

FREE!

Christmas 2017

# GIVER

## Miramichi

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### INSIDE!

- Christmas Events and Church Services
- How **Operation Kind Kids** is making a difference.
- **Ella Curtis** - At 94 she is dreaming forward!

And more!

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MIRAMICHI



# Seaman's Hospital Christmas Craft Sale

The Hall was bustling with activity at the 2nd Annual Christmas Craft Sale, Nov. 4th at the newly-renovated Seaman's Hospital.

Operated by Miramichi Heritage Inc., the main hall and dining room were decorated with a traditional Christmas tree and handmade lanterns (made by the Friends of Seaman's Hospital quilt group) on every windowsill. The vendors exceeded every expectation! From tiny ornaments to large framed pictures and woodworking, they had it all.

There was no shortage of 'good eats' either. Sandwiches, cookies and fudge were available from the Seaman's "crew" and muffins and other treats were for sale by the vendors. A very large number of shoppers and visitors came along and everyone seemed to have a good time if full shopping bags were any measure of success.

As promised, the quilt raffle for the Canada 150 quilt took place at noon, won by Mrs. Beatrice LeBlanc. The generous door prize was won by Mrs. Symone Daley of Hardwicke.

The Board of Miramichi Heritage Inc. thanks everyone involved in making this event a successful start to the Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas to all!



The Canada 150 Quilt with the winner Mrs. Beatrice LeBlanc (left) and Seaman's Hospital President Christel Pond (right).



**Above:** Robert Squarebriggs and his woodcarving display.

**Left:** Swedish weaving by Jackie LeBreton and Brenda Hicks in the foreground, Sherry Theriault and Mr & Mrs Squires in background.

**Cover Photo:** A holiday display at Décor Haute Look. Photo by Jamie Alexander.

*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. Our collaborative mindset is contagious. Send us your good stuff to talk about on the river! We're looking for events, stories, celebrations, pictures and video links about what's up, what's new, what's happening. Keep it clean, keep it positive, and we'll promote it.*

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# Classifieds



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## Community

### NB Giant Pumpkin Festival in Neguac

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10th place with his  
650 lb pumpkin!



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# City Hall Updates



## PUBLIC WORKS - WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Public Works snow removal crew starts to plow at 3" accumulation and will plow continuous until all streets are plowed full width.

Main arteries and Downtown core receive salt to maintain bare pavement.

Secondary streets and contracted areas receive sand salt mixture during slippery conditions.

Depending on the duration, time and amount of snow, clean up time may vary.

Clean up time expected after a storm is 8am the following day.

### Some helpful hints:

- Adopt a fire hydrant that may be close to your house, it may save you or your neighbor
- If a catch basin is located close to your property and you experience flooding, keep it clear.
- When removing snow from your property, avoid large banks at the end of your driveway. It creates poor visibility for you and when City crews are maintaining streets full width, filling in your driveway is unavoidable.
- Do not place snow from your driveway on the street. This is a safety hazard for the motoring public and a fine is possible.
- During stormy conditions please follow police advisories and stay off the road unless it is an emergency.

To contact Public Works between 8am-5pm call 623-2020 and after hours call 623-2241.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Summer Student Recruitment** – starts the week of December 18th and accepted until January 31st, 2018. Please check our website [www.miramichi.org](http://www.miramichi.org) after December 18th for further instruction.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

City of Miramichi is in the process of preparing the **2018 Miramichi and Region Visitor's Guide**. Anyone with an event for 2018 is asked to contact Wade Hallihan for consideration of being included in the guide. Wade can be reached at 623-2158 or [wade.hallihan@miramichi.org](mailto:wade.hallihan@miramichi.org)



## COMMUNITY WELLNESS & RECREATION

The **Fall & Winter Program Guide** is now available on the City Website at [www.miramichi.org](http://www.miramichi.org)  
The Daily info line is 623-2323, Office line 623-2300.

**Swimming Registration** will be held on January 5th beginning at 5:30, online and at the recreation office 94 General Manson Way.

**5-2-1-0 Way of Life** is an initiative that partners with communities across Northumberland County to promote healthy behaviors among children. It provides clear goals for families to live healthy every day, AND provides tools and resources to community leaders to make changes to their programs, policies and environments so that the healthy choice is the easy choice. For more information visit [www.5210.ca](http://www.5210.ca)





**Nov. 28: St. Andrew's Anglican Church Annual Ladies Tea & Sale** on Tuesday, from 11am until 1pm. There will be gifts, crafts, baked goods and a white elephant table as well as a lunch of sandwiches and sweets, tea and coffee. Lunch is \$10 but the public are welcome to just browse and shop as well. The sale takes place at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 214 Pleasant Street (next to Trans Restaurant).

**Nov. 29: Miramichi Senior Citizens Home Annual Craft and Bake Sale**

Join us as we celebrate the season with over eight vendors featuring a variety of products for Christmas shopping including crafts, ornaments, cards, baked goods, Tupperware, Jewelry, Mary K, Wood Creations and more. Also purchase 100 Gift Draw tickets and see our silent auction. Monies raised support our Resident Council. All are welcome. Sale is from 1 to 4 pm at 1400 Water St., Miramichi Senior Citizens Home.

**Dec. 1st: 32nd annual Parade of Lights**

Children of all ages are invited to celebrate the Parade of Lights, taking place Friday evening in the Historic Chatham Business District. This year's theme, "There's No Place Like Home For Christmas" embodies all that holiday celebrations should be, love, tradition, family, friends and sharing. Festivities will begin on Historic Water St. at 6pm with hosts Veronique Arsenault and Paul McGraw. We encourage everyone to come down early enough to find a viewing spot and enjoy hot drinks and treats for the kids provided by some of our local merchants.

**Dec. 1-3: The St. James & St. John United Church Drama Troupe** is proud to present "Christmas at the Miramichi Valley Nursing Home", a dessert theater, December 1, 2, 3, at 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:15 PM) at the United Church Center, 556 King George Hwy. A touching and humorous play about the dreams, loneliness and uplifting faith of a group of elderly people gathered in the common room of a nursing home on Christmas Eve – this is a play you won't want to miss! On stage is Diane Forrest, Susan Watling, Greg Donovan, Kathy Buckley, Nancy Donald, Terry Mullin, Tony Miller, Katrina Donovan, David Watling, Sydney Murray, Rev. Alice Szemok, Gwen Baisley, Caden Whyte, Charlene Savard, Daniel Szemok, Lou Anne Donovan, Ronda Whyte, children from the Sunday School and Kimberley Shaddick. Tickets are \$15 and available at the

church center, Brookdale Flower Shop and Breatheasy.

