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# The Great Miramichi Haggis Hunt and Fall Fair



If you have grown up on the Miramichi you know exactly how gorgeous it is here in the fall. Colors of every hue adorn the trees and the river often lays so still, that they can admire their own reflection all along it. What you may not be aware of is a tiny hidden gem tucked away under centuries old pines where the North and South branches of the Miramichi meet called **Wilson's Point Historic Site**. This site has a long remarkable history that stretches beyond 4000 years encompassing the Mi'kmaq First Nations, the Acadians, the Scottish and Loyalists.

Wilson's Point is beautiful no matter the season, but it is especially magical, once the days grow short and Mother Nature casts out her blanket of colours over the land. If you sit and listen long enough, you can imagine the clip clop of horse hooves and clickety clack of full wagons being pulled down the road leading into the churchyard. Laughter mixing with deep Halòs and children's giggles as the spirits come to life one last time before winter settles in. The bustle of folks gathering and bragging of fine crops, games of jacks, marbles and hopscotch taking place and ladies gossiping as whiffs

of wood smoke billow and dance in the air.

**Step back in time with us this October 7th** as we celebrate the magic of the season with a Historical Fall Market and the **Great Miramichi Haggis Hunt**.

There will be vendors with period style items: knitted goods, honey, farm to table, leather goods, candles, baked goods, and more. Children will be able to sign up for the Great Miramichi Haggis Scavenger Hunt event where they will meet the odd character, learn bits of history that surrounds the Point and maybe even catch sight of the illusive Howzitgoan, our very own Miramichi Haggis. The scavenger hunt requires photo



Howzie the Haggis Illustration by Felicia Mullin

proof so be sure to bring along a phone or tablet capable of taking pictures. There will be **raffle tickets** sold on a complete Thanksgiving meal and a Scottish Goodie basket and prizes for the Haggis Hunt participants.

Join us from 11am-2pm Saturday **October 7th** at Wilson's Point Historic Site 8 Enclosure Road Derby Junction. **Admission is free**. For more details check out Wilson's Point Historic Site on Facebook or call 506-627-0162 between 9:30am and 4:30pm.

**Cover Photo:** Chickadee on a Sunflower. Photo by John Hayward.

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

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

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# Events

## Listing your event here is FREE!

Submit your winter, Christmas, and New Years events by October 23.  
Send an email with the event details to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net).  
Our Christmas Issue comes out November 15th.

### Oct. 7: Foodtruck Festival

A fun-filled day of shopping, entertainment, and food, 11am to 7pm, downtown Water Street in Chatham. Live music, kid's activities, local vendors, and delicious food trucks will make the day a fun event for everyone! Rain or shine! All proceeds go directly to support the Miramichi SPCA.

**Oct. 8: Speaker on Tick and Lyme Disease.** Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue (MGSAR) is inviting the public to come and hear Dr. Vett Lloyd speak about Tick and Lyme disease. Dr. Vett Lloyd received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for her research on Lyme disease, ticks, climate change, Covid-19, and community science engagement. MGSAR wants everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. Free admission, 1pm at the Kin Centre, 100 Newcastle Blvd, Miramichi.



### Oct. 13: Nightmare Project

**Additional dates: October 20, 21, 28, 30, 31.** Time: 5pm to 9pm. The Nightmare Project is a small haunted attraction that includes a fenced in zombie section, spider's arachnophobia section and trails that will leave a chill down your spine. Located at 251 Howard road, Upper Blackville. Admission is free; donations accepted. [facebook.com/thenightmarehouseproject](https://facebook.com/thenightmarehouseproject)

**Oct. 13: Wilson's Point Summer Concert Series** Originally scheduled for Sept 16 but postponed due to Hurricane

Lee, this concert features Mike Bravener, a Canadian Folk Music Award nominee for "Best Traditional Singer" for his album of Traditional Miramichi and New Brunswick Folk music from the 19th century. Join us at 7pm at the Interpretive Centre, 8 Enclosure Rd, Miramichi, for a fantastic night under the pines. Tickets are available in advance at Brookdale Flower Shop and Wilson's Point Interpretive center during business hours. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$15/person. Tel: 506-627-0162.

### Oct. 15: Golf Ball Drop Fair

The Douglastown Lions Club's annual fair includes a pancake and sausage breakfast, face painting, pumpkin carving contest, bicycle draw (16 and under), vendors, silent auction and the Golf Ball Drop! The fun happens 8am-2pm at the Nordin Rec Centre, 24 Nordin Lane, Miramichi.

### Oct. 20-22: Folk Racines Festival

A festival celebrating farming, rural Acadie and harvest time. There is something for everyone: cultural and artistic activities, activities for children, rural university and great food! Events held at various locations in Rogersville, including a farm tour of La Ferme Terre Partagée, 1312 ch. Pleasant Ridge, starting at 4pm on Oct.20. [www.facebook.com/festivalfolkracines](https://www.facebook.com/festivalfolkracines)

**Oct. 28: Retroactive at the Topsy Bar & Grill** Come dress up for Halloween and join Retroactive as we bring the best of 80's rock to Boiestown. \$15 at the door. Have a few drinks, some eats, and rock the night away with us, starting at 10pm. Located at 6496 Route 8, Boiestown NB.

### Nov. 4th: Christmas Craft Market

The Central NB Woodmens Museum Annual market is a magical day of

unique crafts, festive treats, and all things merry and bright! Whether you're starting your holiday shopping early or just looking for that one-of-a-kind gift, we've got something special for everyone. Admission is free: 10am-2pm at the museum, 6342 Route 8, Boiestown NB. Vendors tables are \$20 each. Phone: 506-369-7214. E-mail: [info@woodmensmuseum.com](mailto:info@woodmensmuseum.com).



**NOV. 5: Canadian Women in War** is the theme of the Remembrance Dinner Theatre & Song, 5pm at the Kin Centre. Tickets \$40 each by reservation only. Call Susan Butler at 506-622-1780. Special diets can be accommodated. Performers include The Villagers, MVHS Drama Club, King St. Elem. School Choir, Katie & Melissa Barry, Elizabeth Shatford and Susan Butler.

### Nov. 16-18: Corcoran Entertainment Presents *Playhouse Quarrel*

Teddy Wood is the temperamental general manager of his own theatre company in Moncton, who lives in an apartment at the venue. Despite being a bitter and negative person, his soft spot is his choreographer and love interest, Sarah. However, when he is about to lose her to a rival company in Nova Scotia, Teddy goes to great lengths to keep Sarah from leaving at all costs. Chaos ensues; from broken bones, to defamation scripts, heartbreak, and as the title suggests: A playhouse quarrel.



