



Spotlight on the East River Valley
December 2020, January & February 2021
Issue 85



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

People who wonder where the best place in the world to live is have only to watch the news these days. Lying Presidents who won't go gracefully, rampant viruses, the list goes on, but, with a bit of extra caution life in the East River Valley continues pretty well as normal.

We had to change the format for the Christmas market normally held in the Eureka Fire Hall to an outdoor Fall Rural Market. Although we couldn't provide the usual lunch, there were plenty of shoppers glad of a chance to get out of the house and perhaps get a leg up in the Christmas stampede.

We also had a toned-down Hallowe'en at the hall: drive through trick or treating went off quite well and many thanks to the donors that made the event possible. Congratulations to Kara, our Coordinator has shown she has lots of drive and initiative in these difficult times.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 has had a severe effect on ERVCD's finances so this edition of "the Spotlight" has to last you till March, so don't use it to light the fire just yet! We all hope everyone has the best possible Christmas and New Year. Come join us for the Winter Wobble too! (Detail about the Wobble on Page 2).

Drive-Thru Visit with Santa~ December 12th



Join us for a Covid-19 safe, drive-thru visit with Santa on Saturday, December 12th
3-5pm at the Riverton Hall
5678 Stellarton-Trafalgar Rd. Riverton.
Santa will be handing out treats and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.



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 second Tuesday of the month in January & February at the Riverton Hall 5678 Stellarton-Trafalgar Rd. Riverton. 7pm.

Thank you!

A very special thank you to the people of District 12 who supported me in the recent election.

~Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From Chester and Lori Dewar.



Like our Facebook page for updates between Spotlight Newsletters!

Don't miss out on Community News and Happenings!

www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley

2020 Municipal Elections

Congratulations to District 11 Councillor Andy Thompson and District 12 Councillor Chester Dewar.

Both were re-elected on October 17th to be the councillors of the East River Valley.

Chester was also recently acknowledged by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities for 20 years serving as Councillor.

To reach our Councillors:

Andy 902-695-2356

Chester 902-923-2931



Andy Thompson



Chester Dewar

ERVDCDA Annual Winter Wobble Snowshoeing Event



Our Annual Winter Wobble Snowshoe event will take place on Saturday **January 30th**, meeting at the Riverton Hall 5678 Stellarton-Trafalgar Rd. Riverton at 1pm.

Alternate date if bad weather will be Saturday February 6th.

This is a free event, however donations appreciated.

Snowshoes will be available to borrow.

Hot beverage take-out at the Riverton Hall will follow.

Email Kara at spotlight.1@hotmail.com or call 902-301-0339 to register before January 6th.

Cancellation:

Please note that due to Covid-19 the Candy Cane Committee have had to cancel their official tree lighting in Hopewell. They will be lighting a tree and the candy canes in the Village of Hopewell without a public event and hope to be able to celebrate with everyone next year.



Halloween at the Riverton Hall

Our drive-thru Halloween Trick-or-Treat event at the Riverton Hall was a huge success! We shared the Halloween spirit with approximately 150 children and their families. The costumes were fantastic!

We would like to thank all of our community neighbours who donated to provide our large treat bags. A big thanks to the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, who generously donated books for our event. Fostering the love of reading is something we are proud to help with.

Thank you to the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department for once again aiding in the safety of our events. Time and time again they kindly give up their time to assist our organization, and we are so grateful.

Thanks Billy Holley and James Kenny for ensuring everyone was safe!



Rural Fall Market



Thank you to everyone who came out to our 1st Rural Fall Market on October 17th. The Churchville Hall property offered the perfect location for this Covid-19 safe event.

We also would like to take the opportunity to thank our vendors who came with quality products, and gave everyone the perfect reason to Shop Local!

We thought we would share some of the photos of some of the vendors and guests of the market (including District 12 Councillor Chester Dewar and Pictou East MLA Tim Houston, we thank them both for their continued support).

Springville Bridge Officially Opened Friday October 30th at 12:45pm

The residents of Springville and surrounding area would like to thank Balodis Construction and staff for the exceptional job done on the Springville Bridge. They were polite and willing to give of their time to speak to any of the residents that had concerns. They were very accommodating for funerals and the Cemetery Trustees concerns.

Extra "Thanks" goes to those who took the time to write many letters in support of construction for the bridge.

Thanks also to the local residents for their patience regarding this project. The bridge was closed on April 17th, 2018, a long time, especially for those who had to make many daily trips around the site.

Special mention to our ribbon people: left to right in photos Lillian Wilson, Donnie MacLean and Evelyn MacLean.

Finally we must thank the following:

The Province of Nova Scotia

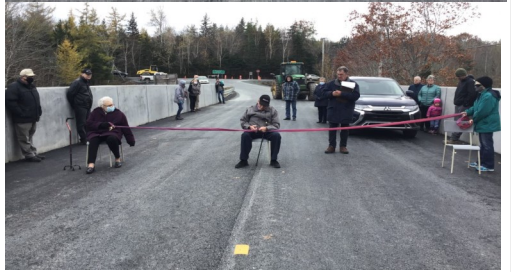
The Honourable Lloyd Hines, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East

Municipality of the County of Pictou for all their support

Again a sincere **THANK YOU** to Balodis Construction for a job well done.

Thanks submitted by: Corinne Johnston





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Churches in the East River Valley

The United Churches of the Hopewell Eureka East River Pastoral Charge Advent Services

December 6~ 9:30am Bridgeville (Communion)
11:00am St. Columba (Communion)

December 13~ 9:30am Bridgeville (White Gift)
11:00pm St Columba (White Gift)

December 20~ 9:30am Bridgeville
11:00am St. Columba

December 24~ 6:30pm St. Columba Christmas
Eve

(seats will be reserved for St. Columba and
Bridgeville congregations as seating is limited.

