



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

River John Remembers

Photos provide by Marg Jones and Joan MacLeod



Remembrance Day



Gospel Nights at St. John's

As a professional musician, Jim White has played every sort of music in every sort of venue, but on Sundays, it's gospel music he wants to hear. So, for the better part of a year, Jim has been organizing bi-monthly gospel nights at St. John's Anglican Church in River John. At a gospel night, audiences will be treated to the talents of a dozen or more musicians, some playing in a full band or duet, and some lifting their voice to the sound of a single guitar. Whether their style is country, bluegrass, indie rock, or what Jim affectionately calls "old churchy music," what the musicians have in common is a love for songs of hope, faith, and gratitude.



While there are always a few familiar songs to sing along with, audiences may be surprised to hear a new rendition of a Moody Blues tune or a Randy Travis ballad, as well as original compositions by our own local musicians. Accompaniment on fiddle, mandolin, upright bass, accordion, piano, and guitar fills out the sound – and makes the most of the great acoustics at St. John's. Built by shipbuilders in the latter part of the 19th century, the church



dates back to a time when a single voice had to carry – without amplification – through the hubbub of shuffling feet, people coughing, babies crying, and a strong wind creaking the rafters. For the Sunday evening musicians, playing in this space is a real pleasure and their performance feeds off the energy of the audience, who are known to whoop and stomp their feet, in keeping with the music.

It's important to Jim that new musicians, as well as seasoned performers, feel welcome at the gospel nights. In the closing number, all the evening's performers sing together and it's clear that they support

one another as musicians – and friends. Through events like these, a strong community, where people can learn & grow together, continues to develop in River John.

If you are interested in playing at a gospel night, you can contact Jim White at 902-351-2260. The next gospel night will be on Sunday, December 4th at 7pm. St. John's Church is located at 1917 Hwy #6, just west of the Esso. For future dates, check out the Anglican Parish of Northumberland page on Facebook.

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Westville ... 396-5022 (902) 755-6031
1(866)779-7761



At the library

Things Arab Men Say - Thursday, November 24, 6:15 pm. Join us for a National Film Board (NFB) movie at the library! Bring snacks (peanut-free please), all are welcome!



About the film: In response to the mainstream vilification of the Arab community following 9/11, director Nisreen Baker brings us Things Arab Men Say, an intimate and revealing documentary that paints a very different picture of this complex and multi-faceted group. Join Jay, Ghassan, Faisal and their friends as they gather at Jamal's Eden Barber Shop for a haircut, a shave, and a lively discussion on politics, religion, and identity. Although located in Edmonton, Jamal's shop could be anywhere, serving as a microcosm of the Arab community. At times serious, but laced with deft humour, the group debates the issues at hand, offering often-surprising views that bring us closer to changing the narrative that surrounds their community. (2016 | 52 min)

4H A new year begins

We started our new 4H year. Our club jumped right into community service. The River John 4H club got together on Friday October 28th 2016 around 9:00 am to do some road side cleanup. We divided into groups and went up and down the highway in River John, collecting garbage from the ditches. Our club was out for a total of two hours, we are part of the adopt a highway program and this is a great way to serve our community.

Later on in the evening, to finish off our day, with a halloween party from 6 - 8 pm. We had food, played games, dancing, music, and a costume contest.

Our general meetings are every month as 7 pm at St. George's Presbyterian church hall in River John. Anyone interested in joining 4H is more than welcome to come. Our next meeting is November 7th at 7 pm.

Contact Christine Heighton for more information at 902-351-2061

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.

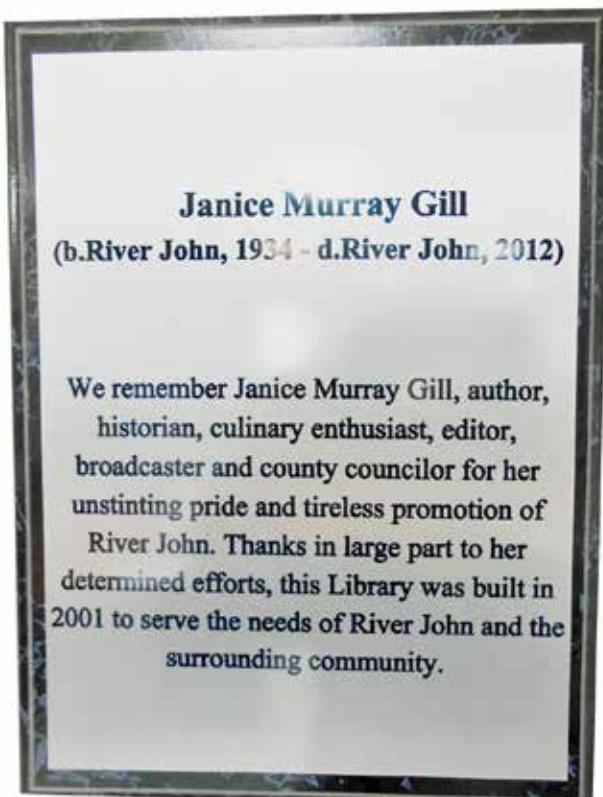
The cost is only \$25.00. Contact Rob for details: r.assels@malatest.com

