

Hidden Lifelines: Major Utility Tunnel Upgrade Completed at All Saints Springhill Hospital

For generations, All Saints Springhill Hospital has stood as a beacon of care, resilience, and community strength. From its early days serving a bustling mining town to its modern role in the Cumberland County healthcare network, the facility has always been there when residents needed it most. Today, the community has a major reason to celebrate as a crucial, long-awaited infrastructure project has officially crossed the finish line: the comprehensive upgrade of the hospital's utility tunnel.

To truly understand the significance of this completed project, one must recognize that a hospital is much like a living organism. While the doctors, nurses, and patients make up the heart and soul of the building, it is the underlying infrastructure that keeps the facility breathing. While a "utility tunnel" might not sound as glamorous as a new piece of diagnostic equipment or a renovated waiting room, it is quite literally the lifeblood of All Saints Springhill Hospital.

This subterranean network is the central nervous system of the facility. The utility tunnel houses the critical arteries of the hospital, containing the complex web of electrical conduits, hot and cold water pipes, steam lines, and HVAC ventilation systems. Every single room, clinic, and hallway above ground relies entirely on the steady, uninterrupted flow of resources coming from this underground corridor.

Over the decades, as the hospital aged and medical technology advanced, this hidden infrastructure began to show signs of severe wear and tear. Aging pipes and outdated wiring presented an increasing risk of system failures, which could potentially disrupt patient care and force emergency maintenance. The municipality and provincial health authorities recognized that to keep All Saints functioning safely and efficiently, a complete overhaul of this vital tunnel was absolutely necessary.

The upgrade project was a massive, highly complex undertaking that required careful planning and meticulous execution. One of the greatest challenges faced by the engineering and construction teams was the need to keep the hospital fully operational throughout the process. Replacing the primary utility feeds of a working medical facility without interrupting daily care, surgeries, or emergency services required a masterful level of logistical coordination.



With the project now officially complete, the subterranean levels of the hospital have been thoroughly modernized. The old, decaying infrastructure has been stripped out and replaced with state-of-the-art, energy-efficient piping and heavily insulated HVAC lines. Furthermore, the electrical systems have been entirely upgraded to easily handle the massive power draws required by modern medical equipment, ensuring a stable and reliable power grid throughout the building.



For the dedicated medical staff who walk the halls of All Saints every day, this behind-the-scenes upgrade translates into a significantly more reliable working environment. Doctors and nurses no longer have to worry about the potential for sudden power fluctuations affecting sensitive monitoring equipment, or unexpected plumbing issues disrupting clinic schedules. The modernized tunnel allows the staff to focus entirely on what they do best: providing excellent patient care.

Patients, too, will experience the direct, tangible benefits of this massive overhaul, even if they never see the tunnel itself. The upgraded HVAC and steam lines mean far more consistent climate control in patient rooms, eliminating the drafts and temperature swings that can occur in older buildings. Improved air quality and reliable hot water ensure a much more comfortable, healing environment for residents recovering from illness or minor procedures.



Perhaps the most significant aspect of this completed project is what it represents for the long-term viability of All Saints Springhill Hospital. In an era where rural healthcare facilities across the country frequently face the looming threat of downsizing or closure, a major, multi-million dollar infrastructure investment sends a powerful message. It is a concrete demonstration that the health authority is deeply committed to maintaining a strong, operational medical presence right here in Springhill for decades to come.

As the final construction vehicles leave the site and the heavy equipment is cleared away, the town of Springhill can look at their local hospital with a renewed sense of security. The newly upgraded utility tunnel may remain entirely out of sight, buried beneath the foundation, but its impact will be felt in every brightly lit clinic and every warm patient room. It ensures that All Saints will continue to stand strong, ready to serve the next generation of Cumberland County residents.



Honouring the Past, Building the Future: Cumberland County Marks Truth and Reconciliation and Treaty Day



As autumn settles over Cumberland County, the changing of the seasons brings with it a time for profound community reflection and important historical acknowledgement. This week, residents and municipal leaders across the region paused their daily routines to observe two deeply significant occasions that shape the cultural and historical landscape of our province. By marking both National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 and Treaty Day on October 1, the county took vital steps toward acknowledging the past and honoring enduring relationships with Indigenous peoples.

The municipality's formal recognition was highlighted by a solemn ceremony held at the Upper Nappan Service Centre. Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy gathered with key community figures to officially sign a proclamation and raise the orange Every Child Matters flag. The mayor was joined by Deputy Mayor Fred Gould, the Municipality's Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Keilhack, Amanda Mollon from the Municipality's Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee, and Michelle Parsons, demonstrating a united front of local leadership.

Speaking on the importance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Mayor Gilroy emphasized the solemn nature of the observance. He noted that September 30 is fundamentally a time to remember and sincerely honour the thousands of children who never returned home from Canada's residential school system. Furthermore, he stressed the necessity of honoring the Survivors of these institutions, along with their families and their broader communities who still carry the weight of this traumatic history.

"This is also a day to listen and to learn," the mayor stated, pointing to the educational imperative of the occasion. He underscored that residents of Cumberland County need to deeply understand the painful history of the residential school system. It is crucial, he noted, to recognize that the devastating impacts of these schools are not just historical footnotes, but continue to be felt directly by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people, families, and communities today.



Mayor Gilroy also issued a vital reminder that the work of healing cannot be confined to a single calendar date. "Reconciliation is not something that happens on one day of the year," the mayor explained to those gathered. Instead, he described it as a permanent, ongoing responsibility that requires continuous respect, profound understanding, and a genuine, unwavering willingness to build stronger, more equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the region. To that end, the mayor put forward a direct call to action for all citizens throughout Cumberland County. He encouraged everyone to take dedicated time out of their schedules on September 30 to reflect deeply on these issues. By learning more about the rich history and the specific experiences of Indigenous Peoples, he hopes that every resident can actively consider the personal role they can play in the broader, ongoing process of reconciliation.

The visual symbol of this commitment was seen throughout the county as residents donned orange shirts in solidarity. "As we wear orange and remember that Every Child Matters, let us honour the past while continuing to work together toward a future built on respect, understanding and stronger relationships," Mayor Gilroy reflected. This vibrant display of support serves as a community-wide pledge to ensure that the tragic mistakes of the past are never repeated or forgotten.

Immediately following this day of solemn reflection, the county seamlessly transitioned into the observance of Treaty Day on October 1. This significant date serves as an annual celebration and recognition of a landmark 1985 Supreme Court of Canada decision. That specific legal ruling officially confirmed the ongoing validity of the historic Treaty of 1752, a foundational document in the relationship between the region's original inhabitants and European settlers.



The history of the 1752 Treaty is a cornerstone of Nova Scotia's heritage. The document was originally signed in a spirit of peace and friendship between "Jean Baptiste Cope, Chief Sachem of the Tribe of Mick Mack Indians, Inhabiting the Eastern Coast of said Province," and Peregrine Thomas Hopson, who was serving as the Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia at the time. Acknowledging this history is a vital part of understanding the modern legal and social framework of the Maritimes.

The modern celebration of this treaty stems from the watershed 1985 Supreme Court case known as James Matthew Simon v. the Queen. This monumental ruling was a turning point in Canadian law, as it not only officially validated Aboriginal Treaty rights but also firmly confirmed the unique, enduring relationship which exists between the Mi'kmaq people and the Crown. It affirmed that the promises made centuries ago remain legally binding and culturally essential today.

This unique and enduring relationship is further maintained and understood within the context of the Covenant Chain. The Covenant Chain is a historic concept that represents a complex series of interconnected treaties of mutual consent. It symbolizes an unbreakable, ongoing diplomatic relationship built on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, values that the municipality strives to uphold in its modern engagements.

Ultimately, as Cumberland County marks these important dates, it is recognized that Treaty Day festivities must first and foremost reflect the beliefs of the Mi'kmaq people with respect to the obligations of our shared Treaty Rights. This respectful aspiration is only made possible through the careful, collaborative planning of various events and educational activities, ensuring that both Truth and Reconciliation and Treaty Day are given the profound respect and attention they deserve in our community.





Vancouver: What Happens When Suffering Becomes Normal
By Ashley Legere

I went west expecting to learn more about homelessness, outreach, harm reduction and the systems built to respond to them, and I came home thinking mostly about suffering, about how much of it we are willing to tolerate, how quickly we can become accustomed to seeing it, and what happens when we spend more time debating where suffering is allowed to exist than asking why we have allowed so much of it to exist at all.

The contrasts began before I made the journey to downtown Vancouver. In Whistler, outreach teams work among some of the most extraordinary wealth in the country, in Nanaimo, food banks, Goodwill, churches and community organizations respond to growing need alongside communities that can otherwise appear prosperous, and in Port Alberni, the social consequences of profound economic change are much harder to miss.

Port Alberni was built around forestry, an industry that has undergone decades of restructuring, mill closures, curtailments and job losses. Its 2025 Point-in-Time count identified at least 180 people experiencing homelessness, including 107 people sleeping unsheltered, compared with 163 people counted in 2023 and 125 in 2021. A Point-in-Time count is only a snapshot and almost certainly an undercount, but the direction matters.

Economic devastation rarely stays economic. It becomes housing instability, food insecurity, declining health, family stress, migration and poverty, while the systems left behind absorb the consequences. Eventually those consequences become visible on sidewalks, in emergency departments, shelters, food banks and encampments, and somehow the conversation shifts from everything that happened to people before they arrived there to how inconvenient their presence has become now that we can see them.

Then I walked Hastings Street.

From Cambie toward Main, for more than a kilometre and over a dozen city blocks, on both sides of the street, there were hundreds upon hundreds of people, at times it felt like thousands. It is difficult to adequately describe the scale because there was no single scene to absorb and move beyond, it simply kept going.

Extraordinary wealth existed only blocks away from extraordinary poverty, while an open-air drug market operated in plain sight and people smoked methamphetamine, crack cocaine and fentanyl with the same casual familiarity that the rest of us might drink beer on patios on hot summer nights. Street outreach workers responded with oxygen to lifeless bodies on sidewalks while citizens stepped around them and continued on with their day.

That may have been the most difficult thing to comprehend. Not simply the drugs, tents or poverty, but how ordinary all of it appeared to have become.

Watching people walk past bodies reminded me of the World Vision commercials we watched on Sunday mornings when we were kids, images of suffering so profound and so far removed from our own lives that eventually they almost stopped feeling real. Except these people were not somewhere else, they were lying at our feet in one of the wealthiest cities in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

Municipal workers used leaf blowers to clear sidewalks where people were living, using and dying, while all around them were towers, expensive real estate, restaurants, tourism and enormous investment in infrastructure and appearance. The juxtaposition was almost absurd. Vancouver can look spectacularly prosperous, and if you avoid certain streets you could spend days there without understanding the depth of the crisis happening only blocks away.

