

GREATER SAINT JOHN

Anniversary Lower Millstream United Baptist Church celebrates 180 years of memories C6

Fish Atlantic salmon bred in captivity have better luck when exposed to wild: scientist C7

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GREATER SAINT JOHN JOURNAL

Donation
Wine bar gives to animal shelter

SAINT JOHN – Wine lovers have helped raise \$2,000 for the Saint John SPCA Animal Rescue. Happinez Wine Bar hosted two wine tasting events earlier this week as a fundraiser. All the wines featured had references to cats and dogs in either their name or on their logo, said Fran Menton, who helped organize the event. One of the wines featured was the Flat Roof Manor Pinot Grigio and the Flat Roof Manor Merlot. From Sept. 30 until Oct. 27, a portion of all sales of the Flat Roof wines sold in New Brunswick will be going to the NBSPCA, Menton said.

Crime
Impaired driving charges laid

SAINT JOHN – A Saint John man will be appearing in court to answer charges related to impaired driving after a traffic stop on Saturday afternoon. Sgt. Jay Henderson with the Saint John Police Force said the 33-year-old man was stopped by a patrol officer at 4:37 p.m. on Saturday, along Magazine Street near Fort Howe. “The officer on patrol was driving behind the vehicle, and he noticed him just because of his irregular driving behaviour,” Henderson said. “He pulled the vehicle over and the classic signs were there, smell of alcohol and all that.” Henderson said the man blew over the legal limit when administered the breathalyzer test and was charged as a result. He’s due to appear in court the morning of Nov. 7.

March
Take back the night

SAINT JOHN – Community members will take to King’s Square this evening in a march aimed at promoting an end to violence against women. Organizers cite figures like one out of three women worldwide being victimized by abuse in one form or another, and less than 50 per cent of abuse crimes against women ever being reported. All are invited to support the cause and take part in the “Take Back the Night” march, which meets at the Bandstand at 8 p.m., rain or shine. Afterwards, a reception with refreshments will happen at St. Joseph’s Community Health Centre at 116 Coburg St.

Entertainment
Avner the Eccentric

SAINT JOHN – People from all over the world flock to study with one of the world’s greatest living vaudeville performers, a brilliant clown who has been tickling audience funny bones for more than four decades. People may remember him playing the title role in the film *The Jewel of the Nile*, or perhaps you’ve had the chance to see him on Broadway. Avner makes his home just across the border in Maine and has agreed to make a special stop in Saint John to help celebrate the Imperial’s 100th birthday. The event will be held at the Imperial at 8 p.m. on Friday. For more information, go to www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca or call 674-4100.

Regional trade board is closer

Business Area chambers of commerce discussing partnerships and joint work

RYAN MELANSON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – A new, regional chamber of commerce for the Greater Saint John area is one step closer to reality this week, though those involved say a merger isn’t a done deal yet.

The chambers announced their intention to form a new

partnership in August, and meetings are now being held to discuss the implications of a new group with the members who would be represented by it.

Monday saw the Kennebecasis Valley Chamber of Commerce discuss the issue and a meeting was held by the West Side Business Association on Tuesday. Next Monday will see the Saint

John Board of Trade members meet, and the series of discussions will wrap up on Oct. 8 with the River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Saint John Board of Trade chair Eric Poirier said reaction from member businesses was extremely positive at both Monday and Tuesday’s meeting. “But I don’t want to skip steps,”

he said.

“I think people are seeing the opportunity, but it’s important for us to continue to connect and engage, because in the end it’s the membership of each of our organizations that will decide.”

Poirier said the benefits to PLEASE SEE → **BOARD, C2**

Bus drivers take rail safety seriously: officials

Crossings
Ottawa crash at rail crossing serves as reminder for drivers in Saint John

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – A horrific crash between a bus and a train in Ottawa that left six people dead is hitting home for Saint John Transit drivers, says general manager Frank McCarey.

“In our industry, it’s very disconcerting when this happens, but it’s a reminder to all our drivers and all our employees you have to be extra careful,” he said.

The collision happened Wednesday morning on a road reserved for transit vehicles when a double-decker transit bus plowed through a flashing level crossing and into a passing Via Rail train.

McCarey said the Saint John Transit drivers have been talking about the crash, as they cross dozens of rail crossings in a city bustling with rail traffic.

“How did it happen is the big question,” he said. “There’s something very unusual about this. I think you’ll have to wait to see what happened.”

In New Brunswick, passenger vehicles are required by law to stop at all rail crossings, whether there is a train or not, McCarey said.

As well, to keep their license, transit drivers are required to have medical exams every four years until they are 50, after which time the exams are every two years. The medicals are more frequent if necessary.

McCarey said there is a lot more rail traffic in Saint John than there used to be, with more oil tankers destined for the refinery.

The busiest crossings are on Rothesay and Thorne avenues near the Superstore, as well as Simms Corner, he said.

McCarey said there has never been a collision between a train and transit bus in Saint John.

PLEASE SEE → **SAFETY, C2**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



The Simonds Lions Caledonian Pipe Band played across the street in King’s Square as the Imperial Theatre celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a major concert on Thursday featuring numerous performers. PHOTO: CINDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Funding makes ministry accessible for those in need

RYAN MELANSON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – The RiverCross Church and RiverCross Mission have been working throughout the year to renovate and implement new services at their north-end Main Street location, and nearly \$50,000 in federal funding announced Thursday will ensure the facility is fully accessible for those who need it most.

Saint John MP Rodney Weston was on hand at the RiverCross

Mission location, formerly Main Street Baptist Church, to announce the \$49,875 in money coming from the government’s Enabling Accessibility Fund.

With the church’s worship services moved to the new location on Forbes Drive off Millidge Avenue, a name change was in order, said Community Outreach Pastor John Knight. Main Street Baptist became RiverCross, and the Hope Ministry became the RiverCross Mission.

The Main Street location is being transformed into a new

mission headquarters, with the old church sanctuary serving as a community room. Floors are being redone, pews have been replaced with comfortable couches and chairs, and thanks to the new funding, wheelchair ramps and bathroom railings, among other features, will be included.

“It will be a fully accessible space for anyone who comes along who might have difficulty. Maybe they have a walker of they’re in a wheelchair or whatever, they can come in and take

advantage of these services,” Knight said.

Those services include mainstays like a weekly VON nurse wellness program and the mission drop-in, which provides basics like food and comfort to neighborhood residents in need.

“People are welcome, basic needs are met and we also try to offer some friendship. Spiritual opportunities are there for those who want to take advantage of that as well,” Knight said.

PLEASE SEE → **FUNDING, C2**

Prominent women donate purses for a good cause

JENNIFER PRITCHETT
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – An evening clutch that belonged to Rita MacNeil and contains the well-known country singer’s last autograph she signed before she died is one of a series of well-known Canadians’ handbags that are up for auction in the Port City.

The fourth annual “Distinguished Persons Purses” event, held this Sunday at Lily Lake Pavilion, is a fundraising luncheon for the Salvation Army Auxiliary in Saint John. The event showcases new or gently used handbags from prominent

people.

Anne Hickey, one of the co-chairs of the event, said MacNeil had agreed prior to her passing in April that she would donate a purse.

“One of the ladies (from the auxiliary) went to her tea room (in Cape Breton) after she had passed away, and her son told her that she had signed the inside of the evening bag ‘Love Rita MacNeil, xoxo 2013,’” she said.

“We feel pretty special about that piece. It’s a lovely evening handbag with a thin shoulder strap on it, and it has some colourful gems.”

Among the other purses up for

grabs is one from Sophie Trudeau, Justin Trudeau’s wife, who donated a leather satchel made by Gerard Darel.

