



Speakout contestants, Sarah Merriam, Ashley Lynn Hamel (Winner) and Cassie Bard-Cavers with Judges Jacqueline Wilson, Jocelyn Corcoran, Ed Gilbert with Teacher Melissa Gauthier. (Sharlene Lake Photo)



Parrsboro Lions Club held their annual Speakout program at the Parrsboro Regional High School. Contestants from left to right are Sarah Merriam, Ashley Hamel and Cassia Bard-Cavers. (Sharlene Lake Photo)

Ambassador Information Sessions Being Held in April

By Maurice Rees

In an effort to improve the business climate and to grow tourism business, the Parrsboro Project is encouraging operators and interested local citizens to become involved to develop an Ambassador team and to spread the word.

Under the direction of Taylor Redmond, Parrsboro Project Facilitator, Ambassador Information sessions will be held at the Parrsboro Town Hall from

Upcoming sessions will be held
March 30,
April 6, 13, 20 & 27

12 noon to 1:00 pm on Wednesdays during March and April. Upcoming sessions will be held March 30, April 6, 13, 20 & 27.

The Ambassador lunch sessions are open to everyone, giving the community an opportunity to discover what is happening along the Parrsboro Shore, Masstown to Joggins over the summer months. A different presentation will be offered each week by tourism operators and local service industry people. Shore knowledge is vital when it comes to enhancing the visitor's experience.

Redmond says, "Building community awareness will help visitors get more information as they travel through local communities. We want to encourage visitors to stay longer and take advantage of all that is available to them when they visit us and we want everyone to be a Parrsboro Shore Ambassador".

A light lunch snack will be offered.



Ashley Lynn Hamel was the winner of Parrsboro Lions Club Speakout 2016. Ashley's topic was "Human Resiliency" and she will be competing at the next level of competition at the Nova Scotia Lions Convention in Baddeck in April.

Ships Company Theatre Unveils an Exciting 2016 Season

By Jiveney Trecartin

With the end of winter comes new beginnings - the grass has reappeared, snowflakes have turned to rain drops, winter coats are pushed to the back of our closets and Ship's Company Theatre is ready to announce its 2016 season!

The season will kick off with our first Mainstage Show opening on July 1, After Eepersip Disappeared written by Kristin Slaney. This play is based on the story of Barbara Newhall-Follet, a real-life child prodigy and writer of children's books. In 1939 at the age of 25, Newhall-Follet became depressed with her marriage and walked out of her apartment with \$30. She was never seen again and Slaney proposes that Newhall-Follet disappeared to Parrsboro with the intention of building a pirate ship! After Eepersip Disappeared will run until July 24.

Our annual Monday Night Concert Series is returning on July 4, with three concerts in July and three in August. The July concerts take place July 4, 11, and 18 with Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar, Ian Sherwood and Morgan Davis respectively.

Our August Mainstage Show, Chasing Champions written by Jacob Sampson will open on August 5. It is based on the story of Sam Langford from Weymouth Falls NS, a man who is considered the greatest fighter to never win a world boxing championship. Langford was the most avoided fighter in the history of boxing. Despite often being outweighed by 20 to 50 lbs in many of his fights, he scored more knockouts than George Foreman and Mike Tyson combined.

Sampson and a small ensemble cast bring to life the boxing world of 1910s and 20s, exploring the legacy of

this trailblazing boxer - a world-class athlete who transcended racism, poverty and the injury. Chasing Champions is a physical experience, from a time when race and sport were colliding head on, bringing the audience ringside, and pays tribute to a great man who was almost forgotten. This play will run until August 28.

The concert series will continue on August 8, 15, 22 with Hillsburn, Mike Biggar and Fiddles and Feet respectively.

The September stage is taking place from September 14 to 16 and is called You, Me and One Piece of Chalk by Veronique MacKenzie-Bourne. The Happy Hobo in Moonland by Rhys Bevan-John will be featured on our Kid's Stage on September 21.

This year our Tribute Show runs from September 23 to 25. It is A Tribute to Great Country Duets and Duos performed by Audience favourite Ryan Cook and the incredibly charming and talented Norma Macdonald, with a set list that includes songs by John and June Cash; Conway and Loretta; Kenny & Dolly and a few surprises.

Our season will close with Let's Try This Standing by Gillian Clark on our Second Stage.

As you can see, Ship's Company Theatre has a very exciting and jam-packed season ahead! Our Capital Renovation Project is well underway and should be completed before we are ready to open the curtains again.

Please keep your eyes peeled for our 2016 brochure - it will have all the details you need to plan your summer of fun with us.

We would like to thank The Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage; Arts Nova Scotia; The NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage; The

Municipality of Cumberland County and The Town of Parrsboro for their continued support.

Jiveney Trecartin is Director of Marketing and Fund Development, Ship's Company Theatre, Parrsboro, NS

\$500,000 Environmental Effects Monitoring Program at FORCE

By Maurice Rees

Marine fish, lobster catchability, marine mammal data analysis and marine seabirds will be studied as part of a new \$500,000 a new Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP) at the FORCE site in the Minas Passage which was announced on March 22. FORCE is providing \$250,000, with the other half split evenly between the Offshore Energy Research Association (OERA), and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

The four RFP's specify: Detailed proposals are invited to design and implement a one year marine fish / lobster catchability / marine mammal monitoring program as part of FORCE's Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP). The Marine Seabird Monitoring Program specified a one year shore-based marine seabird observation study as part of FORCE's Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP). All four RFP's close Friday, April 8, 2016 (4:00PM AST).

The EEMP program is designed to determine potential turbine effects on the marine environment with a focus on fish, lobster, marine birds, marine mammals, and acoustic effects. While early research in other jurisdictions suggests the effects of in-stream tidal turbines may not be significant, the Minas Passage remains a unique environment requiring further study.

"Tidal energy holds tremendous potential for our province - both as a source of clean power and as an economic opportunity for our growing ocean technology sector," said Nova Scotia Energy Minister Michel Samson. "Monitoring and sharing data are important in realizing this potential - providing industry, scientists, regulators and the public with more information about how the technologies are interacting with the natural environment."

Stephen Dempsey, executive director of the OERA, said: "Environmental monitoring is key to understanding the interactions of marine life with tidal energy devices as they are deployed in the Bay of Fundy this year."

The \$500,000 for environmental effects monitoring includes \$250,000 from FORCE plus an additional \$250,000 from OERA and the NS Department of Energy.

The monitoring plan was developed in consultation with SLR Consulting (Canada), provincial and federal regulators, and FORCE's environmental monitoring advisory committee - which includes representatives from scientific, government, fishing, and First Nations communities.

Tony Wright, general manager of FORCE said "Canada can set the global standard for marine monitoring in powerful tidal sites like the Minas Passage. That's not only an environmental obligation, that's an economic opportunity."

FORCE is Canada's lead centre for in-stream tidal energy technology demonstration, located in the Bay of Fundy. FORCE collaborates with industry, government, and researchers to study the interaction between tidal turbines and the Fundy environment, providing research, environmental monitoring, and the electrical infrastructure to deliver power to the grid. FORCE receives fund-

AGM and 10TH Anniversary Celebration held at "The Hall"

By Patricia Burke

The Parrsboro Band Association held the AGM and 10th Anniversary Celebration since "Save the Hall" began. Chairperson, Lori Lynch opened the meeting and welcomed over 30 in attendance. She then presented her annual report which included what was able to be achieved during the 2015 year, such as installation of the drop down screen, backdrop curtains, purchase of digital piano, exterior repairs and so much more.

She said all of this happening could not have taken place without the support of the area, Town

of Parrsboro and Municipality of Cumberland. Committee chairs read their reports and echoed the same feelings that this would not have taken place without the support from everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm and everyone stayed for the 10th anniversary celebration. Lori Lynch did a run down on what amazing success we have had in the last ten years. Rob Bentley provided a slide show with music covering where we started in 2006 and where we are today. As the end of the celebration Lori asked everyone to join with her, raising a glass to a toast.

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Young people are taking part in skating, kickboxing, yoga and other activities through After the Bell programs as a result of \$16,000 in funding for after-school activities in Oxford, Parrsboro, Springhill and Amherst. The announcement was made on March 10th by Terry Farrell, MLA on behalf of Leo Glavine Minister of Health and Wellness. The focus is increase physical activity in youth ages 12 to 15-years-old, with a priority to involve girls. Research shows just 21 per cent of girls meet the daily standard of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity. Last year, 79 per cent of the 1,958 After the Bell participants were girls. Government is investing \$282,000 in After the Bell projects in 67 communities across the province.

The emergency department at the South Cumberland Collaborative Emergency Centre in Parrsboro was closed from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on March 15, 16, 17 and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm on Friday March 18th. The closures are necessary because no physician coverage was available. Anyone who is unclear on a proper course of action may also contact the Hospital at 902-254-2540 extension 1.



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