



River John's Soup Luncheon

by Cheryl Frizzell

On the 4th Monday of the month you can find many a hungry villager at the St. George's Church Hall for the monthly soup luncheon. Where a small donation at the door gets you a choice of 2 kinds of a delicious homemade soup. Robyn Cambell and friends prepare the soups, and the rolls, biscuits and deserts are

donated by members of the community. I can't say that I have a favorite, but they do put out a good hamburg soup. I have never had a bowl I didn't like, everyone leaves with a full belly and no complaints. It sure makes the cold wintery days a little warmer and you never know who is joining you for lunch.



Number 19



Jacob Clough of River John, plays centre or wing with the novice advance Pictou County Crushers. He is number 19. Jacob is 8 yrs. old and is in grade 3 at the Tatamagouche School. Although Jacob doesn't boast about himself, he generally makes a goal or two at each game. Jacob has been selected to play with the storm Advance this spring, run by the Atlantic Hockey Group. River John is very proud to have such a well rounded student in our community. Way to go Jacob



Jacob center in red helmet playing at game in Halifax



Christmas lights in River John

River John 4-H Club

by Margaret Cripps

The River John 4-H Club has 19 members and 10 Leaders. Our projects are cloverbuds, foods, Dairy, scrapbooking, crafts, fisheries, junior leader, woodworking, great outdoors, beef, sheep, rabbit, poultry, light horse, mini horse, goat, waterfowl and market turkey.

This weekend on March 7th we will be doing our club public speaking rally and members can move on to county and provincial levels.

We did our adopt a highway clean up in

October, Family fun day during River John Winter carnival, made a goodie basket for the East Coast FM radio station and attended the County church service in Lyons Brook in November for National 4-H Month.

The club meets the first Sunday of each month at St George's Presbyterian Church Hall in River John at 2 pm.

For information about the River John Club please contact General leaders, Shar MacLean (9092) 351-2268 and Christine Heighton (902) 351-2061



Pioneer community

River John Volunteer Fire Department



by Santina Weatherby

The River John Volunteer Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their ongoing support throughout the last year. As a small community we are thankful for support and attendance at various fundraisers and events. A very special thank you to the Ladies Axillary of the Fire Department for their dedication and commitment to fundraising, their hard work is an integral part to maintaining our department's equipment and resources.

Spring is around the corner, the time change is a reminder to check your smoker detectors and change batteries. For more information please visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Smoke-alarms>

In December the department held its annual members appreciation night where service awards and special department awards are presented. The following members received awards in 2019.

Firefighter of the Year: Hailey Scotland, Krysta MacLellan, Travis Heighton

Member of the Year: Krysta MacLellan

Officer of the Year: Carson Bigney & John MacLellan

Services awards

Chief Dave Brown- 40 years of service
Robbie Heighton- 47 years of service
Rod Heighton- 40 years of service
Gowan MacGregor- 30 years of service
Dwayne Langille- 25 years of service
Jason Langille- 25 years of service
Chelsea Benjamin- 10 years of service
Hailey Scotland- 5 years of service
Kenny Caverley- 5 years of service

Once again, thank you to the community for your support.

Back row: John MacLellan, Robert Heighton Jr., Carson Bigney, Krysta MacLellan, Donald MacGregor, David Brown, Terry Heighton, Dwayne Heighton, Rod Heighton, Robert Heighton Sr., Darren Allen

Front Row: Santina Weatherby, Patrick Mulholland, Hailey Scotland, Cody Joudrey, Chad McGrath, Brittany MacLellan, Willie Weatherby, Gowan MacGregor, Micheal Weatherby

Missing: Donald Baillie, Chelsea Benjamin, James Brown, Kenneth Caverly, Steven Craib, Peter Ingram, Jason Langille, Raymond Langille, Brian MacLean, Donald MacLean and Bruce Murray

Bonnie Allan

Bonnie has spent most of her life in the pursuit of volunteering. Chances are if she is not working she is off to a meeting somewhere for the many organizations that she volunteers with. Bonnie has been heavily involved in 4h for too many years to count. She serves as general Leader for the Sunrise Trail 4H club as well as a project leader for the Goat project and the Poultry project.

If that is not enough on its own, she sits on the board of directors for the Valley View Villa, The Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, Pictou Agriculture Society. She also helps out on with Lillian Fraser Memorial foundation and gives a hand with the River John Festival days when needed. Although her volunteering keeps her busy, she feels rewarded and enjoys being involved trying to make a difference.



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Micheal Clough
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Cape John school

by Mary Tohill



Back row—teacher Mary Tohill, Mary Jollimore, Betty MacLellan, Ronnie Langille, Lawson Heighton, Gerald Shaw

Front — Ricky MacLellan, Walter Jollimore, Timmie MacLellan, Betty Jollimore, Ella Langille, Douglas Cullen, Lloyd Langille

Six of these students have since passed.

Good Old School Days-1955-57 No picture of the other class was taken. Afternoon class above at Westerly (Cape John) school. With so many kids attending the school board split them into a morning and afternoon class. They had to walk up to 2 miles to and fro to school each day rain or shine, School wasn't cancelled unless it was a blizzard, I can remember walking long the fences in the snow. At school at recess or noontime they were allowed to go out to play ball, anti-over or coasting etc. with very little squabbling among them. They loved going next door for drinking water. Hot chocolate was always served sometime during the day. A Christmas concert and box social was held in December. and we got enough money to buy a radio, chalk, hot chocolate, cups etc. etc. They loved when the Public health nurse or School inspector came, was sort of a break for them., Also Rev. Plummer would drop in.. It was a wonderful 2 years with these children before I decided it wasn't for me, I got married, had 2 children and hit the high seas with my husband.

The school remained open 2 more years with Grace Langille the last teacher. It finally closed and the property was sold to Alvin & Marge Heighton where they built a home and still live there today,, Aubrey Heighton tore the school down and used the lumber to build a barn.

