

Connecting Albert County *December 2017*



East Coast Kids in Riverside-Albert

Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) is pleased to have a relationship with East Coast Kids in Riverside Consolidated School. Working together, we were able to provide a Licensed Daycare Centre in our rural community for children to play, laugh and learn. CCRC's first step in ensuring that a daycare could open in RCS was to pay the cost of having washrooms constructed on the basement floor. The Anglophone East staff completed the work in time for the daycare to open for summer 2017.

The result: Children's lives are being enriched; parents are happy to have access to quality daycare; staff members are happy to have long-term employment; and the community is thankful to have this much-needed service in our area. In fact, East Coast Kids is still looking to hire more staff, so if you know of people with their Early Childhood Education Certificate and First Aid Training, please have them contact Karen Lindsay at 962-5868.

Daycare for 2- to 12-year-olds is available full time, part time or after school. Contact Karen Lindsay at 962-5868 to register.

Pictures by Karen Lindsay.



Inside:

- East Coast Kids in Riverside-Albert: 1
- Albert County Area Community Health Assessment updates: 2
- Protecting the shoreline of Alma Beach: 5
- Fundy Flashbacks: 5
- News from CCRC: 6
- Fundy Curling Club update: 7
- Community events: 8
- Mobile Eco-depot: 9
- Best bang for your buck: 10
- Regular events: 11
- Our supporters: 12

Subscribe to our digital issue at www.ConnectingAlbertCounty.org

Connecting Albert County

December 2017. Volume 3. No. 10
ISSN 2369-1174/1182 (digital)

Our Mission: To connect rural Albert County through online and print communication.

Connecting Albert County

reflects the passion and hard work of many people in Albert County including Lisa Brown, Deborah Carr, Joseph Gallant, Kate Merlin, Victoria Stroud & Janet Wallace (Coordinator/Editor).

To donate funds, submit articles or provide feedback, email **info@connectingalbertcounty.org** or send mail to CAC, 5836 King St., Riverside-Albert, NB E4H 4B9

Distribution sites:

Limited numbers of free copies are available at the following:

Hillsborough: Scotia Bank, Hillsborough Freshmart, Village Office

Riverside-Albert: Albert County Pharmacy, Crooked Creek Convenience, Forest Dale Home, Albert County Health & Wellness Centre, Village Office

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

Copies are also available at www.connectingalbertcounty.org/newsletter

The opinions in our newsletter and website do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the individuals who make up Connecting Albert County.

[A gift of colour](#)

Connecting Albert County would like to thank Gary Steeves Insurance for their generous contribution of printing colour copies of our newsletter.

Albert County Area Community Health Assessment: Updates!

A lot of work has been taking place to move forward on the priorities of the Community Health Needs Assessment, covering Hillsborough to Alma. Below, you will find the 10 priorities with an update of what is happening under each. Many of the initiatives listed below are supported by the Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation.

1. The need to improve mental resiliency and coping skills among children and youth in the community.

The schools in Riverside-Albert and Hillsborough have implemented Integrated Service Delivery, an approach that involves close collaboration among team members and the departments of Education and Early Childhood Development, Social Development, Health, Public Safety, school districts and regional health authorities. The program is designed to support children and youth with emotional, behavioural and mental health issues.

2. The need for Albert County Health and Wellness Centre outreach services in the community of Hillsborough.

The Hillsborough Satellite Office (the "Old Church," 2807 Main Street) currently offers Lab and Specimen drop-off services every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am to 11:30am. The Nurse Practitioner now offers primary health care services to patients residing in the greater Hillsborough area (call 882-3100 for details). The Health Centre is exploring options for extended hours at the Hillsborough Satellite Office.

3. The need for improved access to mental health services.

The Albert County Health and Wellness Centre will hire a part-time Social Worker to improve support to the community, including one-on-one support.

Wellness Support Group – The group, which is facilitated by Cynthia Stevens, RN, and Kirstin Shortt, meets once a month and is open to new people. Contact Cynthia at 866-6247 for details.

