

# Times & Transcript

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AUGUST 28, 2017

[timestranscript.com](http://timestranscript.com)

## Residents seeking homes in looming facility closure

SARAH SEELEY  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Jim Richard has lived in a community residence since he was 18 years old, but in September he faces life in a new home.

The 63-year-old is one of seven residents looking for a new place to live after residing in the Moncton Community Residences Inc.'s West Lane facility, which closes its doors next month because of dwindling funds.

Sharon Skinner, Richard's sister, said he suffered brain damage when he

was two years old and spent six weeks in a coma following a seizure. Since then, he has had more seizures and his leg was amputated.

Richard can communicate verbally and make decisions, Skinner said, but he needs to be transferred from his wheelchair into bed or into the bathtub, which requires the help of a caregiver. The MCFI facilities on Reade Street and West Lane have been the only homes he has known since he was a teenager, she said.

In a letter dated June 7, Greg Blizzard, the CEO of Moncton Community Residences Inc., told family members like

Skinner the facility on West Lane will close on Sept. 1. Blizzard wrote that over the last five years, the program has cumulatively recorded a funding deficit of more than \$300,000.

The non-profit community residence provides residential care and support for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities. Unlike a private facility, a non-profit residence operates with the support of the Department of Social Development.

In an interview, Blizzard said staff

PLEASE SEE → HOME, A2



Jim Richard has been living in a Moncton Community Residence Inc. adult community residence since he was 18 years old. When the facility on West Lane closes on Sept. 1, Richard will be moved to a community residence in Moncton.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED

## Trade talks to reduce Trump friction

ADAM HURAS  
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

CHARLOTTETOWN • The premiers and governors gathering in Charlottetown are the "guard rails" needed to manage friction created by a protectionist U.S. president and the rhetoric of high-pressure trade talks, says former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna.

The deputy chair of TD Bank Group is among a list of high profile keynote speakers and business leaders now gathered in Prince Edward Island. The region's four Atlantic leaders and their Quebec counterpart Philippe Couillard, as well as New England's six governors, including Maine Gov. Paul LePage, are meeting Sunday and Monday in the 41st conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

But this one is much bigger with the future of the relationship of the border neighbours squarely in the spotlight.

The importance of the talks have drawn

PLEASE SEE → TRADE, A4

## today

**Military** Soldier lives grandfather's legacy with Lancaster Bomber flight **A3**

**Construction** Detour set up in Shédiac as downtown revitalization work continues **A8**

Obituaries **A5**  
Opinion **A6**  
Canada/World **B1**  
Life **C1**



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### Pride parade draws hundreds



Poppy Kaniak, 3, and Anna Kaniak, 7, watch the parade from a patio along Main Street. PHOTO: SHANE MAGEE/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

## Province supports gender-neutral move

SHANE MAGEE  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The province is "supportive" of the federal move to allow people who do not identify as male or female to use a third option on passports and immigration paperwork but didn't indicate if it

would implement a similar measure for documents it issues.

The statement of support came Saturday after Premier Brian Gallant marched in the Greater Moncton River of Pride parade.

Joselyn O'Connor waved the transgender flag from the back of a

convertible as the parade moved down Main Street lined with hundreds of spectators. She was Moncton's first trans parade marshal. O'Connor had called on the province to follow the federal government's lead in an interview on Friday.

Tyler Campbell, a spokesman for the

province, sent an emailed statement following the parade that did not directly address if the province would take a similar step as the federal government.

"The Government of New Brunswick

PLEASE SEE → SUPPORT, A8

## Almanac calls for rainy winter in Atlantic Canada

SHANE MAGEE  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Atlantic Canada may face a rainier than average winter and spring, if you are one to put faith in the 2018 edition of The Old Farmer's Almanac.

The book published recently carries a month-by-month forecast that predicts average temperature and precipitation

by region of the country. It calls for this area to experience a rainier than normal winter with above normal temperatures and below-normal snowfall.

The 272-page book says it uses "state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations" to produce its forecast from November to October 2018.

Meanwhile, David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada,

said forecast models indicate the weather patterns in the coming months will be much like the last six.

"It's been warm, it's been dry, and certainly a lot drier than last year," Phillips said.

As of Friday, he said Moncton had received about 58 per cent of the precipitation it would normally get by this time of year.

The federal weather agency typically releases a fall forecast at the start of September. While it hadn't been finished yet, Phillips said it looks like September will be warmer than normal across New Brunswick.