Written and directed by Franky Corcoran, *Playhouse Quarrel* features Thomas Hare, Annaka Fournier, Reg Saunders, Tristan Eisnor, Sean Rule, Cindy Rule, Cynthia Gilks and Patti O'Shea. *Playhouse Quarrel* runs November 16, 17 and 18 at the Beaverbrook Kin Centre at 7PM. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door or by texting or calling 506-624-3315. Warning: This play contains mature language and themes. Viewer discretion is advised.

#### November 18: *Oh Me Nerves*

The Holiday Nutcrackers comedy tour is coming to Miramichi with Tina Randell and Michelle Rex. There will be two shows at 3pm and 8pm at the Club 10 Legion in Newcastle. Get your

tickets while they last. Available at Goodie Shop Restaurant, Club 10 Legion Newcastle, Headwaters Miramichi and Millbank Music. A fundraiser for the Rock N' Roll festival in 2024.



#### November 19: Day Bus Trip to See *Come From Away* in Halifax

Winner of Best New Musical, *Come From Away* shares the incredible story

of the 7,000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Newfoundland during the wake of 9/11, and the small community that invited these 'come from aways' into their lives. Leaving from Miramichi to see the 1pm matinee. \$212 per person. Fifty spots available. Contact Cathy Smith at 506-626-2659 or [Smithca59@gmail.com](mailto:Smithca59@gmail.com)

#### November 25: Big Buck Night

The Kinsmen club of the Miramichi will be holding their annual Big Buck night once again with a chance for you to win an ATV and other great prizes. The event starts at 7pm at the Kin Centre, 100 Newcastle Blvd. Tickets can be purchased from any Kinsmen for \$50.

## Crafts, Markets, and Art

### Blackville Markets

Oct 21, Nov 18 and Dec 16, 10am to 1pm (check Facebook for updates). A variety of handmade crafts, woodworking, baking, sweets and candy, custom-made and cricut items, Scentsy, and more. At the United Church Hall 145 Main Street, Blackville, NB

### Greater Miramichi Community Market

Fall and Christmas Markets are held at Miramichi Valley High School on Sundays, 12pm to 4pm on these dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and 17. For information or to be a vendor call or text Gregg and/or Sandra Bruce at 506-210-2097.

**Newcastle Farmers Market** is moving to 21 Cove Road (Miramichi Eco-Center) as of October 6, 2023. Join us Fridays 10am -2pm.

### Workshop Wednesdays at Wilson's Point

Oct. 11: Tartan Pillows with Celtic embroidery

Oct. 18: Needle Felted Funky Pumpkins

Supplies and light lunch provided. Call 627-0162 to register.

### Art Exhibits at Chatham Public Library

View exhibits from local artists:

**October** - Dolores Deredin, Dolores Landry, Mary Phyllis

**November** - Plein Air Miramichi

**December** - Heather Johnston

Visit [facebook.com/chathampubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/chathampubliclibrary) or call 773-6274 for hours and information. 24 King St. Miramichi.






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# CITY HALL UPDATES

## MIRAMICHI WELLNESS MULTIPLEX UPDATE .....

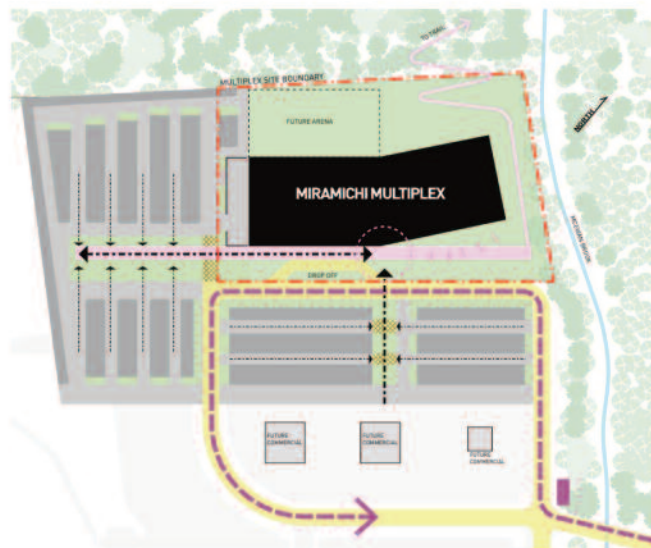
The City of Miramichi has hired Bird Construction Group to provide construction management services to oversee the construction of the Miramichi Wellness Multiplex.

Bird Construction Group will work with MJMA Architecture & Design and Teal Architects + Planners during the preconstruction stage.

Concept drawings of the building and plan diagrams were shown and explained to city council at a recent meeting.

The next steps in the Miramichi Wellness Multiplex project include design development and the onboarding of the construction management team.

Construction on the facility is expected to begin in May 2024 and will take over two years to complete.



## LEAF PICK UP

The City of Miramichi wishes to advise City residents that FERO will be picking up leaves separate from regular household garbage for two Saturdays, **October 21st** and **November 4th**. All leaves should be at curb side no later than 7 a.m.

**Please note: It is recommended that leaves be in biodegradable bags.**

**Effective from October 16th to November 6th, dumpsters will be located at the following locations for those that wish to dispose of their leaves themselves.**

- **Public Works garage on Mitchell Street**
- **Loggieville Community Center**
- **Parking lot at the corner of Timmerman Street and Pollard Boulevard**



# Dare the Dark: October 21, 27 and 28

## Halloween Horror at the Cove

by Shawn McCarthy

The night closes in, and there's no escape from a cove filled with disturbed spectres. This past summer, hundreds of people chose to Dare the Dark, but on **October 21st, 27th and 28th** Character Matters Miramichi presents the Halloween Horror at the Cove; this is one you've been screaming for.

Part of **Miramichi's Haunted Happenings**, this self-guided experience will bring you face-to-face with the dark history of French Fort Cove, in the form of more than twenty performers ready to provide thrills, and chills.

