



## **Spotlight on the East River Valley**

**March, April, May 2021**

**Issue 86**



### **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**

Winter finally got here Monday causing all sorts of commotion in the city but in our valley life remained relatively calm I thought. I finally saw some ice in the strait on the way to Pictou Island today. Thousands of seals are lining the beaches of the island and the newborns are roaming around the shores and even up into the woods as they build up their strength for a life in the water.

Around here in almost the same numbers, white tailed deer are roaming the fields and woods. I expect they have had a pretty easy time so far and the storm will have been a nasty surprise for them. I'm sure that when they meet up with their peers they review the good times they had last summer helping themselves to my garden.

We have started planning for a Spring Market similar in concept to last fall's that was held outside the Churchville Hall and was quite successful even with the need for social distancing and masks. The idea is to have it complement the 50 Mile Yard Sale in June, you'll find more information throughout this newsletter.

Kara has been with us as coordinator for over a year now and I'd like to congratulate her on a job well done!

### **East River Valley Community Development Association**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The ERVCD is hosting its AGM on Tuesday April 6th, 7pm at the Riverton Hall  
5678 Stellarton-Trafalgar Rd. Riverton.

Please RSVP for this event due to Covid-19 Restrictions and gathering limits at  
the hall.

Contact Kara at [spotlight.1@hotmail.com](mailto:spotlight.1@hotmail.com) or 902-301-0339 to RSVP.

Masks and social distancing are necessary for this meeting.



### **Riverton Hall Rentals**

The ERVCDA are now renting out the Riverton Hall. With Covid-19 restrictions in place, our maximum capacity is 22 people.

If you would like to book the hall please phone Jody Holley at (902) 754-1322.

### **ERVDCDA Monthly Meetings**

Meeting will take place on the first Tuesday at the Riverton Hall  
5678 Stellarton-Trafalgar Rd. Riverton.  
7pm.



### **PHOTOS AT THE RIVERTON HALL**

East River Valley resident John Cameron has graciously donated some of his framed photos for us to sell, as part of our fundraising efforts.

The photos can be viewed online at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley](http://www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley).

Each photo is \$55 and depicts wildlife and scenery, which are John's specialty. We thank John for sharing his talent with us as we continue to fundraise during this global pandemic.

Contact Kara if interested in purchasing a photo.



Like our Facebook page for updates between Spotlight Newsletters!

Don't miss out on Community News and Happenings!

[www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley](http://www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley)

### **March**

March 14th~ Daylight Savings Time

March 15th-19th~ March Break

March 17th~ St. Patrick's Day

### **April**

April 2nd~ Good Friday

April 4th~ Easter

April 5th~ Easter Monday

April 6th~ ERVCDA AGM

### **May**

May 9th~ Mother's Day

May 10th~ Spotlight Newsletter Deadline

May 24th~ Victoria Day

### **June**

June 5th~ Spring Market at the Churchville Hall



Did you know??

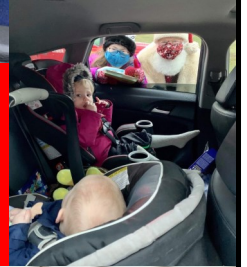
By the year 1882, Sunny Brae and surrounding area would boast a population of over 600 people. There would be over 100 farms in operation. The community would offer a resident doctor, 5 merchants and storekeepers, a wagon shop, a couple of blacksmiths, a butcher, two grist mills, a harness shop, a church, school and post office and several saw mills.

\*Historical facts found on the Sunny Brae Kiosk

## Santa at the Riverton Hall

Our drive-thru Santa event on December 12th at the Riverton Hall was a resounding success! We shared the Christmas spirit with approximately 190 children and their families. We were able to provide treat bags due to donations from Atlantic Superstore, Tim Houston, Chester Dewar and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Adopt-A-Library Program.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Santa, for bringing the magic of Christmas to all of us. This was exactly what everyone needed after a difficult year. Thank you to the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department for once again directing traffic. Thank you to our elves for helping out as well.



### Shout Out!

Thank you to Angela Cruickshank and Valerie Chabassol, who both donated beautiful, handmade Christmas cards.

We were able to use the cards to extend Christmas wishes to our Meal on Wheels clients, as well as some students at Dr. W. A. MacLeod Consolidated School.

We are extremely lucky to have some generous community members in the East River Valley who love to share their talents!



### Spring Market at the Churchville Hall

Plans are underway to host a Spring Market at the Churchville Hall. This will be similar to the Fall Market we hosted in October.

We are planning on Saturday, **June 5th**....mark your calendars!

For a fee of \$10 we will have vendors set up outside of the hall, as well as advertising those selling at their homes.

We will be posting updates on our social media page and have a complete list of vendors selling.

If you are interested in taking part in this event, please email Kara at [spotlight.1@hotmail.com](mailto:spotlight.1@hotmail.com) or phone 902-301-0339.

\* Items sold can include yard sale items as this is also the 50-mile yard sale weekend.

## Lunch and Learn Sessions in 2021

Lunch and Learn Sessions have been held during February and March in the East River Valley for over ten years. They were first hosted by Bridgeville United Church, and for the past three years, they have taken place at St. Columba United Church Hall.

The seniors who have attended these sessions have enjoyed a variety of programs – exercise, entertainment, and information on many topics so important to seniors such as medications, diet and falls prevention. After the presentation, the seniors then sat down to a hearty lunch.

In this time of Covid-19, as with most things, Lunch & Learns couldn't happen the usual way. Members of St. Columba United Church decided that seniors in the East River Valley would receive a take-out meal. This included the communities of Hopewell, Lorne, Glengarry, Elgin, Marshdale, Foxbrook Road, Eureka, Island East River, Springville, Bridgeville and Churchville.

On Friday, February 5th, 130 dinners of beans, brown bread and cake, along with learning material, were delivered to homes. These meals were greatly appreciated by our seniors.

Thanks to Pictou County Seniors Outreach and the Municipality of Pictou County who provided the funding for this project. Many thanks, also, to the staff at Gennoe's Bakery who are unable to hold their own charitable events during Covid-19, and still contribute by supporting community efforts like ours with a reduced cost for the beans and brown bread.

Submitted by Catherine Haslam



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### Churches in the East River Valley

**The United Churches of the  
Hopewell Eureka East River Pastoral Charge**  
Rev. Mavis Peddie 902-616-1366 - St Columba & Bridgeville  
United Churches

**The Presbyterian Churches of the  
East River Pastoral Charge**  
Sharon MacDonald (902) 923-2336

**First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell**  
(902) 923-2526



### **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:**

Bill Holley, Chief (H)902-923-2069 (C) 902-754-9115

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

(C) 902-754-8686

#### **Plymouth Fire Department:**

Mike Conway, Chief 902-755-3229 or 902-759-0153

### East River Valley Fire Department

#### Annual General Meeting

The East River Valley Fire Department deferred its January Annual General Meeting, due to COVID-19 meeting restrictions. We are planning to hold a public meeting in accordance with the NS Government and Public Health guidelines at a date and location yet to be determined.

Members of the community who are interested in fulfilling a role on the Executive Committee can call 923-2222 to put your name forward for the election, to be held at the AGM. Positions include; Chair Person, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The meeting date and location will be communicated via the following methods; East River Valley Fire Dept Facebook page, Andy Thompson's District 11 Facebook page, the sign outside the Fire Hall in Bridgeville and posters at each community mailbox site.

Any questions can be directed to Cathy Hay at 923-2222.

### **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.

### ERVCD Executive 2020

**Chair:** Dave Wilson 902-923-2990

[tanker623@yahoo.ca](mailto:tanker623@yahoo.ca)

**Vice Chair:** Jackie McMahon 902-272-2016

**Secretary:** Marion Dimock 902-272-2016

**Treasurer:** Penny Wilson 902-923-2990

**Coordinator:** Kara Allen [ervcda@live.ca](mailto:ervcda@live.ca)

**Newsletter Submissions:** [spotlight.1@hotmail.com](mailto:spotlight.1@hotmail.com)

Find us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/eastrivervalley/](https://facebook.com/eastrivervalley/)

**Visit the ERVCD Website at**

[www.eastrivervalley.ca](http://www.eastrivervalley.ca)

**To rent the Riverton Hall, please contact  
Jody Holley at 902-754-1322.**



[www.hodgsonkitchen.ca](http://www.hodgsonkitchen.ca)  
[hodgsonkitchen@eastlink.ca](mailto:hodgsonkitchen@eastlink.ca)

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## Mentoring Plus Program

Mentoring Plus is a Federally funded program by the New Horizons for Seniors Program being implemented in Nova Scotia through Dalhousie University's College of Continuing Education. Pictou County has been selected as one of the communities to collaborate on this program with Coordinator GERALYN MacDonald and a steering committee of local residents.

Seniors will be able to share their skills and knowledge in their chosen careers and life experiences with youth and young adults, with special emphasis on those who are facing underemployment or unemployment. This mentorship will allow the youth to explore possible career paths and allow them to become more engaged in their community.

Currently the Mentoring Plus Program is identifying mentors, identifying organizations that the program can help and identifying those who would benefit from this program as a mentee.

Can Mentor Plus help your organization? This can be anything from a small business to church group. What are your challenges that you are facing? How can mentors help?

If you would like more information about this program, East River Valley resident John Cameron is the Mentoring Plus Program Ambassador for our area and would be happy to make contact about ways this program can help.

You can reach John by email at [jkcameron43@gmail.com](mailto:jkcameron43@gmail.com)

Did you know....