**Dec. 2: "It's Christmas"** The Doaktown Legion and the Community Choral Group present "Its Christmas" under the direction of Monty Carr, at the Doaktown Legion. A traditional Turkey Dinner will be served at 6pm. The show, including a sing-along with your favourite carols, begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 each. Reserve yours at Sears (342 Main Street, Doaktown) or by calling Linda Gaston at 365-7054.

**Dec. 2: A Christmas Yard and Bake Sale** be held at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 37 King Street, Miramichi, 9am to 12pm.

**Dec. 2: Neguac Christmas Parade**

Join us for this community celebration. To enter a float contact Willie Robichaud 424-1225.

**Dec. 2: Santa Claus Parade of Lights, Blackville** The annual parade starts at 5pm from Hooked 'n Cooked and ends at the Blackville Fire Hall where Santa Claus will be handing out treats to the kids.

**Dec. 2: A Handmade Christmas Craft Sale** Saturday from 10am to 4pm at the Nordin Rec Centre. Stop by to see crafts & creations by local vendors. Hope to see you there!

**Dec: 2-3: Christmas at the Farm**

At MacDonald Farm, take a horse and wagon ride back in time to the 1800's and visit the home of Alexander and Grace MacDonald and see how they celebrated the season. Greet them at the front door and take a tour of their beautifully decorated home. In the barn you will find a live nativity and outside a lovely bonfire for the children to warm themselves as they play. \$20 for a family of four. \$7/person

**Dec. 3: Christmas Parade in Rogersville**

Starting at 5:30pm on Central Street and it ends at the High School where there will be live music, Santa, hot chocolate and surprise bags for the kids.

**Dec. 3: Christmas Tree Lighting**

This celebration of the holiday season begins at 6pm with the tree lighting ceremony at Richelieu Park. Afterwards citizens are invited to visit the church basement to enjoy a little cake and a hot drink. Also Santa Claus will be present to give a surprise to the children. Contact Shirley Comeau at 776-3950.





### Dec. 3: Annual Victorian Christmas Tea

Sandwiches, sweets, breads, tea, coffee and apple cider will be served at - 12noon to 1pm, and 1:30-2:30pm. \$10/person. At the WS Loggie Cultural Centre, 222 Wellington Street, Chatham.

### Dec. 3: St. Mary's Christmas Craft Sale and Tea Room

Join us Sunday, from 10am to 2pm at at the Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church Parish Centre, 360 Newcastle Boulevard. Tickets will be for sale on a Queen Size Quilt. Table rentals are \$15. each and available by calling 506-622-1780 or email [susanbutler@xplornet.com](mailto:susanbutler@xplornet.com).

**Dec. 7: Caregivers Christmas Meet and Greet** If you are the main caregiver to someone living with an addiction or a mental illness, we cordially invite you to a Caregivers Christmas Meet & Greet. Come enjoy some coffee and donuts on us, see that you are not alone. Fundy Line Restaurant Conference Room from 10am – 12pm. Please RSVP your confirmation of this event to [ssnbmiramichi@nb.aibn.com](mailto:ssnbmiramichi@nb.aibn.com)

### Dec. 9: Sunny Corner Christmas Market

Craft sale and breakfast served by NSER Alumni in the NSER Cafeteria 9am - 1pm. Something for everyone: baked goods, meat pies, jams, pickles, leggings, jewelry, Blankets, wood crafts, fresh eggs and much more.

**Dec. 9: Canada 150 Turkey Supper** at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 214 Pleasant Street (next to Trans Restaurant). Take-outs from 3:00-4:00pm. Sit-down meal from 4:00-6:00pm.

Cost is \$12. All tickets will be pre-sold. Please call the Parish Office to inquire about tickets – 622-7614.

### Dec. 9: Country Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

Our Country Christmas Craft & Bake Sale will be here before you know it! We'll have baking: fruit cakes, banana bread, nut bread, raisin brown bread, white bread and rolls, donuts, meat pies, pickles, jams, jellies, fudge and sweet trays! In the craft section there will be beautiful knitting, mens socks, shell pattern mitts, cute little mittens & socks for the kids, slippers and hats, vintage and also hand-made jewellery, assorted crafts and wreaths. Come site by the wood stove and have a sampling of fruit cake and a cup of tea/coffee, Open 9am to 2pm at Darlene's



Country Cottage, 186 Barnettville Rd, Blackville. Tel: 843-7878.

### Dec. 17: Free Christmas Dinner for Seniors.

The Kinsmen and Lions will be offering a free Christmas dinner for seniors over 65 on December 17th. If you wish to go to this event please call 622-4046 to reserve your seating time. The dinner will be held at the Lions Centre on Morrison Lane.

### Dec. 24: Annual Christmas Dinner

Saint Thomas United Church, Doaktown will be hosting their Christmas Dinner again this year. For those who will be alone during this glorious time, we would enjoy your company. The dinner is for those people of Doaktown and the surrounding areas. Come for the Meet and Greet at 12:30pm. Dinner will commence at 1pm or shortly thereafter. Seating is limited so it is requested we know of your attendance in advance. Please contact Mary (365-1113) or Marilyn (365-4520).



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# Ella Curtis: Still Dreaming Forward

by Judy Bowman

If there is any one person who shatters the stereotype of the elderly, it is Ella Curtis, born Ella Rosalie Mountain, of Gray Rapids, New Brunswick. At 94, a veteran of World War 2, she says, "I am not just going to sit around waiting to die. I'll be doing something every day."

One such 'something' was to get a tattoo. This was never a plan, but she had been talking to one of the nurses at her home. "The next thing I knew," says Ella, "the nurse was on the phone with a guy named Chuck and she asked me, 'Ella, do you want a tattoo? He's interested in doing yours because he hasn't done anyone that old.' So the next thing you know, we were off. And I decided on a rose." A rose, significant because, my second name is Rosalie and my husband always gave me roses for special occasions." For weeks, Ella was a Facebook sensation and people still visit to see it.

Ella attributes her ability to look ahead, to the next something, because of her vivid imagination, a quality she developed in early childhood. "I don't know what I would have done without my imagination. Maybe," she says, "it's because I was the first born and a girl and after me, my mother had three boys, one right after the other; there were no pills in those days. She'd get me up, dressed and fed before the boys because they were such a handful. She'd sit me in my little rocker and give me a book to read, turning it right when it was upside down and show me the cat. She'd spell cat and then I began to read.



Ella Curtis proudly wearing her Royal Canadian Air Force uniform when she first enlisted.

