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Winter Issue 2023

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An Evening Skate, painting by Anne Maloney Assaff



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Local Boy on the Big Stage

By Johannes Bosma

Over twenty years ago in the drama program at Dr. Losier Middle School, I had a very special group of students. Not only did they listen well to direction, but they were a tight group of friends who encouraged and supported each other, a pleasure to direct. One of them was an astounding young actor whose talent was very obvious to me, and yet he remained oblivious to that fact and eagerly followed all directions, occasionally offering up his own suggestions which I often adopted into the play we were rehearsing.

In his first year in the Dr. Losier Drama Club, this skilled young actor played supporting roles. In Grade 7 he had the opportunity to audition for the lead character. In fact, I had seventeen others try out for the top six roles in the play. They were given ten pages of dialogue for the character they hoped to play, studying their lines over the weekend and having them memorized for Monday after school. I figured I would only get nine at best at the audition. I was proved wrong.

All eighteen, including the young man, knew every line, direction and gesture and I was given the arduous task of selecting six of them. They all qualified for other roles but some, including him, were disappointed. Nevertheless, they accepted my decision. The young man not only played the tough guy in that play, he became one.

Then in preparation for Drama 2004, my last year before retirement, I

was determined to finally see him in a lead role. He did not disappoint, receiving a best actor mention for his role as Mr. Bittersweet in *A Festival Story*. And that was only the beginning for Thomas Duplessie.

Over the next four years in **JMH Drama**, Thomas was selected to play some outstanding roles including the director in *Murder's in the Heir* (2005), *Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (2006), Lumiere in *Beauty and The Beast* (2007), and the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical* (2008). In addition, he provided me with two tickets, for which he paid, to each performance.

After high school graduation, Thomas attended **The Randolph College for the Performing Arts in Toronto**. In addition to various commercials, he had roles in plays including *A Few Good Men*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Miracle Worker*, *The Birds and the Bees*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Drayton), *The Cider House Rules*



Johannes Bosma and Thomas Duplessie at the JMH Drama production of *Beauty and The Beast* in 2007.



Thomas Duplessie will make his debut with the Stratford Festival in May.

reading (Talk is Free), and *Suitcases/Provenance* workshop (Canadian Stage).

Thomas's **film and television credits** include: *Jump, Darling* (opposite Cloris Leachman in her final starring role), *In The Dark*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Bitten*, *Reign*, *Close Encounters*, and in Radio/Recordings: *Strange Loops* (audiobook).

And now onto the big stage. Beginning in May 2023, Thomas Duplessie makes his debut with **The Stratford Festival (May to October)**. He will be Henry Percy in *Richard II*, appear in *Grand Magic* and will be an understudy in *Love's Labour's Lost*. According to the playbill, Thomas dedicates this season to his family; blood and chosen, and it ends with "Hi Mom!"

The Miramichi wishes him "The very best!" You can find Thomas online: www.instagram.com/tomsdup.

Watch the trailer for *Jump, Darling* at <https://linktr.ee/jumpdarling> read reviews and find out where you can watch the movie.

Cover Photo: *An Evening Skate*, acrylic painting by Anne Maloney Assaff. View more of her work at <https://anne-maloney-assaff.blogspot.com>

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

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FEB. 22

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P.D. DAY *Camps*

No School? No Problem!

Fri., Mar. 24 – 10 am - 3 pm – Grades 1 - 4



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Camps

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WHEN: MARCH 6 – 10

TIME: 10AM – 3PM

REGISTER: PICK ANY 2 DAYS



Monday, March 6 - March Mania (Grades K-2)

Have you played **Silly Bananas**? What about **Sticky Marbles**? We have all kind of races at **March Mania**! Join your friends and see who wins the **Lego Race**!!!

Tuesday, March 7 - Beach Party (Grades 3-5)

Welcome to our **BEACH Party**. Bring your swimsuit and goggles because we're going swimming today! Do the Limbo, make sand paintings and sea shell monsters! We'll even go snow surfing!!!!!!

Wednesday, March 8 - Catch a Clue (Grades 1-5)

We'll start the day by assigning every **Secret Agent** with an ID Badge! Then we'll play **Handshake Bandit** and start our Secret Agent Training. Do you have what it takes to win the **Pickup Challenge**?

Thursday, March 9 - Winter Fest (Grades 3-5)

Let's go **Ice Fishing** and make **Taffy** in the Snow. How about a **Snow Treasure Hunt**? We'll warm up with Hot Chocolate and S'mores!

Friday, March 10 - Shipwrecked (Grades K-2)

Ahoy mate's! Make your own Treasure MAP and **Pirate Flag**. We'll play Pirates and Parrots and have an **Outdoor Treasure Hunt**.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Register Online: www.BGCMiramichi.com

EVENTS

February 9-12: Neil Simon's Chapter Two

A comedy/drama play from CM Productions. 7pm at MVHS Theatre. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door or reserved by calling/texting 625-2398.



February 25: Fourth Annual Kinsmen Trivia Night

March 24: Miramichi Literacy Council Annual Spaghetti Supper

Join us at the Chatham Legion from 3:00-6:30 for our annual spaghetti supper and gingerbread fundraiser. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased in advance or at the door. All proceeds go to program funding. Please note that this year's event will be take-out only. For tickets, call 506-836-7882 or email info@miramichiliteracy.org.

Quilt Raffle Thanks to a generous donation by the Miramichi Quilt Guild, the Miramichi Literacy Council is selling raffle tickets on a beautiful, double-size quilt. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All proceeds go to program funding. Draw to be held at the MLC office on September 8, 2023. For tickets, call 506-836-7882 or email info@miramichiliteracy.org

March 25: Annual Sugarbush

Join us for fun for the whole family, 12pm at Bicentennial Park, 35 St. Patrick's Drive, Nelson. This year, there will be more fun, games and prizes. Pets are welcome. Admission is donation of choice.

