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Deborah Carr

Fallen Giant

By Kevin Snair

When I ask the good folks of Albert County what the Hopewell Rocks means to them, the answers are as varied as the people themselves. For some it's the photo on their Medicare card but for many, it's a whole lot more.

I often hear coming-of-age stories of youth experiencing their first summer jobs among excited travellers. I hear of church picnics and family gatherings outside the old Pavilion. For some it's the draw that brings the guests to their bed & breakfasts and restaurants and for more than one, it's memories of that first stolen kiss under Lover's Arch. Undeniably, the Hopewell Rocks have found their way into the hearts of many New Brunswickers.

Perhaps this is why a Facebook post asking "Has anyone seen my elephant?" shot around the world in March and landed on the computer screens of a quarter million people. Photos of a fallen Elephant Rock were passed around

like sweets at a church social and ultimately ended up on page 3 of the *New York Times*.

As many of you know, rock falls are not uncommon along the Bay of Fundy Shore. It seems like only yesterday that Red Head crumbled to the beach in Waterside—gone but not forgotten. The walk between Waterside and Dennis Beach is still breathtaking. Equally so, Elephant Rock is not gone, but merely changed. The formation still towers 40 feet above the beach and once the rubble erodes, who knows what new faces may emerge from the aftermath. I prefer to see it as a caterpillar preparing for a big change; only to be reborn into a new creature of beauty.

Elephant Rock is only one of many fascinating formations on the Hopewell Rocks shores. He stands among ET, the Bear, and many unnamed that remain equally captivating. Many may remember formations such as Spinning Top, The Twins and Man's head that have long since eroded but remain in our memories and photos.



On Sunday May 29, the Hopewell Rocks hosts Albert County Appreciation Day. Entry fees are waived in exchange for a donation to the Shepody Food Bank. We encourage everyone to come out and support the community. Take a guided tour on the beach to see the latest changes, grab a bite to eat in the restaurant, try out our new stairs leading to the ocean floor, or just relax on a bench and enjoy the sweet ocean breeze.

Story and image by Kevin Snair. Kevin is Supervisor of Interpretive Services at the Hopewell Rocks, a professional commercial photographer, and author of Bay of Fundy's Hopewell Rocks (at bookstores & online at www.chocolateriver.ca).

CCRC Job Fair

April 14

The Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) is organizing the second annual Job Fair for employers and potential adult employees. The event will be held at the Riverside-Albert Recreation Center,



Thursday, April 14th at 4pm to 7pm. Businesses are invited to come set up a table with information about the types of jobs they have available: part-time, piece-work, full-time, etc.

Potential employees are invited to come to visit these businesses. Recognizing that some people make excellent employees and have desirable job skills, but may have difficulty in putting together a resume, we are setting up a centre to write and print resumes .

If you have any questions, or wish to register as an employer, please call Phyllis at 734-2044 or email phyllis.sutherland@gmail.com. To facilitate the organizing activities, please register as soon as possible.

Note that you can also post jobs and find jobs at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/jobs.html

Community Food Smart Food Box Program ~ Seeking Volunteers!

Foods of the Fundy Valley, in partnership with the Forest Dale Home, is starting a Community Food Smart produce box program. Starting in April, participants will be able to sign up for one or two bags of fresh vegetables and fruits once a month.

The bags will be packed at the Forest Dale Home in Riverside-Albert on the morning of the last Wednesday of each month - the first one will be April 27th. They will then be delivered to different distribution points in the communities of Alma, Curryville and Riverside-Albert. We are looking for volunteers to help pack the bags and for people to transport them back to the distribution points in their home communities.

If you would like to volunteer and help us launch this program in a great way, please contact Elizabeth Gorman at 875-5841 or by email at foodsofthefundyvalley@gmail.com.

ALERT: Tele-Drive is in immediate need of volunteer drivers in the Hillsborough area!

Tele-Drive Albert County has had to turn down several much-needed rides for important medical appointments. Please think of others less fortunate, and of how you can help. To volunteer, call Kim at 875-1190.

Looking for work or workers?

Looking for work? See **job listings** at our job page, www.connectingalbertcounty.org/job-listings.html

We already have several 2016 summer job openings as well as openings for permanent positions.

Looking for workers? Send us a description and we'll post it. Email info@connectingalbertcounty.com

The Imagination Library: Bringing Books to Rural Albert County

by Janet Wallace

"I like books!" says Owen, piling his favourite books on his bed. The three-year-old eagerly shows me his library.

His mother, Robin Stuart, fills in the back story. Owen is enrolled in the Imagination Library. From birth until their fifth birthdays, children receive a free book in the mail each month.