Alvin and Marge purchased the property Cape John School

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



Helping Hand Lodge #34

Library Internet Access

by Derek Andrews

The range of the outside wireless at the River John library has recently been extended so that visitors can now access the internet from the Bissell Park area.

The library is currently working with the provincial government to increase our internet speed to the building.

If you're interested in joining an organization that believes in making the world a better place to live, by aiding each other in times of need and organizing charitable projects that benefit the less fortunate, then **call today!**

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River John Sunday Market



Four Special Sundays for 2020

June 28, July 19, Aug 2, Sept 6
10 am - 2 pm

Local produce, baking, preserves, maple syrup, woodwork, jewellery, artwork, bird feeders.

Wagon Rides, Barbeque, Local Live Music
Support your community. See you at the market!

Market is held at Lismore Sheep Farm
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The market always welcomes new vendors, please contact us.

Captain Thomas Mackenzie

In the spring of 1867 that yard, now operated by Charles MacLennan, Senior, had launched a barque named the 'Panama,' of 590 tons. Captain Thomas took command of her on her maiden voyage, and loaded hardwood lumber at River John for delivery in Liverpool. He was then twenty-four years of age and his first mate Frank MacLeod only twenty three. They sailed east down the Strait to the Gut of Canso, where they ran into the beginning of that great blow known to history and to all ancient mariners as the Saxby Gale, late in July of 1867. Heavy seas began to break over the barque. Rather than heave to and try to ride out the storm, Captain Tom decided to run before it. He crowded on all the sail she could safely carry and made the run to Liverpool in

just twelve days and three hours, the fastest time ever made by a sailing ship from Nova Scotia to an English port.

At the time of his death in 1886 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the New York press stated that he had also made a record run for any sailing vessel from Montreal to the River Plate (Buenos Aires). His total time on that voyage was given by the press as forty-four days. Apparently he well knew how to carry canvas.

An extract from the River John Reader, compiled by Janice Murray Gill, and taken from a document titled "The Mackenzies of River John" by T.G.Mackenzie.

Copies of the River John Reader are available at the library.



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River John & District Lions Club Chilli meal and Wagon Ride



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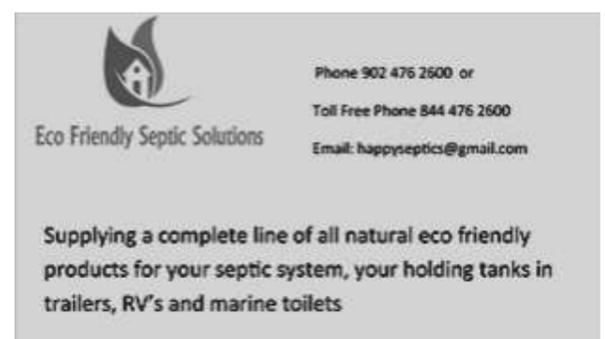
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Zone Chair Catherine Gibson along with King Lion Bruce Frizzell presented Lion Ann Patriquin and Lion Cheryl Frizzell on behalf the of the River John and District Lions Club with a Lions Appreciation Pin



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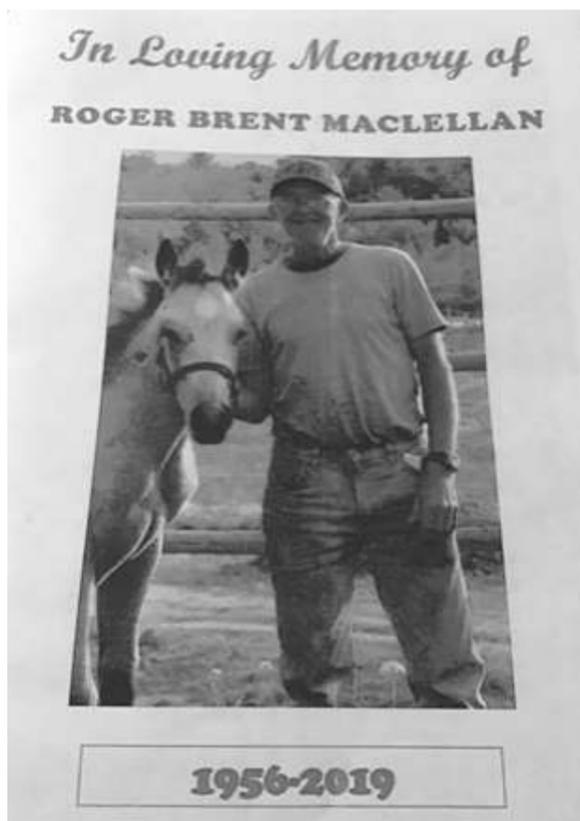
Waterfront Development Project Completed!

by Rob Assels

The River John Community Action Society (RJCAS) would like to thank all the volunteers who have contributed over the years in the development, fund raising, design, building, landscaping and maintenance of the Waterfront Development Project. The project was first conceived back in 2005. It was a large project so it was split into two phases. Phase 1 was the purchase of the floating docks, walkway and picnic area on the west side of the river. Phase 2 was the removal of the old bridge footings and the building of the slip for small watercraft on the east side. Roger MacLellan, who passed away this past year, was instrumental in both phases of the project. In his memory, the east side will be known as Roger's Landing. A plaque will be installed on the east side to ensure that future generations know of his community spirit. New signage promoting both sides of the development will be in place before the summer.

The completion of the project coincides with the election of the RJCAS's board and executive. The results of the election were not known at press time, but the Society wishes to thank previous board and executive members for their perseverance; the number of licences, permits, funding applications, letters and meetings spanning the past 15 years would have made any other community throw in the towel. Apparently, we're a pretty persistent lot!

