

# GIVER



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Spring Issue 2025

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Centennial Bridge at sunset, photo by Meghan Dickie



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# 2025/26 Mighty Miramichi River Guide

Our annual tourism publication will be out in May 2025

**MIGHTY Miramichi RIVER GUIDE** 2024/25

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View of the Miramichi River looking towards the Bay by Doug Kidd

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discover all that is available "on the river".  
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Festivals and Events		
June 23-25 Rogersville Country Festival <a href="http://www.rogersvillecountryfestival.com">www.rogersvillecountryfestival.com</a>	July 26-27 Downriver Music Festival <a href="http://www.mcgust.com">www.mcgust.com</a>	August 8-11 Napan Agricultural Show <a href="http://www.napan.ca/show">www.napan.ca/show</a>
July 1 Fishermen Powwow <a href="http://www.fishermenpowwow.com">www.fishermenpowwow.com</a>	July 27-August 3 Brussel Sprout Festival <a href="http://www.rogersville.com">www.rogersville.com</a>	Aug 10-11 Miramichi Fanta Extravaganza <a href="http://fantaextravaganza.com/miramichi">fantaextravaganza.com/miramichi</a>
July 4 118 Lumberjack Championship <a href="http://www.118lumberjackchampionship.com">www.118lumberjackchampionship.com</a>	July 28-28 Rock 'n' Roll Festival <a href="http://www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com">www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com</a>	August 15 National Acadian Day
July 11-14 Sunny Corner Days	July 28-28 Metepenagie Powwow <a href="http://www.metepark.ca">www.metepark.ca</a>	Aug 16-18 Miramichi Scottish Festival <a href="http://www.miramichiscottishfestival.com">www.miramichiscottishfestival.com</a>
July 13 New Maritime Music Festival <a href="http://www.newmaritimemusicfest.com">www.newmaritimemusicfest.com</a>	July 27-Aug 4 Bay du Vin Summer Survival	August 22-24 Eggenopert (Dunn Church) Powwow
July 18-21 Canada's Irish Festival <a href="http://www.canadairishfest.com">www.canadairishfest.com</a>	August 2-5 Doaktown Salmon & Fiddleshed Festival <a href="http://www.doaktown.ca">www.doaktown.ca</a>	August 23-25 Blugrass Music Festival <a href="http://www.rogersvilleblugrass.com">www.rogersvilleblugrass.com</a>
July 20-21 Natasong Powwow <a href="http://www.natasongpowwow.com">www.natasongpowwow.com</a>	August 1-5 Miramichi Fiddling Festival <a href="http://www.miramichifiddlingfestival.com">www.miramichifiddlingfestival.com</a>	October 6 Great Pumpkin Festival <a href="http://www.mcgust.com">www.mcgust.com</a>



## Photo Submissions

Photos from locals, exploring our region.  
If you'd like to submit your photos to our annual Mighty Miramichi River Guide or to  
Go or Miramichi magazine, send to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net).



The Hobbes in Chatham, photo by Ed Rany



White Goat in Barriere, photo by Christine Saunders



## Miramichi Through Our Artists Eyes

Paintings by  
Local Artists

- Tipi Retr...
- Dive into...
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- Discover...
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# Join Your Local Legion and Make a Difference!

(Chatham) Branch No. 3 of The Royal Canadian Legion is gearing up for a busy season and is seeking new members to help support its wide array of activities and uphold the Legion's important mission.

## What is the mission of The Royal Canadian Legion?

Our mission is to serve veterans, which include serving military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.

One vital service offered by The Royal Canadian Legion is helping veterans access Veterans Affairs Canada.

## Community Engagement and Events

Beyond its work with veterans, (Chatham) Branch No. 3 Legion is deeply involved in the local community. It offers bursaries to local university and college students to assist with education costs.

The branch also hosts various social and charitable activities, including:

- **Veterans' Dinners and Remembrance Services**
- **Bingo** on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Wednesday and Saturday **Darts**
- Organizing **Friday Dances** and other events
- Hosting community dinners and fundraisers like the weekly **Gold Rush Draw**, the ever-popular annual **Smelt Fry** and the **Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners**.

The Legion also supports birthday parties, catered events, and more, providing a welcoming and active social environment for all.

## Get Involved!

If you're looking for a way to give back to veterans and your community, consider joining The Royal Canadian Legion. New members and volunteers are always welcome, and there's a role for everyone,



Remembrance Day Ceremony, Elm Park, Chatham.

whether you'd like to assist with veteran services, help organize events, or support the Legion's charitable mission.

**You do not need to have spent time in the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP to join!**

For more information or to sign up, contact (Chatham) Branch No. 3 via Facebook, the Legion's website [www.chathamNBlegion3.com](http://www.chathamNBlegion3.com), or stop by in person at 18 McCurdy Street. Make a difference today!

**Cover Photo:** Centennial Bridge at sunset, photo by Meghan Dickie.

*The word Giv'er is about enjoying your day, giving it your all, putting some muscle behind it, and giving it some gas, as they say. At Giv'er Miramichi, we focus on uplifting and informational content that highlights positive actions, creativity, and showcases our community spirit. We're looking for events, stories, celebrations, articles, and photos of what's up, what's new, and what's happening on the river.*

**Editor/Layout Design:** Stacy Underhill **Ad Design:** Cindy MacLean

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# Events

Find more local events at  
[www.mightymiramichi.com](http://www.mightymiramichi.com)



**March 15: Corned Beef & Cabbage**  
 You will find the luck of the Irish this year at Legion 3. Come on out for a feed of Corned Beef and Cabbage 11:30 till 6:00pm (or until we run out). Cost is \$18 eat in or takeout, 18 McCurdy Street, Chatham.

**March 17: St. Patrick's Supper**  
 Mass at 4pm followed by Ham & Potato Scallop Supper at 5pm at St. Patrick's Church. Includes dessert and tea or coffee. Adults: \$15, Children \$7. TICKETS must be purchased in advance at the weekend masses or by calling the Parish Office at 506-622-5733 by Friday, March 14.

**March 22: 4th Annual Beaubears Island Sugar Bush - Bicentennial**  
 Park in Nelson from 1pm to 4pm. Celebrate the sweet traditions of maple

season while supporting local heritage and Canadian culture! Enjoy maple syrup pouring, historical presentations, maple fudge, baked beans, exciting door prizes, and much more! Kids can take part in fun games with prizes, making it a great event for the whole family, and a free early-access newcomer hour is being held again from 12pm to 1pm.

