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Cover photo by Derek Deredin

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How the Nordin Rink Came Back to Life

In 2017, Jon Saunders and a group of fellow community members, revitalized the Nordin Outdoor Rink. A place for kids, young and old, to enjoy a skate, practice, or play some shinny.

"I've noticed many friends that spend 100's of hours, essentially building a rink for one kid to use, myself included. This doesn't make sense to me. But what does make sense is pooling time, resources and effort to build one rink that the entire community can benefit from. Many kids don't have the privilege of being able to play minor hockey, due to cost etc. There is a privately owned rink in Nordin. It used to be great and with some TLC, we are hoping to bring it back to life and make it great again!", said Jon Saunders.

They started clearing trees and brush and then went to work replacing plywood and making the structure sound again. In November 2017, with the help of friends and volunteers, and the overwhelming support of the community, the rink had ice!

The community sends thanks to the lead hands for 2017 Jon Saunders, Josh Matchett, Earl 'the Squirrel' Saunders, Jeff Morris and Paul Comeau for their tireless efforts and help in getting things back into production.

Also, a very special thanks to this long list of folks and business who made donations and/or contributions of services and materials, no matter how big or small to get this project going: Kingston's Petro Canada, Miramichi Off-Road ATV Club, Ron's Appliances, MacCallum's Building Supplies, Fornebu Lumber, Deals 4U, Brian Bowes, Sportcheck,

Dawson's Painting and Drywall, Jett Black Driveway and Parking Lot Maintenance, Barb McFarlane, Miramichi Cardinals, Sandy McGregor, Pita Pit, Greg McLaughlin, Town Ford, Daryl Matthews, Monica Lockerbie, Trout Brook Fly Shop, Kinsmen Club, Peak Performance, Chatham Rotary Club, Lounsbury Automotive Ltd., Roman Matchett, City of Miramichi, Ryan Flynn, NBCC Miramichi.

The rink is open 9am to 9pm daily, weather permitting. Check Facebook for updates during inclement weather. www.facebook.com/NordinOutdoorRink. Located at 24 Nordin Lane, Miramichi.

February 15 - Miramichi Winter Classic.

Champions Hockey Academy, founded by Dax MacLean and Stacy Smallman, are hosting the **Miramichi Winter Classic** at the Nordin Rink!

This will be an **outdoor old school shinny hockey tournament** for teams of 6 in 3 divisions; IP, Novice, and Atom levels. We invite all registered players and community members to attend the opening ceremonies beginning at 11:45am. There will be **games** starting at 12 pm, a **family skate** at 4:30 pm, **BBQ** at 4 pm, and our final championship games starting at 6:30 pm under the lights! There will be **50/50 draws**, a **family photo booth**, and Nordin Outdoor Rink **swag available for purchase** during the day. All proceeds of the event will be going back to the Nordin Outdoor Rink

Cover Photo: *Off the Beaten Path* by Derek Deredin. Exploring the North branch Sevogle river on a beautiful January afternoon.

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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Events

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beans, eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, jam, juice, coffee or tea! Admission is \$10/adults, \$5/youth, and \$25/family. Take photos in our Valentine photo booth and cross the road to play in the snow in the Upper Miramichi Park. Located at 6342 Route 8 Highway, Boiestown. Tel: 506-369-7214.

Feb. 15: Mar. 28: Art Exhibit and Open House

An Art Exhibit and Open House, Local Colour: Paintings of Life in New Brunswick by Anne Maloney Assaff will be held at the Chatham Public Library on Feb. 15 from 2pm to 4pm. The exhibit will run until March 28. Inspired by our "Picture Province" Anne captures the ever-changing face of nature through each season in acrylics. For information on hours, contact the Chatham Public Library at 506-773-6274.

Feb. 15: Love Is In The Air- Valentine's Dessert and Song

The Villagers Choral Group will be performing at the Saint Andrew's United Church, 188 Wellington Street, beginning at 7 pm, and desserts will be served. Tickets \$10, from the church office, or by calling Karen Rose at 506-773-9932.

Feb. 17: Family Day Free Skating and Swimming

In honor of Family Day, the Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation Department will be having free admission to all public skating sessions at both the Lord Beaverbrook Arena, and Miramichi Civic Centre, and a free Family Public Swimming session at the Golden Hawk Pool from 3:00-5:00pm. For more information contact Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation at 623-2300.



Feb. 17: Miramichi Family Day Spaghetti Dinner

The Loggieville Recreation Centre will be having a spaghetti dinner and Chinese auction and receiving donations for the food bank, from 12pm to 4pm. Admission is \$10/adult, \$5/child or \$25/family. Includes a big plate of spaghetti, a drink (tea / coffee, pop / water), and dessert. To donate to the auction call Tara Ross-Robinson at 773-7470.

