

## Business Connector Expands Services

By Jonathan McClelland

In an effort to further assist local companies adjusting to the impacts of COVID-19, the Cumberland Business Connector has expanded its business support services by introducing a new Virtual Adviser Program.

Powered by On-Demand Talent Platform BoomersPlus, this free program will match qualified Cumberland companies with a seasoned Virtual Adviser to help their business manage and recover from COVID-19. Virtual Advisers are experienced professionals from across Canada representing a full range of disciplines, industries and environments, willing to share their lessons learned.

"We need to support our businesses now more than ever. Over the last three months, businesses have had to adapt

and reinvent themselves with very little notice," says Jonathan McClelland, CEO of the Cumberland Business Connector. "Having an experienced Business Advisor to consult with during these unprecedented is extremely valuable and we hope that this will assist our businesses move forward successfully."

Businesses can apply on the Cumberland Business Connector's Website [www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca](http://www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca)

Applications will be reviewed by the Connector's staff. If accepted, businesses will be matched with a Virtual Adviser from a network of thousands of professionals based on the business need or challenge. On a mutually agreed schedule, the businesses will meet virtually with their business adviser to discuss the challenges and find

potential solutions.

"The Virtual Adviser Program is a natural evolution of our mandate - to help organizations and communities leverage the wisdom and experience of seasoned professionals. We are excited to partner with the Nova Scotia RENS to help small businesses struggling through the challenging economic environment created by the COVID-19 crisis", said Kevin MacIntyre, VP, Marketing, BoomersPlus.

Participants will have access to four to six calls over a two to three month period, with the potential for an extension. To participate, businesses must be located in the Towns of Amherst, Oxford, or the Municipality of the County of Cumberland. Participating businesses must also commit to completing four to six phone calls with an adviser along with

## Municipal Service Centres Re-Open

Service Centres within the Municipality of Cumberland reopened on July 20, 2020. All residents and staff will be required to maintain public health guidelines including social distancing, hand hygiene

and COVID-19 symptom monitoring. Directional signage and distance markers are in place at each Service Centre to facilitate social distancing. Limits have also been determined for the number of people permitted in the lobby or waiting areas.

any follow-up work necessary for the duration of the program. The Cumberland Business Connector is launching this program in partnership with the Nova Scotia Regional Enterprise Network (NS REN). Regional Enterprise Networks lead a collaborative approach to economic development and supporting business growth. To learn more, visit <https://nsrens.ca/>

To learn more about BoomersPlus, visit [www.boomersplus.com](http://www.boomersplus.com)

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At the E.D. Fullerton building in Upper Nappan, a lobby limit of two people at a time will be enforced. The Upper Nappan Service Centre will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At the Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill, a lobby limit of four people at a time will be enforced. The Springhill Service Centre will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays only, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The opening of the Service Centre function in Springhill does not include the entirety of the community centre such as public meeting spaces, recreational

activities, the Ross Anderson PharaChoice Teen Centre, the CIBC Room or the indoor walking track.

The Service Centre in Parrsboro will be relocated to 209 Main Street (the former CIBC building). A lobby limit of four people at a time will be enforced in Parrsboro. The Parrsboro Service Centre will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Residents wishing to make a payment are still empowered to use the alternative payment methods including drop boxes, mailing cheques, electronic payments through a financial institution, preauthorized payment or credit card through Paymentus.

Residents who need to meet with staff are encouraged to make an appointment prior to arrival as staff offices are unavailable for meetings with the public.

## O'Regan's Sponsors August 7<sup>TH</sup> Program

The Shipwright Sessions, Ship's Company's new program, sponsored by O'Regan's, continues August 7th live on our Facebook page. The Shipwright Sessions give you the opportunity to hear excerpts of works from playwrights themselves combined with a close-up look at the writer through mini-interviews. This Shipwright Session features an excerpt from *Mind The Light* by Gabrielle Papillon. By the time Azelie is 15, she has taken over her mother's job and has become a lighthouse keeper, performing many of the duties, including rescues. Over time, she becomes famous for her many rescues and becomes the reluctant hero among the local mainlander townspeople. Azelie falls in love under impossible circumstances yet remains devoted to the lighthouse and fights for her right to carry on minding the light and to

keep her home. This tale about a family of women (and one man) who do not fit in with a conforming society, who find a way to be autonomous in a time when this was rare and unlikely, is also a love story about a love that is honest and true.