Remembering Janice Gill

The next time you are in the River John Library, go to the computer area and take a look at the photo on the wall. That lovely lady is Janice Murray Gill, whom we have to thank in large part for the present-day library's existence.



As the plaque beside the photo tell us, Janice was a great promoter of River John, who took great pride in the village where she was born and spent much of her life and her final years. She was a generous supporter of many of River John's organizations and was a well-known figure at many local events. One of Janice's interests, although not mentioned on the plaque, was computers, and she, along with her husband, Chris, would often share their knowledge with anyone who needed help. One of the many organizations of which Janice was a member was the River John C@P Society, where she freely shared her knowledge and expertise in computers.



River John suffered a great loss with Janice's passing in 2012, and the naming of the library as the "Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library" is a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady.

Computer scams to watch out for!

One of the most common calls I get is "My computer tells me I have a virus and is giving me a number to call for help". Quite often, the message looks like a legitimate warning from a company as reputable as Microsoft. To make things worse, there's no way to close the message to get back to what you were doing.

So the message must be right – there must be a virus on the computer? Nope – and the fix is simpler than you might think!

What's actually happened is you've reached a web page that has created a "pop-up" window that is designed to be difficult to close. Although it looks legitimate (and sometimes downright intimidating!), it's simply a web page and can do no harm to your computer.

If you do decide to call the number given, you'll more than likely end up giving the scammers access to your computer – and at that point who knows what they're doing to it without your knowledge! They'll also charge you for the privilege of harming your computer – nice guys eh?!

So what can you do if this happens? There's no way to close the window, so how do you get around this? Well the easiest approach is to restart your computer. This closes all programs and gets you back to working again. You can restart your computer by clicking on the start menu and choosing Power/Restart. Once the computer boots up again, you'll find everything back to normal.

So how can you stop this from happening in the first place? The first tip I can recommend is be careful when clicking on links. Most of the time this happens when you click on a link in Facebook. The link could be an offer for something free, or maybe a coupon for a store. The old motto – "if something seems too good to be true, it usually is" is especially true when it comes to Facebook! Scams like this are designed to entice you into clicking on something and are called "click-bait".

Always keep Anti-Virus installed and updated. The same goes for your computer, as keeping updated gives the scammers less chance of actually harming your computer through vulnerabilities.

Web filtering is another level of protection, whereby each page you visit is checked first to see if it could potentially cause problems. This way you're protected from scams even if you mistakenly click on something that would otherwise cause problems.

All sound a bit overwhelming? Don't worry – it's actually pretty straightforward and once you're properly protected, you'll never even notice anything is happening (except you won't receive any of these annoying pop-ups!).

Give me a call (902 957 2575) or drop me an email (ngunn@scotiasystems.com) if you'd like help setting up these levels of protection.

Safe Surfing!

-- Nick Gunn

Set back for Enhanced Net Metering

Were you planning on purchasing solar panels to help reduce your electricity bill and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Well it appears Nova Scotia Power (NSP) has other plans - ones you won't find helpful.

Enhanced Net Metering allows NSP customers to generate electricity using renewable energy while still being able to draw power from the provincial power grid when needed. If you produce more energy than you use, the extra electricity will flow onto the grid and a bi-directional meter monitors the flow to and from your home or business. Regulations require that generating equipment is sized to not exceed average annual power usage, but if at the end of a year you've produced more electricity than you used, NSP provides a cash payment for the surplus energy.

Currently, customers are credited for power generated at the same rate charged for power used – 14.8¢/kW-hr. This allows customers to effectively "bank" power generated during periods when more power is produced for use during periods when more power is needed. So if a customer sizes their equipment to generate as much power as they produce, they end up paying nothing for electricity each year. According to an October 12 presentation made by NSP at a meeting hosted by Solar Colchester, they plan to reduce the rate paid for power to between 5 and 7¢/kW-hr as soon as new regulations make that possible. In addition, they want to change the way customers are credited so the surplus power would be credited at the lower cash value each bi-monthly billing period.

