

GIVER Miramichi

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FREE
Winter Issue 2024

16,500
Copies
Distributed!



Beau in the Snow
Photo by Grace Gilliss

TOTAL
ECLIPSE
TOTALE
MIRAMICHI 2024

ON APRIL 8TH,
COME WITNESS
A CELESTIAL
WONDER IN
MIRAMICHI!



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE. WWW.DISCOVERMIRAMICHI.COM/TET-2024

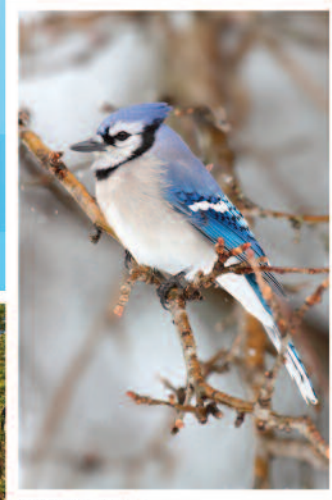
Miramichi's Community Website Since 1999

MightyMiramichi.com

Thanks for visiting! Over 12,000 website visits per day.

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www.mightymiramichi.com/events

Find...

Real Estate



Local Marketplace



Places to Eat



Automobiles





Win a Playhouse

Support Summer Camp for Youth

We are thrilled to announce the **Camp Sheldrake Playhouse Raffle**, where you could be the lucky winner of a fully finished, and furnished playhouse, complete with incredible amenities to make it the ultimate entertainment hub for your family.

Immerse yourself in luxury with a playhouse that boasts not only a charming exterior but also a fully furnished interior designed for fun and relaxation. On display at the Beaubear Co-op in Nelson.

Grand Prize: The Dream Playhouse Package includes:

65-Inch TV: Dive into the world of entertainment with a top-of-the-line 65-inch TV, perfect for movie nights, gaming marathons, and family bonding.

PlayStation 5: Elevate your gaming experience with the latest and greatest gaming console, the PlayStation 5. Whether you're a seasoned gamer or a beginner, this prize is sure to bring joy to your household.

Bunk Beds: Create lasting memories with family and friends in the cozy bunk bed setup. Perfect for sleepovers, the bunk beds add a touch of adventure to the playhouse, making it a favourite among kids and adults alike.

Why Join the Raffle?

This raffle isn't just about winning incredible prizes; it's about making a difference in the lives of children across New Brunswick. All proceeds from the Camp Sheldrake Playhouse Raffle will go directly to supporting Camp Sheldrake Inc., a Catholic-based non-profit organization under the Diocese of Saint John.

About Camp Sheldrake Inc.

Camp Sheldrake, nestled in the heart of Miramichi, is dedicated to providing enriching summer camp experiences for youth aged 6-17. As a non-profit



Win a Dream Playhouse Package and support Camp Sheldrake by purchasing a raffle ticket. The playhouse is on display at the CO-OP in Nelson, Miramichi and the draw date is April 14, 2024.

organization, Camp Sheldrake Inc. aims to empower young minds through meaningful experiences, skills development, leadership training, and community service. Regardless of denomination, the camp fosters spiritual awareness and creates a supportive environment for personal growth.

To purchase tickets online, scan the QR code below or visit www.campsheldrake.ca or the Camp Sheldrake Facebook page.

Draw date: April 14, 2024

Ticket prices:

- 1 for \$20
- 3 for \$50
- 7 for \$100



**Scan QR code
to buy tickets**

Cover Photo: Beau in the snow. Photo by Grace Gilliss.

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

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

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EVENTS

Find more local events at
www.mightymiramichi.com

Feb. 25: All-you-can-eat Smelt or Bologna Supper

Pan- or deep-fried smelts or bologna, potatoes, peas, roll, chow chow, tea/coffee and homemade lemon chiffon pie. At Father Morrissey Centre, Bartibog from 2 to 5 pm. Tickets available at the door. \$15 to eat in; \$17 to take out. Everyone welcome.



April 5-7: Dessert Theatre

The St. J&J Drama Troupe is ready to hit the stage once again. Join us April 5, 6 & 7th, for "Heaven's to Mergatroid", a Dessert Theatre, at the United Church Centre, 556 King George Hwy. Get ready to board the spacecraft, Appalling 13, headed to the planet Mergatroid, with an unusual group of passengers you won't soon forget. Ready for lift off is Gwen Baisley, Nancy Donald, Katrina Donovan, Patty Fawkes, Diane Forrest, Ted Lynch, Rev. Charlene Macguire McKnight, Sydney Murray, Kimberley Shaddick, David Watling, Susan Watling, and Art Young. Tickets are \$20 each and available at the United Church Office, Dickison's Pharmasave, and Brookdale Flower Shop. Get your ticket soon and board this zany trip to the Planet Mergatroid – it will be out of this world!

Markets and Thrifty Sales

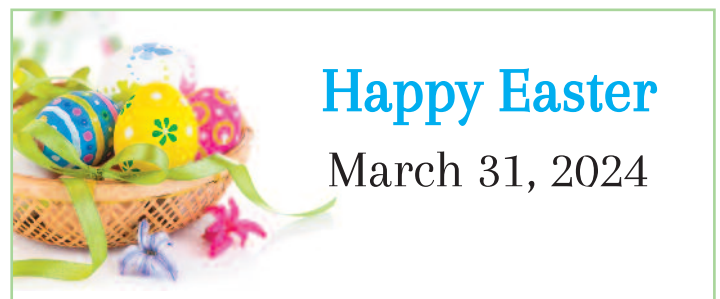
The Bargain Boutique (A Thrifty Thrift Store) is located downstairs in St. Andrews Church Hall, 214 Pleasant Street in Newcastle. Open on Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm to 4pm. Men's and women's clothing and footwear and accessories. We also accept donations of clothing and footwear and jewellery. All proceeds from this store will go toward ministry in St. Andrews Anglican Church Newcastle. Drop in and look around, the prices are very reasonable.



Gently Used Items Sale - Gently used and "like new" household items and clothing for sale Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's, 10am-3pm. Located at 29 Schofield Street in Renous, at the old firehall. Schofield street is located off Route 108 in Renous. If you're arriving from Route 8, take the NB-108 ramp to Renous/Plaster Rock, to get here. For information call Jill at 506-993-0031.

Newcastle Farmer's Market will be returning Friday, March 1. Remember to stop by their new location every Friday 10am to 2pm at 21 Cove Rd, Miramichi NB

Downtown Hidden Treasures (on the Square), Miramichi's newest market, will be opening 6 days a week now, starting February 1, 2024. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm, Mondays to Saturdays. You will find many treasures from local artisans, such as home-baked goods, hand-made jewellery, costume jewellery, hand-poured soy candles, Tupperware, pet bandanas, Pabi's hobbies & collectables, woodworking, DVD'S, CD's, wooden signs, baby booties & clothing, some women's clothing, and much more.



Happy Easter

March 31, 2024

Vienna – based Pianist John Dupuis Returns Home for Concert

Vienna – based pianist John Dupuis, formerly of Miramichi, is a renowned concert pianist and piano teacher in Vienna, Austria. Born and raised in Newcastle his first piano teachers were Greta Laws and John Ramsay. Mr. Dupuis earned piano performance degrees from McGill University in Montreal and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He has appeared in concert as a soloist and in collaboration with orchestras, chamber ensembles, and singers in North America, Asia, and Europe.