The RJCAS exists to support the residents, cottagers, businesses and community organizations of River John and the surrounding area. It enables the commu-



nity to tap into government project funding. With the exception of June and July, the society meets the second Tuesday night of each month at the River John Legion at 7pm. As a community organization, community input is essential. We intend to hold a community visioning session to identify one or more projects (similar in scope to the riverfront development project). The new board and executive will need your direction. Please keep an eye out for announcements. The Pioneer will provide details on the RJCAS's new executive in the next edition.

In the interim, please make use of the riverfront. Please try to keep it clean. Play safe and ... whenever you're down there, remember Roger.

River John & District Lions Club

by Cheryl Frizzell

The formation of a lions club is a very important event in the life of River John. Service for the community is the main objective of each of these clubs, and we the River John Lions Club, shall do our part at all times to work for the advancement and betterment of our community." This was taken from our first Lions Charter Night program, where our first King Lion Harold Winmill addressed the members and guests, 50 years later present King Lion Bruce Frizzell reiterated that the River John & District Lions Club is still here to serve the community and area.

In future years the River John Lions Club became known as the River John & District Lions Club taking in members from surrounding communities. Today the club has 25 members, 3 incoming members and 1 charter member still very active. Lion Don Redmond can be seen at any meetings or events working along side the other lions giving guidance and support.

Through the years the Lions Club has fundraised for friends and neighbours in need, built a childrens park and even in previous years a skating rink (which is gone now). We own our own building which is used by the numerous community groups for local events. Our members are from different walks of life and all bring something different to the club.

We put on annual events such as the Chicken BBQ, Pancake and sausage breakfast, and wagon ride and chilli meal. The club also does bottle drives which puts money back into our community. We are currently looking into renovations at the club to make it more user friendly for local groups and to repair the roof.

I cannot speak for the other members but I am very proud to be part of this group of men and women that make up the River John & District Lions Club and work to make River John and area a better place to live by giving support where it is needed.



River John & District Lions Club

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The River John Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month at the Lion's Den in River John at 7:00 pm.

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The Cape John Fairies : Chapter 2

by Sandra-Lee

The first story of the Cape John fairies told of how they came to live in Cape John with my great grandmother Elizabeth Cole

This story is about one mid summer day on her little farm...

It was a beautiful day in June, Elizabeth was going from her tiny farm to the wharf to buy some fish from a fisherman who she had struck up a friendship with. She would take eggs, vegetables and fruit that she grew and trade them for fresh seafood. When she went down she would stay and visit with him. Most days if the weather was nice she would take a picnic lunch to share with him. The fairies of course were always around to help.

Chrysanthemum, one of the garden fairies noticed Elizabeth singing and smiling more than usual on this day. She called the other fairies to a meeting for she knew about Lizzies friend.

Chrysanthemum flew to the top of a daisy cleared her throat and declared "I think Lizzie is in love"

The other fairies laughed and danced with joy! All but Sigurd, one of the warrior fairies. Sigurd stepped forward and cleared his throat and asked "Do we know this man?" "What will happen to us if he doesn't believe?"

The fairies murmured to each other nodding their heads looking to chrysanthemum "I believe in Lizzie" was all she said and flew back to the garden where Elizabeth was gathering a small bouquet of wildflowers.

"Chrysanthemum could you please tie these flowers in my hair for me? It's such a beautiful summery day and I want to look very, well, summery!"

So, with flowers in her hair and a lightness in her step off she went skipping and humming along the path to the wharf, her basket in one hand and her walking stick in the other.

The fairies continued their work around the garden. They directed the worms away from the tomatoes and showed them the nice compost pile, they helped the honeybees find the apple blossoms with the most pollen, then, with their work done, sat down and had a drink of fresh honeyed cream. With bellies full and the hot sun streaming down, the fairies settled in the shade of a tall oak tree for a nap.

As day turned into evening, at that magical time of In between known as the gloaming where everything, even the ocean was pinkish gold they heard Lizzie returning. But wait! She wasn't humming or singing! She was talking happily! The lilt in her voice told the fairies that this was different! They flew out to the path and saw that she was walking arm in arm with the fisherman! The fairies were happy but also a bit afraid!

Lily and Iris, two of the garden fairies were so happy they held hands in a circle and spun around so much they created tiny dust spirals! Elizabeth caught sight of this and said "Little friends, my dear little friends come and meet Delbert, the man I'm going to marry."

Brave Sigurd was the first to appear.

Now, warrior fairies are ground fairies and don't have wings. They fly using a variety of winged creatures depending on the purpose .

For this occasion, he flew on the back of his crow right up to Delbert's face. Sigurd looked him in the eyes boldly, introduced himself and just sat there on that crow looking at Delbert! Delbert took off his hat bowed ever so slightly, saying "Lizzie has told me all about you and I believed her right from the start"! I have always believed in magic and all the magic folk. He began to tell a story about how he was saved by seals and how he watched one turn into a human then he recounted another tale about some smelly troublesome trolls that tried to steal some fish! Elizabeth stood looking at the fairies smiling and nodding in agreement, as if to comfort her friends.

The other fairies hearing this could not keep hidden for long! They all came out buzzing, dancing around laughing and singing! They welcomed Delbert to the farm and into their hearts. Lizzie told them about how Delbert proposed to her on the wharf surrounded by seagulls who flew up and danced around them when she said "yes."

Chrysanthemum shouted gleefully "Wheeeeeee now we have a wedding to plan."

"Yes we've decided on October after fishing season and harvest of the farm has ended."

The fairies all joined hands and circled the happy couple laughing and chanting ;

Siúil, Siúil, Siúil a Rún (Come, come, come my love)

Come and dance by the moon
Forevermore we will be as one
Siúil, Siúil, Siúil a Rún

When they got to the tiny farmhouse they all enjoyed a feast of oatcakes, honey, strawberries with fresh whipped cream and of course fairy tea.

