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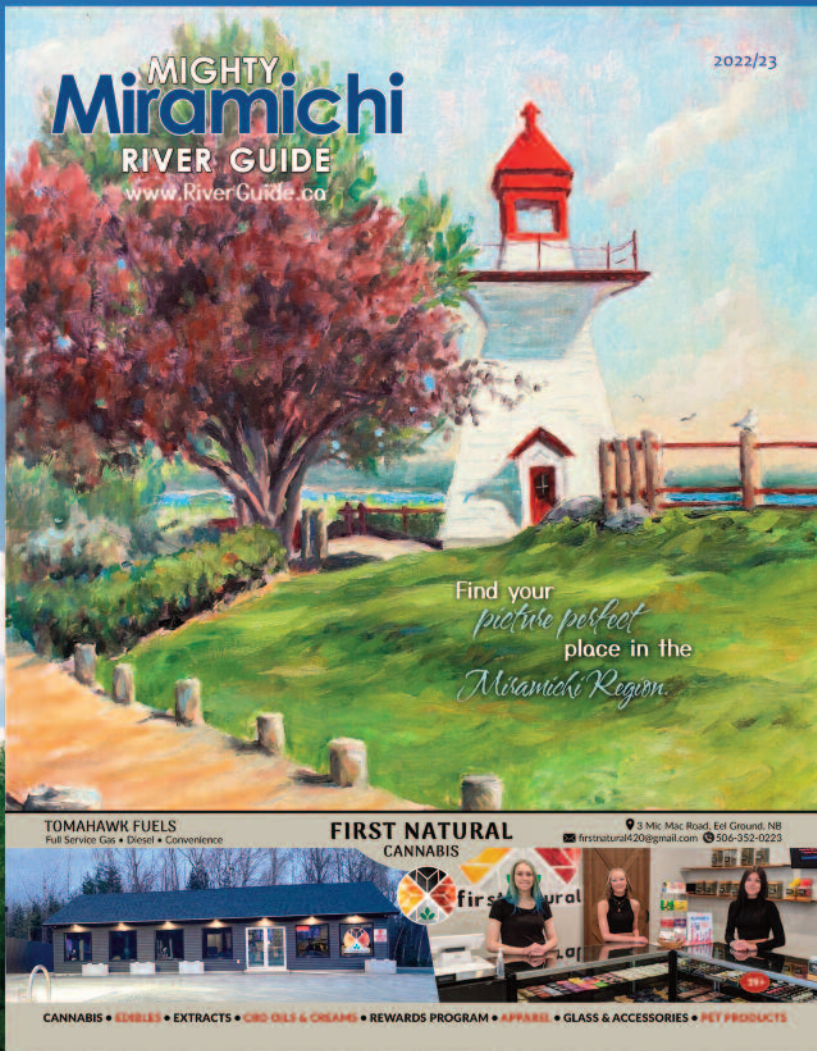
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2023/24 Mighty Miramichi River Guide

Our annual tourism publication will be out in May 2023



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Guiding locals and tourists alike to
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View current issue at www.riverguide.ca

The Mighty Miramichi River Guide is published annually by MCG Media.





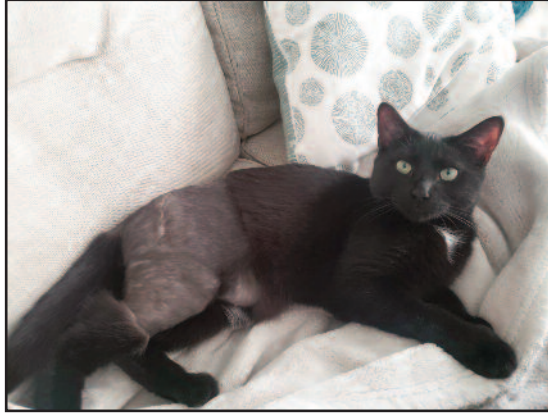
Raising Funds for Veterinary Care: Chance's Fund at the Miramichi SPCA

The **Miramichi SPCA** is a registered charity that is a private and independently run not-for-profit organization that has been in operation for over 15 years. It is a common and damaging misconception that our SPCA receives government or municipal funding; we are primarily supported by local in-person and online fundraisers, donations from the community, and special events.

We are a no-kill shelter, which means **we do not euthanize healthy animals** to free up space and will take on challenging medical and cruelty cases. Veterinary care is expensive - everything from vaccines, flea & tick treatments, spay/neuter surgeries, medication, surgeries, and especially emergency veterinary visits, are all paid for without government support. Our veterinary bills often average 20% of our operating costs, and some months can be as high as \$5,000.

We need your help.

Chance's Fund is a new initiative started in 2023 to help **raise money for our veterinary bills**. This fund will be designated to cats who need extra help with surgeries, critical illness, and long-term care. You can see all the ways to donate to Chance's Fund on our website www.spcamiramichi.com/donate-chances-fund. All donations over \$10 are tax deductible.



Ryker received the surgery he needed to be able to walk pain free and live a long, happy life. Chance's Fund raises money to cover veterinary bills for cats such as Ryker who deserve a second chance.

Our current spotlight is on Ryker! A sweet and friendly young cat who needed FHO (femoral head ostectomy) surgery if he ever had a chance of walking pain free again. He will be able to live a long, happy life now because of this treatment and we couldn't save the lives of these special animals without donations made to funds like Chance's. We make every effort to save the lives of cats like Ryker **because they are worth it** and deserve to be in loving homes!

The shelter staff, board members, and animals would like to extend a very big thank you to the businesses, organizations, schools, and community members who generously give their time, energy, goods, and/or money to support us. Without your donations we would not be able to help the countless animals that come through our doors.



Cover Photo: Bass Fishermen at Ritchie Wharf during the annual Striper Cup. Photo by Bonnie Coughlan.

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.

Submissions: email to submit@mcgmedia.net
Advertising: sales@mcgmedia.net Tel: 506-352-7668
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Events

Find More Events
www.mightymiramichi.com

April 14, 15 & 16: Dessert Theatre
Halfway House Miramichi by St. James & St. John United Church, 556 King George Hwy. See page 9.

April 15: Seed Sharing & Potluck
 Sustainable living expert Meagan Elaine will start us off with a presentation on "Starting Seeds and Soil Prep" at 11am, followed by a demonstration on how to build hügelkultur beds at 11:30am by Carrol Mysko. Meet other growers, exchange seeds and share in the potluck from 12-1pm. Black River Centennial Hall, 7919 Route 117, Black River Bridge.

April 15: Book launch of Miramichi Lads & Ladies: We Will Remember Them! Book Three will be held at Mill Cove Coffee shop (Newcastle) from 10am-12pm and at Creative Grounds in Chatham from 2-4pm. Copies of Book One and Two will also be available at the Mill Cove shop. The price of all the books is \$20 each. All profits from Book Three will go toward a student scholarship.