"The girls around were all older than me. The people across the road had all boys. And, since I had no one to play with, I was a loner. I had all my dolls and someone had made me a little table and chairs so I had tea parties. But then, the boys would come along and torment me by knocking my dolls over and grabbing the sandwiches. I'd go crying to Mom and she'd tell me to ignore them. That was awful hard to do. Sometimes I had tantrums. And I'd be lying on the floor screaming and kicking and my mother would walk around me, ignoring me. When my father came in, Mom would say, 'Have you seen Ella? This little Sally Featherhole came up from the swamp and she's making an awful ruckus. If you see Ella, send her home.' And I'd look up from the floor and wonder why they couldn't see me and it wasn't long until Sally Featherhole went back to the swamp.

"Behind our house, there was a little woods and a bit of a swamp and then the river. I'd go down there to get away from the boys and I'd sit there and look up at the clouds in my own little dream, just like a little fairy. I could pick out





flowers like lady slippers and daisies. I'd read books about princesses and princes. And I used to pretend I had this beautiful gown on and jewels and that I was in a castle and dancing with a handsome prince."

Because of the depression, it was a very long time before Ella wore beautiful clothes. "It wasn't easy. During those years, we had no money for clothes. And, you know what you're like as a teenager, you like nice clothes. No one threw anything out. So I'd go to my grandmother Crocker's in Newcastle and get an old coat. I'd take it all apart and turn it inside out and a woman who could sew would make me a new coat. When an aunt who had a shop in the United States sent up a box of unsold clothes, it was like Christmas."

Ella attended school and dealt with bullies who mocked her clothes and looks. "It's a shame that is still going on in schools today. I fell for my husband Byron in high school, was just crazy about him but we didn't marry until we both got home from the war. After graduation, I went off to Ontario all by myself and got a job in a dress store in Toronto for a year."

Back at home, the year she enlisted, Ella recalls Barnum and Bailey Circus coming to town and watching the train unload the elephants and tigers from the porch on her grandparent's house. "A lion went missing and everyone was so scared till it was found, especially my grandmother who was worried about us.

"There were posters for the army, navy and air force up all around town. My friend and I met two men from the Air Force and they told us that was the best place. The uniforms were much nicer as well. So, we went right down to the armoury and signed up in the RCAF Women's Division. Six of us girls had our picture taken and it was in the newspaper when we took the train to Moncton. There we had to pass an IQ test and medical and were sworn in. I put my hand on the Bible and swore to serve my King and country and go anywhere in the world I was told to go. And then, it sunk in, Oh my God, what did I get into? But, then I put on my complete uniform and I have never known a more satisfying moment. Off we went to Rockcliffe, Ontario for our basic training. In the middle of the trip, we had to change trains and here we were running down the tracks to the other train, hair in rollers, carrying what we had, which wasn't much, and laughing.

"Basic training was rough. You don't know how they whipped us into shape. If I wasn't tough before, I was when I finished; that old sergeant roaring at you and you had to respond immediately, no hesitation. After basic, I went to Belleville, Mountain View to a bombing and gunnery school where I taught aircraft recognition to the air gunners, then off to Toronto.

"The war changed everything for women. Before then, men wouldn't accept women in the workforce. My generation was the first to break that barrier. We showed them we could do the same work they did, like the girls who



Ella Curtis dressed for a Remembrance Day service last year.

worked on farms and ran old trucks and tractors. When the war ended, many women gave up their jobs, often regrettably to service men. But we had blazed the way for the working women today."

On return and marriage to Byron, Ella taught school for four or five years. She and Byron had three children, Patricia, Peter, and Nancy. From all reports, Patricia, the oldest, encountered a second generation Sally Featherhole from the swamp. Ella has five grandchildren.

Interested in elections since high school, Ella worked elections and continues to be aware of party platforms. "Back then, the men would get a drink, there'd be chocolates and sandwiches, and then the candidates would get into a fight. It was great fun."

Ella is content and happy with her life, even the hard times. "You grew up. It made you tougher, and more appreciative of everything. I had a good husband and family."

She sums up the uniqueness of her generation. "We are survivors of the Great Depression, World War 2 and parents of the baby boomers. We are longer lived and more widely traveled than any generation before us. We have lived through many changes, from horse and buggy, to Model T Fords; from crank handled telephones to cell phones; moon walks and space shuttles and the internet. Many of us have computers, televisions; such wonders still amaze us.

Ella's power to be amazed continues to come from her rich imagination. We all wonder what her next 'something' will be.

Judy Bowman is an award winning author. She has published fiction and poetry nationally and internationally in literary journals. In 2008, she was nominated for the Atlantic Newspapers Freelance Journalist Award and the same year, voted Favourite Journalist of the Year. She loves contributing to Gi'ver.





# St. Patrick's Church Fundraiser

Help the Church make Necessary Repairs through Go Fund Me.

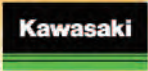
Built in 1894, the steeple once rose high above the bell tower of our historic sandstone church but recently had to be removed. Deteriorating wooden beams at its base caused the steeple to lean and become unsafe.

The parish is currently in the midst of covering the costs of the steeple's removal and replacing the deteriorated timbers and brickwork within the bell tower. We humbly ask for your support to help us restore our historic church.


ALL donations: big and small are greatly appreciated! This online platform has been set up to collect funds which will go towards essential renovations at St. Patrick's R.C. Church - Miramichi, NB.


St. Patrick's Go Fund Me link:  
[www.gofundme.com/st-patricks-steeple-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/st-patricks-steeple-fund)






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**Dec. 3: St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham**  
11am: Dedication of Memory Wreath & White Gift Service

**Dec. 3: Upper Blackville United Baptist Church,**  
Howard Rd.  
11am: "Wonder-Full Jesus"

**Dec. 3rd Upper Blackville United Baptist Church,**  
7pm: "A Christmas Fitness Plan"

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**Dec. 3: Calvin Presbyterian Church, Chatham**  
An evening of Christmas music, featuring The Villagers, beginning at 7pm.

**Dec. 9: Williamstown Church, 726 Williamstown Road**  
A Christmas Service will be held at 2pm with Rev. Roger Estey presiding. Featuring Shirley Estey at the piano, The Millerton School choir and Mary Stewart and Leo Pineau.

**Dec. 10: Calvin Presbyterian Church, Chatham**  
4:30pm: Calvin's Christmas Celebration and Potluck.

**Dec. 10: Pentecostals of Miramichi, Chatham**  
11am: Christmas Program - Emoji Christmas  
6pm: Christmas Program - The Living Nativity.