Grief Recovery Program – The 7-week program is a partnership between Hospice Greater Moncton and the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre. One group meets Monday evenings in Hillsborough and the other meets Wednesday evenings in Riverside-Albert. Each group is open to new people. The program will be repeated in the spring of 2018. For more information, contact Debbie Landry-Jaillet, Hospice Community Coordinator at 383-2404 or volunteer@hospicegm.ca.

Living Life to the Full – The 8-week program was a partnership between the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Association. The 2017 program was well attended with 13 people receiving a certificate of completion. Another program on anxiety and depression will be offered in the spring of 2018. For more information, contact Denise Miller at denise.miller@gnb.ca.

4. An insufficient amount of safe, affordable housing options in the community.

A sub-committee has been meeting regularly since June 2017 and is currently preparing to conduct a full housing needs assessment for our area. This will help identify the specific needs that exist, project what will be needed in the future, and support housing/apartment development in the area. The assessment will be conducted in early 2018 once funding can be secured. More details will be released as they are available.

5. The need for improved supports in the community for young families that are struggling and experiencing difficulties.

No specific updates at this time.

6. The need for improved collaboration between the municipalities in the area, and between municipalities and health and wellness professionals in the community.

Leadership from each municipality has met with Health Centre staff and have established a closer working relationship. They are currently working together and collaborating with other working groups.

7. Food insecurity in the community.

Foods of the Fundy Valley, through its Community Food Smart program and farmers’ market, and the Shepody Food Bank are continuing their work to improve food security in our area. The Moncton area Public Health Office has voiced interest in supporting what is hap-



Gary Steeves Insurance


*“Old Fashioned Good Service”
Since 1980*

New Brunswick • Nova Scotia • Prince Edward Island • Newfoundland & Labrador

**Home • Auto • Classic Car
Travel Trailer • Motorhome
Motorcycle • Boat • Cottage • Commercial
Hole-In-One Golf • Travel Insurance**

Toll Free 1-800-595-3403
506-734-3403
11 Simpson St. Hillsborough

www.garysteevesinsurance.com



ALBERT COUNTY AREA
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Horizon
RÉSEAU DE SANTÉ
HEALTH NETWORK

02/2016

“Community Health” from p. 3

pening and will work with the groups in its capacity.

8. The need for additional programs and services in the community to allow seniors to become more engaged, connected and mobile.

No specific updates at this time (however, see number 10 below).

9. The need to evaluate the current function of the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre and strategize on how to move forward with the original vision of the community health centre (CHC) model of care.

Changes have started with the Health Centre’s hours of operation in Riverside-Albert. The hours are now Monday to Thursday from 7am to 4:30pm and Friday from 8am to 4:30pm. This change has presented the option for providing evening access and offering more community programs. For details, call 882-3100.

10. Transportation issues in the community that impact health.

Tele-Drive is in its 5th year of operation (see description on page 12). It is organizing social outings, such as a tour of the

“fall colours.” Free rides to the grocery store in Hillsborough are available every Monday to anyone who wishes to participate; you do not need to have used Tele-Drive services before. Tele-Drive is pleased to be providing mobility rides with the partnership of Forest Dale Home and their mobility van. For more information or to book a ride, call Kim Beers at 875-1190.

This article was provided by the Community Advisory Committee for the Albert County Area Community Health Needs Assessment. The committee is made up of people from our communities, health care, local government and education.

Need a high school diploma? The South East Regional Adult Learning Board provides GED courses, equivalent to a high school diploma, for adults. Funding may be available. Classes are held at the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre in Riverside-Albert.

