



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

Winter 2015  
Volume 2 • Issue 3

## Remembrance Day



Front: Rev Greg and Melanie Dickson and Iola Swantee. Middle: RCMP Cpl Shawn Reynolds Back: Willis Langille, John Murray, Barb Rondelet, Harley White, Shawn Reynolds, Marilyn Heighton and Arnold Langille

The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Branch 108 organized the annual Wreath Laying ceremony at the village War Memorial, with a large turnout of area residents, especially youth and young children in attendance. Following the two-minute silence and wreath laying, the veterans and Legion members led the public in a march to St John the Baptist Anglican Church for the Remembrance Day church service led by Rev Nicole Uzans.

In the evening, a delicious meal was served to members of Branch 108 and guests, by the Ladies and helpers of St John the Baptist Anglican Church. This

group was later presented with a certificate of thanks for the many wonderful meals they have provided over the years to the Royal Canadian Legion on Remembrance Day.

Following the meal our guest speaker was Cpl Shawn Reynolds of the RCMP, Pictou Detachment. Cpl Reynolds is also a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces and he spoke of his experiences and the pride of wearing the Canadian military uniform. This is especially true in countries such as Holland, who citizens remember the sacrifices our Canadian soldiers during WW II. He went on to say



the young men and women who wear the uniform often take leadership roles in their communities. The military is made up of recruits from all over the country but smaller communities have a higher percentage of representation. He also said the Royal Canadian Legion has been a great supporter of military members, past and present, over the years and hopes this will continue.

The final event of the evening was the presentation of RCL medals. The Royal Canadian Legion is 90 years old this year and has produced a medal to celebrate the occasion. To earn this medal you had to have been a Forces member who served overseas at some point in their career. The evening recipients were:

- Sgt John Murray Royal Canadian Corps of Signals
- AB Arnold Langille Royal Canadian Navy, plus 50 year legion member medal
- Lt Rev Gregory Dickson who also received the Chaplain's medal
- Capt. Melanie Dickson

Earlier in the day the following also received their 90th Anniversary Legion Medal:

- Capt. Michael Topley, Royal Canadian Engineers
- M/Cpl John (Jack) MacLeod, Royal Canadian Army
- M/Cpl Wallace Sutherland, Royal Canadian Army
- PO2 Willis Langille, Royal Canadian Navy
- AB Earl Holt, Royal Canadian Navy
- Cpl Harley White, former member of the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Canadian Military Engineers



Medals presented on the occasion of the Royal Canadian Legion's 90th anniversary. Earl Holt WWII Veteran, Jackie MacLeod UN Peacekeeper, Mike Topley RCE.

# “Need to Read” Campaign



PARL Board Member Cam Beaton receives a cheque from River John C@P Society Chair Derek Andrews for the 'Need to Read' campaign at the River John Library, also known as the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library

Some may ask the question “do people still use libraries?” The answer is, “Yes, but the way they’re being used is changing.”

With a shift in how people are using their libraries, combined with increasing costs of additional items for the collection, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library’s (PARL) Board of Directors is launching their ‘Need to Read’ campaign in hopes that people and businesses will make the public library system their charity of choice this year. The first gift, a \$1,000 donation, is from the River John Community Access Program (C@P) Society.

Their overall goal of \$10,000 will go towards the purchase of specialized items that include cost-sharing the ‘Zinio’ e-magazine service with other regional libraries so users can access magazines on their electronic device with their free library card. Also on the wish list – more eBooks and audiobooks to keep up with the growing demand, and audio-books in a variety of formats that make reading and literacy more accessible for everyone. As libraries continue to provide an important service in their communities, it seemed to be a good fit to give back to them, according to Derek Andrews, Chair of the River John C@P Society.

“A gift to the public library system is a great option because you’re making a donation to an organization that is accessible to everyone, everywhere. The digital magazine service that people can poten-

tially access, eBooks, audiobooks and alternative forms of reading devices for people in the community; people need them and they’re looking to the library to fill that need. Hopefully with our gift and with other businesses and groups out there pitching in....the library can buy the specialized items that its users need to keep up with the demand,” says Andrews.

To learn more about the campaign, go to [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca), call 1(866) 779-7761 toll-free or (902) 755-6031 locally or stop into your closest library location. You can donate online, in person or at your workplace. As a registered charitable organization, individuals can also receive a tax receipt for their donation.

## A Pioneer Christmas Gift

If you’re running out of gift ideas for friends and family who live far away, consider giving them a subscription to the Pioneer. Just send us an email with the address where you want the newspaper sent and we’ll make sure they get the next four issues delivered by Canada Post.

The cost is only \$25.00. Contact Rob for details: [r.assels@malatest.com](mailto:r.assels@malatest.com).



*From my family to yours,  
Merry Christmas and a  
happy and healthy 2016.*



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To get involved, contact Rob at 902-351-1476 or [r.assels@malatest.com](mailto:r.assels@malatest.com)

## Rent-a-HUB

The HUB, formerly River John Consolidated School, is now available for rent to groups who can make use of the space. Available hours include Mon-Fri (9am-9pm), excluding holidays. Weekend rentals are also possible by arrangement.

Access to the building is provided by a Monitor, who is paid \$15 to open and lock the building. Non-revenue generating activities will not be charged a rental fee, but still have to pay the Monitor.

The rental fees range from \$40-\$200 depending on the size of the room and the length of time. Rental application forms are available from Simpson’s Store or by contacting Robin Campbell at 351-3377

### Half Day Rental Fees:

Classroom	\$20.00
Home Ec Room	\$25.00
Library	\$25.00
Gymnasium	\$100.00
Cafeteria	\$50.00
Industrial Arts Room	\$50.00

Full day rental fees are double.

## Language School Exploration Update

As the community of River John explores all the possibilities for shared space in the former River John Consolidated school so it might continue as a community centre, the question of whether an English Language/Literacy school would ever be a viable idea was raised.

A letter was written to Immigration Minister Lena Diab on behalf of Warden Ronnie Baillie and the community and Sheree Fitch attended a provincial summit on Immigration on November 26th.

A recent letter was sent by the Minister to River John thanking us for our participation and she passed on useful contacts to the River John Community Action Society who may pursue this possibility further.

At this time, 77% of immigrants to Nova Scotia settle in larger more urban locations.

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## CGIT's 100th Anniversary

This year 2015 marks the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Girls In Training (CGIT) program, which started in 1915. It is a church-led group for young women ages 12 to 17 years of age. For many former CGIT girls, one of the vivid memories they have is of the Christmas Vesper church service. So to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of CGIT, former CGIT girls in the River John area are celebrating by organizing a Christmas Vesper Service on Sunday Dec 6th at 7pm at Salem United Church in River John NS. So please come out to join us on this occasion!