**Dec. 10th Upper Blackville United Baptist Church.**  
11am: "A Complete Christmas"

**Merry Christmas  
and all the best  
in the New Year!**

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*Warm wishes for the holiday season!*  
*Meilleur vœux pour la saison des fêtes!*

**Pat Finnigan**  
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Miramichi Grand Lake

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506-778-8448 1-800-567-5564

FAX: 506-778-8150  
[Pat.Finnigan.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pat.Finnigan.C1@parl.gc.ca)





# Church Services



**Dec. 10th Upper Blackville United Baptist Church,**

6:30pm: Sunday School Christmas Presentation:  
"A Child Is Born and A Son Is Given"

**Dec. 15-17: Calvary Baptist Church, Newcastle**  
Share the joy of Christmas by attending our "While the World Slept" Cantata at 7pm.

**Dec. 17: St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham**  
11am - CGIT Alumni Vesper Service

**Dec. 17: Upper Blackville United Baptist Church,**  
11am: "A Gracious Christmas"  
6:30pm: "I Love Those Shepherds"



*Season's Greetings*  
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Closing Dinner/Concert with The Scott Woods  
Band on August 10th at the Kin Centre.

**Feb 3: Annual White Gold Dinner/Concert**  
at Beaverbrook Kin Centre with Leander Mendoza  
Tickets \$40. By reservation only.

For ALL ticket inquiries and reservations:  
506-622-1780 or [susanbutler@explornet.com](mailto:susanbutler@explornet.com)  
[www.MiramichiFolksongFestival.com](http://www.MiramichiFolksongFestival.com)

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# Christmas Church Services

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*



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Miramichi, NB  
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SERVICE 888-451-7192  
PARTS 888-453-4661  
[www.townefordnb.com](http://www.townefordnb.com)  
MIRAMICHI 622-9020

**Dec. 18: Calvary Baptist Church, Newcastle**  
Christmas Kids Program at 7pm, at 203 Delano Avenue,  
Miramichi.



## Christmas Eve Services

**Upper Blackville United Baptist Church, Howards**  
11am: "Jesus: The Great Gift Giver"  
6:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship: "A Carol-Filled  
Christmas"

**Maple Glen United Church**  
4:30pm: Family Christmas Service

**St. James & St. John United Church, Newcastle**  
6pm: Family Christmas Service with Live Nativity by  
the Sunday School

**St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham**  
11am: Christmas Family Service  
8pm: Candle Light Communion Service

**Calvin Presbyterian Church, Chatham**  
7pm: Christmas Eve Service (there will be no morning  
service)



## New Year's Eve

**Upper Blackville United Baptist Church,**  
11am: "A Promising New Year"  
6:30pm: New Year's Eve Worship: "A Prayer-Full New  
Year"



*Merry Christmas  
Joyeux Noël*



**Lisa Harris**  
MLA Miramichi Bay-Neguac/  
Députée Baie-de-Miramichi Neguac  
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# The Salvation Army Miramichi Needs your Help this Christmas!

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE:** list at our office.

## **SPONSOR A FAMILY**

Provide food and/or toys and gifts for Christmas. Call to register. Families will be assigned to sponsors after Nov 18th..

## **CHRISTMAS KETTLE CAMPAIGN**

Can you volunteer some of your time? Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Kettle Campaign from Nov. 20th to Dec 23rd.

Give the Gift of Your Time - 2 ½ hr shifts Monday through Saturday at several city locations: Superstore Chatham and Newcastle locations, WalMart, NBLC (Newcastle), Sobeys Douglastown and Newcastle. Choose your preferred Shift Time and Day: Monday thru Saturday.

Contact Kettle Coordinator, Tracy Miersch at 622-7826

The Salvation Army Community Resource Center  
231 Pleasant Street, Miramichi,  
NB E1V 1Y6 Tel: 622-7826

[www.MiramichiSalvationArmy.ca](http://www.MiramichiSalvationArmy.ca)



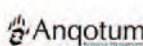
## **FILL A TRUCK OR TRUNK TOY DRIVE**

Drop off new toys by Dec. 1st at Participating Dealers: Miramichi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Inc., Towne Ford and Towne Mazda, Trevors Hyundai and Trevors Nissan.

**MAKE A DONATION – GIFT CARDS** for children and teens, toys, clothing, mittens, or foot items. Monetary donations can be made at The Salvation Army Family Service Office at the address below. Make cheques payable to "The Salvation Army CRC".

**FILL A SUNSHINE BAG** – FILL a cellophane bag with small gifts for Christmas stocking for children or with toiletries for teens. Sunshine Bags of toiletries are needed for men and women All year round! Pick up the sunshine bags & suggestion

# Wela'lin - Thank You - Merci







# MiramichiMarketplace.com

## Shop Local!

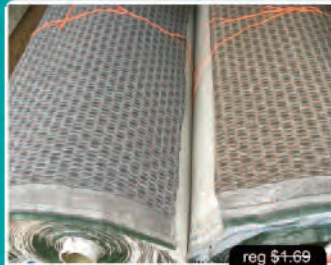


SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL THE  
STAFF AT Eastern Tile & Carpet



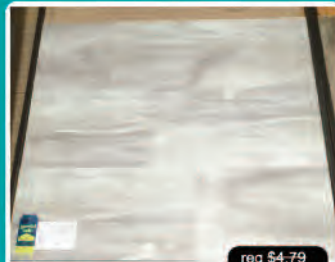
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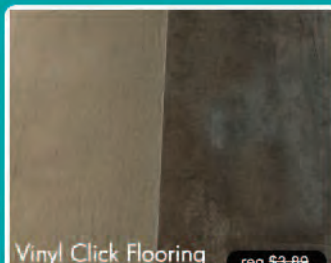
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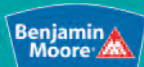
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# Skating Lessons for Kids

## Would you like your child to learn to skate?

Let the Miramichi Skating Club teach your child skating skills following Skate Canada's CanSkate Program.

## When can you register?

Registrations are now being taken by appointment only. Please contact Laura Young-Perry or Marie-Josée Watt via private message on Facebook to set up a time to register. Or call Laura Perry at 506-424-0607.

## Prices

1 day/week – \$325/year Monday or Wednesday 5:30-6:00pm (Pre-CanSkate) or 6:15pm (CanSkate)

2 days/week – \$385/year Monday and Wednesday

The season runs from October 2nd 2017 to March 28th 2018. Half season registration is also available. Please note that registering siblings qualifies you for a \$25/child discount at all registration dates.

All sessions are at the Civic Centre. Any families living outside of Miramichi will need to purchase a facility user fee card from the city in order to register. These cards are purchased through the city and if you have any questions you can call them directly at 623-2300.