There’s an authentic pink leather Prada bag from Margaret McCain, a philanthropist and former New Brunswick lieutenant governor. Mayor Mel Norton’s wife, Stephanie Bell, has donated a Kate Spade brand bag.

There’s also a black evening bag from Martha MacIsaac, an actress who played Emily in the television series *Emily of New Moon*. The purse is covered in small Swarovski crystals.

PLEASE SEE → **PURSES, C2**



4th Annual Luncheon and Auction of Purses of Distinguished Women chairwomen Yvonne Holmes, left, and Anne Hickey hold onto some of the purses that will be up for auction. From left, a sealskin purse donated by Nunavit Premier Eva Aariak, a signed Rita MacNeil Purse, a Pink Prada donated by Margaret McCain and a Swarovski crystal clutch donated by actress Martha MacIsaac. PHOTO: CINDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

GREATER SAINT JOHN

“If you think you are not guilty then you need to have a trial.” ANDREW LEMESURIER

Guilty plea ‘to get it over with’ not accepted

BRUCE BARTLETT
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – Jody Kier Richard, who has been in jail since May 30 awaiting trial on charges of assaulting and confining a woman, said he wanted to plead guilty to get it over with when he appeared in court Thursday.

But provincial court Judge Andrew LeMesurier said he couldn't accept a guilty plea unless Richard, 34, is guilty.

“If you think you are not guilty, then you need to have a trial,” the judge said.

Richard's legal problems got more complicated in August when, according to court records, he fired his legal aid lawyer Allen Doyle.

Thursday Richard told the court he had a disagreement with Doyle in August but he didn't think he had fired him.

“I called him over to the (prisoner's) box after and apologized,” Richard told the court Thursday.

In his most recent court appearance, Richard was represented by duty counsel Margaret Gallagher because he was scheduled to be sentenced on five probation violations to which he had pleaded guilty earlier.

Gallagher said Richard had applied for a new legal aid lawyer but had been denied. He had appealed that decision and lost the appeal. But as duty counsel she said she could represent him at sentencing on charges where he had entered guilty pleas.

But the sentencing on the probation violations bogged down when the judge realized he couldn't credit Richard for any of his time in jail on remand since the end of May because Richard was in jail on the more serious

charges of confinement and assault after being denied bail.

The judge suggested that the Crown's disclosure be sent to Richard at the jail so he could read all the statements taken by police and see the videos of interviews with the witnesses.

LeMesurier told Richard that if he sees the evidence against him and then wants to plead guilty, it could be accepted. He was remanded back to jail until Oct. 8 and can either plead guilty when he comes back or set a trial date.

In August he pleaded guilty to three separate charges all dating back to 2012 of breaking a condition of his probation that said he could not drink to the point it brought him to police attention.

He also pleaded guilty to failing to attend court on April 15 and May 11 of this year. Richard had also missed a

court appearance on July 16, 2013, but the Crown withdrew it when it was confirmed he had been in jail at the time.

In August prosecutor Kelly Winchester detailed incidents in July, October and December last year where an intoxicated Richard either caused trouble, stumbled into the path of the police or yelled in a public space.

In one instance, police were called by Richard's ex-girlfriend because he was at her place and threatened to “get her son and left through a back door with a steak knife,” Winchester said.

Richard was found by police, but didn't have a knife in his possession and told the court he couldn't remember most incidents.

Gallagher told the court Thursday that Richard has had many sad incidents in his life but has made attempts to deal with them through counselling.

IN THE COURTS

Robbery accused remain behind bars

SAINT JOHN – A 27-year-old woman who was picked up with a man charged in a robbery at the Best Western Hotel in east Saint John on Sept. 11 is back in custody after failing to abide by a curfew condition. **Rio M. M. Cameron** was supposed to stay at the Coverdale Centre which has a 10 p.m. curfew. Cameron, who appeared to be under the influence of something in court said several times that 10 p.m. was too early. She was about to be released after promising to follow the curfew but was brought back into court after telling one of the sheriffs she intended to leave the country. Cameron was remanded to jail until Oct. 25. Her co-accused, **Chad Ellsworth**, 35, of Prince Edward Island, also appeared Thursday with a lawyer. He was remanded back to jail until Oct. 7 to allow his lawyer to look at the disclosure of the case against him.

Shoplifter told to get help

SAINT JOHN – **Shannon Lynn Regenbogen**, 31, pleaded guilty Thursday to shoplifting from the Superstore on Rothesay Avenue on July 26, 2013. Loss prevention officers saw two people going along the aisles putting items inside their clothing, said prosecutor Lucie Mathurin. Regenbogen was stopped outside the store with \$91 worth of cosmetics and produce, the prosecutor said. Duty counsel Margaret Gallagher said Regenbogen has addiction issues she is trying to deal with. Provincial court Judge Andrew LeMesurier gave her a conditional discharge with six months of probation to stay away from all Superstores in Saint John and Kings County.

Accused released on conditions

SAINT JOHN – **Greg Campbell**, 20, of Queen Street West, and **Paul Hamilton-Smith**, 21, of St. John Street West will return to court on Nov. 18, 2013 to set trial dates on charges arising out of an alleged home invasion and stabbing incident on Duke Street West on Sept. 15. Hamilton-Smith, who has been in custody since the incident, was released Thursday on conditions. Campbell was on a conditional sentence at the time, and one of the conditions was that he have no contact with Hamilton-Smith. He pleaded guilty to breaching that condition but denied involvement with the home invasion. Provincial court Judge Andrew LeMesurier revoked his conditional sentence for 15 days.

WORDS IN SEASON

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29 (King James Version)

ALMANAC

Lotteries

Keno for Wednesday, Sept. 18: The unofficial winning numbers were: 01-02-03-11-22-28-30-32-33-34-40-41-42-44-45-46-47-50-57-62. The tag number was: 697330.

Bucko for Wednesday, Sept. 18: The unofficial winning numbers were: 06-13-26-30-31.

Lotto 6/49 for Wednesday, Sept. 18: The unofficial winning numbers were: 13-22-23-31-35-45. Bonus number was: 33.

WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE
Our flyer distributed between September 18-20 and effective Sept. 20 – Sept. 26, 2013. Page 6 : The Parent's Choice Mega Diapers (30333595/6/7/8) should be \$22.83 ea. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. 6710413R

TELEGRAPH JOURNAL LOCAL FLYER GUIDE			
Different areas will have different flyers. You may receive flyers from several, but not necessarily all, of the following advertisers.			
SATURDAY (11)	Sears	Smart Source	Toyota Indigo
MONDAY	East Coast Living		
TUESDAY	No inserts		
WEDNESDAY	Pizza Delight	Giant Tiger	Home Depot
THURSDAY	Mark's Work Wearhouse	Staples	
FRIDAY	Lounsbury Furniture	M&M Meat Shop	Pizza Delight
	Co-op	Pharmachoice	Pharmasave
	Sobeys	Kent Building Supplies	Sears
	Superstore	Save Easy	Canadian Living
	Canadian Tire	Lawtons	Home Hardware
	Guardian Drugs	No Frills	The Source
	Wal-Mart	Greco	
FRIDAY	Michaels	Future Shop	Shoppers Drug Mart
SATURDAY (12)	Maritime Travel	Sears	CCIFA Foundation
	SD Excavating	NB Wildlife Trust Fund	

A regional board would have a vice-president from each region

BOARD ← C1

having a region-wide organization representing businesses are clear.

“It's all about trying to enhance the value our members receive. About 80 per cent of our members are small businesses, and the networking component is huge. The larger the network, the more opportunity there is to connect, learn from each other and do business with each other.”

A larger group would also lend more clout to advocacy work on behalf of business, he said.

“There's a lot of power in speaking with one voice.”