Tour guides Mammon and Fiona Finnegan will be on hand, spinning the haunted yarns of earlier times, when the Cove was home to soldiers, labourers, and the frightened whispers of a cursed treasure. Sit and listen to them while you wait for your turn to enter the Cove, but **when your number is up, you're on your own**. Follow the lights, and don't stray too deep into the darkness when you meet the spirits of those claimed by war and disease, and the desperate ones who are forever seeking and never finding. See the cost of war, as Europe's centuries-old rivalries spill onto these shores. Bear witness to the putrefaction of those whose bodies are corrupted without by disease, and those whose minds are just as rotted within by greed. Perhaps, you'll even encounter the ghost of Sister Marie herself, still guarding the valuables of the Acadians, and searching for the head that will make her body whole.

**Tickets (\$20)** can be purchased on the performance nights at the French Fort Cove zipline building (1111 King George Hwy) beginning at 6:30pm. The experience begins at 7pm, and no tickets will be sold after 9pm. Follow

"Character Matters Miramichi" on social media for further details, or e-mail [hello@charactermattersmiramichi.com](mailto:hello@charactermattersmiramichi.com).



Photos by Naomi Wallace of N.W. Productions



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# An Autumn Haunting Under the Pines

## Graveyard Walk at Wilson's Point - Oct.20

Restored by Louise Manny, under the patronage and direction of Lord Beaverbrook, the Wilson's Point graveyard, serving St. James Presbyterian Church from 1791 to 1832, is the oldest British burial ground on the Miramichi. **The Miramichi Scottish Heritage Association** invites you to join **Character Matters Miramichi** on the night of



the Point. Later accounts speak of common graves, where lay the lost of "le camp d'Espérance," who perished from scurvy and starvation due to lack of food and provisions. Seventeen gravestones from the period of British settlement, and dating from as early as the 1780s, are still visible today; visited by the solemn, and also by the curious.

October 20 for a walk through this historic cemetery, and a theatrical encounter with the spirits of those who rest there; gates open at 7pm. **Tours are self-guided**, and will proceed on a time-staggered group-by-group basis until 9:30pm.

**Tickets** can be purchased in the replica church before departing; \$15/person, under 6yrs free. Debit/credit available.

The Point has long been seen as a place associated with the hereafter. Maps of Miramichi, dating from as early as 1685, indicate a mission station or graveyard at

**October 20th** is the night when the spirits return, as the graveyard lives again! See the souls of early settlers, the Loyalist veterans of the American Revolution, and those who's rest at the Point is neither peaceful nor quite eternal. Join them to experience the past for yourself, and



you'll surely find that the history of their lives is every bit as unsettling as any ghost story. Learn the history of the region, and of this Provincial Heritage site, in an unforgettable way as part of Miramichi's Haunted Happenings.

Find more Haunted Happenings at [www.discovermiramichi.com/haunted-happenings](http://www.discovermiramichi.com/haunted-happenings)



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# Madness at the Manse

## October 13-14

By Thomas Daley

For almost 150 years, this stately three-storey home has stood along the King George Highway, watching generations of people pass by, and pass on. It was built for a shipper, named William Watt, who, for reasons unexplained, never lived in the majestic house. Considerable research has been done on the man, and next to nothing can be found out about him. Names like Davidson, Fraser, Peabody, Russell and Cunard appear again and again in history books with regards to Miramichi shipbuilding, but we are left asking, "What happened to William Watt?"

The house has been a source of mystery since the last nail was struck.

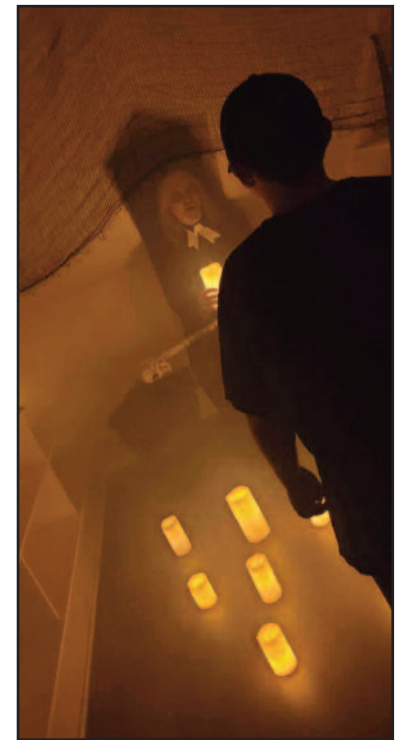
The site has been a hot spot of **paranormal activity**, with various investigators, from around the Maritimes, making pilgrimages to visit the historic home, and to spend the night, if they dare. From floating orbs captured in night-vision, to strange voice-like frequencies appearing on audio devices, a great deal of seemingly inexplicable content has been recorded, to pique the curiosity of both young and old.

Former summer students who worked at the house, have countless stories of doors opening on their own, typewriters making



noise when no one is present, and the sound of somebody with a cane walking above them, upstairs. Some past visitors have gone so far as to say they have witnessed spirits, such as the mysterious Lady in Blue walking the halls, and even seen Lord Beaverbrook himself, seated in a chair writing.

Character Matters Miramichi is proud to partner with Historic Beaverbrook House to present, "**Madness At The Manse,**" a **theatrical tour showcasing the eerie, the strange, and the downright mad.** Join the snobbish Dr. Phineas Bigby, and his wary assistant, Ms. Soloman, as they guide you



through the haunted halls of history. Who knows what ghosts are waiting for YOU this year? Join us and find out.

**Tours run October 13th and 14th** at 8pm, 8:45pm and 9:30pm – tickets: \$15 a person. Historic Beaverbrook House, 518 King George Hwy, Miramichi. Please book in advance to guarantee your spot. Poster by N.W. Productions. Photo courtesy of Tiffany Gallivan.



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# A Family's Shared Passion: A Love of Painting

By Stacy Underhill

Kathy Somers fondly remembers how she used to sit and watch her grandmother, Blanche (Bryenton) Somers of Sillikers, paint for hours. Her grandmother (1916-2001) was a RN at the Miramichi Hospital and a mother of seven children.



“My love of painting came from watching Gram Somers paint her beautiful pictures,” Kathy says. “I remember sitting there in awe watching her create art with her brushes and paint. I wanted to try it out, on her painting. I don’t remember if she let me make a little swipe or not, she probably did. She was the best Gram. She loved God so much and attended the Little Southwest Baptist church.”

Kathy’s grandmother, Blanche (Bryenton) Somers, who inspired her love of painting.

As a child, Kathy always enjoyed drawing pictures and doing paint by number sets. At age 10 she asked her mother, Joan Menzies Somers, if she could have her own paint set.

