

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

Official Opening of Roger's Landing Community Boat Launch and Docks

by Joan MacLeod

On September 11th, the River John Community Action Society held the much anticipated launch of Roger's Landing Community Boat Launch and Docks. This facility for the use of the community was Phase 4 and the completion of the RJCAS Riverfront Development Plan. Entertainment was provided by Geezer, (Jim White, Myrna Phillips and Scott Outremont). Roger's family were guests of honour: his mother, Aggie MacLellan, daughters, Brittany, Jayme and Krysta, grandson, Ethan, and ex wife, Elaine. In addition, in attendance were: Sean Fraser, MP, Karla MacFarlane, MLA, Warden Robert Parker, and Councillor Mary Wooldridge-Elliott. All gave words of greeting and congratulations.

The ribbon to the dock was cut by grandson Ethan, along with help from his mother and aunts. M.C. for the event was Patrick Mulholland. Joan MacLeod, Chair of the RJCAS, thanked the Roger's Landing committee and the Launch committee. She paid tribute to Roger MacLellan, a heavy equipment operator, who passed away in August, 2019, and whose initial vision led to this development of riverfront access on the west side of the River John. The following is an excerpt from her speech:

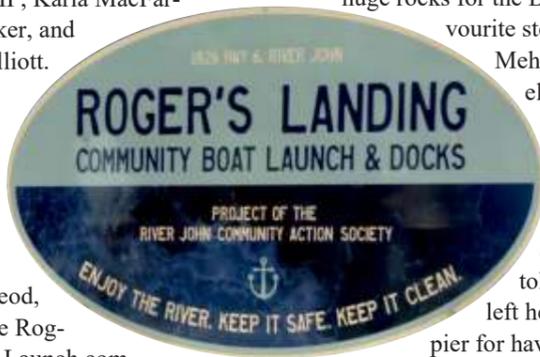
"When we planned this event for September 11th, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we hoped that we could create a happy memory associated with this date. Yet, one of the enduring stories of 9/11 is the "Come From Away" story. The story of how the residents of a small town in Gander, Newfoundland, opened their homes, their hearts, not to mention their freezers, to comfort a

group of traumatized and stranded American folk who were dealing with the horrific terrorist attack. They made lifelong friendships in the process. This story, which was made into a hit Broadway musical, reminds me of Roger.

I feel most thankful of all to Roger, for having his vision of improving our community. He was a kind, funny and generous man who cared deeply for the people of River John. All of us who were blessed to know him have at least one favourite Roger story: from him burying dead horses for free, to finding materials such as huge rocks for the Bissell Park side dock. My favourite story happened when we were at Meh's one Sunday and we had an elderly woman friend in the back seat. Roger had worked for this woman in the past but had not seen her for a while. He jumped right into the back seat and gave her a huge hug. He told her a joke or a little story and left her feeling uplifted, and a lot happier for having seen him. He spread joy wherever he went.

He got it right! His humanity was so much more important than making money or having new equipment. And this facility is a fitting legacy so that he will continue to be remembered for many years to come. We could all strive to be more like Roger. Be kind, be humble, be joyful, as of course we continue to social distance, for a while longer."

It is hoped that there will also be a dedication of Roger's Landing held during River John Festival Days in 2022.



Brittany, Krysta and Jayme MacLellan (Roger's daughters) assist Roger's grandson Ethan in cutting the ribbon for the official launch of Roger's Landing Community Boat Launch and Docks.

Photo by Steve Goodwin, the Pictou Advocate



'Geezer' provided the entertainment; Scott Outremont, Myrna Phillips, Jim White.



Patrick Mulholland, emcee



Joan MacLeod, River John Community Action Society



Sean Fraser, MP



Karla MacFarlane, MLA



Robert Parker, warden MOPC



Mary Wooldridge-Elliott, councillor, district 4, MOPC



On Oct. 9, 2021 Jim Arbuckle launched the Lukey that he built this summer at his cottage on Cape John. A toast was made as he rowed off Roger's Landing in River John with friends and relatives there to cheer him on.

This is the first boat built and launched in River John since the Mary F. Anderson, a schooner, was launched in 1918. Even though it's not a schooner, the Lukey was built here and we all had fun pushing Jim and friend out to sea. Jim and his wife Linda are originally from Newfoundland, and spend their summers here on the Cape.

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The Many Benefits of Roger's Landing

by Barb Harris

Someone said to me recently, "Roger's Landing was built for people with boats, not for everyone." I wondered whether other people might think that too.

I live close to Roger's Landing, and over the last two summers I have seen people drawn there for a variety of activities. There are, of course, people with power boats. There is also a flow of kayaks, canoes and the occasional paddleboard from morning to dusk. Many evenings I see people fishing from the banks.

I watch parents with small children make the river and boats at Roger's Landing their destination for a walk. I see people taking their dogs to the slipway for a swim. I see people sitting on the slipway in the river, cooling down on a hot day. I have learned that the river at Roger's Landing is more accessible for swimming for people with mobility challenges than the Bissell Park docks. The picnic tables at Roger's Landing, (donated by Winmill Electric,) draw ice-cream eaters and others to take a break and enjoy the river. People driving electric scooters hang out at Roger's Landing and visitors in small campers have pulled in to enjoy a meal riverside.

A major driver behind the creation of Roger's Landing was to turn an area that was both an eyesore in the village and a hazard to the river - including a crumbling old bridge footing that was about to collapse - into a user-friendly area that would encourage public recreational

use of the river. Riverfront development has been an identified community priority in River John for 50 years.

At a time when Nova Scotia's rivers and oceans are becoming closed-off to the public in many rural communities, ensuring public access to the John River at Bissell Park and Roger's Landing is a long-term benefit to all of River John and surrounding areas. Turning an unsightly, hazardous piece of land into a multi-use public space at Roger's Landing was a positive step in improving the village.

There was a hope that building a riverfront facility featuring a boat launch would draw people from other communities to enjoy the beauty of our village and might encourage them to visit local businesses. With the increased traffic at the riverfront on both sides of the river, River John now has a new ice-cream shop and a soon-to-open cafe in the village. The buildings along the river on the Bissell Park side, including the Lions Club, have all undergone major improvements. Coincidence?

The docks at Roger's Landing may be for boaters, but Roger's Landing serves a much bigger purpose. Along with Bissell Park, it has become a multi-use destination that invites people to take time to enjoy our river and encourages locals, neighbours and those passing through to sample other attractions of River John while they are here.



Photo from the 50s of Ned MacLeod with cat. What is interesting is that it is taken in front of where our town hall (from last Pioneer) used to stand, before it burned. There also used to be an old mill building across the road. It is facing west and shows the steel bridge which crossed the gully. Later, this was filled in and a causeway with culvert constructed. Pioneer Cemetery is just east of where this bridge used to be. The first property you can see just past the bridge is a barn. My father later moved the barn further into the property, turned it and set it on a concrete floor. The first house in the background is the Logan house, which was torn down after the present house was constructed. In the far background is Sergeant McNabb's house which is still standing. Salem United Church is also in the background. Perhaps other readers recognize other buildings? The truck?



Hon. Karla MacFarlane
 MLA, Pictou West

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River John Airbnbs

by Lynn MacLeod

Have you, your family or friends ever wanted to stay in an Airbnb for a night, weekend or longer? Or sit by the water, enjoy spectacular sunsets, go hiking on the numerous trails, or kayaking, canoeing or just sit with a beverage and relax? Well you can. Did you know that River John and area have over a dozen Airbnbs? I did not know this either, until I was asked to write an article for the Pioneer's fall newspaper on this subject. I have chosen only a few for this edition. I have listed the owner's name and a picture or two. If you are interested in staying in one of these amazing Airbnbs, do a Google search for "Airbnb River John Nova Scotia".



Sharon's cottage by the sea - Owners; Gary & Sharon Johnson



Tanya & Chris Boudreau's



The Elms-Owners-Rick & Lenora



Cameron Log Home-Owner Doug & Sandy Cameron



River Rest Retreat-Owners Leonard & Shelly Bigney



Poplar Waters-Log Cabin#1-Owner- Josh Moholland



River Rest—Owners Wes and Jodi



Hot Tub Retreat -Owner George Jebli

Editorial Fall 2021

by Joan MacLeod

Our summer was a glorious one, the warmest in many years, yet there was enough rain to keep the gardens and the lawns growing. A friend commented that it was like we had River John Days without actually having the festival. This is because a few events, washer toss and a children's parade, (Christmas in July), our two annual chicken barbeques, and even a lobster take-out meal all happened. There was a community picnic as well. We could hold all of these events by following Department of Health COVID protocols such as masking, sanitizing our hands and social distancing. There has been very little spread of the virus in the Northern region and many of us are now fully vaccinated. We are, indeed, fortunate to live where we do, other places are still locked down. So now we are required to show proof of vaccination for entry into non-essential places and services. Please be nice to the people who are asking us for these documents. They did not make the rules, which they are required to enforce. I get it that people are tired of it. I am too, and saddened about the way this issue has created unnecessary divisions among us.

Our new Sunday Market run by Bobbi Lee Bigney at the River John Old School made a good start after the change of venue from the Lismore Sheep Farm. One vendor even came regularly from Amherst. There was entertainment and some kind of food truck every Sunday. Baked goods, maple products, knit goods, crafts, pet food, vegetables and fruit, cosmetics, honey and beeswax candles were some of the available products. It is a great attraction to bring people into the village. In addition, Bobbi Lee has a gift shop in the school, (the former pre-school room), called "The Rustic Piper." It is so good to see such positive changes to the community. It is also heartening to see the new "Overstreet Cafe" take shape in the former Scotiabank building.

Fall is such a time of preparation. The last of the garden is harvested, stored or preserved to feed us over the winter. The beds all need to be dug up, fertilized and/or mulched. For some people the wood needs to be cut or bought, piled and kept dry for the winter fires. Each season has its charms and its chores. The fall colours are spectacular this year so as we drive or walk around the countryside, be sure to drink in the beauty. It can cheer us up and even take our breath away. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world. We have much to be grateful for. Sometimes it feels like it is Mother Nature's little gift of extra beauty with the changing seasons as we prepare to turn our attention inwards with the winter months ahead.

This year the Lions have established a "pantry" on their deck and are encouraging people to share their extra/spare harvest with those who may be in need. Extra produce from their new community garden may also end up there. We are a sharing community.

Like any community, there are always incidents which we would rather not have happened. It has been sad to see some bullying in Bissell Park this summer and also some vandalism. What do we do as a community? How do we reconcile our differences? How do we teach kindness and respect?

Remember we have a wonderful example to follow, a person who was a real humanitarian. Be kind, be humble, be welcoming, be a good neighbour and try to do it with humour and good grace !



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The views expressed in this newspaper are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editorial board.

The Pioneer is distributed throughout the BOK 1N0 postal area which is primarily River John and West Branch. We welcome any articles or pictures from any of our newspaper friends and areas. Contributions to the next issue should be sent to the editors. Please send text files and pictures as separate attachments. Text should have the bare minimum of formatting. Photos should be 400-1200 pixels wide, and be accompanied by a list of captions.

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Our Pioneer Production Team: Back row L to R: Christiane Gill, Mary Beth Sutherland, Marg Jones, Melanie Miller. Front row L to R: Julie Windebank, Joan MacLeod, Beulah Wright, Debby Shaw.
Missing from photo: Linda Thompson-Reid, Derek Andrews, Kristine Stallman, Sandra MacKay.

Meals on Wheels needs new co-ordinator

River John Meals on Wheels has been run by Joanne Wilkins for the past 17 years. The service has operated from the River John Legion, serving a hot meal to seniors one day per week from September until March. The service is voluntarily run and requires obtaining grant money. A cook is hired who buys the food, and plans and prepares the meals. There are volunteer drivers as well, and the co-ordinator also delivers some of the meals to seniors. Joanne is planning to retire from this position in March, 2022, and unless an individual or group steps forward, this service will no longer be available in our community.

If you would like to see the continuation of the Meals on Wheels program, please contact River John Community Action Society, e-mail mariefarrell463@gmail.com

Thank you to Joanne for 17 years of volunteer service in organizing and running the program.

The Pioneer Still Wants to hear from you

by Joan MacLeod
Editor

We feel proud of our recent editions of the Pioneer! However, we do want to hear what you think. Do we have the right balance between historical stories, more recent community history and news of current organizations and activities? Are we getting enough of a variety of stories from different age groups and sources? This is your newspaper too. We still feel that it is important that the printed word continues because not everyone has a computer. We have heard praise, which is always nice, but positive suggestions would also be helpful.

We welcome your response in "Letters to the Editor".

Again, we say our name the "Pioneer" (which was taken from the earlier publication in the 1850's) refers to the colonial settlers. Should we change our name in keeping with modern sensibilities? If so, to what?

We are happy to report that three new people have joined our production team.

Julie Windebank, who is looking after sales; Christiane Gill, photographer and Debby Shaw, reporter and story writer. I am staying on as editor for now but it would be helpful if there was someone

whom I could mentor to take the job on and assist me. It would look good on a resume, if one were thinking of studying journalism for example. I have no formal training and learned what to do "on the fly". You could too!

Putting the Pioneer together is a huge undertaking and things that are electronic do not always translate to the printed word easily. It helps us a lot if information comes as "Word" or "Word Perfect" documents (not just as an email) and photos should be sent as a separate document preferably as j-peg with clear legible captions. Always reread your captions, so that errors are eliminated. We are now enforcing a "hard" deadline. Sorry if that means your story did not make it this time.

Thank you to all our advertisers without which the paper would not be possible.

And a huge thank you to Derek Andrews our layout specialist who puts the huge jigsaw puzzle together. And also thank you to River John Action Society for sponsoring this project.

We aim to publish three issues per year. Spring (Feb/march) Summer (May /June), Fall (Oct/Nov), This is the last issue for 2021

We wish all of our readers a safe and happy holiday season.

IOOF and Rebekah's report

by Jacob Leegwater,
Recording Secretary

Hello readers of "The Pioneer". Helping Hand Lodge meetings were put on hold for seven weeks due to the COVID lockdown, but business was still looked after. Graduation prizes were sent to both Northumberland Regional High School and the Tatamagouche Academy. Also, on behalf of the Lodge, a barbecue was donated to the residents of Riverview Manor for their enjoyment and use.

We were able to meet the last two Mondays in June, at which time we had nominations of officers for the coming term. For Noble Grand - Bro. Willis Langille; Vice Grand - Bro. Brian Eloff; Recording Secretary - Bro. Jacob Leegwater; Financial Secretary - Bro. Jamie Craig; Treasurer - Bro. Earl Johnson. At the time of installation, the Noble Grand and Vice Grand will appoint the rest of the officers.

After the summer recess, we met on September 13 when we welcomed our District Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Kenny Snook of Liberty Lodge #120 and his installation team. Introduced by Bro. Dan Ferguson were Grand Chaplain Bro. Jacob Leegwater, Grand Master, Pro. Tem - Bro. Peter Richardson, and D.D.G.M. Bro. Snook, who were then given The Honors of the Order. During new business, officers were installed. Noble Grand Bro. Willis Langille, Vice Grand Bro. Brian Eloff, Recording Secretary Bro. Jacob Leegwater,

Treasurer Bro. Earl Johnson, I.G. Bro. Rod Hayman, Right and Left supporters of the Vice Grand Bro. Steven Craib and Bro. David Sutherland, Chaplain Bro. Dan Ferguson, Colour Bearer Bro. Hugh Langille. Other officers would be installed at a later date. We were fortunate enough to get a municipal grant which we used for upgrades to the kitchen, including a new stove. At our September 27 meeting, Past District Deputy Grand Master Bro. Earl Johnson installed into their office Bro. Bob Dwyer as Right Supporter of the Noble Grand and Bro. Patrick Heighton as Warden.

As a Rebekah, as well as an Odd Fellow, I will report on our sister Rebekahs, who meet the second and fourth Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m. This gives the more senior members a chance to get to the meetings in daylight hours. Nominations for officers take place at three consecutive meetings after they are installed by the District Deputy President. Nominations for Noble Grand Sister Joanne Ferguson, Vice Grand Bro Jacob Leegwater, Recording Secretary Sister Greta Langille, Financial Secretary Sister Marie Langille, Treasurer Sister Agnes Murray. As in the Odd Fellows, the Noble Grand and Vice Grand will appoint their supporters and other officers. Membership in the Rebekahs increased by one when Bro. Dan Ferguson was initiated at our September 24 meeting. Welcome Bro. Dan.