For more information visit the Facebook group, Miramichi Skate Club





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# Dining & Entertainment

**Dec. 3: Miramichi Worldwide Christmas Concert** at the Vogue Theatre in Chatham on at 7 pm featuring school choirs and local talent. Refreshments will be served and a draw for a quilt will take place. Admission is a free-will donation. Everyone welcome.

## **Dec. 6 to 10: Living Christmas Tree**

This popular Christmas event is held at the Point Church, Newcastle Site, 582 King George Hwy, Wednesday to Sunday at 7pm. Tickets are free of charge. Food donation for the under-resourced appreciated!

**Dec. 9-10: "The Pinch That Stole Christmas" - A Comedy (with dessert)** The Whooper Spring Players, a community theater group, will be hosting their annual Christmas dessert theater on Saturday, December 9th & Sunday, December 10th. The two-act comedy "The Pinch That Stole Christmas" will be staged at the United Church Center, 143 Main Street, Blackville beginning at 7pm each evening. Cost of the tickets are \$15. Call Richard or Alice Gilks at 506-843-6139 for further information.



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# MacRae's Insurance - Thriving after 36 yrs in Business

by Les McLaughlin

In July, 1981 MacRae Insurance Services was born when the husband and wife team of Brian and Faye MacRae purchased the former H.L. Dunphy Insurance Brokerage from Harold Dunphy. The young couple started the new business in their private home in Blackville with just one insurance company represented. The business grew out of the family home and into a nearby building that is the current location of Pai-Can Recyclers. As the years passed, it found its permanent location at 161 Main Street, a building with a long history of business in Blackville.

Built in the 1890's, the building housed a general store operated by local merchants Jane MacRae and her first husband James Bean. When Bean died,

Jane remarried to another local businessman James Gerrish and the two operated the store until the late 1930's. In 1944, Roy MacRae purchased the storefront and, along with his uncle Walter MacRae, operated W. A. & R. L. MacRae General Store. The merchants also offered delivery service to the rural area for several decades.

Once the general store closed, Faye and Brian, who is Roy's son, took ownership of the building. They also opened a second MacRae's Insurance location in Doaktown.

In 2008, the building in Blackville was listed on the Canadian Register as a Local Historic Place.

Two years later, in December 2010, Brian and Faye retired and ownership of MacRae Insurance Services was

passed on to their son-in-law Kirby Curtis. Kirby and his staff continue to provide the same friendly, quality service their clients have come to expect over the years. Brian and Faye have since moved to Regina, Saskatchewan.

The business has thrived over the 36+ years it has been in operation and now employs a full time staff of five and represents several insurance companies. The



L to R: Sandra Donovan, Cindy Underhill, Sarah Everett, Kirby Curtis, Bradley Coughlan

Doaktown office closed in August 2017 and those clients are now serviced through the Blackville location.

MacRae's offers insurance services for home, auto, commercial, logging equipment, recreational vehicles, travel trailers and boats. For more information or to receive an insurance quote, visit [macraeinsurance.ca](http://macraeinsurance.ca), call locally at 843-6558, toll-free at 1-833-843-6558 or stop by their office at 161 Main Street in Blackville.

Les McLaughlin manages a website, Memories of Blackville, dedicated to preserving the historical heritage of Blackville by sharing and recording its history. [www.memoriesofblackville.com](http://www.memoriesofblackville.com)



The building when it was a general store operated by Jane MacRae and James Bean.

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Above photo by Grace Trowbridge

# Christmas At the Farm

## MacDonald Farm - December 2-3

Take a horse and wagon ride back in time to the 1800's and visit the home of Alexander and Grace MacDonald and see how they celebrated the season over 200 yrs ago. Greet them at the front door and take a tour of their beautifully decorated stone home. Listen to the sounds of the crackling fire, enjoy homemade baked beans, brown bread and a Christmas cookie. Purchase some homemade goodies, or handmade gifts. In the barn you will find a live nativity scene and outside a lovely bonfire for the children to warm themselves as they play.

Admission is \$7 per person or \$20 for a family of four. December 2nd & 3rd: 1pm to 4pm at MacDonald Farm, 600 Route 11, Lower Newcastle.



Photo by Bob Gillis



## Happy Holidays

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Jamie Alexander is an award-winning designer, home decor writer and TV personality that has been named one of the "Top 10 designers in Canada". He can be found from time to time working in the design studio with Julie & Joanne at Décor Haute Look in the scenic town of Neguac.

For more information please visit:  
[www.decorhautelook.com](http://www.decorhautelook.com) | 506.776.0200 | Twitter  
 @JamieLAlexander | Instagram: @JamieAlexanderDesign

# Decorating for the Holidays

by Jamie Alexander

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The lights go up, the decorations are hung and the house becomes a "home for the holidays".

Every year my heart is saddened with the amount of "disposable décor" that seems to flood the market place. Looking at my family's Christmas decorating, it was about the sentimental feeling you get when you unpack the decorations of Christmas past. I wanted to share with you a few tips & tricks on how to make the most of what you already may have in your home that can be used for the holidays by adding touches of "investment decorations" that you will keep for many years to come.



**The Mantle:** The hearth (fireplace) has been said to be the heart of the home, or at least the heart of the room in which it resides.

**Tip #1-** Gather your décor. Instead of spreading decorations all over the room gather it together to create a focal point for the room. In the photo above we gathered the miniature trees that were accumulated over the years and added year-round candle holders to the mix. Here we left the everyday art above the fireplace and added a wreath, miniature trees and real balsam / pine branches. Got allergies? Don't worry décor shops sell amazing quality & great looking faux branches.



**The Server:** Perhaps in your home it's a console, buffet or side board. Regardless of its function, it can be transformed into a holiday decoration for the dining room or hallway.

**Tip#2-** Layer, layer and more layers. Layering is Key when decorating the server for any occasion. As you will notice again we took everyday items like these gorgeous summertime lanterns, a mirror, wreath and candles. Layering them together with a faux fur throw gave



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*New Christmas Arrivals!*



us the “holiday look” for less, The only Christmas décor additions were the ornaments & wreath that we layered in with everyday décor pieces from around the home.



**The Tree:** Often we forget about under the tree when we decorate for Christmas. We leave it to be bare until Christmas eve when Santa comes to fill the stockings hung on the chimney with care.

**Tip #3-** Use what you have around the house to decorate under the tree. We don't realize what a difference it can make by decorating under the tree, in this case, we used the same

everyday fur throws we have around the house to create a warm winter feeling as the tree skirt. From there a few key presents from early Christmas shopping were wrapped in brown craft paper and tied in strips of cut burlap. To give your presents a pop of colour & holiday spirit save a few ornaments that you have in the tree, cut an odd twig or two from the back of your tree and tie them into the ribbon. No worries, that tree branch will dry nicely a top the brown wrapped Christmas presents.

In conclusion Christmas décor doesn't have to be disposable, its knowing where to save and where to splurge. For example, those lanterns might have seemed to be an expensive Christmas decoration to use a couple weeks a year, however when you can use them summer and fall on the patio or in the sunroom they are a great investment. When you are buying décor for your home year-round, think about what you can revamp or use to recreate a Christmas display in your home.

With the right amount of Love, key Christmas pieces and everyday décor you can certainly you're your House into a Home for the Holidays. From our home to yours we wish the Merriest Holiday Season. Thank you to Décor Haute Look for providing all the decorations, accessories and furniture for this photoshoot and article.

**Happy Holidays!  
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Meals on Wheels is an outreach program of the Miramichi Senior Citizens Home, located at 1400 Water St, Miramichi.

To volunteer call (506) 778-6810

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## The Yoga Block comes to Mount Saint Joseph

Residents of the Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home recently enjoyed a yoga class when Vanessa from the Yoga Block dropped by to show them some moves.



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*from all of us  
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# James M Hill Students & Athletes of the 2016/2017 School Year

The James M. Hill Student and Athlete of the month is an initiative by the JMH Alumni Association, Kim Harris Photography and the JMH Student Council to showcase the talented young leaders at JMH High School. Every month the teachers and coaching staff from JMH choose one outstanding student and athlete to become the Student and Athlete of the month. The students also suggest people who they feel are deserving of the awards.

Kim Harris donates her time to photograph the students each month and designs the posters. "Being a former Tommy myself I was excited to see this project come to life," says Kim. "Meeting with these students and athletes each month is a lot of fun. River signs does a wonderful job of the

printing and the posters are displayed in the school for a full month, and it is a great way to let the students know their hard work is appreciated and that it is not going unnoticed."

The JMH Alumni Association thanks Kim Harris Photography, Denim Wearhouse, Mighty Miramichi and the students and staff at JMH for making this project so successful.

If you would like to show your support and become a sponsor for next years project, please contact Sarah Mott Russell [sarahandjames@bellaliant.net](mailto:sarahandjames@bellaliant.net) or Kim Harris [kimharrisphoto@gmail.com](mailto:kimharrisphoto@gmail.com) for more information.



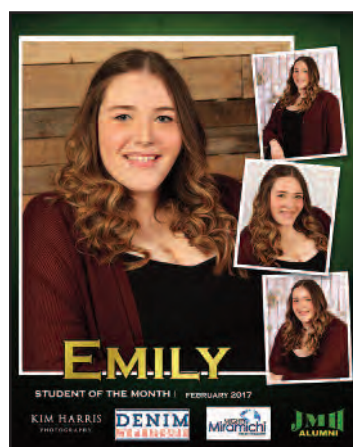
**Lauren Corlett** is team captain of the JV basketball team which took second place in two AAA tournaments, and also brought home a banner from FHS's tournament. She has been the top or second scorer in almost every game, has been selected as Player of the Game many times, and was awarded the Tournament MVP honour at the FHS tournament. Lauren stays calm and distributes the ball under some very intense pressure, and leads our team in 3-point shooting.



**Alex (Ali) Williston** is an exemplary student. She impresses teachers with her diligence toward assignments, attentiveness, high grades and her natural leadership role in class, and also with her involvement in the upcoming drama production. Ali serves on Student Council as co-social head, where she takes the leadership seriously and is extremely efficient. She is very organized and is constantly coming up with ideas and taking the lead to get things done, with patience and maturity.

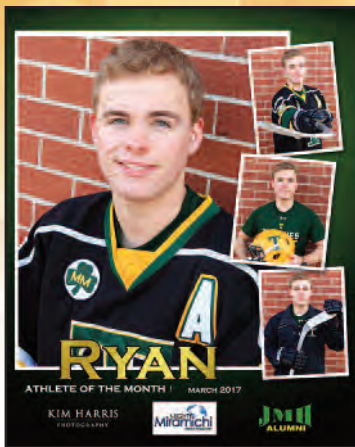


**Jillian LeGresley** is having her best year of basketball since becoming a Tommie in Grade 9. She is tenacious on defense and grabbing rebounds on both ends of the court. This year she was our team leading scorer while our opponents try and focus on her to shut her down, and was selected to represent the NorthEast in the NBIAA all-star game, a great accomplishment and recognition of her season. She is also involved with soccer and track and field.

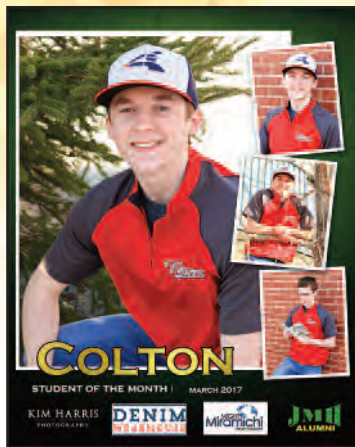


**Emily Kelly** is a very hard working dedicated, pleasant and outgoing student who does her best work at all times. She is a wonderful example of how students should balance work, homework, extra-curricular activities, and personal lives. When she is going to miss school she always asks for her work beforehand so she doesn't fall behind. Emily is also very kind, generous and respectful to her fellow classmates and teachers and also enjoys drama, and being a lifeguard.

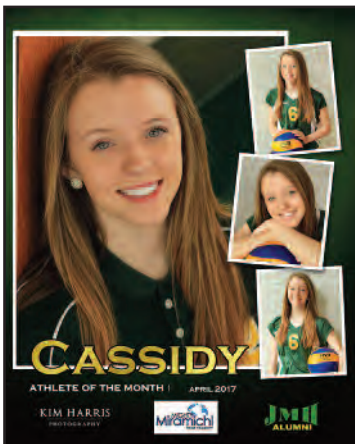




**Ryan Travers** was the best player for the Tommies in their playoff run in March. After missing the first half of the season with a knee injury, Ryan rejoined the team in January, and improved each month. Ryan is a player whose contributions don't always show up on the scoresheet, but this was not the case in the playoffs. Ryan had a great playoff series, scoring two goals in the deciding game, including the overtime winner. Ryan has been an excellent player and leader for our program for four seasons.