Feb. 17: Free Skating for Family Day Hosted By Berger Peat Moss, Baie Sainte Anne

In the spirit of Family Day, Berger Peat Moss invites employees, families and the community to join them for an afternoon of free skating at the Adé Thériault Arena in Baie Sainte Anne from 1pm to 3pm. Tel: 506-228-4978.

Feb. 10: Senior Valentine Dance

At the Lindon Recreation Center from 1-3pm. Admission \$3. Music by Last Call. For more information contact Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation at 623-2300

Feb. 14: 3rd Annual Glitz and Glitter Valentine's Day Dinner

The Atlantic Salmon Museum hosts their annual dinner at 6 pm on

Valentine's Day. Enjoy a candlelit room (with a lighted fireplace), a delicious meal, a lot of fun giveaways, and some music you can sing along to (Gary Long and Friends). Serving fiddlehead chowder with homemade dinner rolls, stuffed glazed chicken breast, baby roasted potatoes and a vegetable medley, with an assortment of cheesecakes. Tickets \$25 each (or \$125 for a table of six). For tickets call the museum at 506-365-7787.

Feb. 15: Seaman's Hospital Quilting Workshop "Charm Star" - This Quilting Workshop will begin at 9:30 am, and preregistration is encouraged. For more information, please see Seamen's Hospital Facebook page.

Feb. 15: Celebration of Black History Month on the Miramichi The Miramichi Afro Connection - MAC is hosting this event to celebrate Black History Month on the Miramichi. Come, discover, share and enjoy African and Caribbean Culture. At Carrefour Beausoleil, 300 Beaverbrook Road, at 6pm. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Feb. 15: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

This fundraiser is in support of the Saint Michael's Religious Education Program and will be held at the church parish centre, 10 Howard Street, in Chatham, from 3 to 6 pm. Admission is \$10/adults, \$6/ chil-dren and \$25/family. Contact Marielle Flanagan at 773-7664.

Feb. 15: Winter Family Fun Day and Valentine Buffet Breakfast Breakfast is from 8 am to 11 am, at the Central NB Woodmen's Museum. It is an old fashioned "buffet style" breakfast that includes homemade pancakes, homemade

Feb. 22: 4th Annual Chi-Gala Fundraiser for the Miramichi Emergency Centre for Women

Held at Rodd Miramichi River Hotel, there will be door prizes, Chinese auction, food and entertainment provided by Jeff Hogan, from 8 pm until 12 am. The grand prize this year is a weekend get away to Casino NB. Tickets \$50/person, and can be purchased directly at the shelter, located at 611 King George Hwy.

Feb. 22: Miramichi Kinsmen Third Annual Trivia Night

Come out from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm at the Kinsmen Club of the Miramichi, 100 Newcastle Blvd. There will be 10 rounds of trivia and multiple rounds of appetizers. The doors open at 6:30 pm, trivia starts at 7:30 pm. \$250 to register a team (up to 8 players) and \$100 to sponsor a table/advertisement. Registration/Sponsorship Form and Official Rules can be found on facebook.com/MiramichiKinsmenTrivia.

Feb. 25: Shrove Tuesday Supper at the Saint Andrew's United Church, Chatham

From 4 pm to 6 pm, for just a free will offering, come out and support this annual event you don't want to miss, serving pancakes, sausages, baked beans, selection of desserts, tea, coffee and juice. On Wellington St. in Chatham.

Feb. 25: Shrove Tuesday Supper at the Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church



Serving pancakes, sausages, homemade baked beans and gingerbread cake from 4 pm to 6 pm. \$8/adults, \$5/children and 50¢ extra for take outs. Located at 12 Saint Patrick's Drive, in Nelson.

Feb. 25 and 26: Blood Donor Clinics on the Miramichi

Make a life saving gift by donating blood in the Miramichi region this year at the Newcastle Lion's Club, 324 Morrison Lane in Newcastle. Go to www.blood.ca for donor criteria and to book an appointment. New donors and walk-ins welcome. Tuesday, February 25 from 5- 8 pm and Wednesday, February 26 from 1-3:30 pm and 5-7:30 pm.

Feb. 29: Avery's Run – Memorial Snowmobile Run

A snowmobile run in memory of Avery Astle will be held on February 29. It starts at 2pm at the Barron Shelter, continuing to the Cory Tucker Memorial Shelter and ending at the Moose Barn where live entertainment will begin at 7pm. There will be a 50/50, donation box and door prizes (cash only). All donations will be going to the 4Av Legacy Fund at Beaubear Credit Union. Donations can also be e-

transfer to 4avlegacyfund@gmail.com. Other event details can be found on the FB page "Avery's Run 2020".

Feb. 29: Chi-Con! Miramichi Comic & Cosplay Convention Welcome to Miramichi's Comic & Cosplay Convention at the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel. Doors open at 10 am. Tickets: \$15, Children up to 11yrs free. *Ages 0-15 must be accompanied by an adult*. There will be a Vendor Area, Games Room, Costume Contest & Comics! To be an exhibitor, contact us! The cost is \$30/ table. Find the event on Facebook.