Well, that's all for this time. Please stay safe and hope for a return to normal.



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Card of Thanks for Rock the Field, July 31, 2021

We wish to say a big Thank You, and that we very much appreciate all the help we had in making our concert, "Rock the Field," at the River John Old School such a success. Thanks to all our helping hands: Nick Heighton, Sandy Langille, our ground workers: Bobbi Lee Bigney and Randy Munro; our bartenders: Demetria And Olivia O'Brien, and Kat Pinto; Mike George for powering us up; Donnie Matheson for our stage; Brian McNutt for our toilets; Paul Logan for our ice; and Karan Sidhu for hosting our event. And last but not least, we wish to thank the community for their support.

Thank you again,
Shelley, Leonard and Nicholas Bigney, River John Old School

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A non-profit group fitness endeavour - all are welcome

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Music by local singer-songwriter Maurice Poirier.
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The monthly breakfasts can start again at St John's Anglican Church \$8.00 October 31st 7:30 to 10:00

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Upon arrival we will ask you: (this will be a part of the registration) - show their proof of vaccination, show ID (to match proof of vaccine and date of birth - health card is acceptable). We appreciate your patience as we navigate these new provincial mandates to help keep our communities safe. For up-to-date info on the Provincial Proof of Full Vaccination Policy head over to <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/proof-of-full-vaccination-policy>



Takeout Seafood Chowder Meal

Toney River Community Hall
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4-6 pm or until sold out
Chowder, biscuit, roll, apple crisp
\$12

The North Shore Senior Citizens Association is a non-profit organization that supports seniors in the Tricounty area. Over the years, before the COVID restrictions, we hosted different activities such as yoga, bus trips, potlucks, card games activities at the Tatamagouche Library, presentations at our monthly meetings, as well as hosting senior dinners for Christmas, Easter, Summer Lobster and Thanksgiving (during COVID we have offered Takeout meals).

Our monthly meetings take place usually on the second Thursday of the month at Roach Hall at the Hills of Annapolis Seniors complex on Blair Ave. in Tatamagouche on , October 14th , November 18th (delayed one week due to November 11th) and December 8th and beginning at 1:30 p.m.
Membership fee is \$ 5.00 per year! Open to all 50+!
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The re-emergence of the Ballfield and T-Ball

by Jay Reid

If you were lucky enough to spend any time in and around River John this summer you may have noticed a large contingent of children sporting loud, green T-Shirts with Jr. Rippers emblems on the front. These were the Girls and Boys of Summer. They collected twice weekly at the River John ballfield and, usually immediately after practice, at Cohen's Cones for an after game treat. Upwards of 40 kids at a time would grace the ballfield on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, chasing flyballs and butterflies. They were playing T-Ball. They'd hit singles that turned into doubles. They smashed triples to opposite field and they rolled in the dirt and slid in the grass. Kids being kids. This being the inaugural season, the main focus of the program was to introduce the kids to the concept of the game. Wide age ranges encompassing kids from 3-10 years old, with coaches stressing the fundamentals and making sure everyone got better. Better than they were before they signed up. To that end, the program was an overwhelming success. Every one of those 40 or so kids managed to improve in some respect. Kids that couldn't throw, can. Kids that could throw, can now throw harder and more accurately. The kids that took 15 minute naps on the field whittled it down and were only sleeping 4 or 5 minutes, tops. Sometimes not at all. Progress, no matter what way you look at it.



This T-Ball resurgence is important. For the kids, and for the community. Historically, River John frequently filled the grandstands at the ballfield with parents watching their kids play T-ball, softball and fast-ball. There have been Little Leagues of 4+ teams that had playoffs and champions. Senior men's teams like the BatBreakers participated in the Pictou County Men's Fastpitch league in the 80s and early 90s. Teams have practiced there, won there, and lost there. Kids travelled from Tatamagouche and Pictou to play there. The ballfield birthed teams that would eventually go on to Provincials to have fantastic experiences. But, as the population decreased, so did participation in team sports in the community. The ballfield became less important, and under-utilized. For a decade or so, it seemed like



more of a relic and less of a ballfield. That is why seeing cars filling the parking lot, parents leaning on the fence yelling words of encouragement or "wake up!" are so welcomed. Once again, skills are being learned, relationships are being built and ice cream is being consumed at unprecedented levels. The kids are back on the infield. The ballfield has become relevant again, and our community is definitely better for it.

Things like this would never be possible if not set in motion by some diligent individuals with administrative patience and progressive vision. In this specific case, Santina Weatherby can take the bulk of the credit. She laid the groundwork for the program and basically worked it into existence, during a pandemic, no less. Parents helped, coaches volunteered and kids showed up, but Santina made it work. There were also a few fundraising events that helped display the village's charitable and generous spirit. These events raised money, brought people together and showed promise in an idea that, until very recently, seemed improbable. The people that made this happen know who they are, and should be proud of the steps they made this summer. So should the kids. With this renewed interest comes funding, and the ballfield will soon benefit from this resurgence in the form of upgrades and upkeep that will hopefully grow the game, improve the field, and get kids outside participating in something they remember fondly for a long, long time.



Carved in Stone

by Debby Shaw

A few weeks ago, I took a free book from the River John library. I was attracted by the title, *Stories in Stone, a Field Guide to Cemeteries, Symbolism and Iconography*, (Keister, 2004). Since I had just put away my *Stokes Field Guide to Birds*, (Stokes & Stokes, 1996), and the birds were leaving for the south, I was intrigued.

In this field guide there were beautiful examples of tombstone carvings and their meaning. One style of carving caught my interest. It was a skull. Some of these skulls had cross bones, some had wings on either side of the head, some appeared like a skeleton; others were more realistic. To me it was obvious that they symbolized death, but what were their origins?

The field guide said, the 16th Century Puritans believed there were only a destined few that would make it into the afterlife. The rest were going to stay in the ground and rot. Thus, the skull and cross, "...doomed to be born, live, die, then rot". (Keister, 2004 p.135).

After the Reformation, sometime in the 17th century, people started to have hope that there might be some afterlife available for everyone (be it Heaven or Hell, or Purgatory). As the centuries changed so did the death's head. It became known as the soul effigy. At this point, the carving of the skull began to resemble a human face. Some faces had wings to symbolize that life flew by quickly.

By the mid-19th century, the death's head was replaced by a winged cherub and flowery engravings. Access to the afterlife was not quite as dismal in this era.

Armed with my trusty new Field Guide, I walked the 1800 Cemetery and the Methodist Cemetery in River John. I viewed many beautiful carvings, yet not a death's head, nor a soul effigy, nor a cherub in sight.

However, just like when I bird watch, I am not deterred. Obviously, as the Thrush likes to hide in the woods, this icon hides in centuries past. I will just have to visit older cemeteries.

It would be exciting to hear if any of you have a death's head sighting. Perhaps you could point me to it? I'm keeping track in my Field Guide!

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Pictou County lauded for being “Most Active County” by Heartland Tour.

by Elaine Falconer

The following article appeared in the Pictou Advocate. Pictou County won this award over a three-week period in July. The \$2500 cheque will go towards repair of a bridge on the Fitzpatrick Mountain Trail in Scotsburn. This trail is heavily used by hikers and mountain bikers alike.

I am also proud to say that River John made quite a contribution to the winning of this award. As members of Cape to Cape Trails Committee, Theresa Dickson,

Lynn MacLeod and I did a lot of work getting folks to sign up. “What’s Going on in River John” was one avenue we used, but the most effective one was word of mouth by encouraging people to sign up. So, thanks to everyone in River John who signed up. Also, Theresa Dickson emceed the award presentation event, which was held at Smith Rock Chalets.

Hopefully we can do the same thing again next year. There is a lot to be said for being small, but mighty!

Pictou County earns award for trail work

by Steve Goodwin
for the Advocate

Words of congratulations flowed the Pictou County Trails Association’s way on Saturday after the association received the Heartland Tour Most Active County award.

The award was worth \$2,500 and was presented during a luncheon at Smith Rock Chalets. It is to be used on a volunteer-led recreational trail project covered by general liability insurance (via Nova Scotia Trails Federation) and on lands with formal landowner consent to trails.

Warden Robert Parker was the first to deliver remarks.

“I’m proud but I’m not surprised,” he said. “This is a day to celebrate. Our council has placed a high priority on movement. For some of you who are doing a little, we’d like you to do a bit more. Trails are what I call our (Pictou County) wellness centre. If they are near your home, you’re more likely to use them.”

Trails association member Jim Vance said Pictou County’s achievement is all the more extraordinary, given the pandemic and how the Heartland Tour was virtual for the second straight year. The annual award is given to the county with the greatest participation rate in the Heartland Tour.

“Everybody put some work into it,” he said. “This area is where it works best in the province.”

Heartland Tour president Dr. Nick Giacomantonio voiced agreement with Vance. Giacomantonio, a cardiologist and professor of medicine specializing in cardiac rehabilitation (registered as the Cardiac Cycling Society of Nova Scotia), founded Heartland Tours in 2007.

“There is a lot of power in the room,” he said. “There is a lot of passion in the room. Passion leads to action, and it takes passion to drive a community.”

He pointed to the Heartland Tour he founded as a way to get more Nova Scotians more active and healthy.



Susan Henderson, left, stands with items she was presented with on Saturday during the MAC Award luncheon. With her are Elaine Falconer accepting a cheque on behalf of the Pictou County Trails Association from Heartland Tour president Dr. Nick Giacomantonio.

(Goodwin photo)

“Heartland is merely a vehicle,” he said. “My job has been to undermine my own career.”

Community Services Minister and Pictou West Karla MacFarlane praised the association’s work. She used to hike, cycle, kayak and generally enjoy nature much more before she entered politics.

“I don’t think we realize how grounding being in nature can be,” she said. “More than ever, people are getting outside due to COVID restrictions. Families are more bonded.”

The Pictou County Trails Association is an umbrella of recreational trails organization in the county. It plans, builds and manages volunteer-led initiatives.

Non-motorized hiking and biking trails are coordinated through the Cape to Cape Trails Committee headed by Gordon Young for hiking and Jim Ripoli for mountain biking.

River John Fire Department News

by Santina Weatherby

As cooler weather approaches, the River John Volunteer Fire Department wishes to remind everyone about the importance of having their flues cleaned before burning wood in the cooler seasons.

With the change in seasons, fall also brings Fire Prevention Week. This year’s theme is “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.” Use this week as a reminder to review and practice fire escape routes from your home and check your smoke and gas detectors and batteries. During the children’s Hallowe’en parade, Chief John MacLellan and Captain Cody Jodrie were able to spend some time handing out fire prevention and Hallowe’en safety information packets.

It is important we recognize the ongoing support our department continues to receive from our community, both at local fundraisers, through donations, and the online 50/50 draw. We were overwhelmed by the turnout for our annual Chicken BBQ! It was a very warm day, and we thank everyone for your patience and kindness as we worked through the line-up and followed covid protocols.

Your support has contributed to the purchase of two new AEDs. We have installed one AED in the upstairs hall, which will be quickly accessible if required for anyone utilizing the space for events or meetings. We have also placed an AED in our equipment van, which responds to emergency scenes. In the event our medical response vehicle may be located off-scene or a distance away from an active emergency scene, this allows timely access to an AED should a department member, volunteer or bystander require its use. The cost of these AEDs and the required storage cabinets totalled \$4283.00.

Our department’s medical response vehicle is equipped with an AED, which is provided to us through Emergency Health Services (EHS) for emergency medical calls which we attend when dispatched by EHS and 911; this AED will continue to attend all medical response calls.

Fundraising efforts have also contributed to upgrades to our internet capability, as we are now able to provide improved wireless high-speed internet connection in our upstairs hall. This is an important improvement for those who utilize the hall for events, but also for members when participating in training and educational sessions.

As always, we send a sincere thanks to our community for generous support year-round. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy autumn.



Fire department chicken barbecue



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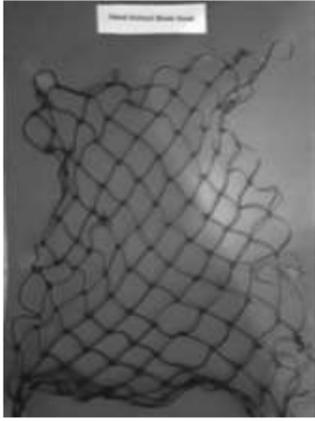
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River John 4-H Club

by **Christine Heighton/ Shar Maclean**

The River John 4-H Club finished this year with a big bang! Although we were still under COVID-19 protocols, the club was able to organize our Achievement Day. On August 11th, 2021, the day started at 8 a.m. at the Bezanson's farm with light horse, mini horse, goat, beef, sheep, rabbit, poultry and waterfowl; all members and animals did an amazing job displaying the skills they learned. The day finished at the West Branch hall after the life skills projects were judged; it was a wonderful display of the members' imaginations and skills with a wide variety of projects. Projects on display were cloverbud, foods, crafts, photography, scrapbooking, sewing, cake decorating and fisheries. The members, leaders and guests had a light lunch of hot dogs, fresh lemonade provided by the Foods members and ice cream sundaes which the members made themselves. Overall, it was a great day and everyone is looking forward to the 2021/2022 4-H year.



What's Happening in West Branch

by **Denise White**

Change. I have heard it said that it is the only constant in the universe. The one thing that you can count on is that things are going to change. That's life. And it goes for communities, as well. People move in, people move out, babies are born, and the old folks pass on. Businesses open and close, homes are built; some stand for what seems like forever and others decay into dust.

But there is another old saying that rings true – the more things change, the more they stay the same. The folks who live here, for example, might be from other families, but you can't ask for better people. And for someone like me, a transplant from another town, it's the people that make all the difference. I can't say that I know all of my neighbours, but I can say that I've got good ones. And, it seems, that that's the way it's always been.

West Branch was a bustling spot a hundred years ago. And, fortunately, someone had the foresight to put to paper some of the best stories passed down from the folks who had first-hand knowledge of what it was like in years gone by.

There is a book entitled, "Stories Around the Branch – A Collection of Tales from West Branch, Pictou County, NS". As the title states, it is a collection of stories from some prominent residents. I didn't know these people; I don't recognize the names Clifford MacKay, Jim Ross, Lloyd MacIntosh, Margaret Stewart, although I did meet Ruth Smith a time or two. And it is filled with tales of this community in days past. Here's one as told by Mr. Clifford MacKay, (used with permission).

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River John Lions Community Garden and Food Bank / Food Pantry

by **John McKim, Secretary, RJ Lions Club**

The RJ Lions Club commenced work this spring in establishing a Community Garden, located on property owned by Eugene and Dolly Mertin, who kindly allowed the use of their land just east of the Legion. The first summer saw the initial tilling of the garden, thanks to volunteers Mike Weatherby and Earl Johnson, and planting by several community members.

The intent for the community garden was for community members to plant and cultivate their own rows and donate half of the vegetables produced to the Food Bank and Food Pantry, to be located in River John. The club is currently investigating a location for a new food bank, with a food bank service to be run by community members 1 day per week, servicing the River John and district area. The Lions are also looking into the possibility of using the current Lions Den for purposes of running the food bank operation.



In the interim, the Lions plan on establishing a food pantry on the side deck of the Lions Den facing Bissell Park, involving a set of cupboards and fridge which will be accessible all year round. The food pantry concept involves trying to improve food security for those in need, with community members sharing what they can

in terms of dropping off food and other needed goods. "Share what you can; Take what you need" is the main slogan for the new "River John Little Food Pantry." It is hoped to have that up and running in the next 2 weeks and community members are invited and encouraged to become involved in any way they can in the food pantry, the community garden and the proposed food bank. Any community member interested in volunteering for the food bank is asked to email RiverJohnLions@outlook.com

The first year for the community garden was a success (despite the deer not co-operating) with many pounds of potatoes, squash, zucchini, melons, pumpkins, and other vegetables being produced. Next year, the plan is to significantly enlarge the garden and fence it to keep out deer. Hopefully, this will be an ongoing annual project with support of the River John community.



District Governor David Hunter and Vice District Governor Bill Bruhm presented Lion Bruce Frizzell with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for all his contributions to Lionism. This award is one of the top Lions awards a Lion can receive.



