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Summer Issue 2026

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Walking Trail along the Miramichi River
photo by Edna Trevors



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CANADA DAY Live Concert

by Johannes Bosma

Sometimes a good place to start is at the end. This year's Canada Day Concert, featuring the Villager Chorus, will conclude with a strong message. The Grand Finale song is Canada's answer to that 51st State nonsense. It is entitled "This Is My Canada", written by Jeanette Arsenault.

When she watched a video of The Villagers' version of her song performed at the Kin Centre in 2025, Arsenault emailed the group:

I just watched this and have tears rolling down my cheeks. Oh how you all sang it, played it, SO BEAUTIFULLY! WOW! Thank you for honouring my song. BRAVO, no wonder you got a standing O. There was passion and pride in each singer's voice singing out your love for Canada. We didn't just hear it, we felt it. You made my day! Thank you. Thank you.

The Villagers, along with special guests the Miramichi Fiddlers, Melissa Barry, Eugene Somers, Aaron Young, and emcee Susan Butler, will perform all-Canadian music on stage at the Kin Centre at 7pm on July 1, 2026.

To kick things off is an ode to spring and summer, "Green, Green". Then you are invited to sing along with Ian Tyson's iconic Canadian song, "Four Strong Winds", and spend some time in your home province with "The Land of New Brunswick".



The Villagers performing at last year's Canada Day concert

Settle in with two of Anne Murray's hit songs, "Could I Have This Dance" and "Snowbird", and please feel free to sing along some more.

You will be moved by a new offering, "Believe Your Eyes", written by an American who shares our Canadian values. His message is current and strong.

In addition, the Villagers will include two songs by our Canadian cousins, The Seekers, featuring this mid-1960s Australian group's hit songs "Mornintown Ride" and "I'll Never Find Another You".

You'll be taken to Canada's North to enjoy the beautiful, haunting melody of "Song of the Land", which has been recorded by Susan Aglukark. Also on the program is the striking selection, "This Land Is What I Am".

For those of you who are away from time to time, you can always "Come Home" to the beautiful

Maritimes of Canada, where we "have never truly gone away," written by Nova Scotia's accomplished songwriter Donna Rhodenizer. You know what they say, "You can leave the Maritimes, but the Maritimes never leave you."

Guest selections will include toe-tapping tunes by the Miramichi Fiddlers, two of Canadian pop star Paul Anka's hit songs performed by Aaron Young, and "Proud to Be Canadian", written and performed by Susan Butler, with Villager backup.

Join us at the Kin Centre on July 1 at 7pm, sponsored by A1 Business Services and The Kinsmen Club of Miramichi. Admission is a free-will offering, with a portion of the proceeds going to Vondy House and Percy's Place. After the show, you can go outside and wait for the Canada Day fireworks.

Cover Photo: The walking trail along the Chatham waterfront. Photo by Edna Trevors.

Giv'er is about giving it your all and finding joy in every day.

Share your inspiring stories, uplifting moments, informative articles, photos, poems, essays, artwork, community events and more — and help us celebrate what's up, what's new, and what's happening around the Miramichi Region.

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

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Events

Find more local events at
www.mightymiramichi.com

July 1: Canada Day Live at the Miramichi Kin Centre

Celebrate Canada Day with The Villager Chorus as they perform an evening of songs by Canadian singers and songwriters with special guests. See pg. 3 for details. Concert begins at 7pm. Admission is a free-will offering, Kin Centre, 100 Newcastle Blvd.

July 3-4

New Maritime Music Festival

www.newmaritimemusicfest.com

July 4

NB Lumberjack Competition

www.woodmensmuseum.com

July 16-19

Canada's Irish Festival

www.canadasirishfest.ca

July 16-19

Natoaganeg Powwow

www.natoaganegfirstnation.ca

July 18: Summer Cold Plate

Enjoy a delicious take-out cold plate of potato and macaroni salads, cold cuts, a roll, and dessert. Pick-up is available between 4pm and 6pm. Meals are \$10 each and must be pre-ordered. To reserve your meal call 506-369-7435 or email umlc treasurer@gmail.com. Upper Miramichi Lions Club, 6438 Route 8, Boiestown.

July 23-25

Neguac Country Festival

www.neguac.com

July 23-26

Rockin' River Fest

www.rockinriverfest.ca

July 25-26

Metepenagiag Powwow

www.metpark.ca

July 25-26

Barnaby Days

July 26-August 2: Bay du Vin 41st Annual Summer Survival Festival

Enjoy a full week of family fun during the Bay du Vin 41st Annual Summer Survival Festival. Events include a car

rally, kids' treasure hunt and costume party, Auction 45 night, youth scavenger hunt, adult trivia, youth Survivor competition, and much more. Beer gardens will be held July 31 to August 2 at the Black River Rink, with live entertainment by Justified II, Crossover, and Reform School. Fun for all ages. Check the festival schedule on www.facebook.com/bayduvinsummersurvival



July 27-Aug 2

Brussel Sprout Festival

www.rogersvillenb.com

July 29-Aug 2

Blackville Days

www.miramichirivervalley.com

July 31-Aug 3

Salmon & Fiddlehead Festival

www.doaktown.ca

July 30 - Aug 3

Miramichi Folksong Festival

www.miramichifolksongfestival.com

August 6-9

Napan Agricultural Show

www.napanshow.com

Aug 10-15

Renous Days

www.miramichirivervalley.com

August 15

National Acadian Day

Aug 14-16

Miramichi Scottish Festival

www.miramichiscottishfestival.com

August 28-30

Bluegrass Music Festival

www.rogersvillebluegrass.com

August 21-23

Esgenoopetitj Powwow

Events at Tuadook Village Community Centre

2282 Route 420, Sillikers.
www.facebook.com/tuadookvillage

July 18: Annual Recreational Washer Toss Tournament and Community Picnic

Enjoy a day of washer toss, axe throwing, and games for kids at this family-friendly community picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers, pop, and water will be for sale. Children under 12 receive a free hot dog and drink. Washer toss registration is \$20 per team, with a limit of 20 teams. Prizes are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. To register contact Lois at 506-836-7647 or 506-627-6852.