Prosperity does not automatically reach people who are sick, poor or vulnerable, sometimes it simply grows around them.

There were other things that were harder to put into words. I watched well-dressed men walking alongside young women who were visibly sick, impoverished and vulnerable, and while I cannot know the circumstances of any individual person I passed, the imbalance was impossible not to notice. It looked like something from a time I thought we had moved beyond, young women whose vulnerability appeared almost transactional, walking beside men who looked completely at home in a world that was destroying the women beside them.

Homelessness is not simply the absence of a house. It is the absence of privacy, security and power, and that creates opportunities for exploitation we do not talk about nearly enough.

The Downtown Eastside felt, at moments, like the actual realm of hungry ghosts, block after block of illness, poverty, trauma, desire, survival and need existing on top of one another. Activists and drug-user organizations that have fought for people for decades looked exhausted, not because they had stopped caring, but because they have spent years burying people while fighting policy, stigma and an extraordinary amount of public apathy.

What I saw also challenged the image many of us still carry about substance use. Injection drug use has fallen dramatically in British Columbia, while smoking has become the most common mode of consumption associated with unregulated drug deaths. There were places where so many substances were being smoked that the air itself felt thin.

Our harm reduction systems were largely built around injection, needles and supervised injection spaces, while the people we are trying to keep alive have changed how they consume substances faster than many of our systems have changed how we respond. The larger misconception is that substance use somehow belongs to homelessness in the first place.

It does not.

Substance use occurs overwhelmingly among housed people because most people are housed. Statistics Canada found that 3.8 per cent of Canadians aged 15 and older met the diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder in 2022, while broader national surveys show substance use across every income level, community and social class.

What changes dramatically with homelessness is not the existence of substance use, but the conditions surrounding it. A person using drugs in a home may have running water, food, a telephone, privacy, somewhere to sleep and another person nearby who could notice when something goes wrong. Someone using outside may have none of those protections. National research found that people experiencing homelessness represented less than one per cent of Canada’s population but 8.9 per cent of accidental substance-related acute toxicity deaths examined in one national study.

Housing is not incidental to this crisis, it is part of keeping people alive. That became painfully clear in conversations about palliative street care.

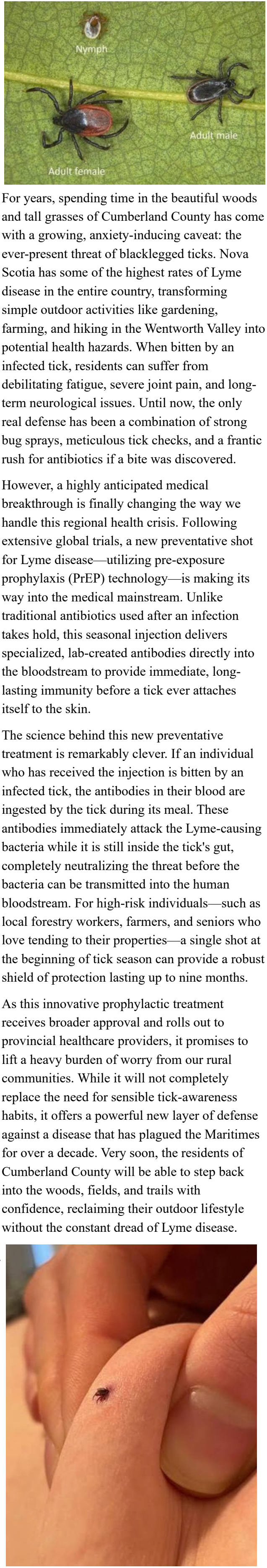
There are people living in shelters and outside who are hoping housing will be built quickly enough for them to die inside with dignity. Until then, some use drugs outside and in plain sight because visibility can be what keeps them alive. If this dose is the one that stops their breathing, somebody might see them, administer naloxone, provide oxygen or call for help.

Think about the threshold we have reached when the aspiration is no longer to live well, but simply to die inside. I walked by a United Church where people had been sleeping in the pews and where the building is now being transitioned to housing. In a city where faith communities have had to decide what sanctuary actually means when the people needing it are homeless, poor and using drugs, I heard it affectionately referred to as the “Diocese of the Safe Injector.”

Read more of Ashley’s article: [CLICK HERE](#).



A New Shield Against Lyme Disease



For years, spending time in the beautiful woods and tall grasses of Cumberland County has come with a growing, anxiety-inducing caveat: the ever-present threat of blacklegged ticks. Nova Scotia has some of the highest rates of Lyme disease in the entire country, transforming simple outdoor activities like gardening, farming, and hiking in the Wentworth Valley into potential health hazards. When bitten by an infected tick, residents can suffer from debilitating fatigue, severe joint pain, and long-term neurological issues. Until now, the only real defense has been a combination of strong bug sprays, meticulous tick checks, and a frantic rush for antibiotics if a bite was discovered.

However, a highly anticipated medical breakthrough is finally changing the way we handle this regional health crisis. Following extensive global trials, a new preventative shot for Lyme disease—utilizing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) technology—is making its way into the medical mainstream. Unlike traditional antibiotics used after an infection takes hold, this seasonal injection delivers specialized, lab-created antibodies directly into the bloodstream to provide immediate, long-lasting immunity before a tick ever attaches itself to the skin.

The science behind this new preventative treatment is remarkably clever. If an individual who has received the injection is bitten by an infected tick, the antibodies in their blood are ingested by the tick during its meal. These antibodies immediately attack the Lyme-causing bacteria while it is still inside the tick’s gut, completely neutralizing the threat before the bacteria can be transmitted into the human bloodstream. For high-risk individuals—such as local forestry workers, farmers, and seniors who love tending to their properties—a single shot at the beginning of tick season can provide a robust shield of protection lasting up to nine months.

As this innovative prophylactic treatment receives broader approval and rolls out to provincial healthcare providers, it promises to lift a heavy burden of worry from our rural communities. While it will not completely replace the need for sensible tick-awareness habits, it offers a powerful new layer of defense against a disease that has plagued the Maritimes for over a decade. Very soon, the residents of Cumberland County will be able to step back into the woods, fields, and trails with confidence, reclaiming their outdoor lifestyle without the constant dread of Lyme disease.



Cooking the Season: Pumpkin, Squash & a Bowl of Comfort from Amherst
By Brenda — Sweet Grammie B’s Gourmet Tarts & Such

There’s a moment every September in Cumberland County when the air shifts. The mornings get that crisp edge, the garden vines begin to yellow, and suddenly every roadside stand from Fenwick to River Hebert is overflowing with pumpkins and winter squash. It’s the kind of abundance that makes you want to pull out your stockpot, sharpen your knife, and settle into the rhythm of fall cooking. Pumpkin and squash are the workhorses of the harvest season — humble, sturdy, and endlessly versatile. They stretch meals, store beautifully, and bring that deep, earthy sweetness you can’t get from anything grown in July. Around here, they’re more than ingredients. They’re tradition. Earlier this week, I stopped into **Cheesecake Garage in Amherst**, and let me tell you — their **butternut squash soup** tastes exactly like the season turning. Warm, silky, and gently spiced, it’s the kind of bowl that makes you pause for a minute before the first spoonful. There’s comfort in it, and a reminder that simple food, made well, can carry a whole story. Inspired by that bowl, I’ve been back in my kitchen working on a recipe that brings together the best of our local harvest — something easy, nourishing, and perfect for readers who want to cook with what’s growing right now.



-  **Recipe: Cumberland Roasted Pumpkin & Squash Soup** A cozy, budget-friendly harvest soup for early fall.
- Ingredients:**
- 1 small pumpkin or 1 medium butternut squash (about 4–5 cups cubed)
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 2 carrots, chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic
 - 3 cups broth (vegetable or chicken)
 - 1 tsp maple syrup
 - ½ tsp cinnamon
 - ¼ tsp nutmeg
 - Salt & pepper
 - Splash of cream or coconut milk (optional)

Method:
Roast pumpkin/squash at 400°F until soft and caramelized.
Sauté onion, carrot, and garlic until fragrant.
Add roasted squash, broth, spices, and maple.
Simmer 15 minutes. Blend until smooth.
Finish with cream if you like. **Serving Tip:** Top with toasted pumpkin seeds or a drizzle of local maple syrup.

-  **Why Pumpkin & Squash Matter Here**
- They store for months — perfect for rural kitchens.
 - They’re nutrient-dense and naturally gluten-free.
 - They stretch meals without stretching budgets.
 - They pair beautifully with local maple, onions, and herbs.

 **A Final Note from the Kitchen**
Harvest season isn’t just about gathering food — it’s about gathering comfort. Whether it’s a pumpkin from your own garden, a squash from a neighbour’s stand, or a bowl of soup enjoyed at Cheesecake Garage, this time of year reminds us that simple meals can be the most memorable.

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Municipality of Cumberland

See some highlights below or go to <https://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/news-from-cumberland...>



See how the Municipality of Cumberland used the Build Communities Strong Fund to support an important tourism destination in the county.
<https://nsfm.ca/.../eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9...>



Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada
Nova Scotia Government
Municipality of Cumberland

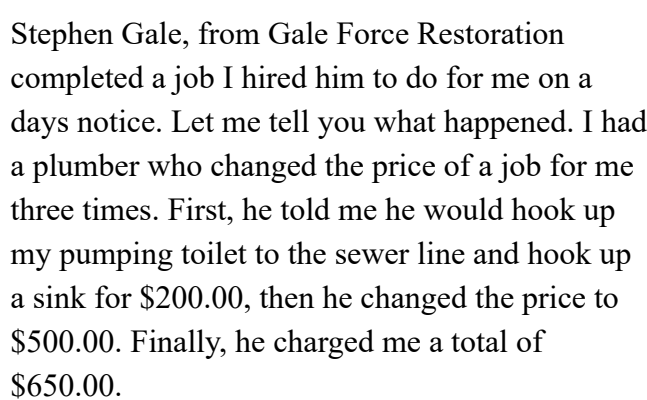
Municipality of Cumberland

This work is to test the capabilities of monitoring equipment and to trial platform positioning techniques. The platform is expected to be recovered 14 days from the deployment date. You may see brief vessel activity during daylight hours, including placing and retrieving equipment. Work will take place only when weather and sea conditions are suitable. Operations will be conducted from the Nova Endeavour, operated by Huntley's Diving and Marine.