"A friend of mine told me about the Imagination Library," says Robin. "She told me you can get a free book each month. It sounded amazing. And it is!"

The inspiration and force behind the program is Country-and-Western singer Dolly Parton. She wants to help children "fall in love with books at an early age," according to her website. The long-term goal is greater literacy.

The Imagination Library costs \$60 per child a year but the families don't foot the bill. Thanks to the Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation, families in rural Albert County of all income levels have been able to use the free program since 2010.

By the time the children turn five years old and receive their last book, they will have received nearly fifty books from the Imagination Library.

"I loved books as a child," says Robin Stuart, "and I want my kids to have the chance to have their own books. As they get older, we'll probably pass on some of the books to their younger cousins, but I hope they will keep their favourite books and eventually even read those to their own children."

"The fact that the books come in the mail addressed to Owen," continues his mother, "makes it exciting for him."

Robin Stuart reads to Owen (3 years) and Liam (4 months); both boys receive books from the Imagination Library. Owen is actively engaged in the story Where's My Nose? and is pointing at his own nose.

Owen's four-month old brother, Liam, is also enrolled in the program. Each child receives books appropriate to their age, starting with heavy-duty 'board books' and ending with *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* Some contain tips for parents about how to use the book with their children including questions to ask while reading the book and afterwards.

Robin reads to both boys. While the baby is lulled by the sound of her reading, Owen is actively engaged and points out words he has learned. The books are kept on a low shelf in his room so he can look at the books whenever he wants. Sometimes, says Robin, he 'reads' to himself – flipping through the pages and re-counting the story or making up a new one.

Another mother, Jenn Shelby, shares a similar story. Jenn learned about the program when she went for an appointment at the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre. Now, her four-year-old daughter is the proud owner of a great collection of books.

A writer and avid reader herself, Jenn admits that her daughter would have books even if she wasn't enrolled in the program. But she appreciates the diversity of books – a greater range of books than if she had bought them herself.

Continued on page 5



'Smart Choices Centre' Reinforces Tobacco-Free Habits for High School Students

Like many rural schools, Caledonia Regional High School (CHRS) in Hillsborough had few entertainment options during noon hour. Besides the school library or sports in the gym, there was little for students to do. Many of the older students left the school grounds and congregated at local businesses. And this was linked to another problem.

“When kids hang out with no purpose, smoking becomes the cool thing to do,” says teacher Benjamin Kelly, who knows that a lack of stimulating activities can lead teenagers to make unhealthy choices. The evidence was in the school’s high smoking rates among students.

He saw a way to solve both problems at once by creating a fun, safe and healthy space within the school where the students could hang out during lunch hour. “If the students can’t leave the school grounds, they obviously cannot smoke, as smoking is prohibited inside the school,” he explains.

With approval from school principal Donna Godfrey, Kelly applied for a Take Action Against Tobacco Use Grant from the Department of Social Development. This program provides up to \$5,000 to support community-led initiatives to increase tobacco-free living, strengthen community action with an emphasis on youth-led initiatives, partnerships and comprehensive actions.

The Smart Choices Centre was launched in September 2015. The room has comfortable couches, games, a music system and an Xbox. The room is open during recess, lunchtimes and limited after-school hours. Kelly volunteers 300 minutes per week to supervise the students. He says participation seems evenly split between the middle and high school students. “We’re reaching 40% of our student population; basically the percentage we used to see head outside the school’s grounds.”



Kelly says he often sees chess matches with 10 or so students watching. “How great is that?,” he says. “The students are learning, practicing their math skills, being healthy and having fun!”

Kelly has already noticed several smokers have become regulars in the *Smart Choices Centre*. The students have begun to police the room themselves by making it clear to their peers that the room is anti-smoking and a healthy choice space, and Kelly is pleased to see them doing it in a kind and inclusive manner.

“Tobacco is a gateway drug,” says Kelly. “If we can stop the students from becoming addicted to nicotine, then we are also helping to model healthy behaviours for other areas of their lives.”

This story was condensed, with permission, from an article by Nathalie Landry, Communications Coordinator, NB Anti-Tobacco Coalition. Images by CRHS.

Free drives to the grocery store

Get a free ride to and from Hillsborough Fresh Mart. This amazing door-to-door service is being provided by a partnership between Tele-Drive Albert County, Forest Dale Home (which supplies the van), and Hillsborough Fresh Mart. Anyone from Alma to Stoney Creek can be picked up at their home, taken to the store and brought back home again — for free! Get a lift on Mondays. To book a ride, call 875-1190.

