



Spotlight on the East River Valley
December 2023, January & February 2024
Issue 97



East River Valley Community Development Association

6341 East River West Side Rd. Eureka, NS B0K 1B0

Mission Statement: To promote the sustainability of the East River Valley Communities

Notes from the Chair-David Wilson

As I write this article, I am pleased to say that tomorrow night's meeting will include discussion on the status and future of the Hopewell Footbridge and Hopewell Ceilidh. I would like to express appreciation for all the folks who have spent so much of their time on looking after these ventures, that have proven to be big attractions for our valley and have that been the source of pleasure to so many over the years. Now it is time along with so many other activities to find volunteers to revitalize them as we continue to emerge from Covid. I hope you all will step up and join in.

Saturday is Remembrance Day; it seems incredible how little we as humans have learned more than a hundred years after the Great War. We are so blessed to live in Nova Scotia.



Riverton Hall Renovations

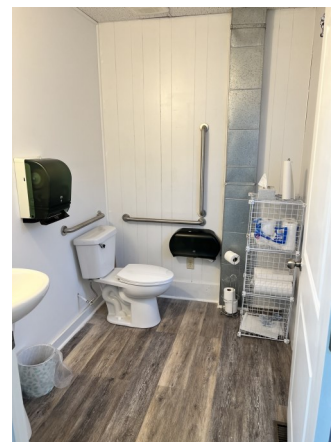
The ERVCD were a recipient of an almost \$100,000 Accessibility Grant to make the Riverton Hall fully accessible.

Over the last 2 years progress was made, in spite of a few hiccups. We now have 2 fully accessible washrooms located at the front of the building, new flooring, new ramp at the front of the building, a new automatic door, and wheelchair accessible tables.

We would like to thank Gordon Sutherland and Greg Johnson who looked after construction, Ben Gourd who did our electrical and Dennis Raniowski who helped with plumbing. All great East River Valley construction partners of ERVCD.

Without you this project would not have been able to be completed.

Rentals for the hall are picking up, with birthdays and celebrations. Details on rentals can be found on page 2.



Riverton Hall Rentals



A great fully-accessible location to host any celebrations or meetings. \$50 per day.

We also offer weekly rates for groups with daytime and evenings available.

To book the hall please phone
Kara Allen 902-301-0339

Springville-Island Women's Institute hold their monthly meetings on the second Thursday at 1:30pm. New members are welcome. For more information phone Debbie White at 902-923-2416.

Lorne Community Centre

Rentals by phoning Neil at 902-923-2183

Plymouth Community Centre

Rentals by phoning
Dorothy 902-752-3809

Bridgeville Community Hall

Hall Rentals Available \$40
Contact Debbie at 902-923-2416 or email
2twins1979@gmail.com



Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year from the Board, Staff and Committee of the East River Valley Community Development Association.



ERV DCA Monthly Meetings

If you are interested in attending an upcoming meeting of the ERV DCA, please call Kara at 902-301-0339 for details.



Hopewell Post Office

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-2pm

Friday 8:00am-1:30pm

Closed from 11-11:30am for lunch all week.
902-923-2710

Like our Facebook page for updates between Spotlight Newsletters!

Don't miss out on Community News and Happenings

www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley





Bridgeville Community Centre
Christmas Tea & Social
December 9th 2-4pm
Bridgeville Community Hall 21 Elgin Rd.
Bridgeville
Admission \$5
Tickets sold on a basket \$2 each/3 for \$5



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Historic Tour of the East River Valley October 5, 2023



The historic tour of the East River Valley was a great success. Historian John Ashton hopped on board the Chad Bus and took our guests on an adventure. We visited the local kiosks and local halls in the East River Valley, followed by a lovely lunch at the Riverton Hall. A big thank you is extended to the Nova Scotia Community Health Board for providing us with the grant to host this event. Thanks to Chad Bus, Sobeys, Bridgeville and Glencoe Halls, and of course John Ashton for keeping us entertained and sharing his passion for the local history.