Gabrielle Papillon is a Halifax-based award-winning artist and songwriter. She has released seven albums which range from orchestral folk, to folk-pop, to art-pop with her newest release *Shout* (2019). She has had her songs placed in film, television, and advertisements in Canada, the United States, and Australia. She has been co-writing and collaborating with writer-producers and other writers for synch opportunities as well as co-writing with other artists for their own projects in the UK, the US, and Canada since 2016.

## Ship's Company Theatre Continues Online for 36th Season

By Alexandra Robin

Ship's Company Theatre continues its 36th season online this August with more exciting free digital offerings! The summer theatre known for showcasing Atlantic voices has brought together some of the most acclaimed musicians from the region as well as a wide variety of talented writers to share powerful Atlantic Canadian stories and songs throughout July and August with the Parrsboro community and beyond.

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On August 14th, Ship's Company will feature another Online Music Night, sponsored by Archway Insurance, showcasing An Evening with Don Ross. In 1988, Don Ross became the first Canadian to win the U.S. National Fingerpick Guitar Championship. He won again in 1996, and is still the only two-time winner of the competition. Don has toured regularly since 1989, across Canada, the USA, a dozen European countries, Japan, Taiwan, China, Australia, Russia, and India. He has played with symphony orchestras in Canada and Germany, and col-

laborated live and on recording with U.S. guitarist Andy McKee, Canadian singer/guitarist Brooke Miller, Canadian guitarist Calum Graham, & Toronto bassist Jordan O'Connor. He also composes scores for television, radio, and film, and does production and recording engineering for a variety of other musicians. In addition to acoustic guitar, Don also plays electric guitar, slide dobro and lapsteel guitar, harp guitar, voice, piano, keyboards, bass guitar, and drums. He has just started learning to play the Kelstone, a 9-string guitar developed by Belgian musician/inventor Jan Van Kelst.

Don Ross grew up in Montreal, has lived at various times in Ontario, Nova Scotia, the USA, China, and Quebec, and now resides in Halifax.

Ship's Company Theatre continues to receive support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Arts Nova Scotia, the Municipality of Cumberland County, Music Nova Scotia, the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Town of Parrsboro for their continued support. Thank you also to our season sponsors O'Regans and Archway Insurance.

For the full line up of the summer season of 2020, go to [www.shipscompanytheatre.com/season-2020/](http://www.shipscompanytheatre.com/season-2020/)

## Fletcher's Notes from July 8<sup>TH</sup> Meeting

By Don Fletcher

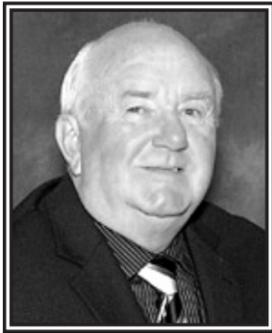
Council meeting on July 8th began at 5 pm in camera/zoom with 4 items covered. At 6 pm we began public council with a moment of silence for Bob Arsenault a long time employee who recently passed away.

Next item discussed was a organizational review to look at where we are and where we are going post dissolution of Springhill and Parrsboro. A report will be issued this fall. A motion to submit three FOIPOP applications to the province was approved by motion. A motion to ask the UARB to look at the orders given with the dissolutions was also approved. We wish to ensure that citizens are getting what was promised.

A motion to approve a letter to the province regarding the APA decision regarding chapter 11 and an amendment was approved. These are all ongoing.

First reading on amendment to land use bylaw to rezone a property on north shore road Wallace was approved by motion. Notice to give notice to all councillors that an ice allocation policy will be considered for adoption at the July 22 council meeting was approved. A tax remittance to adjust the 2019 commercial tax levy was approved by motion.

A grant request for the Cumberland County Exhibition



Donald Fletcher

as well as a grant from the Pugwash Harbourfest committee was approved by motion. A provisional grant request for the Amherst little league was also approved.

The grant approved for the Oxford arena was approved to be put back into the regional grant pot as the arena will remain closed this year. A motion to pay the 2nd quarterly installment to the YMCA was approved.

A motion to appoint the warden and CAO to sit on a committee with the other municipalities involved in the April tragedy to identify a permanent memorial was approved by motion. A discussion and motion to open the Gloopscap Campground to transit travelers was also approved by motion and a motion to bypass our hir-

ing policy in order to get extra staff at the campground was also approved.

A one-time change due to the current covid climate! Information item included a statement from Warden Gillis that he would not be reoffering this fall as councillor for the Pugwash area and would not be running for the new mayor position. Thank you Al for your 12 years of service to the municipality of Cumberland and as you stated thank you staff. It was a pleasure to be on council with you!

Question: have you thought about running for council or mayor? Call your councillor!

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

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