Poirier added further benefits could include better access to health plans, or special member-to-member business deals. Together, the four associations have 1,000 member businesses that

employ around 35,000 people across the region.

Thus far, the main concern being raised from chamber members is focused on a possible loss of voice, with small, unique chambers disappearing into a regional behemoth.

“Every area obviously has pride in what they've been able to accomplish, and along with that comes a sense of ownership,” said KV Chamber of Commerce president Jennifer Higgins. “Everyone knows there will be benefits that come with having a bigger voice, but you don't want to lose that identity.”

She said the reaction of her members at Monday's meeting could be summed up as cautious optimism.

“There are always smaller issues within each community that are very near and dear to our own hearts, but may not be necessarily the No. 1 priority for

a larger group,” she said.

Higgins said small business owners may become intimidated if they need to bring specific concerns to a board of people they aren't familiar with, and ensuring clear communication paths with all members will be an absolute priority if a regional chamber is to succeed.

West side Coun. Greg Norton, who attended Tuesday's meeting, said west side businesses are expressing the same concern, but it's overrun by the positive. He said one owner summed it up well in saying her business and customer base doesn't simply end at Reversing Falls or the Harbour Bridge.

“This is exactly what our city of Saint John needs in terms of uniting our business community into one, to have us all singing off that same proverbial song sheet. I applaud them,” he said.

Poirier said he expects feedback to be similarly positive at the next two meetings. Come October, leaders of all four groups will reflect on the next step, which will involve discussion as to how the governance structure would work.

He said a regional board would mirror its membership, with representation from each area, and a VP spot reserved on the executive for a leader of each original group. It's a start on the way to address concerns about identity loss, he said.

“The real power in this partnership is actually to be able to maintain that grassroots identity, while still having the larger network, still being able to connect and being attuned to each other's opportunities and challenges, so we can advocate strongly for everybody, with a collective focus on moving the region forward.”

NB Southern Railway crossings are inspected on a weekly basis

SAFETY ← C1

“The record of the transit industry and in terms of accidents is probably second to none, but when it happens, it can be very tragic because of the number of people on the bus,” he said.

According to the Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash, there were 2,162 crossing accidents on federally-regulated railways between 2003 and 2012, resulting in 266 deaths and 346 serious injuries.

NB Southern Railway spokeswoman Mary Keith said her company is committed to the highest standard of safety.

“Regarding level crossings, the regulations and inspections are extensive,” she said in an email.

“Our general operating instructions, which the signal maintainers follow, is extremely comprehensive.

“On a weekly basis an inspection is done to ensure each crossing activates

and functions properly. Active crossings also undergo various other inspections throughout the year but each week an inspection occurs and the level of detail is significant.

These records are retained and audited frequently by Transport Canada on site at the crossing. It is important to note that within Saint John we do not operate above 10 miles/hour.”

NB Southern has 16 active crossings in Saint John, all of which have some type of bell and flasher and some have gates.

“Since 2010 we have had one grade level crossing accident in Saint John - no injuries and the driver of the car acknowledged responsibility,” Keith said. “All incidents involving level crossings are reported to Transport Canada.”

Zoë Watson, superintendent of the Anglophone South School District, said rail safety is something taken seriously by school bus drivers as well.

All public school bus drivers must stop prior to proceeding over a railway crossing.

They put the four-way flashers on, open the door and look, Watson said. When all is clear they proceed across the tracks.

“Drivers receive extensive training,” she said in an email.

The training - which includes five days in class and six days behind the wheel - includes a railway safety component.

“We also offer refresher training. Our drivers are well trained and are provided on-going professional learning through the school year.”

Watson said drivers have a “huge responsibility” in the district, which spans from Grand Manan to Sussex Corner.

More than 200 drivers transport about 90 per cent of the district's 24,000 students each day in cities and rural

communities.

“With younger children, rules of walking, crosswalks, waiting for the bus, and railway crossings would be reminders at the start of the school year,” she said. “The safety of our students is priority.”