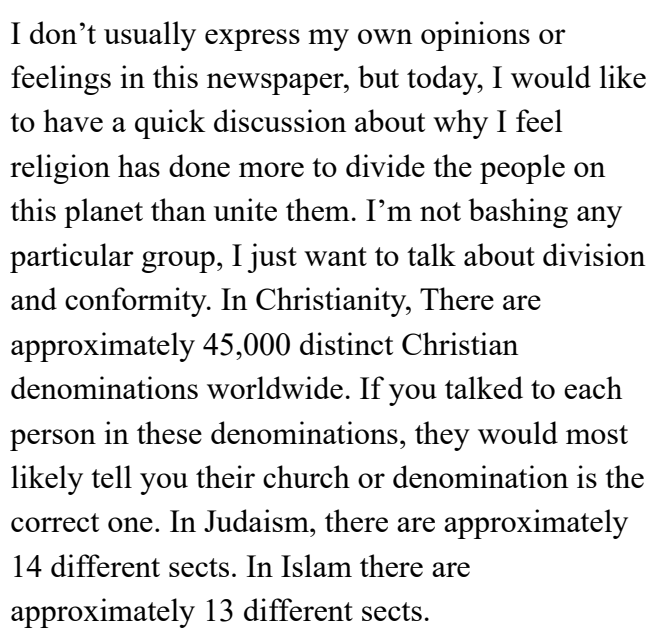


Every drop has a job — don't waste it! Small changes around your home can add up to big water savings.

[#municipalityofcumberland](#) [#waterwise](#)
[#conservewater](#) [#smallchangesbigdifference](#)



Sadly, he did not install the pumping toilet correctly, he put a cheater valve on the vent for the toilet, and had the sink drain into the vent at the top of the pump. Every time I flushed the toilet, nauseating fumes from the pump came up the sink drain. The plumber told me when he left there would be no smell. That wasn't true. The vent for the pump needed to be vented outside the bathroom, up the side of the exterior wall of the house, through the soffit, then through the roof. None of this work was done, and this guy was recommended by a local building supply store. Stephen Gale recently moved to the Five Islands area and he contacted me to place an ad in the classifieds section of the Cumberland Gazette. We started talking and I realized we had a lot of



So, we see that regardless of those religions who associate themselves with a supreme being they are all divided. In each of these sects and

common ground. Stephen is a good and honest man. He had to redo some of the work the other plumber left behind. Stephen came out around 9 am, and made a list of all the supplies we needed to do the job right. He worked all day, until dusk. After he left, I flushed the toilet and there was no smell. Stephen fixed my issue, and did an excellent job. The vent pipe on the side of the house is solid as a rock and completely up to code. The previous plumber left a mess. Stephen's price was very reasonable and I'm so glad I met this fine young man. If you're in need of someone who can do carpentry, plumbing, or electrical, Stephen is your go-to-guy. I would definitely recommend him, and I trust him. This was his first job since coming to Nova Scotia. One thing I know about Cumberland County is that it's difficult to get a good skilled tradesmen to work on your home. I suggest you contact Stephen right away because when word gets out, he may not be available right away. Here is his phone number: 709-215-2245 Please give him a call. He did me right. He'll do the same for you.

denominations, as I said, the people in them believe that they have the right religion. The question remains then, how can we all think we have the right religion?

My Story:

When I was 21, I became a Christian, and was content with going to the Catholic church. I met up with a friend who had become a Pentecostal, and he told me I didn't need the watered down sermons (his words, not mine) of the Catholic church, I needed to hear the word of God!

So, I became a Pentecostal. In my life, I have been a Catholic, Baptist, United Baptist, Pentecostal, Apostolic, Church of Christ, and a Messianic Jewish believer. In my time in church, I never really thought too much about anything. I paid my tithes, went faithfully, sometimes up to five times a week, but over 19 years, I grew disillusioned with the whole system. I left Christianity in 2003, and for two years, I didn't go anywhere. In 2005, I started going to a Messianic synagogue and stayed in that denomination for 8 years. In 2013, I closed the door to organized religion and decided to seek God on my own. Click [HERE](#) for more.

AMHERST



Events and Updates (September 21 – October 4) Committee of the Whole Meeting (September 21)

Town officials convened for a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday afternoon. The municipal session took place in the Council Chambers at Town Hall to discuss ongoing town projects.

Regular Town Council Meeting (September 28)

A regular municipal council meeting was held on Monday evening. For residents who were unable to attend in person at Town Hall, a live stream of the proceedings was made available for public viewing.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30)

Municipal offices across Amherst were closed in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Local public facilities, including the Amherst branch of the Cumberland Public Libraries, also closed for the day to provide an opportunity for the community to reflect upon the legacy of residential schools.

Women's Outreach and Community Engagement Event (October 2)

An event hosted by the Women's Outreach and Community Engagement Alliance took place at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre, with programming running throughout the day.

Masonic Breakfast (October 4)

A community Masonic Breakfast was hosted at 20 Lawrence Street on Sunday morning, gathering residents together for a weekend community meal.

Upcoming Events and Notices (October 5 – October 19)

Emeritus Championships (October 5)

The Amherst Golf Club will host the local Emeritus Championships on Monday afternoon. This community sporting event is scheduled to kick off with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start.

Thanksgiving Day Municipal Closures (October 12)

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, all non-essential municipal offices, including Town Hall and public works facilities, will be closed for the day. Regular town operations will resume on the morning of Tuesday, October 13.

Fall Yard Waste Collection Commences (October 14)

The Town of Amherst public works department will begin its annual fall yard waste collection program. Residents will be encouraged to place approved leaf and brush bags at the curb for scheduled pickup throughout the week.

Police Advisory Board Meeting (October 15)

The Amherst Board of Police Commissioners will hold its scheduled monthly meeting. The board will review community safety initiatives and local policing updates.

Robert Thomas & The Session Men Concert (October 9)

The First Baptist Church in Amherst will host a live musical performance featuring Robert Thomas & The Session Men on Friday evening. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., offering residents a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live music right in the heart of downtown.

Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival (October 13 – October 17)

Amherst will once again serve as the hub for the 17th annual Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival, running from Tuesday through Saturday. The five-day festival will feature rug hooking, quilting, weaving, and stitchery exhibits spread across various walkable downtown venues, including the Cumberland County Museum and Archives and the Amherst Centre Mall. **Weekly Stadium Skating Resumes (October 8)** At the Amherst Stadium starting Thursday, October 8. Running from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. every Thursday



Recent Events and Updates (September 21 – October 4)

Economic Development Model Transition (Ongoing)

Following a formal municipal review and the recent expiry of the operating agreement with the Cumberland Business Connector, the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of Cumberland spent the late summer and early fall transitioning to a new regional economic strategy. Throughout this recent period, the municipalities shifted to delivering economic development services directly through their own municipal staff to improve efficiency and provide direct support to local entrepreneurs.

Amherst Business Park Expansion (Ongoing)

Commercial buzz continues to grow regarding the active expansion of the Amherst Business Park. Supported by a recent \$2.5 million municipal infrastructure investment, progress continues on opening up more than 120 acres of development-ready land. The ongoing work includes the development of new streets, water systems, and sewers specifically designed to attract and accommodate new industrial and commercial businesses.

Upcoming Events and Notices (October 5 – October 19)

Small Business Week Kickoff (October 19)

Local entrepreneurs and commercial operators will join a nationwide celebration of commerce as the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) officially kicks off Small Business Week on Monday, October 19. Running throughout the week, the initiative will provide Cumberland County business owners with access to national resources, networking opportunities, and specialized virtual sessions focused on adapting to economic shifts and investing in commercial productivity.

Other News

Amherst Fire Chief Announces Departure

The Amherst Fire Department is undergoing a leadership change this fall, following the recent resignation of Fire Chief Greg Jones. Chief Jones officially stepped down from his role on September 25 to pursue a new opportunity. Mayor Rob Small publicly thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the department and his commitment to keeping Amherst residents safe. The Town has indicated it will provide further information regarding the interim leadership of the fire department and the next steps for the service in the near future.

Third Annual Welcoming Party Celebrates Diversity

In community news, Amherst recently celebrated the many cultures and people who call the area home during the third annual Welcoming Party. Held at the Amherst Travelodge on September 19, the gathering was hosted collaboratively by the Town of Amherst, the Community Navigator, and several local partners including Maggie's Place, the YMCA, and YReach. The event featured information tables to help residents learn about local services, alongside music, dance, and a collaborative community art project led by local artist Nadia Skoryk. The celebration served as a vibrant reminder of the growing diversity that continues to strengthen the town.

Town Advances YMCA Affordable Housing Project

On the development front, the Amherst Town Council has officially approved the second reading of a development agreement for a major housing initiative in the downtown core. The agreement will allow the YMCA of Cumberland to move forward with the next phase of its proposed 36-unit residential development located at 1 Albion Street. Designed as an infill project, the construction aims to directly address the high local demand for affordable housing while utilizing a central, accessible location within the community.



Doris Walton



When we think of community heroes, we often picture those responding to sudden emergencies, but true heroism is just as often found in the quiet, ongoing dedication to our most vulnerable residents. Amherst resident Doris Walton exemplifies this daily through her unwavering commitment to fighting child food insecurity. Recognizing a critical gap in support for local youth, she stepped forward to ensure that no student would have to spend their weekend worrying about their next meal, becoming a vital lifeline for countless families across the Cumberland region.

In 2018, Walton took decisive action by founding the After the School Bell Food Program at West Highlands Elementary School. The initiative was designed with a simple but profound goal: to provide food bags to children in need every Friday, ensuring they had reliable nourishment when they lost access to standard weekday school food programs. Through her tireless leadership and organizing efforts, the grassroots initiative steadily grew. It eventually expanded to distribute more than one hundred bags of food each week

across numerous schools in the area, directly combating weekend hunger and supporting the health and focus of local students Walton's immense contributions to the well-being of Amherst's youth did not go unnoticed by civic leaders. In the spring of 2023, she was officially named the Town of Amherst's Volunteer of the Year. During a special ceremony hosted by the Amherst Town Council at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre on April 18, 2023, Mayor David Kogon formally recognized her profound impact, praising her for making Amherst a more caring community. Later that year, she proudly represented the town at the provincial volunteer appreciation event in Halifax, firmly cementing her legacy as a true small-town hero whose compassionate work continues to nourish the next generation.

[Slamherst is with Nic Furlong and 4 others](#)



As one of the organizers of Slamherst, Nic chose the Amherst Curling Club's youth program to receive \$2,400 from this year's event! Here he is with one of the leaders of the youth program, Jeff MacDonald. Last year, the club invested in training technology that gives young curlers real, tangible feedback to help develop their skills which is exactly the kind of investment in local youth we love to support. We're excited to see what they do with this year's contribution and what's in store for the season ahead!

902-297-8300

AMHERST
FUNDY TAXI

"FARES AS LOW AS THE TIDE"

AMHERST TO GREATER
MONCTON ROMEO LEBLANC
INT'L AIRPORT
\$99 PLUS TAX
YQM

AMHERST TO
HALIFAX STANFIELD
INT'L AIRPORT
\$265 PLUS TAX
YHZ

OXFORD



In May 2026, the newly constructed community centre in Oxford was officially named the eastlink Wild Blueberry Centre. The approximately \$25-million facility was built on land donated by the Town of Oxford at the site of the former high school, answering a critical community need after the former Lions Club hall was forced to close due to a massive sinkhole in 2018. The building is designed to serve as a regional hub for northern Nova Scotia, featuring a gymnasium, community kitchen, fitness centre, library branch, and child-care space.