August 22: Cold Plate Dinner

Enjoy a delicious cold plate dinner featuring turkey, ham, potato salad, coleslaw, desserts, and more. Dine in or take out from 4 to 6 p.m. Advance reservations are requested by contacting Lois at 506-836-7647 or 506-627-6852, or Peggy at 506-623-8191.

Sept. 19: Christmas in the Country Fall Market & Pie in the Face Fundraiser

Shop for unique crafts, woodworking, gift ideas, baked goods, jams, pickles, and more from 10am to 12pm Admission is free, and there will be a 50/50 draw. Interested vendors can reserve a table by contacting Karen at 506-586-0279. The fun continues from 1 to 3 p.m. with the Pie in the Face Fundraiser, where local volunteers will take a pie for a good cause.

Williamstown Country Church/Cemetery Inc.

726 Williamstown Road

July 19: 3pm – Rev. Philip Penny will present a short message and music.

August 9, 3pm – Musical afternoon with Ralph Hicks and other musicians.

Sept. 5: 2pm–4pm – Joey Howe and musicians will perform. A potluck lunch will be served. Attendees are invited to bring a dish to share. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, activities will be held inside the church centre.

Wilson's Point - Summer Events

Wilson's Point Historic Site opens for the season on June 21 - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily. Admission is free and they are pet friendly. Located in Derby Junction at 8 Enclosure Rd, Hwys 8 & 108. Tel: 506-627-0162. For more information visit www.wilsonspoint.com

July 18, 11am-3pm – Llamazing Adventures Under the Pines

\$10 per person. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by a paying adult. Enjoy llama walks along the trails. Call to reserve your spot.

August 15, 11am-4pm – Highland Games and Take-Away Tea

Featuring Fingal's Rant, Healing Farm Petting Zoo, Old Scotia Heavyweight Athletes, Women of the Point, and Walk with a Scot. Free admission. Boxed lunches with tea sandwiches, sweets, and a beverage are \$15 per person or \$50 for a family of four. Cash, debit, and credit accepted.

September 11, 7pm – A Summer's Farewell Ceilidh

Join Calum Lykan Storytelling for an evening of music, stories, and community at Wilson's Point. Bring an instrument, a story, or simply enjoy the entertainment. Donation at the door. Light refreshments served.

September 13, 11am-4pm – Scottish Scones Under the Pines

Enjoy homemade scones with toppings and cream, learn to wear a traditional kilt, meet a famous Scotsman from centuries past, tour with the Women of the Point (11am-2pm), and enjoy bagpipe music by Resident Piper David McDougall (2pm-4pm). Free admission. Scones and beverage: \$10.

October 10-The Great Miramichi Haggis Hunt and Fall Fair

Super Scottish Sundays

Piper-in-Residence David McDougall returns for 12 appearances under the pines, joined on alternating Sundays by Storyteller-in-Residence Calum Lykan and the Women of the Point. Walk with a Scot: 1pm-3pm. Piper at the Point: 2pm-4pm. Women of the Point tours depart at 2pm and 3pm. Free admission.

Workshop Wednesdays

Reservations must be prepaid.
Call 506-627-0162 or email
wilsonspointhistoricsite@gmail.com

July 29 - 11am: Christmas in July tartan ornaments with Shelly Clark - \$40

Aug. 5 - 11am:
Weaving on a Cardboard Loom - \$40

Aug. 19 - 11am: Embroidery and Cross-stitch Snowflakes with Shelley Clark - \$55

Aug. 26 - 11am: Resin Coaters with Wendy and Kristen - \$60

Sept. 2 - 11am
Pumpkin Garlands with Shelley Clark - \$55

Sept. 9 - 1pm: Watercolour Pumpkins with Cathleen Richards - Green - \$50

Sept. 16 - 11am
Sunflower Wreath, Wendy and Christen - \$70

Sept. 23 - 11am: Needle-felted Highland Cow with Shelley Clark - \$50

Sept. 30 - 11am: Gelli Plate Printing with Kelly Hay-Hambrook - \$75

Oct. 14 & 15 - 10 am Intro to Glass Mosaics with Louis Gignac - \$95

Oct. 22 & 23 - 10am Glass Art Window with Louis Gignac - \$295

Sunny Corner Days

Hosted by the North & South Esk Recreation Council, this summer favourite promises a variety of activities and festivities that will bring joy to all ages!

The Sunny Corner Arena and Ball Field will be the central hub for the celebrations. The action kicks off on Thursday, July 9 with a **parade** through the Sunny Corner area. Calling all local businesses, organizations or families! Contact Michelle Jardine (michellejardine76@gmail.com) to enter your float! Entertainment and BBQ to follow at the Sunny Corner Arena.

The always popular **SloPitch Tournament** kicks off Friday, July 10 at 6:00 PM.

Saturday, July 11, starts with a delicious **breakfast**. Attendees can then explore the **Farmer's Market** featuring local produce, crafts, and handmade goods. Slo Pitch play continues throughout the day. Saturday also brings **Family Fun Day** from 12pm to 3pm. With inflatables, face painting, foam machine, touch-a-truck, BBQ & treats, and more!

A **dance** featuring the band Crossover, rounds out the day at 10pm. Advanced tickets available at Sunny Corner General Store and White Lightning Auto.

The SloPitch Tournament will conclude with the **Semis and Finals** beginning at 10am. Expect intense competition as the top teams vie for ultimate glory!! For full festival details visit the Sunny Corner Days Facebook or Instagram pages.

July 9, Thursday

- 6:30pm Parade
- 7:30-10:30pm Entertainment & BBQ

July 10, Friday

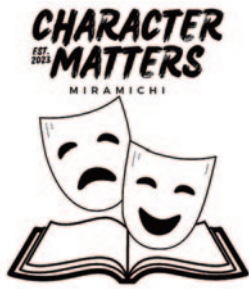
- 6:00pm Slo-pitch tournament begins

July 11, Saturday

- 8-11am Breakfast
- 8-11am Farmer's Market
- 9:00am Slo pitch all day
- 12-3pm Family day
- 10pm dance feat: Crossover

July 12 Sunday

- 9:30 am Competitive Pickleball Tournament
- 12pm Slo pitch semis & finals
- 2:30pm Recreational pickleball tournament



History, Humour, and Hijinks at Duffy's Hotel

Character Matters brings a Miramichi legend to life

The 69th Annual Miramichi Folksong Festival, in association with Character Matters Miramichi, invites you into the parlour of Duffy's Hotel, the accommodation made famous in the folksong transcribed by Dr. Louise Manny and James Reginald Wilson in 1968, for a **dessert theatre experience on August 1 at 2pm, Miramichi Kin Centre.**

In 1887, the Duffy Brothers of Boiestown capitalized on the booming lumber industry, and the emerging railway, by building a hotel across from the train station. The site became a stopping place for hunters, fishermen, and lumbermen on their way to or from logging operations in the area. The famous folksong, whose creation has been attributed to several different authors, offers its own memorable testimony to the rollicking nature of the hotel and its boarders. The building was renovated in 1905, but was destroyed by fire in 1927.

A Wedding at Duffy's Hotel is an originally-written folk-comedy, centred in Boiestown and recounting the 1891 wedding of Nicholas Delaney and Lucy Long at the hotel. It promises a bevy of unique stories from the region, several songs drawn from the 19th-century folk tradition, and plenty of the rambunctious antics that made the hotel (in)famous throughout the decades. You'll meet a cast of astounding characters, from the proprietor – Charles T. Duffy, to an out-of-town sportsman bent on conquest and riches, and, of course, the happy (and hapless) couple themselves. Between encounters with bears, stories of a local gold strike, and the superstitious



Built in 1887, Duffy's Hotel became a popular gathering place for hunters, fishermen, and lumbermen, earning a reputation for its lively antics and colourful characters. Character Matters Miramichi brings the legendary hotel back to life in its dessert theatre production, *A Wedding at Duffy's Hotel*.

threat of bad luck, can Nick and Lucy make it to the altar? Find out for yourself, and enjoy some dessert as well.

Prior booking for this performance is required, as seating is limited. Secure your place by calling 506-622-1780 or emailing susanbutler867@gmail.com.

For those unable to make it on August 1, Character Matters Miramichi, in cooperation with the Central New Brunswick Woodmen's Museum, will stage **an encore in Boiestown on August 8**. Book by phone at 506-369-7214, or by e-mail at info@woodmensmuseum.com



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Miramichi Folksong Festival

Celebrating 69 Years of Story and Song

For nearly seven decades, the Miramichi Folksong Festival has celebrated the songs, stories, and traditions that have shaped life along the Miramichi River.

Returning **July 30 to August 3**, the 69th annual festival continues a remarkable legacy as Canada's longest-standing folksong festival.

Founded by the late Dr. Louise Manny, the festival has its roots in the rich oral traditions of the Miramichi. Beginning in the late 1950s, Dr. Manny recorded local songs and ballads, preserving an important part of the region's cultural heritage. Many of these songs told stories of everyday life, the lumber camps, fishing communities, and significant events in Miramichi history. Her work eventually led to the publication of *Songs of Miramichi* and the creation of a festival dedicated to sharing this unique musical tradition.

This year's festival promises a diverse lineup of traditional and contemporary performers, along with family-friendly events celebrating the region's heritage through music, storytelling, dance, and theatre. Festival favourites such as the **Miramichi Fiddlers** and **Character**



Nelson-Doyle Dancers

Matters Miramichi return, joined by acclaimed performers including world-renowned fiddler and mandolin player **Ray Legere**, award-winning entertainer **Mike Bravener**, celebrated accordionist **Roger Lanteigne**, and local favourites **The Mels**. Audiences will also enjoy performances by **Steve Heckbert**, **Melanie Ross**, **Susan Butler**, **Shayan Faal**, and the **Nelson-Doyle Dancers**.

Highlights of the festival include the official opening at Parkland on the River, a festival luncheon featuring live entertainment, a children's show, a dessert theatre presentation with Character Matters Miramichi, the popular Miramichi Fiddlers and Friends Kitchen Party, a Miramichi



Ray Legere, fiddler and mandolinist

River boat cruise, and a New Brunswick Day breakfast featuring Mike Bravener and Ray Legere.

The Miramichi Folksong Festival remains more than an entertainment event. It is a celebration of the people, stories, and traditions that continue to define the Miramichi region.

For a complete schedule of events, downloadable festival brochure, history, performer profiles, and to purchase tickets, visit www.miramichifolksongfestival.com

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Step Back in Time at Historic Beaverbrook House

One of Miramichi's most treasured heritage attractions is welcoming visitors once again for the summer season. **From July 1 through late August**, Historic Beaverbrook House offers guided tours that bring local history to life inside the beautifully restored childhood home of Lord Beaverbrook, born William Maxwell Aitken.

Built in 1877 in the elegant Second Empire architectural style, the three-storey home originally served as the residence of prominent shipbuilder and merchant William Watt before becoming a Presbyterian manse. It was here that young Max Aitken spent much of his childhood after his family moved to Newcastle in 1880.

Visitors will discover the remarkable story of a local boy who went on to become one of the most influential newspaper publishers and political figures in Britain. **Lord Beaverbrook's legacy** extends far beyond journalism, with a long history of philanthropy and support for communities in New Brunswick and across Canada.

The guided tour explores the home's fascinating history,



restored architecture, and the many stories connected to Beaverbrook's life and contributions. Guests can view period furnishings, historical displays, and learn how the building evolved over the decades, including its role as Newcastle's first public library after being gifted to the community by Lord Beaverbrook in 1952.