We would like to wish a Happy Belated 100th Birthday to Viola Ross of Riverton. Her birthday was on September 29th, and she celebrated with family and friends. Viola received messages of well wishes from many dignitaries, including; King Charles and Queen Camilla, Prime Minister Trudeau, Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston, Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada Mary Simon and District 12 Councillor Chester Dewar.



Photos of Viola from when she was 17 working at Cameron's Meat Market in Stellarton, and with 4 of her great-grandchildren.

Congratulations, to Joanne and Cammie Cumming of Plymouth. They were the recipients of the Provincial Family Volunteer of the Year Award.

Joanne and Cammie are involved in many community organizations; including the Plymouth Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary, the Pictou County Dragon Boat Team, the local Palliative Care Support Group (PALS) just to name a few.

We are extremely fortunate to have Joanne and Cammie reside in the East River Valley. We thank them for their support of our association and all they do in our community.



Photo of Joanne and Cammie this summer, at their eldest son Jonathan's wedding. Thanks Jonathan for sending this to us.

Churches in the East River Valley

**The United Churches of the
Hopewell Eureka East River Pastoral Charge**
St Columba & Bridgeville United Churches

902-923-2578

The Presbyterian Churches of the

East River Pastoral Charge

Springville

More information phone

Sharon MacDonald (902) 923-2336

First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell

Minister Rev. Bonnie Langille 902-396-6266

bonniejcrockett@gmail.com

Sunday School 9am (in hall)

Sunday worship 9:45am

Coffee hour following worship every 1st Sunday

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

WANTED

East River Valley Fire Department

Is looking for new Firefighters

If you are interested, call Kevin

902-923-2893

Or attend our Tuesday Training Meetings

7:00pm at the firehall located at

2020 East River East Side Rd, Bridgeville.

Volunteers Firefighters Wanted

Plymouth Fire Department

Is looking for new Firefighters

If interested in becoming a volunteer
firefighter

Call Rod 902-396-9161 or

John 902-759-0631

Or attend our Monday Training Meetings

7:00pm

At the firehall located at

4667 East River East Side Road

Plymouth



Volunteer Fire Department Contacts

East River Valley Fire Department:

Kevin Stuart, Chief (H) 902-923-2893

kevinandleisa@hotmail.com

Jason MacIntyre, Deputy Chief

902-759-3588

Eureka and District Fire Department:

Hall 902-923-2751

Roger Caddall, Chief

Lee Fraser, Deputy Chief (H) 902-923-2170

(C) 902-754-8686

Plymouth Fire Department:

Rod Livingstone, Chief

902-396-9161

John Davison, Deputy Chief

(H) 902-752-4254

(C) 902-759-0631.

plymouthfire13@gmail.com



ERVCD Executive 2021

Chair: Dave Wilson 902-923-2990

lochmud06@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Arlene MacGregor 902-923-2410

Secretary: Kara Allen 902-301-0339

Treasurer: Penny Wilson 902-923-2990

Coordinator: Kara Allen ervcda@live.ca

Newsletter Submissions: spotlight.1@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook:

facebook.com/eastrivervalley/

Visit the ERVCD Website at

www.eastrivervalley.ca

Junior Reporter: Madeline Smallman

Restoring the Footbridge

The Hopewell Footbridge needs to be fixed from all the storms it has been through, and I want to see it be fixed so it can stay in the community.

When was the footbridge first built you might ask? While looking up information for this article, I found out it was first built in the 1800s along with another bridge - the other bridge was destroyed by ice and extreme weather conditions. The footbridge used to be the only bridge that could take you across the river, and used to be wide and strong enough for horses to go over. The Hopewell Footbridge is one of the last footbridges in North America.

The footbridge is important to Hopewell because the bridge and its paths are good ways to stay healthy and go for walks. Also, the footbridge brings a lot of people to the Hopewell area from across Nova Scotia and Canada in general. We want to make sure that the bridge is fixed so it is stable for people to continue to walk on and enjoy for years to come.

I used to go on walks across the footbridge with my Grandmother, Mom, Aunt and many more people. I want to see the footbridge get fixed and upgraded so others can continue to enjoy it too!