Delbert left for his boat shortly before dark. You could hear his happy whistling almost all the way to the wharf. When he reached his boat he looked up at the stars and the night sky with gratitude in his heart and he soon fell asleep on the deck.

Elizabeth lay in her bed looking at the same sky with the same heartfelt thanks. She too was also soon asleep

The fairies on the other hand were wide awake because they had an afternoon nap! Sigurd sitting in a ring of fireflies cleared his throat and said "there will be no troll tormenting tonight for we have a wedding to plan"

Yaaaaay cried the others as they brought out their favourite honey drink and began to plan the wedding!

Activities

- Pick one scene from this story and draw it.
- Write a short story on what you think the fairies would include in the wedding.
- Send your drawings and pictures to the editors for possible inclusion in forthcoming issues of The Pioneer.



Ronald Baillie
Councilor, District 4
County of Pictou

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

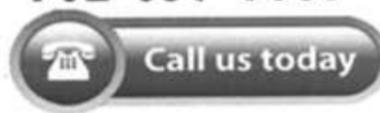
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Pioneer youth

Sunrise Trail 4H Club

by Samantha Allan

The Sunrise Trail 4H club has been busy this year, we have 48 members registered in many different projects. The club meets the second Monday of each month, so far this year the members have participated in our Halloween party where the members dressed up and played games, we had our holiday social where our members invited 4H friends, family and community members to a sit down meal, our members also participated in the Pictou Christmas Light up where many of our members were in the nativity scene. The Club donated money to families in need at Christmas time through the Pictou County Senior members club. Just lately we had our annual coasting party where much fun was had. We also put a team together for the annual Curl for Cancer, where sponsors were gathered for the cause. Also the club just finished our public speaking

rally, where all of the members did a great job, it is very difficult for these youth to get up in front of everyone and speak. Our winners will move onto the county competition in May.

Our club woodsman team is busy practicing for the county competition taking place in Scotsburn in April. The team members compete in 5 different events including pulp sawing, waterboil to name a couple as well as a team event of pulp throwing during the competition. We would like to send out a special thank you to Allan Fraser of A&M Small engines and his supplier Echo for a very generous donation of 4 pairs cutting chaps for our members.

Although the club has been busy, there is still much to come and the members are always busy with their project work. They work to complete all of their projects for our achievement day in July.



Woodsman. Riley Allan, Keagon Macdonald, Chase MacLennan, Mya Elliott, Dylan Macneil, Tristan Fraser-Shepard, Emma Allan



Woodsman. Chase MacLennan, Keagon MacDonald, Riley Allan, Emma Allan, Lily Allan, Nora Demetre



Sledding Party at Allan Farm

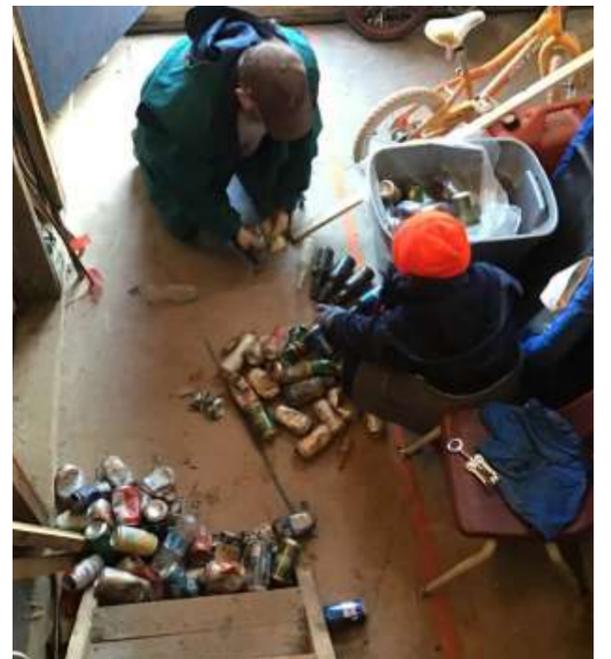


Curl for Cancer. Anna Bezanson, Emma Allan, Riley Allan, Keagon MacDonald.

Covid-19 litter pick

by Cheryl Frizzell

The Corona Virus as referred to by my 8 year old grandson. He is aware of all the stories and with his child filter he worries about mum, dad, sister, grammy, grumpy and friends he knows are not to healthy. We brought him to our place when his spring break began and have kept him and ourselves isolated from people and stores. We stocked up on groceries enough to last over a month (No we never got involved with the toilet paper frenzy). He is used to grammy being very social and sometimes he picks up on the fact that we are staying home. So to make things more fun and seem like we are going away we go out and roam around Skinners Cove. We had decided to do an outdoor activity every morning and an indoor one each afternoon to help pass the time. On one morning as we were getting ready to do a big walk he suggested that we could pick up all the recycles along the road and that would help with the Lions Bottle Drive that got cancelled. Braden has helped on different Lions Club events so he is very much aware of how they need donations etc. to help out the community. He gathered \$5 worth of recycles.



Pioneer photos

Salem United Community Meal

by **Mary Beth Sutherland**

Salem United church members served a delicious roast pork loin meal on Feb. 26 at their most recent community meal. These meals are not only a fundraiser for the church, they are provide a good meal and an opportunity for community members to gather and socialize in the winter months.



Marie Sellers attended the supper with her son John and daughter Lynn MacLeod. Lynn was one of the organisers of the meal.



Attendees enjoying a bit of social time after their meal.



Joan Sutherland is joined by her granddaughter Margaret Cripps and great-granddaughter Isabel Cripps for supper.

World Day of Prayer



Friday, March 6 at Salem United Church where we gathered for World Day of Prayer.