“When she came home with oil paint, brushes and a pad of oil paper, I was so excited,” Kathy says. “I went straight to work. I still have my first painting here that I did in 1975.”

Inspiration for Kathy’s paintings comes from nature and scenes from the Miramichi area. She loves to paint snow-covered trees, the Northern Lights, forests, rivers, people fishing, or friends having a bonfire up at The Bog in Sillikers.

Kathy paints in oil and acrylics and sees it as a relaxing hobby. She often gives away her paintings as gifts, and at Christmas she enjoys painting tree ornaments on wood slices.

One painting she did was for Bryan Reid Sr., the owner of Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia and star of the HGTV series, *Timber Kings*, of his log home he lived in when he went to California.

Artistic talent runs in the family. Kathy also has paintings by her great uncle Jarvis Bryenton (1929-2018), her cousin Joyce Taylor, and great aunt Doreen Menzies Arbuckle (1911-1999) that were painted in the 1940’s and 50’s. Doreen is also author of the book *The Northwest Miramichi*,



Looking out over Clarence Menzie’s land to the river in Whitneyville. Artist Blanche (Bryenton) Somers.

published in 1978.

“I used to watch Uncle Jarvis paint also, my grandmothers’ brother,” Kathy says. “He had a barber shop in Sunny Corner for years, then moved it to Boom Road and he retired. He turned his shop into his little painting spot. He also had a brother Billy who was a cartoonist.”

Correction notice: A couple of Kathy Somers’ paintings were in the Mighty Miramichi River Guide this year and were labelled as Kathleen Walsh instead of her maiden name, Kathy Somers.



Artist Blanche (Bryenton) Somers.





Above: Kathy's great uncle, Jarvis Byenton, giving her son Philip his first hair cut in his barber shop turned art studio.

Left: One of Jarvis Bryenton's paintings.



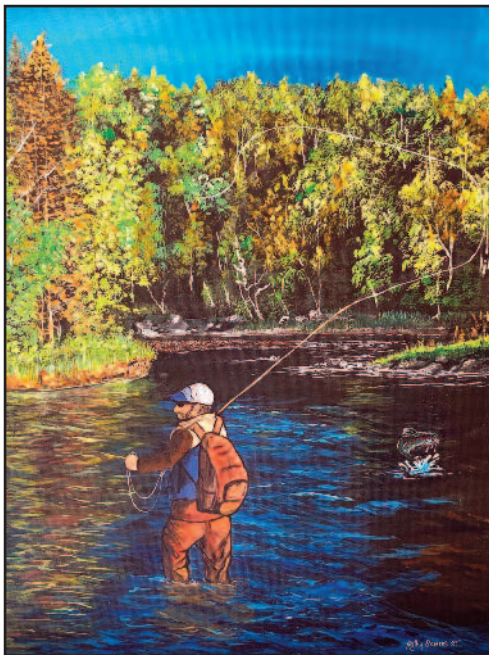
Kathy Somers' first painting she did at 10 years old.



An ornament Kathy painted of "Grampy Menzie's Barn."



A bear catching salmon. Artist Kathy Somers.



Terry Matchett fishing trout at Egans Pool in Little Bartibog. Artist Kathy Somers.



Kathy's painting for her dad, Frank Somers, who loved to fish salmon, tie flies, and guide.



Bryan Reid Sr. of Timber Kings fame, holding the painting Kathy Somers did for him.





## Cindy Lou's Corner

# The F Words... Faith and Fear

You are searching to make your dreams come true. Your heart races with excitement every time you think of how you could make things happen. You make some calls, maybe entertain some workshops on the subject at hand. You get really fired up, like the fire works on the first of July. Then a seemingly innocent thought starts to make its way into your focused plan. "Are you sure you want to do this?" You answer, "Yes." You continue with your plan and goals. Things feel good, you are making some progress, maybe not a lot, but its forward motion.

Oops, what's that? Your brain hits a problem it can't seem to solve right away. You are out of your comfort zone. Your confidence and self talk start to spiral down like the water in a toilet bowl after a big flush. You search your mind; the doubt starts screaming so loud you can't think clearly. Every logical solution is clouded by irrational answers. Logic has left the building. You have entered the battlefield where dreams are won or lost.

Into the arena enters "The Sabotage Fear" to make its move. It can move fast. It's been in training for years it has methods, power and resilience. It knows the direct pathways to put your nervous system into overdrive, like a race car driver knows the race track. You battle it and try to convince it that you got this and its no big deal. Your mantra becomes "Everything always works out for me", you start to feel like you have fear in a head lock and are ready to make it scream uncle. But it wins, because it has been fed the super foods of your worst fears coming true all your life. You retreat back into your comfort zone to lick your wounds and you succumb to the fearful but seemingly logical thoughts and convince yourself its okay.

Battling fear with positivity is like using gasoline to put out a fire. There is no battle ever won with more resistance, its an illusion. The battle just becomes smaller or controlled, but there is not a winner or a loser. There is only the next battle. What? That's ridiculous!

Hear me out. We like the excitement of fighting for things, whether it be our dreams, money, time or our lives. (Fighting for our lives isn't the most popular one we like to engage in, but it happens). We like the triumph, big or small. It makes us appreciate life and our lives more, it brings us

back to what we feel is important to us.

Fears are just thoughts. They are familiar and reliable. They warn you of danger. They are like instant coffee, can be used in a pinch but never quite delivering a life changing moment. We have practiced fear so long we have given it a spilt personality. You know the one, the quick one, that reacts to all thoughts of change.

Fear dominates and overrides the thoughts that take us out of our comfort zone.

How do you disarm fear? You get comfortable being uncomfortable. Playing scenarios out calmly until the fearful thought has no more fuel. Your nervous system calms and you can hear and see what you need to do next.

Faith is Fear's kryptonite. When you start using faith in your conversations with fear it starts to stammer like an excited toddler trying to convey what it wants to an adult. Fear has no power where faith is present.

How do you have faith you ask? You already have faith, it just isn't screaming as loud as fear does. Fear is like a politician at a rally screaming and making promises so you will listen to them and follow them.

Faith on the other hand has many faces. It is a feeling of calm when things are chaotic, having clarity when surrounded by confusion, some might say disassociation is unhealthy, but really it is another face of faith in disguise. Faith is always present whenever fear is screaming. It whispers with the voice of reason and feels like a cool rain on a hot summer's night, it refreshes and brings everything to life.