Tours are offered Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 8pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 5pm. Admission is \$5, while children 12 and under are admitted free.

Historic Beaverbrook House is located at 518 King George Highway, Miramichi. For more information, call 506-622-5572 or visit www.beaverbrookhouse.com.

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Miramichi Art Core Activities

Plein Air Festival

This summer, along with the Bathurst Art Society, the Miramichi Art Core is partnering with the Atlantic Salmon Museum for its Plein Air Festival. The two-day festival will be held July 17 and 18 on the grounds of the museum in Doaktown. The completed works will be displayed on both days in the museum as soon as they come off the easel, so the exhibit will evolve as the day progresses.

The Atlantic Salmon Museum is a new venue for the event, with the Doaktown location situated right along the Southwest Miramichi River, providing a perfect setting to inspire creativity. This is a nice opportunity to learn more about our famous Miramichi salmon, enjoy some art, maybe even purchase a work, and have a great day by the river.

Participating artists will be eligible for two prizes based on local judging of the works. Artists can still register for the festival at www.miramichiartcore.ca. Early

registration is available until June 30 for \$35. After June 30, registration is \$55.

Rockin' River Fest Art Exhibit

Miramichi Art Core artists will display their art at Rockin' River Fest this year. The "Gallery at the Kin" will be open July 24, 25, and 26 at the Miramichi Kin Centre, 100 Newcastle Blvd. There will also be artists painting at and around the centre during the event. Works will be for sale throughout the weekend.

Show at Galerie Artcadienne

Galerie Artcadienne will once again host an exhibit of Miramichi Art Core artists. This year's show will open December 3 and run until January 28, 2027. The show focuses on new works by members of the group.



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Absolutely No Body Parts by Valerie Sherrard

The Gross Busters are open for business in her newest book

Award-winning author Valerie Sherrard has released a new middle-grade novel, *Absolutely No Body Parts*.

Can't face cleaning out your garage, shed, basement, or attic?

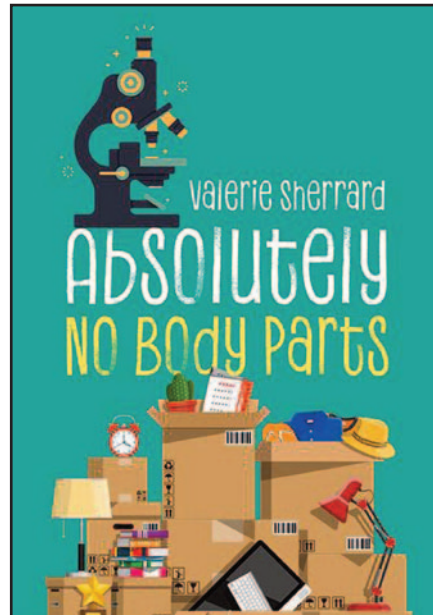
Call the Gross Busters and they'll take care of it!

That's the business model behind the Gross Busters team, made up of Nick, Khenan, and their eleven-year-old helper Florrie. The trio are raking in cash doing jobs other people have been avoiding. But when they uncover a secret that shocks the whole town, it stirs up a bigger mess than any of them could have expected.

The young entrepreneurs discover all sorts of weird things about their customers through cleaning their unwanted messes, gaining insight into their eccentric neighbours. Meanwhile, Nick, Khenan, and Florrie are hiding their own personal and family secrets. From abuse, addiction, grief, and anger, they realize there is much more to navigate

this summer than their gross work.

Rich with genuine emotion and



laced with humour, *Absolutely No Body Parts* is a complex coming-of-age story. It's a perfect summer read for young people.

Valerie Sherrard is the author of more than thirty books for children and teens, including the multi-award-nominated *Birdspell* and the

novel-in-verse *Standing on Neptune*. Her work has won or been shortlisted for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature, Geoffrey Bilson, Ann Connor Brimer, and Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children, and numerous readers' choice programs.

In 2024, the New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor's Award for High Achievement in the Arts named Valerie the Literary Arts Laureate.

Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, she now lives in Miramichi, NB.

Absolutely No Body Parts can be purchased directly from the publisher at www.cormorantbooks.com, through major online booksellers, or by requesting it from your local bookseller.

"Valerie Sherrard is one of Canada's premier writers!"

– Eric Walters, author of Governor General's Award winner, *The King of Jam Sandwiches*



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Miramichi Garden Club



Where Gardeners Learn, Share and Grow Together

The Miramichi Garden Club is pleased to introduce the 2026-2028 Executive, formed at the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Pictured left to right are Carol Campbell (Past President), John Colborne (Vice-President), Jennifer Kingston (President), Shaunessy McKay (Treasurer), and Jamie Lynn MacDonald (Secretary).

The new executive team warmly invites both returning and new members to join the Club. Experienced gardeners are encouraged to share their knowledge with those who are just beginning their gardening journey and are eager to learn.

Current members are excited to continue opening their gardens for viewing, offering advice to newcomers on what to plant and where to begin, and sharing their passion for gardening with others in the community.

The Miramichi Garden Club offers members a variety of opportunities to learn, connect, and



(L to R) Carol Campbell (Past President), John Colborne (Vice-President), Jennifer Kingston (President), Shaunessy McKay (Treasurer), and Jamie Lynn MacDonald (Secretary).

grow. Regular meetings feature guest speakers and educational presentations on a wide range of gardening topics. Members can also participate in activities such as garden tours, planned outings, seminars, plant sales, seed and plant exchanges, and other special events

throughout the year.

Specific details on upcoming meetings, speakers, and events will be shared throughout the season.

To learn more, check out the Club on Facebook at Miramichi Garden Club or contact the Club at mgc@miramichigardenclub.com

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All funds donated will be used exclusively for the construction of the new building and to support veterans, their families, and community activities.

We are now in the final stage of the engineering process.