Taken together, these changes would result in many people being discouraged from using Enhanced Net Metering. The only people who would benefit from these changes would be NSP shareholders. The regulations currently in preparation don't allow NSP to make these changes, and DoE says it will be a couple of years before such changes are made, but the Provincial Cabinet could make

changes at any time. When the regulations are changed to allow tariff reductions, the Electricity Act specifies that the new rate must be "based on the net value of the electricity to the public utility's electrical system, and *any other factors that may be prescribed by the regulations.*" (italics added) The important question, then, is what those other factors should be.

Naturally net metering has value to the people who participate, in the form of reduced power bills. From NSP's perspective, the only value worth considering is how much profit they can generate for their shareholders. However, when you look at the big picture perspective which includes value to all Nova Scotians, there are a number of additional factors which should be considered in determining the value of the power generated by net metering customers. These include reduced emissions, the resulting impact on climate change, the value of meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, reduced need for importing fossil fuels, and a reduced need to build new generating capacity. These last two items have direct impacts on the price everyone must pay for electricity. Citizens worried about the environment and about protecting themselves against rising energy costs should express their concerns about the future of NSP's Enhanced Net Metering program.

To make your voice heard, contact the following people:

Energy Minister Michel Samson
(energyminister@novascotia.ca)

MLA Karla MacFarlane
(pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com)

Premier Stephen McNeil
(premier@novascotia.ca)

-- Solar Colchester Committee



Ronald Baillie Councilor, District 4 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 2017

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

Your Town Your Taxi



River John and area has a taxi service! Why I didn't know this is a mystery to me.

Gloria Thompson, owner/operator, set me straight the other night. Here is a service that we could all use, especially for those great Christmas parties that we want to drink at and get home safely from.

Gloria tells me that the other important part of her service is working for the elderly. She is available for hospital visits, shopping, outings, even getting people to and from entertainment. At the end of the month and for late night calls she prefers pre-booking.

Now if I could just remember that phone number...1-902-221-3599.

-- Chris Giles

902-221-3599

Host Families Needed

Students around the world are waiting to study with us here in Nova Scotia.

International students enrich our schools and communities by sharing their culture. In exchange, they hope to learn about our Canadian culture.

Host families may have school-age children, be empty-nesters, retirees or first-time parents.

Families are provided with ongoing support from a program coordinator.

Open your heart and your home to an international student, apply today: <https://nsisp.ca/become-host-family>

Contact Monica Nielsen for more information: 902-754-6010

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCRSBISP/





Christmas Craft Sale

Christmas Craft Sale, Flea Market & Christmas Tea

River John HUB Community Centre
Saturday November 26th 10 to 1
Tables \$5.00
Admission \$2.00
Call Joan 351-2759 to reserve a table

PEI sets a trend?

With all the hype surrounding the US Presidential Election on November 8, it's not surprising that an important vote in our country on November 3 received minimal coverage. PEI held a plebiscite to determine voters' preferred electoral system. Of the 102,464 islanders eligible to vote, 37,040 voted.

Mixed Member Proportional Representation won the plebiscite with 52.42% of the vote. Five options were considered. Voters ranked their preferences. No option received the necessary 50% to win on the strength of voters' first preference, so the least popular option was dropped and the second choice of those voters was used. It took four redistributions to arrive at Mixed Member Proportional Representation. The results are not binding on the government.

“Through Our Eyes” Book

The RJCAS is exploring the possibility of publishing a book showcasing the artwork produced during last summer's "Through Our Eyes" gathering of artists. Seven artists came to River John and spent a week painting scenes in and around the village. The book is expected to include high resolution images of many of the paintings that were on display at a very well attended art exhibit at the HUB. The book will also include the writing of various local authors who spoke at the event and the lyrics to Rosalee Peppard's "The River John Song". The book, if published, will be used to raise additional funds for the RJCAS.

Public Meeting January 10, 2017

A decision on what to do with the money raised for the HUB will be made at a meeting at the HUB on January 10, 2017. The meeting is open to all residents of River John and surrounding area. Immediately following the public meeting, the RJCAS will hold its regular monthly meeting.

In its Fall issue, The Pioneer had reported that the public meeting would be held in September. We regret the error and any inconvenience it may have caused those who attended.

RIVER JOHN H.U.B. COMMUNITY CENTRE

BOOK SAIL

**Gently used books at
bargain prices offered
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H.U.B. Community Centre
in the former School
Library.**

Open during scheduled events. Check the River John H.U.B. Community Centre Facebook page for further information. All proceeds go toward maintenance and building upkeep. Book donations always welcomed.



Happy Reading!



November 22 (9am - 1pm)
December 13 (2pm - 6pm)

River John & West Branch United Church

from Nov. 20 - Dec. 25

November 20

Salem United, 11am: Children's Sunday

Stories and songs and activities (and a birthday cake for a dragon?), oh, my! Folks of all ages, friends, family and neighbours, are invited to join us for this special all-ages worship service as we celebrate the young and the young-at-heart. Everyone is welcome.

November 26

Salem United, 1:30pm: Christmas Tree decorating

Our Sunday school, along with their friends, family (and community, too!) are invited to come help us get ready for the Advent-Christmas season by trimming the tree at Salem United Church. There will be seasonal music, hot chocolate and cookies, too! All are invited. Everyone is welcome.

Advent Sundays

West Branch United, 9:30; Salem United, 11am - Worship Series: The Redemption of Scrooge

Discover how the ghosts of our past, the life of our present and the hope of our future can transform us from "Bah! Humbug!" to a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas. This Advent season we will explore the world of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. With an eye to Christian faith, we will walk with Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits; along the way we will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Sunday mornings (Nov. 27-Dec. 18) at West Branch and Salem United Churches. Everyone is welcome.

November 27

West Branch United, 9:30; Salem United, 11am: Advent 1 - Holy Communion

December 4

West Branch United, 9:30; Salem United, 11am: Advent 2 - Worship

West Branch United, 7pm: Memorial Hymn Sing

Through the gifts of music, candlelight and community, we will celebrate the lives of those dear to us who have died. We hope this event will be both pastoral and celebratory, acknowledging our loss while remembering and celebrating the lives of our loved ones.

This service features a candle-lighting. During the service, candles are lit in memory or in celebration of loved ones. For a donation of any amount you can dedicate a candle 'in loving memory of...' or 'in celebration of...' your friend or family member(s). Everyone is welcome. For more information, or to request to dedicate a candle please call the Pastoral Charge Office 902-351-2629. Candle requests should be into the office by November 27.

December 11

West Branch United, 9:30; Salem United, 11am: Advent 3 – White Gift Sunday

Willow Lodge, Tata & homes around River John & West Branch, 6pm – Caroling

Bring your voice (and an instrument or two, if you'd like) and join us as we share the sounds of the season with our friends and neighbours at Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche and surrounding communities. We will meet at the Lodge at 6pm. Folks who'd like to carpool are invited to meet at Salem United; we'll leave the parking lot for Willow Lodge at 5:30pm. After we finish at the lodge (around 6:45), we'll make our way out into the wider communities and share a song or two with our neighbours to celebrate the season. Everyone is welcome.

December 18

West Branch United, 9:30; Salem United, 11am: Advent 4 – Worship

December 20

Salem United, 7pm - Blue Christmas Candlelight 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 member(s). Everyone is welcome. For more information, or to request to dedicate a candle please call the Pastoral Charge Office 902-351-2629. Candle requests should be into the office by December 18.

December 24

Salem United, 6pm; West Branch United, 8pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

December 25

Salem United Church, 11am: Christmas Day Service

Come as you are – whether you'd like to wear your new Christmas jammies, or your favorite pair of jeans, or your best Sunday suit - leave the turkey on low, bring your favorite new toy and gather with us around the Christmas tree for this all-ages service. We'll sing songs, listen to stories, have tea and coffee (juice and muffins, too), and celebrate the day with friends, family and neighbours. Everyone is welcome.

UNICEF Fundraiser and Fun at West Branch

When I was a young woman growing up in River John in the 1950's we always collected for UNICEF along with our trick or treating. We had little orange boxes and people would put in dimes or quarters. (It was long before we had \$1 and \$2 coins.)

UNICEF stands for "United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund." It is dedicated to alleviating suffering of children around the world. Its motto is "No Child Too Far." One would think that in this day and age there would no longer be a need for such an organization, but on the contrary, it is even more necessary. Because of global warming and also the worldwide fall of the price of oil, the country of Nigeria, for example, has a lot of starvation. A recent report noted that 150 children a day are dying of starvation. And of course there is the enormous issue of all the refugees displaced by war in their home countries. This can feel very far from our own reality, but there are also hungry children here.