Dupuis's musical repertoire consists of music from Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Schubert and contemporary Canadian composers, Gallant and Louie.

It has been five years since John has performed in Miramichi. He will have two shows in New Brunswick, one in Miramichi and in Moncton.

He will perform in Miramichi, Wednesday, April 10th, 7pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic church, 300 Newcastle Blvd. Tickets will be on sale at Brookdale Flower Shop and from Susan Butler at 506-622-1780 or susanbutler@xplornet.com. Advance tickets: Adults \$30, at the door \$35; Students \$20, at the door \$25.



Renowned concert pianist, John Dupuis, will perform in Miramichi on April 10th, 7pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic church

27th Annual Earl Doherty Memorial Volleyball Tournament

Join us for an awesome day of volleyball to raise funds for a great cause. Our tournament is a fun, unique format! Great way to meet new people and reconnect with old volleyball friends!

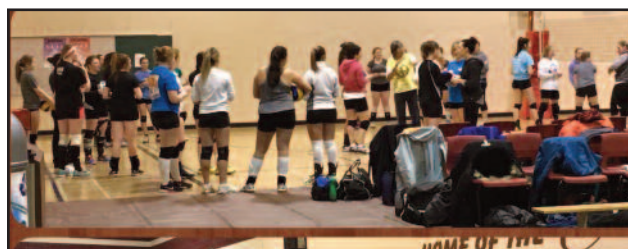
All funds raised of towards the Earl Doherty Memorial Scholarship presented to students graduating from NSER

Date: March 2, 2024

Location: North & South Esk Regional High School, Sunny Corner, NB

- Men's and Women's Divisions
- \$25 per player
- Teams are chosen by random draw
- Registration starts at 8:00 am, Games begin at 9:00 am.

Find the event page on Facebook.





CITY HALL UPDATES

MIRAMICHI POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Miramichi Police Force offers some winter driving tips to enhance safety during challenging conditions. Motorists are advised to reduce speed, maintain a safe following distance, and use winter tires for improved traction. Clearing all vehicle windows and lights ensures optimal visibility, while keeping emergency supplies like blankets and a flashlight is recommended. The police stress the importance of cautious maneuvering on icy or snow-covered roads and encourage drivers to stay informed about weather forecasts before embarking on journeys. Ultimately, these guidelines aim to promote responsible driving habits and minimize risks during winter months in Miramichi.

Friendly Reminder: The Winter Parking Advisory is in effect until April 15. There is no parking on city streets between midnight and 7 a.m. as to not interfere with snowplowing operations or other street maintenance.

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2024 Total Solar Eclipse: A Week of Illumination and Wonder

Join us in Miramichi from April 3rd to 8th for an unforgettable celebration of the total solar eclipse. Engage in a symphony of astronomy and artistry as our city comes alive with light. Marvel at innovations of our youth during the Brilliant Labs Community Showcase, immerse yourself in a weekend music festival, and experience "Fireworks on Steroids" during the illuminated drone show. Explore celestial mysteries at the Astronomy East Tradeshow and Conference, and finally witness the eclipse's awe-inspiring climax on April 8th. From interactive workshops to community dialogues, Total Eclipse 2024 unites science, art, and community spirit, creating a luminous tapestry of shared experiences.

For more details, please visit www.discovermiramichi.com/tet-2024.

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. Please follow the posted rules.

- French Fort Cove Winter Trails are ready for public to enjoy. Winter trails systems for walking snowshoeing, and fatbiking.
- Family Day Activities on Monday, February 19 will include free swimming and free skating.
- Jump into March Break, March 4, 4 to 6 p.m. Golden Hawk Recreation Centre
- March Break Shoot Out, Youth Floor Hockey Tournament, March 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Golden Hawk Recreation Centre
- Free Family Swim, March 7, 1 to 3 p.m. MVHS Pool
- Seniors St. Patrick's Day Bingo, March 11, 1 to 3 p.m., French Fort Cove Eco Centre
- Easter Bunny Hop, March 27, 5 to 7 p.m. Golden Hawk Gym.





Wanted - Canadian Veterans

Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association Seeking New Members

Membership with the **Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA)** joins together retired and serving military and police force veterans.

CPVA members provided peace and security worldwide for Canada, domestically and abroad, on United Nations missions and others. And Canadians continue to do so worldwide. CPVA supports and recognizes all veterans.

CPVA maintains a strong connection with its communities. We are veterans that like to get together and are proud to have served our country. Our veteran's association members volunteer their time to attend services as Honour Guards, when requested from the family of a fallen veteran in the Miramichi and area. Some members also volunteer for ceremonial commemorative duties as flag bearers, or to fill the ranks while standing on parade, and as V.I.P spectators. CPVA attends/hosts flag raising ceremonies at sunrise and sunset.

As a member you will feel the pride of the community during the Canada Day Parade, as veterans participating on and marching with, the CPVA float. Our members also assist with the Poppy Campaign during Veterans Week.

Breakfast and dinner events are held throughout the year and during these events, our fundraising is used towards bursaries distributed in our community.

Join our ranks and welcome back the camaraderie. **Here is what a few members have to say:**

My late husband was CWO Robert Marc Madore, who served for our country for 35 years. My sons both served as well. One on them was helped by the members of CPVA after serving in Afghanistan. PTSD is very present in the life of our military. I am now in a relationship with a wonderful man, and we are both always invited and welcome to every monthly function.- Line Madore

I believe that being a member of the peacekeepers is beneficial for the following reasons: companionship with fellow veterans, keeps you current with major issues happening with the military, opportunities for sharing dinners together and to participate in parades to show the public that veterans do exist. -Leo Leblanc

I joined the CPVA Miramichi chapter about 10 years ago to keep in touch with the veteran community in the area. I live out of province and am not able to take in all their events; nonetheless, I do try to travel to the



Members of the Canadian Peacekeepers Veterans Association, Miramichi Chapter, at their recent annual general meeting.

Standing (L to R): Gerald Beaulieu, Leo Leblanc, Paul Cross, George Jenkins, Ray Savoy, Bob Williams, Paul Matheson, Roger Arsenault. **Seated** (L to R): Blair MacKnight, Ray Kokkonen, Kelly MacKnight, Ed Oursien.

Miramichi twice a year to participate in the Peacekeeping Day event and support the Poppy campaign. Well worth the trip and it is always great to get together for a few yarns of our younger days. - Gary Silliker, Mahone Bay NS

OUR MISSION

The mission of the CPVA is to bring Veterans together in comradeship, to advocate on their behalf for the defence of their rights and to promote their interests.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are active and retired military service personnel, police and other peace officers who have served in Canada and overseas.

OUR ADVANTAGES

CPVA has Chapters across Canada that will welcome all Canadian Forces, RCMP, Provincial and Municipal Police Force Veterans. There is no rank among CPVA members. We offer unconditional peer acceptance, comradeship, respect and recognition, PTSD peer support, Veterans networking, humanitarian service, and leadership opportunities.