Royal Canadian Legion Chatham Branch #3 • 15 McCurdy St., Miramichi NB, E1N 3A5



Finding Clues in the Water Using DNA

Rotary funding helps expand MREAC's environmental work

For more than three decades, the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) has been monitoring and protecting the Miramichi watershed. Whether tracking spring flood risks, monitoring water quality, surveying endangered species, or collecting environmental data in the depths of winter, the organization has become one of the region's most important environmental stewards.

Now, thanks to a recent \$22,000 contribution from the Rotary Club of Chatham, announced on May 21, that work is poised to expand even further.

The funding will support both environmental education initiatives and field-based scientific work throughout the watershed.

Founded in 1989, MREAC combines community stewardship with hands-on science. Its programs include lake monitoring, habitat assessment, species-at-risk research, and real-time water quality monitoring. The organization also partners with universities, government departments, Indigenous organizations, and watershed groups across Atlantic Canada.

One of MREAC's most visible responsibilities takes place each winter, when staff and volunteers travel



throughout the watershed to monitor snowpack and ice conditions. Data gathered from stations in communities such as Blackville, Doaktown, Boiestown, and Bay du Vin contributes directly to New Brunswick's annual River Watch flood forecasting efforts.

"MREAC has been championing environmental work on the Miramichi for the past 35 years," said MREAC Executive Director Harry Collins. "Our diverse suite of projects includes year-round work in environmental assessments and public outreach."

Collins emphasized the importance of the organization's

contribution to provincial flood monitoring efforts.

"Ours is a significant contribution to the province-wide River Watch program," he said. "Our Miramichi watershed area is seventeen percent of the total province. Rotary support for these surveys enhances our survey capacity of ice and snow conditions."

While snow surveys remain an important part of MREAC's work, the organization is also using increasingly advanced technology. During the open-water season, MREAC conducts water quality monitoring throughout the watershed to assess habitat conditions and identify contamination sources.



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Check out our Facebook page for
programs, events and more!

Rotary's contribution will also help expand MREAC's use of drone technology and environmental DNA, or eDNA, sampling. This emerging scientific technique can identify species present in an ecosystem through traces of genetic material found in water samples.

"The eDNA work is an amazing newer science that tells us what is upstream of our sampling site," Collins explained. "To illustrate, we've completed work on species-at-risk, such as the freshwater mussel called Brook Floater and the Wood Turtle. By filtering water samples from various waterways, we can determine the presence or absence of the endangered animals upstream of our sample site if we find their DNA in our sample."

The technology provides researchers with a powerful tool for understanding the health of local ecosystems while minimizing disruption to sensitive habitats. For organizations like MREAC, it represents an opportunity to combine grassroots stewardship with sophisticated environmental science.

Even with advances in technology, the heart of MREAC's mission remains rooted in the watershed itself — the rivers, brooks, lakes, forests, and communities that define the Miramichi region. The



organization's stated mission is the "continual improvement of environmental quality of the Miramichi River ecosystem," pursued through scientific research, collaboration, public engagement, and environmental stewardship.

Collins believes the Rotary contribution arrives at an especially important time.

"Exciting times, but also very troubled times for the global environment," he said. "With this support we can get a clearer picture of the status of our local watershed environment to help protect the things we value most."

The advertisement for Terra Travel Group features a circular logo on the left with the text "TERRA TRAVEL GROUP" at the top and "WE KNOW BECAUSE WE GO" at the bottom. The logo includes icons of palm trees, a sun, an airplane, and a building. To the right of the logo is a collage of six images: a modern resort building, a narrow street with a tram, a tropical pool area, a harbor with colorful boats, a historic stone tower, and the Parthenon in Athens. Below the collage, a smiling woman with brown hair, wearing a black blazer, is shown from the chest up. The text "BOOK UNIQUE EXPERIENCES" is prominently displayed in bold, followed by "Explore top rated itineraries around the world". Below this, the text "The Terra Travel Group" is followed by "With a team of agents throughout Atlantic Canada, we're here to help plan your dream getaway! 'We know because we go!'". At the bottom, it says "Call 625-0678 today for all your travel needs." and provides the address "127 Sutton Rd, Miramichi, NB E1N 4E1" and email "tara@terratravelgroup.ca". The website "terratravelgroup.ca" is also listed.

Aiming for the Future

The Miramichi Archery Club is searching for a new home

For nearly 50 years, the Miramichi Archery Club has quietly shaped lives in our community. At first glance, it may appear to be simply a place to learn and practice archery. But for those who walk through its doors, it is something much more: a space of belonging, growth, and opportunity that reaches far beyond the target range.

The club has long been a hub for learning, offering structured coaching, mentorship, and skill development for youth and adults alike. Through archery, participants gain more than technical ability. They develop discipline, confidence, patience, and focus, qualities that carry into every part of life. Yet the true strength of the Miramichi Archery Club lies in its unwavering commitment to inclusion.

Not every individual feels comfortable in traditional sports environments, and for many, that experience can be discouraging. The archery club has become a safe haven for those who may struggle elsewhere, including individuals living with ADHD, Autism, PTSD, and other challenges. In these cases, archery offers not just



recreation, but also a powerful source of focus and healing. The range becomes a place where differences are respected and every achievement, big or small, is celebrated.

Equally important is the club's work in adaptive sport. Participants who are blind, use wheelchairs, or live with limb differences are welcomed and supported through programs designed to meet their needs. This dedication helps ensure that everyone has the opportunity to

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participate, reinforcing the idea that sport should truly be for everyone.

While inclusivity is at its core, the Miramichi Archery Club also excels in high-performance sport. Over the decades, local athletes have gone on to represent Miramichi, New Brunswick, and Canada on national and international stages. These archers have earned podium finishes and set records, bringing pride and recognition back home. Their achievements are a testament to the quality of training and the strength of the community behind them.

The club also plays an important role in preserving the region's outdoor traditions. Bowhunters gather here to refine their skills, share knowledge, and prepare responsibly for the season ahead, contributing to a culture rooted in respect for nature and heritage.