On October 5, 2026, St. Francis Xavier University announced the development of a new, internationally significant methane research facility located in rural Oxford. Named SIMFLEX-BASE, the site is connected directly to a natural gas pipeline and allows researchers and technology companies from around the world to test methane detection equipment and satellites using carefully controlled, supervised gas releases. By bringing this pioneering scientific site to Oxford, the project positions the local area at the center of global efforts to accurately measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://hellooxford.ca/2026/05/26/eastlink-names-oxford-community-centre/>
<https://www.cbc.ca/lite/story/1.7620941?feature=random>
<https://www.stfx.ca/news/SIMFLEX-BASE>

Clara Embree

Long before modern community centers and digital networks brought people together, small towns relied on the quiet, steady dedication of individuals who devoted their lives to supporting their neighbors. In Oxford, one such remarkable figure was Clara Embree, a lifelong educator who spent decades shaping the minds of local children at the turn of the twentieth century. Born and raised in Cumberland County, Clara recognized early on that education was the bedrock of a thriving community. She returned to Oxford after completing her training, stepping into a one-room schoolhouse where she taught generations of local families through harsh winters, economic hardships, and times of great social change.

Beyond her daily lessons in reading and arithmetic, Clara operated as an informal pillar of social support for the entire village. During the difficult winters when mill work slowed and families faced steep heating and food costs, she quietly organized clothing drives and ensured that no child walked to school without proper winter boots or a warm meal. If a family was struck by illness, she was among the first to arrive at their door with remedies and nourishing broths, balancing her demanding classroom duties with tireless acts of neighborhood compassion. Her deep understanding of local families made her a trusted confidante and counselor to parents navigating the trials of rural life.

Though she lived a quiet and unassuming life, Clara left an indelible mark on the character of Oxford that lasted long after her retirement. Former students frequently recalled her strict adherence to kindness, integrity, and community responsibility as the guiding principles that shaped their adult lives. By dedicating her entire existence to uplifting the youth and vulnerable members of Cumberland County, she proved that true heroism does not require dramatic rescues or public accolades. Clara Embree remains a shining example of a small town hero whose enduring legacy lives on in the very fabric of Oxford.



Oxford Trivia

Test your local knowledge with our second round of Oxford Trivia! Grab a pen and see how well you know our community's history. The answers are at the bottom of the page, so no peeking!

1. Who is credited as being the first settler and official founder of Oxford back in the 1790s?
A) Jessie Bent
B) Richard Thompson
C) George D. Hewson
2. In the 1880s, the community was temporarily known by what nickname due to the high number of local sawmills?
A) Mill Village
B) Timber Town
C) Slab Town
3. How did the town of Oxford originally get its unique name?
A) It was named after Oxford University in England
B) Early settlers used oxen to cross, or ford, the shallow river
C) It was named after the region's first lumber company
4. According to the 2021 census, what is the official population of the town of Oxford
A) 1,170
B) 2,450
C) 3,100

Answers:

Oxford By Clayton Gabriel



PARRSBORO



Recent Community News (September 21 – October 4)

October 2 – Parrsboro Film Festival: The annual Parrsboro Film Festival kicked off at The Hall on 44 King Street, showcasing independent films and bringing movie enthusiasts together in the community.

October 3 – Christmas at The Three Sisters: The Three Sisters Centre on Eatonville Road hosted an early holiday event featuring fun and festive activities, allowing local vendors to showcase and sell their homemade goods.

October 3 – Parrsboro Pink Run: The community gathered for a night ATV ride to raise awareness for breast cancer, decorating their vehicles with pink lights and ribbons to support the Kathryn Wright Centre's Angel Fund.

October 3 – The Chiggy Ultra Weekend: Runners challenged themselves in the beauty of Cape Chignecto Provincial Park with a fun 9k run and multiple loops of the park trails, supported by local volunteers.

Upcoming Events & Notices (October 5 – October 19)

October 9 – Open Mic at The Hall: The Hall at 44 King Street will host an Open Mic night starting at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to enjoy great local entertainment, a canteen, door prizes, and a 50/50 draw.

October 10 – A Haunting By-The-Sea: The Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum will host an unforgettable night of mystery and exploration from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Attendees can step into the shoes of a real ghost hunter alongside Nova Scotia's oldest registered paranormal society.

October 11 – Brian Wheaton's Fall Classic: The Parrsboro Golf Club will host this fun golf event starting with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The classic will feature a unique par 3 setup for competitors.

October 16 – Wa'so'q (Partridge Island) Guided Hike: The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark and Hike NS are partnering to host a guided hike from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The hike begins on the beach at Partridge Island, allowing participants to experience the famous "bubbling tides" and explore the local trail.



Partridge Island By John Doyle



A Funny Story...

Do you have a funny story from the archives of your life? We want to hear them! We will be offering a cash prize for the three funniest stories people submit. Send your story to info@thecumberlandgazette.ca. It can be anonymous or full credit to you in the newspaper.

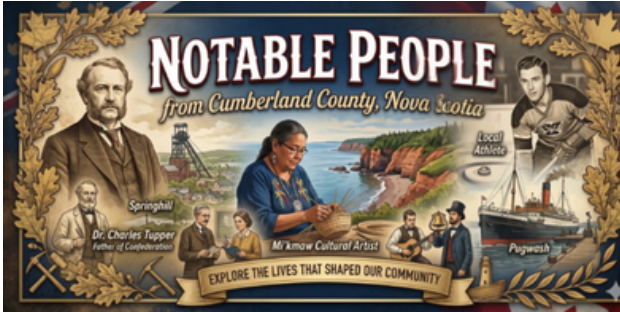


Tim Hortons

While this column often focuses on independent local shops, some regional staples are so deeply woven into the daily fabric of the community that they deserve their own moment in the sun. Located at 4019 Eastern Ave, the Parrsboro Tim Hortons is much more than just a quick drive-thru for a morning coffee. For many residents, it serves as an essential daily meeting point, a dependable stop before heading out on the water or the highway, and a comforting beacon of familiar routine right here on the coast of the Minas Basin.

The true charm of this specific location lies in the people pouring the coffee. Despite carrying a national banner, the Parrsboro franchise is staffed by familiar, hardworking locals who know their regular customers by name and often have their exact orders ready before they even reach the counter. Whether residents are grabbing a classic Double-Double and a box of Timbits for the job site, or sitting down in the dining room for a warm bowl of chili on a brisk autumn afternoon, the fast and exceptionally friendly service consistently makes guests feel right at home.

Beyond keeping the town caffeinated, the establishment provides reliable local employment and a consistent, casual gathering space where neighbors can catch up on the day's news. It proves that you don't necessarily have to be a small mom-and-pop shop to have a big heart and a deep connection to the town you serve. The next time you pull up to the window or step up to the counter on Eastern Ave, take a moment to appreciate the dedicated local team keeping Parrsboro running one cup at a time.



Walter Harris Callow

When we think of pioneers who changed the world from right here in Cumberland County, Walter Harris Callow is a name that deserves to be celebrated. Born in Parrsboro in 1894, Callow grew up with a natural aptitude for mechanics and an entrepreneurial spirit. However, his life took a tragic and permanent detour during the First World War. While training as a pilot with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, he survived a devastating plane crash that left him with a severe spinal injury. By 1931, his injuries left him completely bedridden and quadriplegic, eventually requiring him to move permanently to Camp Hill Veterans Hospital in Halifax. Yet, instead of surrendering to his circumstances, Callow used his brilliant mind to change the lives of others.

Callow's most profound legacy took shape in the aftermath of the Second World War. Watching newly injured veterans facing a life of isolation, he was determined to give them their mobility back. From his hospital bed—unable to move his arms or legs, and communicating through a specialized headset—Callow meticulously designed the world's first wheelchair-accessible bus. He successfully lobbied automobile manufacturers and managed the entire production process, resulting in the launch of

the very first Walter Callow Wheelchair Coach in 1947. Featuring a revolutionary ramp system, the bus allowed veterans and disabled children to roll right on board.

Throughout the 1950s, Callow's buses became a famous sight across the province, taking disabled residents on scenic countryside drives, to sporting events, and on community picnics. He continued to manage the growing bus fleet entirely from his hospital bed until his death in 1958, even after eventually losing his eyesight. In a poignant and heartbreaking tribute to his life's work, the only time Walter Callow ever rode inside the groundbreaking accessible bus he invented was when it carried him home to be buried in nearby Advocate Harbour. Today, his incredible resilience and his pioneering contribution to accessibility remain a profound point of pride for the Parrsboro shore.

Parrsboro Sports Briefs



Recent Activities (September 21 – October 4)

October 1 – Exercise with Amanda: Residents headed to the FPW Fire Hall in Port Greville for an afternoon session of healthy movement and exercise. The class was sponsored by the Greville Bay Citizens for Health & Fitness to promote active local living.

October 1 – Bodypump Fitness Class: Participants gathered at the Parrsboro Elementary School gym on School Street for a full-body evening toning class. The drop-in session utilized light weights and resistance bands to accommodate residents of all fitness levels.

October 3 – The Chiggy Ultra Weekend: Endurance athletes and casual runners alike challenged themselves in the rugged beauty of Cape Chignecto Provincial Park in Advocate Harbour. Participants took on everything from a fun 9k run to grueling multi-loop trail challenges, all supported by local community volunteers.

October 3 – Parrsboro Pink Run: Local ATV riders met up for an unforgettable night ride on the trails to raise awareness for breast cancer. Riders decorated their ATVs with glowing pink lights and ribbons to support the Kathryn Wright Centre's Angel Fund.

Upcoming Events & Notices (October 5 – October 19)

October 5 – Kickbox Cardio: The Parrsboro Elementary School gym will host a low-impact, high-energy choreographed full-body workout starting at 9:15 a.m.. The coed drop-in session features punch and kick combinations designed to challenge stamina and coordination.

October 8 – NS Walks Advocate: Everyone is welcome to join this free, gentle, and friendly community walking group at 9:45 a.m. in Advocate Harbour. It is a fantastic opportunity for residents to get moving and socialize in a relaxed, scenic environment.

October 11 – Brian Wheaton's Fall Classic: Local golfers will take to the links for this highly anticipated autumn event at the Parrsboro Golf Club. Kicking off with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start, the tournament features a unique par-3 setup designed to test everyone's short game before the season ends.

October 15 – NS Walks Advocate: The free and friendly community walking group will meet once again at 9:45 a.m. in Advocate Harbour. Interested participants are encouraged to register through the NS Walks website to enjoy a gentle morning walk and fresh coastal air.

