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South Cumberland NEWS

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A display of maple products at Davison's sugar operation and restaurant. (Submitted)



This photo shows part of the piping system bringing sap from the trees into the stainless steel tank at Davison's Maple operation. (Submitted)

70% of Nova Scotia's Maple Taps in Cumberland County

The 2021 Maple season will be nearing the end of the season soon. Reports on the success of this season's run is varied. Some are reporting a slow and difficult season, while others are indicating production will be on par with other years.

The difficulty has been dining for breakfasts and brunch due to Covid-19 restrictions on on-site dining. A lot of each producer's retail sales occur during dining or facility tours. Normally March is the month of maple producers and it is a tradition for many to get out

and enjoy our local maple camps to break away from winter and enjoy warmer sunnier weather.

Cumberland County is home to 70% of the Province's maple sugar taps. The county has many maple camps, each with their own unique twists

and yummy treats and offering a variety of services as part of a spring trip to a maple camp. Experiences range from walking trails, to pancake restaurants, and water wheels, each maple camp is packed with an experience.

The Cumberland Business Connector has created a map of local map producers. Included on the Google Map are the following Cumberland Maple Producers: Bentley's Maple, Kevin McCormick Sales & Service, Davison's Pancake House & Maple Products, Drew Hunter, Dickinson Brothers, Frosty Maple Products, Ripley's Sugar Woods, Bouchard Thompson Maple Sugar Woods, Donkin Maple Berry Farm, W Smith Maple Products, Webbs Maple Bush and Berry, Walter Jackson, Thornton Moore, Hidden Mountain Maple Farms, Mapleton Enterprises and Gallagher's Sugarwoods.



Miles of hoses bring maple sap from the trees to the processing facility at Ripley's Sugar Woods. (Submitted)

Joggins Fossil Centre set to open May 1

The Joggins Fossil Centre (JFC) will open for the tourism season on Saturday, May 1st. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an abbreviated season in 2020, and the staff at the Joggins Fossil Institute (JFI) are pleased to be returning to a full season schedule in 2021.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Joggins Fossil Cliffs regularly welcomes upwards of 25,000 visitors annually to the coastal village of Joggins. Jordan LeBlanc, Director of Operations at JFI, says the Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenge: "in a typical year we can expect a large number of international visitors and Canadians from outside of Atlantic Canada. In 2020 our visitor numbers were down 65% and our overall revenue dropped by three quarters. But, on a positive note, many Atlantic Canadians visited our site for the first time last year and we hope many more will visit this season."

The "grand exposure" of rocks at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs contains the best and most complete known fossil record of terrestrial life in the Carboniferous period, also known as the Coal Age, in Earth's history. The site bears

witness to the first reptiles in Earth's history, and is specifically known for the discovery of *Hylonomus lyelli* over 150 years ago by Sir William Dawson. Charles Darwin wrote about the cliffs in his monumental work, *The Origin of Species*, as an example of what the fossil record can teach us about evolution.

A visit to the Joggins Fossil Centre is a must for anyone interested in science, history, and the natural world. The Joggins Fossil Centre offers a museum, café, and guided tours of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. Visitors will marvel at the beauty of their surroundings as they hike down to the beach and along the cliffs towering meters above them.

Visitors interested in guided tours of the cliffs are encouraged to check tide times or call ahead to book a tour by calling 1-888-932-9766. Further information on the Joggins Fossil Centre can be found on our website www.jogginsfossilcliffs.net

For more information:
Craig Johnson, Manager Development & Strategic Engagement, Joggins Fossil Institute.
development@jogginsfossilcliffs.net or 902-251-2727

Bill 4 Threatens Rural Life and Property Ownership

By Peter Spicer

The latest anti-forestry anti-rural legislation introduced by the current provincial government is of great concern to rural land owners engaged in the forestry and farming industries, but should also be of great concern to the general public involved in outdoor recreational pursuits that require access to private lands. People involved in activities such as recreational off-road vehicles, hiking, bird watching, hunting, and many other activities should be taking note of the implications of the introduction of the pending bill, Bill 4, formerly BILL 116, known as the Biodiversity Act.

This bill should be worrisome for any land owner, including farmers, blueberry growers, golf course operators, and many more but the unspoken implications that will probably have some of the greatest impact but the least concern before the bill is passed, will be for those users of private land for recreational pursuits. These people will now pose a danger to private land owners that currently grant access to their lands for

these pursuits.

This act has been from the outset, a disaster. In the only open public consultations, three years ago on the bill, the discussion groups had what seemed like designated people in each group that dominated the conversations and directed the discussions to desired outcomes. I was shocked when I asked a question to the deputy minister leading this consultation regarding the reason behind the punitive nature of the Act and she reassured me that "you aren't the type of person we are after." Why should a government department be "after" somebody??

The only other consultations the government had were closed sessions by invite only and the participants had to sign a non-disclosure agreement, which reaffirms that the invitees were of similar mind to the authors and that they were trying to avoid scrutiny by the true stakeholders, the tax paying land owners in rural Nova Scotia, which sort of fits the secretive nature of this "we know what's best for you," current government.

Why the great concern for

this act?? It is covering issues that legislation and appropriate enforcement would already more than adequately cover, but it is very aggressive and punitive in nature. There are provisions in the act for taking a tax payer's land out of use, with no compensation, to protect a biodiversity zone, and fines of \$500,000 for private land owners and \$1,000,000 for companies in violation.

Another troubling part of this legislation is the provision that the government may partner with "any person" to investigate and enforce the Act. The wording on this has been changed but the implications are the same.

The Minister may:

(a) retain experts with expertise in the areas of natural science, traditional knowledge, conservation and sustainable uses to report to the Minister

The people that have promoted and driven this legislation can now be in a position of power and could take vengeful action on a tax payer or company that use their land in a manner that doesn't cor-

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Art Therapy Pilot Program Planned for Parrsboro

By Bruce Lantz

Parrsboro Creative is launching an innovative pilot program of art therapy sessions to help people of all ages cope with the stresses of the past year.

Supported by the provincial Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Parrsboro Creative is organizing a free public session of art therapy conducted by Halifax registered art therapist Evie Dunville. This session is designed for all ages and will be held at the Fundy Geological Museum's multi-purpose room on April 10 from 1-3 pm.

It's the first in a series of free art therapy sessions Parrsboro Creative is organizing. Dunville also will conduct private sessions for youth at the Parrsboro Regional High School and the Cumberland Care Centre for isolated seniors and adults.

"We are so pleased to offer this program for Parrsboro area residents, many of whom - myself included - have been negatively affected by the impact of the coronavirus during the past year," said Jocelyn Li, Parrsboro Creative's executive director.

According to the Canadian Art Therapy Association, art therapy combines the creative process and psychotherapy, fa-

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