We have practiced listening to fear longer than listening to faith. Now, practice feeling the presence of faith. Practice witnessing the presence of faith. Practice it like you have done with fear. Flip the coin of life, heads is faith and tails is fear. Nine out of ten times it will be heads. And the one time that it is tails, use it to turn into the great come back, like the true story "Miracle on Ice." If you haven't seen this movie, it is the epitome of faith in real time.

If you want to unravel your fear or shift your dreams into high gear and break your rearview mirror. I am here.

Sincerely, Your Spiritual Guidance Councillor, Cindy Lou. Email: [cindytheta7@gmail.com](mailto:cindytheta7@gmail.com). Instagram/Facebook @cindylooscorner.





# Isn't it Time you Tried Curling?

## Miramichi Curling Club – Everyone is welcome!

If you have never tried curling before, or you played in a fun spiel, had a blast, and always thought it would be fun to play regularly, now is the time!

**The Miramichi Curling Club** would love for you to join and invites you to come see what the sport is all about!

Why curling? Cottage Life (2022) says every Canadian should try curling. There are so many benefits. Firstly, anyone can play. Curling is one of the most

inclusive sports out there. It is open to all ages! Secondly, it is inexpensive, as there are no complicated equipment needs; just a pair of clean running shoes will do until you want to buy curling shoes. The Miramichi Curling Club membership prices are some of the lowest in the Maritimes. Thirdly, it is great for your mind. It has been nicknamed “chess on ice” due to its strategy and precision. But don't worry if you aren't interested in challenging your mind, and getting out of the house and socializing is your goal; it is excellent for that, too! Many friendships have blossomed at the Miramichi Curling Club. Teams join up for a beverage with their opponents after every game.



The Miramichi Curling Club at 21 Cove Rd Miramichi, will be starting a Learn to Curl program on November 8 for six weeks.

Lastly, it is fantastic for your health – both physical and mental! You will move your body, burning between 290-450 calories per hour, and you will meet new people and have a lot of fun!

There will be a **Learn to Curl** program on Wednesdays at 7pm starting **November 8**. It will be six weeks in length and is \$80 + HST. If you decide to become a member after the program is done, the \$80 will be deducted from your membership. In addition to

regular mixed fun leagues, a competitive league, and an Omega league, new this year there will also be a stick league, a doubles league and Friday Night Happy Hour. **Friday Night Happy Hour** will be available to members and non-members, so you can come out on a Friday night to give curling a try!

If you have any questions, please email [miramichicurling@live.com](mailto:miramichicurling@live.com) or send us a message on Facebook. Please join our socials, Facebook and Instagram and check our website regularly – [www.miramichicurlingclub.com](http://www.miramichicurlingclub.com). We hope you will come to see us this winter!

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# Pickleball in Miramichi

## The Game Everyone's Talking About

From the executive of the Miramichi Pickleball Club- Mike Dickinson, Terry Fenton, and Ann Morrissy

**What is Pickleball?** Pickleball is a unique and engaging sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. It can be played indoors or outdoors on a court similar in size to a badminton court. Players use paddles and a whiffle ball and typically play as doubles, making it perfect for those looking for a social or competitive experience. Games usually take about 10 minutes to complete with players switching partners and opponents before the next game is played.

Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting to explore the world of sports, pickleball offers something for everyone. Miramichi's growing pickleball community welcomes players of all ages and backgrounds.

Beyond the fun and camaraderie, pickleball offers significant health benefits. It's a great way to stay active, improve cardiovascular fitness, and enhance hand-eye coordination. Plus, the low-impact nature of the game means less stress on joints, making it an excellent choice for all ages.

The **Miramichi Pickleball Club** organizes local games, and the club communicates to members and the public through its Facebook group. Find Miramichi Pickleball Club on Facebook and join the group to find information on playing times, learn-to-play clinics, and competitive leagues.

MPC boasts an **active seniors' group** for those 55 years of age and older that play regularly at the Golden Hawk gym Tuesdays (1-3:30 pm) and Fridays (3-5:15 pm). Drop-ins are welcome and the cost is \$3 per session. MPC also organizes pickleball games for all ages and abilities at the MVHS gym on Sundays (6-9pm) and Mondays/Wednesdays (8-10pm). Cost is \$3.

The club will be hosting **learn-to-play clinics** this fall for those new to the sport. Information for these clinics will



be posted in the Facebook group. Club membership costs \$10. If you have any questions about the sport or the club, send us an email at [miramichipickleballclub@gmail.com](mailto:miramichipickleballclub@gmail.com).

To play pickleball, **all you need** is a decent pair of non-marking gym shoes and a pickleball paddle. Nets and balls are available to use at both Golden Hawk and MVHS. If you don't have a paddle, MPC has loaners you can use. Starter paddles are easily found in sports stores and online starting around \$75, with very good paddles in the \$100-\$150 range. It's best to avoid wooden paddles because they are heavy.

Miramichi's pickleball community is thriving, and it's an excellent time to jump in and experience the excitement for yourself. Whether you're looking for a way to stay active, make new friends, or enjoy some friendly competition, pickleball has it all. So, grab a paddle, hit the courts, and become a part of this exciting movement in our community.





# The Miramichi - A Shipbuilding Legacy

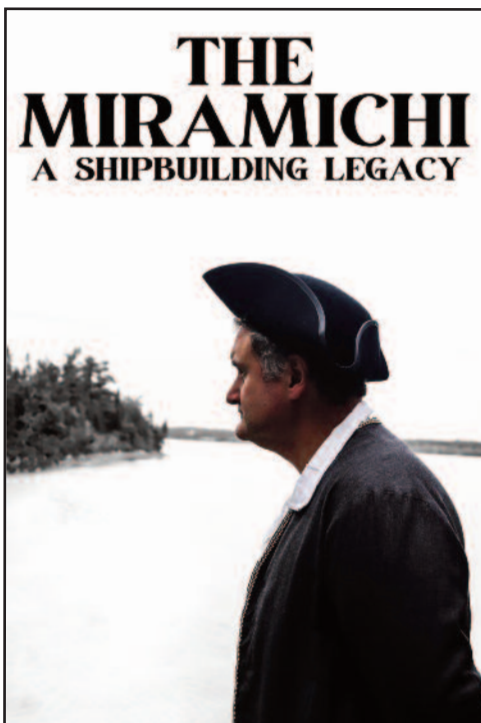
A Theatrical Tribute to Miramichi's Maritime Heritage: Nov. 11-12

By Thomas Daley

In 1773, a three-hundred-ton schooner, built entirely of local timber, set sail on our beautiful river. It must have been a sight to behold for everyone living in the area, and a source of pride for those who worked hard to create such a mighty vessel. It was the first of many Miramichi-built tall ships that would make the long, dangerous, journey across the Atlantic Ocean in the century to follow.