Port Greville By John Doyle



Emma Forbes

When we think of community leaders, we often picture adults who have spent decades serving on local boards, but Parrsboro's own Emma Forbes is proving that a heart for volunteerism does not have an age requirement. Her incredible dedication to giving back makes her an ideal feature for this week's Small Town Heroes column. Earlier this year, during National Volunteer Week in April 2026, her selfless efforts were officially recognized when she was honored at the Municipality of Cumberland's annual volunteer awards, shining a well-deserved spotlight on the positive impact our local youth are having on the Parrsboro shore.

Emma's municipal recognition stems from her tireless work helping to organize and run the Parrsboro Children's Christmas Party. Knowing how important the holidays are for local families, she dedicated her time and energy to ensuring the seasonal community event was a magical and memorable success for the town's youngest residents. Emma did not undertake this task alone; she collaborated closely with a dedicated group of her peers—including Carter Taylor, Duncan Mills, Gracie Taylor, and Sadie Mills—all of whom shared the municipal recognition for their collective teamwork and phenomenal community spirit.

It takes a special kind of maturity and compassion for a young person to spend their free time giving back instead of focusing solely on their own activities. By stepping up to ensure other children in her community had a wonderful holiday celebration, Emma has set an inspiring standard not just for her classmates, but for residents of all ages. Small towns thrive when the next generation actively participates in community building, and young heroes like Emma Forbes give us all wonderful reassurance that the future of Parrsboro is in incredibly caring hands.

Shoring up the Shore

While we covered sealing up drafts and clearing gutters in our last edition, another crucial step is securing your home's exterior against the powerful coastal gales that inevitably sweep off the Bay of Fundy. Now is the time to safely store patio furniture, secure loose garden tools, and trim back any dead or damaged tree branches hanging precariously close to your roof or power lines. A few hours spent battening down the hatches in the yard can prevent significant property damage when those intense nor'easters finally arrive.

Moving indoors, ensuring your home's heating system is running safely and efficiently is vital before the first major freeze sets in. For the many Cumberland County residents relying on wood stoves or fireplaces to fend off the coastal dampness, scheduling a professional chimney sweep is essential to clear out creosote buildup and prevent winter house fires. If you rely on a heat pump or furnace, swapping out old filters and booking a seasonal servicing will keep your system running smoothly when you need it most. While you are at it, this is the perfect time of year to test all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, replacing the batteries to keep your family safe through the long winter nights. Finally, true Maritime winter preparedness means always being ready for the unexpected, particularly when it comes to seasonal power outages. Putting together a dedicated winter storm kit ensures you will not be scrambling in the dark if the grid goes down during a heavy snowfall. Stock a designated bin with fresh batteries, reliable flashlights, a battery-powered radio, and a sturdy first-aid kit. It is also wise to keep a three-day supply of non-perishable food and bottled water tucked away. By taking these proactive steps now, Parrsboro residents can head into the colder months with peace of mind, ready to comfortably weather whatever the season throws our way.

PUGWASH



Recent Happenings & Community Updates

The **Twisted Stitches** group met at the Pugwash Library on Tuesday mornings, September 22 and September 29. Participants brought their current projects and enjoyed a few hours of textile crafting and socializing from 10:00 am to noon.

The **Pugwash Library** hosted a "Melted Crayon Leaf Suncatchers" craft session on the afternoon of September 23. Children gathered at 3:00 pm to create colorful autumn-themed window decorations using melted crayons.

Local residents gathered at the Pugwash Library on Saturday afternoon for a special poetry reading on September 26. Author Chad Norman presented selections from his newest collection titled "A Life Between the Brackets," sharing his latest literary work with the community at 1:00 pm.

The community observed **Truth and Reconciliation Day** on September 30. All Cumberland Public Libraries branches, including the Pugwash location, were closed for the entire day.

The **Pugwash Farmers' Market** operated on Saturday morning, October 3, offering shoppers fresh seasonal goods. Vendors set up from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm beside the old train station on Durham Street.

Upcoming Events & Village Calendar

The Pugwash Library will continue to host the Twisted Stitches group on Tuesday mornings, including October 6 and October 13. Crafters working on any textile project are welcome to join the social gathering from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The **weekly Farmers' Market** will continue its fall season on Saturday, October 10. Shoppers are encouraged to visit the Durham Street location in the heart of Pugwash Village between 8:30 am and 1:00 pm to support local farmers and artisans.

The **Pugwash Village Commission** is scheduled to hold a meeting on the evening of Monday, October 12. Proceedings will begin at 6:00 pm, where commissioners will discuss ongoing community business and village updates.

The **weekly Farmers' Market** will also be open on Saturday, October 17. Residents can visit the market from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm to enjoy the late fall harvest offerings along the scenic Sunrise Trail.



Fusions Bistro



Located right in the village at 10163 Durham Street, Fusions Bistro is a relatively recent and incredibly welcome addition to the Pugwash dining landscape. While the North Shore is traditionally known for its classic Maritime seafood and pub fare, this vibrant eatery has quickly made a name for itself by introducing a diverse, globally inspired menu to the local community. For residents looking to try something completely different without having to drive out of town, the bistro provides an exciting

new culinary experience right on the village's main thoroughfare.

The menu at Fusions Bistro offers a fantastic departure from the usual local offerings, specializing in authentic Indian cuisine, fresh wraps, and an impressive array of vegetarian options. Whether patrons are stopping by for a rich, aromatic curry or grabbing a quick, flavorful lunch to go, the kitchen consistently prioritizes bold spices and high-quality ingredients. Their dedication to providing diverse dietary choices, particularly their highly praised veggie-friendly dishes, ensures that there is a delicious and satisfying meal available for every type of diner who walks through the door.

Despite being a newer face in the Pugwash business community, Fusions Bistro has already cultivated a highly dedicated local following. The warm, inviting atmosphere and consistently excellent service have quickly transformed it into a regular lunch destination for many in the village. By enthusiastically supporting newer, diverse establishments like this one, residents are helping to grow and enrich the local culture, proving that a historic, small-town community can still warmly welcome fresh and exciting changes to its culinary scene.

Pugwash Sports Briefs



Recent Action & Local Sports Updates

Northumberland Links wrapped up its official peak season play on September 30 before shifting to late shoulder season operations on October 1. Golfers took full advantage of the clear, crisp autumn weather along the Gulf Shore over the final week of September, packing the course to log their final 18-hole rounds before the seasonal rate adjustments took effect.

The **Pugwash District High School Panthers** soccer squads intensified their regular-season schedules across the Northumberland region between September 21 and October 2. Both the boys' and girls' teams took to the pitch for critical divisional matchups, testing their stamina and teamwork against regional Cumberland and Colchester opponents as the standings tightened heading into October.

Local pickleball players staged their final consecutive days of regular outdoor play at the Sunset Community courts during the closing week of September. With morning frosts beginning to settle along the coast, participants made the most of afternoon sunshine on the asphalt courts before organizing gear to head indoors for autumn sessions.

Student-athletes on the PDHS cross-country team logged heavy training mileage along the regional trail networks and around local school grounds through the end of September and the first weekend of October. Runners focused on hill climbs, pacing drills, and endurance conditioning in direct preparation for the upcoming regional championship meets.

Upcoming Sports & Recreation Schedule

High school soccer will reach the final stretch of regular-season play between October 5 and October 16. The PDHS Panthers will compete in decisive home and away fixtures to determine qualification seeding ahead of the upcoming regional playoffs scheduled for late October. Northumberland Links will continue welcoming golfers for late shoulder season rounds through the middle of October. Players will have the opportunity to take in dramatic coastal views across the strait and navigate the rolling fairways under discounted autumn rates prior to the Thanksgiving long weekend.

Cross-country runners from Pugwash District High School will travel to their respective district and regional qualifier races between October 7 and October 14, seeking qualification berths for the provincial championship slated for October 19. Competitors will face demanding off-road courses against top runners from across the district.

Recreational runners and trail walkers will gather across the Pugwash Estuary and Peace Trail systems during the second and third weeks of October to catch peak fall foliage along the water. The local pathways offer prime, unobstructed conditions for independent fitness training and brisk coastal walking before late-autumn weather arrives.



Mary E. Crowley

When we think of small-town heroes, we often picture the modern first responders and dedicated volunteers who actively serve our community today. However, one of the most profound examples of heroism in the history of Pugwash belongs to a young child from the village's past. Her name was Mary E. Crowley, and while her story took place over a century and a half ago, her incredible courage remains a deeply respected cornerstone of our local heritage.

In 1869, at just 12 years of age, Mary found herself facing an unimaginable tragedy when a devastating house fire broke out. In a moment of pure, selfless bravery, the young girl rushed to protect her family, successfully saving the lives of her younger brother and sister. Tragically, Mary was unable to save herself from the flames, sacrificing her own life to ensure that her younger siblings survived the horrific blaze.

The profound sacrifice made by this young girl left an indelible mark on the grieving community. In 1870, the residents of Pugwash came together to erect a special monument, known as the Crowley Memorial, in her honor. Today, this monument holds immense historical significance beyond our village limits, as it is thought to be the very first public monument ever erected in Canada for a female.

Although generations have passed since her untimely death, Mary E. Crowley's legacy continues to resonate throughout Pugwash. The memorial stands not only as a solemn tribute to a life cut tragically short but also as an enduring symbol of the fierce love and protective instinct that defines true heroism. For the readers of the Cumberland Gazette, her story serves as a poignant, timeless reminder that the greatest acts of courage can come from the youngest among us.

Pugwash Trivia Challenge

Question 1

To honour the heritage of many of its 19th-century immigrants, all the street signs in the village of Pugwash are bilingual, displaying English and what other language?

- A) French
- B) Gaelic
- C) Mi'kmaq
- D) German

Question 2

In 1957, Pugwash gained international fame when Thinkers Lodge hosted the first Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. In 1995, what prestigious award did this organization jointly win?

- A) The Pulitzer Prize
- B) The Nobel Peace Prize
- C) The Order of Canada
- D) The Lenin Peace Prize

Question 3

Pugwash suffered four major devastating fires in its early history. Which year saw the "Great Fire" that destroyed 200 dwellings, churches, and stores, leaving 1,200 residents homeless?

- A) 1898
- B) 1901
- C) 1912
- D) 1928

The Cumberland Gazette is looking for a funny story about your life's experiences. It could be anything: something with your children, spouse, job, a trip to the beach a wedding, anniversary, a baby being born, anything that happened, we want to hear it from you. Send us two or three written paragraphs and we'll take care of the rest. Send your article to info@thecumberlandgazette.ca

Question 4

The historic Pugwash Train Station, built in the late 1800s, was designed by which famous Scottish-Canadian engineer and inventor?

- A) Alexander Graham Bell
- B) Sir Sandford Fleming
- C) Donald Smith
- D) William Dawson

Question 5

Since 1951, Pugwash has celebrated its Scottish heritage annually on Canada Day with what major local event?