This year the world Day of prayer service on March 5th, held at Salem United, was written by the World Day of Prayer committee of Zimbabwe and adapted by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. "The WICC (Women's Inter-Faith Council of Canada) is a national ecumenical organization with a mission to empower Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action. They fulfill their mission through world Day of Prayer services and grant program, the Fellowship of the least Coin and their online resource: Restore: Ending Violence Against Women"

Auxiliary Coast Guard

by **Cheryl Frizzell**

Some may not be aware, but we have Auxiliary Coast Guard members living in our area. Some members from our area along with members from the maritimes took part in an on the water training in the Halifax Harbour. We have one member from River John who this year received his 40 year service pin, Congratulations Ronnie Langille and thank you for helping make our waters a safer place to be on.



River John & District Lions Club members came to the aid of Donnie Langille when his home was destroyed by fire. They gathered up what items could be salvaged and put them in temporary storage at a Lions member's property.

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Oddfellows presentations



Brother Jacob presented Rod Hayman with his 20 year jewel



Noble Grand Rod Hayman presented Brother Jacob Leekwater with his 35 year jewel



Noble Grand Rod Hayman and Brother Earl Johnson presented Deputy Grandmaster Peter Richardson a cheque for \$500 to go towards his grand Lodge Sessions 2021 in Truro



Congratulations to Brother Earl Johnson of the Helping Hand Lodge who is this years District Grand Master of District 17.



On behalf of the River John IOOF, Jamie Craig presented Brooke Reid a cheque for \$200 to go towards her trip to Ireland with the U18 Rugby



Earl Johnson and Kay Baillie showing IOOF Regalia circa 1900 from Smiths Falls, Ont. Kay's late husband's grandfather Malcolm Baillie was a member there.

RJ Lions



River John & District Lions Club presented Elena, daughter of Ericka Heighton a Taptilo, a learning device to help teach blind children to read braille.



The River John & District Lions Club recognized two members of the community who show up at most Lions events ready to go to work. Past King Lion William Elliott and Present King Lion Bruce Frizzell presented Chloe Patriquin and Dave Cochrane with Club Hats and Lions Volunteering Pins.



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St Johns Anglican Church



The 3rd Sunday of Advent was indeed full of Joy. Many people attended the service and then we had a delicious dinner in the Hall!!!! Mary organized all this, with a few helpers, for which we were all grateful!



People stayed after the service to have the AGM. Some couldn't tear themselves away. Mary Tothill chatting with Eliz Langille

St Johns Anglican Church River John have formed a great relationship with Salem United during the winter months with Rev John Morrrell and Rev Connie MacNamara sharing services at both churches on a monthly basis. Nice to have the combined choir

ON DEc 15th Rev John led the service and then we went to the hall for a lovely Christmas dinner prepared by Mary & Janet, 38 attended/

DEC 22nd brought all 3 churches together for a Christmas Carol service , what a great way to show our Christian faith, The 3 clergy Rev.Enje,Rev Connie & Rev. John offered an anthem.

St Johns have welcomed some new faces to



St. John's Anglican Church hosted a Musical Afternoon today with many musicians, a happy audience & tasty treats.

their congregation ,Myrtis & Wilson Guy, Bernice Bigney and Brian Clark

Maundy Thursday ecumenical service will be at St Johns at 7pm and Good FRiday at Salem United at 11am. And Easter sunrise at the Park by St George's April 12th at 7am.

St Johns have resumed their breakfasts the last Sunday of each month after having a winter break and are already looking forward to a Lobster dinner again in June, & a couple of events for July which will lead into Festival Days when St Johns will be hosting the church service on July 26th at Salem with Rev Judi Phillips as guest speaker.

God bless and enjoy Spring as it approaches.



A Hidden Cafe

By Cheryl Frizzell

There is a quaint little cafe in the village of Scotsburn where I was taken for a cuppa tea with 2 of my favorite gentlemen. Deb's Hidden Cafe is quite a treat. Owner/operator Deb Sangster greets you as you enter with a friendly smile and a good morning. It is obvious that Deb is proud of her cafe, as she tells you how she struggled thru the years to build to her cafe to what it is today. She has had her ups and downs with so many things closing in Scotsburn, but her determination shows.

"You can find just about anything here" she boasts as she shows me her 55 varieties of Jams and jellies, hand made goodies and items on displayed all around. Starting work at the age of 15 years she shows what hard work and perseverance can do. To help make the Cafe a success she prepares a theme meal for each month, April's is Italian and reservations are required.

She also will do crafting sessions and group gatherings here.

Snowmobilers, bikers, and 4 wheelers on the trails often will stop, have a bite and a break before continuing on.

As I sat enjoying my cinnamon roll and tea, I listened to the conversations and watched how she interacted with everyone. Expressing to one customer that a warm donut is much tastier than a cold one.

I think that this is what's missing in our society today, the personal touch that these small bussinesses give us and the feeling we



get when we "Step out of the rat race" and just sit back and enjoy each others company . I never heard one cell phone ring the whole time I was there except for the cafe's. We really need more of these types of spots in our rural communities where friends and strangers can meet, share news or have a laugh and not be in a hurry to end the day.

It was a pleasure to meet Deb Sangster and make a new friend while enjoying a cuppa tea. As you all know you can never have too many friends



Karla MacFarlane
MLA, Pictou West

Please contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas.

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Donair recipe

by **Valerie Richardson**

I had originally planned to share one of my Mom's tried and true desserts. This was one that all her nieces would receive at Christmas, however my plans changed. A very good friend of mine, we actually knew each other since grade school and maintained a close friendship for over 50 years. She loved donairs and I had a homemade recipe for donairs and sauce but after our house fire I had lost a lot of great recipes. My friend was visiting last summer and she said do you still make donairs, I told her why I don't and she said I think I have some of your recipes so she emailed me a few and since donairs were one of her favs I have decided to share this 'old' but great donair recipe in her memory, she unfortunately had a very short illness and passed away in December. So my dear friend this one is for you! I hope you enjoy.

