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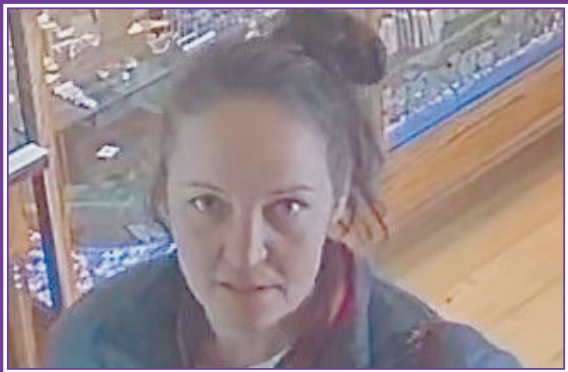
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Police Investigate Thefts of Cash from Museums



Surveillance video images released by the RCMP.

RCMP are investigating recent thefts of money from two volunteer-run museums and attempting to identify two people of interest.

On July 19, Cumberland County District RCMP received a report of a theft from the Heritage Models Museum in River Hebert. Surveillance video shows two people working together to take a cash box from the museum.

On July 24, Lunenburg County District RCMP received a similar report of two people entering the Fort Point Museum in LaHave and again working together to facilitate the theft of a large donation container.

Based on descriptors and surveillance footage from both museums, police believe the same two people are related to both thefts and are seeking to identify them. Images show a man with what appears to be short reddish-brown hair and beard, and a woman with long brown hair.

Both appear to be in their 20s. Officers believe they drove to one of the museums in a dark-coloured pickup truck with a cargo rack on the back.

Staff or volunteers at museums or similar sites who observe suspicious behaviour should contact their nearest RCMP detachment or local police or, in an emergency, call 911.

The RCMP is encouraging organizations that collect donations to empty their donation bins regularly. If possible, people who want to support museums or charities can also consider donating through online channels rather than in cash.

Anyone with further information about these incidents is asked to contact Cumberland County District RCMP at 902-667-3859. To remain anonymous, contact Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers, toll-free, at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips app.

Welsh Love Spoons, Whittled in Parrsboro

By Sandra Stephenson

I had this article imagined already, before my interview with Robert Findlay Roberts, in the presence of his wife over tea, on the speaker-phone: A young lad, dreamy and alone in a Welsh town whose name he would have to spell for me, takes to whittling, and is eventually mentored by an elder artisan in the sacred art of spoon-carving. As he grows older, he becomes a master carver, sculpting away (over candle-light) while chanting a Gaelic spell for love and prosperity. Then he moves to Parrsboro...

Wrong! All wrong. Robert didn't start sculpting Welsh

love-spoons until he was an adult in the city of Swansea, Wales where he was born and raised, a mischievous bad boy hanging out with his "scrappy dog" friends. That last description comes from Robert's wife, Lindsay, hailing from Sussex, England, and clearly not as romantic about Wales as I am. "They're a practical bunch, the Welsh" she explained. She lived in Swansea for 11 years, where she and Robert started off as neighbours. Did he hand her a spoon over the fence?

Robert's carved wooden spoons are anything but practical. They are symbols holding symbols, so beautiful and delicate they are meant to

hang from the rafters or wall, not to be used stirring a cauldron of soup! Welsh love-spoons he explained this way:

"Imagine a young lad in a village in the middle of nowhere a long time ago. He would like to get a girl. His family goes to market once a week or every month. They must walk to another town or village, sometimes miles away [so he's not carrying stones, right?]. Once there, he might see a young girl, too shy to approach. So he speaks to a friend of his, who speaks to a friend of the girl's: is she courtin'? If she doesn't already have a boyfriend, he gives his friend a spoon he's

carved himself, to give to her friend, who gives it to the girl. If it's accepted, he carves another spoon, more elaborate. If the girl accepts that one, the couple is engaged to marry. For the rest of their lives he might present her with spoons, ever more intricate. Like when he wants children or has to travel.

Some of the symbols carved into the spoons have meaning only for the couple, others are universal. A ribbon is for a journey, a ship's wheel is for safety at sea. A chain means the couple are linked together; and a lock and key, that their love is being kept safe. You carve a spoon to tell a woman her love is safe. Pure romance.

But spoons are practical. They were treasured because, back in the time of Swansea Castle, or the 12th century Portadullais cathedral, and before that, among the Druids, "there wasn't much else to eat with," says Robert. Families were bigger and would have carried lightweight wooden spoons and cups with them when moving about or working.

Robert did present his wife

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Dancing to Anna and the Astronauts... for the young and young at heart, they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Parrsboro Band Days was a huge success. Great music, and a wonderful time for all. There were craft tables and food available. A long but enjoyable day ending for most with Ian James, then the Midnight Cats at the beer tent. Photo by Lawrence R. Nicoll. See Lawrence's Photo Essay on page 2.

Parrsboro Water Infrastructure gets \$1.604-Million

By Maurice Rees

Water system improvements in Parrsboro will help ensure a clean, reliable water supply with the Province and the Municipality of Cumberland each investing more than \$820,000 in the project.

"The growth we're seeing in Parrsboro and across Cumberland County is a reflection of what an outstanding region this is to live and work in," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables and MLA for Cumberland South, on behalf of John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "We need to ensure that

we're providing residents and business owners the infrastructure they need and that we're setting the course to accommodate future growth and prosperity."

Sections of water main pipes will be replaced, which will improve water quality, as well as reduce service calls and the effort required to flush the system. The work will also result in better water supply in case of fire for Atlantic Avenue.

Murray Scott, Mayor, Municipality of Cumberland said, "We are very thankful to the Province for contributing 50 per cent of the funding.

With the co-operation from both levels of government, we will be able to replace 601 metres of old lead water mains and bring cleaner water to 31 homes in Parrsboro. The more lead pipe we can remove from our municipal water system, the better the health of the community, and the less maintenance for our public works crew."

The project is part of the Municipal Capital Growth Program, a one-time \$102-million investment in projects across Nova Scotia - a historic provincial investment in municipal infrastructure.

Submitted by Gregor Wilson

Community groups demand the Windy Ridge Wind Power Project Environmental Assessment be rejected due to a flawed EA process, a lack of a provincial landscape level plan, negative provincial emission target implications, and greenwashing by proponents, federal and provincial governments.

The Environmental Assessment for the Windy Ridge Wind Project must not be approved.

Green Nova Scotia First (GNSF), Protect Wentworth Valley and many others are awaiting a decision from Environment and Climate Change Minister Tim Halman on the Windy Ridge Wind export project. It includes nearly 50 industrial turbines. Everwind Fuels related projects include 35 in the same region and a whooping 404 industrial

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