April 16: Annual Tartan Day Dinner & Concert. Sponsored by the 66th Miramichi Folksong Festival and the Highland Society of NB at Miramichi. Tickets \$40 each by reservation only, call Susan at 506-622-1780 or e-mail susanbutler@xplornet.com on or before April 10th. Dinner at 5pm and caters to most diets, please advise when reserving your tickets. Scottish Music will follow, featuring The Villagers, Claire Murphy, Susan Butler, Jimmy Lawlor, Norman Young and friends, Audrey McLaughlin, Melanie Ross Breen, Ella Howe and David Bunnell. Held at the Beaverbrook Kin Centre, 100 Newcastle Blvd.



April 22: Innovative Hybrid Wrestling
 Come watch an action packed night with Miramichi's own the Sampson Brother's, the Giant Orion, Wesley Pipes, Kirk Aubé and many more! Doors open at 6:30pm, 7pm bell time at Carrefour Beausoleil, 300 Beaverbrook Rd. 50/50 proceeds going to the Miramichi SPCA. 506-252-3937



May 2-June 2: Art Exhibit at Chatham Public Library

The Chatham Public Library will be hosting Laura Lea Harrison for her art exhibit "An Artist's View." Stop in and enjoy her paintings of local landmarks, every day scenes, and local flora and fauna. View the exhibit during library hours at 24 King Street, Miramichi. Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 – 5pm and 6 – 8pm; Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10am - 12:30pm and 1:30 – 5pm. Closed on Sunday and Monday. Contact 506-773-6274.

May 2: Nature Miramichi Guest Speaker Nature Miramichi presents Dr. Don McAlpine, NB Museum speaking on: White-nose syndrome and the bat population of New Brunswick. Presentation will be at 6:30 pm at 26 Sutton Road, Nelson-Miramichi or join

via Zoom (see our website or FB page for details). Everyone is welcome. www.miramichinaturalistclub.com

May 27: Neguac Celebrates Spring!
 Bring your bikes and your helmets! The Association des Loisirs St-Bernard Inc. will be hosting a Neguac Bike Rodeo. The event is open to all children 12 years old and under and there will be lots of prizes and bicycles to be won! It takes place in the parking lot of the Neguac Tourism Information Center, 708 rue Principale. Registration is from 10:15 to 10:45 am and the rodeo starts at 11 am. For more information visit the Facebook page – Association des Loisirs St-Bernard Inc., or call 506-776-3950.

May 26-28: Miramichi Striper Cup.
 The Miramichi striper cup is a "catch and release" bass fishing tournament that has attracted thousands of anglers to the banks of the Miramichi river over the past seven years. It runs from Friday May 26 at 4pm to Sunday May 28 at 8pm, and kicks off at Ritchie Wharf Park, Newcastle. Register at www.miramichistripercup.com.

June 6: Nature Walk at Miramichi Marsh Join Nature Miramichi for a nature walk at Miramichi Marsh. Meet at the end of Ironmen Road at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

June 10: Woodworking Crafts and Yard Sale The Miramichi Senior Sawdustmakers Inc. in conjunction with the historical WS Loggie House Cultural Center, will be holding a Craft/Yard Sale on Saturday, June 10 at the centre, 222 Wellington Street. We'll have bird houses, bat houses, serving trays, cutting boards, bowls, band saw boxes and more. See page 22. www.facebook.com/sawdustmakers.

Reviving a Comedy Gem: *Mullin's Boom* Takes the Stage with Character Matters Miramichi



“**Mullin’s Boom,**” a folksong first performed in 1823 by the inmates of the Newcastle jail, and thought to be so politically subversive that it was banned by law not long afterwards, will be brought to life again, for its bicentennial year, by a new performing troupe, **Character Matters Miramichi**. Performances are scheduled at Folklore Park in Renous, the weekend of **April 29**; at the Woodmen’s Museum in Boiestown, **May 6**; and in Miramichi, **May 12-13**.

The song itself detailed an altercation between local lumbermen, and a group of loggers from Maine, along the Southwest Miramichi, sometimes referred to as the “Battle of Musha-Whack.” The local workers accused their American counterparts of intruding and cutting on their territory. As might be expected then, the script takes a humorous tone, as a set of locals – Frank Gleason, John Burroughs, and Michael Darby – **escape the Newcastle jail on Halloween Night and flee to the Southwest**, where they find work with the logging crews of Robert Doak. Trying to earn their way with saw and axe, little do they realize that the industrious Thomas Boies

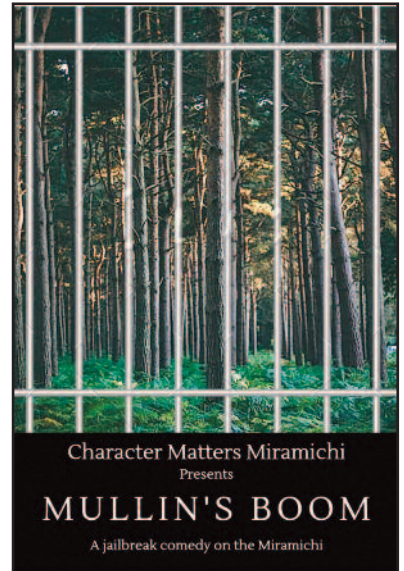
has sent Ron Alden, Jerry Garfield and Teddy Gordon, recently arrived from Maine, to cut for him on the very same ground. Confusion and excitement abound, as these two bands of woodsmen face off in a bout that was best captured in verse.

The play is the first feature from Character Matters Miramichi, a local heritage theatre business founded by **Thomas Daley and Shawn McCarthy**. Thomas

studied Acting at Vancouver Film School and has worked to combine entertainment, tourism and heritage to create enriching experiences in both Vancouver and in Miramichi. He currently lives in Semiwagan Ridge with his wife Klara. For his part, Shawn is a Western University doctoral graduate in history, perhaps best known for his time at the Boishébert and Beaubears Island Shipbuilding National Historic Sites of Canada, where he specialized in experiential heritage offerings, utilizing on-site, character-based, re-enactment.

The two are long-time friends, and have worked together on a number of projects, including the revival of the **Dare the Dark: Headless Nun Experience**, scheduled to return in July 2023, under the Character Matters Miramichi banner.

For more information on this new enterprise, and on the upcoming production, contact 506-210-1830 or charactermattersmiramichi@gmail.com.