Mar. 2: MVHS Pool and Gym Pirate Day Come join the Crew and experience a real pirate adventure from 10am-3pm. Admission \$5. Open to children aged 7-12. For more information contact Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation at 623-2300

Mar. 3: March Break Winter Carnival





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at Golden Hawk Recreation Center 2-4pm. Snowman building contests, snowshoeing trail, games and fun in the Gym. Open to all ages. Admission is Free. Bring your snowshoes! For more information contact Miramichi Community Wellness and Recreation at 623-2300.

Mar. 4: March Break Shoot Out Youth Floor Hockey Tournament

From 9 am to 4 pm, at the Golden Hawk Recreation Centre. There will be two divisions - Grade 4 to 6 and Grade 7 to 9. Each team will consist of 5 players - 4 players and 1 goalie. Lunch will be provided and prizes will be awarded. Cost is only \$5/person. Get your team of five together now! For further information or to register a team, contact Holly Allison at 506-623-2314. Register early, space is limited.

Mar. 6: Country Gospel Sing

Come out to the McNamee Recreation Centre, beginning at 7 pm, for an evening full of entertainers: Erdie and Julie Price, Alice Long, Coleman Price and Cole Price and special guest: Sterling Peterson!

Mar. 9: Irish Immigration to the Miramichi Cyril Donahue will be giving a presentation at this meeting of the Miramichi Historical Society, and just in time for St. Patrick's Day his subject will be the Irish Immigration to the Miramichi. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Miramichi History Museum at 182 Wellington

Street at 7pm.

Mar. 17: Annual Saint Patrick's Day Celebration

The Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Nelson will be having a celebration and feast day mass of Saint Patrick, beginning at 4:30 pm, with a delicious Ham and Potato Scallop supper to follow in their Parish Centre. There will be a concert after supper at the Nelson Rural School, located at 26 Saint Patrick's Drive.



Mar. 22 - Miramichi Valley High School Spring Market

The MVHS Market is kicking off it's 2020 year with a Spring Market from 12- 4 pm at the school, 345 McKenna Avenue, Newcastle. Contact Sandra Bruce at 506-773-0914 to book your spot or find the event on Facebook. Rent a 6" table for \$20 or rent a space without table for \$15. Tables and spaces must be paid for by Sunday, March 8.



Mar. 29: Miramichi Local Helper's Easter Market

Hosted by Eileen Clancy Teslenko at the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition, located at 24 Church Street, in Chatham, from 10 am to 3:30 pm. There will be photos with the Easter bunny, local crafts and vendors, and a chance to win a basket of crafts. Tickets will be sold with all proceeds going towards Multiple Sclerosis.

Apr. 4: 3rd Annual / 2020 Miramichi Wellness Expo

There will be a variety of vendors in the area of health and wellness for mind, body and spirit, starting at 11am at the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel. We are planning for this 3rd expo to be amazing and we hope you will join us again for this educative day. Free Admission. email: miramichiwellness@gmail.com to rent a booth. Find the event on Facebook.

Apr. 4: Miramichi Fiddler's Fiddle Do

Come out to the Seamen's Hospital from 2 pm to 6 pm for a lively musical presentation by the Miramichi Fiddlers followed by a pot-luck supper. Admission is free will donations.

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City Hall UPDATES

Questions about City Programs and Services?
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Engineering

The City of Miramichi, in partnership with the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is undertaking upgrades to the following intersections along King George Highway (KGH); Newcastle Boulevard, George Street and Jane Street. The majority of the work will take place at Newcastle Boulevard where new underground infrastructure will be installed as well as new traffic islands and lights. George Street will have the traffic lights replaced, and at Jane Street, traffic islands and lights will be installed on the south side of KGH. Traffic will be detoured as per the following from approximately May 15th to July 30th:

- West bound KGH traffic – will continue to use KGH
- Eastbound KGH traffic will be detoured at Jane Street to Newcastle Blvd to Ledden St.
- Southbound Newcastle Blvd. traffic will be directed to Station St. or Railway Ave.
- Northbound Newcastle Blvd traffic from downtown will be directed east or west along Pleasant Street.

Economic Development & Tourism

Miramichi Striper Cup – Online registration for the 2020 Miramichi Striper Cup will begin February 15th, 2020. Visit www.miramichistripercup.ca to register or learn more about Atlantic Canada's Premier Striped Bass Experience!

Public Works - Some helpful hints for upcoming spring thaw:

- Adopt a fire hydrant that may be close to your house, it may save you or your neighbors home.
- 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.
- Do not place snow from your driveway on the street. This is safety hazards for the motoring public and fine is possible.
- During stormy conditions please follow police advisories and stay off the road unless it is an emergency.
- Be prepared for spring thaw, check your basement drains to ensure they are clear and not frozen due to the recent winter freeze thaw cycles.
- Check your sub pump to be sure it is working properly.
- Check your rain gutter to ensure it is are not frozen and excess build up of ice on your roof.
- Make sure your basement windows are cleared of snow and have access to drain away from your house.
- Check ditches located in front or next to your home make sure they can run free without obstructions.