Seniors' Card Games

Seamen's Hospital is pleased to announce that our card games have resumed Tuesdays from 1 to 3 pm. Auction 45's is the game of choice and it always proves to be a lively

Send in your events listing for the spring issue by March 20th. For articles the deadline is March 13th. Send to submit@mcgmedia.net.

and pleasant afternoon. Join us or come for a visit. "Inside" footwear will be appreciated.

Crafts at Seamen's Hospital

The Friends of Seamen's Hospital Craft Group have resumed their weekly get-togethers on Wednesdays at Seamen's Hospital, 12 Vye Street, Douglastown. Our hours are 9:30 am to 3 pm and everyone is welcome. Bring your project, your lunch, your "inside" shoes and \$3 for the day. Come to visit and check it out. New members are always welcome.

Carrefour Beausoleil Events

300 Beaverbrook Rd, Miramichi
Tel: 506-627-4125



CITY HALL UPDATES



COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND RECREATION

The French Fort Cove Skating Trail is open daily from 12 to 9 p.m. for the remainder of the winter. Please note ice and weather conditions may cause closures of the trail from time to time. Helmets must be worn by all users.

- Family Day Activities on Monday, February 20 will include free swimming, free skating, and outdoor activities.
- Jump into March Break, March 6, 4 to 6 p.m. Golden Hawk Recreation Centre
- March Break Shoot Out, Youth Floor Hockey Tournament, March 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Golden Hawk Recreation Centre
- Seniors St. Patrick's Day Bingo, March 13, 1-3 p.m., Lindon Recreation Centre
- French Fort Cove Winter Trails are ready for public to enjoy. Winter trails systems for walking, snowshoeing, and fatbiking.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The City of Miramichi is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on the upcoming full closure of Centennial Bridge Closure slated for May 1, 2023.

It is anticipated the closure will be for a minimum of three months. Further details on the closure will be forthcoming over next few months. Please follow the City and NBDTI social media and webpages for updates and information.

PUBLIC WORKS

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 announcement for large rain events or very mild temperatures.

If you are connected to city water and sewer, report any issues that may be out of the ordinary regarding water or sewer. Owners are responsible for laterals cleaning (rodded) as required.

If there is a question regarding water and sewer, please contact the Public Works (506)623-2020 for assistance or direction.

MIRAMICHI FIRE DEPARTMENT

Smoke alarm saves lives - Launched in January 2020, the Smoke Alarm program delivers education and install smoke alarms in at-risk homes across the City.

We recommend that you install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home. Even better is one in every bedroom. Smoke alarms are designed to wake you up if a fire starts while you are sleeping. If you need a smoke detector, the Miramichi Fire Department provides free units for residents (while supplies last).

Contact us 506.623.2250 for more information or or visit the City of Miramichi website to download the request form. Please note we do not maintain the smoke alarm(s) after they have been installed.

MIRAMICHI POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Miramichi Police Force would like to advise members of our community of a common scam that is prevalent across the country known as the "Grandparent Scam". There have been multiple occurrences in the province and across the country of this scam.

The Grandparent Scam is conducted by organized crime groups, directed toward elderly persons and is very convincing. The way this scam works is an elderly person will receive a telephone call in which they are told their loved one has been arrested and they need to pay money for bail. The elderly victim is then directed to go to the bank, withdraw money and secure it in an envelope and a courier will come to their home. A real person will actually come to the residence to obtain the money. If you receive a phone call like this, hang up, document the number if possible and contact police.

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

All That Remains - Featuring J.B. Snowball

By Charlotte Loggie, Miramichi Historical Society

There are many who have left their mark on Miramichi. They comprise a diverse population of women and men, from all walks of life. Some have had their stories told multiple times, some not enough. This series proposes to view the lives and legacies of three major families, whose “paterfamilias” or head, was each, in his own way, instrumental in moving Miramichi forward in development and achievement. The men portrayed here all lived during a similar arc of time, and all made remarkable accomplishments during their lives. However, as time rolls onward, it has taken with it much of each of their stories. Their names, familiar or not, and some physical reminders of their presence here are all that remains.

Jabez Bunting Snowball 1837-1907

In this issue we’ll explore the life of J.B. Snowball, as he was commonly known, the son of a Methodist preacher who emigrated from England in the early 19th century, married, and took on the life of a circuit rider, preaching Methodism at one rural location and riding many miles to the next. Mr. John Snowball senior and his wife Sarah Ann Wells had eight children, of whom J.B. was the fifth. When John Snowball arrived in Miramichi in 1852 to preach the gospel of Methodism, J.B. was 17 years old and was enrolled at the Wesleyan Academy in Sackville, NB. A few years later, J.B. moved to Chatham and entered into business with a well-known entrepreneur, John Macdougall. By 1866, Mr. Macdougall had died and J.B. took over the business and married Macdougall’s daughter Margaret. J.B. was now the sole proprietor of a large store located in downtown Chatham, known as **Macdougall and Snowball**.

J.B. and Margaret had 8 children but unfortunately, six of them died young. Margaret died in 1871 aged 36, and Snowball remarried in 1873 to Margaret Archibald. She and J.B. had four daughters and a son who lived to maturity.