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CITY HALL UPDATES

PUBLIC WORKS

Spring thaw

Due to the extreme mild temperature this winter, there is concern for the upcoming spring thaw. Homeowners should prepare early and monitor when there is an announcement for large rain events or very mild temperatures. Helpful hints to prevent flooding:

- ice or snow build up around and next to the foundation.
- locate and clear the outlet of your foundation drain.
- monitor ditches for excess build-up of water or ice.
- check you sump pump ensure it is working.
- ensure your down spouts are clear and directed away from the foundation.
- if there is storm catch basin located next to your property ensure it accessible.

Spring Leaf pickup

The City of Miramichi wishes to advise City residents that FERO will be picking up leaves separate from regular household garbage for two Saturdays, May 6th and May 27th. All leaves should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m. Please note: It is recommended that leaves be in biodegradable bags.

Water main flushing

The City of Miramichi annual watermain flushing program is scheduled for June 1 to August 15. Please monitor the City website, radio and newspaper, and social media for the exact flushing dates in your area.

During scheduled flushing dates in your area, please be aware and try not to wash clothing or have excess usage of water between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Once flushing is completed, run your bathtub for 5 to 8 minutes as this will clear the service line to your home.

If additional information is required or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 506-623-2020.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND RECREATION

Activities for all to enjoy:



Easter Bunny Hop, Wednesday, April 5th, 5-7 p.m., Golden Hawk Recreation Centre (Jumping Castles, Children's Activities, Prizes, etc.)

Seniors Spring Dance, Monday, April 24th, 1-3 p.m., Lindon Recreation Centre. Dance open to everyone 55 years and older.

Admission \$3, tea and coffee provided.



MIRAMICHI FIRE DEPARTMENT

We are accepting applications for volunteer firefighter. Minimum qualifications:

- Grade 12 or equivalent education.
- Be in good health and physical condition to successfully perform the duties of a firefighter.
- Have a valid Class 5 New Brunswick driver's license and demonstrate aptitude for firefighting, emergency medical and high-risk tasks.
- The ability to work at heights or in confined spaces under an extremely stressful working environment.

For more information visit us on the City of Miramichi website.

MIRAMICHI POLICE DEPARTMENT

New for the Miramichi Police Force is the implementation of the new traffic enforcement unit. The traffic enforcement unit consists of two full time members whose primary duties are to enforce traffic within the city, as well respond to motor vehicle accidents which may occur. Additionally, the traffic enforcement unit aims to educate our citizens on traffic safety, and to keep our roadways safe.

If you have a traffic complaint that you wish to report, you can do so by contacting the Miramichi Police Force non-emergency line at 506-623-2124.



Questions or Concerns about City Programs and Services?
Contact Us: Phone: 623-2200 Website: www.miramichi.org

Laugh Out Loud at the Hijinks of *Halfway House Miramichi*

Dessert Theatre by Kimberley Shaddick



The St. J&J Drama Troup of St. James & St. John United Church, 556 King George Hwy., is taking the stage once again, on **April 14, 15 and 16**, with another **comedic Dessert Theatre, *Halfway House Miramichi***.

Curtains open at 7pm all three nights with doors opening at 6:30pm; from the moment you enter the hall, you will be entertained by a cast who are always in character and eager to make you forget your worries and troubles!

This Halfway House is truly unique with its band of ex-cons who may or may not still have a few 'issues' to work out; even so, you can't help but love them. Under the watchful eye of Nurse Ratchet and the assistance of the in-house therapist, Miss Kiljoy, who may have gotten her license out of a cereal box, there is never a dull moment for all who reside in this



home. Be sure to get your tickets early as they sell out quickly!

The cast of characters include: Nancy Donald, David Watling, Art Young, Ted Lynch, Greg Donovan, Katrina Donovan, Kimberley Shaddick, Diane Forrest, Rev. Alice Szemők, and Susan Watling. There are a host of other volunteers who

work behind the scenes as the production crew who manage the desserts, sound and set construction.

The price of admission is \$20 and includes dessert and beverage.

Tickets are available at the United Church Office, Brookdale Flower Shop and Dickison's Pharmasave.

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A Passion for Learning: The Creative Journey of Gerard Godin

By Stacy Underhill

Gerard Godin has dreamed of being an artist ever since he was a five-year-old boy living in Miramichi.

It was during the summer of 1962 when his mother's closest friend presented him with a paint-by-number set that Gerard's passion for art was ignited. His lifelong pursuit of art and learning began that day, and he recalls some of the earlier art mentors he had growing up. "Pauline Losier, mom's friend, took care of old Jimmy Dunn who lived in the big, old house overlooking Ritchie Wharf. I got to visit him, and he was one of the first people to encourage me and to recognize my talent. Later, I studied with a Quebec artist who lived in the Miramichi Valley High School," says Godin.

Gerard was raised around talented influences; his mother sang in the Miramichi Folksong Festival in English and in French, and made crafts, sewed, and baked wonderful pastries. His godparents, the late Maisy Mitchell and Vince Mitchell were important figures in his life. "They opened my mind to a world of possibilities," Gerard says.

After living in Toronto for 32 years, Gerard Godin now has a home and studio, Studio 12, in Douglastown. "I grew up here and it feels good to be home and reconnect with family, friends and the province," Gerard says.

After seeing photos of Gerard's paintings and sculptures, I had the opportunity to ask him a few questions about his inspirations and journey as an artist.

What styles or mediums do you work in?

"I like to experiment and really learn and play with styles and mediums. Over the last 50 years, I started with crayons, water colour, oils, and then acrylics. In 2000 in Toronto, I got the rare opportunity, to join the Al Green Sculpture Studio & School, where I greatly expanded my use of mediums. I



North-shore Sunrise NB, Acrylic.

created sculptures in plaster, bronze, resins, wood, and many other materials. I even got to work in jewellery design, creating works in precious metals and stones. I consider myself a better sculpture than painter. Practicing my craft is the best training. I'm always learning, and I hope I always can."

What inspires you as an artist?

"I get inspiration from everywhere: living and having adventures, my friends, nature, especially the flowers, water, and sky. I enjoy interacting with other artists to see what they are doing and to learn and be inspired by them. And of course, the wonderful artists who came before me. I love the



Boucoute Gardens, Acrylic.



A bust of The Honourable Justice George E. Carter, the first Canadian-born black judge, in Patinated Bronze.



Calvin, Patinated Bronze



Madonna, Solid Cast Aluminum, Machine Polished.

Italian and Dutch masters, and the great Canadians, such as the Group of Seven and Emily Carr. In fact, I've been so fortunate to work with many great women artists, like Maryon Kantaroff who was my mentor for 20 years."

What is the best advice you've been given with respect to your art?

"The best advice I got was from Sorel Etrog, who was a wonderful Canadian artist. He said, 'To be an artist, you must work at your craft everyday, and you should complete a finished piece every week.' I try, but I have to say, it's easier said than done."