To contact Public Works Monday – Friday between 8am-5pm call 623-2020
(April – October 7:30am – 4:00pm) and after hours and weekends call 623-2241.

Police

Miramichi Police Force will be hosting their '2020 Seniors Police Academy' with exact dates yet to be determined. The 6-week program is expected to begin during the end of April and continue through to the first part of June. The Seniors Police Academy is open to all interested Seniors living in the City of Miramichi, with only 12 seats available. For those that may be interested, please contact Cindy Stewart, EA to the Chief of Police at 623-2125.

Miramichi Police Force is pleased to introduce our Community Services Officer, Constable Neil Fitzgerald, who began his new position effective January 13, 2020.



Constable Neil Fitzgerald



Seniors Police Academy

Community Wellness and Recreation - see the events section starting on page 5 for Miramichi City Events.

Miramichi BPSA Scouting Group

Come Discover the Magic of the Great Outdoors!

BPSA Traditional Scouting invites Miramichi youth, parents and volunteers to discover the magic of the great outdoors. This fresher, yet traditional scouting program is affordable, open, inclusive to boys and girls and centered around outdoor programs and activities.

October 2019 marked the beginning of a back to basics scouting group in Miramichi — the 1st Miramichi BPSA Scouting Group. They are open to boys and girls who appreciate outdoor activities, such as exploring, canoeing, hiking, and camping.

Attributes of good character become part of the youth as they learn to work together to face outdoor challenges that may include extreme weather, difficult trails, hiking obstacles, and dealing with nature's unexpected circumstances.

The aim of the association is to promote good citizenship and wholesome physical and mental development with training in observation, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful life skills.

Service to others and good community is also learned through outdoor activities such as conservation projects, collecting food, building trails



and shelters, and conducting community service projects that promote healthy living. Through helping others, scouting youth learn to complete challenges they first thought were beyond their ability.

BPSA-NB believes that true traditional scouting should be affordable. Therefore, the annual registration fee is only \$55, plus the cost of uniforms and youth can try two

meetings for free. For Otters (ages 5 - 7) and Timberwolves (ages 8 - 10), the cap and long-sleeved t-shirt cost \$15. For Explorers (ages 11 - 15), Sr Explorers and Adults, the beret and tan short-sleeved button-up shirt is \$35. There may be additional costs associated with camps and other outings, but they will be kept to a bare minimum.

This group is growing rapidly and in need of more leaders and auxiliary support. We urge you to reach out and become a part of the 1st Miramichi BPSA Scouting Group.

1st Miramichi is part of the NB Council of the Baden Powell Service Association (BPSA-NB) which is affiliated with other BPSA groups in Canada and the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS). We were established to promote the principles, methods and practices of Scouting as originally laid down by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting

Volunteers Wanted!

To register or learn more about volunteering, contact Brett Gallant at info@bpsascoutingmiramichi.com.

Also visit the website at: www.bpsascoutingmiramichi.com.

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Over the Hills and Far Away

by Brendon Sturgeon

I've heard it said that some of your memories may not be real. That they contain fragments of your imagination. If this is true, then that would explain those aliens and monsters of my memories. These little stories are my memories. Yours may differ.

Sometimes I try to imagine kids of today doing half the things we did. First, would they even be allowed, second could they be pried away from the internet and video games. Not all but some.

Case in point, we were fans of the Canadian show, *The Forest Rangers*. Of course we acted out what the kids did on that show, or tried to. Picture this, age 8 or 9, you ask your mother to wake you early in the morning - in the summer - no school! Why? Because you and your gang are planning a trip to the woods to work on an old log cabin and you needed her to pack you a lunch.

We made our plans the day before and that each one of us would bring a specific tool required for work on said camp. I was in charge of the hammer, Chris, the saw, Darren, the axe, Dennis with some wood. My younger brother of two years Dwayne would also tag along and bring the nails. Chris's dog Chopper would also be joining us, as he was always around and free to roam the neighborhood.

With backpacks filled with tools,



lunches, water canteens and jack knives (Swiss Army ones, perhaps), off we would go across the street and thru the field following a well worn path that lead to an area of trees we called the "Jungle". But today we are going past this area. We would need to climb up the embankment to the railway tracks that would lead us to our adventure of

the day.

The reflection of the sun beaming from the rails added to the summer heat. It was so hot that a haze would rise from the tracks distorting your view like a mirage. The smell of creosote from the railway ties along with the clicking sounds of grasshoppers, which seem to everywhere along the tracks, would add to the atmosphere that stays with me to this day.

