

EAST RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 107

JUNE-AUGUST 2026

6341 East River West Side Rd. Eureka B0K 1B0

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



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Already the recent meeting of representatives of East River Valley community associations has borne fruit: on the last Saturday of April, several halls adopted a passport system to award prizes to those who had them all stamped to encourage customers to participate in a Craft Crawl held concurrently along the East side of the river. Then on the first Saturday in May the same event was held in halls along the West branch.

Promoting each other's events led to more participation for everyone demonstrating the benefit of better cooperation among the Valley's community activities. Here's hoping there will be much more of this from now on.

Spring seems to have decided to start early, I picked a few asparagus shoots today and were they ever tasty. It's remarkable how quickly the fields and woods are drying with the latest windy days, so let's be careful out there!

ERVCD AT THE HOPEWELL CEILIDH

We will be selling cake slices at the Hopewell Ceilidh on Sunday, August 9th 2026.

If you would like to donate a cake for our fundraiser contact Kara at 902-301-0339 or spotlight.1@hotmail.com

Cakes can be dropped off at the Riverton Hall on Saturday, August 8th at 6pm.

If you would like to volunteer your time with us to cut and package cakes, that would be appreciated as well.

We appreciate the community support in this fundraising event for the Hopewell Recreation Association and the ERVCD.

Without the support of community and volunteers, events like this couldn't happen.

Municipal Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations is extended to Ruth Thompson of Plymouth, on her recent Volunteer of the Year Award honour.

On April 21st, MOPC recognized groups and individuals from around the county for their contributions and acts of volunteerism. Ruth was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year for her years of volunteering at the Plymouth Community Centre, which has received some major updates recently.

Ruth accepted her award with a wonderful speech, emphasizing the importance of young people getting involved, like she did many years ago when she first moved to Nova Scotia, and making a difference in their communities.



We love receiving good news to share.

Send to Kara at spotlight.1@hotmail.com to be included in the next newsletter.

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RIVERTON HALL RENTALS



The Riverton Hall offers a cozy space for gatherings for up to 44 people. Accessible entrance and washrooms, and a brand new kitchen.

Rentals are available at the Riverton Hall by contacting Kara at 902-301-0339.

Visit the website for availabilities
<https://eastrivervalley.ca/>

Village of Hopewell Crier, Lester Ward

Thank you, Lester for your passion and dedication to making a difference in the village of Hopewell. Lester has been our Village Crier over the past twenty five years, he has walked as lead in the annual Hopewell Ceilidh parade, officiated in the annual Christmas tree lighting, bought and distributed candy for the children, and helped John Currie with the maintenance of the candy cane lights. Lester is also a dedicated Lodge member at Scotia Lodge #11 Westville, selling tickets at various locations in town, raising money for the fuel fund program or supplies for back to school program. Due to declining health, Lester has had to resign as the Hopewell Village Crier, but his contribution is sincerely appreciated over the years. Thank you, Lester from the Residents of the Village of Hopewell and the entire East River Valley.



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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST



HAPPY CANADA DAY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST

CHURCHES IN THE EAST RIVER VALLEY

The United Churches of the
Hopewell Eureka East River Pastoral Charge
St Columba & Bridgeville United Churches
Minister Sam Graham 902-921-0137

The Presbyterian Churches of the
East River Pastoral Charge
Springville Jim Wilson 902-923-2696
St. Paul's Howard Archibald 902-928-2780

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 FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

East River Valley Fire Department
2020 East River East Side Rd. Bridgeville
Kevin Stuart, Chief 902-923-2893
kevinandleisa@hotmail.com
Jason MacIntyre, Deputy Chief 902-759-3588
Tuesday Training Meetings at 7pm

Eureka and District Fire Department
5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Rd. Eureka
Hall 902-923-2751
Roger Caddall, Chief 902-759-6526
Brandon MacDonald, Deputy Chief 902-301-6697
Civic signs can be ordered through Cliff Jardine
cliffjardine@hotmail.com

Plymouth Fire Department
4667 East River East Side Rd. Plymouth
Rod Livingstone, Chief
902-396-9161
Wayne VanVeen, Deputy Chief
902-759-2368
plymouthfire13@gmail.com
Monday Training Meetings 7pm

If interested in volunteering at one of the
departments reach out today!