Snowball’s entrepreneurial efforts were huge: he expanded the Macdougall Snowball store into a lumber export enterprise, building sawmills here in Chatham and the surrounding area. He cooperated with another magnate of the day Alexander “Boss” Gibson of Marysville to **build a connecting railroad** from Gibson’s mills to Chatham, and brought in electric lights and telephone service to Chatham. Snowball’s Chatham mill was the **largest steam sawmill in New Brunswick**, located where the Sewage Treatment plant is today in Chatham. The machine shop for this mill was located where LeGresley’s store in Chatham is.

In an interview with Mrs. Lois Martin who wrote extensively about Snowball, Dr. Don Moar remembered his uncle Peter Moar telling him that the ships would be lined up



J.B. and his second wife, Lady Snowball, held lavish fundraisers and garden parties at Wellington Villa on King Street in Chatham.

11 deep in the river, waiting to take lumber on board from the Snowball mill. “As soon as one ship was loaded, another one would move up” said Moar. It must have been an incredible sight. Many people in Chatham would have



The home of J.B.’s son, Robert Archibald Snowball was a showplace estate and property, and he established Miramichi Nurseries on the lot next door.

people in their families who might have worked for Snowball at one time. He was considered a fair employer, but remained opposed to organized labour, and this opposition cost him his bid for mayor in 1896.

However, Snowball kept his hand in politics. **Elected as an Independent MP** in 1878, he was **appointed Senator** in 1891, a position he resigned in order to become **Lieutenant-**

Governor of New Brunswick in 1902. J.B. Snowball died in Fredericton, walking to Christ Church Cathedral in February of 1907. He was 70 years old.

What Remains - The Snowball Homes

J.B. and his second wife entertained lavishly at their Chatham home named **Wellington Villa** which is still in existence, now numbered 35 King Street (originally 200 Wellington St.) It is a fine example of Gothic architecture, built before 1867. The wrought iron fence that still surrounds most of the property is believed to have come from England. When Snowball built his “villa” the property extended east as far as Queen Street and south as far as 43 King Street. Calvin Presbyterian church was originally the coach house for Wellington Villa. The second Mrs. Snowball was known as “Lady Snowball” for her generosity and enjoyment of garden parties and fundraisers held on her spacious grounds. These carried on even after J.B. 's death, as she raised money for the war effort (WW1) or for local charities and her church, St. Luke’s Methodist Church which was located on Wellington and McCurdy Streets in Chatham.

The Sunday School hall of St. Luke’s Methodist church is still present on McCurdy Street in Chatham, now the home of Chatham Legion #3. This Queen Anne Revival building has 4 towers with pyramid-shaped roofs on each one. The roof is “jerkin” style which means the roof has odd, irregular angles. Originally, this building housed 15 Sunday School classrooms and a main auditorium that could seat 600 people.



Sunnyside on Henderson street was the home of J.B.'s son, William Snowball and was once surrounded by extensive gardens.

Muirhead family in 1873 but due to bankruptcy, was sold to William Snowball in 1892. William Snowball was mayor of Chatham for two terms, and also served in the House of Commons as MP for a year. He was a founding member of the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition. This Snowball house is Georgian in many features, but the central tower has Italianate influences. At one time, gardens stretched from Henderson St to King St with greenhouses and a gardener’s house (still in existence) at 53 Howard Street.

R.A Snowball House

J.B.’s son Robert Archibald Snowball (1875-1949) was a two-time mayor of Chatham and a keen horticulturist. His home was a showplace, located at the Southeast corner of King and Howard Streets in Chatham, featuring a manicured lawn, a fountain and a fish pond. He established Miramichi Nurseries (a forebear of Harvey White’s “Wayside Gardens” and was a founder of the Miramichi Agricultural Association.

The Snowball Monument (Riverside Cemetery)

This imposing monument strikes your eye as you enter the cemetery on Water Street. It almost resembles a wedding cake with its ornate top and filigree trim. Each panel lists various members of the Snowball family and their birth/death dates. It is particularly sad to see that J.B. 's first wife, Margaret Macdougall died at age 36 having had 6 of her children predecease her.



Snowball Street

The final marker of this iconic family is a small street that crosses over Nicol Ave and Winslow Street before turning into Flam Street in the Riverside Drive Subdivision. Many people who live in this area likely are unaware of the family it commemorates.



J.B Snowball bought the Henderson House for his son William as a wedding present.

The building also contained a bowling alley. The building remained the property of the United Church until it was sold to the Legion in the 1950s.

Henderson House (1st home of W.B. Snowball)

40 Henderson Street was built in 1881 for Frank Martin, a river pilot. J.B. Snowball bought the house in 1889 and gave it to his son William as a wedding present. The house is in “Picturesque” style with beautiful bargeboard trimming and one gothic hood mount window still present.

Sunnyside (later home of W.B. Snowball)

This home, at 65 Henderson Street was built for the

Your Words Have Power

By: Nadine Pesch, MLC Community Engagement Coordinator

In Winter 2022/23, the **Miramichi Literacy Council (MLC)** partnered with Moncton's inaugural Anglophone Poet Laureate, Kayla Geitzler, to develop **ReTelling Our Stories**, a 6-week writing course for the **Women's Correctional Centre (WCC)** of NB. ReTelling involves the use of literary traditions and techniques to tell a different kind of story – one that is more imaginative, personal, and emotionally engaging.

"The purpose of this course was to show women how they can use writing in their everyday lives," Kayla explains, "to express themselves, to centre themselves – particularly to emphasize that there is no right way to write; everyone can be a writer."

Through modules on poetry, creative journaling, magical realism, fairy tales and performance, participants explored what it meant to "Write You." Each session explored how these techniques can be used to reshape their stories and experiences in ways that can be as amusing, exciting or meaningful as they are cathartic.

