

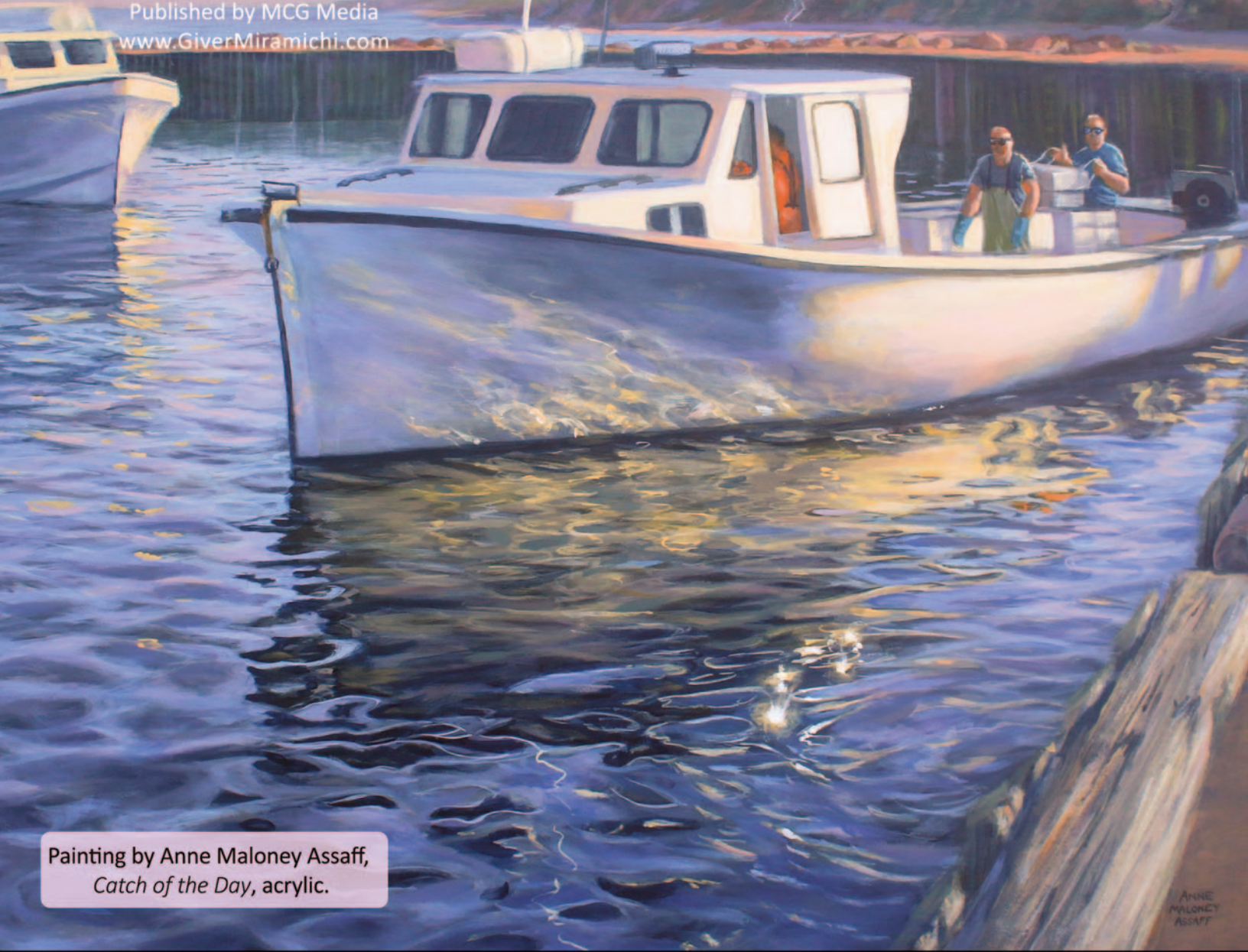
# GIVER

## Miramichi

16,500  
Copies  
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Summer Issue 2024

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Painting by Anne Maloney Assaff,  
*Catch of the Day*, acrylic.

ANNE  
MALONEY  
ASSAFF

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# FRENCH FORT COVE

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## OVER THE COVE Zipline



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**Over the Cove Zipline will be open for the Summer/Fall season for 2024**

Summer Hours: June 26th to September 2nd, Open Daily: 12pm to 7pm

Fall Hours: September 7th to October 14th, Open Weekends/Holidays: 12 pm to 6pm

Costs: \$20/Adult, \$15/18 years and younger, \$15/55 and over



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



# HOSPICE MIRAMICHI INC

## Names Vondy House

Hospice Miramichi Inc is proud to announce the naming of their hospice home, “Vondy House”, located at 51 Lobban Ave, 4th floor. We thank John Bosma for his research into Dr. Vondy’s work as the first palliative physician in Miramichi.

Given Dr. Vondy’s voluntary dedication to providing medical care to quarantined refugees, we believe it is most fitting that we view him as Miramichi’s first palliative physician and name our hospice after him.

Dr. John Vondy set up practice in Chatham, NB in April 1847. Thousands of refugees from the famine in Ireland arrived that year, many with the disease of typhus. The barque Looshtauk arrived June 2, 1847, with several ill passengers.

A temporary shelter was built on Middle Island, about two miles from Chatham and passengers were discharged there. The port medical officers refused to go to the island. The authorities had to find a doctor and John Vondy volunteered his services.

Facilities were completely inadequate, dysentery ensued, and with the arrival of two additional ships, Dr. Vondy cared for more than 300 patients, his only help one man and a boy.

He became ill, and eventually Dr John Thomson agreed to visit daily. Dr. Vondy’s sister arrived to nurse him, but he died on June 29, aged 26 years and only 27 days after he volunteered to help the ill.

Although all the victims of the fever were buried on the island, the authorities agreed to allow Vondy’s body to be



Dr. John Vondy died at age 26 in 1847, after caring for more than 300 immigrant patients who were quarantined on Middle Island, before falling ill himself.

interred in St Paul’s churchyard at Bushville. A plaque bearing the following words was erected at the church by public subscription:

*This memorial was erected as a public testimonial of respect to the memory of John Vondy, esq., surgeon, who in the faithful discharge of his professional duty, fell victim of malignant fever which prevailed on Middle Island among the passengers of the ship Looshtauk.*

Dr. John Vondy gave his life trying to help suffering immigrants at a time when many other doctors refused to tend to them.

### About Hospice Miramichi Inc.

Hospice Miramichi Inc, a registered not for profit charity established in 2011, welcomed our first patient in January 2024 to our 24-

hour, six bed home-like Vondy House hospice at 51 Lobban Ave, 4th floor.

Our licensed nursing staff, specialized in palliative care, work in collaboration with Extra Mural to offer end-of-life care. All services are provided at no charge, except for medical co-pays.

Our hospice services are available to any of the approximately 65,000 people in the Miramichi Horizon Health Zone 7 Region. We have created nine full-time, one part-time and six casual job positions.

For more information on Vondy House or Hospice Miramichi, contact us at [info@hospicemiramichi.com](mailto:info@hospicemiramichi.com) or 506-773-7607.