What advice do you have for emerging artists feeling hesitant to display their art?

"Get out there and show your work. I too get affected by criticism and societal expectations, but you must push through it and believe in yourself. My art, and creating it, brings me joy and has helped me through many hard times. It's been part of me and my life for so long that I don't know what else I'd do with my time."

Describe your process of creating a piece, from inspiration to finish.

"My process is ever-changing.

Sometimes I see a beautiful ocean view with a dramatic sky and deep blue water, and I sketch it quickly and then paint it. Other times, I take a more academic approach and the work may take a long time. I leave it, sometimes for years, and then come back to it. There is no rule that I can see. I take it day by day, work by work."

Gerard has exhibited his work at many galleries and shows in Toronto, such as the Sculptors Society of Canada. He also created all the sculptures for Metropia, the 90-episode TV soap opera in 2004-06. He is excited to now be part of the arts community in Miramichi. Last year he participated in Artists on the Island at Beaubears Island and in March of this year he had an exhibit at ARTcadienne Gallery at Carrefour Beausoleil.

Gerard loves meeting new people, sharing experiences, and talking about art. He says,

"Please, say hello to me and introduce yourself." His work is available to view or purchase at Studio 12. Give him a call at 506-778-4033 or 416-969-8648.



Gerard Godin

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A Symphony of Color:

Exploring the World of Warblers

By Mathieu Carroll

At a quick glance, we could think this article is about a tropical vacation; a far away land filled with colourful birds. In fact, all these birds were photographed right here in Miramichi. Don't believe me? They belong to a group called warblers.

The **Wood Warblers** (F: Parulidae) of **North America** are some of the most colourful birds in the entire northern hemisphere. In *Field Guide to the Birds* (1934), famed American naturalist Roger Tory Peterson describes them as the *sprightly "butterflies" of the bird world*. Fitting, because their beauty is matched only by their diversity.

There are many kinds of warblers. Twenty-three species spend their summer here in New Brunswick while another 14 others pass through on occasion. **Warblers make up roughly half of all birds in our forest.** Yes! Often, our idea of songbirds comes from seed feeders while most species actually only eat insects. They spend their time in trees and bushes out of sight and largely out of mind.

Warblers are also **champion migrators**. Lack of insects and cold weather force them to fly south in the fall. The following spring, they race back in waves; warm weather marks the return of insects and the breeding season. The spring migration rush is also an exciting time for birdwatchers. The bulk of the migrating birds pass through before tree leaves have a chance to open. The bare trees provide an opportunity for us to see these otherwise elusive birds. There are only a couple of weeks of viewing before foliage reclaims the branches.

Nature Miramichi invites the public to join the **Warbler Walks** held in May. These guided bird walks at French Fort Cove take advantage of the viewing window and are a great way for new birdwatchers to see and identify songbirds.



Yellow Warbler, photo by Peter Gadd.



Northern Parula. Copyright Phil Riebel Photography.



Magnolia Warbler. Copyright Phil Riebel Photography.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, photo by Peter Gadd.

During late May outings, 35 different species are expected to be seen or heard. Keep an eye on the Nature Miramichi Facebook page for upcoming dates.

Nature Miramichi is a nature club supported by Nature NB. “A club for those who enjoy the study and appreciation of nature”. Presentations are hosted every month and outings are organized regularly. The club is a steward to nature preserves in the area and members contribute to various wildlife inventories. Check us out on Facebook and visit our website at www.miramichinaturalistclub.com.



Cape May Warbler, photo by Peter Gadd.



Blackburnian Warbler. Copyright Phil Riebel Photography.



American Redstart, photo by Peter Gadd.



Common Yellowthroat, photo by Peter Gadd.



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HYUNDAI

Local Skateboarders Featured in TV Series, *Skate le Monde*.

By Vanessa Hebert, Bartibog

Did you know the Miramichi region was featured in an international TV show about skateboarding? The series is called *Skate le Monde* (Skate the World) and is broadcast on TV5 Canada and TV5 Monde.

The host, Mathieu Cyr, travels the world to skate in beautiful cities with interesting skateboarders with diverse stories. Even if you are not a skateboarding fan, the scenes are worth watching. During the two seasons, **they traveled to at least 22 countries**. We learn how Cuban skateboarders managed to skate when their authorities thought it was a rebellious activity. In England, we learn that skateboarding is considered a serious sport and a social and economic resource.

The principal skater interviewed in the Miramichi region was **Maurice Savoie from Neguac**. Maurice, age 31, finished high school at C.S.C. La Fontaine in Neguac and went on to study mechanics.

He now owns a garage in New Jersey, ten minutes before Neguac, which is also where he practices his tricks and creates skateboarding rails, ramps, and other equipment.

Maurice Savoie skated in the USA in the most iconic pro world event, the Tampa Pro in Florida. During this event, he skated on national live TV with the famous pro skater Evan Smith. Maurice also represented the sneaker brand Globe.

The series visits **Burnt Church**, Esgenoôpetitj First Nation, where Maurice skated a lot when he was younger and we meet Maurice's skateboard friends such as Frank Johnson.

In the video, we see where they skate in Burnt Church, on a cement slab in a sunny spot close to the water, with a view of the fishing boats. Many of the ramps and rails come



Maurice Savoie from Neguac was featured in a TV Series along with other skateboarders from Burnt Church and Sunny Corner.

from Maurice's garage. Unfortunately, the space will soon be used for something else. Maurice and his friends are working on building a skate park beside the Petro-Canada in Burnt Church on Route 11, with fundraising and a lot of work. They plan to name the future park after their skateboard friend who passed away in 2019, Tyrelle Augustine.

The episode also features **Sunny Corner** and a particular barn named "The Shred Shed," where Billy Hubbard and his grandfather built a mini halfpipe and space to play music. Maurice and some skaters from all over New Brunswick enjoyed it. Jesse Spencer, a skateboarder from Ontario who moved to the Maritimes, also visited the Shred Shed from time to time. Even though it's a private skate barn, people can contact Billy on Instagram to be invited.

In the episode, the **Cabot Trail** in Nova Scotia is also featured, where a Vancouver family decided to move and turn a church into a tourist hostel and skateboard longboard museum. Longboard skaters are the ones who roll down big, paved mountains at extreme speeds on a skateboard. The cameras capture them rolling down the majestic hills of the Cabot Trail.

Skateboarding enthusiasts and Miramichi locals alike will enjoy seeing familiar places featured in this international TV series, showcasing not only the beauty of the region but also the talent of local skateboarders. To watch the full episode (season 2, episode 13) in French, or the rest of the series, visit www.tv5unis.ca/skate-le-monde.