To become a member, or get more information, email Tom O'Keefe, Membership Director, at Tjok.107@gmail.com

All That Remains: W.S. Loggie (Part One)

By Charlotte Loggie, Miramichi Historical Society

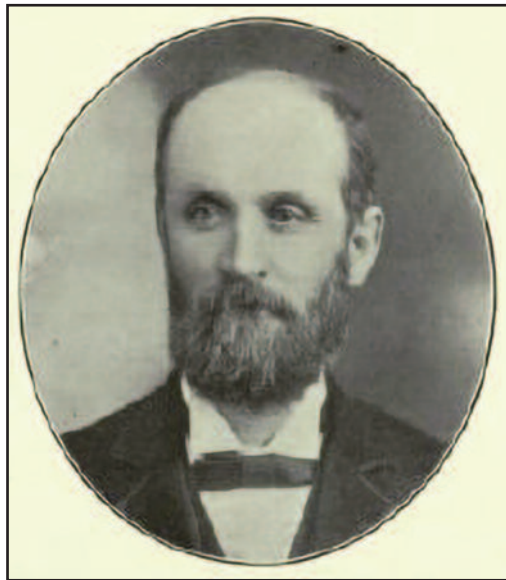
This is the third in a three-part series titled “**All that Remains,**” documenting three Miramichi entrepreneurs who lived in the period from 1837-1944. These entrepreneurs are: Jabez Bunting Snowball (1837-1904), David Ernest Hutchison (1847-1918) and William Stewart Loggie (1850-1944). These men changed the life of Miramichi with their entrepreneurial spirit, political activism, and philanthropy. All three also displayed visionary qualities, looking ever towards the future, and imagining newer and better ways of helping life on the Miramichi to keep pace with the outside world. This series explores what each man’s legacy was; all that

remains to remind us of their lives and their times. The final piece, W.S. Loggie, encapsulates the life of the man who straddled both the 19th and 20th centuries and whose accomplishments laid the foundation for significant advances for his community.

William Stewart (W.S.) Loggie (1850-1944)

The Loggie family in Miramichi descends from the original couple, Robert and Margery (Hay) Logie who emigrated in 1779, from the Spey Valley in Scotland to Black Brook, Miramichi where they settled on 160 acres obtained from the Crown. In Scotland, Robert Logie had been involved with the salmon fishing industry, and it is documented in “With Axe and Bible” (Campey) that he was brought to Miramichi, along with other immigrants, by William Davidson, who wanted to increase the salmon fishery here. The Logie family (now commonly spelled “Loggie”) increased, generation by generation, some settling in the Black Brook/Napan area, and others moving across the river to the Burnt Church area.

William Stewart (W.S.) Loggie was born in 1850 in Burnt Church, the son of George and Ann (Morrison) Loggie and the great-grandson of the original settler, Robert. William’s childhood was spent at Burnt Church



Miramichi entrepreneur, W.S. Loggie (1850-1944) started a general store at age 23 and built a small empire as a retailer, ship-owner, and exporter.

where his father was an original partner in the firm of Loggie and Anderson. George Loggie moved the business to Ferry Road, and died unexpectedly on April 16, 1869, at the age of 48, when a ferry sank while crossing the Miramichi River to Chatham. His son, William Stewart, left school at age 14 and was working in Chatham at the dry goods store of MacDougall and Snowball when opportunity knocked. J.B. Snowball (the first entrepreneur in this series) was looking to expand into sawmills, milling and shipping and he reportedly said to W.S. Loggie “You’re smart enough to start a business of your own” to which W.S. replied, “That’s just what I’m

going to do!”

At age 23, he set up a general store in what was called the “Commercial Building” on Water Street. In 1894, the firm was incorporated. Members of the corporation were: W.S. Loggie, Francis E. Winslow, Warren C. Winslow, Elspeth Loggie, George M.B. Loggie and J. K. Loggie. W.S. also acquired a tin shop and three brickyards. The company was called W.S. Loggie, Co. Ltd. In addition to dry goods and groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, furniture, ladies’ and children’s wear, automobile sales and service departments were added over the years.

The business also expanded into ownership of warehouse space at Ritchie Wharf and the storage there of fishing nets and equipment. Once this endeavour was established and incorporated, Loggie decided to go into the fish business. He bought fish directly from fishermen, and set up packing, canning and exporting fish, especially salmon and lobster.

The earliest branch of this work was established at Logiecroft in Kouchibouguac where a small store was set up to sell gear and supplies to local fishermen, as well as a large storage facility, an icehouse, a fleet of lobster boats, a cannery and a refrigeration unit. Salmon

was an early venture here, which soon added mackerel, clams, crab, cod, shad, and shad roe to the roster of fishery products that were canned or frozen and readied for export to Canadian and American markets.

This business soon added the packing and exporting of blueberries to its portfolio. As early as 1883, Loggie was processing and freezing blueberries for these large markets too. Loggie got involved with shipping his exports using his own schooners, which in turn led him to oversee the manufacture of lumber and to his ownership of several mills located in Miramichi and on the Acadian Peninsula.

At the apex of his business ventures, there were 12 canneries in operation in Northumberland, Gloucester, and Kent counties and 3 dozen smaller seasonal operations in New Brunswick, PEI and Quebec. By 1915 there were 36 vessels on the water belonging to W.S. Loggie. Branches of the original Loggie Store at Miramichi existed at many other locations on the North Shore. At the height of the Loggie Enterprise, products were being transported by rail and ship to markets in Europe, the USA, Argentina, and the West Indies. The fish and blueberry season was short, so many of these operations were opened and closed according to season, but the heart of the business was the main store in Chatham and its branches all around the North Shore.

By 1937, the Loggie Company was doing about one million dollars (\$20 million in today's dollars) worth of business a year. For many years, W.S. Loggie was the



W.S. Loggie was once the largest exporter of lobster to France. His extensive business operations included packing and exporting local blueberries, salmon, clams, crab, mutton, roast beef and more. These cans can be seen at the Miramichi History Museum, Wellington St. Chatham, NB.

largest exporter of lobster to France. Although the branch and factory managers had some control over their own operations, reports were compiled on a daily and weekly basis and submitted to the General Manager of the company at Chatham.

There were up to 800 employees on his payroll in the first decades of the 20th century. Many people living in Miramichi remember either working for Loggie or had someone in their family who did.

In Part Two of W.S. Loggie, in the next issue of *Giv'er*, we'll explore further this man's political involvements, his family life, and the end of his business empire. We'll also look at "What Remains" in Miramichi to remind us of this once-famous family and the entrepreneurial dynamo at its head.



Northumberland County Winter Bird List for 2023-2024

by Peter Gadd, Nature Miramichi

Since the late fall of 2011, Dave McLeod of Nature Miramichi has collated a list of birds sighted in Northumberland County from Dec. 1 until the end of February each winter. With the collaboration of many observers over the years, mostly in the east of the county, **124 bird species** have been recorded. The list usually includes between 75 and 80 species.

The birds on the list fall into one of four categories:

1) Year-round residents

2) Late departing (and early returning) migrating summer breeding species,

3) Winter visiting species from further north and

4) Vagrant (or extended range) species.