**Cover Photo:** A painting in acrylic by Anne Maloney Assaff titled, *Catch of the Day*.

*Giv'er is about enjoying your day, giving it your all, putting some muscle behind it, giving it some gas, all the while staying true to good Miramichi values. Send us your good stuff to talk about on the river! We're looking for events, stories, celebrations, pictures and articles about what's up, what's new, what's happening. Keep it positive, and we'll promote it .*

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

**Giv'er Miramichi** is published and copyrighted by **MCG Media**, a division of Mighty Miramichi Inc., PO Box 4166, Station D, Miramichi, NB, E1V 7K9. [www.MightyMiramichi.com](http://www.MightyMiramichi.com)

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**Web:** [www.GiverMiramichi.com](http://www.GiverMiramichi.com)



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

**June 29: Lawn Tractor Night Races**

At the Blackville Mower Racing Track, 81 South Cains River Road

**July 1: Fundraising Yard Sale**

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish Giant Yard Sale will be from 8am - 12pm in the St. Mary's Church basement. We'll have a large assortment of gently used items for sale. Sale of hotdogs and strawberry shortcake at 10am. Donations are welcome. Location: 360 Newcastle Blvd.



**July 6: NB Lumberjack Championship**

At the Central NB Woodmen's Museum, 6342 Route 8 Boiestown. Registration starts at 9am, general admission 11:30am and the competitions begin at 12pm. Admission \$7 per person. Quack's Smoke Shack will be on-site for all your snacks and beverages. For info call 506-369-7214 or email [info@woodmensmuseum.com](mailto:info@woodmensmuseum.com)

**July 11-14: Sunny Corner Days**

The Sunny Corner Arena and Ball Field will be the hub for activities starting with a parade on July 11 and the SloPitch Tournament beginning July 12. There will also be a Farmer's Market, community breakfast, Family Fun Day, a dance, and more! Visit Sunny Corner Days on Facebook or Instagram for more information. The arena is at 32 North West Road.

**July 18-21: Canada's Irish Festival**

Enjoy pubs, music, cultural activities, walking parade and Miramichi hospitality. [www.canadasirishfest.ca](http://www.canadasirishfest.ca)

**July 20: 3rd Annual Cruising for Cats Car Show**

Come support this great cause at Blackville Municipal Park from 11 am to 3 pm. A fun-filled afternoon of 50/50 Draws, prizes, vendors, cotton candy, sno-cones, BBQ and live entertainment, while you browse the cars and bikes on display. The splash pad and playground will be open in the park for the kids. Car/Bike Show registration and admission is by donation with proceeds going to My 3 Sons Cat Rescue. For more info visit the Facebook Event page. Rain date July 21.

**July 25-28: Miramichi Rock 'n Roll Festival**

Starting Thursday night with an outdoor movie, followed by opening ceremonies on Friday evening with an outdoor market, street dance, cruise around the river, and fireworks. Car show on Saturday & Sunday with live music and kids' activities. Find schedule at [www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com](http://www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com)

**July 27: Graveyard Walk at Wilson's Point**

Join the professional guides from Character Matters Miramichi as they lead you through the centuries old historic cemetery, once dusk descends and the gates lock. Bring your flashlight and someone to hold your hand. Stick close, there is no guarantee you'll return in the same condition you entered or that you will return at all. We haven't lost a soul... yet. \$10/person. Starting at 8pm at Wilson's Point Interpretive Centre, 8 Enclosure Road, Derby Junction.



**July 27-28: Barnaby Days**

*Saturday:* 5 & 10 km run - Registration starts at 6:45 am, run at 7:30 am \$10/person. A breakfast will follow from 8-11am, \$8 adults and \$5 for kids under 12 years old. In the afternoon there will be kids activities, volleyball, badminton, water games, music, and the washer toss tournament. Register for washer toss with a partner between 1-1:30pm. Games start at 2 pm with prizes to be won. Miramichi Housing Solutions will be having a cash BBQ all weekend.

*Saturday Night:* Beer Garden Dance featuring Thirsty Rangers, 9 pm -2 am. No entrance after 1 am. Cash BBQ.

*Sunday:* 1-4pm, Car & Bike Show \$10/car or bike - prizes to be won. Live entertainment by Adam Jardine. Bar open all afternoon with BBQ from 1-5 pm.

**Aug. 2-5: Doaktown Salmon & Fiddlehead Festival** Includes the Old-Fashioned Annual Fair at the Doaktown Community Park on Aug. 3, and a parade and fireworks on Aug. 4.

**Aug. 9: Peacekeepers Ceremony** at Elm Park, Chatham starting at 10:45 am.

**Aug. 17: Community Picnic & Washer Toss Tournament**

Tuadook Village Community Centre located at 2282 Route 420, Sillikers. [www.tuadookvillage.com](http://www.tuadookvillage.com)

**Aug. 18: 7th Annual Mayor's Welcome BBQ**

This is a free event, held at Elm Park in Chatham (Duke Street) from 1pm-3pm. Cultural performances, info booths, awards for multiculturalism, free hotdogs, hamburgers and cold drinks.

**Sept. 15: 50th Anniversary of Nordin Rec Centre**

Mark your calendars and join the Nordin Red Centre in celebrating 50 years! There will be a free BBQ, jumping castles, cake, tea & coffee on Sunday Sept. 15, 11am-2pm.

## Crafts & Markets



### Boiestown Market

The Woodmen's Museum is hosting the Boiestown Market on the museum grounds this summer. You'll find woodworking, leatherworks, signs, crafts, soap, pottery, baking, and more. To be held on select Saturdays on these dates June 22, July 6th, July 20th, Aug 3rd, Aug 17th, Aug 31, starting at 10am most days. Check Facebook page for details, [www.facebook.com/boiestownmarket](http://www.facebook.com/boiestownmarket)

### Central NB Artisans Market

The market is held on select Saturdays across from Betts Village Family Restaurant in Doaktown, 235 Main Street, from 10am-2pm. The dates are June 29, July 6 and 27, Aug. 3 and 31, and Sept. 7th. This is an outdoor market and will be held weather permitting. See Facebook page for updates.

### Blackville Night Market & Live Entertainment

Discover the Blackville Night Market at Blackville Park this summer! Held every second Wednesday from 6 pm to 9 pm beginning June 19. Featuring handmade crafts, homemade food and treats, live entertainment by local musicians, 50/50 draws, cotton candy, face painting, and more! Dates: June 19, July 3, 17, 31, August 14 & 28, and September 11 and 25.

### Elm Park Night Market

Every Thursday evening in the summer, Elm Park in Chatham (on Duke Street) comes alive with a variety of vendors. From June 13 to August 29, 4:30 pm to 9 pm and is hosted by the Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association.

### Rock 'N' Roll Festival Market.

Arts, Crafts and small business gather for outdoor markets in beautiful Queen Elizabeth Park, Miramichi. Hosted by Seven Threads. Friday, July 26 - 5 pm to 9 pm. Saturday, July 27 - 10 am to 4 pm. Want to be a vendor? message [seventhreads@outlook.com](mailto:seventhreads@outlook.com)

### Workshop Wednesdays at Wilson's Point, 8 Enclosure Rd

July 24: Wet Felting Bookmarks

July 31: Scottish Themed Macrame

Aug. 7: Cross-stitch Greeting Cards

Aug. 21: Watercolour with Cathleen Richards Green

[www.facebook.com/WilsonsPointHistoricSite/events](http://www.facebook.com/WilsonsPointHistoricSite/events)

## Neguac Events - [www.neguac.com](http://www.neguac.com)

**July 1:** Canada Day celebrations – Richelieu Park

**July 3 to 6:** Neguac Celebrates Summer

**July 10:** Musical Wednesday with Chin Chin from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. – Richelieu Municipal Park

**July 24:** Musical Wednesday with Linda & Francis from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. – Richelieu Municipal Park

**July 26 and 27:** Down River Music Festival

**August 7:** Musical Wednesday with Wild River from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. – Richelieu Municipal Park

**August 11:** Acadian Celebrations – Royal Canadian Legion

**August 15:** National Acadian Day – Neguac and Fairisle

**August 16 & 17:** Festival Party du Champ

**August 21:** Musical Wednesday with Sam and the Boys from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. – Richelieu Municipal Park

**August 22 to 24:** Esgenoôpetitj Traditional Powwow



## Miramichi River Valley Community Thrift Store

The Miramichi River Valley Community Thrift Store is a not-for-profit organization operated by volunteers who enjoy thrifting and being involved in the community. They take pride in offering good quality, gently-used and "like new" items that have all been carefully selected and inspected.