The walk along the tracks would not be long until we would make a detour to the 'Y'. This is a section of rail tracks that is shaped as; you guessed it the letter Y, used in the early days when a train engine would change directions. Having never been used in years, this section of track was rusty, so no sun beams to make it hotter. Grass and large weeds have grown up all over and we would often come here to catch Gardner and grass snakes, but not today, we must go beyond. This meant climbing a high cliff at the end of the Y. Once at the top, we made our way along a tree line that separated a large field. To get to this field, we would have to navigate thru the trees and over an old barbed wire fence, which no doubt left some scratches or cuts. But we are rangers and must take any punishment along the way and keep treading.

Having never been past the Y before, reaching the field on the other



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side of the tree line was very exciting. Another world. This new world would be Park's Field, owned by the same people who ran and still do a popular ice cream stand on the King George Highway. One of us, I am not sure who, knew how to get to the cabin, and as I was told was built by our older brothers and now left to us.

Here we are, walking along another path that followed the tree line and I am being told to keep an eye out for foxes, weasels, rabbits and maybe... bear. Bears?! I thought, ok I am not walking last in line, let my younger brother be eaten I don't care, he can be last. But they said not to worry, Chopper is with us and can fight any animal off. That eased my frightened mind somewhat. But we never did see any bears, or any other wild life for that matter expect for a few crows and blue jays. So we would not get lost in the woods, we knew to mark the trees by scaling the bark with a knife. The path seemed to take forever, but we finally reached its end and onto an old road. Not really a road per say, as it was made with years of truck tire tracks that lead to The Beaver Dam. That is a story for another time.

We did not walk too long on the road until I heard, "right here" being shouted by whoever was up at the front. At this point we would have to make our way thru the thick forest of trees of all kinds to the cabin. After a few more scratches from getting whipped by tree branches, adding to the ones of the barbed wire fence at Park's field, we could now see a clearing up ahead. "Are we here"? I thought with excitement. Yes, we were.

And there it was, a small cabin made out of logs no bigger round than my arms. Laying down our back packs, we all entered the opening (no door) that lead inside. With large smiles and exhausted wows, we sat and marveled at the sight, and smells that surrounded us. But we had much to do, the cabin needed repairs and that is why we were here. Someone



made a camp fire (imagine that for a moment), and each of us had a job to do, either cutting down small trees, gathering twigs or collecting moss. The moss would be jammed between the logs for insulation. So while some of us were doing that, another would be hammering nails into the small pieces of wood on the flat roof.

After much work, it was time to eat our packed lunches. And how we knew it was lunch time was the sound of a horn blowing from the pulp mill located at the other end of town. The horn we

knew would blow at noon every day, and that the sound carried all over the town. Once lunch was over it was back to work until it was decided we had better head back home. We had to put the fire out before leaving - you will have to use your imagination as to how young boys put out a fire. Exactly.

The walk back did not seem as long as getting there, but I will treasure this memory forever. We all did eventually join boy scouts clubs, some until our teens and we made other trips to our "playground" of fields and forest close to home. I don't remember if we ever went back to the cabin, but I know as we got a couple of years older, we were finally allowed to go further down the old road on a new adventure, to the Beaver Dam.



Brendon Sturgeon is writer, musician, and a life-long Miramichi resident. He grew up on Sweeney Lane in Newcastle during the 1970's, and spent his boyhood exploring the outdoors through adventures that turned into life lessons and cherished memories. He has written short stories about his childhood, and is currently working on his first full-length fiction novel. Brendon is also an amateur photographer and musician.

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Miramichi Historical Society

61 Years of Preserving History



Louise Manny, McGill Graduation Portrait (1989.108.203)
New Brunswick Museum – Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick,
www.nbm-mnb.ca

The Miramichi Historical Society was organized in 1959 with 21 charter members. Their mission was to collect and organize the history of the Miramichi, to aid researchers of history and to present programs to the public on Miramichi historical events and people. Dr. Louise Manny and Edith MacAllister, both noted local historians and writers were on the list of founding members.

Today, 61 years later the mission remains the same - to collect, organize and disseminate the history of the Miramichi. Over the years, membership has waxed and waned but the Society is still going and still working to accumulate knowledge of our beautiful Miramichi. A significant bank of cultural and historical records has been built up over time. These extensive files, which are housed and maintained in the Newcastle Public Library, are open to all interested and must be used on site. They are not available for borrowing from the library.

The Society meets 6 to 8 times a year. Sometimes there is a guest speaker, sometimes a general sharing of items of interest among those present; perhaps a photo, an article, an intriguing historical fact or an artifact. Questions are asked and answered and mysteries solved. There is always something new to be learned and shared.