For details, call 882-1010, opendoorsged.ca

Yes, I want to help
have a positive impact on health and wellness for the people served by the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre

I would like to contribute a monthly amount of \$ _____ TO BE DEDUCTED ON: 1st or 15th of the month
I would like to contribute a one-time gift of \$ _____



Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
E-mail: _____

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to the Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation

I prefer to use my: VISA MasterCard

Card Number: _____
Expiry Date (month/year): _____
Signature: _____
Charitable Registration: 869019133 RR0001

Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation
8 Forestdale Road, Riverside-Albert, NB E4H 3Y7
Tel 506-882-3100 Fax: 506-882-3101
Donate online at www.bachfoundation.com



BENNETT & ALBERT COUNTY HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Protecting the Shoreline of Alma Beach

The Government of Canada is pleased to announce \$8.2M in funding to protect the shoreline along Highway 114. To enhance the experience of visitors, a new, longer boardwalk will be built near the southeast entrance of Fundy National Park. The section of Highway 114 along the Alma Beach area has seen frequent and repeated damage due to wave action and erosion during storm events which is attributed to a rise in sea levels due to climate change. The investment will fund important work to prevent further shoreline erosion and protect the important traffic corridor between Alma and Fundy National Park.

Also, a new, longer boardwalk will be built to provide visitors with a better way to experience Fundy's giant tides and the iconic Alma Wharf. The new boardwalk will be connected to the existing one and will include new observation platforms with access to the beach. Additionally, new trees and marram grass will be planted along the beach to improve ecological integrity and reduce the impacts of shoreline erosion. The

new boardwalk will provide visitors with remarkable access to the park, while keeping them away from sensitive ecological zones along the shoreline.

Quick Facts

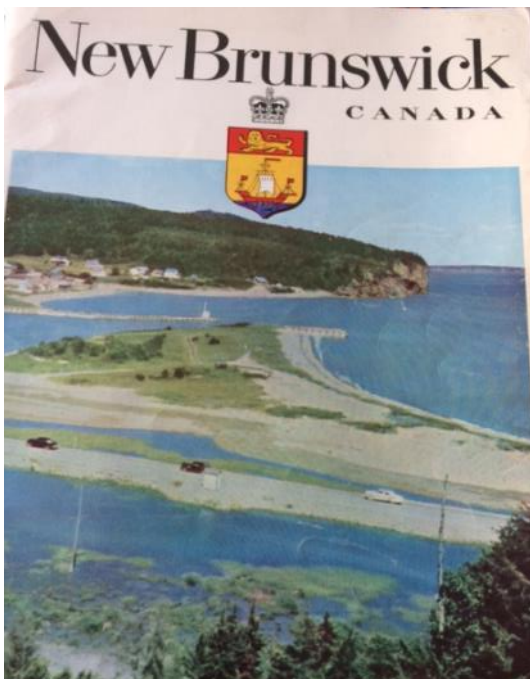
- Fundy National Park welcomed more than 350,000 visitors and hosted more than 50,000 campsite nights during Canada 150 while also hosting many exciting special events and activities. Visitation in 2017 increased approximately 20% from the previous year.

- Fundy National Park encompasses 20 kilometres of dramatic shoreline along the Bay of Fundy, famous for having the world's highest tides. More than 100 kilometres of hiking and biking trails ribbon through 206 square kilometres of Acadian forest leading to thundering waterfalls, freshwater lakes and scenic river valleys.

Based on a press release from Parks Canada.

Fundy Flashbacks

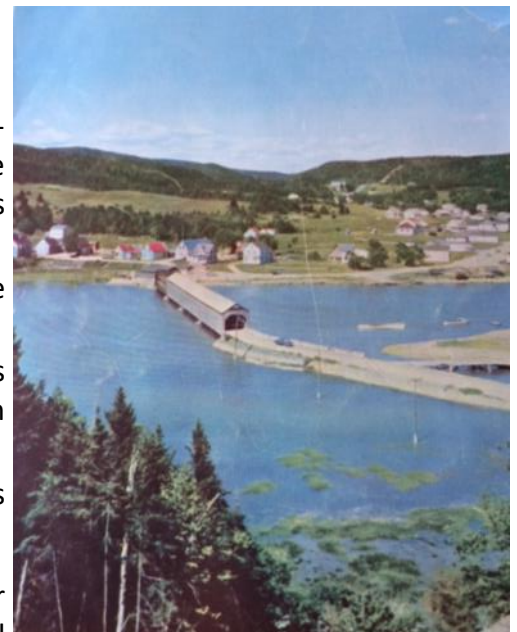
Shoreline erosion is not a new phenomenon. Just look at these pictures and you'll see how much the Alma beach has changed over the last sixty years. (Thanks to Gary Steeves for sending these images from a 1956 Parks Canada publication.)