Top Ten People of Albert County Everyone Should Know About

Who do you think should be the ten people of Albert County that everyone should know about? The Albert County Museum has the answer. As part of New Brunswick's Heritage Week 2016 that took place February 8 to 15, the Albert County Museum conducted a survey on its website asking for visitors to pick their top 10 most historical people of Albert County. "The Heritage Week theme this year was 'Leadership & Legacy'," says Donald Alward, Manager/Curator of the museum, "so we thought we would have some fun with it."

The Albert County Historical Society, which owns and operates the Albert County Museum and RB Bennett Commemorative Centre, is no stranger to bringing recognition to noteworthy Albert County persons like former Canadian Prime Minister RB Bennett. "We thought it was time to shed light on more of Albert County's influential people," Alward says.

With over 2000 votes cast, the list has been decided with a wide range of people spanning 300 years of history. From a Prime Minister to a Father of Confederation, Entrepreneurs and Pioneers, War Heroes and Architects, and our own Trail Blazing Ship's Captain; certainly a group to be proud of and emulate! The Ten People chosen will form a new exhibit which will open this August, be sure to come by the Museum and see it. So, without further ado, I give you the Top Ten People of Albert County Everyone Should Know About listed in order of number of votes received. Visit www.albertcountymuseum.com to learn about these people and more.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Myrtle 'Molly' Kool | 5. William Henry Steeves | 8. Lt Col. Cyrus Peck |
| 2. Richard Bedford Bennett | 6. Heinrich Stief | 9. Judge Albert Watson Bennett |
| 3. Mary Majka | 7. Reid Brothers Architects (James, Merritt and Watson) | 10. Gaius Samuel Turner |
| 4. Fred Colpitts | | |

Imagination Library—Continued from page 3

The program is welcome in rural Albert County, which has low literacy rates and only one library (Hillsborough), no bookmobile and limited access to bookstores. There are 101 children currently enrolled in the program in school catchment areas for Riverside Consolidated and Hillsborough Elementary.

Beyond helping children to learn to read, the program may help build a healthier community. According to Public Health Agency of Canada (2013), effective childhood learning is a key contributor to health. Lower levels of education are linked with poor health, more stress, and lower self-confidence.

"The Imagination Library is particularly important now with so much of a focus on electronics," says Dawn Parke, Coordinator for Imagination Library Anglophone East School District. "This program gives a child a real book to hold when they sit in the lap of their parent, grandparent, older brother or sister of

whoever they love and cherish. That bond enhances the love of reading."

"Many studies have shown that children exposed to books early in life have greater literacy skills," she adds.

To learn more about the program or to sign up, you can pick up registration packages at the schools in Riverside-Albert and Hillsborough, the Hillsborough Library or the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Dawn Parke, Coordinator for Imagination Library Anglophone East School District, at 874-3812 or email dawn.parke@nbed.nb.ca

*Story and image by Janet Wallace,
www.JanetWallace.ca*

Weekly Events

Sundays

Fundy Youth Group. 6:30-8:30pm. Open to teens grade 6-12. Fun activities and sharing, devotion and snacks, and time to plan Generation Combination activities and other community events. The youth lead many initiatives, and are welcome to volunteer Tuesday nights at Fundy Youth Jr. Hopewell Hill Baptist Church.

Mondays

Free Grocery Trips. Free door-to-door service for residents from rural Albert County to Hillsborough Fresh Mart. To book a ride, call 875-1190.

Caledonia Activity Place* Drop in. 9:30-11:30am Drop in for tea or coffee. Maybe read the newspaper, chat with friends, or play cards or a board game.

Tuesdays

Adult Skating. 10am- 11am. The Hillsborough Arena offers a public skate for adults. Drop in at 32 Mill St.

Alma Village Playgroup. 10am-12pm. At the Alma Activity Centre, get the kids together while the caregivers visit. Contact Alicia Cadieux at An Octopus' Garden Cafe or Nick & Tiffany Bowron at Vista Ridge 887-2808.

Healthy Lifestyle Club. 6pm-7pm. Special speakers, menu planning, stress management, activities, exercise, chronic conditions information, cooking, etc. Meet at lower level of Albert County Health & Wellness Centre (8 Forestdale Road, Riverside-Albert) Contact Cynthia Stevens at 882-3100 or Cynthia.stevens@horizonnb.ca

Men's Curling 7 pm. From March 3-31. Contact Ivan at 734-2127 or drop by the Fundy Curling Club in Riverside-Albert on Friday nights to register.

Tuesday Night Bible Fun. 6:30-8:00pm. Fun activities and bible study geared toward younger, growing minds (K to grade 5) at Hopewell Hill Baptist Church.

Wednesdays

Sewing/Quilting. 9:30-11:30am You never know what project will be set up in our craft room at Caledonia Activity Place.* We can always use an extra pair of hands to help with our latest project, or bring your own project Have an idea for a project? We'd love to hear about it!

Shepody Food Bank. 1-4 pm at Albert County Health & Wellness Centre in Riverside-Albert. Clients must bring Medicare numbers for every household member. Closed on days that schools are closed due to storms.

Wednesdays (continued)

Darts. 1:00 – 3:00pm Drop in for an informal game of darts. The coffee pot will be on at Caledonia Activity Place* and the donuts will be fresh!

Coffee House. 4:00 – 6:00pm An informal gathering of community at Caledonia Activity Place.* We offer a variety of activities during this time. Could be a bingo game, crokinole or maybe a lively kitchen party. Drop in!

Pilates class .5:30-6:45pm. Pilates class taught by certified Yoga and Pilates Instructor Sasha Rooney at Riverside Consolidated School. Call 872-0403 for details.

Thursdays

DICE at Caledonia Activity Place* 9:30 -11:30am A lively game which is gaining popularity in many local kitchens! If you have never played before, drop in, have a coffee and we can show you what all the fuss is about.

Free Community Playgroup 9:30-11:30am. Free playgroup at Hillsborough Baptist Church open to anyone caring for children 0-6 years old. No advance registration needed. Bring indoor shoes and a healthy snack. See www.facebook.com/hillsboroughplaygroup

Adult Skating. 10am- 11am. The Hillsborough Arena offers a public skate for adults. Drop in at 32 Mill St.

Alma Handwork Evenings. 7pm. Alma Leisure Centre hosts a gaggle of gals doing handwork. If you sew, sketch or just enjoy the social nature of gathering, join in. Contact: Jane Chrysostom 887-2213.

Men's Curling. 7 pm. From March 3-31. Contact Ivan at 734-2127 or drop by the Fundy Curling Club in Riverside-Albert on Friday nights to register.

Music Evening Open Mic. 7pm. William Henry Steeves House, Hillsborough. Admission \$5. House band: Gerry Richard, David Smith, Darrell MacAulay, Charlie O'Hara, Willis McKinley & Dale Terris. Canteen available

Fridays

Card parties. 6:30 pm, Alma Leisure Centre. All ages.

Chase the Ace. 6pm-7:30pm. Joint effort of CCRC and Fundy Curling Club to raise money for the ailing ice plant and preschool at Riverside Consolidated School. At Fundy Curling Club, Riverside-Albert. 3 tickets for \$5. Light supper sold. For details: 882-2573, 882-2960, 882-2626.

***Caledonia Activity Place, 5295 Rte 114, Hopewell Hill. 882-2604. Caledonia Activity Place's mission is to provide activities for community members 19+. Closed on school storm days. No charge for activities- donations welcome.**

Community Calendar - see weekly events on opposite page

Wed, Mar 30. **\$2 Movie Night @ Forest Dale Home**
6:30pm. Forest Dale Home in Riverside-Albert will be showing 'Alvin and the Chipmunks- The Road Chip.'
Cost: \$2. Doors open at 6pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wed, Mar 30. **Tele-Drive Albert County AGM**
6:30pm. Tele-Drive Annual General Meeting at the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre. All welcome. For more information, please call 875-1190.

Thu, Mar 31. **BACH Foundation AGM**
7pm. The Bennett & Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation will be hosting their AGM at the Albert County Health and Wellness Center, 8 Forestdale Rd., in Riverside-Albert. Everyone welcome! The Guest Speaker will be Dawn Parke, who will discuss the Imagination Library. (See article on page 3.)

Sat, Apr 2. **Fundy Blades 38th Annual Ice Show**
Shows at 11am and 6pm. Admission \$4 Adult; \$3 Senior/Student; \$10 for Family; \$15 Day pass. Hillsborough Arena.

Sun, Apr 3. **Seed Starting Workshop**
2pm. Lisa Brown of Farmer Brown's Greenhouse is going to lead us in an afternoon hands-on workshop where we will learn about seed starting and how to plant for an early gardening season. To register please email Elizabeth at foodsofthefundyvalley@gmail.com.
NOTE: Workshop is full

Fri, Apr 8. **Municipal Elections Deadline**
2 pm is the deadline for filing nomination papers for Municipal Councils.

Thu, Apr 14. **CCRC Job Fair**
4pm-7pm. The 2nd annual job fair will be held at the Riverside-Albert Recreation Center. Please see article on page 2 for more details.