The purpose of recording the presence of birds through the winter months provides an interesting database. Studying trends over the years can help identify changes in bird populations and give insight into the effects of global warming. It also is a means of sharing information about rare species that show up from time to time. It helps in the understanding of the biodiversity in our Northumberland County and the realization that winter is not such a quiet time for wildlife.

People who maintain bird feeders through the winter have the best opportunity for interesting sightings. But also, those who are out and about in the countryside may also see some of the variety of winter birds that do not visit feeders.

Some of the less common but expected bird

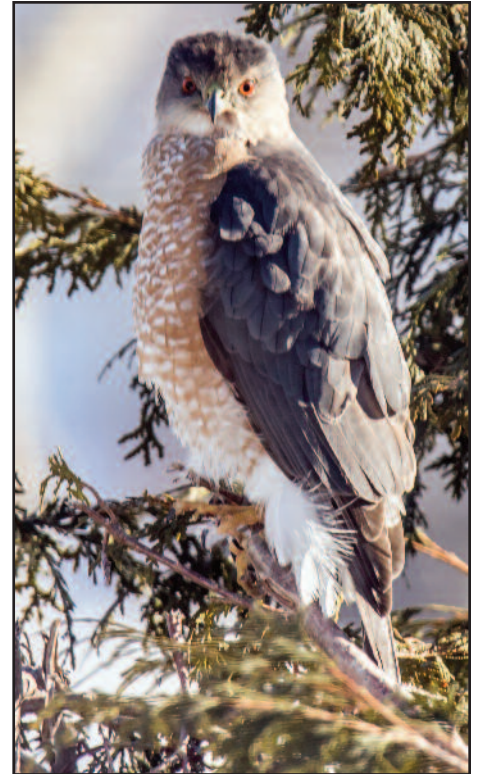
species that might visit feeders any time during the winter include **Northern Cardinals, Evening Grosbeaks and White-breasted Nuthatches. Rare Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Carolina Wren** at the limit of their normal range, have spent time at our feeders in the winter, in the past. Some birds that normally migrate south for the winter may hang about if they are confident about a secure food source; **White-throated Sparrows** for example.

There are perhaps two dozen bird species that visit Northumberland County and elsewhere in New Brunswick for their “winter get-away”, that travel from much further north. They can be found in open water just offshore in the Northumberland Strait or Gulf of Saint Lawrence, in open wind-swept fields where the snow accumulation is thin, in our forests and at our feeders. Examples include **Barrow’s Goldeneye, Snow Buntings, Bohemian Waxwings, Common Redpolls, and American Tree Sparrows.**

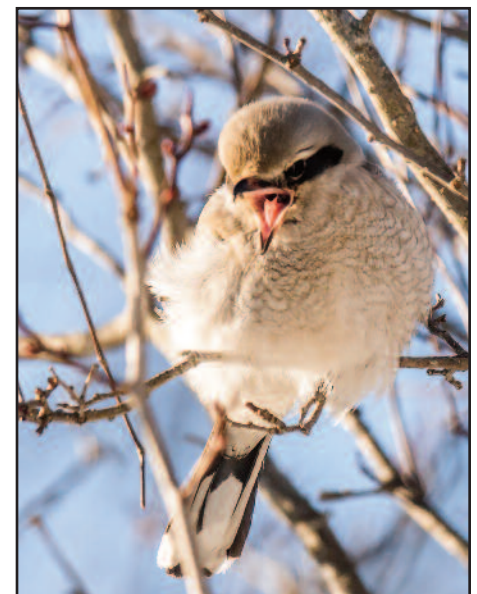
On occasion a lost bird or vagrant



Yellow-headed Blackbird, a vagrant from central and western North America - winters in Central America.



Cooper's Hawk, sometimes seen here in winter, just a little north of its normal winter range.



Northern Shrike, a winter visitor from Northern Quebec and the Territories, and a hunter of small birds and rodents.

might find its way to the county by accident during the 3-month winter period. This is most likely due to being caught up in a weather system and being blown off course. Over the years there have been visits from **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** (going to garden feeders), A **Barnacle Goose** (in the company of migrating Canada Geese), the **Eurasian Mistle Thrush** (which found a good local source of Mountain Ash berries and protected it for the entire winter) and just this past January a **Purple Gallinule**, a long way from its Central and South American winter grounds. Although this bird was found alive in Tabusintac and transported quickly to the Atlantic Wildlife Institute outside Sackville, it sadly did not survive due to hypothermia and malnutrition.

The current list of species for 2023-2024 can be viewed at www.miramichinaturalistclub.com

There is a New Brunswick provincial Winter Bird List maintained each year and can be viewed at <https://nbwinter.gbnature.com>

If you should come across a bird in Northumberland

County during the winter that you think could be an unusual or seldom seen species please contact the writer at gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca



Barrow's Goldeneye, a winter visitor from the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River.



Purple Gallinule a member of this species found in Tabusintac Jan. 16, 2024. Last known member of the species to visit Northumberland Co. in May 2009.



Snowy Owl, a visitor from the very far north of Canada.



White-winged Crossbill, a year-round resident of the back country, that doesn't come to feeders.



Mistle Thrush, an ultra rare vagrant Eurasian bird with a Mountain Ash berry.



Book Review

By James M. Fisher

Sons of a Fisherman by Wayne Curtis

One of my bookshelves is partially filled with Wayne Curtis books, either his novels or his short story collections. They share a shelf with another Miramichier, the late Raymond Fraser. Their books are like old friends as I have met both authors in person over the years since I've moved here. While they are contemporaries, they come from different areas of the Miramichi River basin (Fraser is a "townie", Curtis a rural person), which makes their perspectives unique.

You know what you're getting when you get a new Wayne Curtis short story collection. *Sons of a Fisherman* has an excellent photo of the author's son Jason guiding his boat on the Cains River. Inside are thirteen stories, some new, some previously published, but all in that nostalgic, contemplative style that we have come to appreciate about Mr. Curtis' writing.

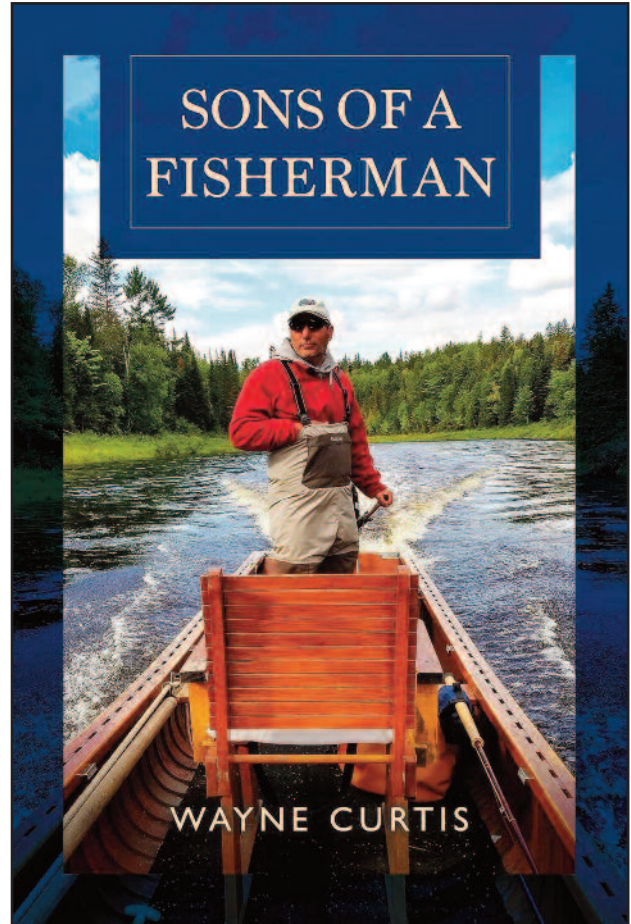
Never more so than in "Autumn Waters" a full-on reminiscence about a time that was from the perspective of a man who writes: *"With reluctance I am being pulled toward the dark season, both literally and metaphorically. And I wonder if I will live to see another living spring. It is the time I turn to the past for a bit of comfort."* As he stands in the river fishing, he goes on to say:

I yield to emotions that are conceivably felt by artists and sentimentalists and that are ignited by familiar sights and sounds: leaves made crisp by a light frost, the soft voice of the calling river, a blue jay's cry, the brass sounds of locusts and the visions conjured up from those solitary old home fields.

The place is a remedy for my late summer blues.

Beyond the opposite shore, on an alder-infested hillside, our broken-backed old barn stands behind a bower of honeysuckle, its tall doors having blown off in a hurricane.

Opening a Wayne Curtis book is like going on a captivating journey through time. You'll get to travel with Wayne as he fishes, goes to school, dances, falls in love, guides American visitors, and experiences all the different faces of the river. The river is always there, in every season, looking magnificent whether it's during "ice-out" or summertime lows, fast-running or slow and lazy. Wayne's stories are captivating, and you'll feel like you're right there with him. So, if you're in the mood for a heartwarming and exciting read, pick up a Wayne Curtis



book and get ready for an unforgettable adventure!

"You see, I hang on to things. even now, like nobody else I know," he writes in the story "Moving Shadows". We here in New Brunswick and particularly in the Miramichi River watershed, appreciate Wayne Curtis so much. In 2014, he was awarded the Order of New Brunswick, and he is certainly a provincial treasure, if not an unsung national one. At this point in his life, (he will be 81 in February 2024) his stories could be considered memoirs rather than fiction, and it is my wish that he keeps on writing for years to come.



James M. Fisher is the owner and editor-in-chief of The Miramichi Reader. He began TMR in 2015, realizing a genuine need for more Canadian literature book reviews. It has since become Canada's best-regarded source for the best in book reviews and interviews. James works at the Miramichi Hospital in the Medical Imaging department.



All it takes is \$25 a month to be a Faithful Friend of the Miramichi SPCA

As we welcome in the new year of 2024, we look back and thank all of our generous donors, supporters, volunteers, staff, and board members for their help in keeping the Miramichi SPCA doors open. Miramichi is such an amazing and supportive community that has rallied around this shelter, and many other non-profits like us, during challenging times.

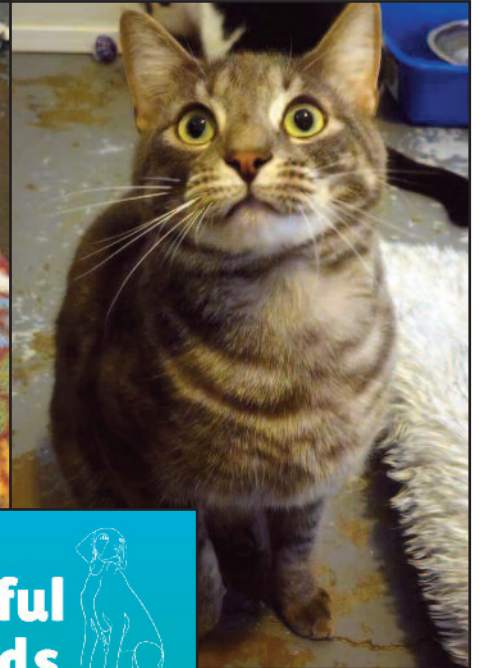
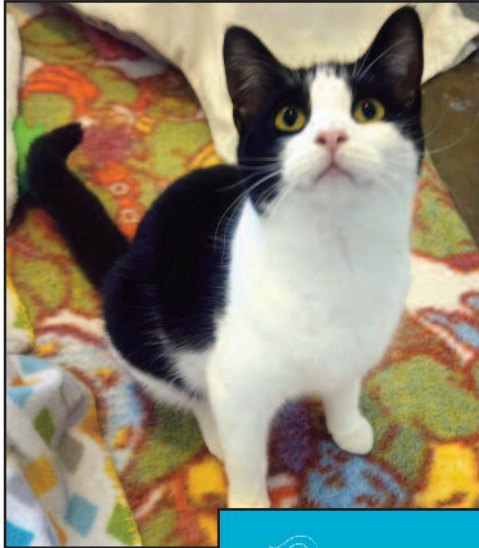
We introduced a new initiative in 2023 - **Faithful Friends of the Miramichi SPCA** and asked for 200 people to commit to donating \$25/month for one year. All these donations are tax deductible. In 2023, we had 30 people sign up for this initiative and we are so grateful for their support.

It costs \$675 to run our shelter for one day. We know it is hard to believe, but with the rising cost of everything around us, that's the position the Miramichi SPCA is in. The heartbreaking reality is that without more financial support our doors are at risk of closing every month, leaving hundreds of animals each year with nowhere to go.

Our average monthly operating bills are more than \$20,000 and our "Faithful Friends" will help us to raise 25% of this cost. This initiative, along with our bottle recycling donations, fundraising events, existing donations, and our weekly Kitty Kash draw will help us keep our doors open to care for surrendered animals.

Hundreds of animals come through our doors every year that could have otherwise had terrible fates without our help. Most of these animals receive spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, a microchip, and flea and worm treatments, on top of daily routine care. They are cared for by experienced staff that have critical knowledge of animal welfare and years of dedication to animal rescue.

We are asking you to consider making this donation of \$25/month to ensure that the shelter is here for years to come and we can continue to save hundreds of abandoned, abused, and neglected animals every year!



Thank you so very much for your support.

You can easily donate online on our website www.spcamiramichi.com/donate-faithful-friends.

You can also donate via pre-authorized cheque by mail or dropping them off at the shelter, Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. An annual tax receipt will be mailed to you. Mailing address: PO Box 177, Miramichi, NB, E1V 3M3. Tel: (506) 622-0645



Cindy Lou's Corner

Never Give Up

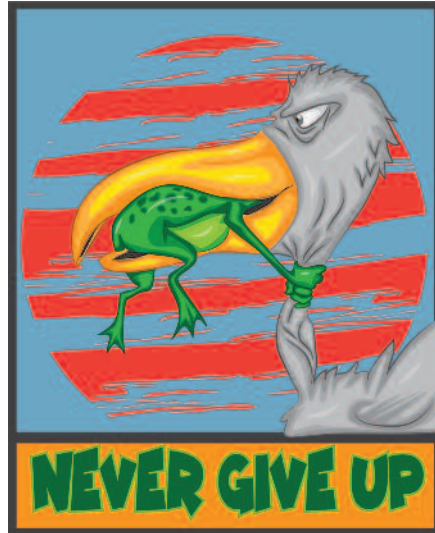
There once was a man from Nantucket who said "Ah, F@#k it."