Officials with the City of Saint John declined to comment on the safety of rail crossings in the municipality.

Lisa Caissie, city spokeswoman, said rail safety involves several organizations, including Canadian National and NB Southern Railway, as well as provincial and federal authorities.

“The City of Saint John could not comment on how or if safety at rail crossings could or should be enhanced as a result of the tragic event in Ottawa without engaging in dialogue with these various stakeholders and without understanding what recommendations may result from the investigation of this event,” she said in an email.

- With files from the Canadian Press

Enabling Accessibility Fund was introduced six years ago

FUNDING ← C1

New services will likely be added in the near future also, including a literacy program that's currently being developed with mission volunteers.

Also notable is the establishment of the new North End Food Bank at the location, which was previously on Adelaide Street. Knight said it's a huge improvement over the “cattle lines” that could be seen as people waited for service at the old food bank.

“People are welcomed into the foyer, they can join us for coffee or grab a muffin or whatever, sit at the table and enjoy themselves at the same time. It's a more relaxed feel and a more welcoming feel for the food bank.

“We're just continuing to explore many different ways we can bring together a range of programs and services here.”

It's all part of the church's success story, which saw the need for a new location arise when membership swelled in recent years.

They've also been huge proponents of improving quality of life in the north end, working closely with the ONE Change organization.

Weston said the accessibility fund, through the Department of Social Development, was a perfect match for the ministry as they undergo renovations.

“They've been undergoing a major overhaul, and to be able to work with the people here and make sure they're

able to reduce those barriers as they're transforming. It's really nice to see them take advantage of the funding.”

The Enabling Accessibility Fund was introduced in 2007 and has received \$90 million in funding over the last six years. The program was extended in the 2013 federal budget with an ongoing \$15 million per year commitment.

“This project is really needed in this part of the community, it reaches out to the most vulnerable and those with those disabilities are very vulnerable as well. I think it means an awful lot to be able to help here,” Weston said.

Weston said the Saint John Theatre Company has received money in the past, as well as a few other local projects. Another accessibility

announcement is also coming in the near future, he said.

For Doreen Gillet, a longtime member of the church and frequenter of outreach programs that often see former addicts and convicts mingling with area seniors and ministry volunteers, the renovations and improvements are a blessing.

“It's really something they've done here. It's really great.

“We do need ramps for the wheelchairs though for some and we need the railings in the bathrooms so people can get up,” she said, expressing thanks those features would soon be implemented.

“I'm 82 and I don't get up without some help.”

‘Wow, that's something that's unique and really neat’

PURSES ← C1

One of the more unusual handbags is a hand-made sealskin purse with caribou bones. It comes from Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak.

With well-known brands such as Coach, Fendi and Prada, as well as some that aren't designer, the auction offers something for everyone.

CBC Radio personality and host of Q Jian Ghomeshi donated a tote bag.

There's even a man-purse - a first for the auction.

“The auction is going to be able to satisfy a wide range of our guests as far as price range,” said Hickey.

Hickey, who organized the event with co-chair Yvonne Holmes, said 100 per cent of the funds raised from the event will be used by the ladies auxiliary to help meet the needs of existing Salvation Army programs in the city.

“It doesn't go to regional headquarters, it stays here in Saint John,” she

said.

There are also pieces of local art that have also been donated and will be up for auction.

Typically, the annual event raises about \$7,000.

Hickey said the event started after a member of the auxiliary had heard about something similar in the United States.

“So we took it and ran (with it) and created our own around it,” she said.

Hickey isn't aware of any event like

this one in Canada.

“We've contacted women from all over Canada and some of the responses have been ‘wow, that's something that's unique and really neat,’” she said.

“It's not asking them for money; it's not asking them to be there in person. It's just getting a little piece of them and bringing it to us and we're sharing that.”

Sunday's event is basically sold out and could probably only accommodate a couple of other people, said Hickey.