But it's never easy being the first.

This November, Character Matters Miramichi, with the support of the Scottish Heritage Association, are pleased to present *The Miramichi – A Shipbuilding Legacy*, a two-act play exploring the early life of William Davidson. The founder of Miramichi's first English-speaking settlement, Davidson was a somewhat controversial man, born into a world rife with political and religious conflicts. He would navigate his personal life through some very wild waters and create a new identity for the new world.



The play, an original script written by star Thomas Daley, features a cast of local performers under Daley's own direction, and explores the themes of family tension, small town gossip and the all-consuming desire for success; topics that are as relevant today as they were 250 years ago.

Join us for a memorable voyage on stage Saturday, **November 11th** at 7pm and Sunday, **November 12th** at 2pm at Saint James & Saint John United Church Centre Miramichi. Bring your sweet tooth and sample a selection of desserts from our fine local bakeries. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Brookdale Flower Shop in Newcastle or at Creative Grounds in Chatham.

Character Matters Miramichi, founded in 2023 by Thomas Daley and Shawn McCarthy, focuses on creating heritage-based entertainment using homegrown material, while spotlighting local talented people of all ages.

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## Miramichi Rotary Community Band

This community brass and reed band has existed in Miramichi since 1995, and is a continuation of the former CFB Chatham Base Band. Over the years we have played at multiple venues, but have been closed down the past few years due to the Covid pandemic.

We are primarily looking for new members for the coming year - this includes all brass or reed instruments (ie. flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, baritone, trombone, tuba, etc.) and can include bass guitar or drums also. New members should be able to read music.

Anyone who is interested can contact Greg MacDiarmid after hours or weekends at 506-624-7777.



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# PALS Camp: Where Fun, Sports, and Reading, Come Together for Kids

Summer Program Shows Impressive Results in Boosting Literacy Skills through Active Engagement

Physical Activity Literacy & Sports Camp (PALS Camp), a unique summer camp that combines the excitement of sports with the joy of reading, has once again demonstrated its ability to make a positive impact on the lives of children who need a little extra support with their literacy skills. Hosted by the **Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association**, it is designed to engage boys and girls who may not be enthusiastic readers but have a passion for sports. PALS Camp has successfully created an environment where learning becomes an enjoyable adventure.

The main focus of PALS Camp, which was held this summer is to help children reach their reading goals by the time they reach grade 3, a critical stage in their education. By infusing literacy activities with sports and physical activities, PALS Camp is breaking new ground in educational enrichment.

**Results That Speak for Themselves** - PALS Camp has a strong track record of success, as reflected in its pre and post-assessment outcomes:

- 99% of camp participants either improved their reading skills or maintained their progress over the summer break.

- 99% showed enhanced fundamental movement skills.

The connection between physical activity and overall



A special reading day was held at PALS Camp with funders. In attendance were Jake Stewart, MP, Ibrahim Faizal (MRMA), Mike Mersereau (Miramichi Rotary Club), Michelle Conroy, MLA, and Craig Silliker (MRMA). Photos by Ann Morrissy.

well-being is well-documented, and PALS Camp leverages this connection to not only promote healthier lifestyles but also to enhance cognitive skills, academic performance, and social interaction among children.

## Partnerships for Excellence

At the heart of PALS Camp's success lies its dedication to high-quality programming. Collaborations with prominent literacy organizations, such as Frontier College (United For Literacy), Elementary Literacy, Brilliant Labs, and the New Brunswick Public Libraries, ensure that

the camp's literacy component remains robust. Similarly, partnerships with key players in New Brunswick's sports and recreation sector, including the **Department of Tourism Heritage and Culture**, strengthen the physical activity aspect of the camp. The summer student **SEED** grants as well as the **Canada Summer Jobs** grants provide the funding for the staff, which is the backbone of the camp. And the local commitment from the **Miramichi Rotary Club** which provides funding for literacy supplies, the Anglo North School District that helps refer children who could best use the camp, and the **Saint James and John United Church** which provides us with a facility, make the camp possible.

## Reaching Those in Need

PALS Camp is committed to reaching children who may



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be facing reading challenges. By working closely with the **Anglophone North School District** and the **Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association**, the camp ensures that those who could benefit the most are given the opportunity to participate. The engaging and enjoyable activities offered by PALS Camp contribute to an impressive 80% attendance rate.

### Driving Positive Change

PALS Camp's impact goes beyond the summer months. By targeting children who are not reading at grade level by Grade 3, PALS Camp is addressing a critical need in early education. Research by Deloitte underscores the importance of early interventions in shaping a child's educational journey.

Moreover, PALS Camp's efforts play a pivotal role in mitigating the potential socio-economic skill gaps exacerbated by pandemic disruptions. By investing in children's education and well-being, PALS Camp is helping to build a stronger and more resilient future.

With a focus on promoting literacy skills and fostering a love for learning, PALS Camp is dedicated to helping children succeed academically while having fun. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to making a difference, PALS Camp is shaping a brighter future for young learners.

Members of the board are: Craig Silliker, Ann Morrissy, Tamara Faizal and Vanessa Green.





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# Josie Foundation Annual Fundraising Dinner

## Celebrating Community Generosity and Compassion

With a commitment to helping individuals and families during some of life's most difficult moments, the Josie Foundation seeks to help alleviate the burdens associated with medical expenses, emotional stress, and the daily challenges that accompany life-threatening illnesses. With the dedication of Board members, compassionate volunteers, and very generous donations from businesses and individuals throughout the communities, the foundation aims to continue working to help maintain a strong and compassionate community where everyone has an opportunity to thrive despite health-related hardships.

"Facing a life-threatening illness can be stressful and overwhelming, not only for the individuals directly affected, but also for their families and loved ones. We believe that no one should have to face these challenges alone," said **Lois Tozer, President of the Josie Foundation**. "Our foundation is dedicated to help in providing support and assistance needed to navigate through these difficult times, ensuring that individuals and families in the Miramichi region receive the care and compassion they deserve."