Kayla notes: "Writing – and especially sharing – that's not an easy thing for anyone to do. With these participants, I was struck by their eagerness to do both. Their openness and enthusiasm was truly remarkable and rewarding for us all."

The MLC plans to repeat the workshop with a new group of women in 2023. It joins a slate of ongoing literacy initiatives at the WCC. **Mommy Reads to Me** is an innovative program which aims to strengthen the bond between incarcerated mothers and their children through reading. The **WCC/MLC Book Club** explores a variety of



genres over biweekly discussions. **The Cooking to Learn** program delivers a series of workshops each year which focus on the practical application of literacy through cooking, budgeting and life skills training. These programs are rooted in the core belief that literacy has the ability to change lives.

In reflecting on her experiences, Kayla concludes: "Many people are invalidated through writing. This course was

meant to show how writing has the power to do exactly the opposite – how it can give you a sense of being seen and understood. In the context of the WCC, where we have a segment of the population which often experiences neither, the impact of this idea is invaluable. **Your voice and what you have to say matters, and it is always worthy of being heard. Your words have power.**"

The MLC has existed as a non-profit organization since 1978, serving the people of Miramichi for nearly 45 years. In addition to our literacy-based community programs, we offer free, confidential, one on one tutoring to adults looking to upgrade their basic literacy skills.



The council is currently looking for more volunteer tutors to serve the influx of newcomers in our community. Tutor training is provided. For more information, or to find out how you can support the MLC and its ongoing programs, please call 506-836-7882, or contact us at info@miramichiliteracy.org.

An advertisement for Northumberland LeisureScapes. The top half has a blue background with a sun icon and the text "Northumberland LeisureScapes POOL & HOT TUB LIFESTYLE". Below this, contact information is listed: "(506) 622-3555 • northumberlandpools@gmail.com" and "www.northumberlandpools.com". The bottom half of the ad shows a man and a woman relaxing in a hot tub outdoors, with snow-covered trees in the background.

An advertisement for Miramichi Feeds. The top half features a large stylized 'M' logo and the text "MIRAMICHI FEEDS" in bold, followed by "LOCALLY OWNED ... LOCALLY OPERATED". Below this, the address and contact information are listed: "145 Dan Cripps St. Chatham Industrial Park 506-773-3070 miramichifeeds.ca". On the right, the hours are listed: "Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 8am-Noon". The bottom half of the ad shows a photograph of the Miramichi Feeds facility, which includes several large silos and a building.

Miramichi Art Core - New Art Exhibit

Kicks off the Start of Another Active Year.

by Terry Power

The Miramichi Art Core had a very active year and is kicking off 2023 with an exciting gallery show and sale at Carrefour Beausoleil. The show will be at **Artcadienne Galerie from January 27 to March 16** and will feature over ten artists from the Art Core group.

The list of events in the past year ranged from a number of plein air outdoor painting sessions to a very successful Christmas art show and sale in November.

In June many artists traveled to Terry Power's home in Hardwicke to the first outing of the season. The painters spread out along the shore on a beautiful sunny Saturday and took advantage of the excellent weather to enjoy painting in various media and a lunch by the shore.

In July artists were invited to another member's place for an outdoor event hosted by Wendy and Terry Matthews in Whitney. An invitation to join was sent to Bathurst Art Society and several members attended. This time the painters enjoyed another beautiful summer day, gathered in a rural setting for onsite landscape painting. Another successful painting day was had by all.



Art Core members enjoyed a beautiful day of painting on the beach at a Plein Air event in Hardwicke.

One of the highlights of the year was the **3rd Annual Tiny Art Show and Sale** held at the Knights of Columbus building on Campbell Street in November. The sale included over 100 smaller works including handmade cards, works in wood, watercolours, oils, acrylics, and mixed media, all priced \$75 and under. The sale was once again a great success with many happy customers leaving with unique gifts for the season.

In addition to the "plein air" sessions, various members conducted art classes and workshops and this will continue again in 2023.

New members are always welcomed with a membership fee of \$25 per year. Please feel free to attend any of our monthly meetings normally held the last Sunday of each month at Carrefour Beausoleil at 3:00 pm. Visit our website at www.miramichiartcore.ca

Hope to see you at the Carrefour Beausoleil show, **January 27 to March 16!**



Wilson's Point Historic Site (above) was the location for the next event in August when the Miramichi Art Core and the Bathurst Art Society joined up again for another Art Tells Story plein air outing. Artists painted at the historic site over a two-day period with all the work produced offered for sale on the second day.

Some artists were invited and took part in **Beaubears Island's new Artist on the Island – Summer 2022** – ten artists, one week each, painted on the island for a minimum of 4 hrs a week, and were then available to answer questions and sell the art at the Interpretive Centre.

One of our members also took part in the Miramichi Chalk Art Festival.



The Miramichi Art Core were joined by the Bathurst Art Society for landscape painting at a member's residence in Whitney.

Northumberland County Winter Bird List

Not Seeing Many Birds During Winter? By Peter Gadd, Nature Miramichi

Just how many species of birds could there be in Northumberland County at this time of year?

The winter season of course sees a large drop in the bird population in the northern hemisphere both in terms of the number of species and the number of individual birds but it is not as quiet nor as dull as one might think in terms of avian wildlife.

For Northumberland County, **Nature Miramichi** has been compiling a list of such birds that are sighted between **Dec. 1st and February 28th** since the winter of 2011-2012. **Usually there are between 70 and 80 bird species** observed, with last winter setting the record at 80! Over the winters these records have been kept, 132 different species have been recorded.