Items for sale include clothing, boots, and accessories for women, men, teens, and children, as well as dishes, household and kitchen items, bedding and linens, curtains, puzzles, books, jewellery and more. There is a seating/play area for the kids while you shop.

**Hours:** It is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday every week, and the last Saturday of each month, from 10am to 3pm. Cash sales, no debit. Donations of household items and clothing accepted during open hours only. Please don't leave donations outside.

**Location:** 29 Schofield Street in Renous, at the old Firehall. Schofield street is located off Route 108 in Renous. If you're arriving from Route 8, take the NB-108 ramp to Renous/Plaster Rock, to get here.

Find us on Facebook and be sure to follow the page so you can stay up-to-date on specials and featured items for sale. [www.facebook.com/MRVthriftstore](http://www.facebook.com/MRVthriftstore)

# Festivals and Events Across the Region

**June 21-22**

**Rogersville Country Festival**  
[www.rogersvillebluegrass.com](http://www.rogersvillebluegrass.com)

**July 1**

**Fishermen Powwow**  
[www.fishermenpowwow.com](http://www.fishermenpowwow.com)

**July 6**

**NB Lumberjack Championship**  
[www.woodmensmuseum.com](http://www.woodmensmuseum.com)

**July 11-14**

**Sunny Corner Days**

**July 13**

**New Maritime Music Festival**  
[www.newmaritimemusicfest.com](http://www.newmaritimemusicfest.com)

**July 18-21**

**Canada's Irish Festival**  
[www.canadasirishfest.com](http://www.canadasirishfest.com)

**July 20-21**

**Natoaganeg Powwow**  
[www.natoaganefirstnation.ca](http://www.natoaganefirstnation.ca)

**July 26-27**

**Downriver Music Festival**  
[www.neguac.com](http://www.neguac.com)

**July 27-August 3**

**Brussel Sprout Festival**  
[www.rogersvillenb.com](http://www.rogersvillenb.com)

**July 26-28**

**Rock 'n Roll Festival**  
[www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com](http://www.miramichirocknrollfestival.com)

**July 27-28**

**Metepenagiag Powwow**  
[www.metpark.ca](http://www.metpark.ca)

**July 27-28**

**Barnaby Days**

**July 27-Aug 4**

**Bay du Vin Summer Survival**

**August 2-5**

**Doaktown Salmon & Fiddlehead Festival** [www.doaktown.ca](http://www.doaktown.ca)

**August 1-5**

**Miramichi Folksong Festival**  
[www.miramichifolksongfestival.com](http://www.miramichifolksongfestival.com)

**August 8-11**

**Napan Agricultural Show**  
[www.napan.ca/show](http://www.napan.ca/show)

**Aug 10-11**

**Miramichi Fiesta Extravaganza**  
[fiestaextravaganza.com/locations/miramichi](http://fiestaextravaganza.com/locations/miramichi)

**August 15**

**National Acadian Day**

**Aug 16-18**

**Miramichi Scottish Festival**  
[www.miramichiscottishfestival.com](http://www.miramichiscottishfestival.com)

**August 22-24**

**Esgenoopetitj (Burnt Church) Powwow**

**August 23-25**

**Bluegrass Music Festival**  
[www.rogersvillebluegrass.com](http://www.rogersvillebluegrass.com)

**October 6**

**Giant Pumpkin Festival**  
[www.neguac.com](http://www.neguac.com)

## Tim Hortons WE ARE HIRING!



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Miramichi, Doaktown and Neguac.

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Come join Billy Jo & Gurmeet!





# Miramichi Scottish Festival

## August 16-18

### Friday, August 16: Tartan Candlelight Banquet 6:30pm: Miramichi Golf and Country Club, Bushville

Beginning at 630pm meet and greet your fellow clan members until 7pm when the candlelight banquet gets underway with the piping in and ode to the haggis. Introductions of clan tartans, speeches, and grace will take place prior to the meal. Once the meal has finished the William Davidson Medal Presentation will take place along with the Ernest Hutchison Scholarship presentation and the passing of the mull.



Richard Wood, photo by Katelyn Fraser

Enjoy the rest of the evening with entertainment from **Richard Wood**, a full-time professional fiddler from PEI. He has gained international recognition through his solo tours and contributions to renowned music ensembles. His talent has lead him to perform across Europe, North America, and Japan, working with artists like Shania Twain and the Chieftains.

### Saturday, August 17: Old Fashioned Family Picnic

**12pm-4pm: Wilson's Point Historic Site, Derby Junction**  
8 Enclosure Road. Free Admission

We begin the festivities with the **Steeves Brothers: Bearded Bards** playing in front of the interpretive center. Inside you will get to enjoy a beautiful display of homemade quilts and maybe even take one home.

The Healing Farm will have their therapy animals ready to be cuddled and fed at the back of the interpretive center, where you will also find McKenna Entertainment ready to add a splash of color to faces young and old alike. Funtastic



Steeves Brothers: Bearded Bards

Inflatables will be in the field adjacent the site for some bouncy fun and the Campbell boys will be running a cash BBQ with loads of tasty options. You can have a personal tour of the site with William Davidson and finish off the day with a snow cone.

New this year is an activity for the adults: Halimac Axe Throwing will be on site, gather your clansmen for a friendly competition, this is a fee for this, so bring your wallets. Miramichi Accessible Transit will be providing a shuttle service from the parking areas to the site once again this year. There is something for the entire family to enjoy at no great expense. Don't forget to bring your blanket and your lawn chairs and the family dog.

### Sunday, August 18

**11am: Memorial Church Service**, Saint Andrew's United Church, Wellington Street. Kirk'n of the Tartans- Moncton Pipe and Drum will be playing at the Service.

**12pm: Laying of the Memorial Wreath** at the Scottish Monument Elm Park.

### 1:00pm: Festival Opening Ceremonies

MacDonald Farm Heritage Site, Bartibog, Free Admission

Spend the afternoon, 1 - 4pm, on the grounds of the gorgeous historical MacDonald Farm. Catch a ride on the horse and wagon, check out the animals and take of tour of the big, beautiful stone farmhouse where costumed guides will answer any questions you may have. Then sit under the big tent along side the beautiful Miramichi River and be entertained by by local favorites Donna and Tyrone, **the Miramichi Fiddlers**, **Landry Highland Dancers** and the **Moncton District Pipes and Drums**. There will be a chance to speak with legendary historical characters as well. Bring your lawn chair.



Donna and Tyrone

The MacDonald Farm staff will have a BBQ set up for those not enjoying the tea, so don't miss your chance of experiencing a Haggis Sausage.