Top: Three River John CGIT graduates from 1987



Bottom: River John CGIT group from 1946, photo taken by Minnie Cormier a member of the group

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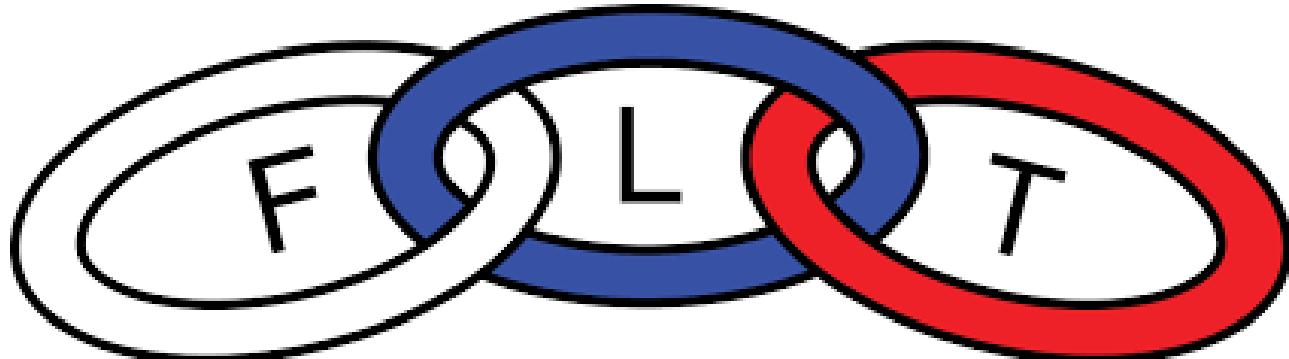


Antigonish ... 863-8233 New Glasgow ... 752-8233 Pictou ... 485-5021  
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If you are interested in joining an organization that believes in making the world a better place to live, by aiding each other in times of need and organizing charitable projects that benefit the less fortunate, then call today 902-351-2010 or check us out on facebook, Helping Hand Lodge #34

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## Line Dancing for Beginners

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at the HUB (in the old library)

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\$2

For info. call 902 351-3265



**Ronald Baillie, Warden**  
County of Pictou

On behalf of county council and myself, we hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and we wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous 2016

(902) 485-6475  
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# A Place of Refuge

*The Rev. Nicole Uzans  
Rector of the Anglican Parish of Northumberland*

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I went to pick apples in a local orchard. The leaves were off the trees, but the branches were still heavy with fruit and my task of filling a couple of 10lb bags could have been quickly finished, had I not stopped to talk with other harvesters. Everyone – and the orchard was surprisingly full – wanted to talk about refugees. We'd all seen this summer's coverage of the migrant crisis in Europe and we wanted to do something to help.

On that day, Brenna and Sebastian of Vista Bella Farm had offered to donate \$0.50 per pound of apples picked to support refugees – and people had come from far & wide to participate.

Just a few nights before, more than 60 people, representing communities from River John to Pugwash, had met to begin the process of sponsoring refugee families to settle in our region. Those who attended spoke of Canada's proud past of offering refuge to the victims of civil & international conflict, as well as the challenges ahead as we engage current global issues and welcome today's refugees.

The work of 'welcome' begins in our own hearts & minds as we educate ourselves about the situations that drive people from their homelands to seek asylum elsewhere. There is a Syrian proverb that says, "When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers." The vast majority of migrants and refugees are innocent, trampled victims of conflicts in which they have played no part. Before entering Canada, they go through rigorous security screening. But to be truly welcomed and incorporated into Canadian society, these refugee-seekers will need our good will and compassion. Truly, this moment in history will reveal our true character and the depth of our concern for our fellow men, women, and children – each of whom shares with us in a common humanity.

For our local effort, teams have been formed to address fundraising & finance; housing; health & wellness; clothing & personal needs; public education in our local communities, and more. We will be sponsoring a family (or families) already screened and 'travel ready' through the Blended Visa Office Referral (BVOR) program, a cost-sharing program with the Federal Government. There is still plenty of work to be done, but we're hopeful that we'll be able to welcome refugees to our region in mid-2016.

Picking apples on a November afternoon, between the rows of Galas and Jonagolds, one supporter of our local sponsorship said to me, "There is so much hurt in the world. This is a way to help."

If you would like to lend your support to a local refugee sponsorship, please contact me at [nicole.uzans@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.uzans@gmail.com) or phone me at 902-657-2037.

## Pictou County Mental Health Fundraiser



Monica Graham looking glamorous as one of many women modelling for Pictou County Mental Health Fundraiser on November 1st. The event, now in its second year, was held at Glasgow Square and brought in over \$15,000.

# At The Moose's Nose

The original name for Cape John was "Tia'muisqunji'jk," but since I don't have a clue how to pronounce this, I just thought I'd go with the English translation "At the moose's nose." So, what's going on this fall At the Moose's Nose? Well, Doug and Sandy Cameron have just completed the first leg of their journey towards a permanent residence on the Cape. They have moved their house from Welsford to its present location just beside the Caldera Distillery. When renovated, this will be their home until the spring, when they will build a log house at their cottage site.

Speaking of the Caldera Distillery, congratulations to Jarret and Tracy on the release of their first whiskey, Hurricane 5. I'm saving my bottle for special occasions. By the way, they will also be releasing their first rum next year, after it has a chance to age in the barrels. On the subject of rum, this winter, why not learn more about rum and rum drinks by joining the Facebook site "Endless Summer"?

If you're wondering what that construction is all about on the old Murphy place, it's the beginning of the Baillie grape growing operation. You may have seen the drainage tile going into the field earlier this year. Good luck on this new enterprise. On the adjacent property, Sunset Beach Cottages looks like

they had a good year as well, judging from the many trailers there this summer.

Two new houses are going in along the shore, just past the Marsh, and we look forward to meeting the new people next year at That Guy's Veggies. The veggie stand, now in its second year, was even more successful than last. Thank you to everyone who stopped in. Gardens on the Cape were very productive, with everything now in jars, freezers or cellars.

Summer homes are mostly shut down for the winter and the full-timers are hunkering down for hopefully an easier winter than last. We're told that El Nino will keep us warmer. We will see. It's still hard to believe that we had that much snow last year, enough to stop the plows at the Crick.

Our friends Marie and Joan are back from their trip to England. Best wishes to Marie for a full and speedy recovery from her recent illness. As well, thanks from Chris and Donnie for letting them use your cider press (and apples!) to make some delicious sweet cider.

Well, that's about all for now. Merry Christmas everyone, from your friends At the Moose's Nose.

*Chris Giles*

## Don't watch the game at home....



## Come Play with Us! Mixed Adult HUB Soccer

River Johners will now be able to burn off those Christmas calories playing soccer. Low impact indoor soccer is coming to the HUB. Soccer balls and smaller sized indoor nets are being donated. Games will be at 10am every second Saturday starting January 9. The season will come to an end on Saturday, April 30.

HUB soccer is intended for those over 40 years of age. Younger players are also welcome but will have to wear ear plugs, bifocals and leave their shoe laces untied. The emphasis is on fun not on competition. Teams will be four-on-four. Anyone interested should contact Rob at 351-1476 or [r.assets@malatest.com](mailto:r.assets@malatest.com).

# Friends and neighbours

Tyler Lowden and Erica Heighton

Q: What brought you to River John?

A: Erica: The abundance of family here.

Tyler: I agreed to come as we knew that we needed help as one of our daughters has medical issues. Elena is visually impaired and has required eye surgery.

Q: How has the medical service here compared to B.C.?

A: We found Lena's first Doctor in B.C. to be fantastic as he was the first one to operate to save her vision. However, overall, we have found the service here to be superior. This was a surprise as NS has such a small population in comparison. The IWK is fantastic and the IWK Doctor immediately set up all the support services that she will need as a special needs child. She was referred to "Early Intervention", Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and also she has a teacher assigned from APSE, who visits every two weeks.

Q: What do you love most about River John?

A: Erica: After seven years away you do acquire another life, so I do miss my friends. But I really do appreciate all the support that I get from my extended family in helping care for the twins, especially when we were making frequent trips to Halifax.

Tyler: I moved from a city of 1 million to a city of 3 million to a village of 250, so I do appreciate the smaller population and the slower pace of life. I find everyone here so helpful. For the first three weeks we were here, we didn't have to cook, as people continually brought us food.

Q: What is your job?

A: Tyler: I am a plumber and gas fitter working at "Natpro" in Lyon's Brook. I also have my own company "Eternity Plumbing and Heating Solutions." I am the sole proprietor but eventually hope to have employees. Because there are no gas fitters in Northern Nova Scotia, I have more work than I can handle! I also believe that people can create their own opportunities.

Erica: I am trained as a veterinarian technician and will not be going back to work until the girls are at least in preschool.

Q: How has the closure of River John School affected you?

A: Quite dramatically! One of the reasons we moved back home was so my children could have the same type of schooling which I had. There is a lot more individual attention in smaller schools. It is good to walk to school and also with Lena being visually impaired the smaller class size would be helpful.

Q: It seems that we have now accepted that the local children who have moved to other schools would stay there, rather than being disrupted again. However, there is a group that is now working to create an alternative school, in the future, for the primary to Grade 3 children. Would you be interested in your children attending?

A: Tyler: Yes and perhaps I could do an exchange in kind for repairs to the heating system in exchange for school fees. Seriously, I would be pleased to repair the heating system for no charge but the cost of materials! I would also be interested in my company leasing an office in the building in future.

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

A: Tyler: I have a "Gas Ticket" which is quite hard



*artisan christmas*

*market*

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## Thank You

Marie Farrell of River John wishes to thank everyone for their messages of concern, prayers, cards, offers of help, donations of food, and general well-wishes during her recent illness in the UK and at home. She would also like to thank the local first responders from the River John Fire Department for their professional care, the paramedics from Pictou and also the staff at the Aberdeen Hospital.

## Seniors' Christmas

The RJs are hosting a Seniors' Christmas Supper on December 2 at 4:30pm for River John and Area seniors. This will be held at the River John Hub Centre, formerly the River John school.

## Christmas Musical Jam Session

December 12th - Christmas musical Jam Session at St John's Hall, River John. \$5.00 each, Lunch served and door prizes.

Thank you for your time.



## Christmas Sale

Sunday, December 6  
10am - 4pm



A good variety of vendors for all of your Christmas "wants and needs".

Woodworking, weaving, jewellery, felted hats, artwork, preserves, photography, bird feeders, baking and more.

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## Takes a child to raise a community

### River John Seniors & Intergenerational Community Vision

On November 1st, several members of River John community attended a Pictou County Seniors Day at NSCC.

Sheree Fitch was asked to give a presentation and talked about the role River John seniors played in the development and support of the River School Hub as well as continued efforts in the community. She stressed the seniors in River John have always been active in many ways and many were engaged advocates for the community's future. She stressed they were still working towards hope for a Hub that was intergenerational, a place where all ages could learn side by side and gather for community events and forward the health and wellness of all residents.

It might be news of interest to Pioneer readers to learn that we have a Department of Seniors in the Province of Nova Scotia!

If you need information, have any issue or matter you want to bring to the attention of that Department here is the link to info : <http://novascotia.ca/seniors/>

Department of Seniors  
Barrington Tower, 15th floor  
1894 Barrington Street  
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 2A8  
1-844-277-0770

Letting them know you think children and young families are important to our community's future might help as we continue to try and develop a community centre. The former school now houses our pre-school and serves our seniors in recreation and as a meeting place, the centre is not only necessary, but VITAL to our community health and wellness.



Some of our remarkable seniors who have stepped up and supported HUB efforts

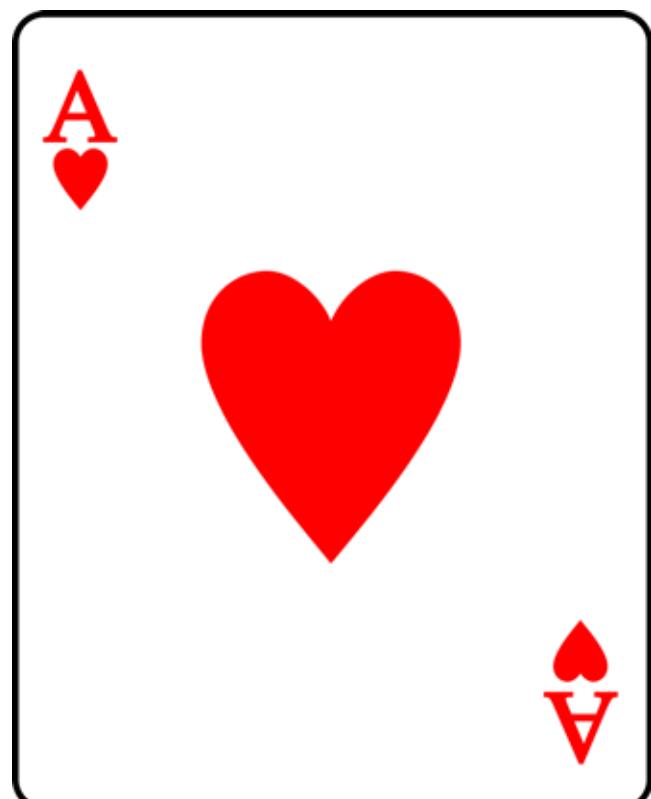


# River John Community Action Society

The RJCAS is a society dedicated to the improvement of life in the Village of River John and surrounding communities. All residents and community representatives are welcome to attend. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Attendance and participation are voluntary. Our next meeting is on December 8th at the River John HUB Community Centre Library.

The RJCAS now has the responsibility to run the HUB Community Centre. We desperately need more people to get involved to work on committees and help us create a viable and active community centre. All ideas are welcome. The active members from "River Johners Unite" are especially encouraged to get involved. Every person in the B0K 1N0 postal code is automatically a member of the Action Society. Look forward to seeing you on December 8th.

## Chase The Ace (of Hearts)



## Coming to River John in 2016

Proceeds go to:

River John HUB Community Centre

and

River John Legion Branch 108

Guaranteed minimum

**\$2,000**

for the Ace

# *Sunrise Film Festival - 2015* It's a wrap

"A wonderful community and international event that brings people together through cinema.  
Congratulations!"  
Robin Truesdale, Director, Colorado USA

Thinking back to 2013, when the idea I'd had for a film festival on the north shore had developed sufficiently to speak to others about it, I was fully aware of the nature of the undertaking. That the first person I spoke to was Troy Greencorn - artistic director at the de Coste Centre and founder of the StanFest Music Festival - was a blessing. Where others might have had me committed on grounds of insanity, he nodded and leapt on board right away.

The early days were a string of meetings between the two of us, putting together a team and a plan to use the film festival to extend the tourist season along our beautiful region. When the Municipality of Pictou County gave us their initial support, it was clear that the momentum had already begun and nothing was going to stop this event from happening.

It all seems a long time ago, those plans and targets. 100 submissions from around the world I thought - we got 147! Before we knew it, the team behind this year's festival, who put so much time and effort into making it a success, were making sure that 31 events across 4 days went smoothly.

Four days, 31 events, 87 films, visiting film-makers from New York, Colorado, Hawaii, India, Dubai, Taiwan, Florida and other parts of Canada and Nova Scotia boosting late season accommodation numbers in the area. The statistics are fine. But the success is truly found in the feeling that ran right through the festival - and was reflected in the events and the response from visitors to the area.

So for those of you who missed it, or some of it, here's a blow by blow account of the Sunrise Film Festival 2015.

The Lobster Factory in Pugwash is a superb little venue, in a great setting. The Launch Party for the Sunrise Film Festival - set against a stunning sunset over the water - was well attended, relaxed, fun. Music and conversation provided by the talented Christina Martin. Guest film makers from Colorado and Hawaii fully entered into the spirit of the event. There were even rumours that two film makers from Taiwan were lost somewhere in Nova Scotia on their way to the festival! That became a recurring conversation over the next four days.



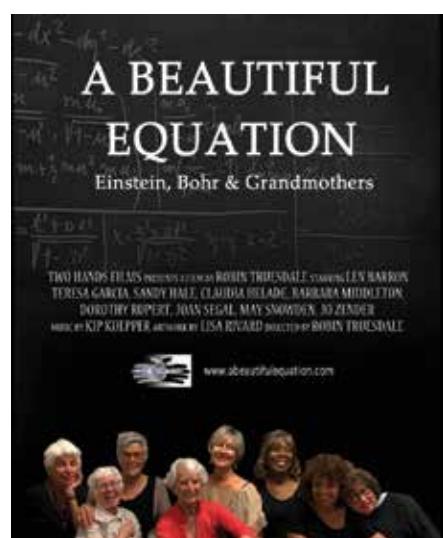
Christina Martin performed live for the Launch Party in Pugwash

# Celebrating Film from

On Thursday, St John's United Church - what a great venue! - hosted "The only lunch in town", a slap up meal, talk by a certain director of a feature film shot on the north shore in 2015, and a 12-minute sneak preview of some of the footage from "The only game in town".

This was quickly followed by a screening of "A Beautiful Equation" by Robin Truesdale at The Lobster Factory. Talk about the right film at the right venue - Robin's film of a dramatic telling of Einstein and Bohr's words could not have had a better place, nor a bigger and more appreciative audience.

The libraries of River John, Pictou and Tatamagouche began their three days of screening a multitude of short films from around the world - all for free!



It was fitting that the festival opening ceremony was held in River John, centrally placed among the Route 6 communities holding the festival and still reeling from a school closure decision - despite initiatives such as the film festival being offered as evidence of a vibrant future for the school. But not even the shameful acts of the school board could detract from the sense of fun and community spirit at the Fire Hall.

Yes it was October in River John, but Hawaiian theme was the order of the day and plenty of people took the opportunity to have their pictures taken on the red carpet wearing their leis.

Welcome speeches out of the way, smiles were kept on everyone's faces by a great short film "The Detectives of Noir Town" - a film noir with puppets, all the way from Australia! This was followed by the Gala Opening Film "Get a Job" and was introduced by Director Brian Kohne and Producer Ray Rolak, who then announced that having travelled all the way from Hawaii to rural Nova Scotia, they were amazed to find a restaurant in Pictou - close to their lodgings - with connections to Hawaii. The Queen Lili is even owned by the daughter of one of their neighbours... proof of how small the world is!

After a great screening at the Fire Hall, the fun moved to the River John Legion and an opportunity for locals to really welcome our film makers from India, New York and Hawaii.

Saturday saw Ray Rolak and Brian Kohne present a free workshop on music and cinema at the River John School. This was well-attended and the pair gave away soundtrack CDs from their film "Get a Job" to everyone there.



Stuart Cresswell talks about his film The Only Game in Town in Wallace

2015 has been a tumultuous year for the Nova Scotia film industry, and it was right to have a discussion about that very subject. The panel at The Stirling Room Club in Tatamagouche saw a lively debate between producer and actor Kevin Kincaid, actor and director Cory Bowles and actress and politician Lenore Zann. The eager audience was treated to a lively and up-close discussion.

At the same time in Pugwash, the Chatterbox Cafe hosted a panel discussion on Women in TV and Film. Local actresses Jessie Craig and Leah Johnston and local film maker Catherine Bussiere were joined via Skype from New York by Director and actress Katie Canty, whose short film "Savage Hero" was also screened during the event.



Kevin Kincaid, Cory Bowles and Lenore Zann discuss the NS Film industry in Tatamagouche

The Sharon United Church screened "Heart of Glass" - nominated for several awards including Best Cinematography - and three other quality films, and the Wallace Community Centre screened a feature and the very clever short film "Migration" which narrowly missed out in the Best Short film category.

Saturday night's screenings were divided between Marshville and Tatamagouche, where Sharon United Church screened some excellent documentaries including "12 months" by Charisse Tia Harper which went on to win the category.

The Marshville screening was a unique event - an outdoor screening of a brilliant German ghost story "Amongst the Shadows" - complete with pretzels and followed by music by Fresia. Despite being screened in a tent, the wind that night was particularly biting and came as a surprise to the visitors from Hawaii. Thankfully the music part of the evening took place inside the home of hosts Rob Assels and Lesley Longhorn.

It is precisely this sort of event that will mark the Sunrise Film Festival out from the rest - the range of venues in this first year has been superb and a great showcase of what we have to offer. From full theatre experiences at the de Coste and The Creamery, great church hall venues, community halls, fire halls, historic conference settings, schools... and a tent by the sea!

Wallace Community Centre hosted a screening of "Big Horns at the Junction" - another Cinematography nominee - and the winning film in Best Screenplay category "Total Awesome Viking Power".

The de Coste screened the final films on Sunday, "Musicwood" and the inspiring "Alegria" which won Best Campaign Film. There was even time to screen the short film "Codey" in recognition that the two film makers from

# From Pictou to Pugwash



Jessie Craig (left) of Seafoam with Sohan and Abhini Roy at the de Coste

Taiwan responsible for this superb computer-animated film, had managed to find their way to Pictou for the festival - much to everyone's relief.

Then Jake Chisholm hosted the award ceremony which was attended by film makers and public alike. The wrap party afterwards was the first chance in four days to reflect on what had been a whirlwind of events that showed off everything we have to offer in this part of the north shore.

We hit the mark and the log line of the festival was on the lips of all the film makers and visitors that ventured out during the festival - Great films, wonderful communities, stunning scenery.



Left to Right: Bill Niven, Lukas Hasseland Steve Brazil at the Thinkers Lodge for the International Co-Productions Panel

*"I am so glad that I came to see the beauty and kind people of the north shore area. You did an amazing job at pulling off such a massive undertaking. Your community should be proud. Wonderful events, food, sights, discussions."*

Robin Truesdale, Director - A Beautiful Equation



Brian Kohne and Ray Rolak with Best Comedy Award and Best of Festival Award

*"I hope this is a beautiful start to what will be an exciting and anticipated yearly event for the community and filmmakers around the globe. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to the art of film making!"*

Dawn George, Film Maker, Nova Scotia

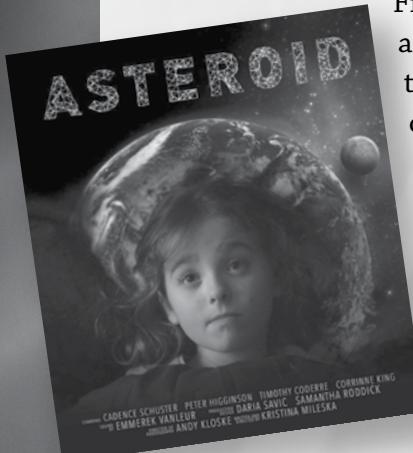
# and the Award goes to...