The Foundation's main event is the Annual Fundraising Dinner, held each year in June at the Miramichi Kinsmen Club. This event is put together by the Board of Directors



Dr. Gerard and Judy Losier presented the Josie Foundation with a generous donation of \$50,000.

This year, the Josie Foundation's Fundraising Dinner was a sell out!

Many thanks to our MC for the evening, the very lovely **Judy Losier** who fills a room with her elegance, charm, compassion, and wit; to our exceptional **Guest Speaker, Darlene Somers**, who shared her powerful and heart-wrenching story of courage and faith; to **Lou Warren** and her kitchen staff for the delicious meal; to our decorator, **Candace Sherrard** and her staff, who made the hall look amazing; to our photographer, **Kim Harris**, who has been so supportive over the years. Thank you!

We are so grateful to the many businesses and individuals who so graciously donated prizes for the auction. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated!

A huge thank you to the **NSER High School Rotary Interact Club** for serving the meal, and for the wonderful donation of \$600.

An immense thanks to **The Rotary Club of Chatham** for an extremely generous donation of \$5000.

And an overwhelming appreciation is extended to **Dr. Gerard and Judy Losier**. Your generosity and compassion for the people in Miramichi is beyond measurable. Your donation of \$50,000 to the Josie Foundation will go far in helping to support those in need in our community.

Many thanks!

The Josie Foundation is a non-profit organization and actively seeks donations from individuals and businesses who share this vision of continued caring in our community. To learn more about the Josie Foundation and its mission, please visit [www.josiefoundation.ca](http://www.josiefoundation.ca)



The NSER High School Rotary Interact Club served the meal and donated \$600.

and community members, coming together in a common goal; to help people in the Miramichi community. This event is planned well in advance, and each year we strive to make it its best! It is made possible with monies raised from events/fundraisers throughout the year, along with the help of many volunteers, friends, and the very generous donations of businesses and individuals in our community.



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Peter Gadd from the Miramichi Naturalists Club took these photos on September 12 and says this is the first summer we have had **Northern Cardinals** in the area. "We often have them in the winter but they always leave in the spring. We have been wondering if there would be young and this morning (Sept. 12th) we finally have proof. I am wondering if anyone else in the Miramichi area have had juvenile Northern Cardinals in the past. The female is feeding a sunflower seed to the fledgling on top of a feeder. Only the adults have the bright orange beak. The male Northern Cardinal is molting so looks rather "unkempt" at the moment. Not what we would expect!"



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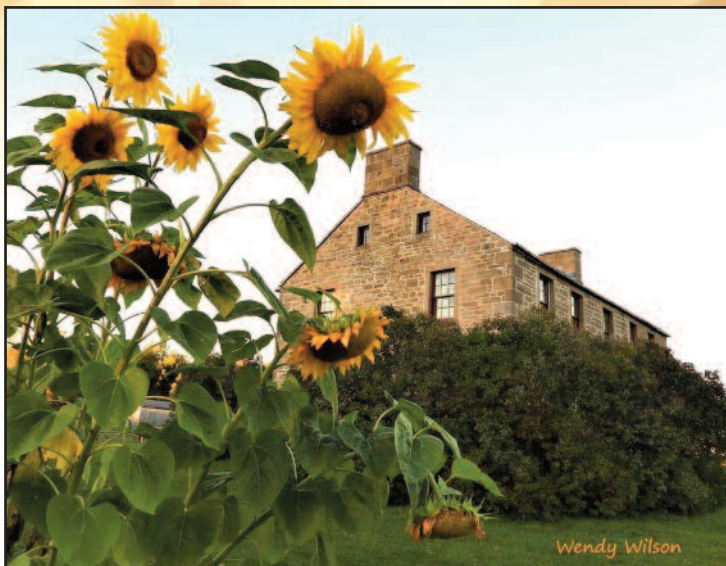


# Photo Submissions

If you have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share we always welcome your submissions. Send submissions to [submit@mcgmedia.net](mailto:submit@mcgmedia.net). For photos, please send high resolution jpg's (not resized for email) and remember to include your name for the photo credit and the location where the photo was taken or description of the subject matter. Send in submissions to the **Christmas issue by October 23, 2023.**



Bartibog Church by Wendy Wilson



MacDonald Farm by Wendy Wilson

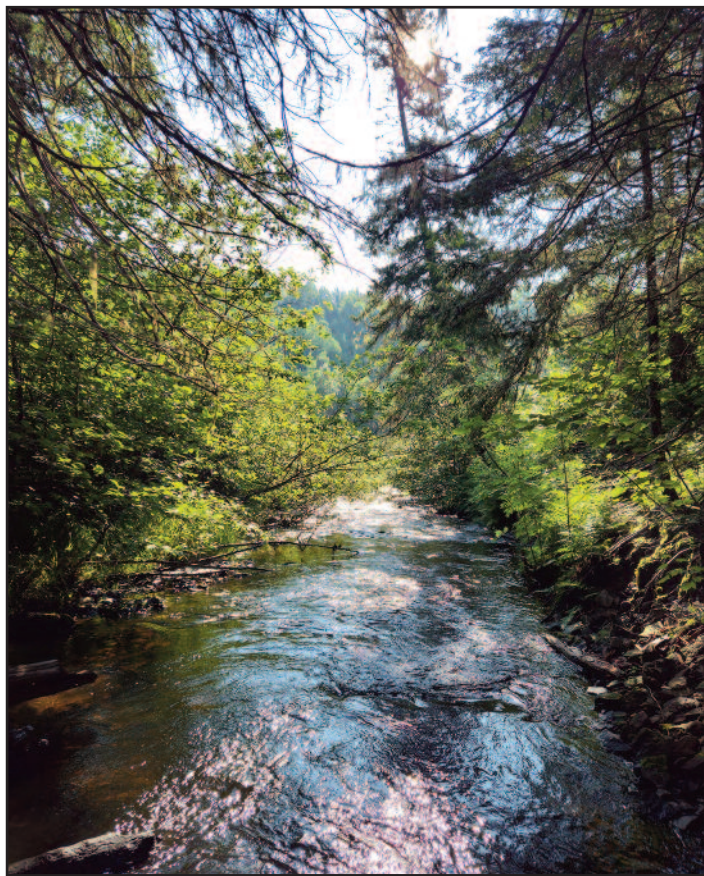


Photo taken at French Fort Cove by Paul Rancourt.