Expectedly there are quite a number of birds that winter here, such as Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees several woodpecker species and more, but it is always surprising what unexpected birds show up. Usually some of the rare species are seen in early December, ones that are late or lost in their southerly migration trip. This year a **Northern Mockingbird in Chatham** was one such example, a Brown Thrasher in Doaktown another. The very attractive male **Wood Duck** in full breeding plumage was seen in Newcastle at this time but also in January in South Esk. We have visitors from much further north that come south to NB and elsewhere to survive winter such as American Tree Sparrows, Common Redpolls, Snowy Owls and **Rough-legged Hawks**.



Red-tailed Hawk, Escuminac, P. Gadd

For an up-to-date Northumberland County list with some photos, visit www.miramichinaturalistclub.com and scroll down the home page.

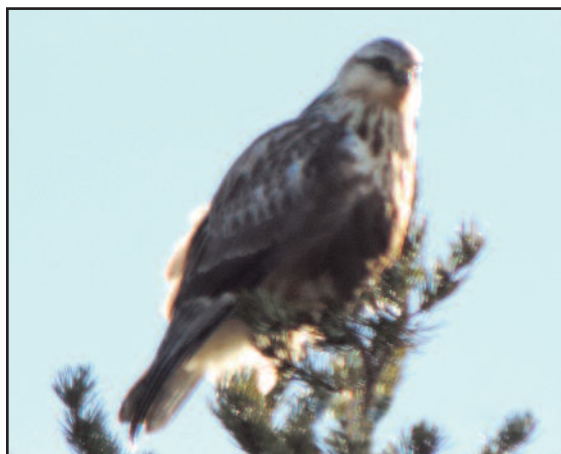
Warblers are usually long gone by late fall but an Ovenbird was reported in Burnt Church in early January, very unusual. At the time of writing there have been 72 bird species spotted in the county this winter, 14 of them can be considered unexpected. Not statistical proof but in 2011-12 there were 6 such unexpected visitors. Perhaps with climate change we will be seeing more unusual bird species in our winter months. Some rare examples from other seasons include Tufted Titmouse, Pine Warbler, Carolina Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Towhee,

Field Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Hawk-Owl, Short-eared Owl, Redhead (Duck), King Eider and very rare Barnacle Goose. Most have been seen on only one visit. **The rarest winter visitor** would be the Mistle Thrush, in Newcastle all winter 2017-18. This is a Eurasian bird, never previously recorded in all of North America, and it attracted birders from all across the continent except from Mexico.

There is a corresponding New Brunswick Winter Bird List that averages 163 species of birds since this list began in the winter of 1996-97. Visit <http://nbwinter.gbnature.com>

There are **several annual comprehensive bird surveys** that contribute to international data bases such as the long-established annual Christmas Bird Counts, the mid-February

Great Backyard Bird Count and the one-day world-wide effort called The Global Big Day. The Winter Bird Lists are less formal and not universal but are carried out by some NB counties, some provinces and states. It is an interesting aspect of being outdoors on winter days.



Rough-Legged Hawk, Hay Island, Aldo Dorio



Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Hay Island, Rosemonde Duguay

Send in your sightings to the Northumberland County Winter Bird List. Following the distribution of this Giv'er issue there are still a few weeks left (until Feb. 28) for this year's count, so if you identify what you think might be an unusual winter bird please email gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca. If you can send a photo as well, that would be helpful.



Wood Duck, Newcastle, P. Gadd.



Red-winged Blackbird, Quarryville, Nancy Mullin.



Long-tailed Duck, Neguac, Aldo Dorio.



Northern Mockingbird, spotted by Sonya Hinds on Dec 1st in Chatham and photographed by P. Gadd.

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Strathcona Cup 2023

Celebrating 120 years of friendly curling competition between Canadian and Scottish men curlers.

Once every ten years Canada plays host to the world's oldest international men's curling bonspiel, the Strathcona Cup. This month long curling bonspiel brings together 60 men curlers from Scotland to play against our very own curling centres from St John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia. The competition is comprised of three distinct tours, Western, Central and Eastern.

The **Miramichi Curling Club** was chosen to be part of the 2023 Strathcona Cup and support the tradition of this classic international curling competition, which is now in its 120th year. While under the watchful eye of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and Curling Canada, the event is managed and operated by curlers who were fortunate enough to participate in the 2018 competition that traversed the country of Scotland. The chair for the overall event is former Curling Canada Board Chair John Shea.

Miramichi was an ideal location to host the event on January 22, 2023, as it is steeped in curling tradition and maintains a culture of comradery and love for the sport of curling. The visiting Scottish participants were shown the upmost hospitality from their hosts and were ceremoniously greeted upon their arrival. For the record, Miramichi teams went 3 and 1 against the Scots.



Photos by Greg MacDiarmid

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Cindy Lou's Corner

What's Wrong with Me?



"What's wrong with me?" Many people have asked themselves this question at least once during their life.

The answer is nothing! There is nothing wrong with you or your life. Your life is a reflection of your beliefs and your perception of the events happening in and around your life. This is the narrative you are playing in your head over and over. If you are not enjoying the experience, then make a change. Any change big or small will affect the narrative of your life.

Quite often we think change has to be dramatic and chaotic. It's not true.

When we truly desire change, just the thought of change starts things in motion.

When people want change, they usually decide to change their appearance. They quite often go for the hair (if they have hair). Secondly, they go for the clothes they wear and thirdly they go for changing their body shape and size. All of these choices create big changes in our lives. Sometimes it

becomes a snow ball effect and we get more change than we bargain for.