## April 4-6: Dessert Theatre

The St. J & J Drama Troupe have begun rehearsals in preparation for their upcoming dessert theatre, "The Mapleton Die-Nasty". This humorous and light-hearted comedy tells the tale of four sisters who have gathered to hear the reading of the will of their deceased, wealthy parents. What happened during their sky diving expedition remains to be seen and the shenanigans that take place will leave you in stitches.

On stage at the United Church Centre, 556 King George Hwy., is Gwen Baisley, Franky Corcoran, Nancy Donald, Greg Donovan, Katrina Donovan, Diane Forrest, Annaka Fournier, Ted Lynch, Candace Marbach, Elisabeth Shaddick, Norah Shaddick, Kimberley Shaddick, Rev. Alice Szemok, Susan Watling, and Art Young. Tickets are \$20, available at

the United Church Center and Park Place. Show time is 7pm for all performances, with doors opening at 6:30pm. For reservations and/or more information please phone 506-622-1598.

## April 12: Annual Seed Sharing & Potluck

Share knowledge, seeds, food, and meet other growers. There will be demonstrations, talks, vendors and door prizes. Black River Bridge. See page 21.


**April 26: Carroll Baker Concert in Miramichi** Baker will be in Miramichi at James M Hill Theatre as part of her final tour. See page 7 for details.

## May 10: Mental Health Gala

Dinner, guest speaker and music at the Miramichi Golf Course in support of Mental Health Matters. See page 21.

## May 25: Celebration at Historic Beaverbrook House

In celebration of Max Aitken's birthday, Historic Beaverbrook House will hold an open house. There will be cake, and free tours of the house on offer. Starting at 10am through to 4pm.




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 programs, events and more!



## Festival of Nature June 6-8

Nature Miramichi is excited to announce that Nature NB's annual **Festival of Nature** will be in Miramichi this year, June 6-8. This two and a half day event includes 30+ excursions to nature spots in the Miramichi region, with naturalists from all over the province participating.

Join us where the Miramichi River meets the sea for a weekend of field trips, workshops, and celebrating nature in New Brunswick! Stay tuned to the website for updates:  
[www.naturenb.ca/festival-of-nature](http://www.naturenb.ca/festival-of-nature)



# Celebrating the Summer Solstice and International Day of Yoga

by Erin Savage, Yoga Siromani & Kundalini Teacher

**Summer Solstice falls on the 21st of June** and is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. On this same day The International Day of Yoga (IDY) is celebrated worldwide. Since 2014 IDY has been celebrated in more than 170 countries including Canada, Australia, Germany, USA, and China.

**International Day of Yoga** is celebrated with various activities such as yoga camps, competitions, workshops, festivals, and many more events to provide awareness to the public about the importance of yoga.

Most notably we see groups doing Surya Namaskara (Sun Salutations) to commemorate this day. Here is a wonderful story from **Hindu mythology** that tells us about Hanuman, the monkey God and how he brought light to Surya Namaskara.

Hanuman, the great monkey hero of the Ramayana, was fascinated with Surya (the sun God) ever since he was a baby. He saw the sun in the sky and mistook it for a delicious mango. Pushing off from the earth he soared to seize the sun! He began to chew the sun and even though the sun scalded Hanuman's mouth, that stubborn monkey held on.

When the light went out and the Gods realised something was wrong, Lord Indra (God of rain, regent of the heavens) jumped into action and hurled his diamond thunderbolt (vajra) straight at Hanuman's jaw. Hanuman opened his mouth and dropped the sun, and the universe's light returned. But the vajra hurt him and it broke his jaw (hanu), giving him the nickname, "the one with the broken jaw."

The gods took away Hanuman's powers, but, because they were sorry about his jaw they gave him special powers of strength, speed, shape-shifting, a gift for celibacy, an incredible memory, and the qualities of a true lover of God, but he would have to wait for them in the future when he would meet and serve Lord Ram.

Before he was to meet Ram, Hanuman needed a teacher. "Why not ask Surya?" his mother, Anjana, suggested. "He drives his chariot all over the world everyday and sees everything, everywhere. He knows all the sacred scriptures and he flies even higher and farther than you can."

Hanuman asked Surya to be his teacher, but Surya refused. He had forgiven Hanuman for trying to eat him, but said, "I have a strict schedule, and no spare time at all. I must keep moving. I can't stop to teach you, and besides, how can you learn effectively when I am moving?"

"What if I can keep up with you?" asked Hanuman. "Will you take me as your student then?"

"I am sure you won't be able to," replied Surya, "but all

right."

Hanuman flew up and positioned himself with his face to Surya's, and Surya—who appreciated persistence in a student—began to speed across the sky, expounding scripture as he went. Because he was always respectful of his teacher and not turning his back to him, this meant that Hanuman was always traveling backward, facing his teacher.

Some say that Hanuman's backward-moving trajectory was the origin of surya namaskar (sun salutations). As you perform the movements of surya namaskar, you will end the series of poses at the back of your mat. So you are travelling backwards as did Hanuman.

Hanuman was such a dedicated student that he mastered all the Vedas in swift time. And being very pleased with Hanuman, Surya needed no payment. "Watching a devoted student learn was its own reward," he said.

"I can only offer you my gratitude and namaskars (respectful greetings)," replied Hanuman. And so the surya namaskar series was born as Hanuman's guru dakshina (payment made to the teacher in thanks) to Surya.

Lookout for more information coming about this year's first ever **Chi' Solstice Fest** to be held at Strawberry Marsh on June 21. We have planned a full day of free yoga classes and activities in support of Life Promotion Miramichi. Let your curiosity guide you to discover the perfect practice to suit you. From a relaxed contemplative Yin to challenging powerful Hatha or spiritual and dynamic Kundalini!

We will have food trucks on site, vendors and workshops happening all day long beginning at 11am. Drum Unity will also be drumming down the sun at dusk, bring or borrow a drum and join in! We have something planned for all ages and abilities. Brought to you by local yoga teachers Debra Halley of Root Cellar Yoga and Erin Savage of Avadata Yoga. Visit our Facebook page for details.





# Bringing the Miramichi Fire to Life

## A Story Told in Verse

By John Vickers

In 1825, Miramichi faced one of the most catastrophic wildfires in North American history. In a single night, entire communities were erased, and survival became a desperate battle against an unstoppable force. My latest book, *The Great Miramichi Fire: A Story Told in Poems*, brings this pivotal moment back to life—not merely as a collection of facts, but as a vivid, unfolding narrative told entirely in verse.