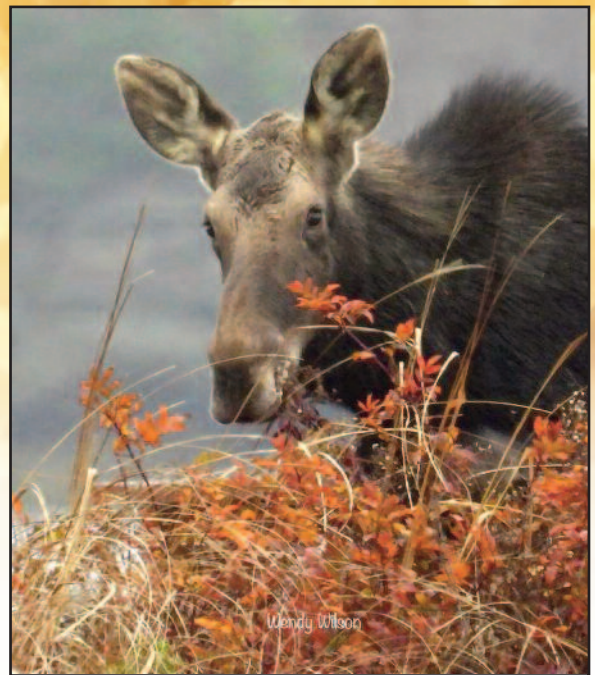


An Eagle in flight by Carrie Ann Vienneau.

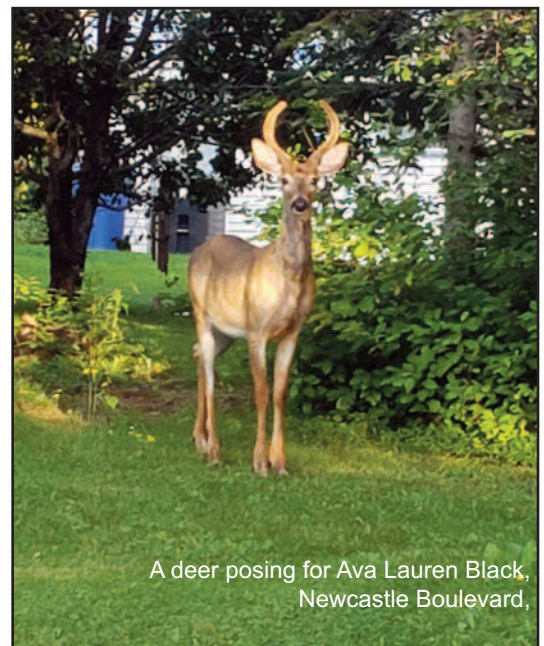




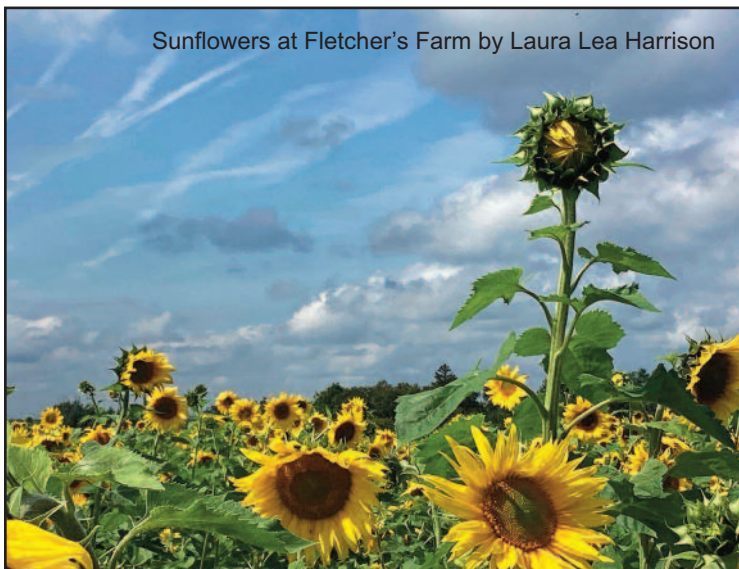
These two moose photos by Wendy Wilson.



Blue Jays by Bonnie Coughlan



A deer posing for Ava Lauren Black,  
Newcastle Boulevard,



Sunflowers at Fletcher's Farm by Laura Lea Harrison



Clouds reflected in the Miramichi River, by Doug Kidd



# How Does Your Garden Grow?



A portion of Laura Lea Harrison's large garden.



Photo by Jessica Bowie



A tree frog on an apple. Photo by George Bowie of Oak Point.



These two photos from Mary Matchett's garden.

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Linda Vautour's Stargazer Lily



Laura Lea Harrison's Poppy



Therese Bourque's Succulent Garden



Verica LeBlanc focuses on pollinator friendly plants in her garden and likes tall varieties like the Delphiniums shown here.



Verica LeBlanc, Asiatic Lily compact variety called Buzzer

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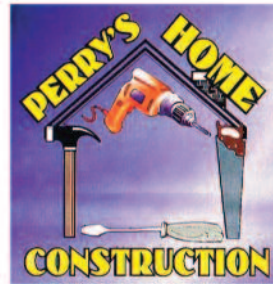
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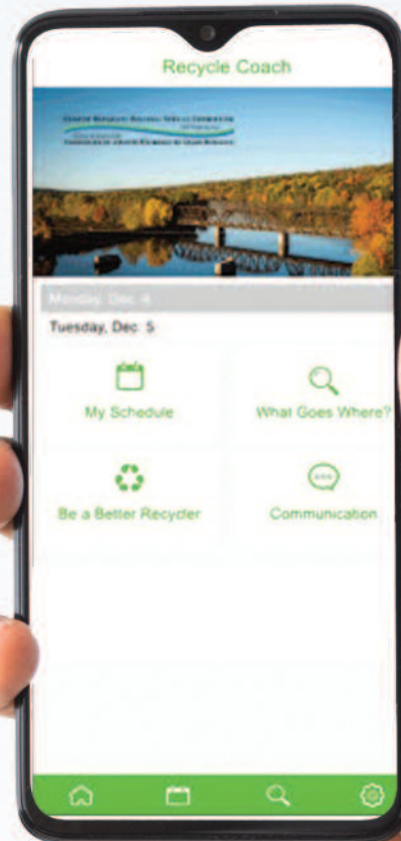
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