District Governor David Hunter presented KL Burns Elliott with his pin and banner.



District Governor David Hunter presented Baby Lion Rose Bezanson with her pin.

..... continued from page 9

West Branch in the Early 1900s

“Oh, there was a great bunch of people around West Branch in those times, great people to do business with; the majority were as honest as the sun.

When I was a child, there was quite a lot going on in West Branch. There were two stores going and two blacksmith shops. There was a grist mill, a shingle mill and before that, there was a woollen mill. It burned down some years before that. That was before my time.

There was also a carriage shop. That was quite an industry at one time. They made riding wagons, sleighs. The building was later used as a store. First there was an A. J. MacKay. He was a merchant there and then, R. A. MacKay, that was Bob MacKay, Pete’s father.

The older people were more for telling stories than the people of today. There was no televisions or radios to hear. In fact, when I was in the store there were no televisions. I remember the first one that came to West Branch. I think it was Irving MacDonald that had the first television.

There were just three telephones in my young days. We had a telephone. Dr. Campbell had a telephone and Bob MacKay had a telephone. They were on the River John exchange. There was no line. And then back about '25 or '26, the telephone line was built in West Branch.

In the evenings, people more or less came to the store to visit, I think, and they exchanged their stories and one thing or another. The mail used to come back from Scotsburn in the evening and they would come to the store and to the post office and wait to get their mail.

The original owner of our store was a MacMillan, who in the early 1900s spent all his money building the store. He didn’t have enough money to stock the store then and he went out west to earn some money and he didn’t come back. My father rented the store, and I worked there when I was just a kid putting stock on the shelves. Well, you could name it and we had it. It was a general store. We had hardware, dry goods, groceries of course. Groceries was the main item and, oh, we’d webs of cloth and anything you wanted you could get. If we didn’t have it, we would get it for you.

What I miss most about running a general store is meeting the people, seeing people come in. They would come and there’d be a line of horses and wagons, horses tied up along the fence.”

Here’s one from Ruth Smith that still rings true. I can attest to this. I’ve said similar things since I moved here!

“I’d say the main difference growing up back then and today is that people don’t go visiting as much. That’s one thing I noticed. You never knew when a neighbour was going to drop in, in the olden days. And there was always a cup of tea. And it wasn’t just a cup of tea. It was a cup of tea and a lunch you had to have. You never got out of the house without a lunch.”

At least that much hasn’t changed! The people in this community are still good neighbours, good people. We might not have as many businesses as a century ago, but they are here. They are here because this is a good place to be. It’s a good place to build.

It’s West Branch. What more do you need?”

River John Square Knitters (RJSK)

by Gloria Grandy

If you were fortunate enough to be in River John this past summer, I hope you had a chance to browse the Sunday Market at the Old School. Each week, vendors offered home grown fruits & veggies, hand made soaps and candles, beautiful artwork hand crafted from interesting beach finds, and even yummy treats for humans and your four-legged friends, to name just a few. Among all of this creativity you would have found the River John Square Knitters. We have become a familiar sight along Nova Scotia's gorgeous North Shore.

RJSK is a group of crafty creators on a mission. Along with crafters from over 60 countries around the world, we knit and crochet 8-inch squares and send them to Knit a Square (KAS) in South Africa. KAS is reaching out to offer love and warmth to the millions of orphaned and vulnerable children there. Our squares are made into blankets and distributed as a currency of hope to these precious little ones.

Whenever you see us at a craft event, sitting at a table beside our story board, we are selling beautiful hand knit and crocheted items to help us with our postage costs. Since we began in 2014, we have sent nearly 30,000 squares to South Africa. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of all who have stopped by our tables.

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? We're a friendly lot and would love to have you join us. While COVID has temporarily dislodged us from our usual meeting room at the River John Library, we still get together somewhere most Friday mornings. If you would like to join us, please contact us by email at riverjohnsk@bell.net and we will be happy to let you know where you can find us.

For more information about Knit a Square, please visit www.knit-a-square.com.



Gloria Grandy, River John Square Knitters recently had a display at Woolstock 21, in Tatamagouche.

Positive Thinking and our Health

by Georgie Fleck

Before you read this, here is my disclaimer: I have no idea what I’m talking about it but I’m going to do it anyways. I am not a health professional. This article is for enjoyment.

Since this description probably doesn’t apply to “any” of you, I feel pretty comfortable sharing another one of my many character flaws with you. Overly perky, sunshine out of their pores, permanently smiley, cheery people kind of annoy me. I want to tell them a sad story. Nobody in their right mind can be that happy all of the time, unless they are heavily medicated. Or can they be?

I had an interesting conversation recently with Cleopatra, (not her real name - surprise!). We were talking about positive thinking. Clee, (that’s what I call her,) told me that she and a group of her friends made a pact to spend 24 hours and just be positive. No matter what their day threw at them, they would only react positively. She said it was amazing how they all felt afterwards and how thinking positively changed their lives. So here is my challenge to you: try 24 hours of thinking and reacting to things positively. Try to get your home and work families on board. No matter what happens, twist it into something positive.

Examples:

Had a flat tire on a rainy day. Positive: at least it’s only one tire and it’s not snowing.

Your mother in law is coming to visit for three weeks. Positive: you “can’t” get vacation and she couldn’t stay for 4 weeks this year.

Your teenagers room looks and smells like a dump. Positive: you have a new bottle of Febreze and they have a door.

You get the idea, have some fun with it.

I read somewhere - Mayo clinic maybe? I can’t recall, but it was something about positive thinking being a mental attitude in which you expect good results. And that a positive mind waits for happiness, health and a happy ending in any situation.

So if a positive mind waits for happiness, health and a happy ending, doesn’t it stand to reason that a negative mind awaits sadness, poor health and an unhappy ending?

I have this t-shirt that I used to wear under my ball uniform. That wasn’t yesterday, not even in this century, sadly. The t-shirt has a quote on it that says, “If I can’t win I don’t want to play.” Now, some people might have thought that by wearing it I was a poor loser, but the truth was that if I went into a game thinking that I wasn’t going to win, there was no chance; we might as well have been down 6 runs in the bottom of the 7th with two outs and “Never Had a Hit Harriet” coming to the plate. I would have already defeated myself. I picked up that shirt because the team I was playing on needed to believe that they could win. And they could and they did, by believing in themselves.

Believing you can accomplish something and putting in the time, whether that’s becoming knowledgeable about all aspects of your job or, in the case of my ball team, practice and belief in ourselves are the main differences between winning and losing in games and in life.

Try being positive for 24 hours, then 48 and ...



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How I spent Spring of 2021

by Georgie Fleck

Our sweet kitty Evie needed major surgery to save her life. The only place for Evie to have her surgery was the vet college in PEI. To get on the island (at that time) you required a letter from your vet, listing all members of the car and an appointment with the vet college. We made the dash with Evie to get her to the hospital - it's about 3 hours by land from our place.

We got to PEI. I'm driving. It took two of us in the rain and fog to figure out which way to go once we got off the bridge to go through the checkpoint. A nice young fella with clipboard approaches. Nature of visit? We needed to produce the letter and hold it to the window, we needed to show both of our drivers licenses, again holding it to the window. He gives us instructions, "You are allowed to drive directly to the vet college, drop off the animal and come directly back. You are not allowed out of your vehicle, to stop for any reason, gas, food or go through a drive through." So no washroom. No Boomburger, no craft beer stop(s). Ok.

Wrong assumptions made by me. We would be just dropping off Evie and we would make it back across the bridge before dark and the heavy fog rolled in. Ha....

When we arrived at the college - wonderful people by the way, they were so kind to Evie. They did the check-in by phone and advised us that they would be out shortly. When shortly rolled around... they came for Evie and said they would need to evaluate her - again



Evie

my stupidity - I thought the information from our vet was the evaluation. It should only take around 40 minutes. I mentioned the no bathroom right? When that hour was up they called with the good news, she was a good candidate for the surgery, they would be keeping her. The estimate was a deck and 25% of a pool...and would we please wait in the parking lot until billing called and processed 50% of the estimate. Thankfully, the collection part was quick and off we went, in the fog and rain. I tried a couple of pairs of glasses to see which worked best. Janice could see better - that one eye thing of mine can be a bugger for me at times, I was driving. We didn't take our normal route home through Baie Verte - the back roads, opting to go up to Amherst in the bad weather, past all the moose crossing signs. The checkpoint was up at the NS border. The normal exit to Amherst was closed - under construction - they had so many reflective barrels there I wasn't certain if it was an obstacle course or I was in Donkey Kong and was supposed to just hit them for points. Another nice young fella allowed us back into NS and home we crept. A lot of Highway 6 was driven in the middle of the road, saying, "Yup, pretty positive I'm still on the road." We arrived home just before 1 a.m., wired.

When we brought our Evie home after her surgery, as can happen with humans and animals, she ran into some complications. The result was that we needed to feed her around the clock by syringe, every so many hours, until she started feeding herself. We got lucky. I remember how excited we were the first day she started eating on her own and we felt safe letting her out to roll in the catnip patch. I've never been so tired in my life, 3 straight weeks of 4 hours sleep a night

Her new name is Evie No Deck, No Pool. I was told by someone that there is a place in heaven for those that care for animals. We may have bought our way into the penthouse.

April 20th - after a solid 3 hours sleep, I was getting ready for work. I was trying to encourage Raffa (puppy dog) to go out and pee. I did the big old sweeping arm motion, waving him towards the door, come on Raffa, let's go buddy. Not connecting in my brain that I had my tea in my hand and threw it on the wall in the living room. I could have reacted in many different ways, I laughed. Janice came out to see what was going on and cracked up too. It made cleaning up the mess that much easier. That Saturday at 3 a.m. after a kitty feeding time, I placed my grocery order with the Superstore. I was awake. The COVID numbers were starting to climb so my trips into grocery stores were going to stop for a while. I went to pick up the order and drove right by the exit. Turned around, got my groceries dropped into my car. And drove directly to Giant Tiger and walked in (OMG right?). I'm strolling through Giant Tiger, not 100% sure why I'm there and saw this nice big bag of bananas - they looked good so I bought them and headed home. Got home and was unloading my groceries and what did I also get at the Superstore...a nice big bunch of bananas - so tired. Again we found it hilarious.

Laughing is much better than crying.

Book Review

by Joan MacLeod

Three Cups of Tea

*One Man's Mission to Promote Peace
One School at a Time.*

By *Greg Mortenson and David Oliver
Relin*

The recent withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and ensuing humanitarian crisis, makes this book seem even more timely. The fight against extremism is best fought through education.

This book is the non-fiction account of a mountaineer named Greg Mortenson who, in 1993, got lost and disorientated after a failed attempt to climb K2, a huge peak in the Himalayas. He stumbled into an impoverished Pakistani village, where he was the first Westerner to ever appear. He was amazed that the children who did not have a school but nonetheless grouped together outside, and by using sticks and dust, tried to learn their sums. Moved by the villagers' kindness as they took him in and helped him to regain his health, he promised to return and build them a school.

So many Westerners would have gone home to America and forgotten all about their promises. But Greg Mortenson was not that kind of man. Returning to California, he slept in sleeping bags on friends'

couches and between shifts at the local hospital's emergency department, started his campaign to raise funds to build schools. It took about 600 letters before he found his first benefactor and eventually founded a charity called The Central Asia Institute or CAI. Their mandate was to raise funds to build schools for the children in the remote mountainous regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan and hire local teachers to staff them to create a balanced, rather than extremist education. Sometimes they worked with the public school system to pay teachers who had not been paid despite a huge caseload, and would hire additional staff. They were not always confined to building schools; in one area where there was a high infant mortality rate due to unsafe water, they worked with local people to create a safe public water system.

Greg Mortenson was a trauma nurse and therefore had skills and supplies which were very useful for those remote villages which had little in the form of medical care. During the course of many visits to the area, he treated infections, stitched up cuts and assisted in the delivery of a baby stuck in the birth canal, thus saving the life of the baby and the mother. The villagers called him Doctor Greg and loved him.

The book title, "Three cups of Tea," means this: "Here in Pakistan and Afghanistan we drink three cups of tea to do business. The first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, the third you join our family and for our family we are prepared to do anything - even die."

Over the next decade, Mortenson built not just one, but 55 schools especially for girls, in the forbidding terrain that gave birth to the Taliban who had indeed held him as a prisoner for a time. He made friends and worked with the local people. As one of them, Syed Abass, said, "I looked into his heart and saw an infidel but a noble man who dedicates his life to the education of children. I decided on the spot to help him any way I could."

By 2003, with schools being successful, an incident happened which illustrated just how successful the program started by Greg had become. A teenaged girl, Jahan, approached a group of men who were meeting with Greg and explained that her dream was to become a doctor studying maternal health; she was about to start her medical studies and needed money from the founda-

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

Winter Yummies

by **Chris Gill**

The cold is coming (groan) but so are these warming treats (yummm):

Eggnog Latte

you need per serving:

- 1 cup of eggnog, very warm, frothed
- 1/8 - 1/4 cup very, very strong coffee, to taste
- whipped cream (optional)
- sprinkle with cinnamon & sugar and/or nutmeg (optional)

Warm, not heat !!! the eggnog carefully in a pot or microwave it for about one minute (time may vary) Then froth the eggnog by very quickly twirling a whisk immersed in the warm eggnog between the palms of your hands, then add the ingredients in the order of appearance, Enjoy

Pumpkin Latte

You need per serving

- 1 cup of milk, very warm, frothed
- 2 tbsp pumpkin pie filling if you only want a hint of pumpkin and don't have pumpkin spice or
- 2 tbsp pure pumpkin purée if you want more pumpkin flavor and do have
- 1 tsp pumpkin spice (to taste) or
- mix pumpkin purée and pie filling to taste and
- 1/8 - 1/4 cup very, very strong coffee, to taste
- whipped cream (optional)
- sprinkle with cinnamon & sugar and/or pumpkin spice (optional)

Warm, not heat !!! the milk carefully in a pot or microwave it for about one minute (time may vary). Then froth the milk by very quickly twirling a whisk immersed in the warm milk between the palms of your hands, then add the ingredients in the order of appearance, Cheers

Peppermint Mocha

You need per serving:

- 1 cup of milk, very warm, frothed
- 1-4 crushed candy cane (depending on size and taste) and/or
- (pepper-) mint syrup and
- 1/8 - 1/4 cup very, very strong coffee, to taste and
- chocolate sauce and/or
- 2+ tbsp grated/chopped chocolate to taste
- Whipped cream (optional)
- sprinkle with smashed candy cane and/or chopped chocolate (optional)

Warm, not heat !!! the milk carefully in a pot or microwave it for about one minute (time may vary). froth the milk by very quickly twirling a whisk immersed in the warm milk between the palms of your hands.

Then, if you are using the candy cane, put it into a plastic bag and smash it with a heavy object like a heavy pot or hammer. Then add it to the milk and stir to dissolve most. If you are using the syrup add that, then add the coffee and then the chopped chocolate/ chocolate sauce.

Now sit back and enjoy

Tea lover, never fear! I have your back with

Chai (Tea)

You need per serving:

- 1 cup of milk, very warm, frothed
- 3/4 cup very, very strong black tea (at least 2 pouches of your preferred brand), to taste
- 2-3 tsp pumpkin spice
- Whipped cream (optional)
- sprinkle with nutmeg, pumpkin spice or cinnamon & sugar (optional)

Warm, not heat !!! the milk carefully in a pot or microwave it for about one minute (time may vary). froth the milk by very quickly twirling a whisk immersed in the warm milk between the palms of your hands.

Then add the tea and top with whipped cream if you want and/or sprinkle with nutmeg, pumpkin spice or cinnamon & sugar. Do enjoy.

Tastes are so personal and products vary so much that these recipes are simply a starting point for your very own journey to your very own winter comfort beverage. Give these sweet treats a try, then modify them to make them your very own and enjoy the coming cold season.

Warm, comfy season's greetings, Chris.



- eggnog latte
- pumpkin latte
- peppermint mocha
- Chai (tea)

topped with sweet, fluffy whipped cream

..... *Book Review*.....continued from page 11

tion to pay for this, as had been promised. Mortenson gave her the \$400 she needed.

Later the journalist describes the scene: "Here comes this teenage girl in the centre of a conservative Islamic village, breaking through about 16 layers of tradition at once. She had graduated from school and was the first educated woman in a village of 3 thousand people. She didn't defer to anyone, sat right down and handed him a proposal, in English, to better herself and improve the life of her village.