To reserve your seat, call Marlene Hoeg 902-272-2103 or
Christie Wilson 902-923-2995 by December 13th)
(If seating restrictions allow, registration will be opened to
the public.

We will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing

***Merry Christmas to all and may God Bless each and every
one!***

**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**



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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

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

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

Newsletter Submissions: spotlight.1@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook:

facebook.com/eastrivervalley/

Visit the ERVCD Website at

www.eastrivervalley.ca

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



PC Caucus wants to see Addictions and Mental Health support become Universal

I don't know how many people will break a bone in their life but I know this: they will get treatment. Meanwhile, statistics suggest that *at least one in five* individuals experience issues related to their mental health and many of them won't get the treatment they need. That's cruel. Mental health care IS health care, and access to mental health care is a right, not a privilege.

A study released by the Public Health Agency of Canada says that mental health deterioration caused by COVID-19 isolation and stress has led to people turning to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. People are using screen time over physical exercise to cope with stress which may, in turn, have long term consequences.

The backlog of mental health and addiction needs that are over and above the existing high demand that predated COVID-19 will continue to put pressure on the overwhelmed system. We have watched the numbers of substance abuse issues rise, while the mental health of Canadians decline.

That's why the Addictions and Mental Health plan put forward by our Progressive Conservative Caucus is so timely.

The PC Caucus would make Nova Scotia the only province investing in universal mental health care. No more waiting on an inefficient system. Just access to the professional care you need when you need it. If you don't qualify for private mental health coverage, under our plan, you will.

It would be the most progressive mental health care plan in Canada.

We are at a crucial moment for addictions and mental health as we navigate the pandemic. Everyone deserves access to treatment for mental health—not just those who can afford it or have coverage through work.

Coverage has to be universal for it to work for everyone. This is the way forward.

We will make one Minister *accountable with a separate* department for addictions and mental health.

We will modernize and broaden to a telehealth service that runs 24/7 and conducts proper triage, intake, and directs patients to the proper channels.

We will also move to a 9-8-8 crisis line that recognizes that no one can remember a ten digit number in a state of crisis. We know that those crises often happen during teenage years. Generations of youth grew up with inadequate access to mental health care, limited access to addiction support, and with a stigma attached to seeking help. Had our plan been enacted 20 years ago, how many lives would have been saved? How many could have been changed for the better?

We are focused on ensuring that everyone has a compassionate and comprehensive system available to them. These are thoughtful, necessary investments. These are not political promises. These are personal commitments. That is the new normal we see for Nova Scotia, and for us, that's not politics, it's personal.

The Progressive Conservative Caucus of Nova Scotia.

Business address

Progressive Conservative Caucus Office

Centennial Building, Suite 1001

1660 Hollis St.

Halifax, NS B3J 1V7

Phone: (902) 424-2731

Toll Free: 1-800-363-1998

Email: pcmlas@gov.ns.ca



Left to Right: Progressive Conservative Leader and Pictou East MLA Tim Houston, Pictou West MLA Karla MacFarlane, and Pictou Centre MLA Pat Dunn

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

March-April Newsletter Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 5th.

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

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!



My name is Valerie Chabassol, I am a Veteran of 15 years who has found a passion for photography! I thought pursuing a career would be the next best thing, but after much thinking during Covid I realized that I needed to slow down. I am enjoying retirement, create art, building our homestead dream and doing photoshoots for fun! Getting published in Dreamy Magazine and Edith Magazine feels so rewarding. My daughter Madison is beyond excited that she is featured in one of them and looks forward in doing so much more!

Well done Val and Maddy, great to have such talent in the East River Valley!



Amy Meyer

Tupperware Consultant

902-923-1960

amy_dewtie@hotmail.com

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Junior Reporter: Bridget MacGregor

Chester Dewar's Christmas ...

Chester Dewar, bus driver, farmer, custodian and friend has received his 20 year service award for being a local counsellor in our area. I mostly see Chester at my school and every time there is a smile on his face with a hello. I also see Chester helping out at all the local events, so I decided to talk to Chester about his view on Christmas and his special Christmas traditions.

Chester helps out with all the activities in Hopewell. He said the Hopewell Christmas tree lighting has the best turn out. It has been going on for 15 years. Some of Chester's favorite Christmas activities include Christmas dinner, Christmas eve service and the tree lighting. The Christmas eve service is special because his dad was the minister of the church and Chester and his family would always go together. Christmas afternoon they would always drive out to see their grandparents. Chester continues his Christmas traditions with his brother, Eoin and his family, his wife Lori, his daughter and son in law Michelle and Ryan and their children Ava and Neima. He enjoys their family tradition of opening a couple of gifts on Christmas eve and spending some family time over the holidays.

I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas with some amazing family traditions of your own.

Meals on Wheels

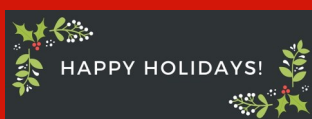
Meal prepared by Valley View Villa and delivered every Tuesday & Thursday at supper. \$7 each includes soup, entrée, bread and dessert.

For more information about the meal program contact: Etta Hirtle at
(902) 923-2244

If you would like more information about volunteering to deliver contact: Arlene MacGregor at
(902) 923-2410

Big shout out to Hopewell resident Ken Fraser for keeping the Village of Hopewell roadsides free of garbage. Ken has placed garbage barrels around the Village and can be seen on his regular rounds each day doing the clean up on behalf of the residents of Hopewell. THANK YOU KEN!

Pictured below is Ken taking great pride in keeping the Village clean!



Happy Holidays from the East River Valley
Community Development Association.

All the best in 2021.