He gave into his hearts desire and followed his leads. He struggled and whined and wanted to quit, but kept feeling, "what if this time it was it." He trudged along singing his song "I think I can, I think I can"! His doubts rang loud inside his head, so loud he wanted to quit instead!

Every step he took became a chore, every decision he made, seem to end at a closed door.

So, the man from Nantucket sat down and cried, once again he sighed "Ah, F@#k it" he leaned back against a door and to his surprise it opened and he fell inside. He was met with smiles from many he recognized, as his tribe. They opened their arms and welcomed him in, one person said "We have been waiting for you, where have you been?"

The man replied with glossy



eyes "I was in Nantucket and had given up on living. I followed a path and was very driven. Then I gave up again and let go of my fear, which lead me here.

The moral of the story is sometimes, when we let go of what isn't working, it opens our heart and mind to our deeper desires in life. Unfortunately, we grab hold so tight

we don't let it unfold with ease and we blind ourselves from seeing opportunities that support our desires. Then we throw in the towel just short of our destination. But sometimes when we give up on our plan of how it should unfold, that's when it appears! Let go and pay attention.

Never give up, if you can dream it, imagine it, and feel it, it's yours to experience!

Sincerely
Cindy Lou,
Educator of Positive Thinking
Published Author
Spiritual Guidance Counsellor
Instagram @cindylouscorner
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New Bi-Weekly Podcast Segment to Help Aspiring Creators

By Franky Corcoran

When I first launched my weekly *podcast*, *The Corcoran Entertainment Show* in January 2022, it was just a way to pass the time in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic until we could stage plays again. Two years and over 110 episodes later, the show is still going strong and has no signs of stopping!

Regular episodes release Tuesdays on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Amazon Music and all other audio platforms. However, we have a new bi-weekly segment called “Think Thank with Christian and Friends” that releases every Thursday.

It is hosted by me and world-famous voice actor, Christian Potenza, perhaps best known for voicing Chris McLean on *Total Drama* and Jude Lizowski on *6teen*. Currently, Christian is running a group called the Freedom Forgers in Hamilton, Ontario. It encourages people with disabilities to pursue their creative



endeavours. Now, we would like to encourage everyone to do the same.

This podcast segment on *The Corcoran Entertainment Show* will essentially be a workshop for anybody out there in the world with aspirations to create and grow their brand, enhance their storytelling skills and pursue their dreams.

To schedule your appearance on Thursday

“Think Thank with Christian and Friends,” send an email to fcorcoran10@yahoo.com with the subject “Think Thank”. Include details on what creative ideas you have (writing, podcasting, etc.)

Subscribe to *The Corcoran Entertainment Show* on your podcast streaming app of choice or our YouTube channel, Corcoran Entertainment to keep up to date with all new episodes!

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A Grateful Heart Remembers, Celebrates Love

by Cathy Carnahan

My heart assures me it will explode into a thousand tears or more of gratitude and melancholy, should it be reminded again of how blessed we've been by all the incredible people and fascinating animals that have shared our journey, encouraged us, loved us and remained steadfast through many tumultuous times and happy occasions, as well.

Each name is printed on my heart, which quietly preserves their memory. It only asks that I smile and laugh upon remembrance; that I do not cry or make it weep because they were never intended for such purpose.

Instead, they are to be celebrated for their joy and comfort, for their loyalty, wisdom and motivation; their faithful prayers and constant encouragement to carry on, so that we may also pass that loving torch of hope and inspiration to someone else.

Yes, my heart assures me that everyone is safe within and we've been blessed beyond measure. It prompts me to remember that love is the greatest gift of all and to embrace the little things in life because those little things are often the big things.

A donkey brays as sleep drifts into the room, a horse whinnies and, in a meadow of daisies, we run with a beautiful collie dog to the cheerful babbling brook. There, old, cherished friends greet us and we are forever grateful.

My sweet Aunt Kay (aka Kathleen Quayle), who hasn't been well these past few months, is the first to hug me.

I promised that wherever she was I'd be thinking of her, holding her close at heart, and she promised that if she gets to the other shore before me that she will be waiting for 'her little redhead' to come running in the lane once more.

My darling Daddy is also in my dream. He died on a cold winter's morning on Jan. 10, 1986. He was in Room 310 and it was 10:10 am when his gentle hand squeezed mine goodbye. Thirty-eight years later, his love and kindness still make me smile; still gives me hope and prompts me to cherish all that is good in this precious life.





Cathy appreciates the love between doe and fawn, that is so evident in this photo.



Australian artist Chery Wheat painted this picture of a young Cathy Carnahan riding her beloved horse Baby Big Britches in a field of daisies, while her delightful collie, Miss Crosby, whom she got years later, runs along. The painting perfectly reflects Cathy's cherished childhood dreams and the place she believes heaven to be.

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by Rejuv Nordic Spa

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are vast, making it a favoured recommendation among physicians for those battling injuries, chronic pain, rheumatism, and arthritis. Studies further affirm its efficacy in combatting mild depression, appetite loss, and anorexia.

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MIRAMICHI GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE

A Snapshot

By Paulette Arsenault

In this issue of the Giv'er magazine, I will give an overview of MGSAR's implication in the community.

During the last two years, I wrote about the who, what, where, why, and when of Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue. Taken separately, the articles were instructive, educational, and informative, but lacked an overview of MGSAR involvement in our community.

What was missing in previous articles is MGSAR dedication to Youth education in safety and survival skills in the woods. A dedicated team of volunteers go to schools, libraries and public events and hold classes aimed at educating our younger generation in three specific areas: **Hug a Tree**, **Survive Outside** - for when kids get lost in the woods, and **Paddle Smart** for water sports safety.

Table 1 shows how many young people participated in the program, note: there were no classes in 2020-2021 due to Covid. More than 1434 youth participated and learned how to survive in the woods translating into 423 volunteer hours. These classes are available to everyone.

SUMMARY 2014 TO 2022 - YOUTH EDUCATION ADVENTURE SMART PROGRAMME											
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
HUG A TREE	6	2	9	10	10	9			3	8	57
PADDLE SMART				7	2						9
SURVIVE OUTSIDE	6	2	9	10	11	13				25	76
YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	132	30	242	331	219	273			113	94	1434
VOLUNTEER HOURS	26	5	25	44	96	145			27	55	423

Table 1: Youth Education

Contact MGSAR for more details.

Most people take for granted altruistic gestures, in other words what people do for free out of goodwill. It could be someone helping an elderly neighbour, singing in the church choir, or volunteering in search and rescue by giving what is most precious - **time**. Giving time to MGSAR does not only entail going on a search, but it also includes all the training needed to acquire and maintain skills dedicated to saving lives. Time is not redeemable, once spent you cannot get it back.

