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Three Solar Projects for Cumberland County

By Maurice Rees

Three new solar projects in Cumberland County were announced by Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Karen Casey in Springhill on November 8th. The Solar for Community Buildings Program enables eligible community groups and organizations to generate solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity on their roofs or properties and sell it to their utility under a 20-year contract.

The five projects announced on November 4th did not include other projects announced earlier for Amherst Stadium – 75kW (Town of Amherst); Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre – 75kW (Municipality of Cumberland); FORCE Visitor Centre – 25kW (Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy) and Parrsboro Band Hall – 30kW (Parrsboro Band Association). Solar panels on the Hall, Parrsboro were being installed in mid-November.

Karen Casey announcement included three for the Municipality of Cumberland for: solar panels on two wastewater treatment plants in Parrsboro (75kW); and Springhill (75kW), and one water treatment plant in Springhill (75kW). During the announcement, Deputy Warden Joe Van Vulpen said, "The Municipality of Cumberland has the goal of being the greenest municipality in the province and to be an example of sustainable planning worldwide."

"Over the last few years we've been fortunate to be included in this program for the Dr. Carson Marion Murray Community Centre, and for other buildings such as the Band Hall in Parrsboro and the FORCE Visitor Centre in West Bay" he added.

"It is imperative that we as a municipality work towards reducing our carbon footprint to combat the effects which humans have had on our climate. The Municipality of Cumberland, through the Cumberland Energy Authority supports numerous green energy initiatives within its borders" Van Vulpen continued.

Two projects for Town of Amherst were announced simultaneously. The Town of Amherst will use the funding for a 48-kilowatt project at the Amherst Fire Station and a 48-kilowatt project at the Amherst Police Department. "The Town of Amherst is a strong believer in a greener future," Amherst CAO Greg Herrett said, on behalf of Mayor David Kogon.

Van Vulpen also mentioned the green energy possibilities such as the harnessing of the Fundy tides at FORCE, and our own Geothermal Business Park in Springhill.



Pictured following the announcement for three solar projects in Municipality of Cumberland and two in Town of Amherst are (L-R): Minister Karen Casey, Finance and Treasury Board Deputy Warden Joe van Vulpen, Municipality of Cumberland Chief Administrative Officer, Greg Herrett, Town of Amherst. (Submitted)

Jocelyn Li Appointed Executive Director



Jocelyn Li became executive director Parrsboro Creative in mid-November. (Submitted)

Parrsboro Creative is entering a new era with the appointment of Jocelyn Li, as Executive Director, who replaces Robert More, who has returned to work in Ontario. In a few short years the organization, under the direction of Michael Fuller and a dedicated board of directors, as an

established leader in the cultural economy of Cumberland County and the province of Nova Scotia.

Ms. Li will assume her position mid-November, at which time there will be an informal celebratory event to introduce her to the community of supporters, sponsors, and cultural and funding partners. Ms. Li graduated from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Jewellery Design & Metalsmithing (2013) and has since then been an administrative part of many arts organizations in both Halifax and Toronto, including Craft Nova Scotia, Keep Six Contemporary Arts, and Artscape Daniels Launchpad. She is an accomplished metalsmith in silver and gold, and has her eyes set on blacksmithing.

Mayor and Eight Councillors

By Maurice Rees

Cumberland council at its November 4th meeting approved switching to a Mayor, plus 8 councillors for the October 2020 municipal election. Council's decision came as a result of overwhelming support from a year long study with several public meetings, online surveys and write-in opinions.

During the November 4th meeting each councillor was given opportunity to express their preference and the reasons behind it. Speaking in favour of changing from an

internal council choice Warden to an elected Mayor were: Warden, Al Gillis; Deputy Warden Joe van Vulpen; plus councillors, Paul Porter, Marion Chase, Doug Williams, Maryanne Jackson and Norman Rafuse. Councillors who preferred staying with the Warden system were councillors, Barbara Palmer, Dan Rector, Ernie Gilbert and Don Fletcher.

Following a review of results from the public input and councillors stating their preference on motion by Councillor Jackson, seconded

by Councillor Porter a majority vote was approved for the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to switch from the Warden system to the Mayor system. Those voting against the motion were: Councillors Rector, Gilbert, Palmer and Fletcher.

Following a request from Department of Municipal Affairs, municipal staff conducted a year-long study with public meetings, online survey and write-ins to determine public's preferences on the number of councillors. The studies reveals a very

strong preference to downsize to eight councillors.

At the November 4th meeting, it was perhaps a foregone conclusion of the outcome, but councillors were given the opportunity to indicate their preferences and why.

By a slim margin, six councillors preferred downsizing to eight councillors, which was in line with public sentiments. One councillor suggested changing to nine councillors and four suggesting the municipality should opt for ten councillors.

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If you go near the Cape Sharp site you can look across the see Cape Split in the Annapolis Valley. Always a great place for some fantastic photos. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

The Hall Nominated for Business Award

(NOTE: The Parrsboro Band Association was a nominee in the Amherst & Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award program. Although they did not ascend to the top and win an award, we wanted to include their biography as printed in the Gala's program)

The Parrsboro Band Association operates The Hall which is an accessible centre for culture and community situated in the heart of Parrsboro.

The Band Association which was formed as the operating body for the Parrsboro Citizens' Band has blossomed into a non-profit volunteer organization that provides not only a multi-use public space but also a variety

of programs and events.

Just over a dozen years ago, a "Save the Hall" project was undertaken to save what was then a decaying building without any regular programs. Through organized strategic planning and the hard work of volunteers the space has been renovated, made accessible for those with disabilities, outfitted with professional sound, lighting, and a drop-down movie screen, hearing assistance, ranked seating, updated heating and cooling, and this month will be installing solar panels capable of meeting the Hall's energy needs. The Hall is currently used on an almost daily basis.

When asked what their mission was, we were told "To

create for the people of South Cumberland County an accessible cultural and community

centre." It certainly sounds like the mission and the delivery are well matched".

Happenings at The Hall

By Patricia Burke

The Hall on King Street in Parrsboro remains busy until the end of the year. On Friday, December 6 after the Annual Santa Clause Parade, Santa will be at the hall to greet children and most of all hear what they want for Christmas and we will have some festive treats as well.

On Monday, December 16 at 7 pm The Annual Christmas Concert will be held. The King Street Strummers, The Elastic Big Band and The

Parrsboro Citizens' Choir will delight you with lots of music and singing. The cost is \$10 per person and tickets will be available at the door. At intermission there will be tasty Christmas treats and coffee.

On behalf of the Parrsboro Band Association we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support you have shown us during 2019.

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