Donair:

- 2.5 lbs hamburger
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp onion salt
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 3/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 fine bread crumbs

Now the secret make sure you massage all the ingredients into the meat really well. Bake at 250 degrees in a loaf pan for 2 hours. Make ahead and freeze or enjoy the same day. When read to use slice very thin and fry until hot.

Donair Sauce:

- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Mix together then add 1/3 cup white vinegar. Refrigerate until thick.

Fry pita bread, add meat, chopped tomatoes, onions, lettuce, pour sauce over this. Use your imagination with different toppings and enjoy!!

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River John Legion Branch 108

by Mary Beth Sutherland

Winter is a busy time here at the River John Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108. We have completed renovations on both the men's and women's washrooms, modernizing and making each of them barrier-free. Thanks to Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage for funding assistance through the ACCESS-Ability program. We are now looking into improving the outdoor lighting for the parking lot and replacing our kitchen flooring.

Our popular Smelt Fry was held on Sat 22 February, and we served over 300 dinners, until sold out. This is an event which involves all members of the Legion, and much assistance from members of the community. Our local group River Run provided a musical backdrop. When people and organizations work together there is success, and this was a success. Folks from near and far left saying the meal was great and they would be back next year.

During the recent River John Winter Carnival the Legion building was the location of several successful events, including; a 4H activities for children, crib & euchre tournaments, and a trivia night. This was in addition to regular line-dancing on Tuesdays and music circle on Fridays.

On Mon 30 March we are planning a "Movie Afternoon" starting at 12:30pm. For

\$5 you will get a light meal of soup and biscuits followed by the movie "Bucket List". Come and bring a friend with you.....popcorn is included.

The musical group River Run is hosting the Friday night Music Circles during the winter months. This is an enjoyable evening out for members of the community, including bar service and 50/50.

Our Legion will host a one hour presentation by Dominic Boyd, Education and Outreach Co-ordinator for the Alzheimer Society on Tue 21 April at 1:00 pm. Dominic will present strategies for "coping with dementia". All Legion members as well as the general public are welcome.

Our Legion is helping to spearhead a program of Remembrance banners to be mounted on village utility poles during Remembrance time in November. Anyone interested in sponsoring a banner for a family (veteran) member should call 902 351 2261. Cost per banner is \$200 which includes mounting

Legion membership is open to all. If you are interested in becoming a member of Branch 108, come get an application or call the above number.

Chase the Ace 2020 will start again in May....details to follow.

Helping Hand Lodge #34 IOOF

by Jacob Leegwater

Helping Hand Lodge #34 was instituted in 1878, meaning we are in our 142nd year. Meeting every Monday evening at 7:30 pm, except for the months of July and August. Over the years there have been many ups and downs, Presently we have 19 members, one of which is soon to be a 75 year member of our lodge.

Over the years we have been able to assist members of our community with gas cards, cash donations, assisted students who were going on school trips. We were able to help sponsor Elizabeth Heighton as she traveled to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, where she did herself and the entire community proud by winning the championship in her class in the beef category.

Also recipients of donations were 2 community members who suffered loss by fire. Amounts vary from \$100 - \$500.

Last fall we held our 4th annual coat drive and with the participation of the community we collected almost 450 coats in the past 4 years to be distributed to needy thru out the county.

For our 140th anniversary we planted a maple tree and placed a bench in the Bissell Park.

Over the years we have also donated to burary prizes to students at various high schools in the area.

At our meetings we also have an internal 50/50 draw which provides funds for our closing meeting when we treat ourselves and the sister Rebekahs to a lobster dinner.

Always we welcome new members, any member of our lodge would be pleased to talk to you and give you an application. Women are now able to join without being a member of the Rebekahs. and are welcome to do so.

This year our Noble Grand is Rod Hayman and recording secretary is Jacob Leegwater.



Chase the ACE

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River John Coffee Club

by Cheryl Frizzell

One morning I dropped in to I spot where I heard I could get a great cup of coffee, now I'm a tea drinker but I was told that tea was served there too. From outside the door I could hear voices and laughter. Once in, I was welcomed by smiles and a cup of tea.

Earl Johnson a local resident started a once a week coffee club some 20 years ago. Earl never thought it would become what it is today, a regular weekly event that has become known as Earls Coffee Club. It all began by getting a small group together for a coffee and socializing. Today the group has grown in size and the age range is from infants to seniors, and the topics of conversation can be as widely spread as the age group. The club has meet in various places from the Parsonage to the Stage Emporium and now the hall. You make a small donation at the door and after the pot grows Earl makes a donation to a charity. Everyone donates a little something from the sweets to the conversation and the entertainment (3 small Cripps children).

If you find yourself in need of a good cuppa coffee or tea and some friendly conversation on a Wednesday morning, well you just make your way to St. George's church hall in River John.

Chloe's Jokes

by Chloe

1. What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?

It gets TOAD away

2. What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?

one is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter

3. Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

Of course! The Empire State Building can't jump

4. What did the duck say when it bought lipstick?

"Put it on my bill"

5. A horse walks into a bar

The bartender says "Hey"

The horse replies, "Sure"