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Cindy Lou's Corner

Live and Let Live

The proverb "Live and Let Live" is of Dutch origin. It was first recorded in 1622 in the ancient law merchant (the legal rules formerly applied to cases arising in commercial transactions). Later it was included in a book of English proverbs in 1678. Just a little trivia in case you might need it in a contest in the future.

We often use sayings without understanding the power behind them and why or how they were used.

This particle proverb was used to regulate commerce throughout the known world of Europe, North Africa and Asia Minor.

When a situation comes to a point of no resolve one of the two parties involved will evoke this law by saying, "Live and let live." Which loosely translated means: run your own life the way you want to and let others do the same; be tolerant of difference.

Allowing someone to make choices you don't agree with, especially if it is someone who matters to you, can be challenging.

Seeing someone as struggling in life from our perception, is just that, our perception.

When we see a stranger struggling in life, one of two things happens: our first response is one of curiosity, "Do they need some help, is it safe to help them?" The second

response is either you help them, or you dismiss them as less than.

They are just living their story! What does that statement mean? It means they are living the story of past events they keep telling themselves over and over. It is reflected in their daily physical experiences. It will change when they decide to change the narrative they are locked into.

Now let's bring this home to you and the people you have decided should live differently. Acceptance and understanding sprinkled with a little compassion can go a long way in everyone's life. We actually know very little about anyone or anyone's life. We are quick to judge and put people into a category that works for us, as we like to sort people in life. One thing every person on the planet has ingrained in them, is to help another human being. Some may not be the first to offer, but when push comes to shove, they will step forward. Kindness always triumphs in the end.

"Live and let live" and understand we are all living our story.

Sincerely, Cindy Lou

Educator Of Positive thinking, Published Author.

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Beaubears Island Opens June 1st.

Friends of Beaubears Island Inc Board of Directors and staff, thank all volunteers and those who support us unconditionally and sincerely. We look forward to seeing familiar faces along with new ones.

The season begins with **the Beaubears Island Spring Cleanup** on **May 27**, beginning at 1 pm, and we will provide a bagged lunch to all volunteers. We need many helpers; many hands make for light work. In past years, up to 12 garage bags and many pounds of debris have been taken off the island. Dress appropriately for walking and to prevent mosquitoes. Register to help at ed@beaubearsisland.ca.

The Beaubears Island Interpretive Centre in Nelson opens for the season on June 1, 2023.

New Hours: 10 am- 6 pm, 6 days a week, Tuesday to Sunday. Please note our new prices below:

- All of our services are free to children under age five.
- **Interpretive Centre:** admittance \$7 (\$6 for Seniors 55+ and Youth 5-17) Family \$25
- **Ferry Service:** \$13/person (\$11.50 for Seniors 55+ and

Youth 5-17) Family \$45. Ferry service runs Tuesday to Sunday. By reservation and on-demand.

- **Island passes:** \$60 for unlimited ferry visits to the island.
- **Guided Tours:** \$23/person (\$21.50 for Seniors 55+ and Youth 5-17) 2 for \$45, Family \$75. Available Tuesday to Sunday. By reservation and on-demand.
- **Tour Through Time:** \$40/person, minimum of four, max 12. By Reservation only on Sundays in July and August.
- **Baubears Shipbuilding Archaeologist Tour:** \$23 by reservation only.

How to Use the Ferry Service to the Island

Arrive at the Interpretive Centre at 35 St. Patrick's Drive, read/sign a ferry waiver, staff will provide information, take the ferry over to Beaubears Island, explore, learn, connect with nature, call us when you are ready to leave, and the ferry will pick you up. It's that simple. You can do this often throughout the summer from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 5pm. See pricing above.



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Summer Programs

Our **Grade 6 Program** in June offers free tours and programming for all students in the province. Friends of Beaubears Island Inc has launched a fundraising campaign to provide this opportunity. Students will learn about the Island's rich local history, from the Indigenous heritage to the fleeing Acadians and Shipbuilding era. Discover how deeply connected Beaubears Island is to our roots. To schedule a day for this amazing programming, please call 506-622-8526 or email info@beaubearsisland.ca.

Wellness Wednesdays - Between 12-2 pm, the ferry is 1/2 price (\$6.50) to anyone who signs up for this program. When registered, people can take the time to walk or relax on the island to help them destress and connect with nature. Take a break from work and experience the island's benefits.

Artist on the Island - Summer 2023 - Artists are invited to the island the weekend of June 17, July 15, Aug 12 and Sept 9. This is an opportunity to learn and connect with a local artist as they create art in the beautiful surroundings of the island.

Beaubears & Me Program – Saturdays 1-3pm for families with youth aged 8-12 and will run for eight weeks beginning in July. Cost is \$5/person. Book reading, craft building and hands-on stations at the museum. \$5 per person with a take-home craft. There will be Indigenous, Acadian and English programming days.

Newcomer Program - This program is offered to new people/families in our region. We want to offer this opportunity to our new residents to connect with locals and learn about local history.

Wellness Days: Various activities throughout the Summer such as yoga and forest bathing.

School Tours are available in June and September. Learn what made Beaubears Island such a central part of Miramichi's history.

Eyes on the Island - Please help us preserve and protect



Ferry service to the island is convenient, safe, and easy to use. No reservation required. Bilingual service.

our National Historic Sites by reporting fires, smoke, camping, forts and/or anything that looks out of place to call Parks Canada at 1-877-852-3100. Calls are confidential.

Event Dates

July 2: Annual Picnic \$25

July 15: National Parks Day—A perfect opportunity to explore Beaubears Island National Historic Sites.

Aug. 5: Geocaching on the Island. We are partnering with a group of Geocache enthusiasts to offer this day of fun in the sun. Rain date Aug. 6.

Aug. 7: New Brunswick Day Scavenger Hunt

Aug. 13: Beaubears by Night Scavenger Hunt

Oct. 7: Island Clean-up

Keep updated on our programming and activities on our website, www.beaubearsisland.com or our FB page, Ile Beaubears Island Interpretive Centre. Our phone number is 506-622-8526.