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The Hopewell Recreation
Association have lots on the
go, including a monthly
50/50.
Follow their page for all the
details.
[https://www.facebook.com/
hopewellrec](https://www.facebook.com/hopewellrec)

Childcare at the Plymouth Community Centre

The Plymouth Community & Recreation Association is now accepting names for the Plymouth Learning Center daycare waitlist. The Center is expected to open early 2027. To add your child to the waitlist, please email: Plymouthlearningcenter@gmail.com

Include the following information in your message:

- Child's name and date of birth
- Your name, contact email and phone number

MEALS ON WHEELS



Meals is on hold, due to the strike at Valley View Villa.

To get on the list contact Alice Cameron at 902-928-0767.

ERVCA CRIB TOURNAMENT

Thank you to everyone who attended our second Crib Tournament on April 11th. It was wonderful to see the community come together and all the new connections being made. These crib tournaments have proven to be popular, so we will plan on hosting another one on October 17th starting at 1pm. If you're interested in signing up early, call or text Kara at 902-301-0339.

Looking to advertise or Submit?

September-November Deadline for newsletter submissions is Tuesday, August 4

Our newsletter reaches over 1500 by mail and electronically. Advertising is available by contacting Kara.

Pricing for ads are as follows:

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

Email spotlight.1@hotmail.com for details.



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Bridgeville Community Hall

Yard Sale & Bake Sale

June 6th 8am-12 noon

\$10 a table if you would like to sell
email

2twins1979@gmail.com



HOPEWELL FOOTBRIDGE CEILIDH

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR EVERYONE
AUGUST 9TH
Parade start 12:45pm
Ceilidh to follow 1-6pm

Music all afternoon
Lots of family fun for everyone including
Face Painting
Lawn Games
& More

Food Trucks, BBQ & Sweets; most are cash only
Follow our Facebook page for updates & to see music lineup

 Hopewell Recreation Association
 hopewellrecreation@gmail.com



MARKETS IN THE EAST RIVER VALLEY

ERVCD in partnership with the Plymouth Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary, Bridgeville Community Centre, Sunny Brae Community Centre, Eureka Fire Department and Lorne Community Hall were able to host successful market weekends in the East River Valley.

What came together as a "Craft Crawl" idea, came to fruition and the halls, vendors and those buying all seemed to be pleased at its success. On April 25th, Plymouth, Bridgeville and Sunny Brae hosted their events with a passport being handed out for people to visit all three locations and a chance to win a prize.

Winners were: Lisa Spurvey, Cindy MacKinnon and Donna Hartlen.

50/50 winner in Plymouth was Donna Hartlen (she was really lucky that weekend).

Bridgeville held a gift card draw and the winner was Jeannie Bouchie.

On May 2nd, there was a market in Eureka at the fire hall, where there were baked goods, crafts, coffee and more. 50/50 winner was Evie Fraser.

We hope to host something like this again, so keep an eye on our social media.



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Municipal leaders from Pictou County's six municipalities recently took time to honour former REMO - Regional Emergency Management Organization Pictou County staff John Davison and Dan MacDonald for their years of dedicated service to the region.

Pictured from left are Stellarton Mayor Darren Stroud, New Glasgow Mayor Nancy Dicks, MOPC Warden Robert Parker, former REMO Coordinator John Davison, former REMO Alternate Coordinator Dan MacDonald, Westville Mayor Lennie White, Trenton Mayor Alec Dove and Pictou Mayor Jim Ryan.

GO CLEAN GET GREEN COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP



Larry and Tina have done a wonderful job, once again promoting the clean up in the East River Valley and on April 25th spearheaded a community clean up in Churchville. They have also made and distributed hand-made anti-litter signs that have been put up along our roadways. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time in keeping our valley clean, not just during the Go Clean Get Green week, but everyday.

Take pride in your community, don't litter. A lunch was served at the Churchville Hall after the clean-up, thanks to those volunteers who prepared the meal.



