

\$246,000.00 for Community Facility & Recreation Space

By Tory Rushton

This past month we had the opportunity to celebrate the class of 2026 as graduates walked across stages to receive their high school diplomas. Early in the month, the same celebration was observed for our NSCC graduates. It was an honour once again to bring greeting to some of these ceremonies on behalf of the province and recognize these achievements.

A couple more celebrations were recognized last month. The Anne Murray Center celebrated the opening of the new exhibit of Anne's Juno Lifetime Achievement Award that has only seen 3 recipients receive this award, the first being in 1989. Also, for the last 10 years, Parrsboro Creative has hosted artist from all over for the Plein Air Festival. This year's 10th anniversary awards show was celebrated with a packed house of artists, buyers and the organizations volunteers.

This past month, several



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road projects have been started in Cumberland South and conversations about many other roads continue with the Department of Public Works. A new bridge is being constructed on Highway 2 in Southampton and something that has been a sore point for many motorists and myself, is the Springhill connector bridge and the lights. For nearly a year, I have been contacting Public Works to share our frustration. My office has been informed, the

tender for repair has been awarded for repairs this construction season. My office and I will be staying on top of this.

I had the opportunity to host several ministers in the area last month. A couple key visits were from the Premier and the Minister of Labour. The Premier and I hosted a meeting with a manufacturer to showcase opportunities that Nova Scotia and particular, Cumberland has to offer. The Minister of Labour had an opportunity to tour the NSCC campus as well as recognize 2 students that took part in a youth trades program. During this time, the Minister also had the opportunity to review the location for the new NSCC student residence, and we have now seen the demolition process start of the old Springhill Fire Station that will be the location of the new student housing.

We have heard from the department of Agriculture on a drought relief program, and I have had the opportunity to visit many blueberry growers' fields this past month and see the longer impacts of the drought, and I continue to work directly with the minister on this issue. In other announcements, we have received over \$246 000.00 in Cumberland South for community facility and recreation space upgrades.

These are programs that organizations and municipalities can apply for upgrades to a variety of facilities. The rinks in Parrsboro, Oxford and Springhill were all beneficiaries of this program as well as the Joggins Improvement Committee and the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society for the Ottawa House. The Parrsboro Band Days and some Acadian Day celebrations will also be receiving some grants to assist with events and festivals this summer.

As the summer has started, there are many events and celebrations throughout Cumberland South, and I look forward to seeing you at many of these events. We have a lot of hidden treasures in our community and there is no better time to get out and explore this area.

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