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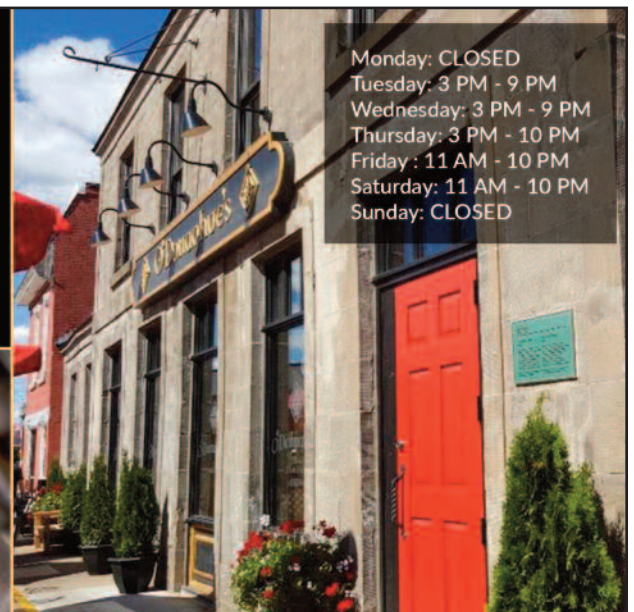


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Friday: 11 AM - 10 PM
Saturday: 11 AM - 10 PM
Sunday: CLOSED

Fifty Years of Playing their Cards Right: Newcastle Duplicate Bridge Club

By Graham Wade

The Newcastle Duplicate Bridge Club (NDBC) was formed **nearly fifty years ago** with the assistance of directors and players from CFB Chatham and St. Margarets. Over the years the club has continued to provide entertainment to many resident players and visitors alike. Duplicate bridge clubs are found in every country of the world and an avid player will be certain to find a club where ever he or she might be travelling.

Duplicate bridge is a variation of contract bridge where the same set of bridge deals (i.e., the distribution of the 52 cards among the four hands) are played by different competitors, and scoring is based on relative performance. In this way, every hand, whether strong or weak, is played in competition with others playing identical cards, and the element of skill is heightened while that of chance is reduced. This stands in contrast to bridge played without duplication, where each hand is freshly dealt and where scores may be more affected by chance in the short run.

Four-way card holders known as bridge boards are used to enable each player's hand to be preserved from table to table, and final scores are calculated by comparing each pair's result with others who played the same hand.

In duplicate bridge, players normally play all the hands with the same partner and compete either as a partnership (in a 'Pairs tournament') or on a team with one or more other partnerships ('Teams tournament' -



players are usually allowed to change partner within their team at any point if they wish).

Individual tournaments also exist, in which players change partnerships regularly during the tournament and are ranked on their personal performance.

Points are awarded at the club, unit, zone, and national levels. The points are designated colours depending on which level they were won: black, red, or gold. When you hear of someone becoming a Life Master it means he/she has accumulated 300 black, 25 red, and 25 gold points. It might take a lifetime to achieve and it might be never, but the lure to compete is compelling.

The NDBC is part of the Canadian Bridge Federation, Zone 1, which in turn is part of the worldwide organization, The American Contract Bridge League, headquartered in Mississippi, USA. The ACBL is the governing body for all bridge clubs in North America and Bermuda.

The NDBC has three **regular sanctioned games** at the Nelson Ski Club on Monday afternoon at 12:30 pm, Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm and Thursday afternoon at 12:30 pm.

Lessons for beginners are being currently held on Sunday afternoon, also at the Ski Club facilities.

For further information on any games, partnerships, or training sessions, please call our Club Manager Diane Donovan at 506-627-8488.



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Final Book of the *Miramichi Lads & Ladies* Series

Book Launch April 15 By Johannes Bosma

In 2017, I began a project to honour Miramichi veterans who were ultimately responsible for the liberation of the German occupied nations of Europe, in particular Holland - the land of my birth. That project resulted in *Book One of Miramichi Lads & Ladies: We Will Remember Them* in 2020 which led to *Book Two* in 2021 and now this year to *Book Three*. In this final book of the series, I decided to feature only those from the Miramichi and surrounding areas, with a few exceptions.

There are fifteen veterans from **Chatham**, including Bud McKenzie and Joe Hawkes (WWI) and Len Robertson and Fred Whitty (WWII). Ten biographies are about **Newcastle** veterans like Herb Belyea (WWI) and from WWII, Robert Chambers, Fay Kitchen, Stafford MacCullum, and Bill Casey, who was probably the first Miramichier to land in Normandy on D-Day.

From the **Black River / Bay du Vin** area are stories about six veterans including WWI veteran, Donald Ernest Watling, decorated with the Military Medal for Bravery in the Field. Others from this area who fought in WWII include James Auston Fraser and Alfred MacDonald. From **Loggieville**, are J.W. Stymiest and Donald Ernest Watling's



Lieut. Florence MacLean

son, World War II veteran Ernie Watling who would be awarded the same medal of bravery as his father.

Ten veterans are featured from the **Nelson / Chelmsford / Gray Rapids/ Barnaby and Blackville** area including WWII veterans Thomas Carrigan, Warren Casey, Edward Brennan, Hod Curtis, Raymond Duffy, Malcolm Manderville and nurse, Florence MacLean. From **Rogersville** are the stories about Wilfred Joseph Hachez and David Robichaud.

In addition, the biographies of three veterans, namely Ernie Anderson (Burnt Church), Halliday MacKnight (New Jersey), and Ernest Taylor (Brantville) are featured.

In total, **over 70 brave lads and one lady** have their stories told along with additional features such as "Canadian Women at War," "The Loss and Return of the North Shore Name," "Living in Holland During the German Occupation in WWII," "The D-Day Plus One Jeep," and an essay by Aurora Sutton, who as a high school student has done extensive work on the Holocaust and will graduate from James M. Hill High School in June of this year.

After reading *Book Three*, historian Bruce Morton, author of *One Hundred Years: A Brief History of the North Shore*

(NB) *Regiment*, wrote: "Johannes Bosma has done an excellent job assembling a collection of biographies and stories of the Miramichi men and women who served Canada during WW1 and WW2.

"Part of John's expression of gratitude are his three volumes of *Miramichi Lads and Ladies*. In *Book Three* he again provides us with real-life stories of those who gave up their youth, and many their lives, for the freedom and democracy that we have today. These are great stories."

Morton has also sent over 150 biographies of Canadian veterans, buried in Holland, to the Faces To Graves Committee. This Dutch volunteer group has provided photos and biographies of Canadian men who liberated Dutch families in 1944 and 1945. Many of those brave soldiers from the Miramichi are found in *Book Three*.

A launch of *Miramichi Lads & Ladies: We Will Remember Them! Book Three* will be held at Mill Cove Coffee shop in Newcastle from 10am-12pm on **April 15**, and at Creative Grounds in Chatham from 2-4pm. Copies of Book One and Two will also be available at the Mill Cove shop. The price of all the books is \$20 each. All profits from *Book Three* will go toward a student scholarship.



Lt.-Col. J.E. Anderson, WWII



Sgt. Ernie Watling, MM, WWI

Two Miramichi Athletes Compete at the 2023 Canada Winter Games for the Men's Artistic Gymnastic NB Team

By France Vienneau, MGC president

The **Miramichi Gymnastics Club (MGC)** is proud and excited to have had two of their male gymnasts participate at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in PEI, this February.