Despite decades of service and impact, the future of the Miramichi Archery Club is uncertain. With the



Maurice Levesque, NB Provincial Coach, instructs Joshua Richardson at a Canada Winter Games Clinic (2020)

upcoming closure of the Golden Hawk facility in September, and no accommodation for archery in the city's new Wellness Centre, the club

faces the very real possibility of losing its home.

Without a dedicated space, programs serving youth, individuals with diverse abilities, and competitive athletes alike are at risk. The situation highlights the importance of ensuring that a wide variety of recreational opportunities continue to be available in our community.

The Miramichi Archery Club is more than an organization. It is a lifeline for many and a source of pride for the region. Its legacy reflects the power of sport to bring people together, support well-being, and create opportunity.

Now, the club is asking for the community's help. It remains hopeful that a new home can be found so its programs can continue for generations to come. For more information, visit the Miramichi Archery Club Facebook group.

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The Villagers Say Goodbye to Their Founder

by Johannes Bosma

Miramichi has remained close to Ken Simpson's heart throughout a life that took him to communities across Canada, from Newfoundland to the Yukon. After retiring from a 30-year career with the RCMP, Simpson and his wife Linda chose to return to New Brunswick in 2009.

In a 2011 interview with The Miramichi Leader, Simpson explained their decision: "We both wanted to come back east, and this seemed a good first stop." He added that Miramichi had "everything a retiree needs."

A few months after returning home, Simpson started a singing group. Originally known as The Village People and Friends, the group adopted the name The Villagers in 2010.

The original choir included about a dozen members from both the wider community and Retirement Miramichi, formerly the Chatham air base. Music had long been an important part of Simpson's life. In that same 2011 interview, he said, "Music has always been my hobby. I sang in a chorus in Calgary."

Over the years, The Villagers have performed throughout the Miramichi region at churches, schools, funerals, graveside services, reunions, concerts, and community events. They have also appeared at Susan Butler's dinner theatres, Mayor Gerry Cormier's Christmas to Remember concerts, and numerous charitable fundraisers. This year, the group will also perform in Burnt Church on June 27.

The Villagers perform a variety of music, from gospel to rock and roll. Today, the choir consists of 18 members singing four-part harmony. The group rehearses weekly, with additional practice sessions held by the men's section.

Retirement Miramichi has supported the choir throughout its history, including the installation of a new



Ken Simpson founded the singing group that would become The Villagers, in 2009.

sound system last year. More recently, The Villagers purchased their own sound equipment for use at performances throughout the region.

After the loss of his wife Linda in March, Simpson has made the decision to move to Winnipeg, where his son and two sisters live.

Before leaving, he will perform two final concerts with The Villagers: June 27 at the W.I. Hall in Burnt Church and July 1 at the Miramichi Kin Centre. Both concerts begin at 7pm. Admission is by free-will offering, with proceeds

supporting Vondy House, Percy's Place, the W.I. Hall, and the Historic Society of Church River in Burnt Church.

When Simpson leaves for Winnipeg in July, he will leave behind a lasting musical legacy. Through The Villagers, he has brought people together in song for more than 16 years, creating friendships, memories, and a community choir that will continue long after his departure.

Portions of the historical background and quotations in this article originally appeared in a 2011 Miramichi Leader article by Charlene MacKenzie.



The Villagers during a sound check with Heather Rankin.

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MIRAMICHI GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Taking the Essentials – Be Adventure Smart

By Paulette Arsenault

What core survival items should always be in your pack whenever you head outdoors, whether you're out for a short afternoon hike or a multi day excursion? This list isn't about the specialized gear required for a particular activity, nor does it include camping-specific equipment such as a tent or sleeping bag. Instead, it focuses on the universal essentials that belong in every outdoor kit. These are the fundamental tools and supplies that help you stay safe, handle unexpected situations, and manage basic needs no matter where you go or how long you plan to be out.

Flashlight & spare batteries

Many unplanned overnight stays could be avoided by simply carrying a flashlight or headlamp. People needing rescue often weren't lost at first—they just ran out of daylight and couldn't return to the trailhead. Once darkness falls, navigation becomes difficult and the risk of getting lost increases significantly.

Fire making kit

Fire can be crucial for staying warm during sudden weather changes, injuries, or an unexpected night outside. It provides essential heat, dries wet clothing, cooks food, signals for help, melts snow, and boils unsafe water. A fire can also deter animals and offer a valuable boost to morale when conditions become challenging.

Signalling device

A whistle or signalling mirror dramatically improves your chances of being detected. Blowing a whistle uses far less energy than shouting, and its sound travels farther. A signalling mirror is even more effective—it's responsible for more Search and Rescue aircraft sightings than any other visual signal, making it an essential tool.

Extra food and water

Unexpected delays can turn a simple outing into a much longer trip, and carrying extra food and water can prevent an inconvenience from becoming a survival

challenge. Outdoor activities demand energy, and having spare supplies provides the fuel and confidence needed to safely handle unplanned situations and make your way out.



Extra clothing

People often underestimate the conditions they'll face because they rely only on the weather they see at the moment. Hypothermia becomes a real danger if you're not prepared for sudden changes. Bringing extra clothing is essential, yet many travelers fail to pack enough layers to stay warm when conditions shift unexpectedly.

Navigation

Carry a map and compass at the very least. Tools like a GPS unit, cell phone, or other signalling devices—with fully charged batteries—are also extremely useful. Learn how to use each of them, but don't depend on electronics alone, and always pack extra batteries.

First aid kit

In the wilderness, there is no immediate access to emergency services, so self-reliance becomes essential. Outdoor travelers benefit greatly from taking a first aid course and always packing a first aid kit. Wilderness first aid training builds the skills and confidence needed to manage injuries and medical situations when help is far away.