**Colton McKay** has really shone in the role of Lead Editor for the JMH Yearbook, despite being involved in other activities, hockey, baseball, and teaching catechism at St. Michael's. His smooth writing, artistic eye, and efficient use of time was especially important throughout the final month before deadline. He has been a great leader in training others, and in making swift and diplomatic decisions, often coming to the school on his days off, and working late nights.



**Cassidy Hanley** has been a model of consistency for the Varsity Girls Volleyball team for the month of April, but does so without much fanfare. Cassidy has adjusted to a new position this season that is far less glamorous to the average fan, but is integral to the success of a Volleyball team. She is extremely coachable and brings the same consistent energy to every game. All aspects of her game, serving, hitting, blocking and passing, have been near the top of our team for the month of April.



**Kieran Crocker** starred as the Beast in the production of Beauty and the Beast and proved he can rock the JMH stage. The role required hours of rehearsals and memory work, both of which allowed Kieran to illustrate his work ethic and commitment to his role, and the overall success of the production. He took direction from Mr. Gopee with respect and worked on his vocals with Mrs. Curtis with determination. He has been a standout in Visual Arts 11 for this semester and is constantly working on improving his art.



**Kelly McLean** joined the track team having never competed in the sport before, and she quickly learned the various events and committed to pushing herself more and more to reach her goal, and did not disappoint. She was dedicated each practice, was positive, and most of all, she cheered on and supported others in their races. She braved the cold, wind and rain on May 27th at the regionals to place 1st in the 400 m sprint and 2nd in the 100 m sprint! We are proud to have her represent JMH.



**Luke MacDonald** is an exemplary student. Specifically for the month of May, Luke has demonstrated incredible diligence in all of his assignments for myself and my student teacher, Mr. Hache, scoring 100% on every piece he has submitted. In 21 years, I haven't had another student who has exhibited this level of maturity and thoughtfulness in their thinking. Luke's community involvement includes volunteering at Boys and Girls Club, the hospital, Camp Sheldrake, and teaching catechism.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas.  
May this joyful season greet you  
with health and happiness.

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# Quit Smoking January 1-17, and Join Us for the Biggest Quitter Challenge

The aim of the challenge is to help individuals stop smoking on or before, Weedless Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

- Between January 1st - 17th call 627-7565 to sign-up.
- Then join us on Weedless Wednesday (Jan.17) at NBCC Miramichi, 80 University Ave. and we'll provide you with tools and information to help you quit smoking. From 10am – 8pm we'll have information sessions, healthy snacks, prizes, T-shirts, resources, health information booths, acupuncture and laser.

**For more information email:**  
breatheasyoffice@gmail.com

*Storm date is January 19, 2018 (storm date will only apply if school is cancelled)*



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# Success Story of Chatham Legion Branch #3

This letter is to inform the general public of the magnificent work done by Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 3 volunteers and to report the status of our major project to raise funds for a new building, Building Rush 50/50. To date we have raised over \$265,000! Thank you to all the volunteers and the loyal supporters who drop in their weekly Toonie.

It has been over 10 years since the executive decided to make major changes to the way the general fund operates - a return to basic accounting with total transparency and accountability. Meaning, first: no money is accepted without a receipt (serial number) given, and the serial receipts are accounted for by the treasurer, and secondly: no payments are made unless by cheque, without exception.

Financial statements are prepared monthly and annually and budgets are prepared annually. They are posted on our bulletin board downstairs for the entire membership and the public to view. Anyone can question any aspect at any time the treasurer will respond. There are two sets of financial statements. One is the Royal Canadian Legion General Fund, and the other is the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund, which is a Registered Charity Fund as non-profit with CRA. The Poppy fund is very restrictive, with yearly reporting requirements, and the funds can only be spent on direct help to veterans and their families, bursaries and donations (such as to the hospital).

Three principles were adopted for all activities going on in the Legion. 1) activity is to make a profit or 2) activity is to breakeven or 3) activity is planned at a loss. A budget is prepared for each activity and the calculation of the risk for any activity is part of the process.

As a team many hard decisions are made. We are totally free of any debts and have been operating with volunteers in all areas of the Legion. The volunteers are not reimbursed for gas or telephone expenses in the performance of their duties and even pay their own fees to attend regional meetings.

We have been debt free since December 2004. This financial success story is being achieved because of the volunteers who dedicated their time and knowledge, from individuals contributing one hour to the President who actually works hundred of hours per month. Their time and effort has paid off.

This success story is what the people of the Miramichi are all about.

*Ted Quann, Branch #3 President.*



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# Operation Kind Kids

## Spreading Random Acts of Kindness

Kindertots Children's Centre is teaching children that being kind to others can make the world a better place. They've started a program called Operation Kind Kids that lives by the motto "If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction."

The goal of Operation Kind Kids is to promote community involvement and social responsibility. "We are hoping to instill in children that you don't need to get something in return for acts of kindness" says Charlene Dignam-Conroy, owner/operator of Kindertots Children's Centre Inc. in Miramichi.

The children have been participating in various random acts of kindness throughout Miramichi with the most visible project being the Community Pantries.

### Community Pantry Project

There are four community food pantries located in the City. These are wooden cupboards with see-through doors that hold non-perishable food items. People of our community are free to take or leave food. Anyone who needs food is welcome to use the pantry. Staff ensure the pantry is well-maintained and the children enjoy



Carter Richard had been saving his money for a toy but once his mom, Kayla, told him about the community pantry he decided to use his money to buy food for the Community Food Pantry!

dropping by with donations of their own.

The pantry locations are: 122 Hutchison drive Douglastown; University Ave Chatham (Thank you Peggy McLean); Campbell Street Newcastle (Thank you Kacie's Afterschool Program); and Wellington Street, Loggieville (Thank you Amanda and Scott Cabel).

Operation Kind Kids thanks all those who have sponsored and donated to the food pantries: Kent building supplies, R.W. Kelly & Son, Conroy Construction, Archway Insurance, 99.3 The River and the community for your donations.

The children and educators have been involved in more random acts of kindness, such as:

- Delivered treats to the following locations: Northumberland Square Mall Employees and Bridgeview Plaza. The children baked, decorated and delivered cupcakes to Sobey's staff.
- Passed out bubbles and suckers to children while out on field trips
- Passed out dog treat to people out walking their pets.



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- Replaced the hanging flower baskets that were destroyed at Salt Water Sounds.

- A thank-you pizza lunch was delivered to the Early Childhood Education Class for their volunteer day.

- Thank-you bags were given to our local police officers for their hard work.

- Delivered a treat basket (including Bologna with Mustard and Mayo for Paddy and Darcy) and visited Sun FM.