The UCW, United Church Women for the Maritimes, decided to highlight the issue of childhood poverty, by creating a cookbook. The purpose of the cookbook is to raise awareness around the issue of child poverty and raise money to be used toward reducing child poverty.

On October 28, a group of women from River John's Salem United and West Branch United churches held a luncheon of tasty but affordable dishes and invited our guests to sample them and vote for their favourites. Guests were also asked to give a donation to UNICEF as admission. \$175 was raised for UNICEF in this way!

There were 20 recipes created. The winning recipes were: Soups: Carrot Ginger Soup - Mary Beth Sutherland Breads: Johnny Cake - Mary Beth Sutherland

Main dishes: Hamburger Stew - Joan Sutherland
Desserts: Bread Pudding - Joan Sutherland
Miscellaneous: Molasses Butter - Norma Baillie

All these recipes are being forwarded with photos to the Maritime Conference Cookbook Project, to be published next year.



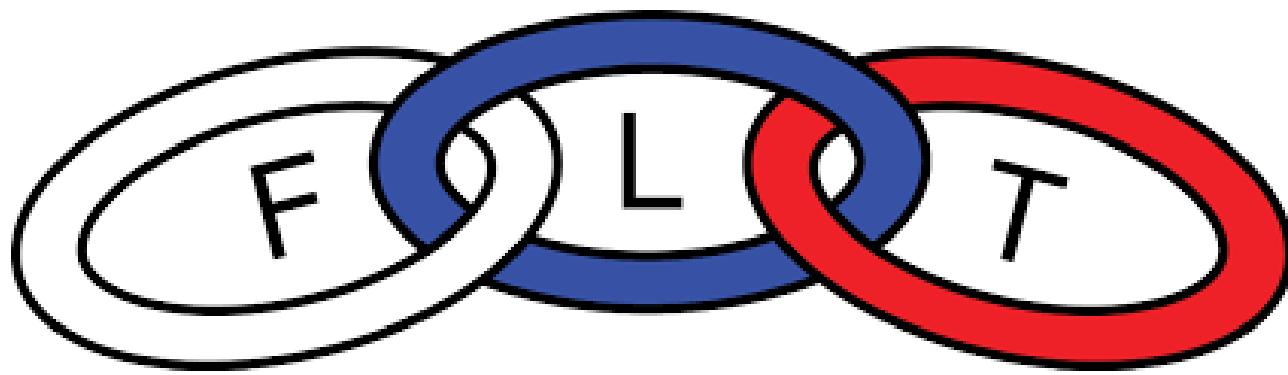
Participants: Left to right, back row: Mary Beth Sutherland, Joan MacLeod, Eleanor O'Brien, Marie Farrell

Front row: Ruth Baillie, Florence Craib, Della Jefferson, Joan Sutherland

Submitted by Joan MacLeod

Reid's
SUNSET BEACH
COTTAGES

Proprietors Terry & Linda Reid
PO Box 118 River John, NS B0K 1N0
Civic #82, River John Road
Telephone: 902-351-2079
Email: terry@sunsetbeachcottages.com
Website: www.sunsetbeachcottages.com



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

2015-16 Noble Grand Chris A. Silver



The River John Legion got a little facelift the other day. A new deck, lower ramp and stairs replaced old and weathered boards. Mike Cranmer, Harley White and Chris Giles swung some hammers to get the job done. As well, Harley took this opportunity to upgrade the electrics, in the form of plugs and a timer to the over-head light. Still to be done before the snow flies are the upper ramp and a utility shed. Inspection by Jilly the dog.



From my family to yours



Karla MacFarlane, MLA
Pictou West

Please join me for my annual Christmas party.

When: December 2nd, 4-6 pm
Where: Pictou Community New Horizons Club
14 Kempt St, Pictou

pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com
902-485-8958

Christmas Market
Sunday, December 4th

*Market held inside at
Lismore Sheep Farm*

**Baking • Preserves • Coffee • Jewellery • Soap
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Christmas Decorations • Spirits • Photography**

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902-351-2594

www.lismoresheepfamwoolshop.com

Photos from Harvest Fest

Editor's Note: Big thank you to those who provided photos by messaging the River John Pioneer's Facebook page.



Getting ready for the season



Johnny & Amanda Reid with the winning scarecrow



Cody Joudrie in the giant pumpkin boat,



Joanne's spooky helpers at the Haunted Woods

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Riverhouse! Check it out

There's a new venue in River John for musicians. Right downtown, the building that once housed the library is now a place for musicians to meet, play, practice and learn more about making music. It is also a venue for local performing artists to put on shows that we can enjoy and support.