Bring your own lawn chair as seating under the big tent is limited. It's always a beautiful day at the Farm don't miss out!

To learn more about the festival, the performers, and the Highland Society, visit the website at [www.miramichiscottishfestival.com](http://www.miramichiscottishfestival.com).



# CITY HALL UPDATES

## CANADA DAY

We encourage all City residents to take part in Canada Day activities. The Downtown Newcastle Business Association, Historic Chatham Business District and the Fishermen Powwow committee are working on plans for a fun day. Check out their Facebook pages for more information.

## COMMUNITY WELLNESS & RECREATION

The City of Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation Department offers summer recreational programs for all ages. For more information on programs available contact them at 506-623-2300 or check out the Summer Recreational Guide on the City's new website at [miramichi.org](http://miramichi.org)

**Here are some fun things to do this summer that are featured in the guide :**

**Movies Under the Stars** – July 25th at Ritchie Wharf, August 7th in Elm Park, August 21st at Ritchie Wharf (Movies begin at dusk)

**New Brunswick Day Family Picnic at Middle Island** – Monday, August 5th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature musical entertainment, jumping castles, face painting, children's games, and a magic show.

**Over the Cove Zipline at French Fort Cove** – open daily 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. from June 26th to September 2nd

**Canoe Rentals** – open daily from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. June 27th to August 31st - Free canoe rentals on July 1st and August 5th, first come, first serve

## MAYOR'S WELCOME BBQ

Please join Mayor Adam Lordon and the Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association on Sunday, August 18th for the Mayor's Welcome BBQ at Elm Park.

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**



## TOURISM

Enjoy the many festivals that showcase our heritage, culture and fun-loving nature.

### Fishermen Powwow

July 1st, 2024

### New Maritime Music Festival

July 13th

### Natoaganeg First Nation Powwow

July 19th to 21st

### Miramichi Irish Festival

July 19th to 21st

### Miramichi Rock N' Roll Festival

July 26th to 28th

### Metepenagiag Powwow

July 27th and 28th

### Miramichi Folksong Festival

August 1st to 5th

### Napan Agricultural Show

August 8th to 11th

### Miramichi Fiesta Extravaganza

August 10th and 11th

### Miramichi Scottish Festival

August 16th to 18th

### Esgenoopetitj Powwow

Aug. 22 - Aug. 24

Find out more at [discovermiramichi.com](http://discovermiramichi.com)



67th Annual

# Miramichi Folksong Festival



Come one, come all to Canada's Longest Running Folk Festival, the Miramichi Folksong Festival, celebrating songs and culture of the Miramichi, and the very best in hospitality.

We have something for everyone, from our **opening on Thursday, August 1st** with the **Downeast Entertainers**, to our New Brunswick Day Breakfast featuring Moncton's **Dahlia Ave**.

We feature local and New Brunswick musicians and singers, including this year's **featured guest David Myles** Sunday August 4th, don't miss David Myles in Concert with Miramichi Songwriters, featuring Terry Whalen (ECMA nominee), Jason Barry (Canadian Music Hall of Fame), Emily Williamson, and Wade Hallihan.

With two Junos to his credit, David Myles has established himself as a world-class entertainer with an uncanny knack for dispersing profound truths about the human condition through dynamic songwriting. Born and based in New Brunswick, he's a sonic shapeshifter with more than 15 albums that run the gamut—in English and French—through classic folk traditions, impassioned rock 'n' roll, earthy, existential blues, cosmic jazz and funk instrumentals, reflective Americana, and sweltering R&B.

**Mike Bravener**, who has been singing our Miramichi Songs will be having a CD release on Friday night of the festival, August 2nd.

French culture will be well represented by **Roger Lanteigne** as well as **Beau**, and our returning and now upcoming Indigenous favourites, **the Hello Crows**.

Come to our **Very Best Pub Night** with **Ian and Roy** and **Rob Currie and the Corner Boys**, or to our **Miramichi Fiddlers and Friends Kitchen Party**.

At the center and heart of the festival is the celebration of Miramichi and New Brunswick folk music and culture, and Louise Manny and Lord Beaverbrook's vision of

**67th Annual MIRAMICHI FOLKSONG FESTIVAL**  
AUGUST 1 - 5, 2024  
Dr. Manny's Legacy Lives On

Canada's Longest Standing Folksong Festival

- David Myles in concert with Miramichi Songwriters
- New Brunswick Day Breakfast
- Flag Raising & Official Opening
- Evening Concerts
- Noon Luncheon
- Children's Show
- Workshop with Mike Bravener & Dr. Marge Steiner
- The Very Best Pub Night
- Kitchen Party

Corner Boys featuring Rob Currie

David Myles

Ivan & Vivian Hicks

[www.miramichifolksongfestival.com](http://www.miramichifolksongfestival.com) • [susanbutler@explornet.com](mailto:susanbutler@explornet.com)

New Brunswick CANADA, CITY OF MIRAMICHI, Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien, Days Inn MIRAMICHI

celebrating our songs, and our way of life.

Please join us for music and fun on the Mighty Miramichi, August 1-5th at the Miramichi Folksong Festival!

Visit our website to see the full schedule, purchase tickets, and to download a brochure (pdf). Find all the details at [www.miramichifolksongfestival.com](http://www.miramichifolksongfestival.com).

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# People of the River

By Doug Dolan

Hi and welcome. My name is Douglas, but I prefer Doug. These senior apartments are comfortable with many services, a fine staff, and friendly fellow residents.

But what I most enjoy is often beyond my reach now. My arthritic knees sometimes kick up when I want to look at the river. But this warm July evening soothes those knees and allows me to stand at the window. I watch the river gliding powerfully and silently past just a few hundred feet away.

This community of Miramichi, New Brunswick, was once a port for large cargo ships from all parts of the world. It shut down with the collapse of the forestry industry. The river nurtured my body and soul; first as a boy and then as a young man, I spent countless hours rowing a punt (square-end rowboat). The river and I became friends. I learned her moods, with the wind and currents acting as guides.

A southwest breeze on a quiet summer morning was particularly exhilarating, gently caressing my face as I rowed into it. Painful at first when forming, the thick calluses on my hands became evidence of my joy with the river. Combined with my muscled arms and legs, I felt invincible, the pride of youth.

My parents and I enjoyed many summer evenings on our verandah, a bit

upriver from here. Watching the sunsets, we were captivated by a montage of rich red, orange and purple hues. They were framed by clouds refracting the light into a kaleidoscope of subtle colours.

My father, a man of practical persuasion, was driven to an artistic obsession trying to capture those passing sunsets through the lens of his camera. The photos numbered in the hundreds. I have one here. You can see the last rays of the setting sun peek above our nearby island, which appears ink-black and brooding. The river is a mirror reflecting in dazzling precision the rose-tinted clouds.

Dad and Mom taught me to learn from people and events I experienced as

a boy and young man. Our small community of Miramichi had an outsized reputation for its many characters and so was a perfect classroom. Those people were ordinary folks, with many quietly living extraordinary lives.

The Miramichi region has experienced massive changes over time, some of which will alter its future. Most of the characters of my youth are gone, but there remains a uniqueness and quite strength in the people of the river.

Doug Dolan, a local author recently published *Stories From the River*, a memoir of his life on the Miramichi. Copies can be purchased from the author, [dougdolan1953@gmail.com](mailto:dougdolan1953@gmail.com).



Photo by Chirayu Patel, Centennial Bridge

  
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## Cindy Lou's Corner

# Wishing and Praying

Have you ever just wished for something or meditated on a desire or even prayed for it?

Of course you have! At some point in our journey, we all have. Either out of frustration, desperation, fear, or all of the above.

Sometimes we get exactly what we asked for, or something better. Sometimes at first, we think our wish or prayer didn't get answered, because it doesn't look anything like we had hoped for. Those can be a little tricky, because they often turn out to be something we never thought of and are much grander than what we expected.

In amongst all the wishing and praying we do in our lives, things are unfolding at a rapid speed. Our mind needs things to do, stories to conjure up and drama to create. Because our mind functions best under creating and solving problems, we miss the magic and the power of our ability to create instantly or pretty close to instantly.

When we pause our mind and acknowledge what we have created, it starts to form a habit or a pattern in the brain that says "I did that, that's so cool. I asked for it or prayed for it and it happened, Wow!" With this simple but profound realization the mind says "Oh yeah, what else would you like



to happen." And if you feed your mind these ideas, it will work with you to make them happen.

You live experiences through the relentless scenarios you tell yourself. Most of the time its about lack, hardship, or fear-based scenarios. And you wonder why you are not enjoying your life as much as you would like.

The next time you wish for something or pray for something,


pay attention to what shows up and celebrate it and own it. Your ability to make changes in your life will become effortless and the problems you will need to solve will be upgraded to ones like these: "How do I spend a million dollars, or what vacation do I want to take? Do I want to live on a beach or in the country? Do I want to own a business?"


You can never get away from having problems and trying to solve them. It's a daily activity. Simple ones such as: What do I want to wear today? What do I want to eat today? To more stressful ones like how am I going to pay my bills?

The trick is to train your mind to use its ability to create problems, to create scenarios in your life you truly want to experience. Create good problems to solve! And voila! You start enjoying life to the fullest.

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# Writing Through Life's Challenges: Chantal MacDonald's Inspirational Author Journey

Interview by Stacy Underhill

Chantal MacDonald is an author, and a teacher by trade with a Master of Arts in English Literature from the University of Ottawa. In early 2020 she was a stay-at-home mom to three young children under four years old, and she decided to write a novel.

As we all know, the year 2020 came with a special set of restrictions and obstacles, and as Chantal said in her blog, it is a miracle she accomplished anything at all, let alone write her first novel. But she did. And this spring she published her third book in the series.

I am so inspired by her journey and how she found time to “write in the margins” of her days, and I know our Giv’er readers will be too. Chantal is a Miramichier who grew up in Sunny Corner and now lives in Moncton with her husband and children.

*Q: Tell us about the books you’ve written.*

I have written three novels: *Hope at the Ocean’s Edge* (2022), *A Harbour for Broken Hearts* (2023), and *Peace on a New Horizon* (spring 2024). I have also written two children’s picture books: *Lester the Lobster* and *the Great Escape* and *Lorraine the Lobster Feels Blue*. Both children’s books have been translated into French.

*Hope at the Ocean’s Edge* is the first book in the Sadie Jones series. The genre is Young Adult Christian fiction, and I wrote these novels with the hope that it would provide young women with a wholesome, yet engaging option for literary entertainment.

The first book follows the main character Sadie Jones who experienced

extreme devastation at only nine years old. Now on the cusp of her high school graduation, Sadie is more than ready for a future that will take her away from the small town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

As the year is wrapping up, she catches the attention of a cute lobster fisherman who works down at the local docks. Tom Carter is everything Sadie would want—he’s charming, honest, and hardworking, but will he ever be able to accept her distrust of God?

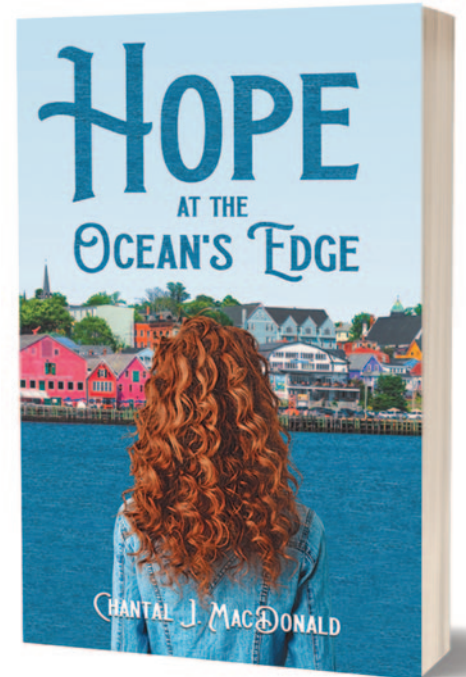
When a stranger from her mother’s past reaches out, Sadie finds herself poised to experience the culture and adventure she’s always dreamed of, but she also is on the brink of emotional breakdown.

I hope that as readers follow Sadie through her struggles and triumphs (whether one book or them all) that they will be encouraged in their own journeys. There is hope and peace to be found, even in the hard seasons of life.

*Q: How did you come to the story idea and characters in Hope at the Ocean’s Edge, and did you know it would be a series when you began?*

When I first began writing I knew that I wanted this story to be a series—there was so much story to share! Although I was doubtful if I would be able to successfully write one book let alone several.

When I began compiling my ideas, there were a few important details that I knew I wanted to include: the main character needed to be entering life outside of high school; the setting needed to be an Atlantic Canadian fishing town (a nod to my Miramichi



upbringing); and there needed to be themes of hope while facing some of the harsh realities of life.

From there I just began to write. There are two kinds of writers—planners and pantsers (those who write by the seat of their pants). I am the latter. I knew where I wanted to start and I knew where I wanted to end, the in-between was a bit of a mystery at times. The characters and circumstances unfolded as I wrote, several of them surprising even me.

*Q: Did you encounter any obstacles when writing the book and how did you overcome them?*

I’m a mom of three young children and I began writing this book when my youngest was three months old. The biggest obstacle in the beginning was time. I can remember rocking my baby

with my laptop balanced on my knees and typing with one hand. I can also remember writing in fifteen-minute intervals because one of my children kept waking up. That season of my writing career was marked by baby steps. It took two years of showing up for myself in tiny snippets of time before I was able to hold a completed manuscript in my hands.

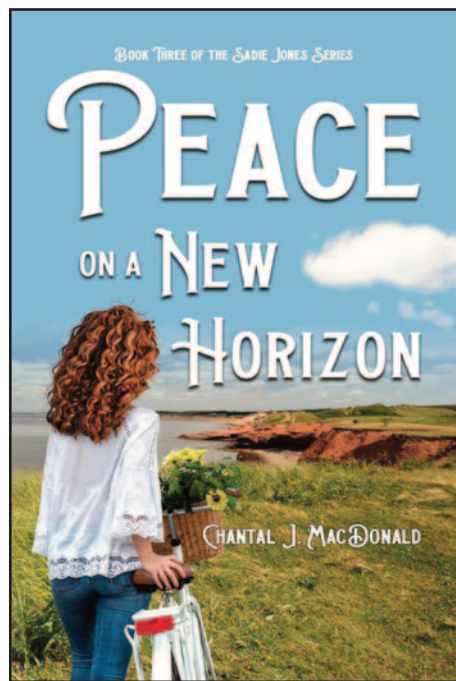
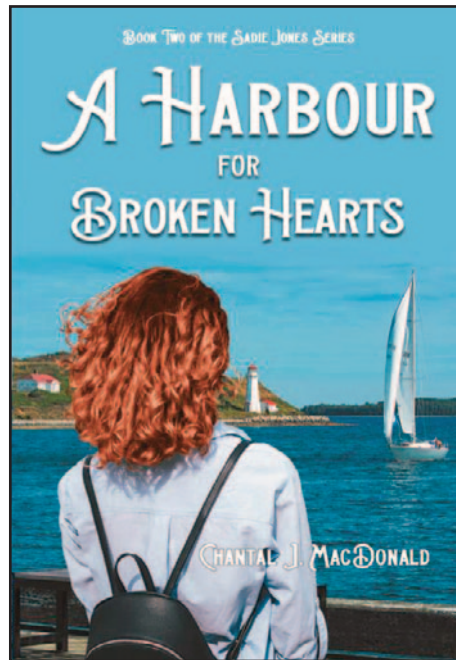
I saw other writers talking about daily word counts in the thousands and solo writing retreats. That was not feasible for me, especially considering we were thrust into a global pandemic almost immediately after I began to write. I needed to understand and embrace my season of life, and that meant small steps toward my goal instead of leaps. But I realized that small, consistent steps in the right direction will get you where you want to go.