- Can you identify the landmarks in these photos?
- Do you have pictures (current or old) taken from the same vantage point?
- Do you have old pictures of Albert County?

We invite you to send your stories and pictures of rural Albert County. We can post these online and include a selection in our newsletter. If needed, you can scan the images at the public computer at the Hillsborough Public Library.

Please send stories & images to info@connectingalbertcounty.org.



Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) News

After 45 weeks, the Ace of Spades was captured October 27th by Dana Butland of Riverside-Albert. His ticket draw earned \$1388, and the Jackpot was \$23,178 for a total win of \$24,566. A win such as this, or last year's big win, is life changing for those few lucky folks. We hope that the Friday night gatherings of friends, old and new, sharing a delicious meal prepared by Stephen Land and a beverage, and playing cards or dice, or talking, is also valuable. We think the winters are long and the warmth of the Fundy Curling Club provides a social event each week with the possibility of winning a bit of money and knowing that any money spent stays in our communities.

With Chase the Ace, the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) funded projects including the installation of two wash-

rooms in the basement of the Riverside Consolidated School. This is the first step in establishing a Lifelong Learning Centre for preschoolers to seniors. East Coast Kids—Riverside-Albert has been in operation since June 2017, and Adult Education classes have been held since fall 2016. There are plans for more and different classes, as well as partnership projects with other community organizations.

In October, CCRC presented Nature Conservancy Canada with a cheque for \$6000 towards the cost of saving a rare forest and protecting the water supply of saving a rare forest. CCRC recognizes the importance of having an adequate and consistent water supply for the people of Riverside-Albert, and the vital role a water supply plays in economic development of the area.

CCRC has awarded bursaries and sponsorships for community events and people including Shepody Days Flea Market and Kayak Races, BACH golf tournament, RCS Memorial Garden, White Hills Pony Club and more.

The annual Christmas market is held at the historic Riverside Consolidated School on Dec. 2nd, 9am to 4pm. More than 40 tables will be filled with baking, crafts, home businesses, charitable organizations and more; all vendors are your neighbours from our county. No admission fee (but a donation to the Food Bank of non-perishable food is appreciated). Breakfast and lunch are served on site. You will surely find something for everyone on your list!

Many projects are on the horizon. Please feel free to attend our monthly meeting and perhaps consider joining us as a volunteer or board member. Call Barb Gebuhr (882-2573) for details or visit CCRC on Facebook. Please join us for the next Chase the Ace. Congratulations, Dana, and thanks to everyone!

Submitted by CCRC.



Dana Butland

ALBERT COUNTY PHARMACY

Guardian

Feeling Better Starts Here

Save Smart, Shop Local.

THE FLU VIRUS CAN TRAVEL 2 METRES THROUGH THE AIR.

Get your flu shot here.

ALBERT COUNTY PHARMACY

5883 King Street, Riverside-Albert, NB, E4H 4B5

Ph: (506) 882-2226 Fax: (506) 882-2101

Fundy Curling Club Update

The Fundy Curling Club is gearing up for its 55th exciting season. The club would like to, first of all, thank all those who have supported Chase The Ace as we raise funds for upgrades to our refrigeration system. Chase The Ace continues every Friday night and as each week goes by, we get closer to reaching our goal.

Never tried curling before, or haven't tried curling for years? December is the chance for you to get on the ice and see what all the excitement is about. As a thank-you to the community, starting in early December, we will offer a number of open houses at the curling club so you can give the great sport of curling a try. There will be no charge for these December events. Please drop by the club on Friday nights at Chase The Ace for details as the dates are finalized.

Regular league play starts in January and continues until the end of March. The club offers very affordable membership rates and your membership allows you to curl on the night or nights that best fit your schedule. Included in your mem-



bership, there is mixed curling on Tuesday and Friday evenings and men's curling on Thursday evenings. Membership rates for the 2017/2018 curling season are as follows:

Individual=\$120; Couple=\$230; Social=\$30 (non-curling member); Student=\$30 (13 years or older); Family=\$250 (2 adults and any students in the household, 13 years or older)

We also host special curling events on many Saturdays throughout the season for a nominal fee. We hope to see you in December for one or more of our free introductory sessions and look forward to you becoming a member of the Fundy Curling Club for our upcoming season.

Winston Churchill Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star

Roy Ries of the Shepody Food Bank is pictured receiving a donation from Gordan Rattray, left, and Lanah Rattray, right. Lanah and Gordon Rattray are, respectively, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Winston Churchill Chapter in Riverside-Albert. This cheque was part of the donations given by Winston Churchill Chapter to local organizations which are standing with them to make life better for others. The Winston Churchill Chapter is part of the Order of the Eastern Star found in countries worldwide and dedicated to assisting charities and individuals.



Another cheque was presented by Nancy Keirstead and Dawne McLean of Winston Churchill Chapter to Forest Dale Home to assist with programs for its residents. In addition to donations to the national campaigns by the Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Winston Churchill Chapter is proud to assist local initiatives such as the one for the residents of Forest Dale Home. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers who run these programs.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fri Dec 1, 2017

3:30pm - 4:45pm Let's be Crafty, *Hillsborough Public Library.* After-school crafts for 5- to 14-year-olds.

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Sat Dec 2, 2017

9am - 1pm Christmas Bazaar, *St. Mary's Anglican Church.* Christmas Bazaar hosted by St. Mary's A.C.W. at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Mill St. Hillsborough.

9am - 4pm Annual Christmas Market at the Historic Riverside Consolidated School. More than 40 tables will be filled with baking, crafts, home businesses, charitable organizations and more; all vendors are your neighbours from our county. No admission fee (but a donation to the Food Bank of non-perishable food is appreciated). Breakfast and lunch are served on site. You will surely find something for everyone on your list!

10am - 5pm An Old Fashioned Christmas, *The Old Village Church.* The Hillsborough Farmers' Market will be open one last time for the 2017 year. Come and visit your favourite market vendors and check out new faces. There will be a large variety of great Christmas gift options for all the special people in your life & sweet treats. The bakery will be open as well.

10am-5pm Christmas in the Country. The 16th year of celebrating crafters & artisans throughout Albert County.

12pm - 3pm Christmas Open House Tour & Tea. Tour decorated homes & enjoy refreshments at the William Henry Steeves House Museum. Tickets are \$12 and can be pre-purchased by calling Lois Snider at 734-2117. Also includes musical entertainment at the Anglican Church, Close Harmony, beginning at 2pm.

**See Page 11 for details.*

1:30pm - 5pm Hillsborough Public Library Scavenger Hunt, *Hillsborough Public Library.* Drop in any time in the afternoon and participate in our holiday-themed scavenger hunt. Hot chocolate available to participants.

5:30pm - 6:30pm Village of Hillsborough Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling. On the evening of the Christmas Parade, please join us for our annual caroling and lighting of the Village Christmas Tree. Caroling begins at 5:45pm at the Village Office; the lighting of the tree is at 6pm. This is a community event: everyone is welcome to join in. There will be a song leader and song sheets provided. Carolers are asked to meet at 5:30 to begin singing at 5:45pm. Come out and celebrate the season with your family, friends and neighbours.

6:30pm - 7:30pm Village of Hillsborough Christmas Parade. Parade Route is from the school parking lot to Steeves Street. Contact Lois Snider at 734-2117 or the Village of Hillsborough Office at 734-3733 if you are interested in registering a float for the parade.

Sun Dec 3, 2017

10am - 4pm An Old Fashioned Christmas, *The Old Village Church, Hillsborough.* See details on Dec. 2.

11am - 4pm. Christmas in the Country. See details on Dec. 2.

Mon Dec 4, 2017

6:30pm - 7:30pm Grief and Bereavement Support Group, *Hillsborough United Church.* This is the last of the weekly sessions which are facilitated by Cynthia Stevens RN and Ruth Bradford with Hospice Moncton. All welcome! Free of charge. For more information, call Debbie Landry-Jaillet with Hospice Moncton at 383-2404.

6:30pm - 8:30pm Pickleball*

Tue Dec 5, 2017

10am Toddler Time*

11am - 12pm Story Time*

3:30pm - 4:45pm After-school Chess Club, *Hillsborough Public Library.*

Wed Dec 6, 2017

1pm - 3pm Shepody Food Bank*

3:30pm - 5pm Afterschool STEAM Drop-in, *Hillsborough Public Library.*

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Thu Dec 7, 2017

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music*

Fri Dec 8, 2017

10:30am - 11:30am Kids Craft, *Hillsborough Public Library.* Crafts for pre-school-aged children.

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Sat Dec 9, 2017

1:30 - 4:30pm Craft - DIY Bath Bombs *Hillsborough Library.* Learn how to make your own bath bombs (supplies provided). Registration required. Call 734-3722 to reserve a spot.

Mon Dec 11, 2017

6:30pm - 8:30pm Pickleball*

Tue Dec 12, 2017

10am - 10am Toddler Time*

11am - 12pm Story Time*

Wed Dec 13, 2017

1pm - 3pm Shepody Food Bank*

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Thu Dec 14, 2017

3:30pm - 5pm Afterschool STEAM Challenge, Hillsborough Library. Holiday-themed STEAM Challenge.

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music*

Fri Dec 15, 2017

3:30pm - 4:45pm Let's be Crafty, Hillsborough Public Library. After-school crafts for 5- to 14-year-olds.

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Mon Dec 18, 2017

6:30pm - 8:30pm Pickleball*

Tue Dec 19, 2017

10am Toddler Time*

11am - 12pm Story Time*

3:30pm - 4:45pm After-school Chess Club, Hillsborough Public Library. School-aged children are invited to come and learn to play chess.

Wed Dec 20, 2017

Noon - 8pm Mobile ECO Depot Riverside Albert - ECO 360, Riverside-Albert Rec Centre (see box at right).

1pm - 3pm Shepody Food Bank*

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Thu Dec 21, 2017

Noon - 8pm Mobile ECO Depot Riverside Albert - ECO 360, Riverside-Albert Rec Centre (see box at right).

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

6:30pm Hillsborough United Church Choir Christmas Cantata, Hillsborough United Church. All are welcome to join the choir & congregation of the Hillsborough United Church as they celebrate Christmas in

Word and Song. The Cantata is entitled "O Little Town of Bethlehem." A time of fellowship and refreshment follows the presentation of the Cantata. Directed by: Michael Land; arranged by Russell Maulden. Created by Russel Maulden and Sue C. Smith.

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music*

Fri Dec 22, 2017

10:30am - 11:30am Kids Crafts for preschoolers, Hillsborough Library.

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Sun Dec 24, 2017

10am Hillsborough United Church Choir Christmas Cantata. See Dec 21.

Wed Dec 27, 2017

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Thu Dec 28, 2017

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

6pm - 7:30pm LEGO® Night at the Library. Children of all ages welcome.

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music Evening*

Fri Dec 29, 2017

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba class*

Sat Dec 30, 2017

2pm - 4:30pm Family Movie Matinee, Hillsborough Library. Join us in watching a family holiday favourite!

Wed Jan 3, 2018

1pm - 3pm Shepody Food Bank*

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba class*

Thu Jan 4, 2018

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music*

Fri Jan 5, 2018

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Wed Jan 10, 2018

1pm - 3pm Shepody Food Bank*

5:30pm - 8:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo*

7:30pm - 8:30pm Zumba Class*

Thu Jan 11, 2018

4:30pm - 7:30pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena - Chase the Ace*

7pm - 9pm Country & Gospel Music Evening*

EcoDepot For no fee, residents will be able to visit any Mobile Eco-Depot to dispose of the following (up to ½ tonne truck/utility trailer):

- Appliances
- Electronic waste
- Furniture
- Small household machinery (emptied of gas and oil)
- Construction/renovation waste
- Household hazardous waste
- Car and small truck tires
- Brush/branches and yard waste
- Clear glass, metal
- Cardboard and paper
- Cooking oil

****No car parts, gas tanks, residential oil tanks, regular curbside waste or commercial waste.**

The depot will be in Riverside-Albert Dec. 20-21 and in Alma Jan. 24-25.

See details at www.eco360.ca/mobile-eco-depot-program

* See page 11 for details.

The Biggest Bang for Your Christmas Buck

When the air is crisp, the leaves have fallen, and geese gather themselves for their yearly trip south, thoughts turn toward upcoming special days: Halloween, Remembrance Day, and then Christmas! Christmas is a widely celebrated event where family and community traditions blend in harmony. School concerts, special dinners, holiday parties, music events, charity donations, and travel plans loom over many of us by mid-November, and before we know it we are knee deep in coloured lights, festive ribbon, and list upon list of things to do, places to go, and stuff to buy.

Recent studies show that the average Canadian spends somewhere between \$1500 and \$1800 on Christmas, with around \$900 of that on gifts. This is no small amount! Gifts, travel and meals make up the majority of that spending and while it can be fun and exciting, for many the financial strain is also a huge consideration. And

so, we ask the question: “How can I get the biggest bang for every dollar I spend this holiday season?”

The answer may surprise you! Studies and experience tells us that the best way to make your money make a lasting impact, the way to get the biggest bang for your buck, is to buy local.

In Albert County, one of our greatest sources of income is in tourism, so let’s use it as an example. Tourism infuses our local economy with money during a relatively short period; from tourists renting rooms to government funding for attractions, our county becomes a hub of activity by the start of July. It is then up to us as a greater community to keep driving our local economy forward so we can see the full effect of these dollars.

Economic stimulus, or in other words, the financial growth, of our county is dependent on how much of that money remains in it after the tourist season ends. Buying lo-

By Melody Land

cal helps ensure that the money we bring into our economy stays there.

Buying local creates more local wealth, which creates more local jobs, which increases demand, which advances wages, and the cycle continues. This is because independent, locally owned businesses recirculate more money back into the community.

A study showed that major chain retailers only put 13% of their revenue back into their community, while locally owned business redistribute 48% of their revenue directly back into their community — so think, almost fifty cents of every dollar we spend at a local store comes back into our community in some way, compared to thirteen cents from the big box chains. This difference is enough to pay salaries, open more business, spend more money, and provide financial opportunities for your neighbors, family members, even yourself!

Another researcher figured out that twice the money stayed in the community when people buy local — that means your purchase is twice as effective in keeping our local communities alive and prosperous! Now that is major bang for your buck!

Stephen Holmstrom at the Christmas market in Riverside Consolidated School.

Picture by Deborah Carr.



Putting all of this new information together, simple math tells us something interesting:

The population of rural Albert County is around 4500 people. That means if we spend an average of \$1500 per person on the Christmas holidays, around 6.7 million dollars is spent by rural Albert County alone!

If only half of us spent half of our purchases on local goods (such as food, gifts, and even gas), we would add 1.6 million dollars to our local economy.

If all of us spent half of our purchases on local goods, we would add around 3.5 million dollars to our local economy.

So, what would you do with 3 million dollars? Talk about a major impact!

This holiday season, and in the seasons to come, make a conscious effort to support local companies, businesses, and makers. If you need something, and you aren't sure where to find it, feel free to reach out to us at the Albert County Chamber of Commerce, and we can help direct you. Get the best bang for your buck possible – a prosperous and long-term benefit to your county, community, and home!

By Melody Land, Executive Coordinator of the Albert County Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Albert County Chamber of Commerce is to promote economic and commercial prosperity in Albert County.

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays

Free Grocery Trips. Door-to-door service for residents from Alma to Hillsborough to Hillsborough Fresh Mart. If interested in this free service, call 875-1190 or email tele-driveac@gmail.com.

6:30pm Pickle Ball. The Riverside-Albert Recreation Center is hosting Pickle Ball. Come on out and see what this sport is all about! \$2/night. First night is free!

Tuesdays

10am Toddler Time. *Hillsborough Library.* Learning activities for 0- to 4-year-olds.

11am-12pm Story Time. *Hillsborough Library.* Stories & songs for 0- to 4-year-olds.

Wednesdays

1-3pm Shepody Food Bank. *Albert County Health & Wellness Centre, Riverside-Albert.* Bring Medicare numbers for every household member. Closed when schools are closed due to weather.

5:30pm Hillsborough Kiwanis Bingo. 5:30 doors open; 6:30 games begin.

7:30pm Zumba Class. *Riverside-Albert Rec Centre.* Everybody welcome. For details, call Evelyn Wachs at 882-2831.

Thursdays

4:30-7:15pm Friends of the Hillsborough Arena Chase the Ace. *Hillsborough Golf Course.* Raffle tickets 3 for \$5. Draw 7:30pm. You don't

need to be present to win, but must give 2 phone numbers where you can be reached. You can buy tickets outside the restaurant during the week or from committee members Chad & Katrina McLean, Bev White, Jason Holmden, Jason Pugh, Tracey & Peter Bryant, David Simpson, Josh & Natasha Collier. Proceeds for upgrades & improvements to Hillsborough Arena. Lottery license: 105 710456 003.

7-9pm Country & Gospel Music.

Hillsborough Kiwanis Center. Canteen, 50/50 & Door prizes. Open mic; join us with your singing voice and/or instrument. Admission \$7.

Fridays

6pm Chase the Ace Riverside-Albert, Fundy Curling Club. Effort of CCRC & Fundy Curling Club to raise money for ice plant & lifelong learning center at Riverside Consolidated School. 3 tickets/\$5 for chance to have your number drawn & chance to draw the Ace of Spades! Each week the 50/50 winner gets 20% of the night's donations; 30% goes to the pot. If ace isn't drawn, the pot carries over. Get together with friends, and play cards while you wait! Call if you have questions: 882-2573, 882-2052, 882-2626.

7:30pm Zumba Class, Riverside-Albert Rec Centre. Everybody welcome. For details, call Evelyn Wachs at 882-2831.

Visit Connecting Albert County's Calendar at
www.connectingalbertcounty.org/calendar

Feel free to add community events to the calendar. If you need help, email info@connectingalbertcounty.org

Read stories about rural Albert County at
www.ConnectingAlbertCounty.org

Supporters of Connecting Albert County

Connecting Albert County would like to thank the following supporters. To advertise your business or organization, and/or support our work, see www.connectingalbertcounty.org/supporters.

Platinum Support

The Bennett and Albert County Health Care (BACH) Foundation raises funds for the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre and community initiatives including Sistema-Hillsborough, Tele-Drive, Literacy Express, the Imagination Library, spin bikes in classrooms and Connecting Albert County. www.bachfoundation.com

Gold Plus Support

Albert County Pharmacy is a locally-owned Guardian pharmacy offering prescription services for over thirty years. Post office, gift ideas, treats, household and personal needs. www.albertcountypharmacy.ca

Gary Steeves Insurance has been a proud supporter of Albert County since being established in 1980. Contact them today for your Home, Auto, Classic Car, RV, Motorhome, Motorcycle, Boat, Cottage, Hole in One Golf, Travel and Commercial insurance needs. 506-734-3403 or 1-800-595-3403. www.garysteevesinsurance.com

Gold Support

Tele-Drive Albert County Inc. Providing affordable transportation in rural Albert County. Find Tele-Drive on Facebook, call 875-1190, or email teledriveac@gmail.com

Silver Support

East Coast Kids Child Care & Learning Centre: Licensed, quality child care in safe, fun and educational environments. Come play, laugh and learn with us today!
www.eastcoastkids.ca 962-5868

OMISTA Credit Union: Complete banking for people who want to bank local while making the place they live even better.
www.OMISTA.com

Village of Riverside-Albert: The Village of Riverside-Albert is located on Shepody river, which flows into Shepody Bay, at the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy.
www.riverside-albert.ca

Bronze Support

Albert County Chamber of Commerce:
www.albertcountychamber.com

Jeff MacDougall, SouthEastern Mutual Insurance: 506-386-5500

South East Regional Adult Learning Board: opendoorsged.ca