As for winter, that's even rougher at this point. He said "the first view" suggests

PLEASE SEE → ALMANAC, A2

## CASINO NEW BRUNSWICK HAPPENINGS AUG 28-SEPT 3

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### PROMOTIONS

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**FRI & SAT:** Surf 'n Turf \$11.99\*  
**SAT & SUN:** Weekend Brunch \$9.99\*  
**SUNDAY:** Homestyle Dinner \$9.99\*



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- Izzy.....Tues. Aug 29
- Zack Lane Trio.....Wed. Aug 30
- Hone the Craft.....Thurs. Aug 31
- Southern Comfort.....Fri. Sept 1
- Kevin Chase.....Sat. Sept 2

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# News

# BEGIN YOUR WEEK WITH TIMESTRANSKRIPT.COM

## online today

**DAVID GAUVIN**  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

It's the start of a new week and timescript.com has plenty of great reading lined up for you.

Timestrandscript.com courts reporter Craig Babstock will continue his coverage of the trial of two Dieppe residents charged with conspiring to import cocaine into Canada. The trial started last week and will resume on Monday at the Moncton Law Courts.

Read Craig's court coverage online first at [timestrandscript.com](#).

Also on Monday, timestrandscript.com arts and entertainment writer Jennifer Gouchie-Terris will tell you about

*Midnight Sun, Arctic Night*, a presentation on Thursday of the Barachois Summer Music Festival. The performance will feature pianist Pierre-André Doucet and cellist Stéphane Tétreault. Read it online first at [timestrandscript.com](#).

All these stories and much more are available every day to timestrandscript.com readers – but you need a password to be able to read them.

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The phone lines are open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on

Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Timestrandscript.com is your most complete source of news, sports and entertainment information in Metro Moncton. It's also the most convenient – we're just a click away on your laptop, and with a tablet we're literally available anywhere you are.



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## on the web



Stéphane Tétreault, above, and Pierre-André Doucet will perform *Midnight Sun, Arctic Night*, a presentation of the Barachois Summer Music Festival. Read a preview on Monday at [timestrandscript.com](#). PHOTO: SUBMITTED

## lotteries

For the winning lottery numbers, please visit our website anytime day or night at [timestrandscript.com](#)

## words to inspire

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

**Romans 12.2 (ESV)**

## Pet of the Day



Boots may only have three legs but that does not slow him down. Rabbits make great pets and can be taught to do some wonderful tricks. If you want to adopt a pet, please call the SPCA at 857-8698 or check out the website at [monctonspca.ca](#). This feature appears daily to assist the SPCA in finding good homes for these animals.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED

## Adult residents seeking homes in looming facility closure

### HOME → A1

assist with personal care and the daily living needs of the residents.

The West Lane home was one of 14 MCRI non-profit adult community residences in the Moncton area and one of the first facilities to open. The building was donated by the Rotary Club in 1967 and has been operating for 30 years. Blizzard said it is the last MCRI adult non-profit residence to close.

"I think it's very disappointing," he told the Times & Transcript. "When I started in this business there were lots of not-for-profit agencies."

Erin Illsley, a spokeswoman with social development, said in an e-mail, the department provides funding to adult community residences based on a fee-for-service model, which means the amount of funding provided is dependent on the number of residents and calculated on a daily rate dependent on the level of care each client requires.

"I want him to continue with the life that he knows," Skinner said. "It's going to cost so much more money to have him in the nursing home as opposed to a community residence."

Skinner wanted to take him into her home in Amherst, but Richard is in a wheelchair and her house is not equipped for the chair, she said.

Ron and Carla Turner of Sackville are also in the process of moving their 30-year-old son to a new home. Logan was placed in the West Lane facility two years ago. Logan had a stroke before he was born, leaving half of his brain damaged. He also has epilepsy, hemophilia, and cerebral palsy on one side of his body.

Ron said he left his job 20 years ago

to care for Logan. Three years ago, the couple decided to place their son in a care facility after Ron had his gallbladder removed.

Logan started in a group home, but when the Turners decided the home was not an ideal fit for their son, a social worker found a placement in the West Lane facility.

The staff in the home were diligent in caring for Logan's needs, Ron said. (Logan is the brother of Miramichi Leader reporter Jocelyn Turner, who was not involved in the writing, editing or publication of this story.)

Logan needs assistance with tasks like using the bathroom and cutting his food.

"They seem to do a lot for the clients. To me it seems above and beyond," Ron said.

"The people that are working there are very kind and supportive to Logan. That's hard to find."

At the West Lane home, Logan enjoys going for walks and watching TV comedies. When Ron and his wife received the letter, they were concerned for Logan's future.

