



Smelt Fishing in River John

by **Cheryl Frizzell**

Local residents bundle up warm and head to the frozen River John, some will fish in shacks while others will fish in holes drilled in the ice.

Kenny Langille has been smelt fishing since he was a young boy on the river, he has many fond memories of stories being told while sitting in a shack, I took a peek inside his fish shack and was surprised to see a small stove in the corner, a bench along the wall, a fishing spear and other items. Oh yes a hole in the ice. I'm still not sure if it's the fishing he enjoys or the temporary retreat he has built, but it's all good.



Kenny Langille and his smelt shack



Jeannie and John Brookbank smelt fishing

River John and District Lions Christmas Wagon Ride

by **Cheryl Frizzell**

On December 15, 2018, the Lions Club held its first Christmas Wagon Ride. Though generosity, some tickets were purchased by businesses and individuals, donated back and were given to Big Brothers Big Sisters, local 4H, and Summer Street Industries. Etc., the event brought back old and make new memories for all.

Passengers were drove around the village to see the Christmas decorations on a wagon pulled by a team of horses and then treated to a delicious hot chocolate and a bowl of Willie Patriquin's chilli served by the Lions members. This is certainly an event that the lions will hold again next December.

The Lions Club would like to thank everyone who participated in making this fundraiser a success.



RJ's seeking members who have moved away

by **Marg Jones**

The RJs (River John Ladies Group) are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and want to get in touch with PAST members. We know most of those who still live in River John, but if any of you know the whereabouts of those who have moved away from River John, and, even better, have the email address of any of them, please email me at william.jones@bellaliant.net. Thanks for all help, everyone. (If you know of someone, but don't know their email, it would help to have their address and/or phone number, or even let us know the town where they live.)

Missing Village Clock

by **Dan Ferguson**

The clock was a gift of the RJ ladies group. The movement was donated by Christopher Gill and the case was designed and built by Douglas Watt. The dedication date was Sept 2nd 1990 and was erected on the front of the Odd Fellows Hall for all to enjoy. Some time in or around 2004 as the story was told the clock was damaged by a storm and taken down. No one seems to know where that clock went after that Let's solve the mystery. If you have any information contact
The Pioneer News
pioneereditors@hotmail.com

21st Annual Ray Thompson Memorial Hockey Tournament

by **Linda Reid**

David Barkhouse was named Most Valuable Player for the 35 and Over Division of the 21st Annual Ray Thompson Memorial Hockey Tournament, on Sunday, January 27, 2019. David ``Barkie`` Barkhouse has been a long time valued member of the ``Green Machine``. The River John Trailblazers captured silver and had a 3-1 record overall. Goalie Troy MacDonald, earned MVP honours in the championship game against the Snow Plow Kings.

Pioneer community

River John and District Lions Club Member passes away

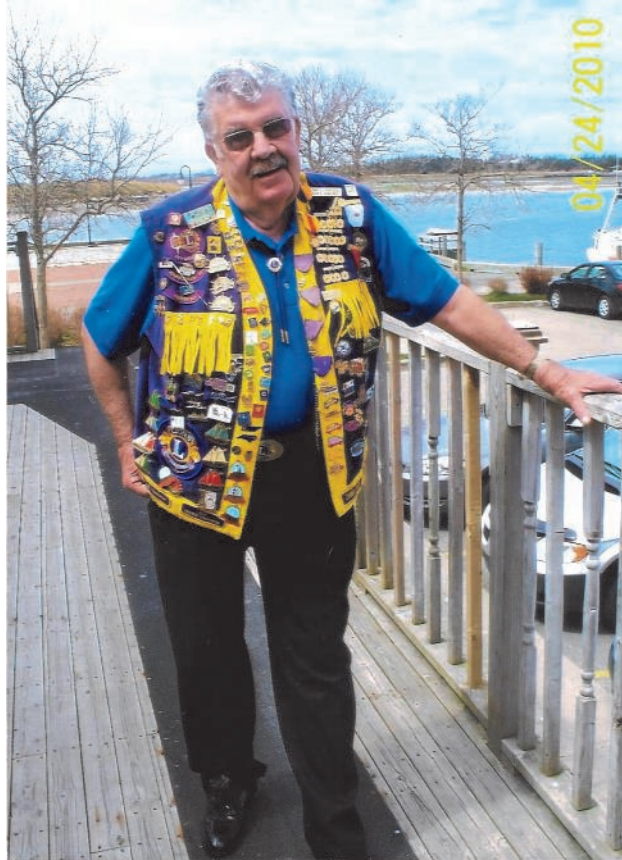
by **Lion Cheryl Frizzell**

On January 3, 2019, the River John and District Lions Club lost an outstanding member, Lion Raymond E Langille. I never knew Lion Ray as well as most of the Lion members or the community. Lion Ray always gave me a smile when I saw him at any Lions meetings or gatherings.

Joining the River John and District Lions Club in 1972, was something that Lion Ray took very serious. He held the position of King Lion 3 different times and served on the executive board of directors, filling all executive positions except secretary and treasurer. Before being ill, Lion Ray served on ways and means committee, and as lion radio chairperson, lion tamer, and helped on other projects to numerous to mention. Lion Ray was always willing to step up and help fill the roll as chairperson or help where help was needed on any fundraising project.

Lion Ray was the recipient of the Judge Brian Stevenson Award, Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for Humanitarian services and the Lions Life Membership Award.

Lion Ray wore his lions vest with pride, which he proudly displayed all his pins on. And on one occasion while pointing at a pin he told me it was his favourite pin. It was his 100% pin given to him for 100% attendance at all



Lion Raymond Langille

cabinet meetings, perfect club attendance and recruiting new members.

This is but a small list of achievements Lion Ray made serving as a lion in the River John and District Lions Club. Lion Ray will be sadly missed by fellow Lions and Lions Clubs in the province and especially at the River John and District Lions Club.

60th Anniversary Announcement Donald and Joan Redmond

On March 21st, 1959 Don and Joan committed themselves to marriage and have been loving each other ever since. Congratulations on years of overcoming obstacles, relishing in the good times and for being such a wonderful couple, that we all adore.

Here is to many more years to come.

Love all your family and friends (and there are A LOT of us).



THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who attended the baby shower for Isabel Cripps in November, as well as those who sent cards, recipes, gifts and well wishes. A huge thank you to my wonderful friend Ashley Doe for organizing it all.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful community to raise our daughter in.

Sincerely,
Margaret Cripps



River John websites

by **Marg Jones**

The Pioneer newspaper is a great way to get to know about what has happened in River John and area, but if you want to know what is going to happen on a day-to-day basis, check out River John's page on Facebook - search for River John, Nova Scotia and you'll see notices about upcoming events as well as many other interesting tidbits of news and information.