Table 2 is a snapshot of how many hours the volunteers at

MGSAR spent on any given year. At first glance, we see there is more demand on the volunteers with the increase in total hours every year except during Covid. During 2023, volunteers were called on 11 searches, had 74 different exercises and participated in 124 different events.

The last column with the **Totals** for the last nine years is an eye opener: **60 life-saving searches**, 346 exercises and 829 community and fundraising events. MGSAR volunteers spent **67,001 unpaid hours** investing in our community.

Unknown to most people, MGSAR is activated and deactivated only by law enforcement authorities.

SUMMARY 2015 TO 2023										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
INCIDENTS	10	4	6	6	4	3	8	8	11	60
EXERCISES	15	15	22	37	76	48	17	42	74	346
EVENTS	58	62	94	98	82	91	114	106	124	829
TOTAL HOURS	4194	4279	7082	9069	10382	4366	7251	7779	12599	67,001

Table 2: Incidents-Exercises-Events-Hours

Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue membership is composed exclusively of **volunteers**, women, and men of all ages. MGSAR is always looking for new recruits, if you are interested, please contact us at: join@mgsar.ca
Help us save lives.





Looking upriver from Newcastle.
Photo by Doug Kidd, taken the last day of 2023

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We are a grassroots organization that provides services to all communities in the province, such as presentations, programs, support groups, workshops and advocacy for children, youth, adults and seniors living with mental illness or those searching for mental wellness.

CMHA of NB offices and Community Program Coordinators throughout the province offer a wide range of specialized mental health programs and services. Programs and services are tailored to the needs and available resources of the communities where they are based.

Every year, CMHA of New Brunswick programs help more than 75,000 people. We respond to New Brunswick's local needs by providing several provincial programs and services.

CHANGING MINDS is a program designed to reduce stigma, foster understanding and promote change for mental illness.

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL gives you the tools to regain control over your life and live each day to the fullest.

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING (ASIST) allows us to learn to recognize the signs of suicide and learn to be a support to someone with thoughts of suicide.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKS provides workplace mental health capacity-building workshops for employers and employees.

SAFETALK is a program that allows us to become a suicide-alert helper.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick (CMHA of NB) has available presentations that



can be delivered by trained facilitators on the following topics:

CORE PRESENTATIONS

- Self-Esteem for Adults
- Nurturing Self-Esteem in Children
- Work-Life Balance
- Positive Attitude for Adults and Youth
- Suicide Awareness, Stress Management
- An Overview of Mental Health
- Anxiety, Depression
- Seniors and Aging
- An Overview of Mental Illness

Further information, including videos, recorded webinars, research, and more are available on our website www.cmhanb.ca.





Photo Contest

Take *Giv'er* Magazine on your next adventure and you could be featured in our upcoming issues! Whether you're soaking up the sun on a distant beach, or exploring a hidden gem closer to home, we want to see where you read your favorite local magazine.

Snap a photo of yourself with *Giv'er* Magazine in your most interesting or relaxing vacation spots and send it to us. Not only will the most captivating photos make their way into our pages, but you'll also stand a chance to win some fantastic *Giv'er* merch. Let's spread the *Giv'er* spirit far and wide! Send photos to submit@mcgmedia.net with your name and location.

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“For what it's worth ... it's never too late, or in my case too early, to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit. Start whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people who have a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again.”

- Eric Roth, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* Screenplay

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War Amps 2024 Key Tags en route to New Brunswick Households

New Brunswick residents can expect to receive their 2024 War Amps key tags in the mail starting this week.

Each key tag has a confidentially coded number. If you lose your keys, the finder can call the toll-free number on the back of the tag or place them in any mailbox, and The War Amps will return them to you by courier, free of charge.

The War Amps receives no government grants. With the public's support of the Key Tag Service, the Association is making a difference in the lives of amputees, including children, by providing financial assistance for the cost of artificial limbs, peer support and information on all aspects of living with amputation.

Those who do not receive their key tags in the mail can order them at waramps.ca or call toll-free 1 800 250-3030.

Find more information on the War Amps at www.waramps.ca.



Five-year-old Vanessa Parsons is benefitting from The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program thanks to public support of the Key Tag Service.

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Seals at Sunset in Escuminac. Photo by Derek Deredin.




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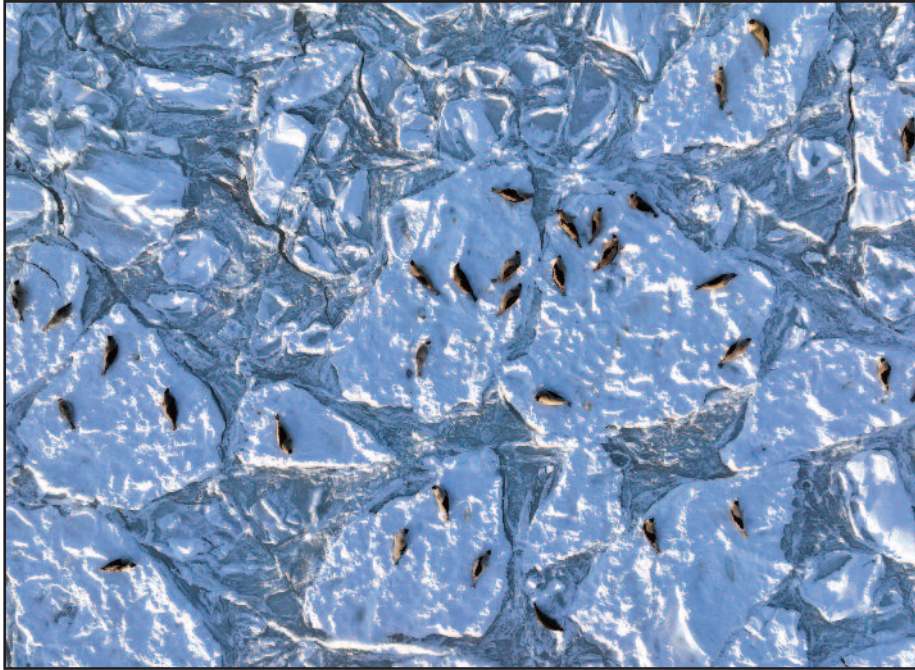


