

# Our New Neighbours



In September 2015, Judith Bauer, started a Fundraiser Campaign to bring a Syrian Refugee family to Parrsboro. Her efforts resulted in a local committee, Parrsboro Welcomes Refugees (PWR) which she serves as chair. Early in March, the family arrived in Parrsboro. Pictured above are Parrsboro's newest family, (L-R): Tarek Noaman, daughter Seba, wife Ghena, son Zaid, in Parrsboro, NS. (Rod Tyson Photo)

By Helen Tyson

In mid-February, volunteer group Parrsboro Welcomes Refugees (PWR) put their name into practice and — after almost five months of organizing, fund-raising and planning — prepared to welcome a new family to town. The elementary students made a beautiful banner. Local entrepreneur, Walid Mohamad (“Wally” of Parrsboro’s Pizza L’Amore), his family, and Khalidie Mohamad, of Sackville, NB, helped with interpretation. And a group of eight volunteers turned out with flags, flowers and big smiles to welcome the Noamans to their new home.

The photographs are striking. A plane on the tarmac at the Moncton airport. A bleak day. A new family arriving. And then the airport doors open and there are smiles and flowers and people who speak

Arabic ... and people who don't. And the long ride home begins.

To provide background and context to this event, and a forum for questions, Parrsboro Regional Schools and PWR held a public information assembly on March 4th, in the high school auditorium.

Grades 4 to 12, staff, and members of the public attended. The students prepared questions ahead of time and had classroom activities and discussions. Responses to student questions formed the basis of a video, presented at the Assembly, following a brief summary of the Syrian Civil War and the resulting refugee crisis.

The students asked questions, ranging from the causes of the war to finding employment as a new resident. Members of the group

# \$-Millions Being Invested to Tap into 2 Gigawatts

By Maurice Rees

With \$-Millions being invested in tidal power research in Nova Scotia to harness the tides in the Bay of Fundy, Bill Casey MP Cumberland-Colchester feels there's a chance for Canada to take the lead globally on tidal power generation. Casey said, “Cumberland-Colchester is home to the world's highest tides and he will keep championing this emerging industry.”

His statements followed his question to Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr says we are standing “on the edge of a global technological revolution in renewable energy,” and Canada will lead the way forward.

FORCE has a site just outside Parrsboro, where the testing will be conducted.

Advocate for Refugees discussed their experiences, as well.

Later, when asked why she began this project, PWR chair Judith Bauer admitted that “sometimes I do not listen to the news because I do not want to cry today.” But Bauer reached a “tipping point” where she “could not just turn off the dial”. In September last year, Bauer, started a Fundrazr campaign to help Syrian refugees and now she continues to help Parrsboro's newest family integrate into the community.

When PWR volunteer Sarah Hartman was asked how she felt about the result

*“Cumberland-Colchester is home to the world's highest tides and he will keep championing this emerging industry.”*

Companies developing projects at the FORCE site now includes Open Hydro, DP Energy, Black Rock Tidal and Minas Energy.

The tidal power potential in the Bay of Fundy is estimated at around 2 gigawatts, and in Canada as a whole, tidal and river current energy could exceed 42 gigawatts. Tides are predictable, meaning unlike other forms of renewable energy, the supply from tidal generation can be predicted long in advance and relied upon.

of all her work, Hartman said: “The main thing for me is getting the Noamans off to a good start in Canada, with a bright future for their children.”

PWR volunteer Rod Tyson said: “I can't help all the refugees from Syria, but I can help one family. I am enjoying my interactions with our new friends and I am learning a lot about the Arab world.”

The day Nancy Curleigh, one of the original PWR organizers, shared tea with the Noamans, deer were grazing outside the window, with the magnificent Minas Basin in the background. “I could not sit idle”, said Curleigh of the events of the last five months, and just “enjoy the comforts of life.”

# Parrsboro Creative's Campus

Continued from page 1

here as it offers them the chance to share their knowledge and skills with others”.

Currently, there are seven collaborating partners in the 2016 Cultural Campus: Age of Sail Heritage Museum, Arlene Collins Fine Art Gallery, Art Lab, Fundy Geological Museum, Ottawa House (Parrsborough Shore Historical Society), Ship's Company Theatre and The Hall (Concert Series). The variety of creative engagement, in both the visual and performing arts, offered by the Cultural Campus, is quite phenomenal with hands-on instruction in an array of courses that feature the techniques of painting and sculpture, fascinating explorations in history, and classes in theatre and music — yes, for 2016, you just might have a chance to master the ukulele!

The 2016 Cultural Campus kicks off with classes in Stone Carving conducted at Art Lab by master sculptor Heather Lawson. With a sense of design and technique honed over twenty years, her work is created for both interior and exterior spaces, some particu-

larly for gardens, one of Heather's passions. This is a two-day intensive occurring Saturday/Sunday May 21 and 22. The roster is beginning to fill up, so for those who are interested in participating in this fascinating experience, it would be a good idea to book now!

Several Cultural Campus courses, running from May through to October, are now featured on the Parrsboro Creative website and more courses will soon be announced. For further information on Parrsboro Creative and the Cultural Campus, please feel free to contact us at any time, day or night, rain or shine!

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Deadline for the May issue of *South Cumberland NEWS* is April 19



Young Zaid is not quite sure what to make of the “Welcome” banner that greeted his family when they arrived at the Moncton Airport and then in Parrsboro (Rod Tyson Photo)



After debarking the airplane, Tarek Noaman and his family walk the tarmac towards the airport in Moncton and were soon welcomed with open arms by members of the Parrsboro Welcomes Refugees. (Rod Tyson Photo)

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