- A) The Highland Games
- B) The Tartan Festival
- C) The Gathering of the Clans
- D) The Celtic Colours Festival

Answers:

- C) The Gathering of the Clans
- B) Sir Sandford Fleming
- A) 1898
- B) The Nobel Peace Prize
- B) Gaelic

The Great Pugwash Fire of 1898

In the late nineteenth century, the bustling village of Pugwash was a thriving hub of shipbuilding, industry, and maritime trade. However, like many coastal communities built primarily of wood during that era, it lived under the constant threat of disaster. That lingering vulnerability became a devastating reality in 1898 when a massive fire tore through the heart of the village. It stands out in regional history not only for the terrifying speed at which the flames spread but for the absolute scale of the destruction it left in its wake.

The sheer magnitude of the Great Fire of 1898 was so catastrophic that it made international headlines, with reports of the devastation reaching as far as The New York Times. The blaze decimated the commercial center and surrounding residential streets, leaving an estimated 1,200 residents suddenly homeless. When the smoke finally cleared, the grim tally of the losses included 200 dwellings, 20 stores, five churches, three hotels, and several vital mills that served as the economic lifeblood of the community.

Sadly, this catastrophic event was not an isolated incident in the town's early history. The dense, wooden architecture of the time made Pugwash particularly susceptible to infernos, and the village actually suffered through four major, village-altering fires between 1890 and 1929. Residents had barely recovered and rebuilt from an earlier blaze in 1890 when the 1898 fire struck, and they would face similar, albeit smaller, fiery trials again in 1901 and 1928. Each disaster razed substantial portions of the town, forcing the community into continuous cycles of mourning and reconstruction.

Despite the staggering economic and personal losses caused by the 1898 fire, the tragedy ultimately highlighted the profound resilience of the North Shore's inhabitants. The citizens of Pugwash did not abandon their deep-water port; instead, they cleared the ash and began the arduous process of rebuilding their homes, businesses, and lives from the ground up. Today, looking back at the Great Fire offers a sobering reminder of the fragile nature of our early settlements and stands as a testament to the enduring, unbreakable spirit of the people who shaped the region we know today.

Pugwash Area Photo By John Murray



The Cumberland Gazette



In the next month, my graphic designer will be working on a new business that we hope the communities of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, and Canada will enjoy. It’s an online apparel store that will be showcasing designs for t-shirts, and other clothing and home accents to brighten up your wardrobe and home. Vivian will be the mastermind for this with her excellent design skills, and I have a knack for words and phrases, so it should be

pretty interesting. Do you have a business that you would like to start? Do you have a Facebook page, a website, social media manager. Vivian and I can help you with that. If you’re looking for more exposure, why not consider running an ad. We had a lady, Bonnie Hibberts Langille who advertized her business in the Springhill Gazette, my previous newspaper, and she asked me after several months to take the ad down, she had too much business. Call us: [902-401-1923](tel:902-401-1923) to talk.

The Unsolved Oland Murder Mystery

The Maritimes are often celebrated for their tight-knit communities, historic charm, and peaceful coastal living. However, beneath this serene facade lies a complex history of criminal investigations that have baffled local authorities and captivated the public. While many infamous Maritime crimes belong to the distant, fog-shrouded Victorian era, one of the most baffling and sensational murder mysteries occurred much more recently. Just across the Bay of Fundy in Saint John, New Brunswick, the brutal slaying of a prominent billionaire sparked a decade-long legal saga that remains unsolved today.

The victim at the center of this modern mystery was Richard Oland, a highly successful and deeply influential sixty-nine-year-old businessman. As a prominent member of the legendary family behind Moosehead Breweries—Canada’s oldest independent brewery—Oland was a giant in the Maritimes' corporate landscape. Beyond his family’s brewing empire, he was a driving force in local business, an avid sailor, and a man known for his formidable, and sometimes abrasive, personality. His immense wealth and towering social status made him an unlikely victim of such a visceral and violent crime.

The grim mystery began to unfold on the morning of July 7, 2011. Richard Oland’s executive assistant arrived for work at his investment firm, located in a historic brick building on Canterbury Street in uptown Saint John. Inside the second-floor office, she made a horrifying discovery. Oland was found lying in a pool of blood on the floor, having suffered forty-five sharp- and blunt-force blows to his head, neck, and hands. The sheer brutality of the attack shocked the city and immediately launched a massive homicide investigation.

From the moment the Saint John Police Force arrived at the scene, the investigation was plagued by critical missteps that would later haunt the prosecution. The crime scene was a chaotic puzzle. Despite the frenzy of the attack, there was no sign of forced entry, nothing of significant value appeared to have been stolen, and the murder weapon—believed to be a drywall hammer or a similar tool—was nowhere to be found. The killer had seemingly vanished into the bustling uptown streets, leaving behind only a few bloody footprints and a devastated community.

Investigators quickly turned their attention to those closest to Oland, operating on the statistical probability that the victim knew his killer. Suspicion soon fell heavily on Richard’s only son, Dennis Oland. Police uncovered evidence of a strained relationship between father and son, largely centered around financial difficulties. Dennis was deeply in debt, and investigators theorized that a desperate plea for financial assistance on the evening of July 6 had escalated into a lethal, rage-fueled confrontation in the Canterbury Street office.

The cornerstone of the police’s case against Dennis rested on a brown Hugo Boss sports jacket. Security footage from the day of the murder showed Dennis wearing the brown jacket, but when questioned by police, he mistakenly told them he had been wearing a navy blue one. When investigators finally seized the brown jacket, they found four microscopic drops of blood that DNA testing matched to his father. To the prosecution, this, combined with his financial motive and being the last known person to see Richard alive, was the smoking gun.

In 2015, the tragedy culminated in a highly publicized, emotionally charged trial that gripped the Maritimes and the entire country. The media circus descended on the Saint John courthouse, broadcasting every agonizing detail of the Oland family's private lives. The prosecution painted Dennis as a desperate son pushed to the brink, while the defense vehemently argued that the police had developed tunnel vision, ignoring other potential suspects and severely mishandling the crime scene. Despite the defense's efforts, a jury found Dennis Oland guilty of second-degree murder, sending him to prison.

However, the dramatic legal saga was far from over. Dennis Oland’s defense team immediately launched an appeal, arguing that the trial judge had made critical errors in how he instructed the jury regarding Dennis’s mistaken statement about the color of his jacket. In a stunning reversal, the New Brunswick Court of Appeal agreed, overturning the conviction in 2016 and ordering a completely new trial. Dennis was released on bail, setting the stage for a second massive legal showdown that would tear the case down to its foundations.

The retrial, held in 2019, was decided by a judge alone rather than a jury, and it cast a harsh, unforgiving light on the initial police investigation. Justice Terrence Walsh meticulously dismantled the Crown's case, pointing out shocking investigative failures. The court heard how police officers had failed to properly secure the building's back exit, used the washroom near the crime scene before it was processed, and allowed too many people into the bloody office. Justice Walsh concluded that the police had failed to establish a solid chain of evidence, making it impossible to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Dennis Oland was officially acquitted of his father’s murder, walking out of the courthouse a free man. Today, more than a decade after the brutal crime, the murder of Richard Oland remains officially unsolved. The blood-stained office on Canterbury Street stands as a haunting reminder of a botched investigation and a fractured family. For true crime enthusiasts and the residents of Cumberland County looking across the bay, it is a lingering, chilling mystery that continues to beg the question: if Dennis Oland didn't kill his billionaire father, then who did?



Digital Heartbreak: The Threat of AI-Enhanced Companionship Scams

As we continue to navigate the digital age here in Cumberland County, our local seniors are increasingly becoming the targets of sophisticated cybercriminals. While we have previously warned readers about the sudden dangers of AI voice cloning and deepfake investment videos, a new, far more insidious threat is quietly draining the life savings of older Canadians. This emerging fraud is the AI-enhanced companionship and romance scam, a digital trap designed to prey not on a victim's panic or greed, but on their genuine human desire for connection and friendship.

The deception typically begins innocently enough on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or even online word game apps that are popular with seniors. A local resident will receive a polite, unsolicited message from a seemingly charming stranger. In the past, these scammers were easily spotted by their poor grammar, broken English, and repetitive copy-pasted scripts. Today, however, fraudsters are utilizing advanced AI language models to generate flawless, highly personalized, and deeply empathetic conversations that can easily fool even the most cautious individuals.

What makes this modern iteration so incredibly dangerous is the visual manipulation involved. To avoid being caught by a simple reverse-image search on the internet, scammers no longer steal photos of real military personnel or overseas professionals. Instead, they use AI image generators to conjure up entirely fake, hyper-realistic photographs of attractive people who do not actually exist. Some sophisticated criminal rings are even using real-time AI face-swapping technology to conduct brief, blurry video calls, providing just enough visual "proof" to convince a senior that their new digital companion is entirely real. Once contact is established, these scammers play a patient, psychological long game. Using AI to help craft daily good morning texts, poetry, and thoughtful, attentive

responses, they spend months building a deep emotional bond with the victim. They specifically target seniors who may be living alone or feeling isolated, slowly becoming a trusted confidant or romantic partner. Only after the emotional trap is firmly set, and the victim is fully emotionally invested, does the inevitable financial request occur.

The fabricated emergencies are designed to pull at the heartstrings and open the wallet. The AI-assisted companion might claim they are stuck at a foreign customs desk, experiencing a sudden medical emergency, or needing just a bit of financial help to finally purchase a plane ticket to visit Nova Scotia. Because the emotional connection feels so incredibly genuine, the victim willingly sends money via wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or gift cards. Tragically, by the time local bank tellers or concerned family members spot the red flags, thousands of dollars have already been lost to a phantom.

Protecting our community from these manufactured relationships requires open, judgment-free conversations with our older relatives. Families should gently check in on their loved ones' digital lives and discuss the realities of modern AI technology. The golden rule remains unchanged, even as the technology advances: never, under any circumstances, send money or financial information to someone you have only ever interacted with online. In a world where digital affection can be instantly generated by a computer, a healthy dose of skepticism is our strongest defense.

Editor’s Note:

When my wife, Kip, passed away, I was lost, vulnerable and lonely. I changed my status to ‘widower’ on Facebook. On December 2, 2024, I received a text from a young woman from Africa. She was very charming. I made the mistake of telling her my love language which she used to get thousands of dollars out of me. The weird thing was she would only contact me once or twice a day, but I could never contact her. This became a bone of contention for me and after two previous breakups I finally ended the relationship. Please don’t criticize those of us who fall into these traps. These people are very smooth and cunning in their approach. I heard one man lost his house, had to move to a run down place to live, and believed with all his heart that the woman he gave his money to was going to pay him back. He died penniless.