Sat, Apr 16. **Tele-Drive Variety Show**
7pm. Come out for a night of fun and entertainment! Tele-Drive Albert County will be hosting their 2nd Annual Variety Show fundraiser at the Curryville Outreach Community Center. Canteen on site. There will also be 50/50 ticket sales. Cost: Donation at the door.

Sat, Apr 23. **Tele-Drive Variety Show**
7pm. Come out for a night of fun and entertainment! Tele-Drive Albert County will be hosting their 2nd Annual Variety Show fundraiser at the Harvey Community Hall. Canteen on site. There will also be 50/50 ticket sales. Cost: Donation at the door.

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

Tue, May 17. **Live Well! - Health Coach Session**
5:30pm-7pm. How can a Health Coach help you reach your goals? Claude Vautour is presenting a workshop to help create an action plan. Presented through video-conference at the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre. Call 882-3100 for more information.

Sat, Jun 25. **BACH Foundation Golf Tournament**
The Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation will be holding their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Hillsborough Golf Club. Details coming soon.

Like this newsletter?

Pick up a copy at the following places or download from www.connectingalbertcounty.org/newsletter

Riverside-Albert: Post Office (Albert County Pharmacy), Crooked Creek Convenience, Forest Dale Home, Health Centre, Village Office

Hillsborough: Scotia Bank, Valu-Foods Grocery Store, Village Office

Alma: Harbour View Restaurant and Store, Fundy General Store, Village Office

Want to volunteer with Connecting Albert County?

We welcome volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, such as the following.

- ~ Find out what events are happening in your community
- ~ Submit events to our community calendar
- ~ Deliver copies of our print newsletter
- ~ Write articles about news, businesses, events, people and places of interest in rural Albert County
- ~ Technical troubleshooting and website design

Email info@connectingalbertcounty.org for details.

Supporters of Connecting Albert County

Connecting Albert County thanks the following for their support.

Platinum Support

Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation

BACH Mission: To enhance the health and wellness of the people served by the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre through raising funds and managing assets in the spirit of our benefactor, Judge Bennett's vision.

BACH Vision: To have a positive impact on health and wellness for the people served by the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre with the support of our community and the satisfaction of our donors.
www.bachfoundation.com



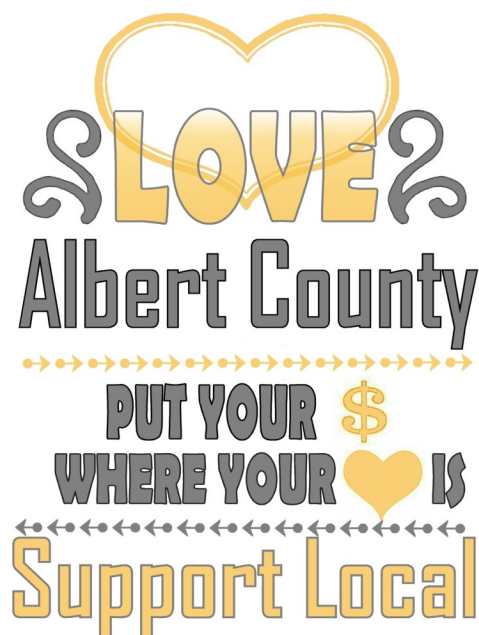
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HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Silver Support

Crooked Creek Convenience: the place to find gluten-free, celiac-safe foods, fresh coffee, snacks, groceries, along with free books and welcoming smiles. www.crookedcreekadventures.com/crooked-creek-convenience
www.facebook.com/crookedcreekconvenience

Fundy Highlands Motel & Chalets: cozy rustic chalets and motel efficiency studios. Minutes from Alma, in Fundy National Park, with beautiful views of the bay. www.fundyhighlandchalets.com, www.facebook.com/FundyHighlands

Bronze Support ~ Leslie Tracy, Century 21 Countryside Realty www.leslietracy.com



Advertise in our Special Issue!

Thanks to the generous support of the Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation, the June 2016 of the Connecting Albert County newsletter will be a special 8-page **full-colour** print edition mailed to all **2100 households** in rural Albert County.

You can help sponsor this community newsletter and have your support recognized by all the households from Stoney Creek to Alma. We've put together a package of advertising/supporter options for every budget. Deadline for ad material is April 30. For details, see www.connectingalbertcounty.org/supporters.html

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

We appreciate the support of the Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation, Albert County Health and Wellness Centre, Forest Dale Home & Village of Hillsborough. www.ConnectingAlbertCounty.org



Janet Wallace