It later made the headlines as 'He fights terror with books.' He is a true humanitarian.

This is a great read and I highly recommend it.

The Bain Family Reunion

by **Nina (Henry) Rennie and Mary (Henry) Howorth**

The Elms Airbnb provided a beautiful setting for the September 17 gathering, of first and second Bain cousins, hosted by Nina and Mary. Fifteen cousins, plus two spouses, came together to spend time together and get either acquainted or reacquainted. We had representatives from four of James and Elizabeth Bain's children's families.

From their daughter Bertha (Bain)Henry, the descendants were Nina (Henry) Rennie and Mary (Henry) Howorth (granddaughters), Peter MacDonald (great-grandson), and Janice Delaney- MacKay (granddaughter by marriage).

From their son Dan Bain, his granddaughters Bever-

ly Patterson, Sheila Grant and Janice Smith and his great-grandson Clayton.

From their son George Bain, his granddaughters Marsha Burke and Marion Dennehy.

From their daughter Clara (Bain)Chisholm, her grandchildren Jimmy MacLeod (and spouse Nancy), Robert MacLeod (and spouse Lynn), Melissa MacConnell, Elizabeth MacLeod and Jane Zinck.

The Bain family first settled on the Loganville Road, West Branch, in 1833, after John purchased 140 acres of land from Donald Henderson. John and Christy (nee McKay) Bain emigrated from Caithness, Scotland. The first church in West Branch was built in 1838, under John's supervision. John and Christy had seven children of which one was our great-grandfather James Henry

Bain, who married Elizabeth Morrow in 1877. They had ten children (our grandmother Bertha was the second eldest). The homestead is still occupied by Bain descendants, Ian and Gina Bain.

The Elms Airbnb was the family home of our paternal grandparents, Charles and Bertha (Bain) Henry. During the late 1930s/early 1940s, our grandmother ran an inn at this location, named in honour of the stately elms that lined the property. Travelling salesmen, arriving on the train, comprised most of the clientele of the inn.

It was very special for us to stay in our former family home, for five nights. We extend many thanks to our hosts Rick and Lenora, who are restoring the house to its former elegance.

Many improvements were also made to the house by former owners, Bill and Fluff Baillie. Fluff was very generous in welcoming our family to visit the house when we were in the village. On one such occasion we found the original guest register for the Elms Inn, which we donated to the museum.

We are grateful for the time we had to share memories and to make so many more.



Front row: Jimmy MacLeod, Melissa MacConnell, Nina Rennie

2nd row: Nancy MacLeod, Lynn MacLeod, Elizabeth MacLeod

3rd row: Sheila Grant, Beverly Patterson, Clayton, (Beverly's grandson)

Back row: Marion Dennehy, Marsha Burke, Janice Smith, Mary Howorth, Robert MacLeod, Janice MacKay, Peter MacDonald

Sunrise Trail 4-H Club

by Bonnie Allan

The Sunrise Trail 4-H Club will begin the 2021-2022 4-H year. Registration was on October 11 and again on November 8. The club meets on the second Monday of the month. All registration fees are due by December 1. The Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Toney River Community Hall.

Cloverbuds are 7 and 8 years old by January 1, 2022. There is a special program for the Cloverbuds that allows them to learn about some of the projects available in the 4-H program. At the end of the year, July 25, they will display what they have learned all year in a 2'x2' decorated box.

Full 4-H Members are 9 years old by January 1, 2022. Some of the projects available with Sunrise Trail include:

Livestock: Cavy (small animals such as guinea pigs), Rabbit, Goat, Sheep, Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Light horse, Mini horse & Draft horse.

Life Skills: Crafts, Foods, First Aid, Sewing, Great Outdoors, Building Blocks, Cake Decorating, Photography, Small Engines, Scrapbooking, Welding & Woodworking.

Animals can be borrowed from farmers and the cost for project work is kept to a minimum. Members commit to doing Public Speaking & completing their projects.

Please bring your health card & proof of vaccination. Registration cost is \$35.00. New leaders are also always welcome.

For further information, contact the General Leader Bonnie Allan (902-301-9451) allanseca49@gmail.com



Anna Bezanson with her goat, Oreo on 4-H Achievement Day 2021



Sunrise Trail 4-H members and leaders 2020-2021

Chase MacLennan, Keago MacDonald, Riley Allan, Charles Simpson, Lilli Bowen, Megan MacCarthy, Tristan & Rayna Fraser-Shepherd, Sydney, Madison & Chloe Murray, Sofie Young, Abby & Cally Rae, Hannah & Olyvia Fleury, Emma Allan, Sophie Heighton, Oceanna Campbell, Georgia MacNeill, Ciara MacDonald & Anna Bezanson

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Legion News

by Mike Topley
Branch President

So our Legion is back in business.....Covid proof of vaccinations (POVs) including ID are required for entry into our Legion building for any and all events. We have several new members, new activities and are looking forward to a busy fall leading into Christmas and the new year.

The big news since the last Pioneer is that our 2020/21 Chase the Ace went to Jennifer Langille in the amount of \$19,516.....congratulations Jennifer.

After a short summer break, Chase the Ace is now back again on Friday evenings with great music from our Geezer friends and lots of volunteers at ticket sales, the bar and the door. Masks are still "de-rigor" unless seated. Dancing is allowed, but only 8 on the floor at a time. Tickets are available at Fulton's Guardian Pharmacy through-out the week or at the Legion on Friday evenings.

We've got lots of music at the Legion now with the addition of "Music Sundays" organized by Ken and Norma Fox. A concert/cabaret series is scheduled for the first Sunday evening of every month and Open Mics are held on the connecting Sundays. A special "All-Day Music" will be held on Sunday 07 Nov starting at 2pm. This is part of an annual membership drive, so come on out, bring a friend and consider joining if you're not currently a member.

Remembrance Day will be similar to last year. Wreaths will be (pre) laid the day before. Visitors may observe the 11am ceremony but should not crowd to the front. Masks are requested and social distancing is recommended. We are also planning for the annual Remembrance dinner.

Thanks to Anne and Marilyn's team for getting all the Remembrance Banners up. This year we have 15 new banners bringing our total to 51 banners. We have received many positive comments on these banners.

Jocelyn's line dancing classes are back in business with 2 classes (beginner and more advanced) every Tuesday morning.

The Meals on Wheels team continues to deliver meals every Wednesday. Much appreciated by all (45) recipients.

Finally, our summer students are back in school after doing so much through the summer to keep our Legion and Village grounds neat and tidy. Thanks to Joanne for organizing.



Valarie Langille presenting the cheque for \$19,516 to Jennifer Langille, winner of Chase the Ace, June 18, 2021.

Lily Anne O’Kane



Lily Anne O’Kane was born June 10, 2021, weighing 8lbs 13oz. Lily is the second daughter of Jamie and Chantal O’Kane, and sister of Ceilidh O’Kane. She was baptized at the Immaculate Conception Church, Truro on September 4, 2021. Jamie and Chantal have recently moved into Aggie’s house at Melville Corner, River John. You may have seen them this summer at the River John Sunday Market at the Old School, with their homemade preserves and baking.

Frankie Marie Chisholm



Alyssa and Nathan Chisholm welcomed their newest addition on September 2, 2021 at 2:15pm. Miss Frankie Marie Chisholm was delivered at the Aberdeen Hospital weighing 7lbs12.9oz and measuring 19.76” long. She is the second child and first daughter and was welcomed home by her excited big brother Nolan and both sets of proud grandparents: Gowan & Cindy MacGregor and Sandy & Joanne Chisholm.

Oaklynn Jade Ingram



Noah and Wyatt are thrilled to announce their baby sister Oaklynn Jade Ingram entered the world at 5:54 am on September 21 2021. She was 7 lbs 12 oz and 21 inches long at birth. Their parents Peter and Kirby Ingram and grandparents Reg and Mim Baillie couldn’t be happier to welcome this little lady to our family and community.

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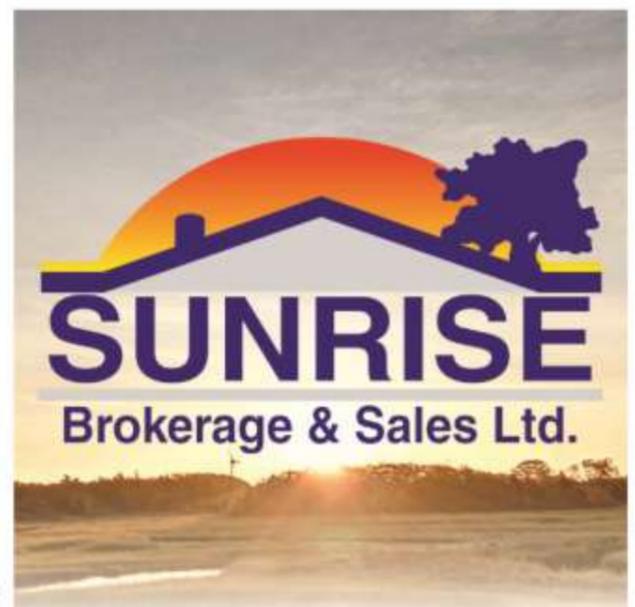
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Millie Ada Roeterdink



Tim Roeterdink and Cheyenne McInnis are happy to announce the birth of a daughter, Millie Ada Roeterdink, on June 17, 2021, weighing 6lb 0.5oz. Proud Grandparents are Loekie Wieringa, Rik Roeterdink and Lorelei McInnis

Evan Eugene Cotter



Big brother Nathan wishes to introduce Evan Eugene Cotter, born June 3, 2021, weighing 8lb 7oz. Proud parents Josh & Krista Cotter, loving grandparents are Dolly & Eugene Mertin, River John, and Billy & Bonnie Cotter of Lorne.

Cole Calvin Langille



Emmett would like to announce the arrival of his little brother, Cole Calvin Langille. Born on September 20th, 2021, weighing 8lbs 2ozs. Proud parents are Travis & Kate Langille, Cape John. Grandson of David & Gayle Langille, River John, Billy & Debbie Bray, Scotch Hill.

Audrey May MacDonald



Proud parents Abbie Heighton and Bert MacDonald from Cape John are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Audrey May MacDonald. Born on July 8, 2021 at Colchester East Hants Heath Centre, Audrey weighed 8 lb 2 oz. Grandparents of Audrey include George and Gayle Heighton of River John, Bert and Vickie MacDonald of Scotch Hill, and great-grandfather "Papa" Ernie MacDonald of Scotch Hill.



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Mac Gordon Henderson



Mac Gordon Henderson was born March 13, 2021 to Gordon Henderson and Jennifer MacDonald. He weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and made quite an entrance into the world!

Grandparents are Keith and Kathy Henderson, Cindy Osmond, Gerry MacDonald and Fern Baillie.

Veterans Banners Program

Anne Patriquin initiated the Veterans Banner program in River John, based on one she saw in River Hebert. The banners were designed by Eastern Sign Print, New Glasgow. The banners are paid for by individual families to commemorate or remember their loved ones. The banners are placed on power poles throughout the village in September and taken down after Remembrance Day. The first year, last year, there were 32 banners placed. This year, another 15 banners were added. If anyone would like to have a banner printed for next year, contact one of the organizers:

Anne Patriquin 902-351-2898,
Willie Patriquin 902-856-1936
Marilyn Heighton 902-351-2467

In addition, volunteers are needed to install and take them down each fall.



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN

Roderick (Dick) McIntyre

Cape Breton Highlanders
F118340
Royal Canadian Legion Branch
#108 River John

Lest we forget

Gordon (Lindsay) Heighton

Infantry
Service #F63794
Enlisted Aug. 15, 1943 in Truro.

Lest we forget

Corporal
Clyde (Forbes) Begin

West Nova Scotia Regiment

Lest we forget

Rifleman
William C. Brown

Military Police
Brockville Rifles
Kingston, Jamaica
1944 - 1946

Lest we forget

Arthur Meighan Dwyer

Served WWII 1942 - 1945 with
the Royal Canadian Artillery in
the United Kingdom and
Continental Europe.

Lest we forget

Private Glenn Ivor Ross

Served 1939 - 1945 with the
65th Tank Transport.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch
#108 River John

Lest we forget

Private
Harry Raymond Falconer

Born: August 21, 1923
Died: March 9, 2016
Served with the Royal Rifles of
Canada January 1943 - March
1946.

Lest we forget

Neil Roderick (Roy)
MacRae

Served in WWII with
North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

Lest we forget

THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

100 Years Young

by **Mary Beth Sutherland**

On July 24th, 2021, Mabel Zinck celebrated her 100th birthday with telephone calls from family and friends, followed by a family dinner. The following day, community members joined her to celebrate the big occasion. It was a beautiful, sunny day as all gathered outside, COVID style, at St. George's Presbyterian Church, to wish her Happy Birthday, and enjoy cake and lemonade.

Mabel received certificates of congratulatory greetings from: HM Queen Elizabeth II, PM Justin Trudeau, MP Sean Fraser, Lt. Gov. Arthur LeBlanc, Premier Iain Rankin, MLA Karla MacFarlane, Warden of Pictou County Robert Parker and Councillor Mary Elliott.

Members of our local Frazee Rebekah Lodge #33 River John, Noble Grand Margaret Langille, Vice Grand Joanne Ferguson and Audrey MacLellan presented flowers and a certificate from the Rebekah Assembly of Atlantic Provinces. Mabel will be receiving her 75th jewel this fall for her years of membership in the Lodge.

Florence Craib spoke on the friendship she and Mabel have enjoyed over the years and the shared memories of working together in Carl MacLeod's store many years ago.

Our MP Sean Fraser came bringing his bagpipes and played a few tunes. Also present to celebrate with Mabel were her sisters Marie Langille and husband Hughie, and Dorothy Kingman and friend Ron MacNutt. Her sister May Watt was unable to come from Toronto, but was present in spirit.

Mabel would like to thank those who attended, sent her birthday cards, visited and telephoned her on this special occasion.



Mabel Zinck on her 100th birthday celebration



Family members who gathered in River John for Mabel's 100th birthday celebration on August 1st, along with piper Sean Fraser, Member of Parliament. Standing: Sean Fraser MP, Hughie and Marie Langille (Mabel's sister) Sitting: Mabel Zinck, Ron MacNutt and Dorothy Kingman (Mabel's sister) Missing from photo: May Watt (Mabel's other sister) who lives in Toronto



Emily Sutherland of River John is a recent graduate of the University of New Brunswick, with a Bachelor of Nursing degree in the two year Advanced Standing program.

She was a recipient of the New Brunswick Nurses Union Award, presented annually on the recommendation of fellow graduating students. "Graduating students exemplifying high academic standards, leadership skills, involvement in extracurricular activities, and commitment to enhancing the interests and status of classmates."

Emily is employed as an RN in an Emergency Room department.

She is the daughter of David and Mary Beth Sutherland, Granddaughter of Joan Sutherland and the late Rev. Donald Sutherland, as well as Frances Sutherland (of Alma) and the late Harold Sutherland. Congratulations on your success, from your proud family.



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The mail must go through

by Debby Shaw

But, thankfully, not by Pony Express! It was through the hard work and dedication of long-time postmistress Joyce Brown. I'm sure you will have noticed something (someone) missing from the post office. Joyce Brown has retired. She says she will miss us, but after 25 years of seeing her smile when we went for the mail, we will miss her more.

Joyce put off retirement for years after she was eligible because she felt she would be letting down the community if she left her post, as she put it, "abandoning my people." Now Joyce feels she should be up going to work each morning and says retirement will take some getting used to.

While she misses us, she enjoys her own company. And after growing up amid eleven siblings, I can understand embracing some solitude. Joyce grew up on a farm on the River John Road, where her brother still lives. She married Bane Brown and she continued to live and raise her two sons in River John. Bane passed away seven years ago, and Joyce continues to live in the house they built. She had a few jobs (her favourite was H&R Block) before stopping work to be home with her sons, who now live in Trenton, and Kingston, Ontario. She



Lesley Pretty, Joyce Brown and Cyndy McKay pictured together on Joyce's retirement day from the River John Post office.

has two grandchildren there, as well. Joyce always liked to be busy but never liked dusting. While her boys were young, she would tell them they could write anything in the dust, just not the date!