The number of Atlantic Canadians over 75 years of age will double in 20 years according to a study released in January by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. Atlantic Canada also has the oldest population in Canada and by 2040, there will be 3 seniors for every 2 young people in the region.

## ERVCDN NEEDS YOU!

We want your voice to be heard!

Do you have time to meet with us for 2 hours a month?

What event would you like to see happen in the East River Valley when it is safe to do so?

We are always looking for new faces, ideas and voices to join our committee! We meet once a month at the Riverton Hall to discuss fundraising and issues that are brought to our attention about community happenings in the East River Valley.

We would love for you to stop by and see if it's something you would be interested in.

If you would like more information about an upcoming meeting, contact Kara at 902-301-0339.

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

ERVCDCA wants to help you get your business started by offering 2 FREE ads in consecutive newsletters.

Extra Newsletters are available in Stellarton at: Poulain's PharmaChoice, Medical Hall Pharmasave, and Pharmacy First

**June-August Newsletter Deadline for submissions is Monday, May 10th.**

If you would like to receive the newsletter and notices by email, please let us know:

[spotlight.1@hotmail.com](mailto:spotlight.1@hotmail.com)

If you are a business in the East River Valley interested in advertising with us, please reach out.

We can even produce advertising for you!

## **WINTER WOBBLE**

Due to lack of interest, unpredictable weather and the ongoing Covid-19 social distancing issues we are all facing, we have decided to cancel our Winter Wobble for 2021.

We apologize to anyone who was looking forward to getting out in the East River Valley to snowshoe.

We hope that 2022 will bring another opportunity for us to host this event with a sit down meal afterwards.



**Amy Meyer**

Tupperware Consultant

902-923-1960

[amy\\_dewtie@hotmail.com](mailto:amy_dewtie@hotmail.com)

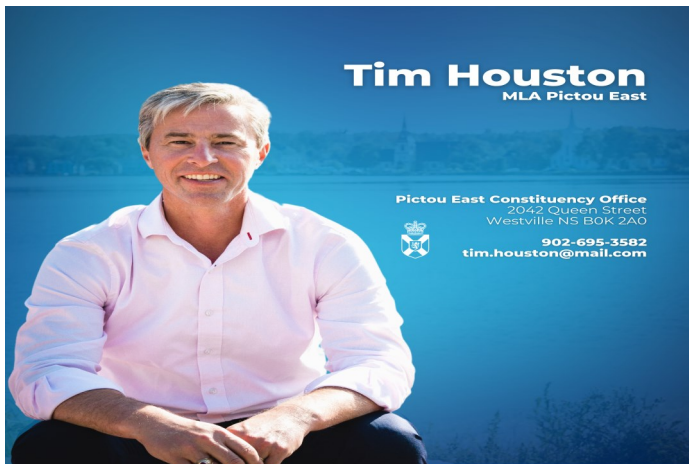
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on Facebook



### **Good news story...**

We have heard that one of our Fall Market Vendors sold more of their products, after someone received it as a Christmas gift. To hear that because of our market this vendor could sell more of their products, makes us extremely happy. We love supporting local!

If you have a good news story, be sure to share it with us! [spotlight.1@hotmail.com](mailto:spotlight.1@hotmail.com) is where you can send it.





## Junior Reporter: Bridget MacGregor

### Groundhog Fun Facts

Since the 1800s groundhogs have been used to predict the weather and with groundhogs day just passing I decided to share some groundhogs facts with you.

1. Groundhogs are also known as woodchucks.
2. Groundhogs are true hibernators.
3. During hibernation a groundhog's heartbeat goes from 80 to 5 beats per minute and their breathing goes as low as 16 to 2 breaths per minute.
4. A groundhog can make burrows up to 2 metres deep with up to 20 metres of tunnels with several exits.
5. The way their burrows are made farmers consider them as pests.
6. They can swim and climb trees.

I hope you enjoyed these groundhog facts and have fun sharing them with your friends and family.

## Meals on Wheels



This program is offered throughout the East River Valley.

Meals are prepared at Valley View Villa kitchen and delivered every Tuesday and Thursday in time for supper. At a cost of \$7 the meal includes soup, bread, main meal and dessert.

Many clients tell us they have enough for two meals, keeping the soup and bread for the next day's lunch.

For more information about the program contact:

Etta Hirtle at 902-923-2244.



## Pictou County Challenger Baseball Fundraising Efforts

Pictou County Challenger Baseball is currently fundraising for all inclusive baseball complex, with fully accessible clubhouse at the Sample Fields in Stellarton. Sponsorship is available, if interested contact Trevor Kearley at [twfkearley@hotmail.com](mailto:twfkearley@hotmail.com)

Several of the Challenger Baseball athletes are from the East River Valley and they make us all very proud every time they step on the field.



**HAPPY EASTER!**

**April 4th 2021**