The Award Winners at this year's festival.

## BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM

"A Beautiful Equation" - Director: Robin Truesdale. This film was a true gem, screened in the most perfect and apt setting of Thinkers Lodge, it was a simple visualisation of the humanity of two of the world's most brilliant minds - Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr. The way their words were delivered was a moving and humbling experience and at the same time contained so much fun.

## BEST YOUNG FILMMAKER (Director Under 22)



First of all, an honourable mention to 'Codey', Director: Wei-Chun Lai which is a supreme piece of animation, a great story with instantly recognizable themes and elements. We really enjoyed it and this only narrowly missed out. But the winning film in the Young Film Maker category is: 'Asteroids' - it draws the audience from its first moment. The story of a young girl's last adventure with her dying grandfather is thoughtful and honest in its portrayal of death and generations. A clever juxtaposition of fantasy and realism leading to a her final act of compassion stays with you long after viewing. The story's young actor gives a simple but mature portrayal that makes a delicate turn from tragic to hopeful. The director's choice to balance trauma with fantasy is competent and skilled.

With emotional cinematography and inspired direction, Asteroids leaves the mark of a striking young talent. So the best young film maker award 2015 goes to: Kristina Mileska for 'Asteroids'

## BEST COMEDY

This was a tough category. Comedy being so much a matter of taste, we fell in love with the puppets of Noir Town, but there was something small town, immediate, and unique about the winning film. The very first comedy feature from Hawaii. When you hear people laughing out loud during the film you know you're onto something. And the smiles all around gave us no other choice. Winning film: 'Get a Job', director Brian Kohne.

## BEST DOCUMENTARY

This was a tough one, with so many films of great quality on a range of subjects. What was particularly good about the winning film is that it shows what can be done through good and kind acts. It's a very positive message and the film required sustained energy to complete. Winner: "12 Months" by Charisse Tia Harper

## BEST DIRECTION

A tense and well-paced supernatural thriller. Some great screen performances and a feeling of mounting tension throughout. Winner: "Amongst the Shadows" - Director Laura Thies

## BEST SCREENPLAY

The winning film, despite being a short film, reads like a feature script. Nice idea, imaginative, snappy dialogue. Winner: "Total Awesome Viking Power" written by Morton Forland.

## BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

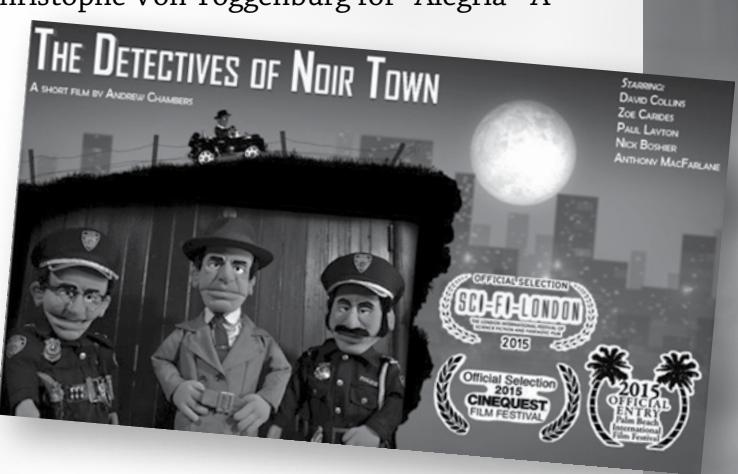
The choices were between four documentaries, all of which had their own merits. But the best use of cinematography skills (one of which is the understanding of movement within the dynamic of the composed frame) was clearly evident in the winning film, which not only had great composition, good movement, beautiful lighting, it had a well told story that engaged. Winner: Jérôme de Gerlache for "Heart of Glass"

## BEST ENVIRONMENTAL or CAMPAIGN FILM

There were some excellent films within this framework, but the winner had all the right elements of a great story, stunning scenery, a positive and thought-provoking message. Winner: Christophe Von Toggenburg for "Alegria - A Humanitarian Expedition"

## BEST SHORT FILM (Under 15 minutes)

This was supremely difficult. "Collision" was simple and moving; "Super Sounds" was beautifully shot and brilliantly acted by some very young people. "Migration" was delightful and so very clever from a film making point of view. But the winning film had puppets! Detective puppets shooting each other until the stuffing came out - 7 minutes of pure smile on your face genius. The winner: "The Detectives of Noir Town" - directed by Andrew Chambers.



## BEST OF FESTIVAL

Cash Prize of \$1000 and an original, unique hand-thrown stoneware piece by Sara Bonnyman - Judges Committee. Winner: "Get a Job" - Director Brian Kohne.

Winning films in each category won a cash prize and a signed, limited edition print of a painting by Nova Scotia wilderness artist Mark Brennan. The Best of Festival prize was a unique, hand thrown ceramic treasure crafted by Sara Bonnyman.

# Friends and neighbours

Alana Tattrie

*Q: Tell me a bit about yourself.*

A: I am the daughter of Jane Zinck and Allan Tattrie. I grew up in River John. I went to Pre school at Joanne Wilkins's and the friends I made there are my best friends to this day. I attended River John Consolidated School from Grade Primary to Grade 9. I attended Tatamagouche Rural High School for Grades 10 to 12. Just 5 of us from River John went there, the rest choosing Northumberland Regional High School. I deliberately chose a smaller school like River John, because I felt there would be more individual attention. I kept all my River John friends who also went to Tatamagouche.



From 2011 to 2013 I attended the Truro campus of NSCC where I gained a diploma in Child and Youth Care -Human Sciences. Since 2013, I have been attending Mount Saint Vincent University for a degree in Child and Youth Services. Apart from a placement in a youth project in Spryfield, I have been able to do the course work online.

I am doing my practicum at the Score Preschool Program at River John School. I will graduate in June 2016. The course work is intensive with journal, observations and five essays a week. This practicum is a huge amount of work, but I love it and hope to be able to do another practicum here next term.

*Q: Tell me about your experience working with the Score Preschool Program?*

A: Karin Fraser from Tatamagouche, runs the program for children aged 3 to 5. It runs 3 days a week from 9 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Also on Thursdays there is extra "school preparation" for the slightly older children until 2:30 pm. Eleven children attend this program. Also those same 3 days a week, Karin runs an after-school program from 3 to 6 pm for the children who meet the bus at the school. (\$10.00 per time.) 6-8 children attend these sessions. In addition to this, Karin runs Day Camps for the school children when the teachers are off for Professional Development.

This all takes place at River John Hub and it does provide some continuity for the children to be back in their old space where they have positive memories, either after school or for the inservice days. It is remarkable that Karin was able to negotiate this access to the school with the Municipality, even before the River John Action Committee gained access.

This is my first experience of working with this age group and I love it. Another positive for the school-age children is that they get to reconnect with their old friends again in a familiar space, either in the after-school program or at the Day camps. The after-school program is in the process of being licensed. The children are able to use the gym, they have snacks and can get help with their homework. The best part is that they get to do free play and outside play, which is essential for children's learning and development.

*Q: How has the closure of River John School Affected you?*

A: When they closed River John School, I lost my job! I was running the after school program through the YMCA. This was in the Home Economics room of the school.

It was heartbreaking to have to watch the children experience the closing of the school. It seemed especially hurtful that they had to see the teachers having to pack up the school while they were still attending it. Also they knew that we were fighting to keep it open, which made it harder. Some of the children were saying they were frightened about having to attend a new school. You want them to be positive about the new experience and encourage them. They have to be re-



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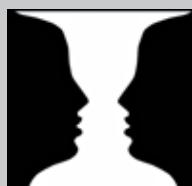
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silent and it is important to teach them to be resilient. Still it was hard on the children having to go through that. Bigger is not necessarily better and now the new school in Tatamagouche will be P to 12. Quite honestly I could not see that there was a lot wrong with the High School. They were always working on it and it seemed in great shape!

*Q: You are the Monitor for the River John community Hub. Tell me a little about that?*

A: I am a designated key holder and I open up the school for community groups who have permission to use the building. There is a fee of \$15.00 paid for this each time. At present, the women who use the gym Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the only people

using the school on a regular basis. (apart from the preschool).

*Q: What are your future plans?*

A: It would be wonderful to have a Youth Centre in the River John Hub. I would be interested in setting one up in the future. Youth need a place to go, which is not their home, to be themselves. Upstairs in the River John Hub, there is a room which has the nucleus of the youth Centre, with a couch and also an air hockey game.

Thank you for your time.



# Christmas Services

## River John-West Branch Pastoral Charge Advent and Christmas Services 2015

### November 29

West Branch United Church (9:30 am)  
Salem United Church (11:00 am)  
Advent 1 ~ Hope  
We will be celebrating the sacrament of Communion

### December 6

West Branch United Church (9:30 am)  
Salem United Church (11:00 am)  
Advent 2 ~ Peace

### December 13

West Branch United Church (9:30 am)  
Salem United Church (11:00 am)  
Advent 3 ~ Joy  
White Gift Sunday

### December 20

West Branch United Church (9:30 am)  
Salem United Church (11:00 am)  
Advent 4 ~ Love

### December 21

Salem United Church (7:00 pm)  
Blue Christmas and Memorial Candle Lighting Service  
This service of hope is for those of us who find the Christmas Season difficult, and for those of us who are seeking a quiet and reflective place in the midst of the busyness of the season.  
This service also features a memorial candle-lighting. During the service, candles are lit in memory of loved ones who have gone on before us.  
For a donation of any amount you can dedicate a candle 'in loving memory of...' your friend or family members.  
For more information please call the Rev. Christine Johnson  
902-351-2629

### December 24

West Branch United Church (6:00 pm)  
Salem United Church (8:00 pm)

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services  
Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ into our lives and our world.

Wednesdays @ St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall, River John  
Join us for our weekly noontime ecumenical  
Advent Gathering and Lunch  
December 2: Led by St. John's Anglican Church  
December 9: Led by Salem United Church  
December 16: Led by St. George's Presbyterian

## West Branch and Area Singers

West Branch and Area Singers will present their Christmas Program at West Branch United Church on December 20 at 7:00 pm.

## St. John the Baptist Anglican Church

November 29 at 7:30-10am Breakfast \$6  
December 24 at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service  
December 27 at 7:00 pm ecumenical Christmas Carol service

## Salem United Church

November 28 at 1:30 pm. Christmas tree decorating with hot chocolate.  
All are welcome  
December 6 at 7:00 pm. CGIT Christmas Vesper Service  
December 13 at 11:00 am. White Gift Service  
December 21 at 7:00 pm. Blue Christmas and Memorial Candle lighting service  
December 24 at 8:00 pm. Christmas Eve service

## West Branch United Church

December 24th at 6:00 pm. Christmas Eve service  
River John Joint Community Advent Services  
Each Wednesday during Advent season, the three River John churches join together for a short Advent service with music and lunch. This takes place 12 noon at St. George's Presbyterian Church hall. The clergy and members from St. George's, Salem United Church and St John the Baptist Anglican Church have been organizing this yearly for a number of years. Each week the clergy rotate as to worship service responsibilities. All are welcome to come and join in this led up to Christmas. The Advent service and lunch are Wednesdays Nov. 25th, Dec. 2, 9 and 16th.

## St. Michael's Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Mass will be held at St. Michael's Catholic Church at 4 pm.  
All are welcome. Merry Christmas everyone.  
The regular Sunday Mass is at 9:00 am each Sunday morning, followed by a fellowship hour. Come and enjoy coffee or tea or juice and a sweet following Mass. All welcome.

## St. George's Presbyterian Church, River John

December 6th at 11am White Gift service  
Christmas Eve service 5:30 pm

## St. David's Presbyterian Church, Toney River

December 6th at 9:30am White Gift service  
Christmas Eve service 7:00 pm

# Love Baked Into Every One The Best Christmas Tradition of All

One of the most favorite parts of our yearly Christmas preparations, and one of the most fun to do, is making gingerbread people with our grandson Robin, who is now twelve years old, and only an inch shorter than I am.

A few years ago, around the middle of November, he asked, "When are we going to do our Christmas tradition Nan?" At first I didn't know what he was referring to. Then he reminded me that it was time to make our cookies. We always include some in the parcel we mail to Chloe, his cousin/our granddaughter, and her family who live in Elk Point, Alberta. Some are also shared with other family and friends here in Nova Scotia, of course.

The recipe we use was passed down from my grandmother, for sure; maybe even my great-grandmother. Often, throughout the year my grandmother made cookies cut out with a large, round cutter, that had been made from an old tin can. (I have and treasure that special cutter since she passed.) My mother, who turned 100 years old this year, also made this same recipe often. However, at Christmas time, a gingerbread boy cutter was used. Years later I made this same recipe for and with our three children.

It was very special for me though, when I realized that this simple thing had become a favorite "tradition". It is always a very special time my grandson Robin and I share, during which I pass on some of my favorite stories remembered from my childhood, as well as from stories shared by preceding generations.



Robin enjoys making, decorating ... and eating gingerbread cookies

After the cookies are baked, he enjoys decorating some as boys and girls. Sometimes label them for family members and friends, and besides piping on icing, use red and green sprinkles, crushed candy canes, or colored coarse sugar. Each one seems to have its own personality and look!

Last year, in the parcel to Alberta, we included some plain ones for Chloe to decorate. We also included this special recipe passed down from past generations. Maybe she will be able to make them at her home. Chloe will celebrate her 7th birthday on December 22nd. (We sure wish she was able to be part of our special time together.) However, we do the next best thing by including some of the ones we make with love, into the parcel we mail.

For that's what makes this tradition so special from start to finish; THE LOVE THAT IS MEASURED, STIRRED, BAKED, AND SPRINKLED INTO EVERY COOKIE. There is no price tag on these special gifts.

After all, LOVE is what was given to each and every one of us OVER 2000 years ago at Christmas! This is just one way to pass it on each year.

We hope you enjoy making, and sharing this recipe as much as we do. Maybe you can make them one of your favorite Christmas traditions too!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS!