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Looking to the Past to Protect the Future

Our Living Waters strengthens ties to the Miramichi watershed

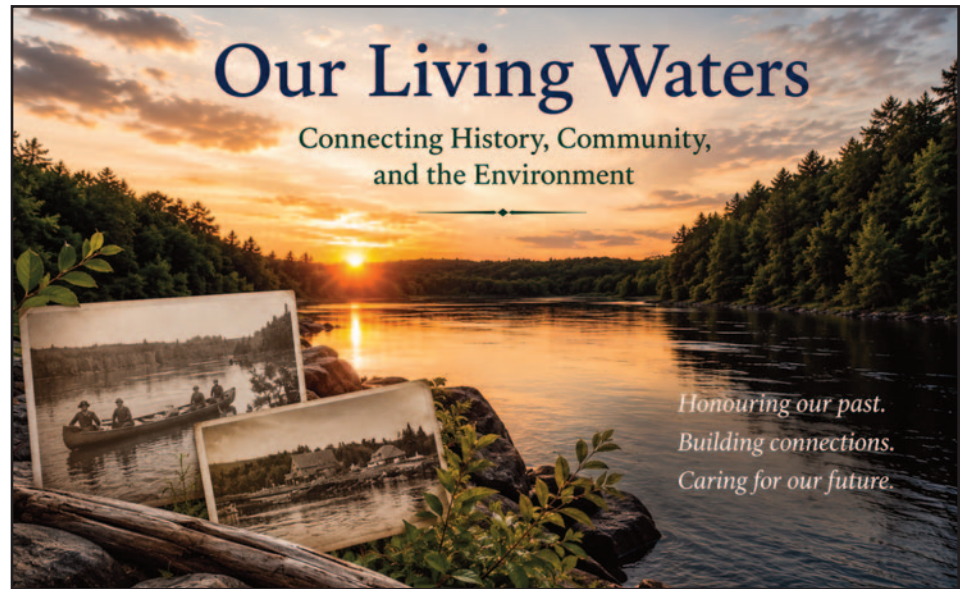
People are more likely to care for the environment when they feel connected to the community itself.

That simple idea lies at the heart of **Our Living Waters**, an initiative of the **Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC)**.

Through the program, MREAC hopes to build pride in the Miramichi watershed by promoting awareness of our shared past and encouraging reflection on the close relationship our ancestors had with the natural world.

The initiative grew out of the Miramichi Historical Linkages Project, which began in 2021. Through heritage research, the project explored local knowledge, actions, and personalities, seeking to better understand both our communities and their broader global connections. Community knowledge proved foundational, and the project team recognized that calls for conservation are often strengthened when viewed through the lens of heritage and cultural ties, as well as scientific data.

In September 2023, MREAC recognized the value of the Linkages Project and saw an opportunity for



partnership. By combining cultural heritage research conducted within Mi'gmaq, Acadian, and Gaelic descendant communities with MREAC's environmental expertise and data, a multicultural environmental leadership and community engagement program was created.

Studies show that engagement with local history strengthens people's connection to place and increases civic involvement. Through Our Living Waters, MREAC hopes to promote a greater awareness of the Miramichi region's

rich and diverse history while encouraging stewardship of both cultural heritage and local waterways and ecosystems.

Programming will be community-driven, interactive, respectful of tradition, and focused on strengthening place attachment by bringing together Citizen Heritage and Citizen Science.

The project will achieve these goals through outreach to schools and broader community engagement.

From the outset, organizers envisioned the initiative beginning

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in the classroom by integrating local data, stories, and experiences into lessons that support existing provincial curriculum outcomes. By including local voices, knowledge, actions, and events, students can better understand both our role in global trends and the connections between traditional ways of knowing and scientific thought.

Beyond the classroom, Our Living Waters will engage learners of all ages through community

forums, discussions, research, and field inquiry. Organizers hope these activities will strengthen awareness of the cultural, historical, natural, and genealogical ties that connect people to the Miramichi region while encouraging dialogue about both our shared past and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The initiative also seeks to foster broader understanding of the experiences of marginalized

communities and encourage reflection on how colonization and colonial thought processes have shaped the region's development.

As the initiative moves forward, MREAC remains guided by a simple truth that underscores the project's mission:

"History teaches us to value our community and its environment. Once we value it, we respect it."



Cherry Limeade

Sweet, refreshing, and easy to make

This Cherry Limeade is quick to make and perfect for sipping on a hot summer day.

Total time: 5 minutes Servings: 10

1 jar (10 ounces) whole red maraschino cherries, chilled
6 limes, divided
1 bottle (2 litres) lemon-lime soda, chilled
1/2 cup tart cherry juice, chilled. Or you may choose a cran-cherry blend.

1. Drain maraschino cherries, reserving syrup. Set whole cherries aside.
2. Juice four limes to yield 1/2 cup juice; thinly slice remaining limes.
3. In large pitcher, stir cherry syrup, lime juice, soda and tart cherry juice. Add lime slices.
4. Serve over ice and garnish with whole cherries.



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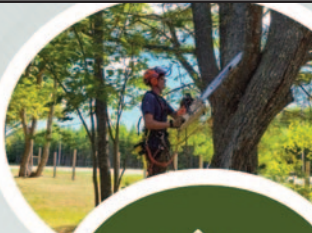
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The Plants That Carry Our Stories

by Stacy Underhill

Most gardeners have at least one plant that holds a special memory or story.

It might be a Christmas cactus that is nearly 90 years old, passed down through generations, like the one my sister received from our grandmother. Or a rose bush that made the trip “back home,” safely bundled in the rear seat beside a suitcase and bedroom lamp.

Trees and plants are living reminders of the people and moments that matter to us. They grow alongside our families. They move with us from one home to another. Some become markers of births, deaths, marriages, moves, friendships, and family history.

A friend of mine grows Icelandic poppies that originally came from the garden of an older woman she loved dearly. She fondly calls them “Betty’s poppies.” Every spring, when they bloom, Betty’s memory blooms too.

In my own garden, I have a red rosebush that came from



Betty's poppies, photo by Laura Lea Harrison

my father-in-law’s funeral. Each year, when I see it thriving and covered in blossoms, I think of him. I have also been gifted some of “Betty’s roses,” which carry her spirit of living life boldly as they reach new heights each year.

Perhaps that’s why gardeners are often so eager to share divisions, cuttings, and seeds. We’re not just sharing plants. We’re sharing stories, history, and pieces of ourselves.

Over time, a garden, or even a windowsill filled with houseplants, becomes a collection of memories. A jade plant gifted at a baby shower. A lilac from a childhood home. A tree planted in honour of a loved one.

These plants remind us that while people may leave our lives, the things they nurtured often continue to grow.

And perhaps that’s part of the magic of gardening. Sometimes the most treasured plants aren’t the rarest or the showiest. They’re the ones that carry a story.

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The People You Meet When You Finally Speak

by Shelley Petit, The Very Best Toastmasters Miramichi

There's a moment, usually about ten minutes into a meeting of The Very Best Toastmasters Miramichi, when you look around the room and realize something surprising: **none of these people are here for the same reason, yet somehow, they all belong.**

You may see an accountant deep into the numbers, now practicing how to introduce themselves with confidence. Beside them, a newcomer to Canada is testing out the rhythm of English, discovering not just vocabulary but a voice. Across the room, a retired teacher is rediscovering the joy of learning something new, this time as a student instead of the one at the front of the class. Or perhaps an NBCC student, ready to hone their craft, working on interview skills. And somewhere near the back, an entrepreneur is quietly rehearsing the pitch they've been too nervous to give anywhere else.

Toastmasters is often mistaken for a place where people go to "give speeches." But anyone who has ever stepped into a meeting, especially here in Miramichi, knows the truth: it's really a place where people go to connect.

There's something uniquely human about watching someone try. Not perform, not impress, but just try. When a member stands up for their first Table Topic, the room leans in, not to judge but to support. When someone shares a story about a childhood memory or a hard-won lesson, you see nods of recognition from people who, moments earlier, were strangers. And when a speaker finishes, sometimes triumphantly, sometimes shakily, the applause is never polite. It's genuine. It's community.

What makes The Very Best Toastmasters Miramichi special isn't the structure or the roles or even the speeches. It's the mix of people who show up. People who want to grow. People who want to listen. People who want to be heard.



In a world where conversations are often rushed, filtered, or typed instead of spoken, there's something refreshing about a room where everyone gets a turn. A room where your story matters. A room where your voice, whether loud, quiet, accented, uncertain, or bold, is welcomed exactly as it is.

You don't join Toastmasters to become someone else. You join to become more of who you already are.

And the best part? You never do it alone. You do it surrounded by the most unexpected, encouraging, and wonderfully diverse group of people you'll ever meet, people you might never have crossed paths with until the moment you finally decided to speak. That's the magic of The Very Best Toastmasters Miramichi: not speeches, but connection.

The group meets every second Monday at 7pm, at 125 Maher St, Miramichi. For more info, email toastmastersMiramichi@gmail.com and visit our page www.facebook.com/ToastmastersMiramichi



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Have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share? Send submissions to submit@mcgmedia.net. For photos, please send high resolution jpg's (not resized for email) and include your name for photo credit along with the location or a brief description of the subject. Submissions for the **fall issue** are due by **August 28**.



American Goldfinch by Darlene McKiel



Sunrise taken on the Sunny Corner bridge, by Becky Crawford



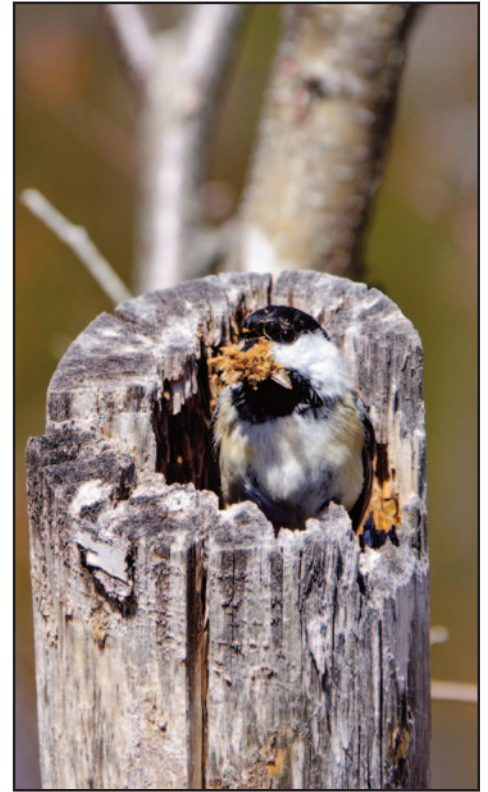
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
photo taken by April Ramirez in Baie Sainte-Anne



Apple Blossoms at Ritchie Wharf
photo by Bonnie Coughlan



Henderson Falls, acrylic painting by Laura Lea Harrison



A chickadee building a nestplex
by Donald Sisk



Female Red-Winged Blackbird by Bonnie Coughlan



Above: The Miramichi Quilt Guild (MQG) Awards Community Services Raffle Quilt to Vondy House. On March 17 Kallie Cooper, Community Services Coordinator for MQG presented the 2025 Raffle Quilt to Karen Daley from Vondy House.

The guild donates one raffle quilt per year to a non-profit organization. Applications for the 2026 quilt will be accepted until August 31, 2026 with the quilt being awarded in the Spring of 2027.

Organizations, please send your applications to Miramichi Quilt Guild, PO Box 191, Stn. Main, Miramichi, NB, E1V 3M3.

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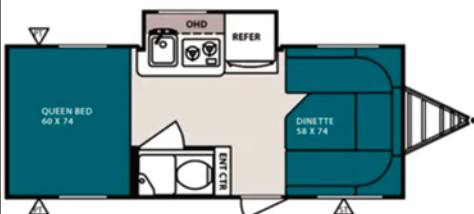


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Fall Hours: September 12th- October 12th, 2026 Open Weekends/Holidays 12pm-6pm

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For more information contact Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation at 506-623-2300.

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