Joke of the month:
Why did the bridge close its eyes?
Because it was afraid of heights!

Santa at the Riverton Hall

Plans are underway for Santa to visit us once again at the Riverton Hall.

Follow our Facebook page for all the details, as they won't be confirmed until after this newsletter is gone to print.

Our Facebook page is
www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley.

Halloween at the Riverton Hall October 31

We celebrated Halloween at the Riverton Hall by giving out treat bags and books to 95 children. It was wonderful to be able to share the books from the Adopt-a-Library Program. Thank you to the PARL for providing those. Thank you to community members who donated treats for the bags and assisted in bagging them.

Pictured are 7 month old Iain, Benny, William, and Adeline enjoying their treats and books.



Advertising or sharing information in the Spotlight on the East River Valley

March-May 2024 Newsletter Deadline for submissions is Monday February, 5 2024

Contact Kara for advertising opportunities for new and existing businesses!
Our newsletter reaches over 1300 people via Canada Post every 3 months, online on our website and social media pages, and sent out to our community via email.

Kara can even produce an ad for you, at no extra cost!

Pricing for ads are as follows:

Business card size (2x3) \$30, 1/4 page \$50, 1/2 page \$100, full page \$200

Classifieds (80 letters or less) \$5.

Email her at spotlight.1@hotmail.com for details.



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**Meals on
Wheels**

MEALS ON WHEELS




EAST RIVER VALLEY
ERV CDA

Meals on Wheels will return mid-September.

Now is the time to sign up! Home cooked meals are prepared at Valley View Villa and delivered every Tuesday & Thursday throughout the East River Valley. For just \$8 you receive soup, roll, main entrée and dessert, with most clients saying it is enough for two meals.

If you would like to sign up or sign up as a gift to someone, contact Etta Hirtle at 902-923-2244.



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A Look at Eureka of the Past

Over time some of our once thriving rural villages has disappeared from our map. Like Ferrona, beside Eureka. Gone is the village, the train station and the Presbyterian Church that used to stand out in that valley behind the Eureka fire hall. The settlement grew significantly beginning with the building of the Eureka Woolen Mill using equipment purchased in the USA and fine, silky wool imported from Australia and South Africa. A three-storey building measuring 40x150 feet was built, a dam 130 feet wide and 19 feet high was built across the East River and a water wheel and stem engines powered the woolen mills. Steam from the boiler was used to heat each of the rooms in winter, an unheard of luxury in the 1880s. Sadly, 12 year old Henry David Munro was killed at the mill after getting tangled up in one of the long belts that ran the mills. Sadly, child labour was not uncommon in that era. By 1887 the Nova Scotia Electric Light Company was installing street lights in New Glasgow, Stellarton and Westville and within the next year telephones were being installed. By 1891 work began on an iron smelter. The 125 foot high smokestacks seemed massive! The fireproof roof for the boiler room came from Germany and I. Matheson Co. from New Glasgow began building furnaces and equipment. Again tragedy struck a year later when Peter Tobin was killed when he got caught in a pulley. By then the plant was making 70 – 80 tons of pig iron a day and there were 300 employees. The rail line had been expanded to Ferrona and Eureka and this now quiet valley was anything but quiet in the 1890s. Injuries and deaths were not uncommon in that era, before today's safety procedures became commonplace. And pollution. The waste water from the iron smelter polluted the East River so bad that the water by the time it reached New Glasgow was unfit for human consumption. Dozens of homes were built, along with stores and Zion Presbyterian churches in Ferrona and First Presbyterian in Hopewell.

This write up was used with permission from Rev. Glen Matheson

Important Dates

December 3~ Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Hopewell, next to Post Office. 6:30pm.

December 9~ Bridgeville Community Centre Tea & Social 2-4pm.

December 10~ Christmas Carol Song Service at the First Presbyterian Church Hopewell, 3pm followed by refreshments.

February 4~ Newsletter Deadline (March-May 2024 edition).

Be sure to follow us on Facebook as to not miss out on event details www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley