



There's a lot going on in October in Albert County

Oct 13. **Lobster fleet launch**

Oct 17. **Oktoberfest**

Oct 19. **Election Day**

Drive and Thrive~ *Rural transportation service offers more than just a drive into town*

by Deborah Carr

When Serge Levesque first moved to Hillsborough, he found the people to be warm and compassionate, but he didn't understand the full extent until he was diagnosed with cancer in June 2014.

"We needed to find a solution to our transportation problem quickly because I wasn't allowed to drive during my chemo treatments or the periods of crippling fatigue that came with them," he said. His wife, Martine, did not drive. They had no family in the province.

While in a doctor's office, Martine picked up a pamphlet describing a new Albert County service called Tele-Drive.

"Tele-Drive is an affordable door-to-door community transportation service for residents who live anywhere from Alma to Riverview," says coordinator Kim Beers. "Our drivers are volunteers who give their own time and use their own vehicle to help bring neighbours to the appointments and services that they need for a healthy, whole life."

The service, which launched in October 2013 with two users and five volunteers, currently provides transportation for 50 households from Alma to Riverview and is growing all the time. Drivers volunteer their time and use their own vehicle, but their mileage is reimbursed.



Tele-Drive Volunteer Marion Stevens and Tele-Drive Coordinator Kim Beers (L-R). Photo by Deborah Carr.

“The rides are more like wheels for wellness,” says Kim, “because 95% are for medical appointments such as chemotherapy, radiation, day surgery, doctor, dentist or eye care. The other 5% are rides to the food bank, physiotherapy, addiction services, day-care, pharmacy, shopping and transporting students for summer employment.”

Tele-Drive has 27 community volunteers, among them Lynn Beals, who had recently retired and grown bored with playing golf. She tried a few part-time jobs, but still wanted to feel useful. Then she found Tele-Drive. “It has been a great experience,” she says. “I enjoy the satisfaction of being able to help someone out.”

She chuckles. “I’m a senior, but they are more senior than me.”

As with the other volunteers, she goes far beyond what is expected. When one of her regular clients required day surgery, but didn’t have family nearby, Lynn stayed with her until evening, went back the next day, and kept the woman’s family informed. “You just do what you think is right,” says Lynn. “You think what if your own parents were in that situation.”

Kim says this happens all the time. “Our volunteers are building valuable and caring relationships in the community.” When she surveyed both volunteers and users, over 50% said they felt an increase in feelings of happiness, and all felt more connected, less stressed and isolated.

“We have six extreme cases of isolation,” says Kim. “This has been life-changing for them. Getting your hair done or going shopping are little things we take for granted, but it’s a big deal for them. It makes me happy to see them feeling better.”

Volunteer Marion Stevens says it has opened her eyes to the needs of the elderly, and how many do not have anyone to help. “People are lonely and just want to feel valued in some way. They know the volunteers are giving up their time, and are surprised at this. Some may have family members who consider them a bother, and yet people they don’t even know are willing to do something for them.”

But she receives something in return. “I love the stories that they tell me about Albert County years ago.

I grew up here, but they hold the history. And the wit and dryness! The drive gives us quality time just for chatting that you might not normally have if you ran into someone at the store or on the street.”

Mary Bailey used to drive her husband Gary, who is in a wheelchair, and her sister Cora, who uses a walker, to appointments. She found it difficult as she would have to park temporarily, unload their equipment, help them inside, then go find a parking spot. After she had cataract surgery, and needed her own drive to and from appointments, they all began using Tele-Drive.

Now a driver accompanies her sister to her appointment to ensure she gets there safely, waits for her, then drives her home again, so Mary doesn’t have to worry about her. “Cora enjoys the drivers because they are so friendly. And in winter, you are picked up in a warm car and don’t have to worry about parking. A lot of people don’t know about it yet, but I highly recommend it. I hope it continues.”

Kim is delighted that the service is connecting people in the community, helping build friendships, and allowing people to do things they could not do before. From January to June 2015, Tele-Drive delivered 210 rides, travelled 11369 km and utilized 377.5 volunteer hours.

“We have a wonderfully dedicated group of volunteers without whom this could not be possible,” she says. “And I would love to hear from other individuals or community groups who want to help us continue building on these services. My dream is to continue to build the door-to-door service, to add an accessible van so no one is left out, and to have regular bus service from Alma to Moncton.”

Although this would require major funding beyond what she receives now (see below), she believes in the strength that comes when even a small group of committed people work together.

Fees

Fees are based on distance travelled:
Monthly fee (payable only if service is required): \$10
Up to 20km: \$10, 21-55 km: \$15, 56-90 km: \$25,
91-125 km: \$30, 126-160 km: \$35
Additional special rates for hospitals, airports, attractions

About Tele-Drive

The Tele-Drive mission is to provide affordable access to transportation for residents of Albert County, NB. The service is dependable, courteous, safe, efficient, inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all individuals. With only 48 hours advance notice, a dispatcher arranges for a volunteer driver to transport the client from residence to destination and back home again.

Tele-Drive, a registered charity, is funded through the generosity of individual community members, the United Way, the municipalities of Hillsborough,

Riverside-Albert and Alma, the Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation, and the Westmorland Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative Ltd, which partnered with Tele-drive in accessing Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation's transportation funding.

Contact Information:

Kim Beers, Tele-Drive Coordinator
8 School Street, Alma, NB
Tel: 875-1190 Email: teledriveac@gmail.com

Oktoberfest 2015 Saturday, Oct 17, 5pm-1am.

Come join Foods of the Fundy Valley for a night out in Bavaria (a.k.a. Hillsborough)! Start with an authentic Bavarian Oktoberfest dinner by Chefs Rosie Schaller and Oliver Hofer. We focus on using fresh, local ingredients and products whenever possible.

Move on to live entertainment, emceed by the energizing and engaging Dan Sinclair from Alma. We will have live music and dancing, featuring Oktoberfest and contemporary music by The Swell Guys from Halifax. Wear your best lederhosen and dirndls! There will be contests and prizes for the best costumes, the best yodelers and more. This is our major fundraiser for the year, so please help by joining in the fun and spreading the word. Feel free to forward to all your friends and networks! Tickets are \$40 per person. Group and corporate tables of 8 or 10 are also available. Bring your friends and co-workers and have a swell time! For details, call 506-734-1908 or e-mail foodsofthefundyvalley@gmail.com. Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FoodsOfTheFundyValley>. To purchase tickets online, see foodsofthefundyvalley.ca/oktoberfest-2015/

The fourth annual **Alma Village Fishing Fleet Launch** kicks off with a celebration on October 13th at 5pm at the Molly Kool Centre (east gate of Fundy National Park and edge of Alma).

The announcement and presentation of the second annual Molly Kool Award will be at 7pm at the Molly Kool Centre. The award acknowledges the winning candidate (from nominees submitted) ~ a Southeastern New Brunswick woman who has contributed outstandingly in the area of arts, culture, conservation, environment.

The Sons of Gael open air concert will be setting the tone for a lively festival event at 8pm. Fundy National Park will be at the Wharf giving an engaging demonstration about the Bay of Fundy Lobster.

Area businesses and establishments will have ongoing specials throughout the day/evening, including VIP seating, SWAG bags of Maritime novelties, generous lobster snacks, food and beverages (some generously supplied by our partner organization Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee at the Village Square at 10pm). People are invited to gather in the square at 10pm.

Good wishes to the captains, crews, and families of the Alma Fishing Fleet, fireworks, and community camaraderie to send off the boats at midnight.

Jane Chrysostom, Event Coordinator, 887-2213

Monday, Oct. 19th is Election Day

Fundy Royal is a large constituency and voters often do not know their candidates well, so Connecting Albert County invited all five potential candidates in Fundy Royal to describe how they will contribute to rural Albert County. We received three submissions; links to two are posted here and online. The third individual, an independent, was not confirmed as a candidate.

See www.elections.ca to learn more.

Jennifer McKenzie, NDP:
www.connectingalbertcounty.org/current-news/political-item-jennifer-mckenzie-ndp

Stephanie Coburn, Green:
www.connectingalbertcounty.org/current-news/political-item-stephanie-coburn-green-party

Upcoming Events

Wed, Sept 30. **\$2 Movie Night**

6:30. Forest Dale Home, Riverside-Albert, is presenting Avengers: Age of Ultron (PG-13). Doors open at 6pm. \$2 admission, Canteen available. Parental Supervision is required

Sat, Oct 3. **Bike Tour of Elgin**

7:30am-4:30pm. The Tour of Elgin is a whole day of bike activities. The 120km Marathon Race is the toughest mountain bike race in Atlantic Canada! There are also 80 km, 40 km and 20 km distance options. Pre-register at www.atlanticchip.ca, choose your race length and you will be put in the appropriate category on the tour day. www.elgineco.com

Sat, Oct 3. **Lower Cape Annual Turkey Supper**

3-7pm. Turkey Supper at the Lower Cape Community Centre. Adults: \$14, Children: \$7. Proceeds go to Community Centre maintenance and community projects. For details, call Carol at 734-2819.

Tue, Oct 13. **Lobster fleet launch**

4pm-midnight. *See details on page 3.*

Thu, Oct 15. **Albert County Historical Society Annual General Meeting**

7:30pm. Everyone welcome. Albert County Museum, Hopewell Cape.

Fri, Oct. 16. **Harvest Music Night**

7pm. Forest Dale Home Foundation presents their 2nd Annual Harvest Music Night in the Brookside Room at Forest Dale Home. Featuring Maple Sugar and Sara Nelson. Donations at the Door. Canteen available

Sat, Oct 17. **Oktoberfest**

5pm-1am. *See details on page 3.*

Mon, Oct 19. **Election Day in Canada.**

See www.elections.ca to find out where to vote.

Mon, Oct 26. **Alma Household Hazardous Waste Pickup**

9am-noon. The Household Hazardous Waste unit will be in Alma at the Activity Centre at 8 School St. Bring old batteries, paint, garden chemicals and more for safe disposal. For details, go to www.nbse.ca/solidwaste/services

Mon, Oct 26. **Fall clean up and Household Hazardous Waste Pickup - Riverside Albert**

1pm-4pm. The Household Hazardous Waste Trailer is at the Riverside-Albert Recreation Centre. Bring old batteries, paint, garden chemicals, etc. for safe disposal. www.nbse.ca/solidwaste/services

Sat, Nov 21. **Christmas in November Turkey Dinner**

Sittings: 4:30pm and 6:30pm. \$15 gets you a plate of turkey, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, turnip, dressing, a roll, gravy, cranberry sauce, and a slice of pie. Two Take-out available in advance. Location to be announced soon. Book your spot through Lois Snider or by calling the Steeves House Museum at 734-3102. Call early as spots fill up quickly!

Sat, Nov 21/Sun, Nov 22. **Albert County Museum Christmas Concert**

7pm Sat/ 2pm Sunday. Festive music, singing, dancing, drama & refreshments at the Albert County Museum in Hopewell Cape. Advance tickets \$12.

Sat, Dec. 5. **CCRC Christmas Market**

9am-4pm. The historic Riverside Consolidated School will be bursting with Christmas spirit as 40+ vendors fill the rooms and deck the halls with all manner of great seasonal and gift items including baking, crafts, fine art and sculpture, soaps and teas. There will be breakfast, the popular Foods of the Fundy Valley Soup Bar Buffet for lunch, and door prize. There is a wheelchair ramp, and access on ground level. 90 Water St. Riverside-Albert. No admission, but we would love non-perishable items for our local Food Bank. Information: 882-2573

Weekly events

Sundays (Oct. 4th and 11th) **Alma Market**
9am-2pm. The Alma Market is held at the Vista Ridge Barn, in partnership with Foods of the Fundy Valley. Local foods and crafts, including eggs, meat, Fundy Fresh seasonal produce.

Stop in for breakfast and savour Chris' delicious Belgian Waffles, made in the authentic, traditional way, with yeast. Served with locally made sausages from AnC meats, and local maple syrup!

Tuesdays. **Zumba**
7:30-8:30pm. Zumba in Riverside-Albert. For price, location and details, see www.facebook.com/groups/243462609103370/

Wednesdays. **Pilates**
5:30-6:45pm. Pilates class taught by certified Yoga and Pilates instructor, and Registered Massage Therapist, Sasha Rooney. The session is for 10 weeks. Cost: 10 weeks for \$100, 5 classes for \$65 (to be used within the session purchased) and \$15 for drop in. Please bring your own mat. If you have questions, please contact 872-0403.

Thursdays. **Zumba**
7:30-8:30pm. Zumba in Riverside-Albert. For price, location and details, see www.facebook.com/groups/243462609103370/

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See past issues and subscribe at www.ConnectingAlbertCounty.org

Visit the Connecting Albert County community calendar or submit an event at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/calendar.html

Thursdays. **Free Community Playgroup**
From 9:30-11:30am, there is a free playgroup open in Hillsborough to anyone caring for children 0-6 years old ... Moms, Dads, grandparents, caregivers. No advance registration required. It is a drop-in program and includes musical morning, active kids, crafts, reading, along with free play and an opportunity for caregivers to chat with others. Offered by the Early Childhood Family Resource Centre of Westmorland-Albert Inc. Please bring indoor shoes and a healthy snack for yourself and your child(ren). Please spread the word! Follow planned activities at www.facebook.com/hillsboroughplaygroup

Saturdays (Oct. 3rd and 10th)
Albert County Museum Farmer's Market & Breakfast
9am-1pm. The Museum Market is held at the Albert County Museum in Hopewell Cape. Vendors are set up among the museum's exhibits. Local foods and crafts grown, harvested and made in Albert County. Breakfast made with local ingredients served in the Community Hall from 9am-noon.

Looking for work? Looking for workers?

Connecting Albert County connects job seekers with employers, and helps people find skilled and unskilled help, from bookkeeping to bulldozing, rototilling to house-painting.

Connecting Albert County is hosting the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) **Workers & Services Bank**. Visit www.connectingalbertcounty.org/ccrc-workers--services-bank. Click on the type of help you need, and you'll find a list of available workers and their contact information. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Barb Gebuhr at 882-2573. To have your name listed, please email connectingalbertcounty@gmail.com.

Looking for work? See **job listings** at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/job-opportunities

Looking for workers? Visit the directory of workers and skills at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/ccrc-workers--services-bank or send us a job description and we'll post it at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/job-opportunities.

Connecting Albert County reflects the passion and hard work of many individuals in rural Albert County, including Joanne Butland, Deborah Carr, Joseph Gallant, Barb Gebuhr, Mindy Holmstrom, Susan Quinn, Phyllis Sutherland, Janine Underhill & Janet Wallace (Coordinator).

We thank the Albert County Health & Wellness Centre, Forest Dale Home and our regional community partners, United Way Greater Moncton SENB and Joanna Brown (Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network) for their support.



Want to support Connecting Albert County?

Help us share the news, announce events and celebrate the wonders of Albert County. Our website has received more than 1000 hits a day and we have hundreds of e-bulletin subscribers.

Connecting Albert County welcomes support from businesses and individuals. Supporters will be listed in upcoming issues of the electronic and print bulletins and posted on our website.

See www.connectingalbertcounty.org/supporters.html or contact us at connectingalbertcounty@gmail.com

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Collin's LOBSTER SHOP

In Alma, Collins Lobster Shop carries Fundy scallops, smoked salmon, fresh fish and, of course, lobster straight from the Bay of Fundy (live or cooked).