Vintage Tractors of River John #2

This vintage tractor is a 1940 Massey-Harris 101 Junior, manufactured in Racine, Wisconsin, owned by Kenny Clark on #6 Hwy. I'm sure that everyone has seen the bright red tractor parked beside the baby-blue 1967 Meteor. Kenny has restored both vehicles from wrecks to full working condition.



This Massey-Harris was purchased from Ken Sutherland, and, at the time, was "barely running." Kenny is still working on locating some components to make the tractor as authentic as possible. He presently uses the tractor on his two woodlots. Of special note is the flywheel on the side of the tractor that was used for threshing, as well as for running a sawmill for cutting boards. It was one of the most powerful tractors of that time, producing 31 HP at the belt. This tractor predicated the three-point hitch and farm implements could not be raised or lowered from the tractor; however, it was the first tractor to feature an electric start, taking over from the hand-crank. Easily identified by the hooded sides, louvred panels and bright colours, the Massey-Harris 101 Junior is definitely "a thing of beauty."

Still in its early stages, Riverhouse is the brainchild of the musician we know as Addison Locke. When I popped in Sunday at 3:30 p.m. during the Gospel Hour, I was pleasantly surprised by a warm and inviting place. I saw about ten tables, and twenty chairs, coffee and tea and a raised, well-lit stage; in a word, "cozy."

Addison sees a number of possible roles for Riverhouse. For concerts, the building can accommodate up to twenty people seated at tables. As a recording studio, he has equipment available; however, artists would have to provide their own producers. As a coffee house, he sees possibilities for poetry readings and special nights for jazz, blues, hip hop, or even rap. It may even be a place to learn how to play the guitar or how to write a song.

So far, the only regular weekly event is Gospel Music from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, admission five dollars. Drop in and I'm sure that you will see the possibilities for some great music. Also, stay tuned for an upcoming Christmas show. Open for public or private events, please contact:

Addison at 1-902-957-1497

SEAN FRASER, MP
CENTRAL NOVA

HERE
TO
HELP

RIVER JOHN

(902) 752-0226

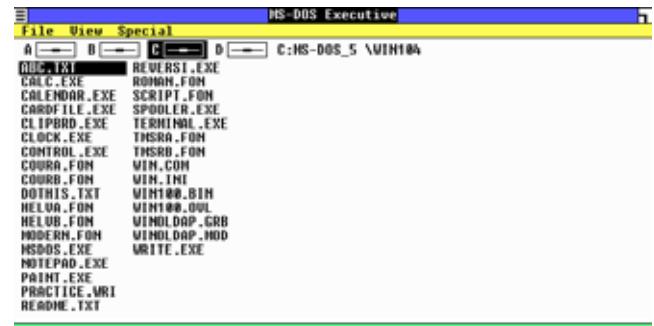
Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

Robots in River John ?

Seismic shifts in technology have occurred throughout human history. Consider the loom, the printing press, the three-point hitch, the steam engine, the telephone, the airplane and the computer. Each was a “disruptive” technology, meaning that once they were introduced, the previous way of doing things rapidly disappeared. The pace at which old ways vanish has increased.

Alexander Graham Bell first patented the telephone in 1876. The first transatlantic phone call was made in 1915 (almost 40 years later). There are now more cell phones in the world than people.

The Wright brothers' first sustained flight was in 1903. The first commercial jet, BOAC's Comet, was introduced in 1952 (50 years later). There are now over 100,000 flights per day.



We've come a long way from the first version of Windows in 1985 (see graphic above). What about robotics and automation? You could make the case that it has the slowest pace of evolution; Leonardo da Vinci designed the first humanoid robot in 1495; however, the first industrial robot, Unimate, was built by George Devol in 1961 (55 years ago). There

are many industries that have employed robots or automated systems; car manufacturing was one of the early adopters, as was the IT sector. But robotics largely filled the need for specific tasks - usually arduous, tedious or dangerous activities (e.g., bomb disposal).

It appears we are reaching a threshold brought about by advances in computing power, geographical information systems (GIS) and connectivity. Driverless cars are now being test driven, not in River John, but in major urban centres around North America. Recently we have seen the introduction of drones, which major shipping and distribution companies are preparing to use on a massive scale. As robots become increasingly dexterous, factories and warehouses are becoming increasingly automated.

I remember in high school, back in 1974, going for a tour of a Humpty Dumpty factory in Montreal. The factory produced Cheesies. It was a 5,000 sq. ft. factory and the only manual job in it was for the men and women who opened the plastic bag so the machine could pour in the cheeses and seal it. Now I'm sure there are no longer people in that factory.



Photo: Brandon Bailey. One of 15,000 robots at Amazon's warehouses. Can move 750 lb shelving units.

And that may highlight the difference between the robotics revolution and all those earth-shaking changes before it. Past revolutions, whether agricultural, industrial, or technological have displaced large numbers of workers, but they have always created other jobs. The challenge for society was adapting to the change. The robotics revolution is already displacing jobs. If they can make a driverless car, they can make a driverless truck. There are over 80,000 truck drivers in Canada. How long will it take for those jobs to be lost? 20 years? 10 years? Remember Blockbuster Video?



It opened in 1985. It had over 8,000 outlets in the year 2000 when it had the opportunity to purchase Netflix, which was a fledgling company at the time. Apparently, change happens more quickly in technology. In 2011, Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy. Netflix's revenue last year was \$7 billion. Streaming video replaced DVD rentals in approximately 10 years.

What jobs will the robotics revolution produce? Some say it will produce high-tech jobs maintaining the robots. It had better. It's not just 80,000 truckers who will be looking for work. Think of a job. Now think of a durable, flexible, dexterous robot with an ultra-fast processor and unlimited storage capacity. Give it visual and auditory capabilities, heat and movement sensors, a GPS system. Link it to any one of thousands of online databases. Incorporate decision-making software and learning algorithms. Those are all currently available. If you owned a fleet of trucks, would you buy one for \$50,000? That is the average salary of a truck driver. They would drive 24 hours a day, no days off. They would reduce accidents and cut insurance costs. By the end of the first year, you would probably replace all your drivers. That's happening now. The first automated truck conference took place in Texas in 2015 and every car and truck manufacturer was there.



That will happen wherever there are employees. Think of the most complex jobs, requiring the most sophisticated training. Does anyone believe that the entire knowledge required to excel in that occupation cannot be loaded into a single computer chip? You might argue that humans have the experience to exercise good judgement in moral affairs. Others might counter and point out the number of race-related shootings of unarmed African-Americans by police in the United States.

Regardless of whether you like the idea or not, the rise of the robots will not start with the formation of a robot army, it will begin with longer and longer unemployment lines.

The big adjustment for the future will not be what line of work to go into; it may be what to do with your free time. Children today might be wise to start lobbying for a guaranteed annual income.

-- Rob Assels



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Amet Island

This is a true story, as recited by Jim Thompson and recorded by his daughter.

In the year 1910, I was a pretty young man. I was born on December 15, 1891. Well, this story is a true happening. It is about a trip by sailboat, from River John to Amet Island, a small island about three miles from Cape John. At this time, they had a lighthouse keeper stationed there all through the year. It seems that the drinking water that they had there caused near all the light keepers to get sick. I heard of one case that the keeper had passed away, leaving his wife and family with no help. The only way of sending for help was to fly a flag in the daytime and show a red light at night. If the weather was bad, it might be days before they could get help.



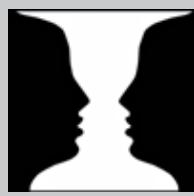
*Canada Department of Transport Nova Scotia Archives
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Well, this is where I get in the picture. The lighthouse keeper got sick and had to go to the hospital for treatment, so I think the government that looked after the lighthouse keeper thought it was about time to do something about finding out what caused the sickness. So, they sent word from Halifax to get some fisherman to go out to the island and get samples of every place where they get their drinking water. I forgot to say they had to get someone to tend the lighthouse, when the regular keeper was in the hospital. So, the one that got the word to send out and get the water samples picked on my older brother, Willard, to make the trip. He took the job and asked me to go along with him for company.

We took off one day, with an old sailboat. There wasn't any wind, so we had to use the oars. Well, we had a good mark to go by, as the lighthouse was working good. We were about seven miles from River John, when we heard the sound of a boat, so we got handy enough to talk. We found out it was the man who tended the lighthouse. He told us we might as well turn back, as he and the boy were out of food and water.

He left the boy there, with just enough food to make his breakfast. He was going to get someone to drive him to River John and he would go back in the morning. He wanted brother and me to go back with him. Well, after rowing seven or eight miles and just about at the end of our trip, we did not want to go back. We told the chap we would go on and keep the boy company. He was Chalmers Bigney, the "Strongman" in later years.

We parted the other boat going to Cape John. Brother and I approached Amet Island. The night was very calm, you could hear a boat a long ways. So, Chalmers heard us coming and after finding out who we were, he was a very happy boy. If we had not got there, he would have been all alone on the island. After we three had a good time talking, there came up a strong windstorm, which lasted five days and nights. You can imagine the things we had to eat as there was just enough food for Bigney's breakfast. We managed somehow!



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After five days of storm, the fifth morning was calm, but thick of fog. Nevertheless we pulled away, leaving the island deserted. We were making our way to Cape John. It wasn't long before we met the man bringing the supplies. We stopped and had a talk. In the meantime, Bigney was in no mood to go back, but the man got him to return to the island, while brother and I sailed for River John.

Enjoy!

Many years ago I ran across this list of lessons, originally compiled by Regina Brett and published in The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio. Since then, I occasionally take it out and see how I'm doing...only to discover one thing or another that - if I only were to stop for a minute and decide to change - would help me be a better man, husband and neighbour.

So in the interest of the Christmas season, I offer it to you dear reader, for whatever good it may bring in your life in the coming days and years.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you...
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets and silverware. Don't save them for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over-prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now... Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time... time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life... Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

And here's the BIG one ... **Never forget that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.**

Merry Christmas!
Rev. Greg Dickson
St. George's, River John, NS

Advent Lunches

Series to be held at St. John the Baptist Church Hall at noon that will go as follows

- November 30 – Anglican
- December 7 – United
- December 14 – Presbyterian
- December 21 – ALL

Fall activities in River John



Passers-by in River John recently might have been surprised to see that Hillary and The Donald had dropped in for a visit, and maybe do some more debating. They are seen here in Bissell Park, which was decorated for the annual Harvest Fest.



Another event that took place that week was a delicious roast pork dinner, which was enjoyed by over 90 area seniors at the Legion Branch 108, and put on by the local Meals on Wheels organization.



After the meal, the seniors were entertained by the North Shore Boot Scooters line dancers, who had the seniors clapping along and tapping their toes to the lively music.



The Next Pioneer

Ad bookings: March 1, 2017
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Soup's on



Residents and visitors to River John enjoyed a delicious soup supper on Friday. The soup was prepared by Chef Robin Campbell and members of River John Community Action Society. Everyone agreed the soup, followed by apple crisp topped with fresh cream, was delicious. The meal was part of River John's annual Harvest Fest.

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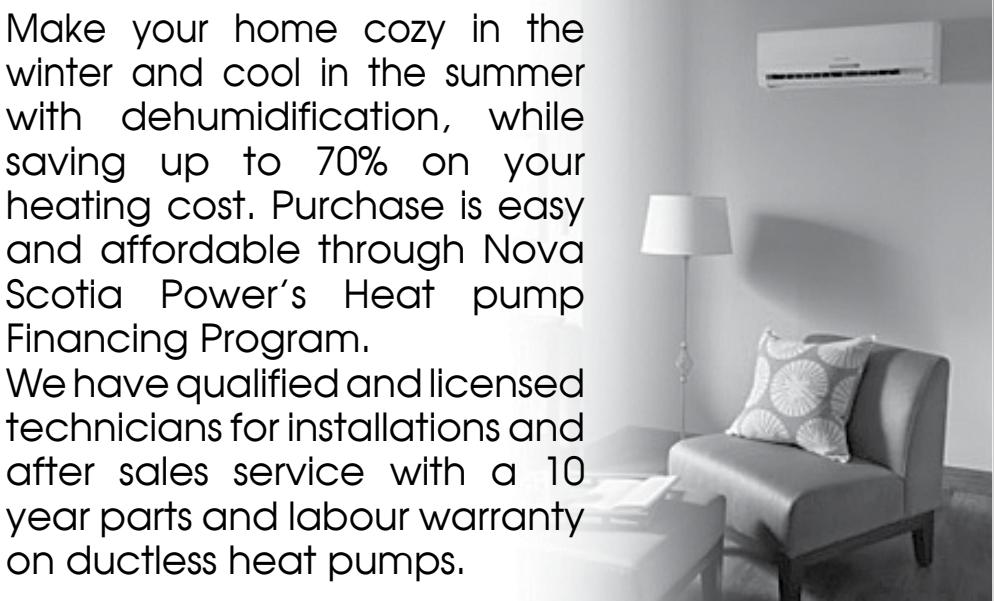


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