6. I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet.

I don't know Y

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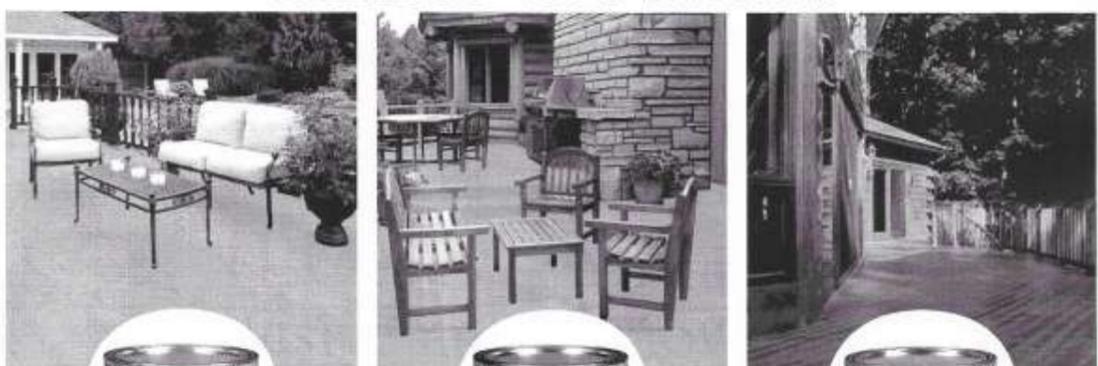
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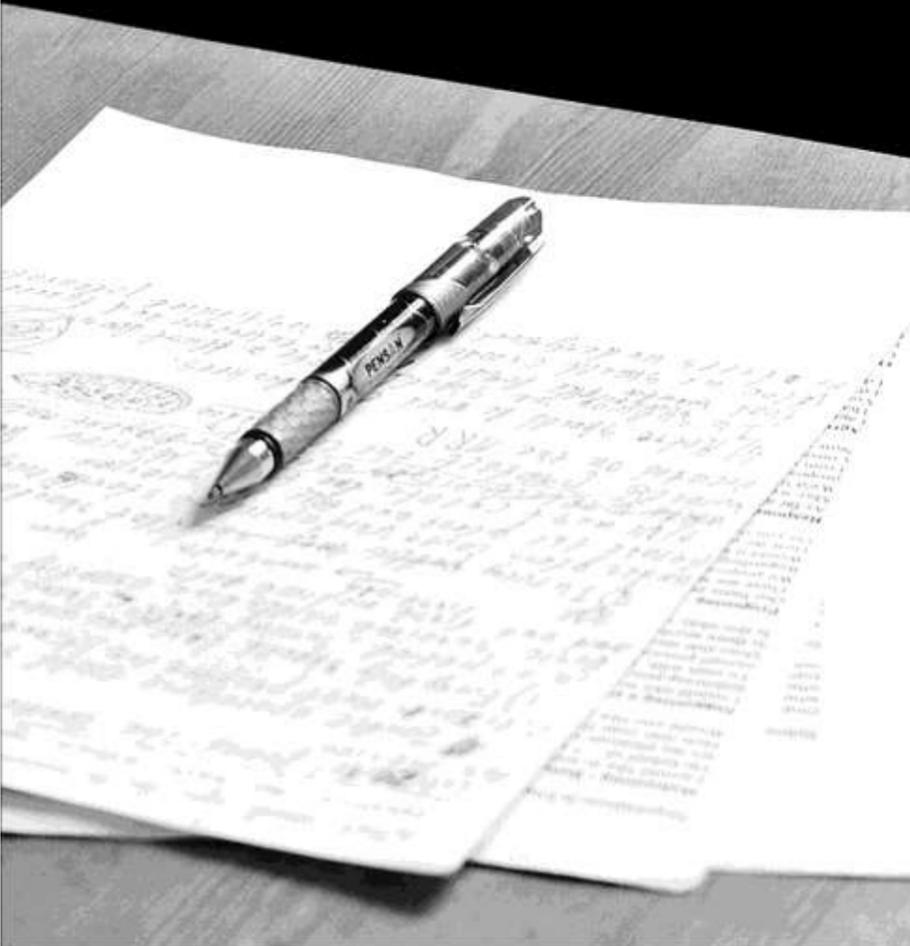
Editor Needed for Pioneer Newspaper

I have enjoyed being editor for the Pioneer Newspaper over the last few years, meeting so many people in my community and listening to their stories, recipes and seeing pictures of past and present. I have learned so much about what goes on in our small but active community, you all amaze me. When I took over this paper I had mixed feelings, since I had no experience in writing or editing but I did not want to see the paper go to the way side. With help and encouragement from friends I made it through (and spell check). Now I am ready to pass it on to another. If you enjoy meeting people and going to community events and learning about the people of the area and would like to join the paper send the Pioneer Newspaper your name and contact number.

Cheryl Frizzell

Interested?

Send your contact information to pioneereditors@hotmail.com and we will get in touch.



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CCGS Captain Molly Kool

by **Derek Andrews**

A few weeks ago I noticed a coast guard ship out in the strait off Seafoam. It was still there a few hours later. It returned again the next day and stayed in much the same spot. This got me curious so I took a look at marinetraffic.com and found out that it was CCGS Captain Molly Kool and was on ice ops. At some point in the past 24 hours she had made a loop to Cape John and back.

That of course made me want to find out who Captain Molly Kool was. It turns out she was a native of Alma, New Brunswick and in 1939, at age 23, she became the first woman in North America to become a licensed ship captain. She earned her Master Mariners Papers at the Merchant Marine School in Saint John.

For the next five years she captained her fa-

ther's 70 foot scow carrying cargo in the Bay of Fundy and down to Boston. As a female captain she was even featured on a radio broadcast of Ripley's Believe It Or Not.

The CCGS Captain Molly Kool was originally built in Norway in 2001 for work in the offshore oil industry. Amongst other jobs, she operated as a drill ship for the Arctic Coring Expedition in the high arctic, as an ice breaker in the Baltic Sea and in drilling operations in Baffin Bay.