This is my second book exploring early 19th-century Miramichi, following *Miramichi River Wars: Chatham versus the Northside*, which chronicled the rivalry between timber barons Joseph Cunard and Alexander Rankin. While that book focused on industry and competition, *The Great Miramichi Fire* shifts to survival, destruction, and perseverance—told through the voices of those who lived through it.

The book unfolds in four sections, or bridges of poems, carrying readers through time: life before the fire, the night of destruction, the struggle to rebuild, and how the fire still echoes in Miramichi two centuries later.

Through the eyes of shipbuilders, log drivers, mothers, prisoners, and even the fire itself in “I Am Fire”, the book captures the raw emotion of that fateful night. In “The Drummer’s Call”, William Wright beats his drum to warn



Newcastle of the approaching flames. “The Sexton’s Sacrifice” tells of John Jackson’s desperate attempt to save St. Paul’s Church in Bushville while his own home burns. “Beneath the Cliffs” follows survivors trapped between fire and water, while “The Strawberry Marsh” recounts how hundreds of Newcastle residents fled into the riverside wetlands to escape the inferno.

The fire did not just destroy buildings—it reshaped lives, the economy, and even the landscape itself. Archival research and environmental studies reveal how tree rings held evidence of the blaze, and how modern fire science traces its path through the forests. But history is not just found in books or science—it is carried in memory, in the land, and in the stories, we choose to tell.

Today, Miramichi stands rebuilt, but the fire’s shadow lingers. In the final section, modern voices reflect on how history leaves its mark—how the past does not disappear but layers itself into the present.

This book is for anyone who loves Miramichi and its history. It is a gripping story of loss, survival, and a land forever shaped by fire.

*The Great Miramichi Fire: A Story Told in Poems* is available at local bookstores and online at [www.riverbooks.ca](http://www.riverbooks.ca).



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# Carroll Baker's Final Concert in Miramichi, April 26

## Hosted by the 68th Miramichi Folksong Festival Inc.

In an announcement sure to stir emotions from coast to coast, Carroll Baker, Canada's beloved country music icon, has officially unveiled plans for her final tour in the spring of 2025. After an extraordinary 55-year career, Baker will grace stages across the country to bring her cherished songs and performances to life, one more time.

Known affectionately as "Canada's First Lady of Country Music," Baker has been a powerhouse in the industry, captivating millions with her soulful voice and commanding stage presence. Her remarkable career includes more than twenty #1 hits, 14 albums, four compilation albums, and an astounding 55 singles, solidifying her place as one of the most celebrated figures in Canadian music.

Between 1970 and 1982 Baker released 31 consecutive charted singles and hosted her CBC television show, *The Carroll Baker Jamboree*. Her platinum album *Hymns of Gold* and five Juno Awards cemented her status as a country music legend. Baker's accolades include induction into the Canadian Country



Music Hall of Fame in 1982 and her appointment to the Order of Canada in 2009.

Fans will have the chance to experience the magic of her greatest hits and timeless classics one last time in what promises to be an unforgettable series of performances. This tour is a rare opportunity to celebrate Carroll Baker's legacy and reminisce with one of Canada's greatest music legends as she performs for fans one final time.

The tour begins in early April on the west coast and ends up in the Maritimes. Carroll will grace the stage at James M. Hill Theatre

at 2pm on Saturday, April 26th in Miramichi. The show is hosted by the 68th Miramichi Folksong Festival. This will be the fifth time that Carroll has performed for the Miramichi Folksong Festival. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door; on sale at Town Hill Jewellery in Newcastle, Monday to Friday, 10:30am to 5:00pm; daily in Chatham at Kingston's Petro Can, 7:00am to 9:00pm. For information call 506-622-1780 or email [susanbutler@xplornet.com](mailto:susanbutler@xplornet.com). For more info, visit [www.carrollbakersinger.ca](http://www.carrollbakersinger.ca).

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# Learn, Share, and Grow with the Miramichi Garden Club

by Carol Campbell, President

For the past twenty-three years, the Miramichi Garden Club has been a welcoming community for gardening enthusiasts from around the river. Many members are seasoned gardeners eager to share their wealth of knowledge, while others are newcomers exploring the joys of planting and harvesting their own food.

The club's February meeting featured an **engaging discussion with member John Colborne**, who has been gardening since the age of four. John shared his expertise on building and maintaining a thriving garden, covering everything from soil preparation to the benefits of using a greenhouse.



John Colborne shared his knowledge gained as a lifetime gardener at last month's meeting.



Gwen Geikie's early summer garden, bursting with colourful iris, peony, sedum, Japanese willows, roses, and shades of green- all now hibernating under the snow.

Among his **key recommendations**, John emphasized the importance of pulling weeds before tilling the soil and collecting worms for composting. He advised tilling the soil to a fine powder, noting that "carrots will just travel around any lumps, which is how you get misshapen vegetables." Checking soil pH is also essential, and testing kits are readily available at most garden centers. Depending on the crop, adjusting pH levels with lime powder may be necessary.

To ensure the best growing season, John encouraged members to order seeds early and always use fresh seeds. He suggested using the first full moon in June as a planting guide, while some members time their bean planting to coincide with the blooming of lilacs. For those starting out, John recommended cool-season vegetables such as carrots, radishes, lettuce, and peas.

Beyond gardening discussions, the club hosts a variety of activities and community projects throughout the year. One standout initiative was last year's Teacup Arrangements.

Thanks to generous donations of hundreds of china cups and saucers, club members created over 400 floral arrangements, which were delivered to residents in long-term care facilities and hospices throughout Miramichi.

**Upcoming meetings** will feature an Ikebana demonstration by Kozuè Uchiyama, showcasing the centuries-old Japanese art of floral design, and a session with longtime member Gwen Geikie, who will share her passion for succession gardening—a technique beneficial for both vegetable and flower gardens, with a special focus on continuous blooms. The Miramichi Garden Club fosters a spirit of learning, sharing, and community while cultivating friendships and a love for gardening.

**New members are always welcome!** The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Saint Samuel's Parish Hall in Douglastown. For updates and more information, please visit the Miramichi Garden Club on Facebook.