The Sunny Brae Community Centre has a new Executive, they are as follows;
Chad Dewtie- Chair
Jillian Horne- Vice Chair
Bambalina Cameron- Secretary
Janet MacLeod- Treasurer
Brenda Sharpe- Past Chair

It's great to see the renovations done to this hall and having it open for events and rentals. Contact Chad at 902-301-9259 or Brenda at 902-923-2197 to inquire about rentals.

Hon. Tim Houston
MLA for Pictou East

902-695-3582
pictoueastamanda@gmail.com
2042-1 Queen Street, Westville, NS, B0K 2A0

ERVCD Outdoor Rural Fall Market

This year's Outdoor Fall Market at the Churchville Hall will take place on Saturday, September 19th from 11am-2pm. To sign up to be a vendor contact Kara at 902-301-0339 or spotlight.1@hotmail.com Youth Vendors will be inside. More details to follow on our website.

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FEEDING COMMUNITIES GRANT

ERVCDCA recently was awarded a Feeding Communities Grant through the Province of Nova Scotia. This grant is to assist with the free lunch programs at the two high schools that students from the East River Valley would attend (Northumberland Regional in Alma and North Nova in New Glasgow). ERVCDCA Coordinator Kara is working with each school to decide what food is needed most for their students to prepare. Kara was recently invited to see how Northumberland Regional High School serves their free lunch. Like a well-oiled machine, students under the guidance of Culinary Teacher, Paul Heighton and teacher Karen Berezowski they served almost 200 students buffet-style in 30 minutes! The students were given a choice of three salads, three soups, and four main dishes, prepared that morning by Mr. Heighton's Culinary class and served by student volunteers. Teachers volunteer to help with the long line up each lunch, but students are incredibly respectful.

To date they have served over 13,000 FREE meals this school year. Students are well fed and ready to learn after lunch, staff notice the difference and everyone is happy. With the help of our grant, they'll be able to afford to serve meals everyday, but they always welcome donations from the public.

Fruit trees have recently been planted at NRHS, which should yield fruit in 2-4 years, and they are awaiting the construction of a greenhouse in the front of the school. This will assist with growing their own fruits and vegetables in the future in Alma. ERVCDCA is pleased to be able to make a difference to the two high schools in our catchment, we know the importance of feed security especially for growing minds.



Small Halls Sessions

On May 5th the Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre welcomed representatives from halls throughout Pictou County for the first of small halls sessions. Representatives from the West Branch Hall, Merigomish, and ERVCDCA/Riverton Hall were panelists discussing revenue generation for their halls, and partnerships formed to bring events to fruition. A lovely light lunch was served by the Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre.

These sessions will continue on June 9th at the Springville Church Hall, with the topic being accessibility.

Presented by the Municipality of Pictou County, the Pictou County Partnership and Community, Culture, Tourism & Heritage, it was a great opportunity for everyone to network, hear stories of success, and learn about the various activities held in the halls that presented.

Volunteer Nova Scotia also presented remotely and discussed the <https://www.volunteers.ca/> website. Halls and organizations can sign up online to recruit volunteers, and those looking for volunteers can search for opportunities. We encourage everyone to sign up if they are looking for volunteers or to volunteer their time.

Every third Sunday~ Kitchen Party at the Churchville Hall 1-4pm

Every third Tuesday~ Coffee Social at the Churchville Hall 8-10am

May 23~ Biscuit Bake-off at the Churchville Hall 2pm * Contact Arlene at 902-923-2410 to register.

June 6~ ERV 50 Mile Yard Sale *Various Yard Sales throughout the East River Valley

June 6~ Bridgeville Community Hall Yard & Bake Sale 8am-12noon

June 21~ Father's Day

June 30~ Grading Day (LAST DAY OF SCHOOL)

July 1~ Canada Day

August 4~ Newsletter submission deadline for Sept-Nov 2026

August 8~Golf Tournament in support of the Ceilidh-Hopewell Links *see poster on page 6

August 8~ Cake drop off at the Riverton Hall 6pm.

August 9~ Hopewell Ceilidh 12:45pm parade, ceilidh from 1-6pm-Elgin Rd. *see poster on page 6

September 19~ ERVCDCA Outdoor Rural Fall Market-Churchville Hall 11am-2pm.



Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/eastrivervalley> to keep up-to-date on all the happenings in between newsletters.