Some of the programs in the past few years have included talks by members and guest speakers. Topics included Peter Mitchell, the Miramichi lumber industry, the North Shore Regiment, Vimy and Normandy, Father Murdock, Dr. Louise Manny, Beaubear's Island, the



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Provincial Archives Miller Photograph collection, the restoration of the New Brunswick portage system, and a talk by Dr. Stephen Patterson of UNB on the rebuilding of NB after the Miramichi Fire of 1825. William Murray of Miramichi was an important builder of that period. Last winter, Gary Hughes, curator of history at the New Brunswick Museum, gave an interesting presentation on the life of Dr. Louise Manny. The latest talk was about Sheldrake Island and its associations with leprosy in the 1800's.

Members visited St. Paul's Anglican Church in Bushville and St. James and St. John United Church in Newcastle and their graveyards, the Miramichi History Museum, took walking tours of Chatham and Newcastle, visited the old school in Oak Point and took several river trips on the Max Aitken. The Society also supports enrichment projects related to our history undertaken by students of the area and the District Heritage Fair with an award for research related to the Miramichi. The Society also has developed a close association with the Miramichi History Museum in support of our common interest in the Miramichi and its history.

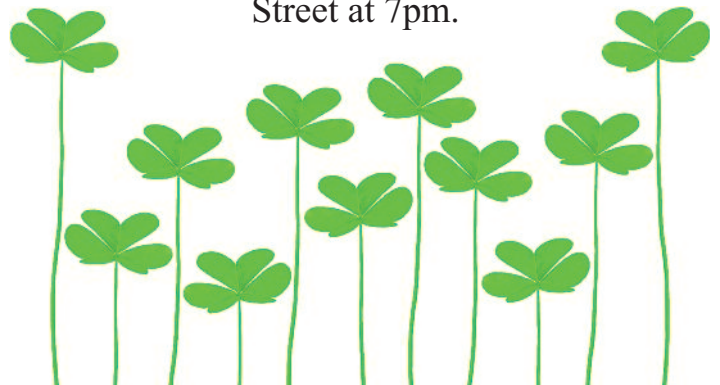
Irish Immigration to Miramichi

March 9, 7pm

Miramichi History Museum

The next meeting of the Miramichi Historical Society will Monday March 9. Cyril Donahue will be the speaker and just in time for St.

Patrick's Day his subject will be the Irish Immigration to the Miramichi. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Miramichi History Museum at 182 Wellington Street at 7pm.



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– *Rumi, Poet*

"A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love." – *Max Muller, Philologist*

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– *Charles M. Schulz, Cartoonist*

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Miramichi Timberwolves

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Player Profile

Jeremie Hebert – Player #19



Photo credit: Jordan Pinder Photography



Photo credit: Greg MacDiarmid

Role: Assistant Captain

Date of Birth: November 19, 2001

Position: Defense

Height: 5'7"

Weight: 165 lbs

Favourite Food: Spaghetti

Favourite Music: Rap

Favourite Hockey Team: Boston Bruins

Hockey Background: Growing up played minor hockey in Lewisville and Moncton

Favourite Hockey Memories: Won league title in 2015 with Notre Dame Hounds

Future Plans: Play university hockey and then look at a career in the police force.

Upcoming Home Schedule

Sat. Feb. 15 - Fredericton Red Wings

Sat. Feb. 22 - Amherst Ramblers

Sat. Feb. 29 - Campbellton Tigers

Thu. March 5 - Grand Falls Rapids

Sat. March 7 - Summerside Capitals

Puck drops at 7pm - See you at the Wolf's Den!
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Remembering the Church River Credit Union

By: Anthony William Jeremiah McLean "t-Tone"

A few years ago, on a crisp fall day, I went out for an afternoon drive down to a little community on the outskirts of Miramichi, know as Church River, which is situated towards the Burnt Church Community / Esengoôpetitj 1st Nation.

This wasn't just a drive to take in the fall scenery, but the person I was travelling with was heading to the Church River Credit Union.

For as long as I remember, the only banks I thought were close by were the Caissie Populaire Acadiennes (now UNI Financial Cooperations) in Néguaç and the surrounding areas along the Acadian Peninsula and so on.

But this wasn't like your everyday bank you see in the city, town or village, or wherever you may live. This bank was a tiny little building, no bigger than your average shed or baby barn and was located at 305 Burnt Church Road.

It had no bank cards, no cheques, no automated teller



machines, but the simple convenience of just going in and out. What it lacked in modern day technology, it made up for with

personalized service.

Even it's hours were varied, with some days open till 8 o'clock at night. Like all Credit Unions, they held annual member meetings too. It served many people from near and far, and it closed it's doors in December 2019 after many years of service.

I have been told as well, it was known as the smallest Credit Union in Canada. I only got their the once, but as I look back on this, it was a memory I thoroughly enjoyed.

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Local Colour: Paintings of life in New Brunswick by Anne Maloney Assaff

An Art Exhibit and Open House featuring the paintings of local artist Anne Maloney Assaff will be held at the Chatham Public Library beginning **February 15**. The exhibit will run until **March 28**.

A reverence for the landscape and the wildlife that inhabits it is at the heart of Anne Maloney Assaff's paintings. Growing up in the Gatineau area of Quebec and later in Barnaby River, New Brunswick, she developed a love for the outdoors that was stoked by family outings. Inspired by these experiences and the way of life in the "Picture Province", she captures the ever-changing face of nature through each season in acrylics.

She was employed as a graphic artist for many years and now focuses on fine art, commissions and providing art instruction. She has paintings in corporate collections in New Brunswick and has built a loyal following among private collectors.

Everyone is welcome to attend the open house on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 2 to 4 pm at the Chatham Public Library Conference Room.

For more information and hours please contact the library at 506-773-6274



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At first glance this might look like a photograph of Beaubears Island, surrounded by ice and snow, but it is actually a painting by Anne Maloney Assaff.

See this, and more of her work at the art exhibit running **February 15 to March 28** at the Chatham Public Library.

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Beaubears Island

Popular Speaker Series Returns

In 2000, the Beaubears Island Interpretive Centre, located in the Nelson Rural School, opened its doors for the first time. After twenty summer seasons, as well as a move across the street to Bicentennial Park, the Friends of Beaubears Island are ready to begin 2020 with new events and old favourites.

February Speaker Series

Join historians and researchers from across the region in an informative Speaker Series this February at the Nelson Rural School library. Every Monday and Thursday evening at 7pm, listen to presentations free of charge, on topics ranging from the Island's unique biology, its owners, lost settlements and sites, and community-led initiatives that link the past to the future.



Members of our Board of Directors

Feb. 3 Ken Walker - Island Oddities: Interesting but Strong Plants & Animals

Feb. 6 Johannes Bosma - 1955: The Miramichi Welcomes The Bosma Family

Feb. 10 James Rodney Fraser - Zion's Hope: The Joseph Russell Story

Feb. 13 Kevin Gallant - The Lost Tavern on the Nashwaak

Feb. 17 Sandra Bunting - The Writers' Trail and the Literary Scene in Miramichi

Feb. 20 Ashley Hallihan - Miramichi Youth Fly Fishing Clubs...Getting Them Back on the Water

Feb. 24 Gerard Picot - Without a Trace; 17th Century Attempts at French Colonization on the Miramichi

Feb. 27 Susan Butler - Dr. Louise Manny & The Miramichi Folksong Festival

Special Presentation at MVHS

Feb. 4 Juno 2019 in Review and 75th Anniversary of VE Day 2020 Tour Preview

As a special added attraction, join local scholars Brandon Savage, Brett Cameron, and Chris Matheson at Miramichi Valley High School on February 4, to not

only recap their activities from the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy Landings, this past summer, but also to brief the community on the upcoming trip they are planning to do with adults in the summer of 2020.

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In Their Own Words

On **March 21 & 22**, the Friends of Beaubears Island present a unique theatrical showcase of historical letters and interviews, entitled "In Their Own Words" at the historic **Seaman's Hospital**. Hear first-hand historical accounts of events such as the Great Miramichi Fire of 1825, the Fighting Election of 1843 and the First World War, told from the perspective of local men and women who bore witness, as well as the words of prominent Miramichiers like Dr. Louise Manny, George Burchill, Frances Ullock, and Dr. Maria Juanita De Olloqui. Tickets to this dessert theater performance are \$15 and can be reserved at the door by calling 622-8526.

The Friends of Beaubears Island look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks at all of their events, and, don't forget, the **Interpretive Centre opens on May 25!**



Summer Staff in 2019. We'll be open this year and ready to greet visitors on May 25.

Well Isn't that Interesting...



This convertible high chair/stroller is just one of the interesting pieces of history on display at Beaubears Island Interpretive Centre

This is an example of late Victorian and early Edwardian furniture from around the dawn of the 20th century. The high chair/stroller combo is a multipurpose object indicative of that era.

The chair converts into a complete stroller and would have been used to not only feed the child but also allow the parent to wheel the child around the house. The wheels are not really sturdy enough for outdoor use, and as such would have been used only indoors. Advertisements for this type of chair were seen as early as the 1880s. It should be noted that, the attractive design seen on the back of this piece were pressed into the wood using heat, steam and a mould. There was no hand-carving done, and this chair is related to the millions of so-called "pressed-back" chairs.





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Hospice Miramichi

Continuing to Offer Support from New Location

It's a new year and a new location for the offices of Hospice Miramichi!

After 8 years of occupying the former convent behind Saint Michaels Basilica we have moved to the 3rd floor of the NBCC St. Michaels building until such time as our new Residential Hospice facility opens this year. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Diocese of Saint John for giving us the chance to lease that historic building. If it were not for their kindness Hospice Miramichi would not have been able to provide services for the community in the form of our Day Hospice and our Grief and Bereavement programs. Speaking of the Day Hospice Program, Pastor Joash Schlumpelt from the Douglastown Community Church has graciously offered space in his beautiful church so that we did not have to cancel the program and could continue providing support to those living with the effects of life limiting illnesses.

