NS**

**Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library
River John**

**The author serves up information
about basic nutrition and healthy
food choices in a happy setting.
Signed copies available for sale.**

NO ADMISSION FEE

MEET THE AUTHOR
www.AdventuresOfSammy.com

Sending You Sammy

By Sarah Butland

In most of the sites I've seen, only speckled alder successfully competes with glossy buckthorn. It thrives in roadside ditches and along abandoned rail beds.

The dense, convoluted growth of glossy buckthorn can make walking on your woodlot very difficult. These shrubs will colonize almost all the available space. It prefers fairly damp clay soils, which are common in the River John area. It will grow shoulder-to-shoulder with dogwoods, chokecherries and other aggressive shrubs. Its dense shade discourages nearly all other vegetation from becoming established.

Once established, glossy buckthorn is extremely difficult to eradicate. There are few gloomier prospects than trying to rid a property of glossy buckthorn. Like the introduction of rhododendron to Britain, where that plant has proven to be a serious problem in many parts of the country.

The soil beneath groves of glossy buckthorn tends to be very rich in nitrogen, provided by the plant's fallen leaves and a rich population of soil organisms that decompose the leaf material. It sprouts vigorously from cut stumps, and its seeds germinate readily and will persist in the soil for long periods.

Glossy buckthorn can be best identified by its distinctive leaves, which may not fall until early winter. They have a glossy upper surface and have strong veins that curve away from the central spine. The leaves have smooth edges and are usually arranged alternately on the twig.

During late summer glossy buckthorn produces single red berries which later turn black. The berries are eaten by some birds and mammals, and seem to be particularly relished by European starlings. The seeds are spread over large distances by birds. Used for centuries as a medicinal product for humans, the bitter berries have been described as having a laxative effect with "violent" results.

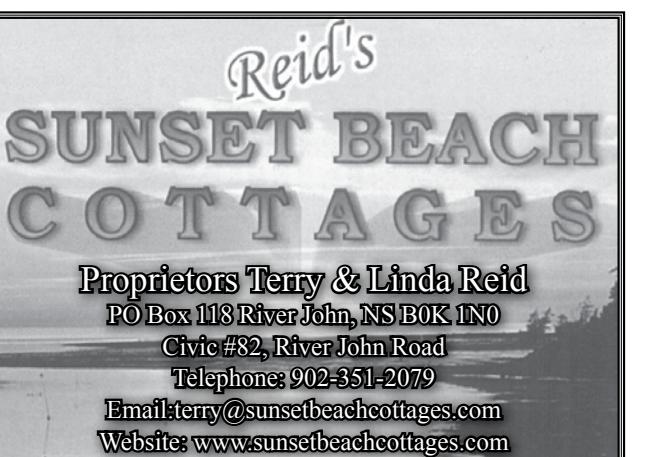
Working in the presence of glossy buckthorn is difficult, particularly if one is attempting to convert old damp fields to forest. I've tried to establish saplings of red oak, hawthorn and even red maple among clumps of glossy buckthorn, with the same withering results. In my experience, no other plants thrive in the presence of glossy buckthorn.

My low-tech attempts at preventing the spread of glossy buckthorn to other parts of the woodlot have been to pull up every small buckthorn shrub I see, but this becomes impractical once the plant reaches a meter in height. Beyond this size, a clearing saw works well, although my favorite tool is a Swedish brush axe which seems to be custom-made for hacking out the clumps of dark gray stems. While they are still small, areas of buckthorn can be cut with a tractor bush mower.



Not everything about glossy buckthorn is bad: its thick understory provides good cover for ruffed grouse and snowshoe hare. Woodcock, a migratory upland bird, probe for earthworms in the soft damp earth beneath glossy buckthorn shrubs. The thickets provide secure areas for nesting and feeding.

Glossy buckthorn will likely be with us for a long time to come, and will continue to challenge property owners with its stubborn refusal to be removed.



Rev Christine Johnson

On May 28th Rev Christine Johnson preached her last sermon in River John West Branch Pastoral Charge. I thought it fitting to do a little profile so I interviewed her the week before she left. Christine served River John-West Branch Pastoral Charge for 4 1/2 years, from 2012-2017.

Christine has deep roots in River John. When her Pioneer family came from Scotland (Isle of Cull) on the ship "Economy", they spent their first winter on Cape John. They were then given a land grant in Hodson, from there they moved to Toney River, then Caribou and finally Pictou. Sadie Craig's aunt was her Grandfather's Grandmother.

Christine was raised in Pictou, the eldest of 2 girls. Her younger sister Lindsay lives in New Glasgow and is Ike's mother (he is aged 8). Christine graduated from Pictou Academy. She attended NSCAD (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design), graduating in 2001 with a degree in Fine Arts. She worked with painting studios and museums for a couple of years both in Pictou and in Halifax before attending the AST (Atlantic School of Theology) from 2004-2009. She did her first internship (Pastoral Care) in Fenlon Falls On, Bay of Quinte Conference. She did a second internship in a clinical setting at the IWK Hospital, Halifax. She graduated with a Master of Divinity (Honors) with a concentration in Pastoral theology. She was ordained in 2009. Her first Pastoral Charge was at Walton.

I asked Christine if there were significant events which led her into the ministry. She said she had always felt a connection to faith and to God. Her parents and grandparents were connected to Pictou United church. She attended Sunday School as a child. When she was really little she thought that men were ministers and women were nuns. So she thought she might be a nun. As a teenager, she helped teach Messengers. She started babysitting at 12. She also volunteered at a day care with her Mum, who was a Day Care teacher. She helped raise money for world Vision with an event called "30 Hour Famine?" She was confirmed at age 16, when Rev Gordon MacLean was the minister at Pictou United.

Later after she had graduated from NSCAD and moved back to Pictou, she became involved again with Pictou United and met their current minister Rev. Mary Beth Moriarity. That is when she became aware that women could be ministers!

After the events of "911" in 2001, Christine moved back to Halifax and joined St Matthew's United Church. She approached the church in a way she had not done before. She had a lot of questions and was seeking answers. She became more and more involved in St Matthew's and was part of the evening worship service. It was from there that she underwent the one year discernment process, meeting once or twice a month for a year, to determine if the ministry was right for her. The Ministry is unlike any other professions in that you have to feel that you are called or it does not work.

I asked Christine to describe any highlights from the last four years:

In 2014, she and Ike camped over night on the front lawn during River John days. She wanted to camp on the back lawn, but Ike felt it would be more like camping if they could see the river. Before he fell asleep, he asked his Auntie "What happens if there are bears?" Christine replied, "There are no bears" then she worried all night and could not sleep!

Other highlights:

- Last year's Sunday School Picnic at West Branch. (until she hurt her leg)
- Easter this year (with all the balloons)
- Sunday School
- The Butterfly Garden



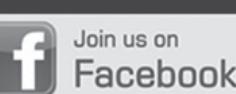
We Offer Local Insurance From Your Local Insurance Specialists

Pictou Office
22 George Street
902-485-8551
Stop in and say 'Hi' to
Georgie & Janice

Tatamagouche Office
38 Maple Avenue
902-657-9800
Stop in and say 'Hi' to
Anne-Marie & Tara

Providing a One-Stop Approach to the Insurance Needs of Atlantic Canadians Since 1944.

HOME AUTOMOBILE COMMERCIAL MARINE RECREATIONAL LIFE & HEALTH



Join us on
Facebook

AAMUNRO.COM

ons, Dragons, Everywhere." At first he didn't talk, just made little baby dragon sounds and he did try to breathe fire, but was unsuccessful at lighting the advent candles. (Christine worked for just one week with the Mermaid Theatre in Windsor to learn her puppetry skills)

I asked Christine about her love for Children's Ministry. She feels that children bring a layer of curiosity and wonder and faith. They are not fixed in their ideas and beliefs. Children bring a level of openness and curiosity to worship that is inspirational. If children's ministry is done well, it influences the whole congregation. The kids are a vehicle to introduce new concepts, new understanding and new music to the wider community and the adults usually follow along.

I asked Christine what she will miss about the River John/West Branch Pastoral Charge. She said the food and the people! Christine feels we are strong and have a stick to it ness that is amazing. This strength is common through out the whole community. The joke that "You don't pick a fight with a River Johner" has an element of truth to it. Slowly everything is being drained away, but despite this we fight on! We don't back down. This a good thing and is unusual.

Christine left on May 31st to take up her new duties at St Andrew's United Church in Harvey New Brunswick. This is a one point charge with a regular congregation of about 70 people. Although sad to leave River John, she is looking forward to making new connections, learning new ways to be the church and being near a larger urban centre where she has friends.

We will all miss Rev Christine dreadfully and wish to thank her for her years of dedicated service to this community.

--Joan MacLeod



MONDAY, JULY 3

1 pm Grand Opening of Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery (286 Allen Road, River John) hosted by Sheree Fitch and Costas Halavrezos

1:30 pm Children's author Alan Syliboy

2 pm Fancy Shawl Dancers

2:20 pm Children's author Marie-Louise Gay

2:50 pm Wild City Roses: Happy Birthday, Canada!

3 pm Author signings, music, dancing, crafts, cake
MC Starr Dobson

July 3-8 Literary Scavenger Hunt

Get your entry at WordPlay (Mabel Murple's), online, or at River John venues. Collect information about the area's literary heritage. Submit on July 8th at Read by the Sea. A winner will be drawn from correctly completed entries.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

6:30 pm Tall Ships and Moonshine at Caldera Distilleries: Author Monica Graham, reading from *The Great Maritime Detective*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

10:15 am Adventures in Nutrition at River John Library: Author Sarah Butland presenting her children's book *Sending You Sammy*.

6-7 pm Storytime at Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery: Author Shanda Cameron presents her children's book *Snow Day at Farmer Brown's*.

THURSDAY, JULY 6

6:30 pm *The Haunting of Cape John*, hosted by River John Heritage Society at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall. Author John Ashton presents an evening of local stories.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Read by the Sea Main Event at River John Legion

9-10:45 am Pitch the Publisher (indoors)

11 am Dark Arts Stage

Author readings in the Legion Memorial Garden
Christy Ann Conlin

Dean Jobb

Interviews by Lana MacEachern

12:15 pm lunch break with music by Doris Mason, concession stands, book sales, author signings, raffle tickets, souvenirs

1:15 pm Redemption Stage

Lesley Crewe

Terry Fallis

Interviews by Joan Baxter

2:30 pm Author panel, moderated by Joan Baxter
Audience Question and Answer

3:15 pm Prize draws, closing

8-11 pm Kitchen Party/Ceilidh (indoors) hosted by Cape Breton author/musician Bill Conall. Ages 19 and up. Bring musical instrument, voice, jokes, stories (true or otherwise), dancing feet.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

Bring your own lawn chairs.

Rain venue for outdoor events:
River John Fire Hall.

WWW.READBYTHESEA.CA



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

NOVA SCOTIA



CALDERA
DISTILLING

Advocate



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library