If you want your life to be different, the secret is acceptance of what you are experiencing and understanding, how you got there and why. Once you understand and stop judging your life and yourself, you will be able to experience your life from empowerment. You will have a knowing you are in charge of how you respond and feel about yourself and your life. You will also realize there is nothing wrong with you or your life. We are here to have experiences that are governed by feelings and thoughts that we have complete control over.

If you would like some help in making a change or two, email cindytheta7@gmail.com and we can set up an appointment via phone or zoom. For more information go to www.cindylouscorner.ca

Sincerely, Cindy Lou

Published Author, Educator of Positive Thinking





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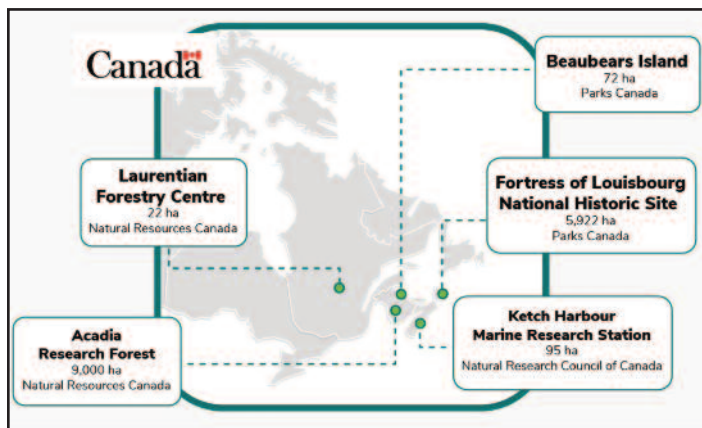
Beaubears Island Announces New Designation, New Logo and Upcoming Events for 2023.

Friends of Beaubears Island Inc is proud to ring in the New Year with new programming, events, and a new logo.

We want to begin by thanking everyone who has visited us, supported us and or donated to us in 2022; we greatly appreciate you!

We have so much to share with you. Let's start with Beaubears Island's latest designation as of December 2022.

In 2022, Beaubears Island, the Boishébert and Beaubears Island Shipbuilding National Historic Sites site, was recognized as an **Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM)**.



New Federal Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

OECMs are lands managed in ways that achieve the conservation of biodiversity. OECMs have similar biodiversity outcomes to parks and protected areas but are established for different purposes. Recognizing OECMs is a key pillar of Canada's plan to conserve 25% of marine and coastal areas, land and inland waters by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

Baubears Island covers an area of 72 hectares and primarily consists of old-growth forest ecosystems. The site

supports rare occurrences of remnant, relatively undisturbed stands, providing habitat for various species of wildlife and conservation concern species requiring mature old-growth forest. These forest stands offer a glimpse into the composition and structure of natural late-seral and climax Acadian Forest ecosystems while providing a valuable yardstick to gauge the evolution of more disturbed forest communities elsewhere in northeastern New Brunswick.

More information can be found at <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/nb/boishebert/amcez-oecm>.





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Beaubears Island has a **new logo**. We love everything the island represents and look forward to continuing our mission to preserve, protect and interpret the island's historical and cultural significance.



About the Logo

Island languages: Mi'kmaw, French and English. Quoomeneegook means island of pines. Pjila'si means welcome. Toqmimajijig means to live together.

The trees represent Quoomeneegook. Three supporting waves in the water represent the millions of years old sandstone the island sits on.

The sun symbolizes firmness, strength and power while the moon represents calmness, beauty and nurturing.

Water represents the flow of generations of people who used the island and water for survival.

The circle around the logo symbolizes wholeness, community, friendship, inclusivity and strength.

Returning programming such as **Eyes on the Island** is critical for the island's safety. This program commenced years ago in hopes of working with the community to help us and Parks Canada protect and reserve Beaubears Island. We want to remind everyone Beaubears Island survived the great 1825 fire; trees on the island are hundreds of years old. Please help us stop people from having fires, camping or any other unusual activity on the island by calling the Parks Canada number listed on the poster on pg.16.



Annual Sugarbush. Our second Sugarbush will be held on **March 25** (storm date March 26), 12pm at Bicentennial Park, 35 St. Patricks Drive, Nelson. This year, there will be more fun, games and prizes. Games such as Best Snowman and Who can Throw the Snowball the Furthest. NEW: Ten lucky people who register before March 1, 2023, will be given a VIP pass to access the event early with special treats. We are partnering with The Bridge Project this year, which will be a fantastic addition. As this is a

fundraiser, we want to make this event accessible to all who wish to attend. Therefore, the cost is by donation only.

The **River Remembers** is a video series where John English interviews interesting people from the community who share stories of what life was like for them many years ago. John English volunteers his time to interview people at their convenience, location of choice and comfort level. In the most recent interview, John sits down to have an easy-going conversation about life and times with author Wayne Curtis. Find it in the News section of our website.

Also, we are beginning to ramp up our **2023 Fundraising Campaign**. Many are still unaware that Friends of Beaubears Island Inc is a non-profit organization that partners with Parks Canada to offer ferry service to the island and tours. Our grassroots organization requires support from our community on an ongoing basis.

We are always looking for volunteers for programming, characters, and interpretive centre associates. If interested, please get in touch with us anytime by phone or email.

All information can be found on our website at www.beaubearsisland.ca, on Facebook or call 506-622-8526 or email info@beaubearsisland.ca.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2023! - Board and Staff of Friends of Beaubears Island Inc.



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 April 7 - Good Friday
 April 10 - Easter Monday

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Heavenly Messages

By: M. A. Cook

Angel signs are here and there,
Angel signs are in the air.

Above in the sky and below in the snow,
Shapes of angel wings are everywhere I go.

It makes me smile every time,
Like when I find a ten-cent dime.

I somehow feel guided within,
And on my face appears a grin.

As I imagine what they are,
Like wishing on a first night star.

For something so beautiful to appear,
Gives feelings of hope and blessings of cheer.

It recalls me of miracles in an everyday way,
That get lost in the noise of the ordinary day.

Perhaps a reminder our heavenly angels are near,
And to live and love fully, without doubt or fear.

A gift in the moment to unexpectedly see,
Bringing hope to the day, as to what this could be.

Two puddles on a dirt road on a rainy day,
Can appear as though angel wings leading the way.

Or in the shape of a rock or butterfly in flight,
When angel wings come to mind, it's a magical sight.

On windy days when cirrus clouds float by,
And feather-like shapes fill up the sky.

What is the meaning, I ponder from time to time,
Could it be a message from the heavenly divine.

I wish for these spirit signs from somewhere above,
When patterns of angel wings appear, I so love.

The familiar scent of a loved one that's past,
It comes out of no where and you wish it could last.

The feeling of sparkles that tickles the skin,
Subtle messages from heaven or somewhere within.

Sounds of a whisper that makes us question our ears,
Perhaps angels among us, guiding us through fears.

We use words like "coincidence" for unexplained truths,
The universe is a mystery and we are its sleuths.

Visions from a dream in the night, seem so real,
Is it heavenly messages or ourselves we reveal.

Guardian angels please stay close by,
And show your wings in the cerulean sky.

The End



Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue

Meet Madame President

By Paulette Arsenault

In this issue I will describe the important role played by the President of MGSAR.

Today's environment enables women to become whatever they strive to achieve. Case in point, Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue has historically been a male dominant organization; that changed with the election of the first female president.

The arrival of Joyce Driscoll at the head of MGSAR was a breath of fresh air, an impulse of new ideas, a 180° approach to problem solving and an all-around female touch to an organizational structure cast in a slow-moving pace. To say that subtle and gentle changes have infiltrated MGSAR would be understating her profound influence.

Not long ago, the executive board was filled exclusively of men. Today, 60% of the board is made up of women. When Joyce joined MGSAR, not many searchers were women, now this role is filled by 40% of the membership. The female enrolment has been twice as important in the past two years, due to the exposure Madame President has as a spokesperson. She inspires a younger female generation to join the



Joyce Driscoll, president of MGSAR.

organization in its mission of Search & Rescue and help the community when needed.

When asked, Joyce says that her primary task is not to command anybody into action but to support everybody in reaching their goals. She adds: "The MGSAR has evolved to become a well-oiled organization not because of me, but because we have a dedicated group of people, women and men, willing to give up time and energy with one objective in mind: hit the ground running when called upon in a Search & Rescue mission anywhere in the province. It wasn't always so and I don't take credit for it." The rank and

file don't agree with Joyce on this issue, instead they recognize the extraordinary drive she brought to MGSAR as a role model.

As a Search Manager, she has been described as a beacon of calm, wise leadership during chaotic situations; a full-scale search effort incorporating different agencies such as the Emergency Measures Organization, RCMP, local police departments, DNR,



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RadCom, or other Ground Search and Rescue groups, where she may need to orchestrate these Alpha people toward a successful search mission.

Joyce is proud to say that MGSAR is a place where women can learn many skills and accomplish a great deal in helping their community. There is one message she wishes to convey, "There is a need and space, with many different roles, for more women in an organization

like MGSAR. Come and join."



Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue membership is composed exclusively of **volunteers of all ages**. MGSAR is always looking for new recruits, if you're interested, please contact us at join@mgstar.ca

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River Jams

By Mike Arseneault

For some time now, I have been meaning to write an article on a very popular activity which happens on the river night after night, week after week, year in and year out.

The activity or should I say activities I refer to are music jams!

Music jams have been happening on and around the Miramichi for decades now and are very popular hot spots for the more mature crowd, although many middle-age enthusiasts are taking them up!

Music jams are musical outings that take place at least five to six nights a week on the river and in other neighboring communities. Jam times are usually between 6:30 pm to 9:30 – 10 pm, lasting approximately three hours max.

These musical jams feature local music groups which are made up of rhythm and lead players, base players, keyboard players, drummers and other instruments such as a mandolin or a fiddle or two.

The musical groups provide the background music for the entertainers that come on stage to perform their brand of music, be it singing or playing musical instruments such as the mouth organ (harps), accordion, fiddle... you name it!

With the low entry fee of \$3-\$4, a door person takes the player's name at the door and creates a numerical list of when that particular entertainer will perform. For example, if you enter the building as the number two person you will sing second. The entry fee allows the performers to sing two songs, depending on the actual number of players signing in.

These musical outings have become so popular that although most jams don't start up until 6:30 pm,

many entertainers are waiting outside to get in as early as 5 pm or even earlier!

On an average night, some 60, 70, or 80 folk take a seat in the audience at most river jams. The average price is \$4





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to watch the entertainment. On good nights, the music jams host over twenty performers.

I have been associated with several groups over the past 10-12 years and I can tell you from my perspective that each jam has some quality back-up bands.

Each jam site provides a great lunch half way though the evening with free tea and coffee included at some locations.

River Jam Locations

Sunday nights: Miramichi Lions Club Building, Morrison Lane, downstairs from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Band: Country Crooners. Admit \$4. Hot dogs and burgers on sale at 5 pm.

Monday nights: 7-10 pm White Rapids Hall with Johnny

Manderville and the Boys

Tuesday nights: At the Nelson Hall (starting in March)

Thursday nights: The Miramichi Entertainers at the Knights of Columbus Building on King Street, Chatham.