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# MIRAMICHI GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE

## Silent Heroes of New Brunswick

By Paulette Arsenault



Miramichi is a region known for its dense forests, winding rivers, and rugged terrain. While these natural features make it a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, they also pose significant challenges when someone goes missing. This is where the dedicated volunteers of Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue (MGSAR) step in. This team of approximately 60 volunteers is on call 24/7, ready to respond to emergencies involving lost or missing persons across a vast and diverse terrain.

### A Vast and Challenging Jurisdiction

MGSAR operates in one of the largest search areas in New Brunswick, covering regions from Boiestown to Neguac and Mount Carleton Provincial Park to Escuminac. This area is not only extensive but also varied in its landscape, including dense forests, rugged hills, and numerous bodies of water. The diversity of the terrain presents unique challenges, requiring the team to be well-versed in various search and rescue techniques.

### Training and Preparedness

The volunteers of MGSAR undergo rigorous and continuous training to ensure they are prepared for any situation. Their training includes maps and compass, GPS, computerised mapping, survival skills, tracking, first aid, and CPR. This comprehensive training regimen ensures that the team can handle the physical and mental demands of search and rescue operations. Additionally, they are trained in human behavior, which helps them understand and predict the actions of lost individuals, increasing the chances of a successful rescue.

### Community Involvement and Education

MGSAR is not just about responding to emergencies; they are also deeply involved in community education and safety awareness. They regularly conduct outdoor safety workshops for kids and

provide valuable tips to the public on how to stay safe while enjoying the natural beauty of New Brunswick. These initiatives are crucial in preventing emergencies and ensuring that residents and visitors are well-prepared for outdoor activities.

### A Network of Support

Search and rescue in Canada is a collaborative effort. MGSAR is one of 9 teams in New Brunswick, and they often work in conjunction with other organizations to provide comprehensive search and rescue services. This network of support ensures that resources and expertise are available when needed, enhancing the effectiveness of rescue operations.

### The Unpaid Professionals

Despite the demanding nature of their work, the volunteers of MGSAR are unpaid. They dedicate time and energy purely out of a sense of duty and compassion. The motto, "So others may live," reflects a commitment to save lives and serve the community. These silent heroes exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and the importance of community service.

Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue is a vital part of the community, providing essential services and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors alike. Their dedication, training, and community involvement make them an indispensable asset to New Brunswick.

**REMINDER:** If you have a loved one who requires constant supervision and has the potential to wander contact MGSAR. **Project LifeSaver** might be of interest to you. Contact: [infoprojectlifesaver@mgsar.ca](mailto:infoprojectlifesaver@mgsar.ca)

Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue membership is composed exclusively of **volunteers, women and men of all ages**. MGSAR is always looking for new recruits, if you are interested, please contact us at: [join@mgsar.ca](mailto:join@mgsar.ca)





# Shannex Team Supports Miramichi Housing Solutions at Coldest Night of the Year Fundraising Walk.

A group of dedicated Shannex employees came together to make a real difference in our community. Team Shannex Miramichi participated in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraising event on February 22 and fundraised \$2,300 to support Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc. Their efforts showcase both their commitment to giving back and the spirit of teamwork that makes the Shannex team so special. The team is comprised of employees from two communities, Shannex Bridgeview Hall and Losier Hall, who will be joining 25 other teams who are participating in the walk.

## Team Members:

Kelsey Gill – Team Captain, Laurine Bateman, Joanne Hardy, Jeff Swaine, Kortney Patriquin, Amanda Quinn, Kia Lynch, Leslie Clark

## About Miramichi Housing Solutions:

Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc. is a community-based, not-for-profit organization working towards housing solutions, opportunities, and finding hope for



those experiencing homelessness and/or crisis. It offers temporary housing for youth and adults in times of crisis and emergency. They offer a place for adults and young people to live, meeting their basic needs to support their overall well-being.

## Nursing Home Without Walls

### HELPING SENIORS AGE AT HOME

The Nursing Home Without Walls Miramichi team supports seniors in the Greater Miramichi area. Our dedicated team helps with program applications, conducts in-home social visits, organizes Alzheimer's support groups, and performs telephone check-ins.

If you're a senior interested in learning more, volunteering with us, or partnering with us, we'd love to hear from you! Contact our team at **506-773-4214** or **NHWWMiramichi@shannex.com**. There is no cost to participate.

**Join our Alzheimer's Support Group on the first Tuesday of each month at Losier Hall, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**



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# Birds of Winter and Early Spring

by Peter Gadd – Nature Miramichi

Every winter, members of Nature Miramichi compile a list of birds reported in Northumberland County between December 1st and the end of February. This past winter 76 species have been recorded at the time of writing. The most unexpected birds include eastern towhee, rusty blackbird, Wilson's snipe, and northern hawk owl. The full list can be viewed at [www.miramichinaturalistclub.com](http://www.miramichinaturalistclub.com).

Enough of winter, at least for the time being. What returning migratory birds might we expect in March and April? Among the many, 10 are highlighted here.

1. **Red-winged blackbirds** arrive in quite large numbers by late March. Although primarily insectivores the early arrivals are forced to become seed eaters and can often find their needs met at garden bird feeders.

2. Also arriving early and in large numbers are **common grackles** who may share the garden feeders with the red-winged blackbirds.

3. A little later, in small numbers, often in the company for red-winged blackbirds, are the smaller **brown-headed cowbirds**.

4. Fairly recent arrivals to the Miramichi area are **turkey vultures**, perhaps the first week of April. As the winter's snow recedes, they may be looking for animal remains that recently perished.

5. Most of our woodpeckers are non-migratory, happy to eke out a living in the wintery conditions, but the **northern flicker** is an exception and can be found in the area by mid-April.

6. Most gulls do leave northern NB in winter although a few great black-backed gulls and herring gulls can get by staying. The smaller **ring-billed gulls** don't hang around. We can expect to see them towards the end of March.

7. In mid-April when the ice in rivers, lakes, ponds and estuaries melts, birds that rely on open water can be found.

One of the earliest, while there is still considerable pond ice, is the **hooded merganser** (7). Later in April will see the arrival of **pied-billed grebes** (8), **belted kingfishers** (9) and **northern shovelers** (10) among others.

The colourful warblers will start to return mid-spring, usually about the first two weeks of May.



Red-winged Blackbird (male). Among the first to arrive in March.



Brown-headed Cowbird (male)



Ring-billed Gull



Northern Shoveler (male)

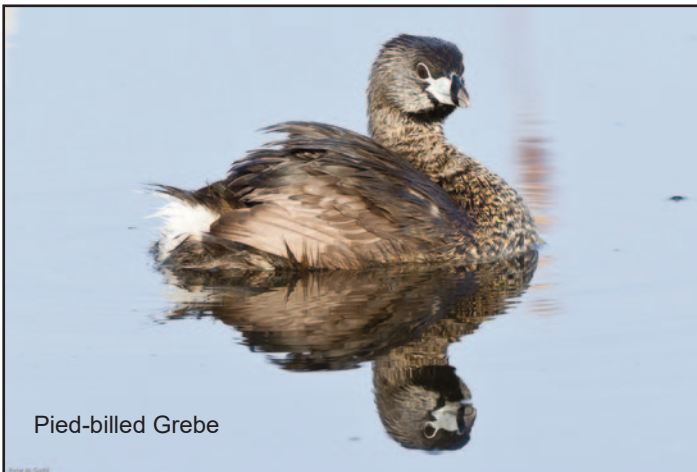




Northern Flicker (male)



Turkey Vulture



Pied-billed Grebe



Common Grackle



Hooded Merganser (pair)



Belted Kingfisher

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# The Bad Day Book: Parenting Edition

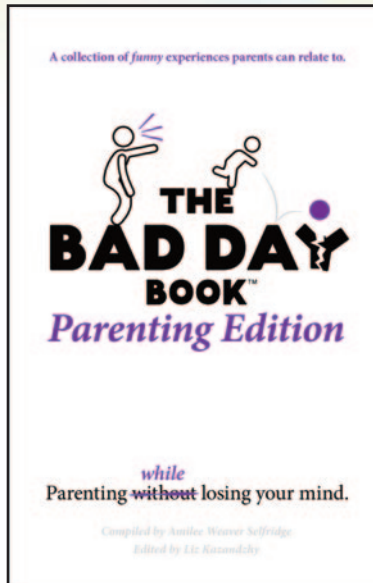
By Gail Collette

Everyone could use a laugh at this point. One way to get-your-smile-on is to enjoy *The Bad Day Book: Parenting Edition*. A line on the front cover is ‘Parenting ~~without~~ while losing your mind.’

Amilee Weaver Selfridge has compiled this anthology of funny parenting anecdotes in story and poetry forms. Cartoons on the subject add to the antics.

One story is written by Miramichi resident, Gail Collette. People who have been in a writing group with Gail know that she loves writing about and for kids.

In *The Bad Day Book*, Collette has a story called ‘White Water Canyon Kids’. This true story happened on a water ride at Wonderland near Toronto. The story shows Gail questioning a teen ride operator why her youngest is not allowed on the river ride with the rest of the family. Meanwhile her two toddlers and their grade school cousin have boarded the white water raft and started thrashing down the rapids of the fair ride. Gail ran along the river bank after



the three terrified children, with her baby in the front carrier laughing all the way. Of course, the only harm done was to the frayed nerves of the family.

Other stories include a mystery as to whether a-diapered-one swallowed his mom’s wedding ring. Then there is the two and four-year-old that used markers and stickers to decorate their mom all over, while she napped. The surprised mom was trying hard to stay awake while fighting the flu.

A poem by Tony Daly starts as follows. “There’s a snowball on the floor. Its name is Baby and it’s getting bigger all the time.”

Moms and dads will relate to these stories. Maybe the anecdotes will even give a new perspective. Parents might see the humor during their own misadventures with kids. After reading *The Bad Day Book: Parenting Edition*, a parent taking a child for a flu shot, might remember the story where a little girl says to the nurse with the needle, “No. I want the flu.”

*The Bad Day Book: Parenting Edition* is available online.



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# Crocker's Men's and Boy's Wear: A Miramichi Tradition of Quality and Personalized Service

**Crocker's Men's and Boy's Wear** has been a staple in Miramichi for decades, blending tradition, quality, and personalized service. The Crocker name dates back to the 1860's when it was involved in the fish exporting business, and in the early 1920's the family ventured into the clothing business.

Wendell Waye began working part-time at Crocker's while in high school. In 1983 he purchased and incorporated the business as Crocker's Men's and Boy's Wear Ltd. The store has always been known for top-quality clothing and footwear, a legacy Wendell proudly continued over the years.

Wendell always kept Crocker's ahead of the curve by introducing new, high-quality brands to the area. Today, the store offers a diverse range of products from over 50 different companies, including long-time partners like Stanfield's, CJ Clark, Levis and Columbia.

Crocker's has everything men need for their wardrobes. In the dress department, you'll find suits, sports jackets, ties, dress pants, and shirts. The sportswear section is perfect for coordinating casual pants, shorts, shirts, golf shirts, and sweaters. For jeans and casual wear, Crocker's provides a variety of jeans, T-shirts, jean jackets, and sweatshirts.

The shoe department features a wide selection of dress shoes, casual shoes, work boots, and slippers, including the popular Foam-Tread brand. For special occasions, Crocker's also rents tuxedos in the latest styles, with coordinating accessories like vests, ties, pocket squares, shirts, and shoes.

**The Next Chapter** - After 56 years of dedication to Crocker's Men and Boys Wear, Wendell Waye is passing the torch to a new generation. Throughout his career, Wendell has served on various committees and volunteered with several organizations; Newcastle Recreation and Parks Commission, Sunny Corner Volunteer Fire Dept for 32 years; president of the Downtown Business District for three terms;



The Crocker's team welcome the transition to the new location. L to R: Sandra and Wendell Waye, Larry Waye, Carol Crawford.

Rock and Roll Festival; Spokesperson for Save Our Hospital; Board of Directors for Retirement Miramichi; Chairman of St Thomas Parish Council and is currently Chairman of the St Thomas Parish Finance committee.

Now, the future of Crocker's is in the capable hands of April Dickson and Darwin Cripps, who have **relocated the store to 2285 King George Highway**, Denim Wearhouse building, in Douglastown. While the store's inventory and dedication to great service remain unchanged, the new ownership ensures that the Crocker name will continue to thrive in Miramichi.

**A Grateful Farewell** - Wendell extends his heartfelt gratitude to his customers for their years of support. "I couldn't have survived without you," he says. As Wendell transitions into retirement, he reflects, "People say when you retire, you need a plan. I may not have a specific one, but I'm sure you'll find me at the camp, sitting on the porch along the beautiful Northwest Miramichi River, enjoying the day."



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# Welcome to Canada and Miramichi: 70 Years Ago

by Johannes (John) Bosma

Despite only a few memories of my boyhood in Grouw, Friesland, Holland, I have a really good recollection of the day I turned six years old. It was moving day on a trip that would change my family's lifestyle. I was to find out much later that it was all my fault.

My father was in partnership with a Mr. Bouma and together they owned the Bouma/Bosma Bakery in Grouw, just up the street from where we lived. Everything was proceeding as it should until Mrs. Bouma and my mother were both expecting a child sometime in April in 1949. After the babies were born, a rift developed between the partners.

You see, the Bouma's addition was a girl and the Bosma family were blessed with a son - me. Bouma realized that my father's son would eventually become the heir to the business and from that day on there evolved a coldness to match the heat off the bakery oven.

Bouma's home was part of the bakery and gradually he would get up later and later after my father arrived in the early morning. One day he didn't appear at all and so my father fired up the oven by himself, emitting a noise that would have wakened the dead. It roused a furious Bouma who admonished my father: "Why did you not wake me?!" My father replied: "Nobody woke me!"

The atmosphere was becoming so toxic that my father sold his half of the business. The problem was that the funds



Aboard the Waterman. Uilke Jeep Bosma (back row 1st left), Moetsche Bosma (front row far right)

he received from the sale were insufficient to pay back all the money he had borrowed. At that time, the Dutch government were paying citizens to move to either Australia, New Zealand or Canada. My father never forgot how Canadian soldiers were the liberators just ten years before so he would move his family there and earn the necessary funds to settle his debt.

It was April 1, 1955 and we were emigrating to Canada. On the bus from Friesland to Rotterdam, where the immigrant

ship The Waterman was docked and waiting to take us to a new land and a new life, I proudly told everyone that it was my birthday. Seeing this blond-haired little boy with a wide smile and bright personality, the other passengers proffered up money and candy as presents. I don't know if it was the treasures I was receiving or the attention I was getting but I remember being one happy little boy who was oblivious to the fact that he was leaving the land of his birth behind.

My mother was sick in bed for the entire 10 days it took to reach Canada and my father looked after her and my baby sister, Mieke, who was only six months old. Unfortunately, they only had cloth diapers in those days. Only the baby and my father avoided sea sickness as we crossed the tumultuous Atlantic Ocean. With my dad busy looking after my mother and baby sister, it was up to my two eldest sisters to watch over me. They accompanied me to every meal, which I



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remember with both fondness and distaste. I can still visualize the place settings, the food and the tiny barf bags at every table.

An eleven and a fourteen year-old didn't want a six year old tagging around all the time so I was enrolled in the ship's daycare. I think I was the oldest kid there, so I felt like I was doing jail time. It wasn't long before I figured out the movements of the caretakers, found a suitable chair and climbed up and unlatched the hook at the top of the door, engineering my escape. I can't remember if I was punished for that or if I actually spent any more time incarcerated but I do recall our arrival in Halifax at Pier 21 on April 11th, 1955, exactly 70 Years ago.

I have no recollection of being processed at Canada Immigration but I do remember getting on this big train. Just as we started, we came to a sudden halt. One of the cars had derailed and we were told it would be hours before we would leave Halifax for our next stop. My father told me that many of the passengers got off to see Halifax but that he and our family were not leaving the train for fear it would leave without us. He later recalled: "Leave it to the Canadians, they'll get that train back on track."

When the train finally pulled out of the station, some of the people had not yet boarded and the engineer stopped periodically to pick them up. My mother said later: "Now they would never have done that in Holland!"

The next stop turned out to be the Newcastle train station. We were greeted there by Reverend Picketts, a local United



Last photo of Bosma Family in Holland  
(Front, L to R) John, Jeep, Moetsche, holding Maria  
(Back, L to R) Alice & Tineke

Church clergyman, along with a former Dutchman as interpreter. His name was Cob van Leeuwan, pronounced Kobe and short for Jacob. He was a baker like my father. The clergyman had food for us and brought us to an old farm house in Northwest Bridge where the railway overpass is, just before the more recent highway overpass on the way to Fredericton.

I was to find out later, after reconnecting with Charlie Delano's son, Norman, that his father told him about that day. Apparently, after all the introductions and greetings

were out of the way, the Dutch family were ushered into the vehicles to take them to Northwest Bridge. Just then, Charlie noticed a picnic hamper left behind on the platform and thought he had better retrieve it. To his utter surprise, instead of food items inside it, he saw a baby. Overwhelmed by the welcome, Mieke was almost left behind.

Since there was no public pre-school at that time, even though I was in kindergarten in Holland, I had to wait until September to go to school. That's when I met Tom Kingston, nicknamed Uncle Tom, on his daily bus route. Next door to our house was Fraser's Pulp and Paper Mill which had an "In" road to and an "Out" road from the living quarters for the management of the mill.

Somehow I got Uncle Tom to pick me up at the "In" road and drive me into the mill and then drop me off at the end of the "Out" road. There I was, a six-year-old on my own on the highway early in the morning. It could still be done in those days.

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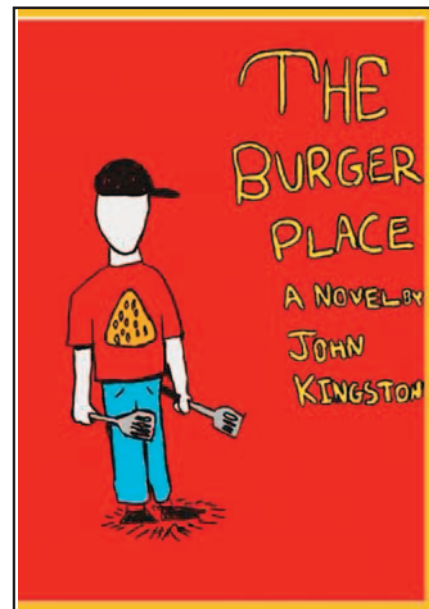
# Dining & Entertainment

## The Burger Place - A Novel that Will Resonate with Gen Z

by John Kingston

Many of us don't know what to do with ourselves. Once high school and college is over it's not exactly clear where to take our lives, many of us work a job we don't care about and we feel trapped. These are feelings I was dealing with after I graduated. And they manifested into a book I wrote. *The Burger Place* follows the story of Nathan Allison, a kid fresh out of high school who doesn't know what to do with himself. He is working at a fast food job when the Covid 19 pandemic breaks out and many of his long time friends move away. If you like coming of age stories or are a fan of *Catcher in the Rye* I think you'll like this book as well.

I also have a few more books on the way. One is about the war in Ukraine (A sequel to this one) and the other is about Judo. My goal in life is to become the greatest Canadian author of all time. Writing books is a grueling process of researching, writing, and editing all while working a 9 to 5 and you may only sell a few copies. But if you enjoy what you do it doesn't matter how much money you get or how few people read your work. If your interested in my books they're available on Amazon.



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## Pastry Brunch Cups

Serves: 18

2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese  
2 sheets puff pastry  
18 eggs  
2 cups diced ham  
chopped fresh green onions



- Heat oven to 375 F.
- Melt butter in a small saucepan. Whisk flour with butter. Gradually pour in milk, whisking each time. Bring to a simmer, whisking until mixture starts to thicken. Remove from heat; stir in Swiss cheese. Set aside.
- Use rolling pin to thin out puff pastries. Cut each into nine squares. Line muffin tins with pastry squares, pressing bottoms down firmly and ensuring the pastry covers the sides and goes slightly over the edge of the muffin cup. Fill each cup with 1 teaspoon cheese sauce. Crack one egg into each cup and sprinkle each with diced ham.
- Bake 10-15 minutes until eggs set. Sprinkle with chopped green onions.

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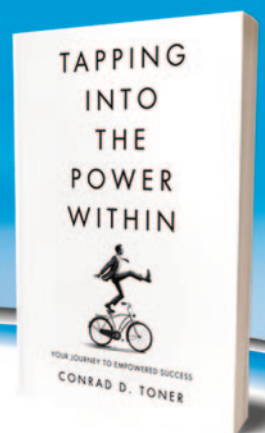
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# Notable Miramichi Lads & Ladies: Book Two

New Book Launches April 12 by Johannes (John) Bosma

In recognition of his 70th year in Canada and on the Miramichi (April 11, 1955 to April 11, 2025), Johannes Bosma is launching his second instalment of *Notable Miramichi Lads & Ladies* on **Saturday, April 12 at the Mill Cove Coffee Shop from 9-11am and 1-3pm.**

*Book Two* features over **85 stories of Miramichiers** such as the young lady who attended a one room school in Millbank, NB, drawing inspiration from movies like “The Sword and The Stone”. She then went on to drama at Harkins High School and UNB where she helped launch the on-campus TV station, and where, in her words, she fell “head over heels with the idea of producing and directing for television.”

Despite enduring dozens of surgeries at a young age, **Suzanne Lyons** would go on to broadcasting school and later became the first female vice-president for a Canadian network at 29 years of age. In 1999 she went on to Hollywood where she co-founded the independent Snowfall Films and worked with some very distinguished movie actors.

And what drew **J.C. Miller** to a Miramichi area and why was the location of his home named Millerton? It had to do with hemlock and the post office. Miller was also responsible for



The Frances ULLOCK Ferry, 1940, named after the brave teenager who saved four people from drowning in Chatham.

the first telephones in our area and in 1889 he introduced the first automobile to New Brunswick.

There is also a story about a bona fide Miramichi lad, **Greg Morris**, a member of four Halls of Fame, detailing his athletic legacy as a player and a coach. In addition, a touching tribute by Patti L. Moore about **Bill Richards** who owned and managed the shows at both the long-lost Opera House and the now reconfigured Uptown Theatre.

From 1870 until 1873, a Methodist

minister served the Methodist church in Chatham. Although he was a charismatic preacher and skilled administrator, it was his daughter, Lena, born on the Miramichi in 1870, who would garner distinction. Her married name, **Lena Higbee** would live on when the US Navy named a destroyer after her.

On the evening of Wednesday, August 27, 1924, seven young men and women entered the Miramichi River at Colson’s slip just above the Miramichi Foundry in Chatham. Then everything





went wrong. A strong current caught five of the swimmers. Suddenly, they were drowning.

A young lady raced to the river. "It took place outside of our house on Upper Water Street," she recalled. "Our house was facing the water. I was sitting on the lawn learning to knit when one of my brothers told me there was someone drowning in the river, right in front of our house,"

She was wearing a long dress and was only 14 years old at the time. Living just in front of the water, she often would go swimming. "I was a strong swimmer. I never had courses on how to life save. I just grabbed each of them, one at a time and put them ahead of myself and pushed them to shore," she said.

Her name was **Frances Ullock**, and she was able to save four of the five people who could have drowned. Chatham had a new ferry boat under construction at the time and decided to honour Frances Ullock's life-saving deed by naming the new ferry boat after her.

**Other notable lads** include doctors Percy Losier and his father, Arthur; George Albert Lounsbury, Al O'Neil, Arnel Roach, Father Ryan, Dennis Sullivan, and Dr. Vondy. **More notable ladies** are included such as Louise Manny, Edith MacAllister, and Maisie Mitchell of Newcastle, Matilda Murdoch of Loggieville, and Sylvia Watling, a war bride from Chatham Head.

In addition to Morris, there are stories of other Miramichi athletes including Joe Lanteigne and Peter Manderson, star



The Loggieville Bisons won the Maritime Senior A title in 1966.

players on the **Loggieville Bisons**; John Lordon, who excelled in both football and hockey at STU; Paul MacLean, an excellent teacher and Chatham hockey coach for over 30 years; and the retired St. Thomas University Hockey team.

Similar to *Book One*, there will only be one edition printed (100 copies) available at the Mill Cove Coffee Shop beginning on **Launch Day on April 12**. The price is \$20. Books are available now from John Bosma by calling 506-773-5271 or by emailing him at: [bosmajo14@gmail.com](mailto:bosmajo14@gmail.com)

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# Friends of Seamen's Hospital Craft Group Share Quilted Gifts with Seniors

The Friends of Seamen's Hospital Craft Group made a special trip to visit the seniors who attend the Day Care at Losier Hall, in December. Judy Vautour of Seamen's Hospital brought a gift of 36 quilted Christmas placemats, made especially for them, as well as two quilted blankets for residents. Shown in this picture are the seniors who look quite pleased showing a few of the placemats and the two quilts. The folks are Thomas Hedquist, Harvey Taylor, Helen Johnston, Mary Preston, Debbie Lee, Marielle Landry, Shannon Howe and Elaine Malley with Christine Hockin and Ann Girouard in the front row.