"I thought when I put him into MCRI, I wouldn't have to worry again," he said. "I thought it was going to run forever, but I guess it's not."

Ron said Logan will be moved a private home in Saint-Antoine, which is 20 minutes further than Moncton.

From April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, the department provided \$438,009.56 in per day funding for residents at the MCRI adult community residence.

In addition, the facility received \$10,443.78 in pay equity funding from Social Development during this time period.

Blizzard said about 85 per cent of the

funding goes towards staffing costs for the 10 full-time staff. The average wage for an MCRI staff member with certified training and experience is \$15.50 per hour.

"We recruit on a daily basis because that's the need we have for staffing," Blizzard said.

"They'll be gone a few weeks later because they can easily find a job that pays more and has less stress."

Last year, Blizzard said MCRI spent \$361,000 to pay for staffing costs at the West Lane facility. The rest of the residence's budget is spent on feeding the residents and paying for the building's utilities.

Illsley said in March 2017, the MCRI notified the department of funding issues related to their operating costs.

"Department staff met with the facility and explained that they do not provide grant funding for operating costs to community residences."

Blizzard told the Times & Transcript the MCRI board asked the Department of Social Development for \$50,000 in additional funding to help cover the facility's operating costs during a meeting in May.

"We don't need to make a profit. We just need to have funding to provide the proper service," he said.

Jan Seely, president of New Brunswick Special Care Home Association, said she is not surprised by the facility's closure.

"I get calls every week from operators and owners around the province expressing the hardships their bottom lines are experiencing."

Community residences along with other community care services like special care homes, family support services and home care are strained by the Social

Development funding model, said Seely.

"[That model is] a very outdated and a poor set-up that has nothing built in to meet the rising costs of supplies, food and decent wages for workers," she said.

Blizzard said non-profit community residences are struggling financially because they generally pay their staff more than a for-profit or private agency would.

"We like to maintain our staffing, so we can provide a valuable service," he said.

He also said the funding model for non-profit residences is not functional because government funding does not keep up with the rising cost of living.

When asked about the future of the home's residents, Illsley said the departments is "looking into placements for each of the residents." The placements will be determined by the level of care each person needs. She said the goal is to have the residents in their new homes by Sept. 1.

Anne Mooers, a spokeswoman with the Department of Social Development, said in an email there are 19 community residences in the Moncton region and 10 are non-profit residences.

On Thursday, she told the Times & Transcript he was being moved to a community residence on Bessborough Avenue. She said Jim should be "OK" and there will be probably an adjustment period to a new place.

Blizzard said it could be a challenge for some of the residents to adapt to living in a different home.

"A lot of people who are developmentally delayed need structure in their daily lives. Any kind of change in that structure causes trauma and turmoil," he said.

MCRI's two children's residences and semi-independent living program will remain open, said Blizzard.

## Almanac calling for rainy winter in Atlantic Canada

### ALMANAC → A1

point. He said "the first view" suggests the first part of the summer being warmer than normal.

The climatologist said they don't have a good track record at forecasting precipitation in advance, so he shied away from any predictions.

Conditions suggest it could be an active hurricane season, though Phillips noted those could just affect southern waters off the United States. One such storm could bring a month's worth of rain, he said.

"There are storms not even born yet that could affect you in the fall," he said.

While looking ahead, Phillips said there's still summer-like weather to come.

"I wouldn't write the final chapter on summer yet," he said, noting this week looks mostly sunny with highs in

the mid-20s.

This summer has been a full degree warmer than the 17.4 C daily average after last year was 0.5 C above normal. The region received 155 millimetres total in June, July and August as of the 24th, well below the average of 268 mm. There was 231 mm of precipitation over the same period last year.

"It's been much more summer-like," which Phillips said can cause issues for agriculture, fishing, but can be a bonus for tourism.

The summer so far in Moncton:

- May was 0.8 C warmer than the 30-year average daily temperature of 10.7 C.

- June was one degree warmer than the 16 C average.

- July was 0.5 C above the 19.5 C normal.

- August was 1.5 C above the 19 C average as of the 24th.

Blizzard said about 85 per cent of the



Jim Fowler walks along the riverfront trail in Moncton on Sunday between light rain showers. The Farmer's Almanac predicts Atlantic Canada is in for a rainy than average winter. This week, Environment Canada predicts sun and cloud with highs in the mid-20s. The start of Labour Day weekend is expected to be cooler and rainy. PHOTO: SHANE MAGEE/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

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