There is also a website called Riverjohn.com which has lots of information and links to the history of River John, as well as tide tables for the area, weather, a calendar of coming events, information about local churches, accommodations, and much, much more. The website is sponsored by PARL (Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library) and if you have any questions about the site, check at the River John Library for more information.

Car Seat Update

The River John and District Lions Club would like to give an update on the car seat for Paige Doucette. The River John and District Lions Club has been over the last few months in touch with an Occupational Therapist in Halifax and the seat is being designed for the little girls needs. Paige and her parents will be going to Halifax March 18, 2019 to meet and hopefully get the seat.

Contributions to the next issue of The Pioneer

should be sent to
pioneereditors@hotmail.com

Please send text and pictures as separate attachments. Text should have the bare minimum of formatting. Photos should be the best resolution available.

Thank you

On behalf of Richard Brown ("Konk" as known to many) we the family would like to thank the community and surrounding areas for all the support shown the past month while he is in recovery. He is doing better now and hopes to see everyone soon. For those who don't know, Richard had a heart attack on January 28th. He was then sent for triple bypass surgery on February 18th. Thank you to Cynthia, Kenny, Donna, Sandra and Lisa for the auction and dance benefit on March 2nd. We are extremely overwhelmed by all the generosity we have received and will not be forgotten

River John Legion News – Fall and Winter

by **Mary Beth Sutherland**

It is good to let our community know what is happening in your local River John Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108, which continues to take an active part in the life of our community. Here is a rundown of some of what happens at our Branch.

Remembrance Day was Special

The November 11th Remembrance Day service, our most important yearly event, was well attended by members of River John and surrounding communities. It all starts with our Poppy campaign which encourages wreath and Poppy purchase in the community. This is led by Barb Rondolet and her committee. Following the 11am wreath laying service at the war memorial in the village centre many moved to the St. John the Baptist Anglican church for the Remembrance Day church service. Reverend Nicole Uzans provided a thoughtful and moving sermon. A special addition to 2018 Canadian Remembrance Day was bell ringing to the mark the historic 100 years end of WW 1. Royal Canadian Legion Command in Ottawa requested all communities across the country to ring their churches bells to celebrate this historic event. Here in River John, Salem United, St. Georges Presbyterian and St. John the Baptist Anglican churches, participated by

simultaneously ringing their church bells at dusk 100 times each. It was a windy evening so unfortunately the sound of the bells did not carry well, but those who heard the ringing were inspired by the symbolism. A thank you to the members of these congregations who assisted in ringing the bells. In the evening, the Legion hosted their annual dinner with guest speaker Retired Sergeant Paul (Trapper) Cane, who co-founded the Canadian Army Veterans motorcycle club.

Annual Smelt Fry

Recently, on the beautiful sunny Saturday of Feb 23th, our Legion hosted their annual Smelt fry, an event which is anticipated by near and far ranging communities. This is a major undertaking for members of Branch 108, it takes planning and many volunteers to make it work as smoothly it did. The smelts need to be caught/purchased, then there is the smelt cleaning crew, the workers organized for fry day, bakers to bake biscuits and sweets, early morning smelt cooks, door admittance, the tea/coffee and sweets preparers, servers for kitchen and tables, bar tenders, dish washing crew, and the cleanup crew. By working together this large crew of volunteers make the day successful.

As we can't depend on our river providing

the necessary amount of smelts needed, Keith Heighton travelled to the Miramichi to get us 250 lbs of fresh smelt. Next these smelts were cleaned by a crew of members and friends: Robert MacLeod, Donald Duggan, Raymond Langille, Dave Cochrane, Carl Snook, Harley White, Wallace Sutherland, Mike Topley, Chris Gilles, Mike Cranmer and Peter MacDonald.

Members of the Legion and friends were called upon with a request for homemade biscuits and sweets for the fry day. A great addition to the meal.

The morning of the fry, the smelt fryers arrive early in the morning to start the cooking, the team has to start early to be ready for the influx of hungry folks. Carl Snook prepares his special mixture to dip the smelts in, then on the first grill team as the senior grillers were Marilyn Heighton, Robert and Mike MacLeod. The 2nd team was Mike Topley and Raymond Langille taking the later shift.

Preparing the plates in the kitchen were the team of Bonnie Murray, Judy Langthorne, Gloria Thompson and Barb Rondolet.

Greeting at the door was Jacob Leegwater and later joined by Marilyn Heighton. While Dave Cochrane supervised the tea and coffee table, and Ethel Langille and Marg Jones prepared the sweet plates. The table servers were Iola Swantee, Brenda White, Maureen Topley, Sandra MacKay, Valerie Langille, Lynn MacLeod and Marie Farrell. Tending bar was Charles Munro and John Dornandic.

We appreciated the help of air cadets from 596 Phoenix Royal Canadian Air Cadets, based out of Tatamagouche. They worked in the kitchen washing the hundreds of dishes

Continued on next page



Ronald Baillie
Councilor, District 4
County of Pictou

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

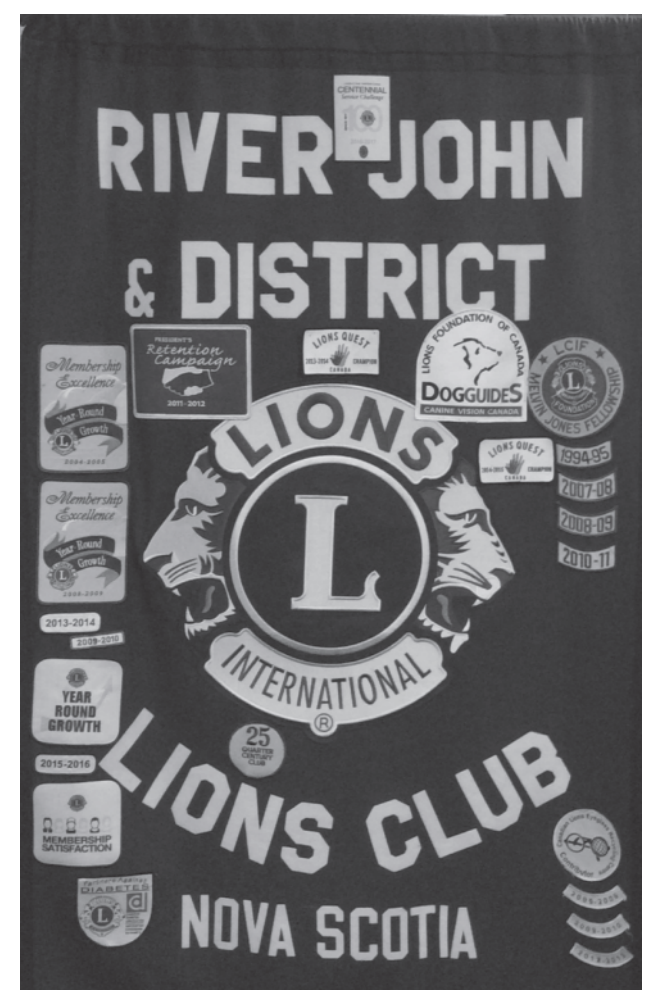
(902) 485-6475
ronald.baillie@municipict.ca
www.county.pictou.ns.ca



Karla MacFarlane
MLA, Pictou West

Please contact me with
your questions,
concerns, and ideas

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



Legion News, continued

used during the meal. Along with the cadets were their leaders April MacKenize and Allister Smith.

There were 230 meals of smelt paid for and each volunteer received their meal in appreciation for their work that day. Earl Holt was our guest veteran that day. Earl is a proud River Johnner and member of Branch 108. He now lives in the Pictou Northumberland Veterans Unit.

The live musical entertainment was provided by the local band River Run which consists of Harley White, Mike Cranmer, Carol Smith, Myrna Philips and Linda Manning (absent for this performance). They added an extra touch of enjoyment to the day with their music.

I spoke with some visitors from Portapique who told me how much they enjoy coming each year to the smelt fry and the enjoyable musical entertainment we have. There were also visitors who arrived via our nearby Rails to Trails track from the New Glasgow area.

A thank you to all the workers involved in all aspects of the day. Among the many volunteers working that day, were several who have worked tirelessly for many years, they are Bonnie Murray, Iola Swantee, Barb Rondelet, Marilyn Heighton, Robert and Lynn MacLeod.

If we have missed your name, I apologize. There were too many of our local bakers to name, but you know you helped make the day meal delicious.

Other Happenings & Upcoming Events

The Legion has worked together with the River John Action Society on the Chase the Ace project to raise money for community projects. The Chase the Ace will probably commence again in April or May. Stay tuned for a new and enhanced format.

Local band River Run hosts a popular weekly music circle jam Friday evenings 7pm at the Legion during the winter, it will continue until the Chase the Ace commences again. So if you enjoy an evening out with friends and local musical talent, make your way to Branch 108 on Friday evenings.

The Legion building has also been the location for a number of the Winter Carnival activities, as it also is for the Summer Festival and Read by the Sea. Weekly on Mondays we are the base site for Meals on Wheels in the morning, then later that morning the Moms and babies/tots gather for social time. Tuesday has the Line Dancing folks come use our space. We are also the venue for many community, family celebrations and fund raisers.

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Darrell MacNeil
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Owner/Operator



So you see, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 108 River John, is a busy and active part of your community, and we are happy to have new members join us at Branch 108. This year (2019) the Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command is offering ex-military and ex-RCMP a free first year membership to welcome them into the Legion. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Legion, please contact any of our current executive listed below.

President: Mike Topley, Past President: Harley White, 1'st Vice President Lynn MacLeod, 2'nd Vice President Barb Rondelet, Secretary Marilyn Heighton, Treasurer Bonnie Murray, Committee Chairs: Poppy Chair: Barb Rondelet, Service Chair: Wallace Sutherland, Membership: Gloria Thompson, Events Chair: Iola Swantee, Bar Steward: John Dornadic, Sgt at Arms: Harley White.

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www.riverjohn.com

Pioneer youth

River John 4-H Club

by Margaret Cripps

We would like to start off by saying thank you to all those who come out and support us at all our events. We appreciate you all! The club has been active in the community again this year as you can see from the events below.

During Harvest Festival the group hosted a fun day for families at the River John Legion. There were lots of games, food, cupcakes and even costume contests. This was well attended and great fun had by all!

The club donated \$250 to the Meals on Wheels program to help purchase new dishes as part of our community service. We know they will be well used and the meals will be enjoyed by all.

Remembrance Day, the club laid their annual wreath in memory of all veterans. We are very thankful for all those who have and continue to serve.

During the annual craft sale at Nature's Nook & Kranny, we served hot chili to customers. Proceeds from this were put towards paying for the members annual dues.

During Winter Carnival, again we held a family fun day which was supported by wonderful locals. There was pinning the carrot on the snowman, snowman bowling and much more. Proceeds from this event are also going towards the members fees.

This year the leaders decided the members deserved something special for all their never ending hard work and contribution. Blankets were purchased with the 4-H logo and the member's names. These will be great for the summer during show season and even in the cooler weather.



4H members with their new blankets.

This past year we sadly lost a great 4-H supported, Mary Langille. She was a wonderful woman whom many of you had the luck of tasting her delicious biscuits. She will be missed by us all, as she always showed up our Achievement Days, Exhibition and any other event we hosted. She always had a smile on her face and a kind word to all the members. In her memory, the club chose to purchase aprons for the members to wear when serving at any of our events. We hope you are able to see them at the next meal we serve. Thank you to those who donated in her memory.



4H members in their new aprons.

Mark in your calendars that July 17th will be our Achievement Day. Livestock will be shown first thing in the morning, followed by non-livestock and life skill projects being judged at St. George's Hall. Awards will be presented after lunch. We hope to see you there.

Chloe's Jokes

KNOCK-KNOCK JOKES

Knock-Knock!
Who's there?
Cow says!
Cow says who?
No silly cow sayus.....MOOOOO

Knock-Knock
Who's there?
Atch.
Atch who?
Bless you

Knock- Knock
Who's there?
Lettuce.
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

Q: why did the cookie go to the doctor
A: He was feeling crumby

Q: Where do you go to learn to make banana splits
A: to sundae school



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Barn will be open to see young lambs in mid May
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*River John
Sunday Market
Sunday June 30—Sunday Sept 1
10 am - 2 pm*

Local produce, baking, preserves, maple syrup, woodwork, jewellery, artwork, bird feeders. Route 6 Food Truck, Wagon Rides, Barbeque, Local Live Music.
Support your community—See you at the market!

Market is held at Lismore Sheep Farm,
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902 351 2889 or 902 351 2594

The market always welcomes new vendors, please contact us.

Pioneer home

Soft Paws Doggy daycare and sleepovers

Our doggy day care was always a dream of mine ever since I was a little girl. I have always loved animals and my spouse shared the same dream. It all started over a year ago when we decided to make our dream a reality.

The Kennels we have will hold 10 large dogs and 10 small dogs. We board the dogs from 1/2 days to as long as you want us to care for them. We require all dogs to be vaccinated. We also like to see the vet records of immunizations as well as the Vet who looks after your dog. We require a profile document to be filled out which tells us about your dog. For example, dogs name, owners name, home phone, e-mail address etc.

The dogs social skills are very important, it tells us if they enjoy other dogs and people. Has he or she ever nipped or bitten anyone or other dogs. Also how does your dog react to puppies and children?

The dogs behavior is taken into consideration as well. We have to make sure the dog or dog's are safe to play with other dogs. We never mix big dogs with smaller dogs. They are kept separated. Each dog has their own crate if needed.

Our kennels are heated, clean and lots of room for them to run around in. Our enclosure gives the dogs free range when the weather is good for them to go out and play and have fun. We like to introduce them to us before we accept them in our kennels. This is very important so they feel comfortable and accept their new home while waiting for their owners to return.

You can contact us any time to visit our kennels by phoning 902-222-5675 and ask for Brenda or leave a message for us to return your call. We will be looking forward to hearing from you.



Carl's Favorite Supper Dish

by Cheryl Frizzell

While doing my article on the River John RJ's, I was loaned a cookbook that the RJ's had put together some years back and in it were bits of River John history. I found one recipe and just the title made me smile. We have all cooked something and personalized the recipe, I have Braden's Biscuits because that's what my grandson orders up when he visits.

Usually I interview someone for their recipe, not sure who submitted it I decided to use it anyways, if anyone knows Carl or the cook let us know. I imagine Carl must have ate a lot of this meal for it to be in their recipe book.



- 1 lb. lean hamburger
- 4 small chopped onions
- 1 cup uncooked macaroni
- 1 can cream of tomato soup
- 1 cup canned tomatoes
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 tsp. Pepper
- 1 tblsp. Butter
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water according to package directions. Over medium heat gently fry the hamburger until lightly browned. Push to one side of the pan and add the chopped onions. Sauté lightly until golden. Add the tomato soup, canned tomatoes, salt and pepper.

Stir to mix well

In a greased casserole dish make alternate layers of macaroni and meat mixture, starting with macaroni and ending with meat. Melt the butter and stir into the cracker crumbs and sprinkle over the top of the casserole.

Bake in 350° F oven for 30-45 minutes

The book this recipe is taken from is "Past and Present History & Recipes." It is available at the River John library, 971.613.

It includes an extract from the original Pioneer newspaper, dated 23 January 1879.

Eco Friendly Septic Solutions

Ever wonder what happens to a septic system over winter? Well if you are using the septic system on a daily basis, bacteria in the tank, while liquefying the solids and toilet paper, produce enough heat that nothing will freeze. However, if you just leave it for the winter, no heat is being produced and because the septic tank is only about 1 to 2 feet below ground level, the contents of the septic tank can freeze depending on how cold our winters are.

Did you know that even going south for 2 to 4 weeks in the winter, your septic system can freeze in that time? A frozen or dead system takes 1 to 3 months to reactivate.

It is recommended that you add a dose of bacteria upon returning. It is also recommended that a dose of bacteria be added to your system before closing up for the winter. This should eliminate all solids and make it much easier to restart the system in the spring.

We are Eco Friendly Septic Solutions. We offer easy to use, eco friendly solution to maintain your septic system, to improve its health, functionality, and extend its longevity.

Everyday it seems like we are encouraged to buy and use antibacterial products. These may have some positive impact on our health, they are definitely detrimental to our septic systems. Detergents, shampoos and soaps cause scum to build up in the system and can shut it down completely with a replacement cost of minimum \$35,000.

With a small, monthly addition of our product, your septic system will gain the desirable bacteria needed to improve its functionality and the enzymes eliminate the scum build up. Instead of pumping your tank every 3 to 5 years, you will not need to pump your holding tank for at least 15 years.

If you have questions or just want to talk "septics" call toll free 1-844-476-2600.

Patsy's Garden Corner

by Patsy Chapman
Nature's Nook and Kranny

Ok let's talk about hydrangeas, I mean what's not to love? There is so many to choose from, one tailored for every garden, sizes ranging from 3 to 6 ft. I am only going to talk about 2 species of hydrangeas, the PG type and Annabelle types. These hydrangea types are easy to maintain and work for even the blackest thumb gardener. Blooms start mid-summer and go into the fall. Look for these in garden centers this year.

Let's talk Annabelle types Hydrangea arborescens

Incrediball gets 4 to 5 ft high and wide, have strong stems with big white flowers, makes a great hedge and cut flower

Incrediball Blush has the same growth and characteristics as Incrediball but has the prettiest Chrome pink long lasting flowers.

Invincibelle Spirit II grows 42 – 45 inches high and wide, has pretty pink reblooming flowers. The great thing of this variety is that \$1 from each sale goes to Breast Cancer Research!!!

Invincibelle Ruby gets 3 to 4 ft high and wide, great for smaller gardens. Rich ruby red flowers.

Honorable Mentions: Lime Rickey, Invincibelle Wee White and Invincibelle Mini Mauve

Now let's talk about PG types, Hydrangea paniculata

Limelight gets 6 to 8 ft tall and wide, the flowers get so big!! They start off crispy white, turning to green and then to pink. Amazing cut flower.

Little lime has the same flowers and characteristics as limelight but only 3 to 5 ft high and wide, great for smaller gardens.

Quickfire gets 6 to 8 ft high and wide, has the earliest flower, white turning to true red

Little Quickfire has same flowers as Quickfire but only 3 to 5 ft high and wide.

Bobo is just the nicest little shrub, gets 2 to 3 ft high and wide, nice white turning to a soft pink.

Vanilla Strawberry gets to 6 to 7 ft high and wide, need space!! If you have room and plan to buy one this year make it this one. Flowers continuously, start white, turning pink then red, so all are present at one time.

Honorable Mentions Firelight, Zinfindoll, and Pinky Winky Hydrangeas.

I am planning to do at least three work-



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Sunrise is pleased to provide knowledgeable and professional real estate services to this beautiful community! Go Local and Call Cathy or Donna for assistance with your real estate needs.

Or visit our office at 45 Water Street, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Here are a couple of our spring listings in the area, give us a call!



1255 Hwy 6, Marshville



1037 Cape John Road



30 Wildflower, Marshville

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shops this spring at the Nature's Nook and Kranny Greenhouse, West Branch location:

A plant for Mom, May 11, 1-4 pm, at a cost of \$5. A child can plant a plant and take it home for a Mother's Day gift,

Ladies Night Planting Workshop, cost \$5. You bring a planter to design and plant, while enjoying food, wine and lots of laughs.

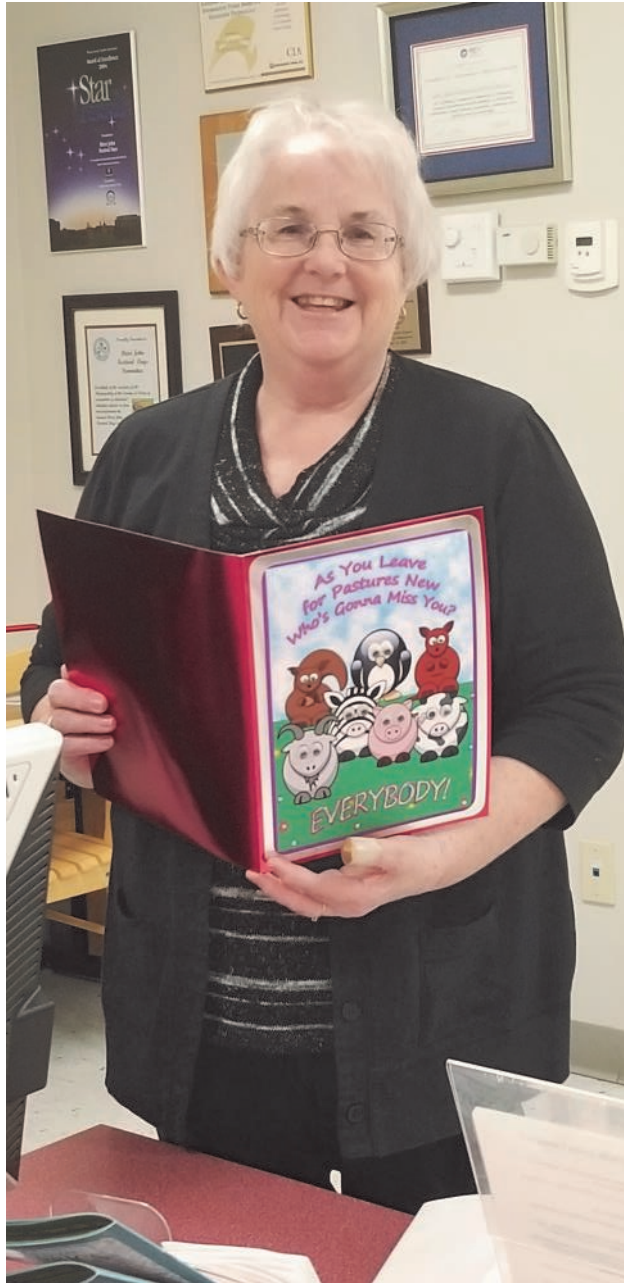
DIY Bee Box Workshop, details to follow.



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Pioneer photos

Recently we asked for pictures of children playing in the snow unfortunately we never had much of a response but here they are.



In January, Margaret MacLean retired from her job as River John library branch assistant, a position she had held for 31 years. In 2012 Margaret won the Emile Theriault Library and Information Technology Award in recognition of her unfailing patience, commitment to her work, helpfulness and friendly service.



Marie Sellars celebrated her 90th Birthday surrounded by family and friends at a surprise party hosted by her daughters Lynn MacLeod and Brenda Klussman on February 3rd, 2019.



River John and District Lions Club recently added a new member to their club, here you see Zone Chair Catherine Gibson, new member Baby Lion Kenny Langille and King Lion William Elliott.



A group of talented musicians met at the River John Legion on Friday nights throughout the winter for a music jam session.



Do you know this couple from days gone by?



Tatamagouche Cadets helped out at the Annual Smelt Fry in River John. Seen here are: Capt. April MacKenzie, Jasmine MacKenzie F/Cpl, Kyle Stewart AC, George Buchanan-Gibb F/Sgt, Rupert Buchanan-Gibb Sgt. and Allister Smith Volunteer Treasurer

Pictures from the 4H Friday



Teams compete during Trivia Night at the Legion during Winter Carnival



Morgan Hynes a former River John graduate visited the River John & District Lions Club to thank them for their support.

Friends and Neighbours were entertained by local talent to a Christmas concert held at the Melville Seafoam Community Hall December 2018.



Wreath making afternoon at Natures Nook and Kranny Greenhouse in West Branch.



West Branch Community Music Circle

Goodbye To The "One For The Road"

by Dal Robinson

The old time days I remember with pain,
 For we'll never enjoy those pleasures again
 When you could go to town and on a quart did splurge.
 Then you could have a drink when you felt the urge.
 In those care-free days we always got home.
 Without a white line over which to roam
 We were accident free and never caused a death,
 And was never asked for a smell of our breath.
 But they tell me now the law says NO
 Dry and thirsty to home you must go
 There will be some of us driving in a surly moon,
 For that one on the road it tasted so good.
 So now my boy's don't drive zig-zag,
 Or you'll be asked to blow your breath in a bag
 And if the alcohol tests over decimal o eight,
 A cancelled license will sure be your fate



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East River Rats

The East River Rats are a high energy Celtic rock band comprising Brian MacKenzie (Vocals, guitar, tin whistle, bodhran), Caleb MacIvor (Vocals, accordion), Cole Yorke (Mandolin), Marree MacKenzie (Fiddle), Mike Hiltz (Bass) and Eli Hollett (Drums). All members contribute to background vocals.



The band embraces both traditional and comedic elements of the Celtic rock genre in our song writing, as well as incorporating punk rock influences and story telling into the mix.

East River Rats was founded by front man Brian MacKenzie in the summer of 2016, bringing his Scottish roots and love of powerful Celtic music to the vanguard. After several attempts at building the band with various local musicians, the final line-up came together throughout 2017/2018. Hailing from the northern shore of Nova Scotia, Canada (also known as The Birthplace of New Scotland), these six passionate musicians come together to create a unique high energy blend of Celtic rock that has a little something for everyone to enjoy as well as a live presence and performance that will keep you dancing and singing all night long.

They play in various places around the Pictou County area and throughout Nova Scotia but are beginning to expand and bring our music to more and more audiences. They play everything from bar/pub shows, house parties, private events and festivals. Their stage presence is an important part of the show, and engage with the audience with dancing and sing-alongs during performances.

Their first single/music video "Let's Get Drunk" was released in January 2018 and can be viewed on YouTube by searching East River Rats. Their debut album, "When The Cat's Away", came out on April 26th, 2018. They are currently in the final writing stages of their sophomore album, set to be recorded and released throughout the spring and summer of 2019.

eastriverrats.bandcamp.com
www.facebook.com/eastriverrats
www.instagram.com/eastriverrats

Pictou Rural Hockey League 1966 - 67 River John Trail Blazers



**Front L-R: Art Mancini (Coach), Wayne Langille, Robert MacLeod, Ian Reid.
Second L-R: Ronnie Langille, Carl Henderson, Ronnie Munro, Lionel Duplessis,
Johnny Sellers, Fr. Jake Andrea, Ches Boutilier.
Back L-R: John Zink, Ab Winmill, Bernard MacKenna, Raymond Thompson.**

AT RIVER JOHN Trail Blazing Banquet

by Dorothy McKenna
Members of River John Trail Blazers, winners of the Rural Hockey League for 1967, were guests of honor at a banquet Saturday night in the IOOF Hall, River John, sponsored by the community. Sixty people were present.

The Harvey A. Veniot Trophy, emblem of the championship, was presented to team captain Lionel Duplessis by Hon. Harvey A. Veniot.

Ian Reid was presented with the Dr. Fraser Young Trophy for scoring the most points in regular season play. The presentation was made by League President Ernie Jordan.

Mr Jordan also presented

the E. P. Melanson Ltd. Trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in the playoffs, to Rev. Jake Andrea, who also won it last year.

Master of ceremonies, Edgar Dewar, proposed a toast to the Trail Blazers, which was replied to by team coach Art Mancini.

Raymond MacKenzie, coach of the 1966 Trail Blazers was congratulated on the team, which were nominated best all-around team, proving their promise this season.

The Junior Trail Blazers and their coach, Walter "Jiffy" Spenceley, were also guests at the banquet.

Among the guests were: Hon

and Mrs Harvey A. Veniot, Pictou, Mr and Mrs William Baillie, presidents of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Legion Auxillary, River John, Mr and Mrs Edgar Dewar, all of River John, Ernest Jordan and Robert Wong of Pictou and Mr and Mrs Raymond Thompson of River John.

Members of the Trail Blazers are: Art Mancini (coach), Lionel Duplessis (captain), Johnny Sellers, Fr. Andrea, Ches Boutilier, Ronnie Munro, Ab Winmill, Bernard McKenna, Robert MacLeod, Ronnie Langille, Wayne Langille, Ian Reid, Carl Henderson, John Zink, Bob Ollerton, Ownie Langille and Doug Craig.

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Pioneer events

Read by the Sea 2019 News

by Monica Graham

Ignore the snow and ice and sleet and that cold north wind, to bask for a few moments in anticipation of Read by the Sea summer literary festival in River John.

Dig out your floppy hat and sunscreen, plop in your lawn chair in front of the living room heater, close your eyes. Imagine yourself in the Legion garden, a cool drink in your hand and the voices of your favourite Canadian authors reading stories to you - the way they should be read, by the people who wrote them.

Hold that thought while you read about the details.

The July 3-6 festival is the 20th anniversary of the very first Read by the Sea, and you are invited to celebrate.

It begins with Atlantic Canada's only dedicated children's literary festival, WordPlay, on Wednesday, July 3, 1-3 pm, on the grounds of Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery in River John.

An indoor venue will be available in case of inclement weather.

WordPlay features critically-acclaimed children's authors Jessica Kerrin (jessicascottkerrin.com) and Arthur Slade (arthurslade.com), with musical artist Anna Plaskett (annaplaskett.bandcamp.com) performing from her children's album *To the Moon and Back*, and Mabel Murple (mabelmurplesworld.ca) co-owner Sheree Fitch as MC. Their books will be for sale at Mabel Murple's, and authors will be available to meet their fans and sign books. The event includes activities and participatory music for the audience. Food concessions will be on site.

On Thursday and Friday, July 4-5, the festival presents Wordstock, literary fun and games that include a Heritage Society story walk, a family storytelling campfire on the patio at Caldera Distilleries, exhibits throughout the village depicting the festival's past 19 years, and a literary scavenger hunt with an alluring prize. Details will be shared as they unfold.

On Saturday morning, July 6, Read by the Sea and the Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association again present Pitch the Publisher, 8:30-10:30 am in the River John Legion. This spectator sport (think of Dragons' Den with a literary twist) sees writers pitch their manuscripts to a panel of publishers before an audience. Start preparing your manuscripts and pitches NOW!

Watch the festival website and Facebook

page for deadlines and how-to information.

Read by the Sea Main Stage begins at 11 a.m. July 6 in the River John Legion garden. Bring your lawn chair, your hat and sunscreen and even a picnic – although there will be awesome concession stands on site. (In case of inclement weather, we move indoors to the River John Fire Hall.)

The 2019 featured authors include Allan Cooper, Kevin Major, Elizabeth Hay and Colin Cambell.

Allan Cooper is an acclaimed New Brunswick poet and author of 16 poetry collections, including *The Alma Elegies*; *Everything we've Loved Comes Back to Find Us*; and *The Deer Yard*, co-authored with Read by the Sea alumnus Harry Thurston.

Kevin Major, from Newfoundland and Labrador, is a prolific and award-winning writer for young people and adults. His works include plays, mystery and history, coming-of-age novels and wartime dramas. Kevin-major.wordpress.com

Elizabeth Hay's novel *Late Nights On Air*, won the 2007 Giller Prize, and her most recent work, a memoir, won the Ontario author the 2018 Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize for non-fiction – just two samples of a list of engaging works. Elizabethhay.com

Colin Campbell, a River John summer child currently living in Ontario, will read from his first book *Free Days with George*, a warm account of the rescue dog who rescued him from despair. Freedayswithgeorge.com

In recognition of the festival's 20th anniversary, a fifth author will be added - but has yet to be confirmed. Stay tuned for that special announcement and for other details about the festival.

The festival follows the time-honoured format: each author reads and is then interviewed on stage. After all the authors read, in late afternoon, they return to the stage for a moderated panel discussion and audience question and answer session.

There is NO admission fee to any of the Read by the Sea events, in order to ensure access for all, regardless of economic circumstance. To help cover costs, the festival holds raffles during the Saturday event and also accepts donations.

The festival enjoys the in-kind and financial support of a number of sponsors: Pictou Antigonish Regional Library, Caldera Distilleries Inc; Advocate Printing; Mabel Murple's Book Shoppe & Dreamery; Canada Council for the Arts - to name a few.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer their assistance during the festival or as a member of the organizing committee, please use the contact information below.

SEA you this summer!

For more information, visit www.readbythesea.ca, find us on Facebook, or contact Monica Graham, Read by the Sea Literary Festival committee at scribblinggranny@gmail.com



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200th Anniversary of the IOOF

by Dan Ferguson

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the IOOF in North America.

The founder of the IOOF, Thomas Wildey (1782-1861) was born in London, immigrated to the United States in 1817, settling in Baltimore, Maryland. Having an outgoing personality, he missed the companionship of the Odd Fellows of England and put an advertisement in the local paper to see if there were others like him in the area. On April 26th, 1819, Thomas Wildey and four men who responded to the advert met at the Seven Star Inn in Baltimore and formed the IOOF dedicating the order to achieve philanthropic goals. One of the pledges of the IOOF to "Educate the Orphan" stems from Thomas Wildey's personal childhood experience of being left an orphan at the age of five. The first chartered lodge was Washington # 1. In 1865, four years after his death, a monument was erected in Baltimore in his honor. Today there are more than 600,000

members worldwide with 10,000 lodges in 26 countries. The Helping Hand Lodge #34 of River John has been serving our community since 1878, celebrating their 140th anniversary in 2018.



World Day of Prayer - St. David's Presbyterian

by Cheryl Frizzell

On March 1st, World Day of Prayer services were held all over the world, bringing together women of various races, cultures and conditions to closer friendship, understanding and action through out the year.

38 women from the three churches in River John (Salem - United; St. George's - Presbyterian; St. John's - Anglican); and St. David's, met at St. David's Presbyterian, Toney River, at 2 p.m. on Friday. Also one woman from Kenzieville Presbyterian attended.

The program was written by the women of Slovenia, one of the smaller European countries, with the theme - "Come - Everything is Ready".

All churches took part in the program. Slovenian music was played before the service. We thank St. David's Organist, Myrna Phillips, for choosing a verse from several hymns to go along with the message, each time. During the service, Mona MacDonald used a DVD to project the life in Slovenia, on the overhead, up front. Rhoda Byrne and Mona MacDonald sang "Stroll Over Heaven". The service ended with the singing of "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended". Following the service, a group photo was taken and while leaving the church, each woman was given muffins prepared by the women from the four churches. \$412.75 was received and sent to Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada in Toronto. ON.



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Pioneer history

Duncan Johnson, ship designer of note

by Beulah Jane Wright

Lachlan Johnston was a crofter on the Isle of Coll in Scotland, married to Sarah MacKinnon, with three young children. In the summer of 1819, because of some controversy with another clan, he decided to emigrate to Nova Scotia and set sail on "The Economy". Before they landed in Pictou however, the family had increased by one more infant. On August 8, 1819, Duncan Johnson was born at sea, perhaps a fact that led to the sea becoming an important part of his life. The family settled first in Toney River, and increased again with another eight children, then they moved to Hodson, and except for three or four of the children, most of them settled in the River John area.

Duncan married Abigail Sutherland in 1848. This was just at the beginning of the ship building boom in River John and James Kitchen hired Duncan as foreman of the yard, and eventually he became the ship designer. He was self taught - a natural draughtsman - learned on the job and was obviously determined and dedicated to his occupation. In fact in one account he is said to have had the nickname "Four Men Johnson" as he could do the work of four!

In those days, when a ship was going to be built there would be a wooden model constructed, a half of the ship about three feet in length, in many layers, and the ship would be built to the model specifications. These models were mounted and kept and a few of them still survive. Duncan Johnson was one of the few of

that time, who could transfer those specifications to paper.

In 1864, the first vessel named the "Warrior" was built to Duncan Johnson's design, and the model was entered in a international exposition and was awarded first prize, a telling testament to his capability of ship design! He was invited to go to Paris to receive his award. His wife was concerned about his safety among the pick pockets of a foreign city, and being a resourceful woman, before he left she sewed fish hooks into the pockets of his great coat! Quite a surprise for the pick pocket inclined to steal from Duncan! It is not recorded how many thieves he caught.

When each ship was launched, the local Pictou County newspapers would take note, and there are several news items, including Duncan Johnson's name as designer.

Duncan and Abigail had nine children of their own. At least three of the sons became ship captains, one a Methodist preacher who preached in River John. Some moved away but some married and lived in River John leaving lots of descendants. Duncan and Abigail are both buried in Bellevue Cemetery, Duncan dying in Pictou in May of 1910, at the home of his daughter.

The crofter's cottage from which Duncan's Father came, made of stone, is still standing. A few years ago, a young couple bought the cottage, renovated and restored it and now it has become a modern "bed and breakfast" so if any of Lachlan's descendants want to visit Coll,

they might be able to stay in their ancestor's cottage.

This summer marks the two hundredth anniversary of the Johnson family's arrival in Pictou County. There is a reunion being planned in Pictou for July 6 and 7, 2019, and details may be found in Facebook - The Descendants of Duncan Johnston/Johnson. It should be a very big party!

200 Year Meet and Greet (Anniversary) - July 2019

If you are an interested descendant of the Duncan Johnston/Johnson family who sailed on the ship "Economy" from the Isle of Coll, Scotland to Pictou in 1819 and first settled in the Cape John District of that time (Toney River to River John) and also to Montague PEI, drop in if you wish at the Toney River Hall one or both days:

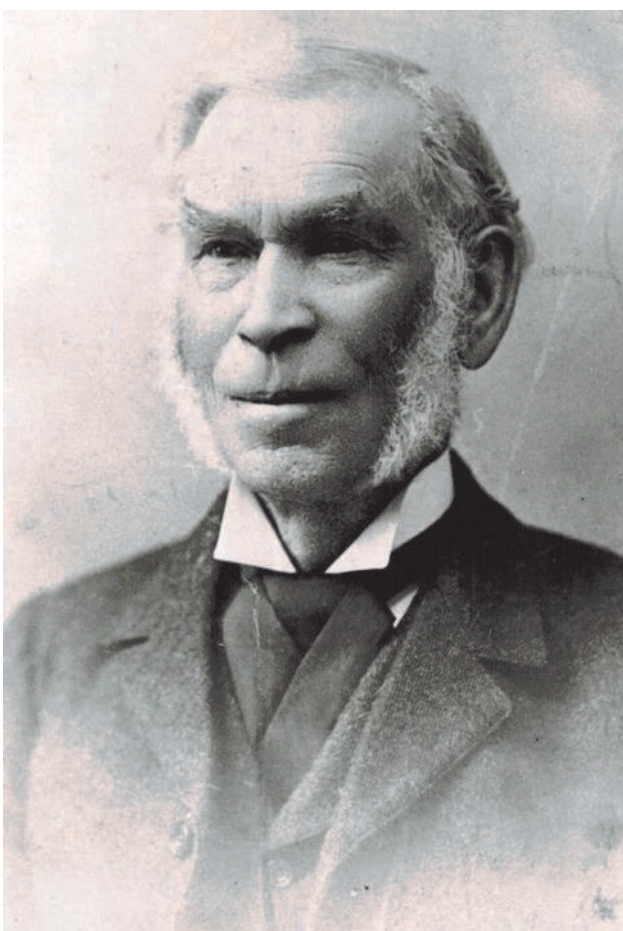
Sat. July 6th, 10am-8pm, Meet and Greet (Finger Foods)

Sun. July 7th, 12 noon-4pm Presentations, Family History sharing and socializing

If you know which of the 12 children of Lachlan and Sarah you are of, there could be interesting conversation.

May wear any Tartan that you have.

No parking on the busy Sunrise Trail. Please park on gravelled areas, behind hall or up the Toney River Road beside the hall.



Duncan Johnston



Abigail Sutherland Johnson



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Shoes in the Walls

by **Beulah Jane Wright**

The house where my Father and his siblings, myself and some of my siblings, were born, in Elmsdale, Hants County, had stood empty for several years, after we left there, and was finally torn down. In the process, a baby's shoe was found in the walls, and a cousin of mine suggested it may have been my Father's shoe. I didn't give it much thought at the time, thinking the shoe must have been lost in the wall somehow. The house would have been built before 1888, long before my Father was born, as it had been constructed before my grandparents were married and when they bought the property.

After I became actively involved with the River John and Area Historical Society, it came to my attention, that every so often, baby's shoes would turn up in the walls of a house, either being torn down or being renovated, such as the Gray house in Seafoam. Why? I decided I had better do some research on the topic and I found that it was a custom to hide a shoe in the walls of a new house when it was being built - for luck - to ward off evil spirits. The custom apparently was dropped before the 1900s, but turned out it was an ancient practice, originating in Great Britain and Europe, which had spread to the New World - to the New England States, and obviously, to the Maritimes. The oldest example yet, was a shoe found in the choir stalls of Winchester Cathedral in England, which were installed in 1308!

A shoe, or a pair of shoes, mostly a baby's shoe but other times a woman's or a man's, not a new shoe, but a well worn one, leather, hand stitched - what was the significance? It may have been a much less bizarre item than that from prehistoric times, when other things were built into the walls, a human body, or a cat or a horse's head, again to ward off the evil spirits. A great relief actually that it became a harmless practice of using a shoe! And the fact that it was a used shoe - maybe a thrifty, economic reason, far less costly to use an old worn out one. Billy MacKay told me the little boot he had found, a child's shoe, was fitted with a steel toe. He thought maybe especially made for a child with a deformity of the foot, and again a well worn one.

And another question - was it the carpenter who hid the shoe or the owner? Of course, the new owner may have been the builder. The area found was usually near an entrance, by a window or a door, or near a chimney. The child's shoe found by Keith and Marilyn Heighton when they were renovating was accompanied by two handstitched leather baseballs. But the original owner of that house, was indeed a shoemaker, so was probably including some of his own handiwork!

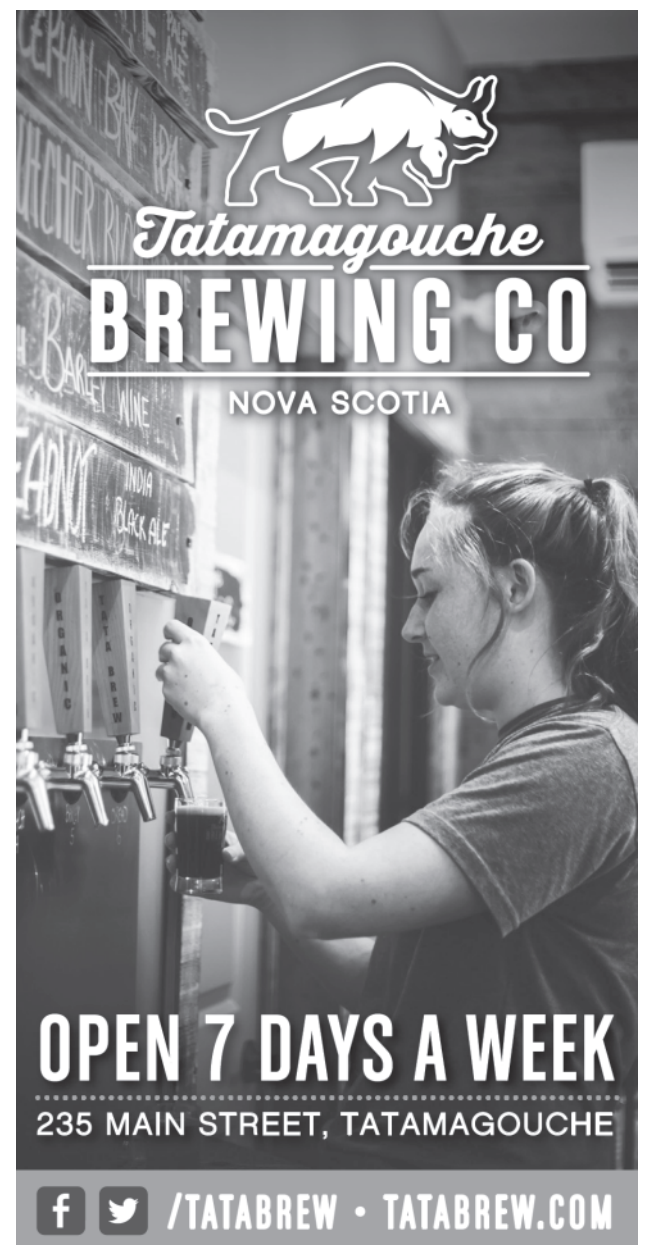
So, the baby shoe found in my Father's

house, is explained.

There are a couple of examples of these shoes on display at the museum, and it is important and interesting to relate, that they are not just shoes of a previous era, but an item that was part of the building of a new home, a superstition, yes, but who knows whether they fulfilled their purpose of protection. Certainly these houses endured through the years.

That brings to mind another superstitious custom, of a earlier time, the fact that when a new ship was built, a coin was hidden beneath the main mast. Matthias Gratto, a ship's carpenter of River John, who it is said, also built many of the houses of the area, himself created the handsome tool chest, that is on display at the Museum, a work of art, an example of excellent and loving craftsmanship, the same craftsmanship in the ships and the homes he constructed.

I wonder, of the many stately vessels that began their exploration of foreign waters, how many had a silver coin hidden beneath their masts, as they sailed from River John harbour?



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River John Legion Smelt Fry

by Cheryl Frizzell

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Message from the Editors

Editors of the Pioneer Newspaper would like to thank everyone who contributed to the past issues and the spring issue of the newspaper. We have met so many people with interesting stories to tell, but unfortunately we can not write them all. If anyone would like to join our paper and help please let us know. We are always looking for more writers, articles and pictures.



Pioneer editors, Cheryl Frizzell and Anne Patriquin

River John Festival Days Annual Car Show

The annual Car Show will be held on Saturday, July 27th at the former River John Consolidated School. Please contact David Langille, 902-351-2297 or Terry Reid, 902-351-2079, for more information.



An example of Brian Morris' stained glass work created for the front entrance of a private residence in Owen Sound, Ontario. Brian operates West Wind Studios in River John where he does commissions for customers worldwide.