Submitted by: Regan "Nan" Campbell

## SOFT GINGERBREAD COOKIES

1 cup shortening  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup molasses  
1 egg  
½ cup boiling water  
1 teaspoon allspice

5 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon cloves

### METHOD:

Cream shortening and brown sugar. Add molasses and egg. Add boiling water. Slowly add the mixed dry ingredients, mixing well. Form the dough into three lots. Roll out to about ½ inch thickness, one lot at a time, into desired shapes.

BAKE @ 350 degrees 8 – 10 minutes

### NOTE:

This is a large recipe and will make quite a few cookies, which will last a pretty long time if stored in air-tight containers. ENJOY!!!!

# Breathe, Stretch, Write!

SHEREE FITCH &  
JOSETTE COULTER  
Welcome 2016

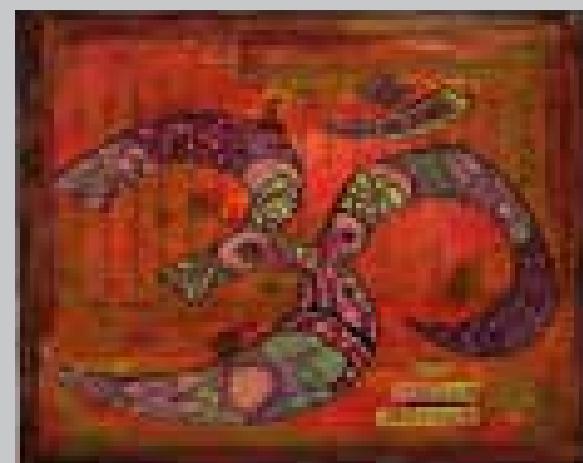
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# River John and Area Historical Society



The summer was a successful one for the River John and Area Historical Society. Members of the group organized the summer display in the local museum, which is the former Baptist Church Disciples of Christ building. We were very fortunate to have one of our members, Beulah Wright, look after the daily display and act as our hostess for the visitors who came to learn about River John. She imparted her knowledge of the area history and its families as well as her interest in genealogy. We had great feedback from those who visited the summer museum display and the information it provided.



This year our project goal was to preserve the history of our local area through the format of a Heritage Circle. It is the local people who know the history of the area and therefore they did the presentations. The Heritage Circle was hosted at St. George's Presbyterian Church hall on the afternoon of July 24, 2015 during River John Festival week. It was set up as panel discussion with a facilitator and six panel members who presented their information, then the audience was encouraged to ask questions. This event

was deemed a success by both members and attendees. There were six panel members and Doug White was the facilitator.

Beulah Wright brought us back to the heydays of shipbuilding in the village, and mentioned the skilled workmen who were needed to build and sail these ships. There were as many as four ships being built at once on this river and there were records set by ships built here. The first ship was built in 1825 and building continued until approximately 1925. Wooden ships were replaced in importance by steel ships and our shipyards were not set up for steel, hence the end of an era.



Sam Cripps read excerpts from the 1912 ship's diary of the SIRDIR. The diary recorded events of the storm which the SIRDIR ran into on its final voyage and how it was overtaken by water onboard during a hurricane, as well as the rescue of the crew. The SIRDIR was built in 1899 at the CH MacLennan shipyard. Minnie Cormier related stories she remembered from her family, who were the MacLennan shipbuilding family. There were many interesting facts she spoke of related to the shipbuilding time period and the individuals involved.

Dr. Rollie Langille read from a published 1745 diary of British sea Capt. William Pope, which told of the English and French reinforcements for Louisbourg meeting in the Brule/ Marshville area and having a brief skirmish here. The deception used by the English, sailing under a French flag, in this skirmish could very well have been the reason for the referral of River John being Deception Bay.

Irene Stone told how our ancestors used austerity measures to help their financial and personal survival. A few known measures were to use flour bags to

make clothing, spruce gum in replacement for chewing gum, homemade soap. Some common occurrences were home spun wool, homemade quilts, common food preservations and using root cellars to store their produce. Eaton's and Sears catalogues were used in the outhouse.

Richard Gammon spoke of both a grindstone and foundation stone quarry started by Nelson Bigney explaining he was later joined by his son-in-law William Gammon and successive family members. These two quarries were located near the iron railway bridge and behind the Gammon Farm up the River John. Later the family operated a gravel dragline. Jim Cameron also operated a gravel dragline below the bridge. The quarries operated from the late 1800's



to the 1950's. The stone from this area quarry was red in colour. In 1901 William Gammon won a prize at the World Expo in Edinburgh for his workmanship in the stone. Richard related his memories of the last days of the gravel operation and the local men who worked on the line and trucks.

We also had several heritage projects on display which had been constructed by the youth of the River John Consolidated School and had won prizes at the CCRSB level. The River John students have been quite successful over the many years in the quality of the projects they have submitted based on local heritage. The afternoon was so well received that it was requested by audience members that we do something similar for the 2016 Festival Days.

We are always very happy to receive artifacts of the area and its people for temporary or permanent display, either original or a copy of the original is welcome. Thank you to all who kindly contributed to the museum display this year.

## What is Wikipedia, and how can you contribute?

Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit, was launched in 2001. Its founder, Jimmy Wales said "Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing." And beyond just creating an encyclopedia it has partnered with mobile operators in 63 developing countries to provide free access on mobile phones. Earlier this year Wikipedia won Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for International Cooperation.

Wikipedia now operates in over 250 languages. These include English, French and Scottish Gaelic, as well as versions in several indigenous North American languages. The English language version just reached five million articles, and the most popular of these attract something in the order of a million views per week. In the week of the federal election, 2,709,956 people looked at the article about Justin Trudeau, and 62 editors made 167 edits to it.

Wikipedia is just one of several open-access projects run by the Wikimedia Foundation. WikiVoyage is a travel guide; WikiBooks is where non-fiction books are written, and its off-shoot WikiJunior creates books for children; WikiQuote is a compendium of quotations from notable people and creative

works; Wiktionary is a dictionary; and WikiCommons is a repository for media like photographs, audio and video which is shared for use on all the different projects.

Beyond research and writing, there are many ways to contribute to the ongoing development of any of these projects. Graphics such as photographs, illustrations and maps are often sadly lacking. If you are bi-lingual, translating an article to or from another language is an option. "River John, Nova Scotia" is only in English and Scottish Gaelic; what if it were in French, German and Spanish too? There are also many routine maintenance, anti-vandalism and clean-up tasks that can be done in a matter of minutes over coffee, so you don't have to set aside much time to contribute. On the other hand, detail-oriented editors work collaboratively to get an article to Featured Article status such as the one about the Halifax Explosion.

If you would like to know more about how to contribute there will be a presentation focussed on the English Wikipedia at the River John library on Thursday 10 December, 6:30-8:00pm.

For more information, contact [derek@seafoam-woodturning.com](mailto:derek@seafoam-woodturning.com), or on the English Wikipedia at User talk:Derek Andrews

## Notable quotables

*"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store."*

Dr. Seuss

*"Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip."*

Gary Allan

*"There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child."*

Erma Bombeck

*"There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter."*

Gordon Hinckley

*"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!"*

Benjamin Franklin

*"What kind of Christmas present would Jesus ask Santa for?"*

Salman Rushdie

# Locked on Music



In the past couple of months, I have had the great fortune of attending and participating in many musical events in our area. Travis Tritt played the Wellness Center in New Glasgow and I was thrilled to enjoy all of his hit songs. They were so well polished and audience friendly. This was country rock in its beginnings.