When the boys were a bit older, Joyce was ap-

proached by the previous postmistress and asked to work nine hours a week at the post office. This eventually turned into full-time and then she became the postmistress. Joyce found she liked the accounting side of the job best, balancing the books, stamp sheets, etc. but the rest of the work had to be done too. Lots of changes of address as people moved in and out, lots of parcels. And in the beginning, there were no computers. When they came into use at the post office, Joyce was offered no training and learned "on the fly."

The heavy lifting of late helped Joyce to decide to retire before her back gave out. She said she never knew what would come through the office next, what with car bumpers, sheep hides and wool, parcels were getting heavier and bigger.

Joyce will keep herself busy with cooking and baking, (I was treated to yummy cookies with cranberries in them,) reading, full-time mowing and housework. She says she will miss seeing the community so regularly and we will certainly miss her welcome at the post office. You have left big shoes for the new ladies to fill. Congratulations on retirement, Joyce, and thank you for your service.

Here's a Look Into Some Market Statistics for Your Neighbourhood*

AREA 108 - Rural Pictou County



\$278,902

Average Sale Price
YEAR TO DATE



106

Number of Sales
YEAR TO DATE



75

Average Days on Market
YEAR TO DATE



31

Total Active Listings
YEAR TO DATE

Stats taken from NSAR MLS® System for period Jan 1/21 - May 13/21



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St. George's & St. David's Presbyterian News

by **The Rev. Enjei Achah**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and Happy Thanksgiving in arrears to everyone in our communities! These past 18 months have been a trying period for everyone, and we are glad to be living in a safe community. As we enter Phase 5, we are glad to start gradually increasing our activities, following the government rules and restrictions. Sunday school has begun, and anyone can go to our St. George's Sunday School Facebook page to see the updates. You can also contact Cindy Langille if you are interested in bringing your children to Sunday School.

Dates to remember:

October 24: St. David's Youth Group have planned a pumpkin carving evening for October 24 at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on the first Sunday of each month. They will also be doing one activity during the month. There are lots of interesting activities. Every youth is welcome.

November 3: Bible studies begin in St. George's at 7 p.m. for both churches. Everyone is welcome to join.

November 7: Remembrance Day Sunday Service and Youth Group meeting at St. David's at 7 p.m.

November 11: Remembrance Day

December 24: Christmas Eve Service of Hope: At St. George's and St. David's, we will be organizing a Service of Hope. We are inviting those who have lost loved ones, no matter how long ago, and those who would want to remember them contact us with the names at rev.enjeironi@yahoo.com or on Facebook. The Service of Hope is also for those who find the Christmas season stressful, those who are feeling overwhelmed, suffering from chronic pain or illnesses and for anybody who needs hope. We will have candles lit in memory of your loved ones and paper angels too. People can also write down prayer requests which will be prayed for and burnt. No one will read them so you don't need to worry about that and you don't need to include your name. It will be a great night of worship. The sooner the names come in, the better.



Sunday School members are hard at work at St. George's Church.

Pictured are Lena Lowden, Nora Lowden, Anna Cote, Madison Langille, Alexis Langille, Lyla Cote, Cindy Langille (teacher), William Cripps, George Cripps, Isabel Cripps and Charlotte Cripps.

We continue to remember and pray for everyone in our communities going through one challenge or the other.

May the blessings of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit continue to be with us as we live in hope for a pandemic free future.

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Preparations Underway for Read by the Sea 2022

by **Lana MacEachern**,
Read by the Sea Organizing Committee

The Read by the Sea crew hopes to see you and all of your friends enjoying great literature on the River John Legion lawn next July.

Plans are underway to return to an in-person Read by the Sea literary festival June 30-July 2, 2022 (pandemic permitting). First launched in 2000, the festival has been held every year except for 2020 when the pandemic forced its cancellation. The volunteer organizers regrouped with a virtual Read by the Sea in 2021.

"The virtual festival went more smoothly than we could have imagined, thanks to great technical partners," said Lana MacEachern, a member of the festival's organizing committee. "It was very well received by the authors and readers alike. That being said, we're eager to get back to the jovial, personable atmosphere the festival is known for."

MacEachern said several authors are already confirmed for the 2022 event. The full author line-up will be revealed in The Pioneer's winter edition. The festival will include its usual fan-favourites, including the WordPlay mini-festival for children, Pitch the Publisher, a writing workshop, and the Main Stage event, which will cap off the festival on July 2.

Read by the Sea depends on volunteers and there's always room for more, said MacEachern. Anyone who'd like to join the organizing committee, volunteer to help with tasks during the festival, or be added to the festival newsletter email list can contact the organizers at rjreadbythesea@gmail.com or by using the 'Contact Us' form on the festival website (www.readbythesea.ca).

"We warmly welcome anyone who wants to be involved," she said. "Many hands equals light work, right?"

Church and Changes ...

Report on Salem & West Branch United Churches

by **Rev Connie McNamara**

After being online for worship for several months due to COVID rules and regulations, Salem United Church and West Branch United Church returned to in-person worship on July 4th. On July 18th, I had the privilege of offering the message at an outdoor ecumenical worship service in Bissell Park - many thanks to Rev. John and Rev. Enjei who co-presided with me, and to all of the talented people who offered a splendid ministry of music.

Regular worship services continued throughout the summer, but I found time for both education and relaxation. I was off on study leave for a week, during which time I revamped my "Wedding Choices" booklet to update and enhance the ceremony options available for couples who seek to be married; and I took two weeks of vacation, going on several road trips around our beautiful province, and spending much time with family and friends.



Communion table at Salem on October 10th

The last week of September I took another week of vacation, but this time it had nothing to do with rest and relaxation. Our (that's my husband Arthur and I) oldest son, Noah, married the love of his life, Samantha, on October 2nd at the Wallace and Area Museum, where the two met and began to date four years ago. I was privileged to officiate at the very meaningful ceremony, and the whole day was truly filled with love and light.

Back at work on Sunday, October 10th, we held a special celebration of both World Communion and Thanksgiving for all five of my congregations, (Salem, West Branch, Fox Harbour, Malagash, and Wallace) at Salem UC. The service was our first held under the new COVID rules for Phase 5, and so while masks were still mandatory, there were no gathering limits and social distancing was not required. We were able to stand to sing (with masks on) and for the first time in almost a full two years, we were able to serve bread and juice to all in attendance as they came forward, sanitized their hands, received the elements, ate and drank, sanitized their hands again, and returned to their seats. "Thankful Moments" in the service provided the opportunity for people to share what and who and why they were thankful, which brought much joy to the service. And while we are all certainly thankful for an easing of some of the restrictions, please note that in Phase 5, while our worship services will still be open to everyone, attendance at all receptions, visitations, weddings, and funerals - whether indoor or outdoor - will require proof of double vaccination and photo ID to be shown.

Upcoming happenings for Salem UC and West Branch UC will be worship on Sunday, October 31st when we will celebrate both "Reformation Sunday" and

"All Saints Sunday"; "Reign of Christ Sunday" on November 21st with Holy Communion; a Zoom Advent Bible Study on four Tuesday mornings (please contact me if you wish to participate), and of course special services on Christmas Eve and Epiphany, timing of which will be announced closer to the dates.

May the next few months bring us healing and hope as we move through autumn and into winter with positive thoughts, faithful hearts, and helping hands.

Blessings

Reverend Connie McNamara is Minister on the River John West Branch Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, serving Salem UC and West Branch UC.



Rev Connie's eldest son's wedding. Arthur McNamara, Rev Connie McNamara, Bride- Samantha, Bridegroom, - Noah McNamara, Seth McNamara and Jacob McNamara

Chase the ACE

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Can we put our feeders out now?

by Barb McLaughlin,
NS Bird Society

Copied with permission from the Nova Scotia Bird Society

With the frosts we have been having in some parts of the province, it has led folks to ask if it is ok to put their feeders out. It is great that we are getting those questions. It means people are aware of the issues of feeding the birds in the warm weather, and want to feed safely.

When we talk about the dangers of feeding birds, it is important to know we are not just dealing with one issue. The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) gives four fact sheets for health issues concerning birds. Trichomonosis and Mycoplasmosis, (recently found in Prince Edward Island and Quebec,) which can be spread to domestic birds, and Avian flu and Avian Salmonellosis which can be a concern to both people and domestic birds. All of these issues are spread by contact. All can be deadly to birds.

In past years, the Nova Scotia Bird Society has offered dates as to when it is ok to put your feeders up and when to take them down. But in a province like Nova Scotia, where the folks can be wearing T-shirts in Yarmouth and a parka in the Cape Breton highlands on the same day, I think it is important for people to understand the logic so individuals can make their own informed decisions as to when it is safe.

Freezing temperatures are your friend. It can kill the organisms that cause the spread of these diseases and slows the spread. Even if someone says it is ok to start feeding the birds on November 15th, if you are still experiencing temperatures consistently above zero, please hold off until you are seeing several nights in a row below zero – and the forecast is calling for extended cold temperatures, before putting your feeder out. Once temperatures start to rise consistently above zero, and it looks like it is going to be an early spring, time to take them down. Even if it is mid March.

Add to this the things we can do to make things safer during feeding season. Washing and soaking feeders in a 10% bleach solution, (and rinsing well and drying after,) every two weeks. Keeping the area under your feeder cleaned so no wet seed can accumulate which is a breeding ground for some of this nastiness. CWHC also suggests smaller feeders refilled daily rather than larger ones where seed can sit for several days and become contaminated. Refrain from feeders where birds have to stick their heads in openings to retrieve the seed. These areas can become very contaminated. If you have free ranging poultry, do not let them range under feeders. And very important: if you see birds that look ill with crusty eyes or areas around the beak, wet and matted feathers, lethargic, having difficulty breathing, please remove your feeders immediately (wear disposable gloves and disinfect immediately after). Take a photo or video of the sick bird if possible and contact CWHC. If you find dead birds go to CWHC's website for information on how to preserve the bird and where to send it for testing. Let your neighbours who feed birds know so they can take their feeders down till the cause of the problem can be diagnosed.

We know making the decision to keep your feeder down is difficult for many people. Watching "their" birds come to the feeder is one of the most enjoyable and calming parts of their day. However with COVID, people's interest in birds has exploded, and more people will be feeding. The best way to feed birds is, and always has been, to encourage our native plant species. This year has an excellent set for shrubs and coniferous seed in our area.

And one last comment for the "Gee, I never thought about this" file. Many of our shrubs have bright red berries that are extremely visible. It is the job of the birds to eat those seeds, then disperse them into a wider area. When we distract our birds from this job and lure them to our feeders with the easy peanuts and black oil sunflower seeds, are we in fact harming the natural spread of these seeds and limiting food sources for the birds into the future?

Pioneer Photo Contest Challenge

River John School 1954-1955 Grades 3, 4 and 5. How many of these students can you name?

Use the diagram below the photo to enter. Send entries to The Pioneer Newspaper, Box # 161 River John B0K1N0

Or to Pioneereditors@outlook.com by November 9. The first 3 correct entries will have their names published in the next Pioneer.



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SUBMITTED BY: _____

One card, one million possibilities

by **Trecia Schell**
Branch Librarian

Community libraries are engaging and friendly. We are free WiFi access (24/7), tablets and public computers, accessible services, printers, photocopiers, FAX machines and 3D printers. We are board games, jigsaw puzzles, telescopes, PlayPacks and Fidget kits, Nordic Walking Poles, Memory Improvement games, Take & Make home crafting kits, and Sudukos/WordSearches. We are shelters with warm (or cool), dry places with comfortable chairs and tables to do homework, or spread out and read the newspaper. We are public washrooms and AEDs (automated external defibrillators for CPR). We are helpers for seekers of obscure (but necessary) government forms that must be submitted for family benefits. We are printers of Proof of COVID vaccine record cards. And in more open times, home of over 120 free, library programs – per month, for all ages and abilities. We are Community rooms, community offices, and community spaces. We are adaptable, and creative in finding ways to compassionately continue to provide essential community library services to our patrons, friends and families.

One card, one million possibilities. And your library card is free.

Drop by and visit, call or email your local library today - and discover your possibilities.

October was Mi'kmaq History Month (MHM). We are all Treaty People, and this year's theme of

“Ekina'masimkl Ankukamkewe'l aqq Tela'matultimk Wejiaq / Exploring Treaties and Treaty Relationships” brings light to opportunities to learn more about the Treaties we share, and understanding the importance of honoring treaties. For more information, please visit www.mikmaqhistorymonth.ca. The library has a special collection of works about Indigenous culture, histories, and experiences. And works written by Indigenous authors. When browsing the library bookshelves, you can easily recognize the items by the book spine label of a Mi'kmaq 8-pointed quillwork star. The artwork for the book spine sticker was created by Mi'kmaq First Nation artist, Gerald Gloade from Millbrook, NS.

October was also Dyslexia Awareness Month in Canada. Did you know 10-20% of Canadians struggle with dyslexia? Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that makes it difficult to read, write, and spell. To learn more, please visit Dyslexia Canada's website (www.dyslexiacanada.org) for very helpful information and resources, webinars, and sign-up for a monthly newsletter.

Need help printing your Proof of full COVID Vaccine record? Drop by the library, we're happy to help. All free of charge. Please remember to bring your email or cellphone information, and MSI/Health card number with you, that was used when you booked your COVID vaccine appointments online. If you called to book a vaccine appointment, you will need to call 1-833-797-7772 (Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm) and request a

printed copy of your Vaccine Record (by mail or provide an email address).

We are excited to be able to return to offering some in-person library programs – beginning with a new Book Club! The Book Club @Library will meet monthly, with the first meeting coming up Tuesday November 23 at 5:00pm. Seating is limited, and registration is required*. For more information, and to register please see Samantha and Barbara at the River John Library.

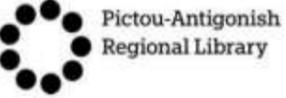
And as always, we have lots of Take & Make home crafting kits available (for all ages!) at the library. Do drop by, and pick one up. Please note, the library follows all current NS Public Health COVID-19 guidelines*, <http://www.parl.ns.ca/locations/welcomeback.php>. Curbside pick-up service of requested library items is also an option for library patrons, upon request. For more information, please contact the River John Library, riverjohn@parl.ns.ca or (902) 351-2599.

Please note, the library will be closed on Thursday November 11, for Remembrance Day. For more information on all our upcoming library programs and services, please call or drop by your local library, follow us on Twitter, find us on Facebook, or visit us online at www.parl.ns.ca.

Trecia Schell is Community Services Librarian, and Branch Librarian - Books-by-Mail, River John, Stelarton & Trenton PublicLibraries

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www.riverjohn.com

Hallowe'en in the late 50s and early 60s

by **Joan MacLeod**

As Hallowe'en approaches, I am reminded of how exciting it was as a child as the day drew closer. First there was the costume. We would drag the Hallowe'en trunk out of the back closet and try on the various costumes. Would the cat costume fit this year? One year my mother had gone all out and dyed an old pair of my father's long johns black, (perhaps shrunk them a bit as well), and made a tail which had a wire in it and was stuffed with sawdust. (All this was before pinterest!) The costume, originally for my sister, then became consigned to the Hallowe'en box for future use. There were old dresses, for either princesses or gypsies, and our Hallowe'en trunk also contained an ornate top which had once belonged to the Giantess Anna Swan, who was an ancestor. Although I never remember wearing it. Perhaps it never did fit. Old sheets for ghosts, and maybe one or two masks! Most costumes were just cobbled together, not like the ornate "store bought" costumes which one sees today.

On the day itself, I would gather with my friends and plan our route. First on the list was Jean Langille's house, because she made the most delicious divinity fudge. A lot of people gave us home made treats, such as candy apples, or fudge but store-bought candies had begun to make their appearance. We never got cans of pop or chocolate bars. Some people gave us an apple and I remember we seriously considered soaping their windows. We always carried a bar of soap in our bags, just in case someone did not give us a treat. But my Mother would often remind me if "so and so" were ill or elderly, not to trick them.

Janice Murray Gill in her cook book, "Down Home

Cooking," describes Hallowe'en in the village about 10-15 years prior to the time I most fondly remember, which was when I was about 10 or 12. But some of the elements are the same. Unlike in her time, we did take a treat bag with us, usually an old pillow case, because it would be stronger to hold all those apples in the bottom. But the guessing of who we were was still the custom.

I did enjoy this, as we had a little visit with each house and we never left until they named you, or after a certain length of time you revealed yourself; (this was so that you could go on to the next house). The gathering of your treats and playing pranks took the whole evening. I always remember Linnie Zinck peeking into my mask and saying something like, "Those eyes look just like Carl's," or, "Her hands are dainty like Irene's. It must be Joan!" It was all part of the fun to disguise yourself and for the households to try to figure out just who you were. You looked down and said little to keep up the charade. Then they passed out the molasses candy! As a child, it was just amazing to me that all these villagers whom I barely knew, knew exactly who I was and who my parents were! It was a boost to my self-esteem. I felt I belonged. The village was a safe place.

As the evening grew later, we younger kids would scurry home, but not until we set off a few fire crackers. Then the older kids would get up to pranks. I never remembered the bridge being set on fire, but someone suggested recently that it did happen. Outhouses would be overturned and one Hallowe'en an old outhouse of my Dad's was placed in the middle of the wide part of the road before the bridge. I remember my father being put out because he then had to deal with it. Sometimes

the prankers got pranked as well, as my brother told me a story of running in the dark around someone's property to play a trick and one of the boys accidentally ran into a clothes line and was nearly garrotted!

Fast forward to 1994, when I had returned home after being abroad for close to 20 years, and that Hallowe'en, my mother and my daughter had a visitor. She was dressed up as a man including fake male apparatus, strapped to her leg. She had a stocking over her face and we had no idea who she was. It turned out to be Mum's friend, Bess, and we had a great time playing cards and eating the fudge my mother had made. A very social time indeed. Both of my parents loved to drop in on their friends in disguise on Hallowe'en. My Dad even had a wig. Adults could join the fun too! It sounds a lot like the Newfoundland custom of Mummering!

It seems a far cry from today, when the children gather as much candy as they can - a dentist's dream come true! I remember friends of mine in town saying they could have over 200 visitors. And parents, often from further afield, drove the children from house to house. In River John, I used to ask the kids who called on me who they were, but was definitely met with resistance. "Don't go there, the lady makes you take your mask off!"

The present idea of decorated car trunks, "Trunk or Treat," seems friendlier and safer. The children go to one location and go from trunk to trunk to get treats and the trunks also get decorated. The parents get to socialize a bit too, rather than go on a gigantic scramble to gather up as much loot as possible. There are 2 or 3 such events in the village this Hallowe'en. Have a safe Hallowe'en. Enjoy the fun.

Dear Sadie

Debby Shaw

For the past year my family has been very happy here in Sadie Craig's house. If I could write her a letter, this is what I would say:

Dear Sadie,

I love your house. When we first moved in and people would ask where we lived, we would say the address and they would reply, "Oh, Sadie's Place!" So that's what we call it.

Thank you for this great community and for our neighbours. The first day we arrived your nephew, Donald MacGregor from across the road, dropped by and chatted. Mary Reid, next door came over with a pie. Lynn MacLeod and Joan MacLeod were the self-appointed Welcome Wagon and brought cookies. Thank you for this welcoming and friendly community. They all have said many kind words about you, Sadie. You continue to be well liked and respected here.

We haven't changed many things; some paint outside, fixed up and painted the flagpole and train switch. Oh, and we have changed the flooring in the kitchen and living room; it is all the same now and looks like wood (but isn't really). We moved around some of your gardens but kept all your flowers. We have enjoyed your rhubarb, too. We have cleared out a lot of the wild roses so we can have a better view of the river, and built a path behind your garage so there is better access to the side lawn. Bruce made some changes in Donnie's shop, too. He had a cement floor poured and put in a door and a large window at the back so he can enjoy the river while he putters. He says his favourite thing here is the river; it never stays the same. Of course, he bought a tide clock so he knows when it will change.

Speaking of changes, as the seasons come and go our view changes, too. We sat at our kitchen table and could hardly see Mary's house for the leaves on the trees in her yard this summer. In the spring we enjoyed watching her flowers erupt and in the winter we enjoyed watching



View from new window overlooking the river

the ice in the river. We even watched five seals hitch a ride on the ice floes; it was like a parade! And, of course, the Christmas light show at the MacGregor's across the road.

Did you ever have a dog, Sadie? Well we don't, but our daughter Kelly and her husband Eric have an old dog and a new puppy in their cottage/trailer here on the

side lawn. The old dog often sleeps behind the rocker in the kitchen while the puppy sneaks after our cat. Although galloping after her is not really sneaking!

We sleep on the back of the house overlooking the river. One of my granddaughters painted a picture of the view from that window. Do you remember, Sadie, how that huge full moon shines down and across the river? It is so peaceful here.

We found your stairs down to the river; they aren't so useable anymore. I imagine your kids wore them out. Did you swim here? I swim often, at the bridge, Brule or Meg's Beach on Cape John Road. I don't swim well, but I cool off; it's been such a hot summer.

I like having your washer and dryer in the sunporch; thanks for moving it up. We found a new use for the basement laundry room - we make wine there. It makes me feel very important to say, "It's the Wine room."

This is exactly our dream home and we are sorry you had to move, Sadie, but we are grateful to you for letting us live here. I hope we can live here as long as you did.

Sincerely,

Debby Shaw

(Editor's note: Sadie Craig is a well-known and well-loved matriarch from River John who at 98 years old, resides at Valleyview Villa nursing home near Stelarton.)

Welcome Wagon

by Joan MacLeod

In November, a group of us decided to start an unofficial "Welcome Wagon" to greet people and give them information about local organizations and activities. We created a handout and also made some cookies and collected magazines from the library and a recent Pioneer. Since last November, we have visited 22 families who are new to the area. There are still more new families we would like to visit.

The influx of newcomers has continued, with most people who are new to the area coming from Ontario. New people have also come to this area from other parts of Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, with the latest wave of the pandemic in the spring, we were unable to pay as many welcoming visits as we would have liked. We are happy to welcome new people so we can have a more diverse population; new people bring fresh energy and new ideas to the region.

One of the things which gives me great satisfaction is helping people connect with other like-minded people. This is even more important when we are not only isolated, but new to an area. The other side effect is that some of the new people are happy to join our organizations to help, (for example, the Legion, the Pioneer, the Oddfellows, the Lions, and the River John Action Society).

If you would like to join our group or any of the others mentioned, or if you would like a Welcome Wagon visit or know someone who would benefit, please contact one of us.

Joan MacLeod 902-351-2759
Lynn MacLeod 902-890-7003
Maureen Topley 902-351-3361

If you want to donate something to add to the Welcome Wagon gifts, please contact Lynn MacLeod at the above number.

Lamp Lighting Time

by Beulah Jane Wright

There was quite a bit of work involved in preparing the kerosene lamps for evening lighting, but how welcome the lovely, soft, golden light would be, when the bowl was full and the wick trimmed just right and a nice, clean shade protected the flame.

The kerosene lamps replaced the old candles in the early 1800s, and were much superior to the much dimmer candle flames. First of all, there had to be a lamp, and there were various sizes and styles from which to choose. The very first had metal bowls, which were replaced with glass bowls, some of them quite decorative. Some of these bowls had handles attached for carrying - very carefully - from room to room and then upstairs to the bedroom, where the light would be extinguished for the night. Rarely indeed was the lamp used for reading in bed, not only because of the danger of someone going to sleep and leaving the lamp untended, but also to save the kerosene oil, which would be purchased at the local general store, and carried home in glass jugs. The kerosene level would dwindle quite quickly if many lamps were lit. The bowls would be refilled every evening, so the light wouldn't go out and leave all in the dark.

The burner was of metal and screwed into the bowl like the lid on a jar, and the burner held the wick, which was a flat woven strip of fabric that extended through the burner into the bowl where it absorbed the oil. The wick had to be trimmed just right so there would be a nice even flame. A little handle on one side of the burner adjusted the height of the wick above the burner, and when lit, it regulated the size of the flame - too high it would smoke, too low, a dim flame. Also the lamp could be extinguished by carefully turning down the wick.

The last thing was the glass shade, which was shaped to create a draft that kept the wick burning. The shade had to be washed very carefully every evening, to remove any smoky residue. Woe betide, if the shade was dropped, as there might not have been a replacement shade on hand!



This is an Aladdin lamp on display in the Museum

There was also available, a burner with a round wick or what was usually termed an Aladdin lamp, much superior to the plain lamp, but not as portable. It usually sat in the parlour for evening guests and the owners were quite proud of their Aladdin lamps!

Yes, lamps were a fire hazard, if one was dropped or knocked over, or even if the curtains were too close. Possibly the kerosene was not all that good for people's health, but how many children sat around the kitchen table, doing their homework, glad of the soft glow, how many letters to family and friends were penned in the soft light, and how many socks were darned or new ones knitted in the quiet evenings. Few people, if any, would want to trade their electricity, for those old lamps, but they served us well, in their time.

The Churches of River John

by Beulah Jane Wright

River John and the settlements that grew up around the village have traditionally been a community of faith, whose people valued their relationship with God and with their churches. They didn't lack for choice in their beliefs as there were eventually at least five churches to attend and who ministered to their wants and needs.

River John was founded in 1785 by four settlers and their families who had come from the principality of Montbeliard, at least partly in order to retain their Protestant religion from encroaching Catholicism by France. This was a border country and while their language was mainly French, the people were of Swiss and German descent as well as French. They came first to Lunenburg county in Nova Scotia and stayed there awhile, but one of their countrymen, Colonel DesBarres, had received a large grant of land in Tatamagouche area for settlement, and he persuaded at least sixteen families to leave Lunenburg and settle there. The problem was, he wanted them to be tenants of his, and pay rent to him as their landlord, but these settlers were disappointed and had wanted to have their own land. In River John, the land was owned by the Philadelphia Company and was free for the taking. The first four settlers built their homes, not much better than huts, at Smith's Point, nestled together for protection and comfort, but soon moved on to their own grants. They were quickly joined by other Montbeliard families from Tatamagouche and then more from Lunenburg, plus a few English families, namely West, Hinds and Gammon, so the settlement grew on the west side of the River.

For the first twenty-three years, these settlers had no church to attend, but yet they did not lack for religious guidance. French Bibles had been brought with them, which they could read. They held meetings in some of their homes and George Patriquin, John George Langille, and later, Christopher Perrin, led them in worship and prayer. In 1793, feeling a greater need, George Patriquin and John Frederic Langille travelled to Pictou on snowshoes, to meet with Rev. Doctor James MacGregor and persuade him to come to River John and areas beyond, where he visited all the families, performed baptisms and awakened a new enthusiasm in his listeners. Although they spoke a French dialect, they must have also picked up some English, as Rev. MacGregor made the comment that they understood English very well. Rev. MacGregor visited again in River John, at least once more, maybe more often as he travelled frequently through the woods, and on foot or snowshoes, to preach the Gospel.

The west side of the River, in the early 1800s, was settled by a mixture of mainly Scots, a few Irish, mostly on Cape John, and a few English, who came in to Pictou and made their way out the shore to River John. In the museum we have a copy of a petition to have a bridge constructed over the river, signed by many of these early settlers from either side. It would make life easier and communication would allow both settlements to grow and prosper together. And with that growth, they wanted and needed the Church.

We are indeed fortunate, and greatly indebted, to the work of Rev. G. Lawson Gordon, recording the early church history in his book, "River John, Its Pastors and Its Peoples."

The history of the Methodist church in River John that existed from 1829 to 1925 has been previously published in a recent issue of the Pioneer. Rather than repeat it in total, a few pertinent facts are hereby noted. The Methodist church in River John was begun by Christopher Perrin, who preached to his followers even before the building was erected; he and his family actually built the church and maintained it. Five ministers came from this congregation during its lifetime, and the Methodist people joined the Union that created the United Church of Canada, and became valued members of Salem United.

The Anglican Church

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, in River John, is the only rural Anglican church in Pictou County. The Reverend Charles Elliott settled in Pictou in 1832, and the Anglican Church in Pictou was newly constructed, being consecrated in 1829, when he became the rector in 1834. His ministry continued for more than 30 years, and covered much of Pictou County, from Stellarton to Pugwash. He regularly travelled to River John as well as other parts of the county, mostly on foot, a well-loved and respected man, dedicated to the Anglican faith. He would hold services in the Church of Scotland, which became the current Presbyterian church. Rev. Elliott was a big part of the beginning of the church in River John, being already well acquainted with the farmers, ship carpenters, and the seafaring population of River John, Cape John, and outlying areas. It was not unusual for the Mingo families who had settled in Middleton, and perhaps others, to use a boat in summer and the ice in winter, to travel the shore down to services in River John.

It is not certain, but the belief is that St. John's church was built about 1834 but the parent church was still Pictou until 1876, when separation occurred. Rev. Elliott served the parish until ill health led to his retirement and he moved back to England. He was also interested in education and established a learning centre for his parishioners.

His successor was Rev. J.A. Kaulback, from Truro, who became the first Curate of River John, and he stayed for four years. He, too, had previously travelled occasionally to River John and Tatamagouche.

He was followed by the Rev. J.L. Downing, who stayed for thirty-seven years and is buried with his wife, in the churchyard cemetery.

The first church building was destroyed by fire in 1874 but was replaced in 1876 by the lovely building of the present, built in the English style, and very picturesque, graced by three stained glass windows, and an open raftered ceiling. A Rectory was built on Black Street, in River John but was eventually taken down. A building was brought from Cape John and situated behind the church which is used as a church Hall.

St. John the Baptist church is truly dear to the hearts of its congregation.



St. John's Anglican

St. George's Presbyterian Church

Many of the English settlers who came to River John in the early 1800s were of the Church of Scotland, which in Rev. G. Lawson Gordon's words, was the "Kind Mother of Canadian Presbyterianism." As there was already an established Presbyterian church and congregation on the west side of the river, led by Rev. Mitchell, who was broad-minded and welcoming to other churches, these people felt no necessity to go elsewhere. They joined his congregation, and continued under Rev. Waddell's leadership, not a formal union, but a comfortable sharing.

At the same time there was a Presbyterian church at the back shore, which served Melville, Seafoam and Toney River. Unfortunately, in 1849, that church burned and the people who favoured the Church of Scotland decided the time was right to have their own church. They applied to the Presbytery of Pictou in connection with the Church of Scotland, and in 1861, Rev. George M. Grant was sent out to look the matter over. About sixty families from the area, represented by Angus and Alex Chisholm, were anxious to have their own church, and the building was begun, on a lot of land purchased from Kenneth MacLean. The church was later named St. George's in Rev. Grant's honour. He spent a few months in River John, then was called to a church in Halifax.

The first minister of St. George's was the Rev. Robert MacCunn, of Scotland, who graduated, was ordained and embarked with his wife, for River John, all in the



St. George's Presbyterian

same week. He loved River John and his church, raised his family here and although offered several other prestigious appointments, he stayed in River John until his death in 1895. His death was sadly mourned, not only by his own congregation but by the whole community as he had always reached out to all. During his ministry, a manse was constructed in 1865, the church was remodelled and improved, and his congregation, which then included West Branch, grew, and he eventually led his people into the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

The next minister to St. George's was Rev. Robert John Grant who unfortunately was killed in an accident two years later. He was followed by two others, for short periods until 1910 when Rev. Charles D. MacIntosh took over, and Salem Presbyterian and St. George's were united, and Rev. MacIntosh served both churches, until 1924. During this time, the West Branch Presbyterian wished to separate from the River John charge and become their own congregation, and that was agreed upon.

Things changed in 1925, when the United Church of Canada was established, a union of the Methodists, Congregationalists and some of the Presbyterians. It caused quite a lot of dissension, and instead of the desired result of one church, there were still two congregations. An agreement was made that the Unionists would keep Salem as a United Church, and St. George's would continue as Presbyterian, each with their own manse. Soon after, St. George's and St. David's in Toney River, became associated, sharing a minister, and so it continues today.

A small Presbyterian church had been built in Hodson, on property donated by the Henry family, adjacent to the cemetery, now known as the Johnson cemetery, but the small congregation were struggling with dwindling finances and when St. George's decided they needed a church hall, in 1930, the church at Hodson was moved to River John and attached to the church. Later it was enlarged and remodelled.

St. George's remains an attractive, solid structure, with a dedicated and faithful congregation.

The Disciples/Church of Christ

In 1811, James Murray, his wife Isabella, their children and his wife's sister, Ann Shepherd, immigrated from Scotland. They landed in Pictou, where he worked at his trade as a tailor for two years, but then he decided to re-settle in River John.

James Murray had long been interested and associated with an "off shoot" of the Baptist church: "Disciples of Christ". Although he had no formal ministerial training, with the support of several other families he established a "Disciples of Christ" congregation in River John. This was the first of its kind in Nova Scotia, only preceded in Canada by one in Ontario.

In June of 1815, he baptized his wife, her brother-in-law, James Allan, who had just married his wife's sister, Ann, and several others. The basis of his belief was that there should be more interaction by the ordinary members, rather than leaving it all to the clergy. Other than that, they followed the usual Baptist principles. In the beginning there was no church building, all the services were held in the members' homes.

A church was built in 1838 and was incorporated in November of 1855. At some point a parsonage was secured, across the street from the church, which is now a private home. Some surnames of the early members were Allan, Sillers, Wilson, MacNabb, Gould, Hamilton, MacKay, Henry and Milne.

James Murray was made a deacon, his ordination presided upon by other members of the church. It was said that he had several times assisted in other areas, such as Wallace and Pictou, and although these people were too far away to attend the church in River John, they gave encouragement to the congregation. The total number of members never exceeded thirty two, at one time. The members had large families who were brought

.....continued on page 25.....

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..... *The churches of River John,*
continued from page 24

into the church one by one.

Unfortunately James Murray's wife, Isabella, passed away, and shortly after, James gathered his children and moved to Ohio. One daughter married and stayed in River John. His leaving was a sad blow to the congregation, as several other families also moved to the USA. The congregation moved on, with other ministers, taking the pulpit, although it was closed completely for a number of years. An occasional revival was held, which would bolster interest for awhile.

The Oak Baptist church joined with the Disciples of Christ and became the Church of Christ.

In the 1960s, the church would be open in the summer months only with student ministers, mainly from PEI. One of the last ministers serving in River John was Reverend Derby, who was especially dedicated to bringing in the children. He would drive around the area, gathering young people for Sunday School, sometimes making several trips per service.

Finally, there was only a handful of members left, mostly of the Roberts family, and the church was permanently closed. Those few members deeded over the church in 2003, to the River John and Area Historical Society. The Society turned it into the Heritage Museum, and through volunteers, grants, fund-raising and donations, has been able to do some much-needed repairs and additions. Thus, although with a new purpose, the Church still stands, a testament to the dedication of those early settlers of River John.



Church of Christ – Disciples

The History of Salem United Church

The United Church was not established until 1925 and was the result of a union of some of the Presbyterians, the Methodists, and Congregationalists. The United Church was created by an Act of Parliament. But the Salem congregation is the oldest in River John, and began in 1808, as a Presbyterian church. Even before that time, Rev. James MacGregor from Pictou had travelled through and ministered to about fifty families in River John.

John Mitchell, who began his life as a ropemaker, was born in England, of Scottish parents. In his late teens he became interested in religion, which changed his way of life, and he began studies which resulted in him becoming a missionary. He immigrated to Canada and settled in New Carlisle in Quebec. He did some travelling through New Brunswick and into Nova Scotia, preaching as he went. Much taken with the settlement at River John, he gave notice that he was leaving New Carlisle, but on the way spent a short term in Amherst. In 1808, he purchased land from George Patriquin in River John, settled and established a log church there, and brought his family to live with him. The Presbytery of Pictou welcomed him and his congregation as Presbyterian and he also had charge of Tatamagouche and New Annan, until they founded churches of their own. He donated a large lot of land for a cemetery, which is

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Salem United

now called the Pioneer cemetery, although it is sometimes referred to as the Mitchell cemetery. This is where he and his family are buried. John Mitchell died in 1841.

The church was empty for four years until Rev. Waddell became the minister. During this time in 1848 a new church was built to replace the first one. The third minister was Rev. Hector Bruce MacKay and during his stay, the present church building was constructed. Following him was Rev. G. Lawson Gordon, to whom we are indebted for his book, "River John, Its Pastors and Peoples." Ministers stayed longer in one place than is the custom now, and some served a congregation for many years.

In 1909, under the ministry of Rev. C.D. MacIntosh, the congregation united with St. George's, the Kirk Church, and then in 1925, Church Union occurred and the United Church of Canada was the result. The Presbyterians who were not in favour of this union continued at St. George's. Salem congregation has existed now for 213 years. The church itself is the largest in the community and being situated on the riverbank it provides a beautiful setting for many sunset photos.

Baptist - The Oak Church

Still standing but empty and dilapidated, this picturesque little church, set beneath handsome old oak trees and beside a pathway down the bank to the river, was once a quiet and well-loved sanctuary for those of the Baptist faith.

There was already an established Baptist congregation in River John, the Christian Disciples, later, the Church of Christ when Charles Sutherland settled in River John. He had been born in Shelburne and was descended from an Empire Loyalist; his religion was Baptist, but of a different line than the Christian Disciples. He met with Robert Allan, who, with his family had been baptized in the Christian Disciples church, and they decided to establish their own Baptist church. They built and maintained the church themselves.

And so, the Oak church began, and had their first meeting on the 13th of March, 1848, with 10 members attending. Charles Sutherland, Jr. was ordained as Deacon, and Rev. Obed Parker led them. When he left to return home, Charles went with him to attend Horton College to study for the ministry.

The first baptisms on March 13th, which were by immersion in the river, were named in the minutes as Robert Allan, Mrs. Nancy Sillers, Jane and Elizabeth Allan and Mary Gammon. Charles Sutherland, Sr., Nancy MacKinnon, John Hamilton, Sr. and Mrs. Jessie Hamilton were received by experience. On March 20th the baptisms were John Hamilton, Jr., Nelson Sutherland, Margaret Wilson and Mary Corbett. The river must have been cold in March, but no doubt their hearts were warm.

Rev. Charles Tupper visited and preached a service. The pastoral charge included New Annan and Brule as well as the Oak church. There was no full-time minister until 1876, when Rev C.S. Carbonell came and the congregation grew, but in the succeeding years there were quite a few young people who left the church because they were moving to USA to work. Some passed away and others began attending another church. But there were a few dismissals too. Members were expected to support their church, to keep up their attendance and to live upstanding and Christian lives.

Some of the records and minutes have survived, but there were gaps (for instance, no records exist for the year 1849, and often only one report per year, and none between 1857 and 1876.

Other names were added to the roll, like Beckwith, Langille, Brown, Wilson, Henderson, Smith, Roberts, MacKay and others, to add to the many Sutherlands, Allans, Sillers, Gammons, and Perrins. Two more members entered the ministry from this church, Wilfred Allan and Robert Freeman Allan, who also settled in the USA.

The last record is dated November, 1907. In 1935, a business meeting was held but only three persons attended. In 1950, the Oak Church joined with the Christian Disciples and became The Church of Christ in River John. The Oak church was finally sold to Ralph Allan who used it to store hay.

But still it stands, almost as sturdy as the old oak trees who gave their name to the Oak Church. It is situated on the River John Road near the riverbank, just before the road takes a sharp left hand turn.



The old Oak (Baptist) church

The Weather was the Predator

by Maggie Howatt

As some of you readers may know, I have written twice for *The Pioneer* about swallows, particularly tree and barn swallows and the terrific pleasure it gives me to share this space with them. I am happy to keep our outbuildings open to accommodate any barn swallow looking to set up house, and to build and maintain nest boxes for those lively, thriving tree swallows.

After the usual slow start to spring, with a cool May dragging its heels, kicking and screaming into a pretty nice June, it was shaping up to be a wonderful summer for insectivores. There was enough heat and rain to keep the insect numbers up. Both tree and barn swallows were doing well; I could hear all kinds of peeping in the boxes and the baby barn swallows were crowded in their mud cups.

That was until the beginning of July. The weather took a drastic change for the worse July 2 and stayed that way for three whole days. There was a cold driving rain from the north-northeast and temperatures hovered around 11°C (52°F) at night, only going up to 15°C (59°F) during the day. As you can imagine no mosquito or black fly worth its salt is going to hang around in that. Holiday beach goers and weekend plans were in terrible disarray with this miserable forecast but for the nesting babies it was a death sentence. The adults couldn't hunt and the babies were so close to fledging, but not ready to leave the nest boxes. That weekend would very likely have been a launching for a great number of those little guys but with nothing to eat they were doomed. The adults were forced to leave the area in search of food and likely headed out to the shore or protected wetlands.



Swallows and Oaks Quilt by Deb Plestid.

They would occasionally return and I could see them and hear them cheeping to their babies, maybe trying to lure them out, but as the hours and days passed by, the cheeping grew quiet and the adults finally left for good. Out of 20 boxes used here at the farm there were 82 mortalities. At various other locations in the area where I have nest boxes set up, the outcome was the same.

I spoke to Hope Swinimer, founder of Hope for Wildlife, about that particularly nasty weekend and she said they had a number of birds brought in following that storm. To my everlasting amazement, she also informed me that they are set up to send a team anywhere in the province to rescue these babies, nurture them at their facilities and return them to the scene of the crime. Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in the

Brookfield area near Truro also takes all species of wild birds who are injured or in trouble, but the birds would need to be taken to them.

Unlike bank, cliff and barn swallows, whose numbers are critically low, the tree swallow population is doing relatively well. But it was still a heartbreaking, helpless few days. As resilient as the tree swallow is, like other aerial insectivores, their numbers have slowly been declining since the 1970s. We're aware of the impact of clear cutting and spraying in forestry practice, as well as agricultural pesticide use on both the welfare of the birds but also the insects that feed them. Global warming, climate change, whatever you want to call the severe weather events that we are experiencing are all taking a toll.

Building and supplying nesting sites for tree swallows definitely contribute to their chances of survival but it's an ever changing game as we also see mortality rates due to overheating, resulting from increased summer temperatures. So we are constantly researching and trying to find improvements in nest box construction that protects and shelters the birds, despite the challenges of climate changes.

These sites are good sources of information about swallows.

<https://treeswallows.com>

<https://www.hopeforwildlife.net>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

Excerpt from the diary of Rev. MacGregor, part 3

We are continuing the diary of Rev. James MacGregor, the wilderness preacher as he recounts his journey from Halifax to Pictou County.

Shared by Rev. Glen Matheson, D.D., Scotsburn, N.S.

Rev. James Drummond MacGregor's diary dated July 1786 describes his first impressions of Pictou:

"Next morning, I moved down to West River toward the harbour and Squire Patterson's. William Smith accompanied me past two or three of the houses, at which we called, and delivered me to Hugh Fraser, afterward an elder, who engaged to see me safe at Squire Patterson's. We called at the remaining houses down the West River, then travelled three miles without a house, when the harbour appeared - a beautiful sheet of water, very much like one of the Highland lakes in Scotland, about nine miles long and one broad. It is an excellent harbour, but its entrance is rather narrow. Three rivers run into it. The West River falls into the west end or head of it; and the Middle and East River into the south side of it. The rivers are small, none of them have a run of thirty miles; but the East River is as large as the other two, and is often called by the Highlanders the Great River. The greatest detriment it sustains is its freezing for three or four months in winter, so that no vessel can come in or go out. When I looked round the shores of the harbour I was greatly disappointed and cast down, for there was scarcely any thing to be seen but woods growing down to the water's edge. Here and there a mean timber hut was visible in a small clearing, which appeared no bigger than a garden compared to woods. Nowhere could I see two houses without some wood between them. I asked Hugh Fraser, 'Where is the town?' He replied, 'There is no town but what you see.' The petition sent home had the word township in it, whence I had foolishly inferred that there was a town in Pictou. The reader may have some conception of my disappointments, when he is informed that I had inferred also the existence of many comforts in the town, and among them a barber, for I had never been partial to the operation of shaving. My disappointments were immensely discouraging to me; for I looked on myself as an exile from the Church and society. I saw that Nova Scotia, and especially Pictou, was very far behind the idea which I had formed of them. I renounced at once all idea of ever seeing a town in Pictou. Nothing but necessity kept me there; for I durst not think of encountering the dangerous road to Halifax again, and there was no vessel in Pictou to take me away, and even had there been one, I had not money to pay my passage home.

Hugh Fraser, having borrowed a canoe, paddled me along, with a good deal of labour, to Squire Patterson's,

but it was much nearer than going by land. I was received by the squire and his lady with every mark of the most sincere kindness. They were of the very first settlers of Pictou, and had all along maintained a Christian character; and now rejoiced in the prospect of enjoying public ordinances, of which they had been long deprived. The afternoon I spent partly in preparation for the morrow, and partly in getting accounts of the state and people of Pictou. The first settlers of Pictou were about a dozen families from Maryland, in the year 1765. In 1773 came the ship *Hector* loaded with Highlanders from Lochbroom, sent out by the Philadelphia Company, to settle a large grant of theirs in Pictou. But many of them left Pictou for Truro, Onslow and Londonderry, townships in Colchester; for the families who had been in Pictou before could not afford winter provisions for a third part of them; but they almost all returned after some years. Many of these settlers suffered incredible hardships in bringing provisions from Colchester, without roads, horses or money, but earning them by hard labour. One or two years afterwards there arrived about fifteen families, emigrants from Dumfriesshire to St. John, now Prince Edward Island, who had been almost starved to death there, and gladly exchanged total want for the scanty allowances of Pictou. In the fall of 1783, and spring of 1784, came about twenty families of soldiers, mostly Highlanders, who had been disbanded after the peace with the United States in 1783, and some of their officers having half-pay. The same summer brought eight families of Highlanders by the way of Halifax. There were a few of the families Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, etc., but they were mostly Scotchmen and Presbyterians. They were settled round the shores of the harbour, and on the sides of the rivers, except two families on the East River, and one on the West, who chose to move two more miles upriver for the sake of better land. Such was the account I had from Squire Patterson of the first settlement of Pictou. His own house was rather the best in Pictou, and the only framed one. There were only seven or eight log houses in the whole settlement that had two fireplaces.

The squire gave orders to lay slabs and planks in his barn for seats to the congregation; and before eleven o'clock next morning I saw the people gathering to hear the gospel from the lips of a stranger, and a stranger who felt few of its consolations in his own soul, and had but little hope of communicating them to his hearers. None came by land, except certain families who lived a few miles to the right or left of Squire Patterson's. Those who came from the south side of the harbour, and from the rivers, had to come in boats or canoes; and I doubt not but all the craft in Pictou available at the time was in requisition. It was truly a novel sight to me, to see so

many boats and canoes carrying people to sermon. There were only five or six boats, but many canoes, containing from one to seven or eight persons. The congregation, however, was not large; for numbers could not get ready their craft, the notice was so short. I observed that the conduct of some of them, coming from the shore to the barn, was as if they had never heard of a Sabbath. I heard loud talking and laughing, and singing and whistling, even before they reached the shore. They behaved, however, with decency so long as I continued to speak, and some of them were evidently much affected. I endeavoured to explain to them in the forenoon, in English, 'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;' and in the afternoon, in Gaelic, 'The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.' I had been afraid of the want of proper preceptors, especially for the Gaelic, as I knew in Scotland that readers were scarce in the North Highlands; but I was happily disappointed, for William Smith did very well in English, and Thomas Fraser in Gaelic. The first words which I heard after pronouncing the blessing, were from a gentleman of the army calling to his companions, 'Come, come, let us go to the grogshop,' but instead of going with him, they came toward me, to bid me welcome to the settlement; and he came himself at last. I could not be displeased with their politeness; still there was no savour of piety in their talk. There was a number of pious persons there, who would gladly have spoken to me, but, as they told me afterwards, they had not the courage to show themselves in such company; by which means I had a worse opinion of the place than it deserved. The gentlemen stayed some time, and while they did, we had little else among us but profanation of the Sabbath. Perhaps I was too timid myself; for all that I did to repress this profanation was some faint attempts to turn the talk to a more profitable channel. It soon turned back. When they were gone, Squire Patterson's family offered no hindrance to religious conversation."

Editor's note: Squire Patterson's home was near the current IOOF nursing home at Brown's Point just outside of Pictou. Several years before Rev. MacGregor's arrival the settlers here had sent a letter they called a "supplication" to Scotland asking for a minister. It was that document that described Pictou as a "township" which to them meant a region including all of Pictou County along with parts of Colchester, Antigonish and Guysborough counties today. And one would wonder where they acquired the canoes, not likely a European invention!