The Friends of Seamen's



Hospital Craft Group meet on Wednesdays (9:30am to 3 pm) at the Seamen's Hospital in Douglastown and engage in an assortment of

crafts. New members are always needed and welcomed. We are pleased to be able to do charitable work and also have fun.

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# King Charles III's Coronation Medal Recipients

## Presented by Senator David Adams Richards

Congratulations to the twenty people from the Miramichi region who received the King Charles III's Coronation Medal at a ceremony on February 9, 2025. The medals were presented by Sen. David Adams Richards and are awarded to individuals who made significant contributions to the country or achieved accomplishments that brought credit to Canada.

The recipients chosen by Sen. David Adams Richards are, in alphabetical order: Johannes Bosma, Trevor Bungay, Sandra Bunting, David Cadogan, Alex Carleton, Luke Couture, Bill Hicks, Giles Kenny, Cynthia Losier, Dr. Gerard Losier, Judy Losier, Caleb Marshall, David McDonald, Edward McIntyre, Jeff Morrison (posthumously), Cathleen Richards-Green, Gloria Savoie, Gary Silliker,



Gerald Smith, and Doug Underhill.

The medal commemorates the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Canada issued 30,000 coronation medals, awarding them to

select members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Public Service, as well as individuals who made a significant contribution to Canada.

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# War Amps Key Tag Mailing Celebrates 50 Years of CHAMP



New Brunswick residents can expect to receive their 2025 War Amps key tags in the mail shortly. This year's mailing marks a special anniversary as The War Amps celebrates 50 years of its Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, which provides young amputees with financial assistance for artificial limbs, peer support and so much more.

Each key tag has a confidentially coded number. If you lose your keys, the finder can call the toll-free number on the back of the tag or place them in any mailbox in Canada and The War Amps will return them to you by courier, free of charge. The War Amps receives no government grants; its programs are made possible through the public's support of the Key Tag Service. For more information, or to order key tags, visit [www.waramps.ca](http://www.waramps.ca) or call 1 800 250-3030.



Gabriel grew up with the support of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program thanks to donations from the public to the Key Tag Service.



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# Photo Submissions

If you have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share we always welcome your submissions. Send them to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net). For photos, please send high resolution jpg's (not resized for email) and remember to include your name for the photo credit and the location where the photo was taken or description of the subject matter. Send in submissions to the **summer issue by May 30.**



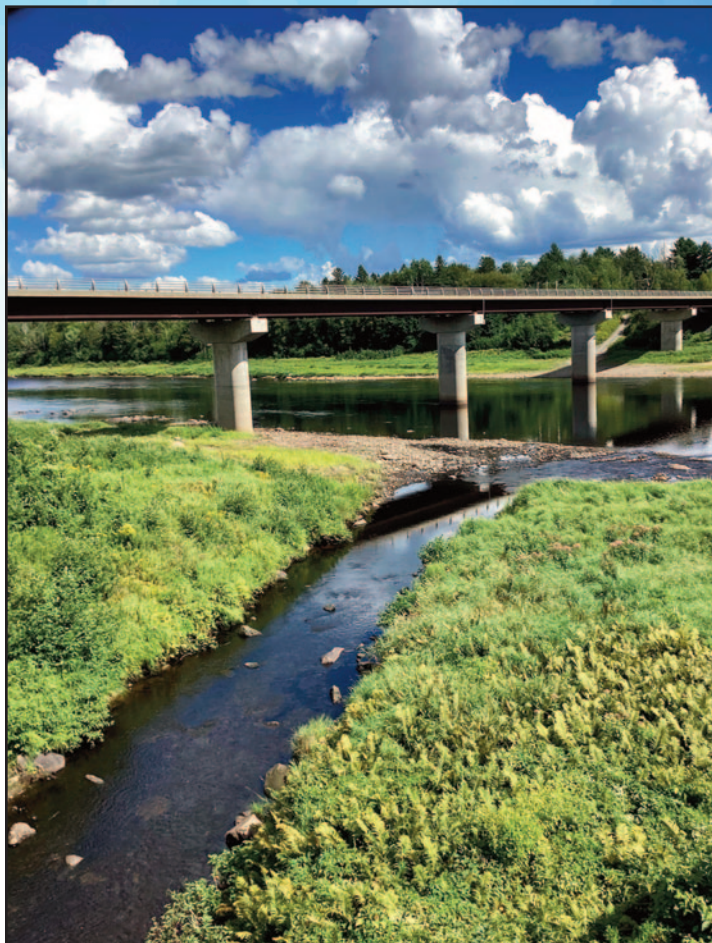
Photos on this page by Grace Gilliss which she has titled:  
(Left) Spring in Bloom  
(Above right) Mourning Glory  
(Bottom) Honey Bee







Lupins with Centennial Bridge in background, photo by Alana Carson



Quarryville Bridge, photo by Laura Lea Harrison



"My favourite part of spring is baby season." Photo by Alana Carson



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# CITY HALL UPDATES

## MULTIPLEX UPDATE - MULTIPLEX UPDATE - MULTIPLEX UPDATE

The steel structure for the aquatics hall at the East end of the Miramichi Wellness Multiplex is well underway. This will feature two separate pool basins.

The first basin is a 25M, 6 lane lap pool with competition timing equipment and starting blocks. This pool will be used for lessons, lap swims, swim meets, rec/leisure swims and deep-water exercise. The lap pool will also include a climbing wall and is fully accessible by ramp.

The second basin is a leisure pool that houses spray features, a hydrotherapy bench, basketball nets, an area that can be dedicated to aqua fitness/water yoga and is fully accessible by ramp.

The remainder of the aquatics hall steel structure is scheduled to be up and roof decking started by the end of February.

The arena exterior walls are being framed in with the West end now enclosed and brickwork completed along the South wall.

Even with the recent cold temperatures, the project is progressing quickly.







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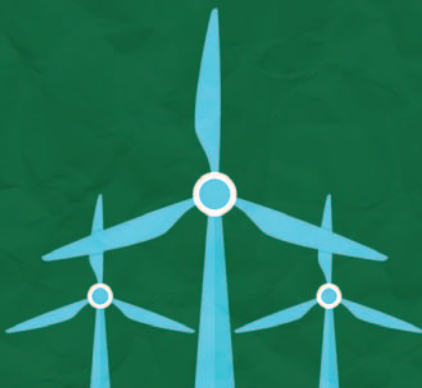
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