Matt Minglewood played for a sold out crowd at 'The Kirk' in Balmoral. Man what a show! Is he a blues artist? Is he a folk music and roots singer/songwriter or is he rock or country?

... He is all of those and more. He is a world class ambassador for Cape Breton and the east coast of this great nation. Please, my music loving friends, should this man return to our neck of the woods, do not miss his show! If you are a venue looking for a real crowd focused act with prowess that rivals the world's best, then call this man as soon as you can. He will fill your venue and have your group standing for more. He is a Class Act and kudos to The Kirk for landing that act to help them fill their dreams of seeing the Kirk as a solid musician friendly venue.

I attended another fantastic show which was offered by 'The Joyce' in Tatamagouche. It featured 'Laura Smith' who has teamed up with a folk duo called 'Naming The Twins' to offer unprecedented harmonies and a relaxed, fun and very personal audience/performer connection. I could hardly catch my breath as this show highlighted a solid east coast folk style that held my seafaring heart in their hands while lifting my earth-bound spirit to tears. So moved was I that I had to take home a CD so I could relive this amazing sound over and over again.

At the Friday Night Jams at the River John Legion I have found a home among spirit filled musicians and true music fans. All genres are offered, folk, rock, country, bluegrass and original songs. Songs ranging in variety from Simon and Garfunkel to the Eagles, George Jones to Bluegrass's super group 'IIIrd Time Out' and Stompin' Tom Connors. Please support this event and our local legion, as well as Harley White and River Run Band who host this experience.

I was honored to offer an hour of my own musical sound to a River John Legion fundraiser. They organized a very ambitious day of music featuring an awesome schedule of local singers, bands and lowly songwriters like me. I won't start naming names; however, the entertainers who stepped forward to support their local legion deserve your support. So please attend their shows and buy their albums. When you see a poster for an upcoming event take a note or a photo of the poster, mark your calendar, spread the word and bring a friend to the show. Though we artists love to sing and entertain we truly believe that we do this for you who are our supporters.

Finally, I would like to offer you the choice for an open microphone event that is actually hosted by me, Addison Locke, the first Friday of every month. This is held at the Wallace Hall in Wallace and has grown to become a musician friendly venue with audience pleasing entertainers. We have some of the finest local talent, as well as regular acts who join us from Oxford, Amherst, from southern New Brunswick and even as far away as Cape Breton, NS.

Also, there is an open mic at Big Al's Restaurant and Lounge in Tatamagouche every second Tuesday evening. Starting in April and on alternate Tuesdays to the Big Al's open mic, 'The Hills of Annan' has a very well-attended open mic at Roach Hall. The show starts at 7pm but I recommend that you get there early, as it is often a full house.

In conclusion I wish to let you know that I am trying to start a regular Sunday afternoon kitchen party at the HUB Centre in River John. This will support the Hub and I think fill a musical gap. Primarily, this will be a gospel music event but will not be totally restricted to gospel songs. I need to know that I have your support before I risk my time and the expense involved. If you want to support this effort please friend me on Facebook and confirm your interest in attending and that you might even help me make it happen.

Remember: give me your upcoming events as soon as you can so that I can get them out to our readers. If you want me to attend and report on your musical event you must let me know directly as to where and when and I will make every effort to attend.

This is Locke'd on Music.

Addison Locke, Singer/ Songwriter/ Performer

902 351 2010

# Merger

The River Johners Unite For Rural Communities has disbanded and joined with the River John Community Action Society. Since the RJCAS took over the running of the Community HUB Centre in the former school it was decided to combine our efforts as we have common goals.

A number of committees have been formed.

- 1) Alternative School Committee
- 2) Fund Raising Committee
- 3) Public Relations Committee
- 4) Reconsidering Public School Closure Committee

Your support is needed for us to be successful as many hands will make light work.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month with our next meeting on December 8th. All are welcomed. Please come out and help us help River John

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ELECTRICAL/REFRIGERATION/PLUMBING

# Community supporting the Legion supporting the Community

Twelve groups of local musicians came together, volunteered their time and talents to help support our fundraiser. The music started at 12 noon and continued for 12 hours. Lots of food donated to keep everyone going throughout the day and night. The Legion members and community came together to help the day run smoothly and to help wherever it was needed. It was very well attended. Great music, great audiences, an all around great day. We are planning to make this an annual event. November 5th is the date for next year.



## Musicians

1. TNT
2. Bernadette Shea
3. Dana Jefferson & Jeff Alcorn
4. Jim & Denise White
5. TMW Trio (Terry Giles, Myrna Phillips & Jim White)
6. John Crichton
7. The Village Sings (choir)
8. Blain Brown, Jason Brown, Katherine Murray, Evan Ballie, Larry Hunt & Floyd Rudolph
9. Donald Duggin
10. Heather & Kenneth Watt & Ray
11. Addison Locke
12. River Run (Harley White, Mike Cranmer, Myrna Phillips, Lynda Manning & Carol Campbell-Smith)



## 2000 Knitted and

## Crocheted Items and Counting

The River John Square Knitters (RJSK) have been together since August 2014 and in that short time they have mailed over 2000 knitted and crocheted items to South Africa. What has grown out of that first meeting in response to a poster that invited interested people to "come and share a yarn" on Friday mornings at the River John Public Library has been nothing short of amazing! The handful of people who showed up at the library with knitting needles and yarn in hand on that first Friday morning soon learned that the woman

warmers, and dolls. Since that first meeting the RJSK group has grown to include 20 plus knitters and crocheters.



Some members who do not attend the Friday morning get-togethers knit or crochet at home and send their squares along with others or drop them off at the library. Other people who are not so handy with knitting needles and crochet hooks contribute in other ways. They help with unravelling knitted items for yarn to be reused, turning skeins of yarn into smaller balls or transporting items for sale to fundraising events.

The synergy that has been created in this group is dynamic and contagious. The River John Public Library provides a place for our weekly knitting/crocheting sessions. Our yarn supply continues to grow as people bring in their yarn left over from knitting/crocheting projects, yarn hiding in closets, and yarn



who had posted the sign was indeed on a mission. She had been knitting for about two years for an organization called Knit-A-Square (KAS), an international organization that accepts knitted and crocheted items from crafters around the world. The bulk of the items mailed to South Africa by the RJSK are eight-inch squares that are assembled into blankets by volunteers there to be distributed to orphanages who care for orphaned or vulnerable children as a result of AIDS/HIV. However, the mailings have since expanded to include other knitted/crocheted items like hats, wrist

The next issue of the Pioneer will be distributed on April 1

The deadline for submissions is March 11

Advertising, subscriptions, photos and articles are always welcome



The group has taken to heart both literally and figuratively a quote by Nelson Mandela that reads, "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it." To that end the group continues to raise awareness and funds at community events and use their hands to create warmth and comfort for the children of South Africa.

The RJSK would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the group during its first year. Please feel free to join us at the River John Public Library on Friday mornings. The satisfaction of being together with a group who creates beautiful things for a good cause is great.

If you wish to learn more about Knit-A-Square, visit the site at [KAS.com](http://KAS.com). If you wish to make a contribution of yarn, knitted or crocheted items or make a monetary contribution you can drop it off at the River John Public Library.