And life changes quickly. What took me two years for my first book has taken six months for my third. I've gotten faster in my writing and have found what works best for my life and schedule. My writing window is usually after my children are in bed at night. I do my best to maximize the small windows of time that I can carve out of my day. It's also much easier to write when I am consistent. I figured out what worked for me and stuck with it.

*Q: What method did you use for publishing your books?*

I think there are lots of great paths available to writers who want to publish and there are pros and cons to them all. I prioritized the guarantee of a published book over the possibility of being signed by a publishing company. As such, I immediately decided to self-publish. There was much to learn about the process, but having done it several times over, I'm confident now in the process and the outcome.

The publishing world is changing. Self-publishing and hybrid publishers have less negative stigma attached to them. They are a guaranteed option for anyone willing to put in the work.



And with an estimated 81% of people dreaming of writing a book (according to a survey published in the NY Times), I've committed to encouraging and assisting people who are interested in self-publishing. I believe in self-publishing as a great path to launching books into the world.

*Q: What are your goals as a writer?*

In terms of my writing goals, I would love to have the Sadie Jones series (four books total) finished by spring 2025. I have ideas and plans to write a standalone Christmas novella as

well as some spin off stories from the series. I would also love to continue writing children's picture books and expanding on those I've already published.

*Q: What advice would you give to a first-time writer, someone just starting out, who has an idea but no experience?*

I would say just open a notebook or Word document and begin to write. Don't overthink it. Don't start researching publishing or printing options. Don't even spend a lot of time on honing your craft. You cannot edit an empty journal. You cannot publish a blank page. The difference between the 81% who want to write a book and the 3% who actually finish a manuscript is actually sitting down consistently and putting words to paper. Carve out time somewhere, make it a priority, and keep showing up to get the story out. The rest will come later.

*Q: Is there anything else you would like people to know about yourself or your books?*

I always want my books to be uplifting. The world can be dark and depressing, and there are beautiful books that engage with tough themes. For me, real life is hard enough. I want my books to be a place of hope in the face of some of those tough situations. While my characters will struggle through some authentic issues, I can promise that there will never be any dark, depressing, or explicit content in my books and that the stories will all end happily and with hope.

Chantal's books are available to purchase on Amazon or locally at Mill Cove Coffee in Miramichi. Lester the Lobster and the Great Escape is also available at Headwaters Miramichi.

Stay up-to-date with Chantal by following her on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok @chantaljmacdonald and by visiting her website at [www.chantaljmacdonald.com](http://www.chantaljmacdonald.com)



# Miramichi Literacy Council Poetry Contest Winners

*Each one, teach one.*

The Miramichi Literacy Council (MLC) recently held a poetry contest inviting all ASD-N students in grades 6-8 to write and submit an original poem, on any theme.

There were 92 submissions from middle school students from across the district and **Toby Waye won first place** for the poem, *Ode to The Words That be Told*. Contest judges Kayla Geitzler and Drew Lavigne, the former and current Poet Laureates of Moncton, respectively, were very impressed by the talent displayed by the students.



Miramichi Literacy Council offers free and confidential one-to-one adult tutoring in literacy, numeracy and life skills. We also partner with local partners to provide Cooking to Learn, the International Literacy Luncheon and other programs in order to bring literacy to more people in our community.



Pictured above are the winners from Max Aitken Academy along with MLC members.

*Left to right:* Nadine Pesch, Community Engagement Coordinator with MLC; Toby Waye, First Place; Anna Duguay, Honourable Mention; Maxime Gutscher, Honourable Mention; Austin Mullin, Second Place; Icyphene Watling, Honourable Mention; Lakyn Price, Honourable Mention; Pat Hegan, MLC President.

*Additional winners not pictured:*

Paula Guzman, Third Place (Superior Middle School); Ella Watson, Honourable Mention (Superior Middle School); Akita Duivenvoorden, Honourable Mention (Superior Middle School); Sahara Ward, Honourable Mention (NSER); Teagan Wishart, Honourable Mention (NSER); Bianca Engelmeyer, Honourable Mention (Dr. Losier Middle School); Jaxon Boudreau, Honourable Mention (Campbellton Middle School)

# Ode to The Words That be Told

by Toby Waye

The words that be told,  
May be told in any way.  
You are told with emotions,  
That controls the way.

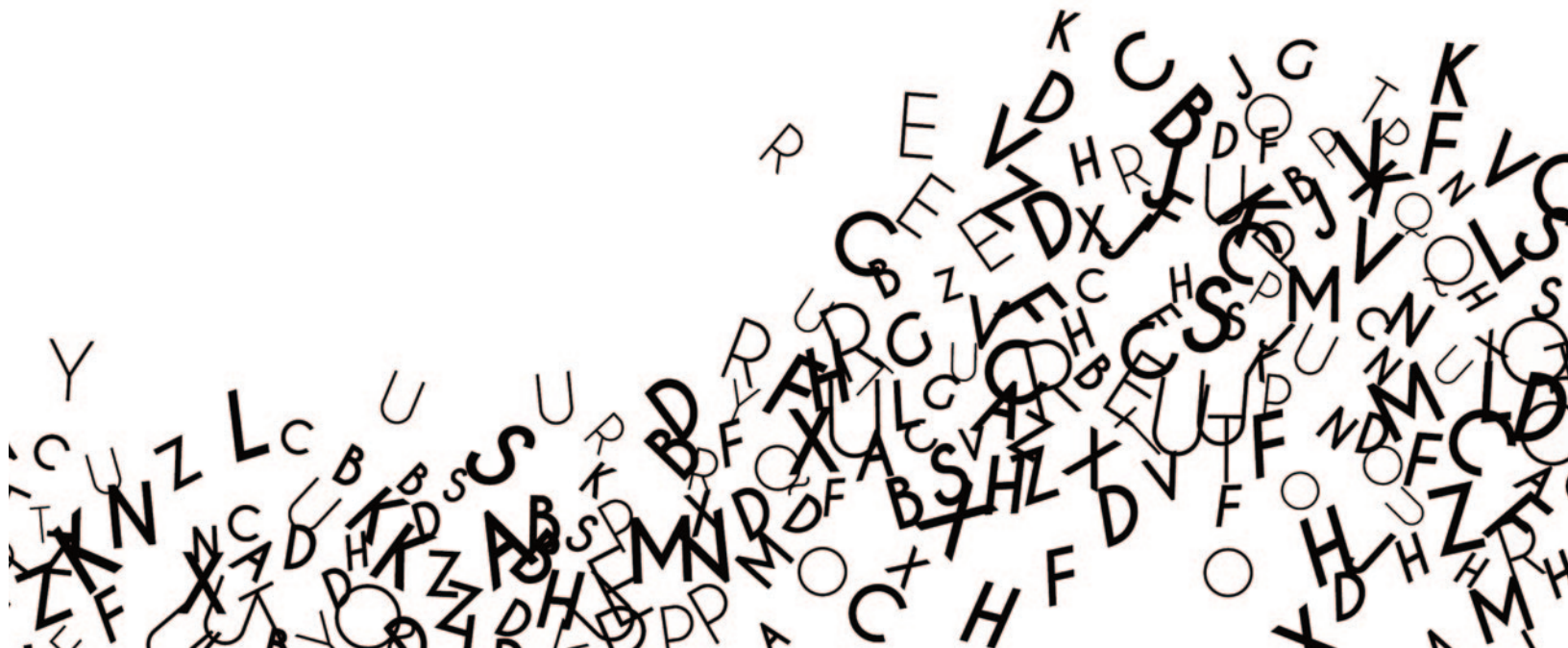
You can be enjoyable,  
Beautiful, but also believable.  
You may be something one may need to hear,  
Something one will remember and love to hear.