Nurse Practitioners

by **Santina Weatherby**

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice nurses, educated at the graduate level to provide comprehensive care in a variety of healthcare settings (Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), 2021). NPs can autonomously diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications, refer to specialists and perform medical procedures for which they are competent (CNA, 2021).

Similarly, to Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) NPs are self-regulated, and hold their own license to practise, separate from physicians. NPs are licensed through the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN). The NP role is unique in that NPs are nurses who possess the education and legislative authority to provide care in many areas of the healthcare system.

Here on the north shore of Nova Scotia, typically NPs are practicing in the primary care and clinic settings. Locally the communities of Tatamagouche, Pugwash and Pictou have had NPs practicing for over a decade. There are many areas where NPs practice such as emergency departments, mental health & addiction clinics, surgical units, and sexual health centres, to name just a few.

Historically, the NP role was predominately utilized in Northern and remote communities in Canada, starting in the 1960s (CNA, 2021). As the role progressed, the education requirements to become a NP increased, which led to the development of formalized educational programs. Several factors have expanded the utilization of NPs in Nova Scotia and across the country. Research and data collected across Canada and the globe reveal NPs provide safe, quality, and cost-effective care in their practice settings, along with improved patient outcomes and high patient satisfaction, (Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario, 2011).

Similarly, to most healthcare professionals on the frontlines, NPs collaborate with other professionals to provide clients the best care. This means, although NPs are autonomous providers, most practice alongside a variety of team members from different disciplines, such as dietitians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, social workers, and physicians.



From left to right, Santina Weatherby, NP, Lynn Miller, NP, Glenna Gallant, NP

The CNA describes NPs as an untapped resource. Given the current pressures faced by your health care system, NPs are a high-quality cost-effective solution to the many challenges our healthcare system faces. Unfortunately, there continues to be confusion with the NP role. Many of these issues stem from the common practice of comparing NPs, solely to physicians. NPs are advanced practice nurses and should be valued as advanced health professionals! It is important to know, although there are many overlapping roles in the clinical settings, such as diagnosing health conditions and prescribing medications, there are differences. Specifically, NPs are required to uphold the Standards of Practice of Registered Nurses, as well as those for Nurse Practitioners, (NSCN, 2018).

NPs are well positioned to make significant contributions to patients, community health, and the healthcare system across the province. Given the current pressures faced by our healthcare system, now is the time to advocate for NPs to be implemented in more healthcare settings, not only Primary Care clinics!

National Nurse Practitioner Week is recognized the second full week of November 14-20, 2021. Take a moment to learn more about NPs and what they can do for you and your family's health!

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RIVER JOHN ROAD MAP

We have many new residents to River John and surrounding areas, and we also have many roads in the district. Well, whether you have always lived here or are a recent arrival, this map should be of some assistance when looking for a local road. We chose our post office postal code as this is the Pioneer's coverage area. There are some small roads not shown due to their size.

Thank you to Kevin Burley, the GIS Technician with the Municipality of Pictou County, who produced this map for us. Also, thank you to our Councillor, Mary Wooldridge Elliott, for her assistance in the project.

Mary Beth Sutherland



SCALE: 1:70,000

This map is a general representation of Pictou County. Data provided by Service NS and compiled by Municipality of Pictou County, Oct 2021.

Notes from the Dreamery by Mabel Murple

by Sheree Fitch

Hello! Mabel Murple here. Mama Murple's busy writing up something or other she thinks might be a book someday. She is a very slow writer. This idea has been hanging around since 1983. Hope it works out for her.

Papa Murple and Uncle Murple make a good team. They are working on the shop roof which means we'll be open again next summer!

For now, ahem, Mama's not the only one in the universe who can spin a verse.

We opened in rain and there they were
Masked people standing in line
Parents and teachers and kids and friends
Readers of every kind.

2021 we were open again
Everything worked out fine.
We had new bunnies, a wedding!
Some sadness, great laughs

A boy with a bare behind!
Yes, a boy with a bare behind!

We thank Linda and Cindy
Brian and all
For selling the books
For mucking out stalls
We thank fairies for magic
The critters, the trees

And hopefully next year?
NO FEAR OF DISEASE!

Dear River John neighbours, thank you for bringing your families and friends to visit. Mama says to remind you, when next season arrives, this is a space for all to enjoy: to wander, picnic and make memories in a purple world. We all need a bit of purple sparkly light!

We'll see you next year!

Mabel Murple



"As long as we have stories, we will never be alone." - Sheree Fitch



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Women Making Waves in The Fishing Industry

by Nadine MacLellan

The fishing industry in Nova Scotia has evolved over hundreds of years with the support of women's work. Countless women from the River John area have been involved in the fishery from Cape John, Skinner's and MacDonald's Coves to Toney River. To champion their impact, I compiled an incomplete and informal history of their work.

She, The Sea

Maritime traditions are steeped in age-old folklore, often creating nautical imagery associated with feminine qualities. Boat travel predating modern technology was anything but certain so seafolk relied on elaborate rituals and ancient superstitions to ensure their destiny. Naval myths and omens have become less significant but still contribute to today's ideologies. Fishermen in the area are known to empty their pockets before starting a fishing trip, some outlaw whistling and disapprove of counting of the catch before the day is done. 'Harbingers of doom' include flowers, types of birds and bananas. One of the most widely accepted and pervasive maritime beliefs caused sailors to fear that the sea would become jealous of any woman on board a ship. Boats are viewed as females with motherly, protective qualities to be named and ceremoniously launched to appease old habits. Another watchful female figure of sailors, mariners and fishermen is the Goddess Brizo. Women on the water have been perceived as both protective and threatening; creating suspicion and experiencing stigma in their work in the fishing industry. In 1939 the first female Master Mariner in Canada, Myrtle 'Molly' Kool graduated in Yarmouth, N.S., becoming the second female registered sea captain in the world. Today the fishing industry provides rigorous employment opportunities in rural communities across Atlantic Canada, regardless of gender. In 2019 almost 25,000 Nova Scotians identifying as women worked in the fishing industry with nearly 80% of them involved in fish harvesting.

Skippers of the Shore Crew

Women in fishing families have always taken an active role in ensuring the success of business by bookkeeping, banking, and interacting with buyers. Women cooked meals and delivered supplies. In River John, wives of fishermen served a full sit down dinner to the setting crew on the first day of the season. Other ground crew tasks women have done included cleaning and painting of boats, buoys and other equipment. Women from the area would sell glove-mitten hybrids of thick handspun wool to keep fishing hands dry while allowing movement and warmth needed for work. These mittens were always white, never gray, to provide the greatest luck (another superstition). Hand-knitting trap heads and nets was an essential part of shore work that was done by women. Each lobster trap is equipped with a net entrance (head) leading to the bait (kitchen) where another net stretches into the parlour. Famously, Euphemia Jollimore could knit over a hundred heads a day, earning about one cent for each of them.

Females in the Factory

Women from the River John area have also contributed to the fishing industry with their work in the processing sector. The fishing industry relies on packers to market catches. Today lobsters are exported live, canned and frozen. In days-gone-by, live lobster was delivered by freight train and limited to the United States. The rest of the catch was cooked immediately to be packed in cans for the Canadian, American and European market. Every port had a cannery where women did much of the cooking and meat picking. At Skinner's Cove a trolley delivered catches from boats to the cookhouse. A diesel engine-powered battery bank ran electric lights. The factory itself was steam powered; large pots held 100 pounds of lobster and heating soldering irons for canning while belts ran assembly lines. Upwards of thirty women lived and worked on site. A shanty town housed fishermen with a nearby bunkhouse for factory workers and several straw beds lined the upstairs of the factory. Canneries like this existed all over rural Nova Scotia with women being on the front line of the workforce. Today, women from River John continue this work in modern factories to be shipped globally.

Women on the Water

Nowadays, women from the River John area are crew members at every wharf, during every fishery. We get asked, "What do you call yourself?" Answers vary, but include 'Helper', 'Fisher', 'Fisherperson', 'Fisherwoman', 'Fisherman', 'Deckhand' and 'I fish for a living'. I have benefited from a rich history of women working on boats, but people can be surprised by what I do for a living. I was only fully aware of how male-dominated fishing culture can be when I was the sole woman in groups for Domestic Vessel Safety certification and Commercial Marine Radio Operator license. Since I began fishing in 2005, I have always been surrounded by women making a career out of their work on the water; enjoying my time outside on the water with my family and putting food on people's tables. Independent of gender, children of fishing families become attached to a way of life connected to the sea. Women who fish will be told, "That sounds like hard work." It can be, but there is no such thing as a typical work day on the water. You would be hard pressed to find anyone to tell you exactly what they do on a boat; the unofficial oath of our operation is 'Loose Lips Sink Ships.' Where other adages have worn away through the years, I believe this principle will stand the test of time. When it comes to traditional views of women on the water I often joke that I would never rely on a boat that did not have women on the crew. One thing that I can count on is a bright future with women making waves working in the fishing industry of River John.

A Number of River John Area Women Who Have Worked in Fish Harvesting:

Ruth Coleman	Greta Langille
Shelly Bigney	Dawn Langille
Linda Cameron	Linda Langille
Patsy Cameron	Sharon Langille
JoAnne Duplessis	Krysta MacLellan
Wanda Dwyer	Randi-Lee MacLellan
Amy Fraser	Nadine MacLellan
Emily Grant	Rachelle Nicholson
Cathy Gilchrest	Donna Patriquin
Kathy Henderson	Jane Robichaud
Christine Heighton	Valerie Suidgeest
Elizabeth Heighton	Melanie Sutherland
Marjorie Heighton	Carlie Thompson
Mildred Heighton	Janice Thompson
Doris Jollimore	Rory Thompson
Michelle Jollimore	Mary Tohill
Valerie Jollimore	Beverly Turple
Marie Joudrie	



Women packing fish fillets, Lunenburg Sea Products (E.A. Bollinger Nova Scotia Archives no. 1941-533a)

..... more pictures on page 30

..... continued from page 31,
 Women making waves in the fishing industry



Carlie Thompson has fished lobsters and herring with her father Charles.



Call her Captain: Like her mother Christine, Elizabeth Heighton owns & operates a gaspereau license. She has also fished lobster with her father Sterling for several years.



'Krysta MacLellan is all smiles on The Sea



The past two years came with many challenges but you have overcome them all! Congratulations Elizabeth Heighton, graduating from Cosmetology at Nova Scotia Community College-Pictou Campus and receiving the NSCC Sunflower Award (In memory of former faculty Kathy Skoke-Fortin, The Sunflower Award is given to a Cosmetology student who exemplifies professionalism, kindness, positivity, perseverance, and who exudes a nurturing & generous spirit to others.)

Love Mom, Dad, Patrick and Kaitlyn.



Even though it has been a couple of tough years with the COVID-19 virus and online courses, you came through it with flying colours. Congratulations, Kaitlyn Heighton, graduating from Business Administration, concentrating on Accounting, at Nova Scotia Community College, Pictou Campus.

Love Mom, Dad, Patrick and Elizabeth.

The Heritage Museum

by Beulah Jane Wright

Another summer has passed and the museum is closed for the season. It has not been a busy season for sure, with few visitors compared to the numbers of other years, but the ones that came enjoyed the experience. And there is always lots of work to be done, from cataloguing to cleaning, and always learning more about our past. It was unfortunate that the museum had to be closed on the weekends, but perhaps it would have made little difference.

We are grateful for the many donations of artifacts that were given to us this summer, some of them quite exciting and all interesting and appreciated. We shall do our best to take great care of the artifacts that have been entrusted to the River John and Area Historical Society for display in the museum, and the enjoyment of our visitors. We value the local support of the community and welcome them at any time.

Fundraising and events were still almost impossible, and some needed repairs had to be put off for a better time, due to lack of funds, but we are optimistic about the future. We can only hope that next year will be a little closer to the "normal" that we enjoyed in the past. See you next year!



This lovely set of glassware and pitcher with gold trim were recently gifted to the Museum by Mabel Zinck . Present in the photo are members of the River John and Area Historical Society, Laura Elliott, Mabel Zinck and Beulah Wright. Mabel presented this glassware set in memory of her parents, James and Florence Cameron. The set was a wedding gift to the Camerons on the occasion of their marriage in July, 1920. It is on display in the River John Heritage Museum.

The Overstreet Cafe

by Debby Shaw

Many of us have been curious about the work being done to the old bank building on River John Station Road. It used to be Dr. Murray's Pharmacy before it became the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1921. It has given a lot of people entertainment watching its development. Now it is our pleasure to welcome The Overstreet Cafe to River John. Some of you may recognize the term "overstreet" for which the cafe is named. For those who don't, it is colloquial for going across the bridge to River John Station Road, i.e., going over street.

I recently made an opportunity to spend some time talking with Elizabeth and John Baillie who bought this building from Bernadette Romanowsky. Ms. Romanowsky, a lawyer who represented fishers in our area, rescued the building from disrepair and disuse. Elizabeth calls John a serial entrepreneur; his latest being a vineyard on Cape John Road. Elizabeth and her business partner, Patsy Murray Chapman, are opening the cafe; Patsy will take charge of day-to-day running.

Blaine Elliott and John Little have been the contractors in charge of this project and have done a fantastic job, both inside and out. From the street I think it looks like a gingerbread house and inside, the tile floor really caught my eye. Luke Otter, the plumber on the job, has made the building accessible for everyone. Elizabeth and Patsy hope to open soon; maybe they already have.



Their primary supplier of baked goods for the cafe is Ceilidh Otter of Otter Girls Bakery. Two years ago, Ceilidh and husband, Luke, (remember the plumber?) moved with their daughter, Niala, from Hubbards to Rte. 311. After Ceilidh moved here, she knew she had to develop her own career, so, drawing on her love of baking and the childhood influence of her grandmother, she opened a business. She uses real cream, real butter and whole eggs. She is famous for her scones, and has added a line of gluten-free and vegan baked goods. I have enjoyed her delicious gluten-free brownies. Ceilidh has been supplying Jamieson's General Store in Tatamagouche and The Coffee Barn in Truro.

The Overstreet Cafe will also have gluten-free oatcakes (plain and chocolate-dipped) from Carlson Family Farm of Marshville. Meeting Waters Coffee Roastery, Tatamagouche, will supply two roasts of coffee and the cafe will serve various teas, including "Bubble Tea."

Elizabeth and Patsy are planning to be open year-round, serving soup and sandwiches. They also intend to install Wi-Fi as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, patrons can use the library Wi-Fi service which extends to The Overstreet Cafe.

I don't know about you, but I must try that Bubble Tea so let's get out and support them.



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Coldest Night fundraiser

by Melanie Cote

Team "Pay it Forward" raised \$791.80 during their Barbeque Event on Aug 21. They would like to thank the many donations from several local business that helped to make it happen.

Sponsors for this event included: Cohens Cones - Simply Bee - Partners Construction - Lismore Sheep Farm - Alan Heighton Construction - Sanction - Sobeys - Cote Tire

There will be a FREE BarBq during the Trunk or Treat at the school on October 31st starting at 4pm.

Anyone who wants to join their team "Pay it Forward" may do so by calling Melanie Cote at 902-899-6750 or emailing mele.cote@gmail.com. They will be putting together a few more fundraisers and their annual 5km walk will be held on Feb 26, 2022.



MacDonald's Cove Preservation Association

by Derek Andrews

The MacDonald's Cove Preservation Association was formed in 1997 to ensure continuing public access to this beautiful beach at Seafoam. The former fishing wharf and adjacent land was acquired by the MCPA on behalf of the local community when DFO divested itself of the property.

Membership is open to adults residing in the River John mailing area, or anyone who once lived here. Locals who enjoy using the beach are encouraged to join and support the work of maintaining the area and financing the running of the association. If you wish to join, or just make a donation, you can contact the Treasurer, Nancy Langille at: nlangille2013@gmail.com



Swimming lessons at MacDonalds Cove put on by the Municipality of Pictou County. Rylan Algarra with instructor Skye MacDonald.



River John Recreation Hallowe'en Parade

by Jennifer MacDonald

River John Recreation was happy to see so many families out for their Harvest Fest Children's Parade on October 3rd. Thank you to the River John Library, the Old School, the River John Fire Department and community members who donated to the event. First place went to Mac Henderson (hunter in a tree stand), second place to Audrey MacDonald (caterpillar) and third place to Jade Dares (shrimp sushi). We can't wait to see you all again next year.