- Donated a basket of supplies (craft items, paint, sun hats, gardening tools etc.) and a cuddle therapy Doll to the Mount Saint Joseph Nursing home, and visited to decorate rocks with the residence for their community garden.

- Planned a FREE yard sale on November 4th at the Loggieville Rec Centre. Even though the event was all free people insisted on giving a donation and \$342.55 was received which will be used to sponsor a family for Christmas.

- They are going to participate in the Christmas event with Sun FM. They will have names on a tree of seniors and their Christmas wish, with the goal is to purchase gifts for at least 10 seniors.

- Letters have been sent to each of the childcare centres in Miramichi asking them to participate in the random acts



of kindness as well.

To learn more about Operation Kind Kids or to donate to the Community Pantry Project contact Kindertots Children's Centre at 506-778-3936 or [kindertot@nb.aibn.com](mailto:kindertot@nb.aibn.com) You can also find them on Facebook.

**Photo Left:** One of the Community Food Pantries.

**Below:** Painting rocks during a visit to MSJ Nursing Home.



# SHOP THINK SUPPORT LOCAL

😊 Be Happy!

*Did you know?*

*For every \$1.00 spent at a local business up to \$0.48 cents is reinvested back into your community.*

\*Compiled results from nine studies by Civic Economics 2012



Shop the **MiramichiMarketplace.com**







# Fireside Coffee

Mix up a batch of this Fireside Coffee mix so you'll plenty ready when guests drop by or for when you need a hot drink after shovelling snow!

- 2 cups non-dairy powdered creamer
- 1 1/2 cups instant coffee
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups hot cocoa mix
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg

Combine ingredients and mix well.

1 Serving: Use 2 Tblsp plus 1 tsp of the mix per 1 cup of hot water.

Top with marshmallows for an extra treat!



## Wela'lin - Thank You - Merci







Photo by Bonnie Coughlan

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Photo by Bonnie Coughlan

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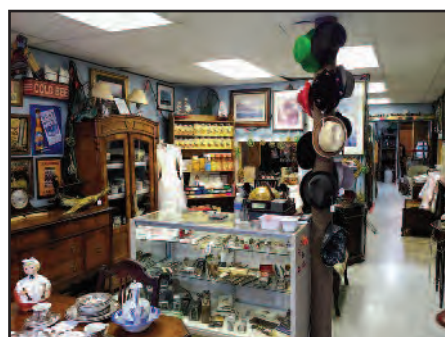
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# Here We Grow Again!



**Open Door Antiques** opened in July and is owned and operated by Louis Jean and Sandra Dowling. Louis has a long standing



passion for antiques that started as a boy when he would admire his family's 1800's wind up pendulum clock. Today he finds much pleasure in buying and selling antiques and sharing his passion with others.

Their door is open not only for your business but for your ideas, stories, and passion!. Located at 1770 Water Street. Find them on Facebook and at [www.opendoorantiques.com](http://www.opendoorantiques.com)

## **McLean's Vintage Style**

**Antiques** was recently opened by Fran Mclean, owner and her daughter Jordan, to share their love of antiques. They carry vintage, antiques, collectibles, a full line of Young Living essential oils and diffusers, and crafts from local artisans,



with new stock coming in daily. Prices start at \$10 and everything is bagged in a gift bag with Christmas tissue and sent out with a card ready for gift giving. Located at 1730 Water Street. Find them on Facebook and at [www.vintagestyleantiques.com](http://www.vintagestyleantiques.com)



**Crackle and Teal** first opened it's doors in October 2015 focusing solely on DIY furniture paint and supplies. Since then, sisters Shannon and Keltly have grown to retail much more than paint, and have recently **expanded into a new location**. Now located at 425 King George Highway, in the former River Signs locations, they offer a larger selection of paint and supplies, along with local and hand-made items. New product lines include Dulux Paint and General Finishes, that manufacture the finest water base top coats and gel stains on the market. Crackle and Teal are also now stocked with Fleece & Harmony island wool. The dyes used in this wool are organic and the product is local. Learn more about the store at [www.crackleandteal.ca](http://www.crackleandteal.ca)

**Blush Beauty Bar** opened this fall in Chatham to rave reviews about the friendly service and beautiful transformation of the building at 1729 Water Street which was previously a restaurant. Melissa took her aesthetic course 10 years ago, and she continues to absolutely love what she does! Blush is a full service salon offering a range of beauty, cosmetic, personal care and medical spa services. They are the only salon in Miramichi and surrounding areas that offers the Environ skincare line and treatments, vitamin A based skin care developed by a renowned plastic surgeon in South Africa. Blush also offers IPL Hair Reduction Services, as well as PhotoRejeuv for dark spots and age spots, and acne treatments. Blush is open Monday to Saturday, visit [www.blushbeautybarinc.com](http://www.blushbeautybarinc.com) for more information.



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# Submissions

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

The deadline to send submissions for the Winter 2018 issue is January 12th.



Photo by Karen Hachey



Photo by Bonnie Coughlan



Photo by Laura Lea Comeau





What good is the  
warmth of  
summer,  
without the cold of  
winter to give it  
sweetness.

- John Steinbeck

Photo Left: Mist on the river with St. Pauls Anglican Church in the background. Photo by Cathy Martin



Above is a photo of the new moon rising over the Miramichi Regional Hospital, taken October 5th, 2017 by Peter Gadd.

"This is a shot that requires the moon rising at dusk. If it is too dark, later in the evening, then a camera (any camera) has a tough time with the brightness of the moon and darkness of the sky. Cameras can't expose accurately for both extremes in one shot. The alternative is to take two shots, one exposing sky and moon separately, and combining them in Photoshop. That was not the case here because the moonlight and sky's "brightness" were in good balance." - Peter Gadd





Queen Elizabeth Park, photo by Sharon Stewart

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# Season's Greetings from the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission – Solid Waste Services

**REMINDER - Styrofoam, bows, and ribbons are NOT recyclable in our program.**

**Thank You Residents of the Greater Miramichi!**

Residents of the Greater Miramichi Region have diverted 7,384,604 lbs of recyclables from landfill in two years! That's an increase of 174%!

## Did you know...

- ♻️ One pound of newspaper can be recycled to make six cereal boxes, six egg cartons or 2,000 sheets of writing paper.
- ♻️ Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to illuminate one 100 watt light bulb for 20 hours or run a television for 3 hours.
- ♻️ Five #1 plastic bottles (PET) yields enough fiber to make an extra-large T-shirt.

## Download our **NEW RecycleCoach App!**

For more information on your collection schedule, what can be recycled, where other waste should go and much more, download the Recycle Coach app on your Smartphone or your tablet!

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