You can be hurtful,  
Bleak, but also brutal.  
You may have the power to stop life,  
you're something one may fear to act or to hear.

Hey, word that be told,  
You need to watch how you're told.  
You sometimes need to be said,  
Sometimes needed to be dead.

You are heard from day to day,  
Here to stay and not to fade.  
You are always said, not always from the brain,  
But also from the pain that we withstand.

That's why I like you, the words that be told,  
You are the law's mystery.  
You are told without recognition of the words that may flow from one's mouth,  
Like our ancestors that said the mystery that will bleed with recognition going down in history.





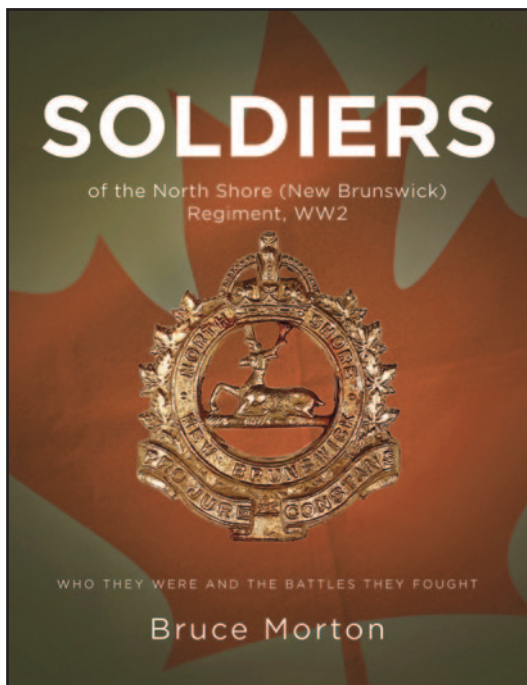
# A Review of *Soldiers*

By Johannes Bosma

*SOLDIERS of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, WW2 (Who They Were and the Battles They Fought)* by Bruce Morton, is a history of Canada's contribution to WW2, told in brief biographies of about 200 soldiers of all ranks.

At all times during the war, the majority of these NS (NB) Regt. soldiers were men who were born in New Brunswick or were living there before the war. About 60% were of English, Irish, or Scottish descent, 35% were French, and the balance were First Nations, Blacks and others. Biographies of First Nations soldiers include Peter Barlow, Clarence Simpson, and Walter Trumbley. Biographies of Black soldiers include Sydney Falls, Anselm Knox, and Harold Moss.

The North Shore (NB) Regiment was part of the first wave of the landing on Juno Beach on D-Day (June 6, 1944). *SOLDIERS* describes their casualty-intensive battles in Normandy, the capture of the French ports



along the English Channel, the brutal Battle of the Scheldt, and the Invasion of Germany.

During the campaign that began on June 6, 1944, and ended on May 5, 1945, the North Shore (NB) Regiment suffered 1,314 casualties: 371 were killed and 943 were wounded. The War Diary records the strength of the regiment on May 31, 1945, at 1,050 men. This number would include wounded from the earlier battles like Carpiquet who recovered and returned. Approximately ninety of the men who started with the regiment on D-Day were still with them at the end of the war.

Most of the men who served with the NS (NB) Regt. had lived through the ten years of the Great Depression (1929–39). Unemployment at times was estimated to be as high as 30%. There was no employment insurance, very few government welfare programs, no Canada Pension, and no provincial health care programs.

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Awards to NS (NB) Regt. soldiers included six Distinguished Service Order (DSO), seven Military Crosses (MC), two Distinguished Conduct Medals (DCM), and two Military Medals (MM).

Reviews of *SOLDIERS* include the following:

“Often, history books tell the stories of the past from a bird's-eye view of great battles, generals, and armies. Bruce Morton's new instalment looks at the rare and intimate point of view of the combatants who directly impacted the war. *SOLDIERS* shows the reader the true human face of war.” —Brandon Savage, President of the NS(NB)R Assoc., History Teacher, and partner with the North Shore Legacy Tours

“*SOLDIERS of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment WW2* is an ideal companion to Morton’s first book *One Hundred Years*. This book is a valuable contribution to the military history of Canada on a grass-roots level; for, at the end of the day, wars are fought by individuals on behalf of their



Private George Herman Baker, NS (NB) Regt., seen prior to disembarking the landing craft on Juno Beach, D-Day, June 6, 1944.

country. Their stories deserve to be told.” — Gary Silliker CD – author, historian, veteran

Executive Director, Juno Beach Centre Association

“*SOLDIERS* is an impressive collection of biographies offering valuable insight into a generation of New Brunswickers who went off to war – many of whom never returned. Bruce Morton has done a service to Canadians by preserving these stories of a fading generation of young men through careful research.” — Alex Fitzgerald-Black,

Copies of *SOLDIERS* are available at Mill Cove Coffee (Newcastle) and Creative Grounds (Chatham) or by contacting John Bosma at 506-773-5271.



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# How Does Your Garden Grow?



Verica Leblanc



George Bowie



Linda Vautour

## It's time to show off your garden!

We know you put a lot of love and attention into your flower gardens so get your cameras ready, and let's showcase how your garden grows!

In the Harvest (August) and Fall (October) issues of *Giv'er* magazine we'll have a section called "How Does Your Garden Grow" and will be accepting submissions up until September 13.

Whether you have a tiny balcony garden, a sprawling backyard oasis, or a community garden bursting with life, we want to see it all. Photos may be of your entire garden, or a close-up of your favorite bloom. Vegetable, fruit, and wildflower gardens are welcome too!

## Tips and tricks for capturing stunning photos of your garden.

**Lighting:** Pay attention to the lighting conditions. Soft, diffused lighting in the early morning or late afternoon tends to be the most flattering. Too bright midday sunlight can create overly contrasted images and shadows.

**Composition:** Experiment with different angles, perspectives, and focal points to create visually engaging images. Consider including elements such as pathways, garden structures, or unique plant combinations to add depth and interest to your photographs.