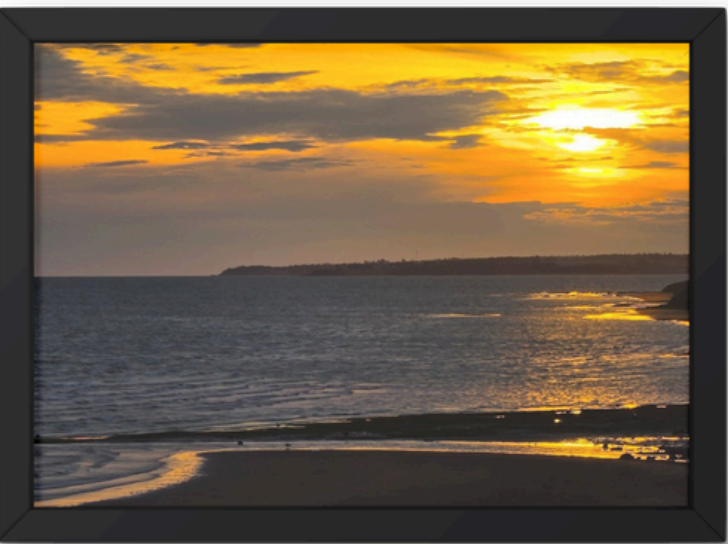


Photo of the Week
By Don Tabor

SPRINGHILL



Financial Statements Approval

On September 29, 2026, the Cumberland Municipal Council formally approved the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. This followed a thorough review by the Audit Committee on September 23, ensuring transparent funding for regional services and Springhill's municipal infrastructure.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day
Mayor Rod Gilroy and municipal coordinators gathered on September 29, 2026, to officially recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day. This observance included the closure of all regional municipal offices, including Springhill service locations, on September 30 to allow staff time to reflect.

Notice of Municipal Tax Sale
The municipal treasurer issued a Notice of Tax Sale on September 24, 2026, for properties across the Municipality of Cumberland, including the Springhill district. Affected property owners have until the public auction in late October to pay outstanding taxes and expenses to avoid losing their lands.

Community Centre Maintenance Hiring
On September 24, 2026, the Municipality began accepting applications for a three-month casual Community Centre Maintenance position. This role is essential for keeping high-traffic recreational facilities, like Springhill’s Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre, clean and fully operational for the fall season.

Municipal Land Use By-law Updates
Cumberland Municipal Council adopted multiple amendments to the regional Land Use By-law, publishing official notices on September 29, 2026. These zoning and development changes establish the regulatory framework for future commercial and residential property use within the Springhill area.

Upcoming Local Events

Springhill Christmas Craft Fair
Springhill will host the 2026 Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 6 Main Street. Doors open at 10:00 a.m., offering residents an early opportunity to support local vendors and purchase handmade seasonal goods ahead of the busy holidays.

Remembrance Day is coming up
This year's Remembrance Day carries the familiar, heavy weight of reflection for our community as we prepare to gather around the local cenotaph on the morning of November 11th. As the eleventh hour approaches, residents of Springhill will once again pause in united silence to honor the extraordinary sacrifices made by our veterans across multiple global conflicts. The pinned poppies on winter coats and the haunting notes of the Last Post serve as a poignant reminder of the enduring courage found right here in Cumberland County. While the nation remembers the vast, sweeping scale of these wars, our small town has its own unique, deeply personal story of duty, service, and sacrifice that sets our local history apart.

When the call to arms first echoed across the country, the men of Springhill did not hesitate to answer, stepping out of the damp, soot-stained darkness of the collieries and into military recruiting offices. The sheer volume of local miners who volunteered to enlist was so staggering that it immediately sparked an unprecedented conflict on the home front. Recognizing that coal was the essential fuel driving the nation’s war effort, keeping factories running and troop trains moving, the

local mining company found itself in a desperate position. Company officials strongly encouraged the men not to enlist, pleading with them to remain in town because their specialized, grueling labor was desperately needed to extract coal from deep below the surface.

The miners were forced to weigh the honorable call to the European front lines against the equally vital, life-threatening duty of fueling the nation from the subterranean depths of the Springhill seams. Many young men successfully traded their pickaxes for rifles, bravely carrying the grit and resilience forged in the mines all the way to the muddy trenches overseas. Those who stayed behind faced their own intense, perilous battle, working exhausting, double-duty shifts in the dangerous underground dark to ensure the war engine never stalled. This November 11th, as we bow our heads in remembrance, we honor both the brave Springhill boys who fell on foreign soil and the tireless men whose deep-earth labor kept the fires of freedom burning bright at home.

The Fire of 1957

On the evening of December 26, 1957, right in the middle of the holiday season, a devastating fire broke out in the commercial heart of Springhill. The community was already reeling from the tragic 1956 colliery explosion just a year prior, making the sudden disaster on Main Street feel particularly cruel. The blaze originated deep in the basement of Stedman’s 5c to \$1.00 Store, quickly growing in intensity before anyone could successfully intervene. It marked the beginning of a chaotic night that would completely alter the architectural landscape of the town's downtown core.

The situation escalated rapidly as harsh, high winter winds battered the storefronts, fanning the flames and eventually causing a massive explosion of fire to burst from the front of the Stedman's building. As local firefighters rushed to contain the spreading inferno, they were met with a catastrophic mechanical setback. A sudden power outage crippled the municipal water system, causing the firemen to lose critical water pressure in their hoses. Stripped of their primary defense and fighting against the gale-force winds, the emergency crews were forced into a defensive position as the fire leaped out of control and began consuming neighboring structures.

Driven by the wind, the intense blaze tore through a two-block stretch, destroying buildings on both the north and south sides of Main Street. Beloved family-owned shops and essential services were reduced to ash in a matter of hours. The extensive list of leveled commercial properties included the Herb Terris Building, J.S. Gillis's Hardware, Kaylene's Photographic Studio, The Vogue Millinery, the local T. Eaton Order Office, and Pat McLeod's Barber Shop. The destruction did not stop at the commercial boardwalks, as the flames eventually spread outward, completely destroying four residential houses on nearby Fir Street.

By the time the smoke finally cleared on December 27, the structural toll was staggering. The fire had wiped out 14 local businesses and several apartment buildings, leaving a massive, charred void right in the center of the community. Miraculously, despite the sheer scale of the inferno and the speed at which it spread, there were no fatalities and only a few minor injuries reported. However, 34 Springhill residents were left entirely homeless in the dead of winter, forcing the town to rally together once again to support their neighbors and begin the arduous process of rebuilding.

Springhill



Mining Disaster October 1st, 1956

By Sid Glennie

I am writing to share a personal reflection on the October 1st, 1956, No. 4 Pit Shaft Mine Disaster in Springhill.

On the afternoon of October 1st, 1956, as an 11-year-old boy playing with friends on top of Victoria Street hill, I heard a loud whoosh and felt the ground rumble shortly after 5:00 p.m. Looking toward the mine area, I saw a large ball of flame followed by a massive, black mushroom cloud that resembled a bomb explosion.

I immediately ran over the hill toward our home on the far side of town. Along the way, I met my 16-year-old brother, Bill, who was running toward the mine; he instructed me to go straight home to our mother. I knew that my father, Avard "Bun" , and his buddy Harold "Buster" Lewis were working the afternoon shift in the mine that day.

While our extended family came from the River Hebert and Barronsfield areas to support us, the entire community of Springhill rallied together. Springhillers have always been a tight-knit group, especially in times of emergency.

In the days that followed, many men were rescued, and I held onto hope. However, after several days of rescue attempts, the No. 4 Shaft was sealed off due to underground fire and gas. My father's body, along with those of several other miners, had to be left inside.

As Christmas 1956 approached, family members encouraged my mother to put up a tree for her boys. On Christmas morning my mother was standing looking out the window at the back of the house trying to cover her tears while my brother Bill did his best to comfort our weeping mother so that I could experience some holiday cheer. The love and grief my family struggled through that day still brings tears to my eyes.

In mid-January 1957, the No. 4 Shaft was reopened to retrieve the remains of the men left underground. My heart goes out to the brave men who undertook the deeply difficult task of gathering the bodies of their friends, relatives, and co-workers.

Then came the funeral for us. Our family subsequently attended a joint funeral service at Wesley United Church, held for my father and four other miners. As an eleven year old boy who deeply loved his parents and family, sharing that moment with so many other grieving families seemed to diminish the personal focus I felt was due to my dad and our family.

Later in my adult life, while working alongside former miners who had been involved in the 1956 disaster, one of them shared a final detail with me. He mentioned that on the evening of Friday, November 2nd, my dad and Buster attempted to walk out from the 5400 level to return to their families. My father was overcome by gas while still in sight of his companions, while Buster managed to make it a bit farther.

I feel fortunate to have enjoyed 11 years with my father. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Springhill for their enduring friendship and support.

God bless our coal miners, their families, and their friends.
Best regards,
Sid Glennie

Editor’s Note: Thank you Mr. Glennie for sending this memory of what happened to your family and many others on that fateful day in 1956. I offer you my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your dad. Your story made me cry. Thank you for sharing this with us.

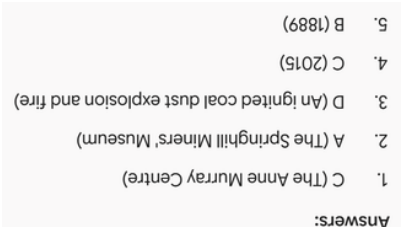


Springhill Trivia

- Which popular tourist attraction in town was established in 1989 to celebrate the life and internationally acclaimed career of Springhill’s most famous musical export?
A) The Snowbird Pavilion
B) The Springhill Heritage Center
C) The Anne Murray Centre
D) The Cumberland Music Hall
- Visitors to Springhill can actually strap on a hard hat and head underground to experience the harsh realities of historical coal extraction at which local site?
A) The Springhill Miners' Museum
B) The Cumberland Geological Center
C) The Number 4 Colliery Monument
D) The Draegermen Memorial Park
- The very first major mining disaster to strike the community occurred in 1891, claiming 125 lives. What was the primary cause of this specific tragedy?

- A) A massive flood from a breached underground aquifer
B) An underground seismic "bump"
C) A structural collapse of the main bankhead
D) An ignited coal dust explosion and fire
- After more than a century of operating as an independent town, in what year did Springhill officially dissolve its town status to amalgamate into the Municipality of the County of Cumberland?
A) 1998
B) 2005
C) 2015
D) 2020
 - What year was Springhill officially incorporated as a town, marking the beginning of its booming era as a rapidly expanding industrial center?

- A) 1867
B) 1889
C) 1902
D) 1914



Let’s Get Moving!



Springhill Baptist Church

Movement & Joint Health Class — Come Join Us!
We had such a fun time at our Movement & Joint Health Class today! It was a great hour of movement, exercise, laughter, and spending time together.
The good news is — we still have space for more people!
The class is open to ALL AGES and takes place every Monday from 2:00–3:00 p.m. at Springhill Baptist Church.
Whether you want to improve your movement, strengthen your joints, stay active, or simply enjoy some exercise in a friendly and welcoming environment, we would love to have you join us next week!
Every Monday
2:00–3:00 p.m.
Open to all ages



CUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES



Wentworth
The Wentworth Recreation Centre is preparing for a busy stretch of community events this autumn. On Saturday, October 24, the hall will host a local Yard Sale from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, featuring table rentals and an on-site canteen. Following that, the community will gather for a Mega Bingo afternoon on Sunday, November 1, with doors opening at 1:00 PM.

Joggins
Locals and visitors have just a few weeks left to explore the Joggins Fossil Centre before it closes for the season on October 19. The UNESCO World Heritage Site remains open daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, dependent on the local Bay of Fundy tide times. Visitors can still book the 30-minute "Wanderer's Experience" guided beach tour to hunt for 300-million-year-old fossils right on the ocean floor.

Advocate Harbour
Cape Chignecto Provincial Park is bracing for the return of the grueling Chiggy Ultra trail running event on the weekend of October 3 and 4. The rugged race challenges athletes with technical single-track trails and massive vertical coastal climbs overlooking the bay. Runners can choose between an introductory 9K route all the way up to a punishing 153K three-loop ultra marathon.

Tidnish
The Tidnish Crossroads Community Association has officially shifted into its fall and winter indoor programming schedule. Certified instructors lead one-hour fitness classes at the community center every Monday and Thursday morning at 8:30 AM. For those looking for a more relaxed weekend activity, the popular community darts league now meets every Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM.

Port Greville
The Age of Sail Heritage Centre remains open for the autumn season, providing an excellent indoor activity as the coastal weather cools down. Through the end of October, the museum welcomes visitors Thursday through Monday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. It is the perfect opportunity to browse their vast collection of genealogical research material and maritime artifacts before they close for the winter.

Malagash
Jost Vineyards continues to celebrate the harvest season on the Northumberland Shore with locally inspired food and drinks. The winery's Seagrape Café and Tasting Bar remain open, offering complimentary samplings of their award-winning local grape varietals. Visitors are encouraged to grab a glass and relax by the indoor fireplace or head out to the open-air patio to take in the crisp autumn air.

Wallace
Fox Harb'r Resort is bringing a fantastic lineup of live entertainment to the community this October. On Sunday, October 18, the Nova Scotia Ballroom will host "Elton Songs," a full-costume live musical tribute to Sir Elton John. For a more casual evening out, Montreal-based acoustic artist Randy Mac will be performing on The Willard patio on October 9 and 10.

River Hebert
Following the successful Harvest Festival and Touch-A-Truck event at the Heritage Models Museum in late September, the community of River Hebert is settling into the autumn routine. At the River Hebert District School, the administration is already planning ahead for upcoming student events. Parents are reminded that the school will be participating in the national Take Your Kid To Work Day, scheduled for Wednesday, November 4.

Maccan
The Amherst Point Migratory Bird Sanctuary, situated right along the Maccan River, is

currently offering peak autumn scenery for outdoor enthusiasts. The sanctuary is a prime destination for local fall activities, giving hikers a peaceful trail network through the changing foliage. It is an ideal spot for nature photographers and families to catch a glimpse of migratory flocks before the winter freeze sets in.

Spencer's Island
Outdoor adventurers can still take advantage of the guided coastal excursions departing from Spencer's Island this fall. Local Guy Adventures is continuing to offer their "Three Sisters Cape Chignecto Hike," taking locals and visitors through the spectacular Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. The guided trek provides participants with breathtaking lookouts over the bay and an up-close look at the area's incredible geology.



River Hebert
The village of River Hebert is nestled along the tidal waterway that shares its name, located approximately 25 kilometres southwest of Amherst. The river and the community both trace their names back to Louis Hébert, an early French settler, apothecary, and agriculturalist from the Port Royal settlement. Hébert is recognized for exploring and navigating the river during the early 1600s, cementing his name into the region's long-standing Acadian and geographical history.

Today, River Hebert maintains the quiet, close-knit charm characteristic of rural Nova Scotia. According to the 2021 Statistics Canada census, the village has a population of 468 residents. The community covers just over six square kilometres, functioning as a scenic and historically rich hub for families and individuals drawn to the natural beauty of the surrounding tidal landscapes and the nearby Bay of Fundy coast.

For over a century, the local economy and culture were deeply tied to the earth, as coal mining was the primary industry in the area. Generations of families worked in the local collieries, building a strong, resilient labor community that defined the village for decades. This industrial era formally came to an end when the last working coal mine in the immediate area closed its doors in 1981, marking a major transitional point for the village's economy.

River Hebert is home to a few notable figures and attractions that celebrate this unique local heritage. Local chainsaw artist Bruce Hébert famously crafted a life-sized wooden sculpture of a coal miner to honor the area's industrial past and his own family's mining history. Additionally, the village is home to Heritage Models, a popular tourist destination that features highly detailed miniature replicas of significant local buildings, including the historic estate of early regional industrialist Amos Peck "King" Seaman.



When residents of Tidnish look for the driving force behind their local social calendar, they inevitably point to Bea Harkness. Her tireless dedication to keeping the coastal hamlet connected was recently recognized at the late

September 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Tidnish Crossroads and Area Community Association. During the community gathering, Harkness was celebrated by her peers and proudly named the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award, a fitting tribute to her ongoing commitment to the residents of rural Cumberland County.

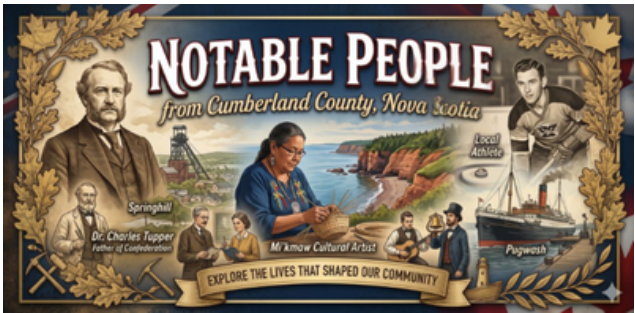
Harkness is instrumental in coordinating the weekly programming that keeps the Tidnish Crossroads Community Centre bustling year-round. She serves as the primary organizer and contact for the highly popular local darts league, seamlessly managing its seasonal transition from Tuesday evenings to its current Sunday afternoon fall schedule. Beyond the dartboards, Harkness is a central figure in orchestrating the center's fitness classes, FOCUS meetings, and the highly anticipated seasonal Tea and Craft Sales that draw visitors from across the region.

Her continuous work embodies the true spirit of a small-town hero, proving that the heartbeat of a rural village relies heavily on the hands-on dedication of its local volunteers. Whether she is securing the final registrations for a weekend ladies' doubles dart tournament or publicly championing her fellow volunteers after a successful community event, Harkness ensures that her neighbors always have a welcoming place to gather. Through her reliable leadership and boundless energy, the community hall continues to thrive as a lively, inclusive hub for everyone along the local shore.

Community Trivia

- Advocate Harbour** In 1604, French explorer Samuel de Champlain visited a prominent coastal point near Advocate Harbour and named it "Cap d'Or" (Cape of Gold). However, what valuable resource did he and his crew actually find shining in the cliffs?
A) Silver
B) Copper
C) Iron
D) Zinc
- Port Greville** The Age of Sail Heritage Centre in Port Greville preserves the rich shipbuilding and lumbering history of the area. The museum's main display building is uniquely housed in what kind of repurposed historic structure?
A) An 1854 Methodist Church
B) A 19th-century post office
C) A one-room schoolhouse
D) A converted 1880s lumber mill
- Wallace** High-quality sandstone quarried in the community of Wallace is famous for its durability and distinct color. Which iconic Canadian structure prominently features Wallace sandstone?
A) The CN Tower
B) The Parliament Buildings in Ottawa
C) The Halifax Citadel
D) The Chateau Frontenac
- River Hebert** The community of River Hebert gets its name from Louis Hébert, an early French settler. Before gaining lasting recognition as the first successful European farmer in Canada, what was Hébert's original profession?

- A) Royal Apothecary
B) Blacksmith
C) Shipwright
D) Fur Trapper
- Maccan** The community of Maccan is well known as a prime viewing spot to witness what natural Bay of Fundy phenomenon as it travels up the local river twice a day?
A) The Reversing Falls
B) The Tidal Bore
C) The Red Tide
D) The Salt Fog



Will R. Bird's Literary Legacy
William Richard "Will R." Bird was born in 1891 in the small, rural Cumberland County community of East Mapleton. Raised in a modest farming environment, few could have predicted that this young local boy would eventually grow up to become one of Canada's most prolific and celebrated historical authors. Throughout his expansive career, Bird penned dozens of novels, history books, and memoirs, cementing his legacy as a master storyteller who brought the rich, localized heritage of Nova Scotia to a national audience.

Bird's early life took a dramatic turn with the outbreak of the First World War, an event that profoundly shaped both his worldview and his future literary voice. He served on the front lines in the trenches of Europe, enduring the grueling realities of combat alongside his fellow Canadians. The immense impact of these experiences led to his powerful, firsthand accounts of trench warfare, including And We Go On and its later reissue, Ghosts Have Warm Hands. To this day, they remain some of the most poignant and critically acclaimed military memoirs in Canadian history.

Following the war, Bird returned to his Maritime roots and found his true calling in historical fiction and regional storytelling. He dedicated a massive portion of his career to capturing the unique local history of Cumberland County, the Chignecto area, and the early Yorkshire settlers. His incredible talent for weaving factual history into compelling narratives was nationally recognized when he won the prestigious Ryerson Fiction Award twice—first in 1945 for Here Stays Good Yorkshire, and again in 1947 for Judgment Glen.

Bird's distinguished career culminated with him serving as the president of the Canadian Authors Association from 1949 to 1950, a testament to the immense respect he commanded within the national literary community. Passing away in 1984 at the age of 92, his expansive body of work continues to stand the test of time. Will R. Bird remains one of East Mapleton's most remarkable native sons, ensuring that the stories, struggles, and triumphs of Cumberland County's early settlers will never be forgotten.



To "miss the mark" in life is a universal experience, rooted in the ancient archery concept of an arrow veering wide of its intended target. In our daily lives, it rarely looks like a dramatic catastrophe; more often, it takes the form of a well-intentioned project that doesn't quite come together or a carefully made plan that unravels. In these moments of falling short, it is incredibly easy to view the miss as a defining failure rather than a temporary setback.

However, missing the mark is rarely the end of the story—it is actually a vital mechanism for growth. Every off-target arrow provides invaluable feedback, sometimes even revealing that we were aiming at the wrong goal altogether. Ultimately, the measure of our character is not found in a flawless record of bullseyes, but in our willingness to retrieve the arrow, adjust our aim, and draw the string back once again with newfound resilience.

Editor's Note: I can attest to missing the mark many times in my life. The best thing is to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and keep going.