In 2018 she was one of three such ships bought by Canada, and was retrofitted by Davie Shipbuilding in Lauzon, QC, and was ready for icebreaking in the St. Lawrence for the 2019 winter season. She is equipped with a removable towing notch. This notch allows for safe and secure closed-coupled towing of other



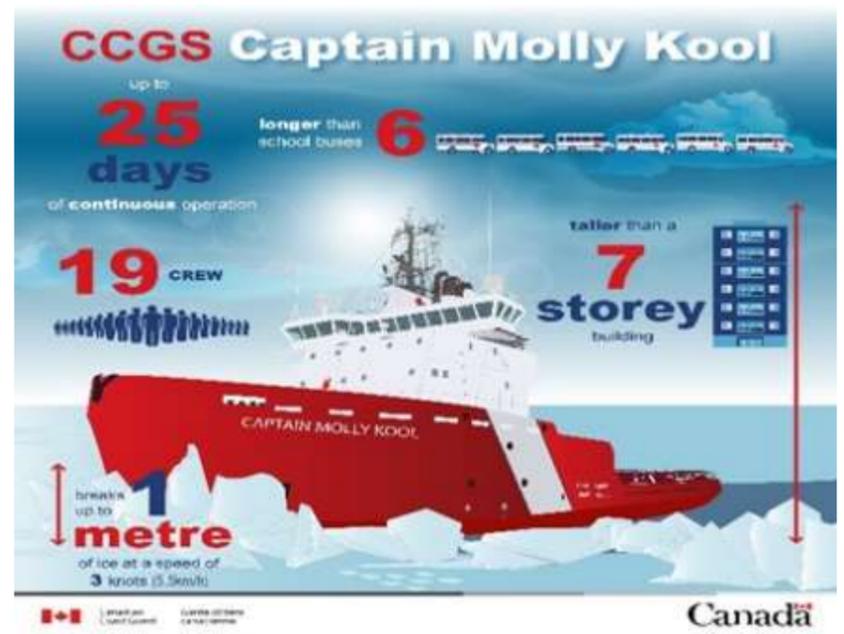
Captain Molly Kool, in 1939

vessels. The notch is located at the rear of the vessel allowing it to break ice and tow at the same time.

To see more of the ship, search YouTube for "A Tour of the CCGS Captain Molly Kool".



CCGS Captain Molly Kool using its unique towing notch to tow Jana Desgagnes through difficult ice conditions. The tanker had suffered a damaged rudder off Port-aux-Basques. Photo and infographic: www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca



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River John Festival Days 2020

by Chelsey Joudrie

Happy 2020 friends! It is that time of year where River John Festival Days planning is in high gear! This year is looking to be a big one as we plan to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the festival!

To give you some back story for those that don't know, back in the summer of 1985 a fine group of people stepped up to create a festival to celebrate River Johns Bicentennial. It was obviously a big hit and year after year since, River Johnners just couldn't stand not celebrating! So year after year (some years more difficult than others) a group of wonderful people have stepped up to make up the River John Festival Days Committee, who then have been enthusiastically and (sometimes exhaustingly) bringing you the River John Festival Days for the past 35 years!

The 2020 Festival will begin this year on FRIDAY JULY 17th, with the ball game tournament and will end SATURDAY JULY 25th, with Fireworks and a dance (19+).

We are excited to announce that our theme this year will be "High Tides & Good Vibes"!

Now that you have some background information and some 2020 details I would like to ask, do you enjoy the festival each year? Impressed by the length and diversity of the events? Ever wonder how we put the festival together? Ever wonder how you can help?

Welllllll.....

River John Festival Days would not be possible without the organizations and businesses who continually step up to facilitate and or sponsor events. If you own or are part of an organization or business that would like to help out this year by running event(s), or sponsoring us financially please reach out to us. Each year we send out sponsorship letters as well, so please keep an eye out for those. If you have not received one of these letters in



the past, please let us know so that we can add you to our send out list. Thank you to all the groups and businesses that do support us in one way or another each year. We appreciate you more than we could ever articulate.

That being said we also could not put on the festival without our volunteers. Volunteering can work in many different ways. From being a committee member, to selling 50/50 tickets to simply being at an event, and everything in between, there is a role for everyone! Please contact us to ask how you can get involved in a way that is right for you!

Do you have ideas for River John Festival Days? We want to hear them! We would also love for you to come on board and help us live out those suggestions!

You can connect with us the following ways:

rjfestivaldays@gmail.com

Message us on facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/riverjohn.festival.days/>

Thank you all for your continued support of the River John Festival Days. We are so looking forward to celebrating with you again this year!

Pole Banners for Veterans

by Anne Patriquin

I am putting this out there to see if any one is interested in purchasing a Pole Banner for their loved one. I am looking for any one who had a family member in the Military. The Banners will have a picture of the veteran plus their name and rank (if you want the rank on it). The cost per banner is estimated at around \$200.00 ach. They will be put up around the middle of September and taken down after Remembrance Day.

If interested you can contact Anne Patriquin: 902-351-2898 or Willie Patriquin :902-956-1936 Marilyn Heighton :902-351-2467.

You can put up to 3 Veterans on one Banner. I am submitting the first order of Pole Banners this August so we will have them for this Remembrance Day. We have forms to be filled out for each banner so call us as soon as possible if interested. These are examples of what they would look like. Ours will have a different back ground.



Maritime Intercollegiate Judging Competition

by Elizabeth Heighton



What an "agg"cellent day at the Maritime Intercollegiate Judging Competition! I am so happy with how the Pictou County Senior Members club (Kholey Bezanson Joshua Roderick Macmaster Tyler Maclean, Elizabeth Heighton) did. We received many placings in the top three, and ending the day winning top overall 4H judging team. I am also very honored and pleased to say I have received top overall individual judge in the 4H division, along with many placing in the top three as well! Congratulations to all competitors, and special congratulations to all the Pictou County 4H members who took part today, you all did amazing! Thank you to everyone who made this day possible!!



Cast from last years Ladies night, most of us ladies in River John and area along with many from Truro and New Glasgow look forward to this Spring event each year.