Shawn Bérubé and **Cole Sullivan**, both from The Miramichi Gymnastics Club, along with their coach Michelle Mac Donald represented Team NB.

Shawn has been training with the Miramichi Gymnastics Club since he was seven years old. He is presently a first-year student at Université de Moncton and continues to train here and in Moncton. His dedication, hundreds of hours of training, and love for the sport have all contributed to his success at competing and winning numerous awards, including a provincial championship, a 2nd place all around at the Atlantic Championship, and a 3rd place on floor at the Eastern competition. As a result, he earned a spot on Team NB for the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

Cole, presently a 16-year-old student at Miramichi Valley High



Cole Sullivan



Shawn Bérubé

School also joined the Miramichi Gymnastics Club at the age of seven. He has represented Team NB at the Atlantic Championship for five years and also at the Eastern Championships in 2019. After participating in the tryouts and selection process, he successfully secured his place on Team NB for the 2023 Canada Winter Games.



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Crafting a Fulfilling Retirement: Inside the Miramichi Senior Sawdustmakers

Miramichi Senior Sawdustmakers Inc was created to provide both experienced and novice retired seniors with a safe, organized woodworking environment where they can pursue mentally, physically, and socially stimulating activities while working with wood. We maintain a workshop with space and tools to carry out activities, such as carving, turning, marquetry, and carpentry. From birdhouses to fine furniture, novice to expert, learning to teaching, we share our knowledge and skills with the goal of enriching the lives of all participants.

We were established in 2014 and are working out of the carriage house behind the **Loggie House at 222 Wellington Street**. Stop in and visit us. Someone will be happy to show you around and answer any question you have. Also, check out our Facebook page for further information and to see some of the projects created in the shop.

Membership is limited to seniors, **55 and older**, residing in the Greater Miramichi area. We operate from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, from September to June and have a membership fee of \$100 for the year. Supervisors are on hand at all times and are trained in first aid and CPR should the need arise. Consultations on projects and advice are abundant and free. Shop safety is always a priority.

Members are always able to work on personal projects and are encouraged to contribute some time and effort to community projects that the Sawdustmakers take on from time to time through the year. Some of the projects we've done for the community are picture frames, shelving units, louvered panels, shadow boxes, garden boxes and a garden shed.

Fundraising Craft/Yard Sale - June 10

The Miramichi Senior Sawdustmakers Inc. in conjunction with the historical WS Loggie House Cultural Center, 222 Wellington Street, will be holding a Craft/Yard

Sale on Saturday, June 10 at the centre. Some of the articles you might find for sale would be bird houses, bat houses, serving trays, cutting boards, bowls, band saw boxes and much more. Watch for more information on this great event in the coming months at www.facebook.com/sawdustmakers



A few projects made by members of the Miramichi Senior Sawdustmakers Inc.





Poetry Contest for Middle School

Join us in celebrating National Poetry Month! The Miramichi Literacy Council invites all ASD-N students in grades 6-8 to write and submit an original poem, on any theme, up to 25 lines in length.

Submissions must include the student's name, school, and grade. First place will be awarded \$75, with additional prizes of \$50 and \$25 for the runner-ups. Poems can be submitted through schools, or directly to info@miramichiliteracy.org.

Contest deadline is April 30, 2023.



And the day came when
the risk to remain
tight in a bud was
more painful than
the risk it took to blossom.

Elizabeth Apple





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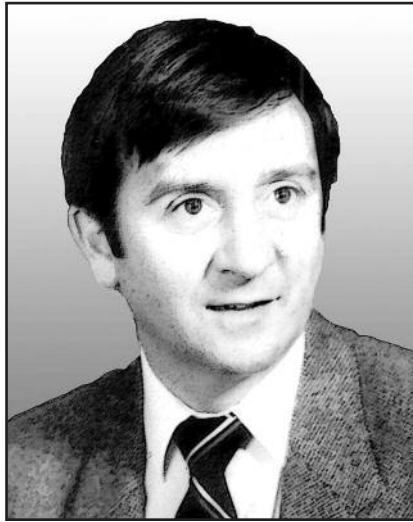
Greg Morris: A True Ironman

By Johannes Bosma

I am currently gathering stories for a book on some notable Miramichiers and was quite surprised not to find one on Greg Morris. I have always admired Greg for his contributions to Miramichi sports and education, his approachability, and his humbleness. Researching the four Hall and Wall of Fames Greg is inducted into, I put together the following story.

Greg Morris of Chatham, Miramichi NB, was **an outstanding baseball and hockey player** in his youth but recognized especially for a **legendary coaching career** in baseball and hockey with Tommies' High School teams and the Chatham Sr. Ironmen.

Greg was a member of the Tommies varsity football and hockey teams at St. Thomas University (STU). In



A champion on and off the field, Greg Morris has been inducted into four Hall and Wall of Fames.

four seasons on the ice, Greg accumulated 25 goals and 41 assists in 40 regular season games. In his senior year, he finished eighth in league scoring averaging just over two points per game.

On the field, Greg was the Tommies quarterback. In 1962-63, he led the team to a near-perfect regular season, losing in the final to the Saint John Wanderers. Greg was recognized for his athletic achievements as the university's Athlete of the Year in 1963. Two years later, Greg formed the high school hockey "Tommies" in Chatham, who he coached to 10 Provincial AAA titles. He's also had a storied coaching

career in baseball and has won numerous New Brunswick, Atlantic, and Canadian titles.

In 1988 Morris coached his Chatham midget

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baseball team to a Silver Medal and in 1990 led his midget team to its first-ever Canadian Championship. New Brunswick sports fans cheered, just as they had done so often for this master-coach and his charges. Over a period of 31 years, he coached his hockey and baseball teams to more than 50 championships, ranging all the way from mosquito to senior and from provincial to international.

Like his STU coach, Vance Toner, Greg Morris instilled in literally hundreds of young athletes an appropriate mix of self-discipline and determination - traits that were the hallmark of his own playing years. Here is a coach who accepted challenges as they came and then, in record numbers, enjoyed the exhilaration of the well-earned victories that resulted. He lives and coaches by the credo that "... if better is possible, then good is not enough."

Greg Morris began coaching baseball in 1961 and hockey in 1967. In addition, he coached the Chatham Senior Ironmen to seven provincial and four Maritime



Greg was a member of the Tommies varsity football and hockey teams.

baseball championships. He also guided the Ironmen to Canadian senior title in 1995, one silver medal (1976) and three bronze medals (1975, 1979, and 1982) and was the General Manager of the Ironmen senior title in 2019 at Canadian National Championships.