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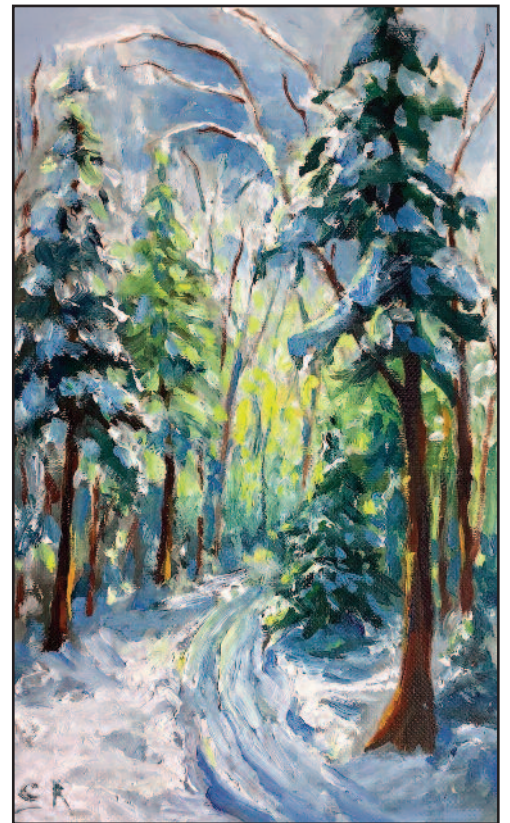
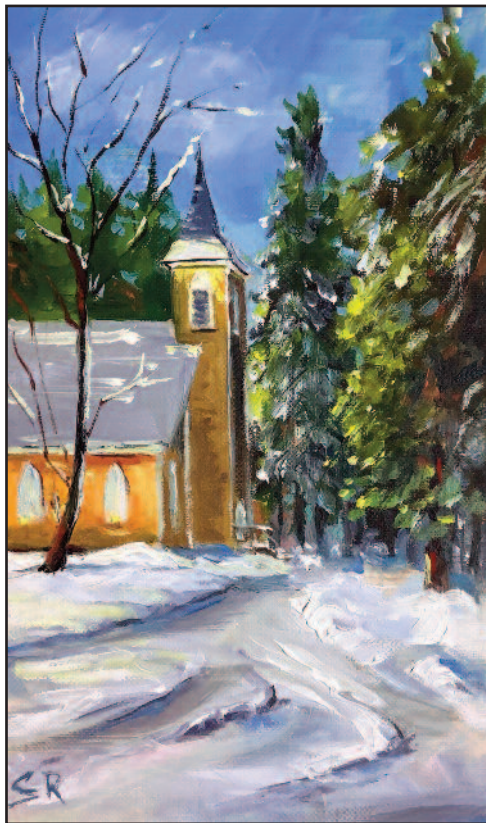
If you have photos, stories, tips or tidbits to share we always welcome your submissions. Send submissions to submit@mcgmedia.net. For photos, please send high resolution jpg's (not resized for email) and remember to include your name for the photo credit and the location where the photo was taken or description of the subject matter. Send in submissions to the **spring issue by March 8.**



Aerial view of Harp Seals on the ice, at Escuminac. Photo by Derek Deredin.



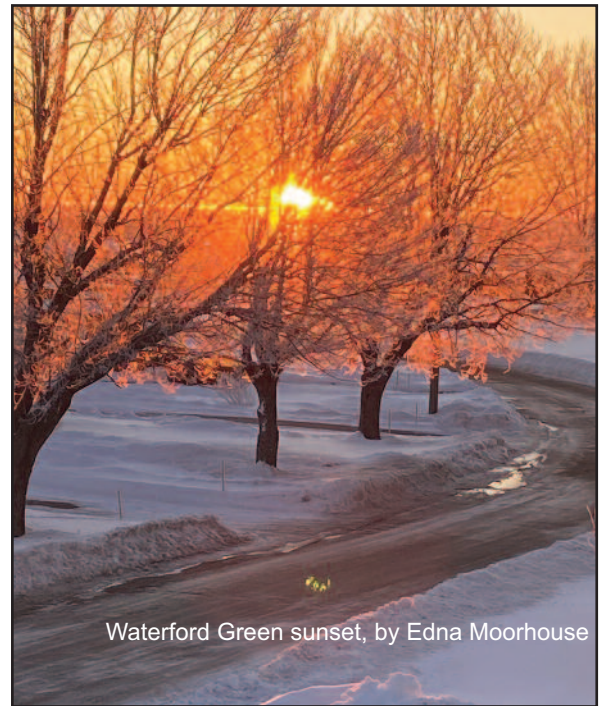
A walk in the snow at Ritchie Wharf, by Cynthia Best



Winter Days, oil paintings on oil paper by Cathleen Richards-Green



Miramichi River Sunset by Sam MacKay



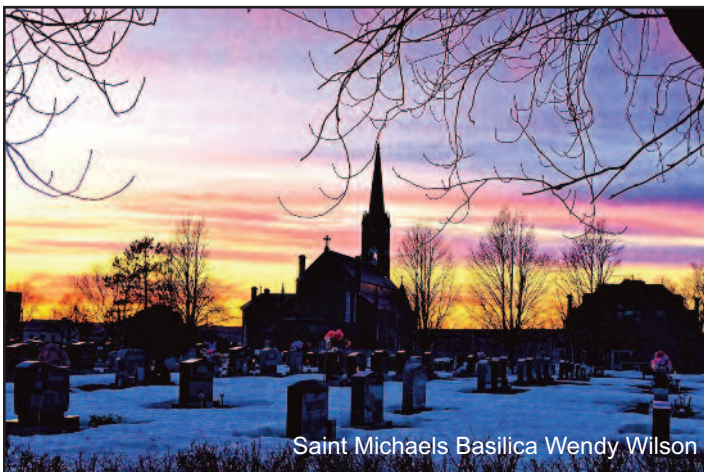
Waterford Green sunset, by Edna Moorhouse



Wintery roses, by Laura Lea Harrison



Horned Lark in Escuminac, by Anne Maloney Assaff



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Local fox, by Wendy Wilson

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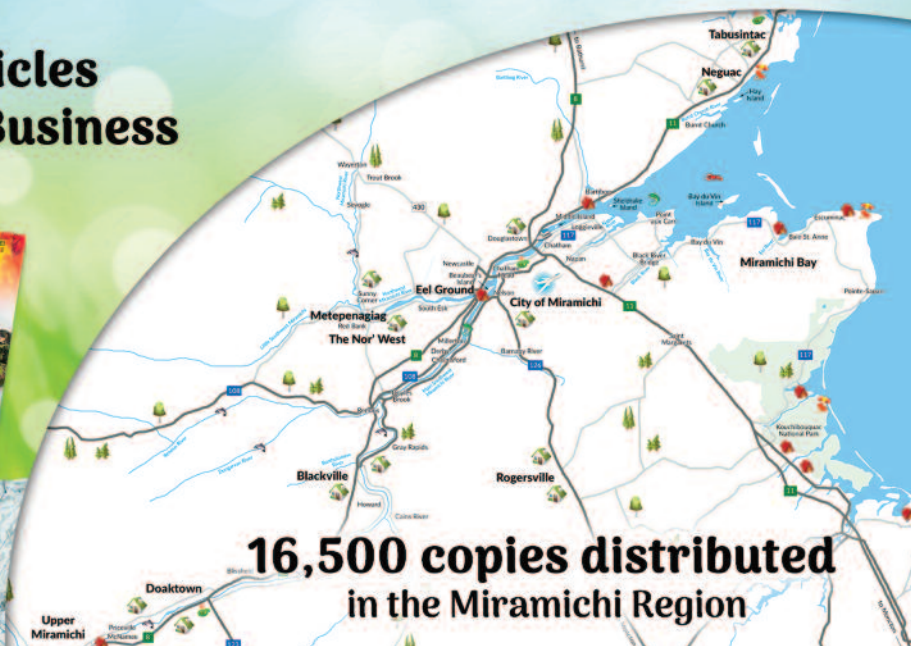
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