What is the Day Hospice Program? As described by one of our participants, "As we enter the building, we close the doors behind us leaving all our illnesses on the other side..." A family member wrote "Hospice Miramichi is more than just a service, it's a lifeline, it's happiness, it's a community, it's a family". The Day Hospice Program takes the person out of their home and places them in a warm,



inviting atmosphere where they spend time with others who are going through similar situations. They develop trusting relationships with volunteers, have a meal, take part in activities and perhaps forget about the limitations their illness places on them.

Hospice Miramichi does not charge for their services so please help support our fundraising efforts.

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money raised that week. Visit www.HospiceMiramichi.com for details.

She Shed Draw - We will draw for a She Shed for Mother's Day. Tickets and details available soon!

The Hospice Shoppe - new to you clothing, collectables and accessories. Visit our new location at 139 Duke St. in Chatham and experience our boutique style shopping.

Feb. 15 - Experience of a Lifetime Draw. Six exciting world trips of a lifetime will be given away on February 15, each one including \$1,000 in spending money! Also five cash prizes of \$1,000. Tickets are \$125 each. Visit www.HospiceMiramichi.com for info and ticket details.

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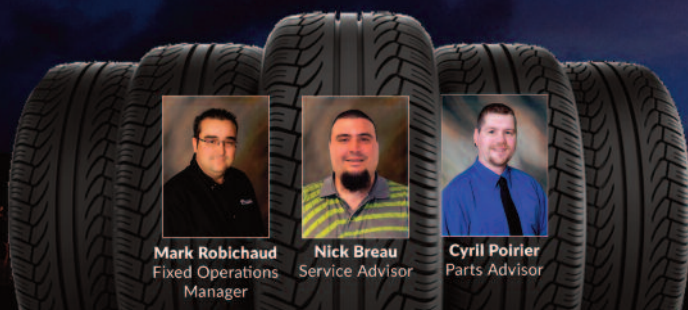
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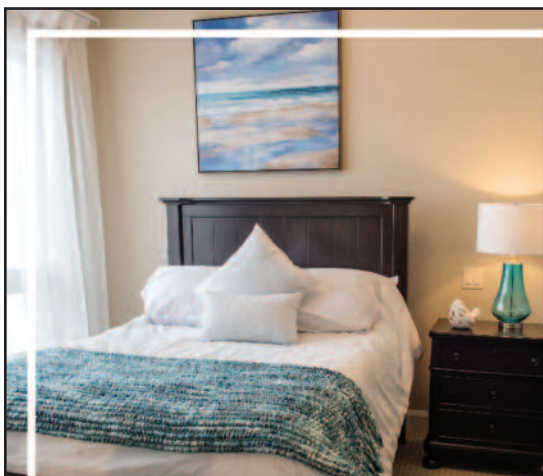
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& Marché Naturel



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Submissions

If you have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share with Giv'er magazine, send your submissions to 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. Deadline for submitting to the Spring Issue is March 13. Visit www.giverontheriver.com/submissions for more info.



Left: A rare sight! A snowy owl photographed by Mathew Despres.

Below: A marten kit (left) and its mother, (right) photographed on a trail camera by Brian Donovan.



Above: *Winter at the Homestead* by Mary Butler

Left: Jean Joudry captured these two photos of a January sunrise and a November moon.



Above: Chad Mccray captured this photo of his son Owen skating on the river in South Esk

Left: Bright berries peeking through the fresh snow. Photo by Laura Lea Comeau.

Below: *Coming Home*, by Bonnie Coughlan



Here We Grow Again!



When moving back to Miramichi 2 years ago with her family, Samantha Siddall became the owner of **Simply For Life Miramichi**. In addition to their customized Nutrition Coaching, the location has expanded to add a Natural Market that includes a variety of healthy food options and local products. Their meals to go are a hot item that is produced by Chef Pat at Carrefour Beausoleil. Phase two of their expansion has now been finished which includes a teaching kitchen with space for cooking classes and workshop. Stop by to see them at 385 Pleasant Street (access off Ledden St) Everyone is welcome to shop at the Natural Market. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook.



Modern Vintage Crafts and Collectibles is located at 101 Tardy Avenue and is the result of owner Sandra Bruce's love of all things vintage. They specialize in vintage and collectible items and will be adding local, handmade items shortly. You can stop in to the shop or if you see something you like on their Facebook page, they will have it set aside by sending an e-transfer. Items can also be shipped upon request. They are always open by appointment and during the summer months there will be scheduled hours of operation. For updates, find Modern Vintage on Facebook or call 506-773-0914.

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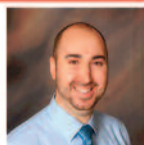
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