Thursday nights: Folklore Park in Renous.

Friday nights: Victory Baptist Gospel Jam in South Esk.

Saturday nights: app once a month, Carroll's Crossing Jam at the Orange Hall.

We hope, many more folk will join us in great camaraderie and special times, bring your music, come out and sing. oh yes, there is tons of laughter and dancing too.

For more information email Mike at msja@xplornet.com and join the private Facebook group, River Jams.



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Colouring Pages

In the Christmas issue we had a colouring page which was drawn by local artist, Laura Lea Harrison.

We asked our readers to be creative and colour in the picture, promising to publish the finished coloured pages that we received.

Here they are!

Everyone did a great job and no two are alike!



Callie Macleod-Waye, age 6.



Chase Macleod-Waye, age 9

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Nora Bartlett, age 8.



William Tozer, age 8.



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A Successful Year for Corcoran Entertainment

By Franky Corcoran

During lockdown in 2020, I took the time to develop my local community theatre troupe. In 2021, I announced plans to stage a night of one acts for October that year, only to be delayed due to a resurgence of the virus. The one acts was postponed to June 10-11, 2022 and was a huge success. It helped put my troupe on the map.

From there, I wrote, directed and acted in my next theatrical production, "*A Miramichi Christmas*". Like the previous show, it was another hit. It was so rewarding seeing my hard work over the past couple years come to life and pay off. I'd like to thank my amazing cast and crew for their dedication, blood, sweat and tears that they poured into it, and also the supportive patrons who came out to see it.

2022 was a year to remember for me. From writing and directing two of my own productions, launching my weekly podcast, *The Corcoran Entertainment Show*, I feel confident about the future of my company.

I have also launched a writing service as well for any writers out there. Script consultancy starts at \$25 per act and includes an in-depth analysis of the script, dialogue tweaks and suggestions. I can be reached via email at fcorcoran10@yahoo.com using the subject "Script



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Editors note: Franky is also working on a murder mystery, *Death Costs Dearly*, with show dates set for March 31 to April 1st. Keep up to date with new podcasts, casting calls and theatre dates by following Corcoran Entertainment on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



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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. Deadline to submit photos for the spring issue is March 13.



These three top photos are by Wendy Wilson. The deer above and female (top right) and male (right) Cardinals.



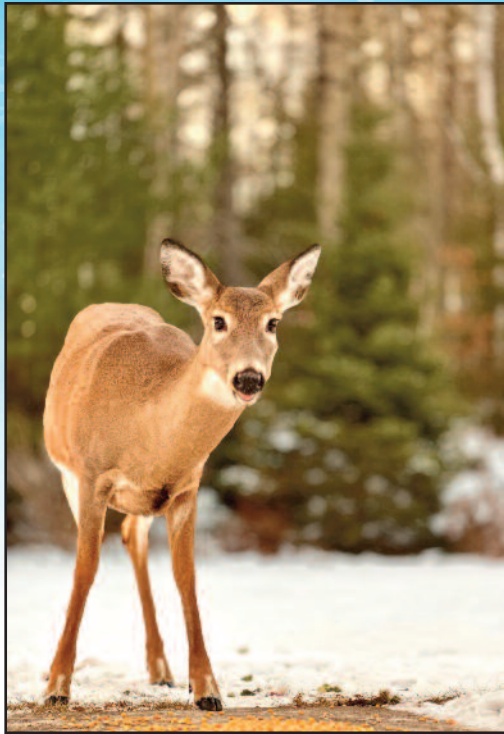
Photo taken at Mill Stream by Jacques La Fontaine.



Train bridge to Nelson by the Enclosure by Laura Lea Harrison.



Anne Marie O' Hearn captured this photo of the fresh snowfall.



Kelly Watling snapped this photo of a "sweet mama deer" near her home.



Photo collage of Snow Fall in Napan by Grace Gilliss



John Hayward - taken from Ferry Road of St. Michael's Basilica about 20 minutes after the last night's sunset during blue hour.

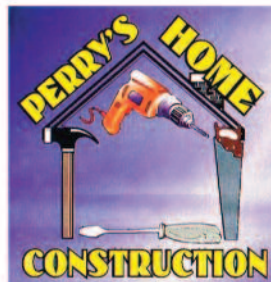
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 In fact, without the community support the
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Once again thank-you
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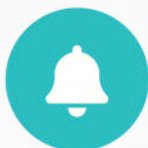
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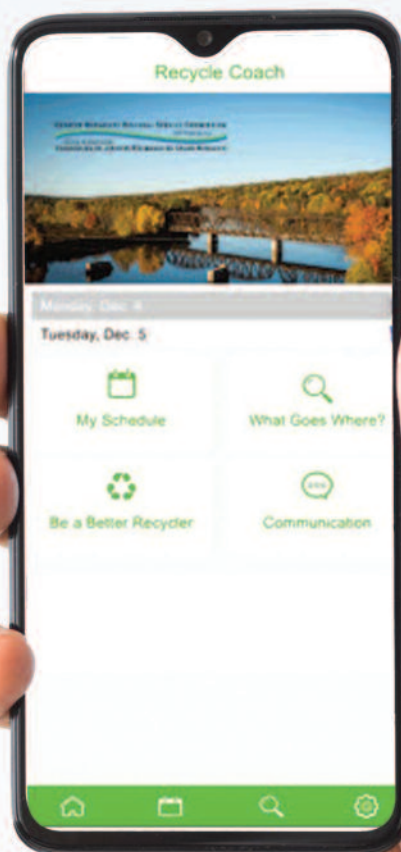
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