**Details and Close-ups:** Try zooming in to capture the intricate

details that make your garden special. Close-ups of vibrant flowers, delicate textures, or busy pollinators can create captivating images.

**How to submit:** Send your photos to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net) with "garden photos" in the subject line. Include your name, the plants name, and any other details you want to provide such as where you live, or a brief description of the photo and what makes your garden special. Photos should be high resolution meaning not re-sized or reduced for emailing (choose "send original size" if prompted from your phone). If you're not sure, email us a question! - Stacy Underhill, *Giv'er Magazine*



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Doug Kidd, aerial view of Bass Fishing Tournament



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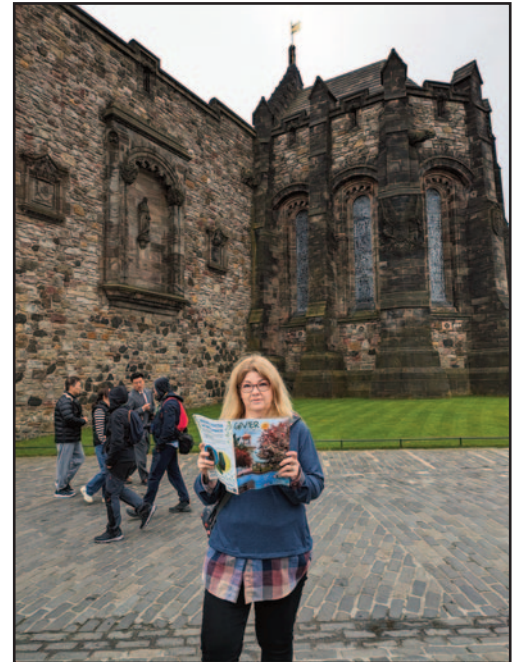


# Giv'er Goes on Vacation

Take Giv'er on vacation, whether it's near or far, and send in your photos to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net)



During a recent trip to Ireland, Resi Hoglander, a travel agent from Vancouver, found herself in the company of Miramichiers who just happened to have a Giv'er magazine for her to enjoy. It was more interesting than the view behind her!



Cindy MacLean brought along her Giv'er magazine to the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.



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"If one advances confidently in the direction of one's dreams, and endeavors to live the life which one has imagined, one will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

- Henry David Thoreau



## Your Perfect Day Awaits

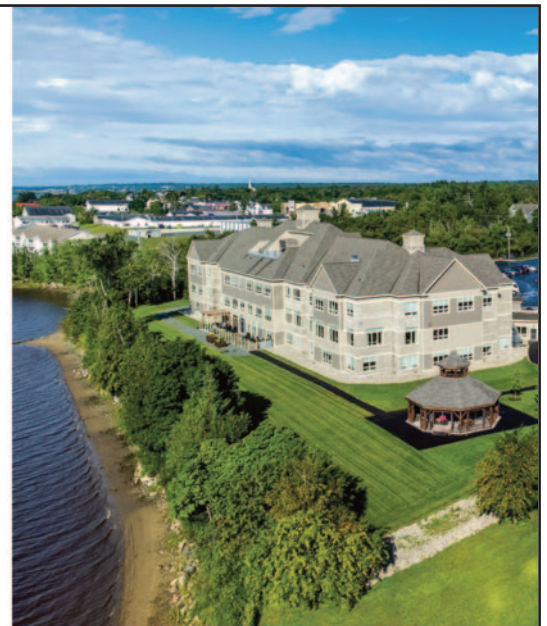
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Cathleen Richards Green The Old Wagon (Bartibog Park) Soft Pastels



Vicki Mahabir Hummingbird Moth



Jacques La Fontaine, Immature Bald Eagle



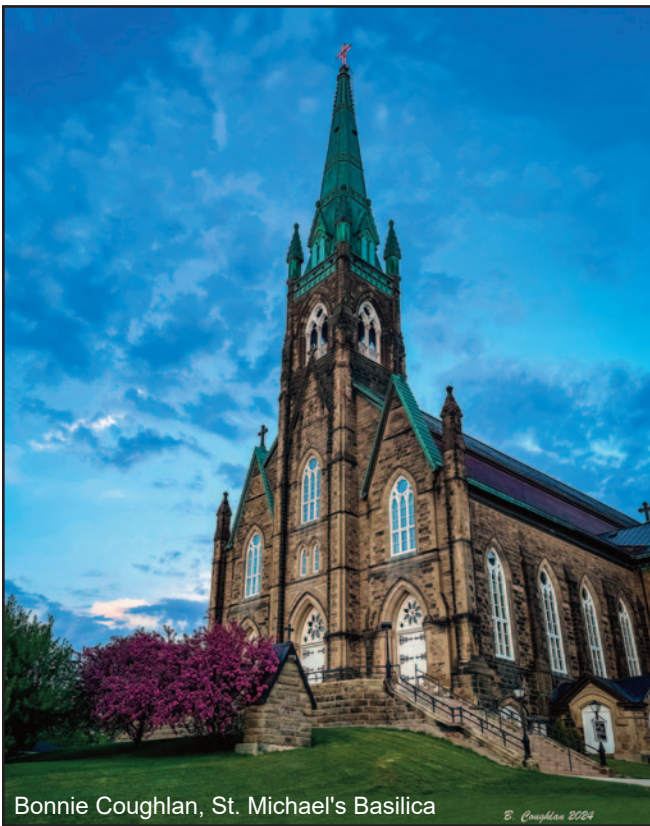
Carrie Ann Vienneau, Rainbow in Whitney



Jacques La Fontaine millstream after the storm



Laura Lea Harrison, Dragonfly



Bonnie Coughlan, St. Michael's Basilica

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George Bowie, Sunrise Oak Point



George Bowie, Double Rainbow in Oak Point



Bonnie Coughlan, St. Patrick's Church with Lilacs

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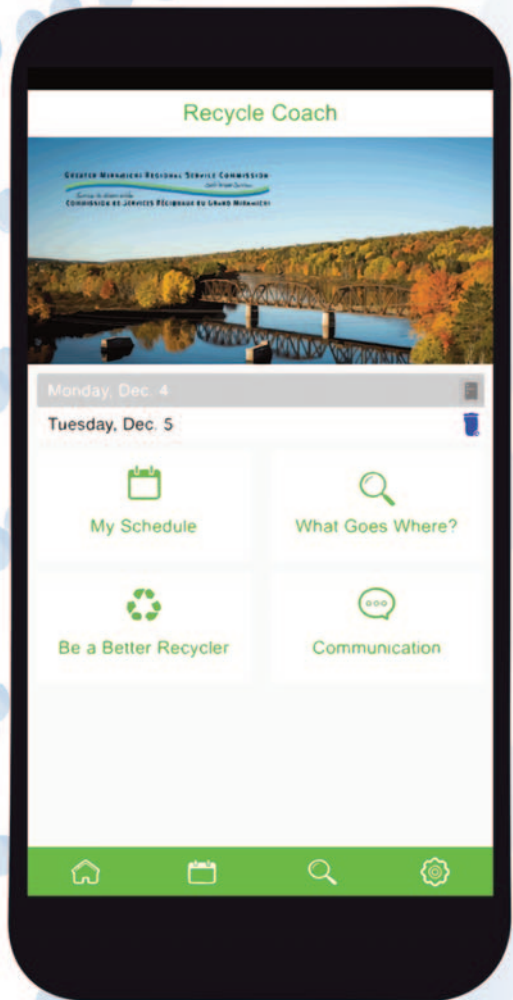
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