Greg was named to the coaching staff of the Canadian National team for the 1978 World Baseball Championships, was head coach of the 1993 Canada Games baseball team and was inducted into the **Miramichi Wall of Fame** in 1990, and enrolled into the **New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame**, June 1, 1991. He was later inducted into **NB Baseball Hall of Fame**

1996 and the **St. Thomas University Wall of Fame** in 2017.

Credit: Information copied from four Halls & Walls of Fame in New Brunswick. Additional information from Brian Richard.

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Robbie Tucker Takes On The RPM Challenge In Twenty-Eight Days

On the heels of last year's November release, *The Way I Feel Vol.1*, **Robbie Tucker returns with more new music** as he participates in The RPM Challenge. The goal is to create an album of all new material within the month of February and this time around Tucker is letting us in on his process. Giving us the new songs as he finishes them via his Soundcloud player.

The songs so far. From the first track, "Trapped In An Orbison Song," to his most recent upload, "Halfway There," we hear an artist who refuses to allow a deadline to affect his craftsmanship. Tucker's vocals on, "On a Day Like Tomorrow," are soft and gentle when paired against the rocking screams heard on the album's title track, "In Twenty-Eight Days." The production quality of his creations continues to climb as well.

Robbie Tucker - a singer, songwriter and producer from



Miramichi has been making music since he was a young boy. This year marks the **20th anniversary of his debut album**, *The Ledden Street Sessions*.

Robbie's ever-present true love for the art of song writing, melody and composition has not only found its way onto this latest body of work, it's the bones of it. Listen to, *In Twenty-Eight Days*, now with Robbie as he shares his creative process via his Instagram & Facebook stories

(@robbietuckermusic). The full album will be available for digital download on March, 1st at <https://robbietuckermusic.bandcamp.com> and on all streaming services shortly thereafter.

Up-to-date links and all socials can be found at <https://linktr.ee/robbietuckermusic>. Full biography and photos at www.musicnb.org/en/directory/robbie-tucker.

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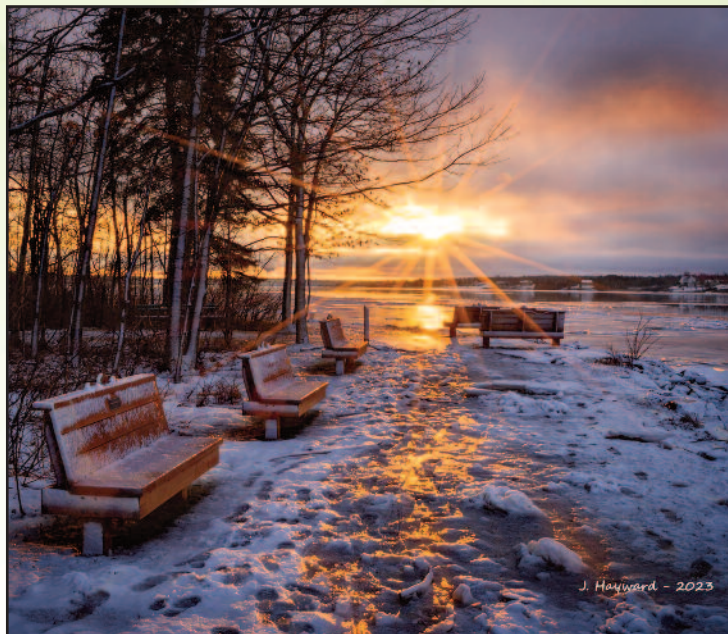


Photo Submissions

If you have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share we always welcome your submissions. Send submissions to submit@mcgmedia.net. 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 **summer issue by May 29.**



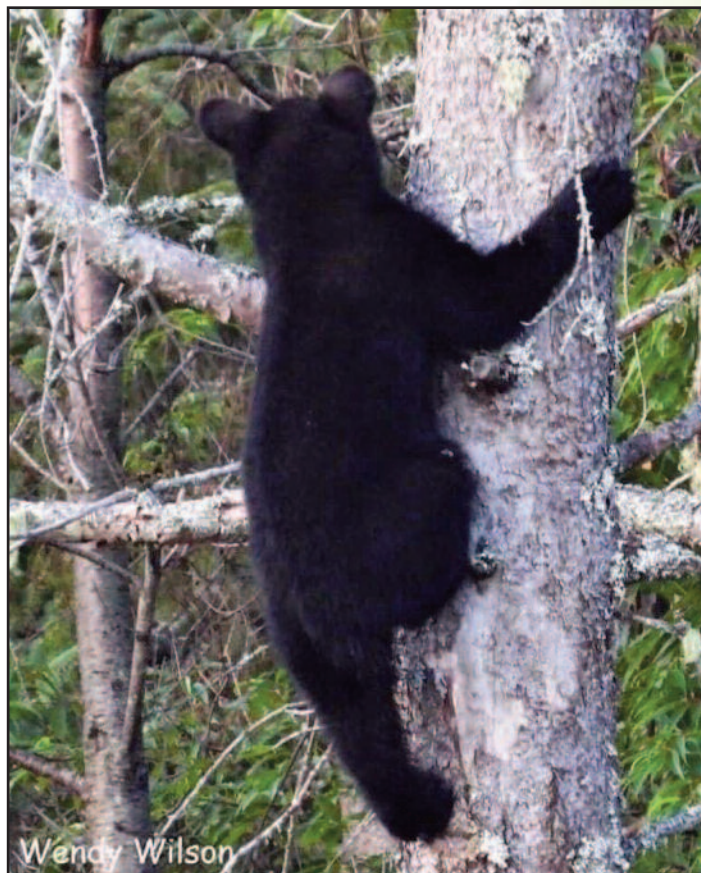
Mayflowers, by Bonnie Coughlan



Middle Island Sunset, by John Hayward.



Bald Eagle, by Wendy Wilson.



Cub bear practicing his climbing skills, by Wendy Wilson



Moose and her calf, by Wendy Wilson.



Spring Ducklings, by Wendy Wilson.



Two Marten, caught on a Trail Cam by Brian Donovan



Mourning Dove, by Edna Trevors Moorhouse



Rainbow at Big Ferry Rd, Edna Trevors Moorhouse



The Rotary Club of Miramichi donated \$7500 to the local food bank from the proceeds of the Purse Auction. Pictured are Jean Matchett (L) - Coordinator of Miramichi Community Foodbank, with purse auction co-chairs Catherine Flett (C) and Tara Racette (R).

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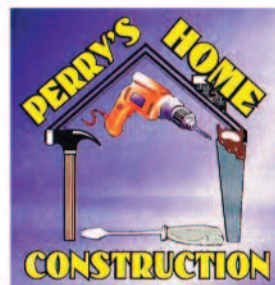
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