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South Cumberland NEWS

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The Amos Thomas House was built in 1873, and was registered as a municipal heritage site in 1991. (Submitted)

Seaman Property Given One Year Reprieve

By Maurice Rees

The house was built by Amos Thomas Seaman, the eldest son of Amos "King" Seaman, in 1843 was the subject of a public meeting of Cumberland Council on November 18 following a request by the Minudie Heritage Society for de-registration and potential demolition.

The application was presented to council by Will Balsler, Junior Planner, who indicated during the procedural presentation, he would be recommending council delay de-registration activities for a year. The application from Sharon Gould, President of the Minudie Heritage Association regarding the property at 5355 Barronsfield Road to deregister it as a Municipal heritage property allowing its demolition. The subject property is owned by the Minudie Heritage Association (MHA). It remained in the Seaman family until it was inherited by the MHA, and is known both as the "Amos Thomas Seaman House", and the "A.T. Seaman House". The property was valued both as an example of Georgian Architecture, and for its connection to "King" Seaman. It was registered as a Municipal Heritage site on February 6, 1991.

The applicant's letter stated, "The Amos Thomas Seaman House was in a state of deterioration when it was inherited by the MHA

in 2015. Countless efforts to raise the much needed funds to renovate the house have now ceased. The roof condition, the wiring, poor sills, windows, interior damage are all rampant.

Gould stated, "The plan is to remove all valuable historic items - an archive has been set up, then (we will) develop a plan to combine and tell the story / history of Minudie in other ways." She added, staff have been working with the MHA on a possible rezoning of the property following Heritage Deregistration to allow the development of an interpretive site or building".

There were submitted oppositions to the de-registration, one was from Bill Seaman, a family member who in 2019 accepted his Great Uncle Alex's posthumous admission to the Bar of Nova Scotia. He is the grandson of Private Seaman's sister, Mary V. (Seaman) Morris. His mother was her daughter, Marjorie Kerr (Morris) Seaman who married my father, Henry Emmerson Seaman, 85 years ago.

In his letter of opposition, he requested council defer making a decision for at least a year to permit him and family members to develop a plan and seek financial support. On the recommendation of Junior Planner, Will Balsler, council approved a motion to delay de-registration activities for at least a year.

The Maple Inn Has Been Sold

By Maurice Rees

Parrsboro, which has a rich history relating to music, geological assets and a tourist mecca, will certainly welcome Paul Aitken and family to the area as new owners of the Maple Inn. Johannes & Ulrike Rockenbauer who have owned the famed accommodations facility for the past 16 years recently sold to the

Aitkens. Johannes, who has also been extensively in The Hall, Parrsboro, and other community activities, said he and his wife will continue to live in Parrsboro and have purchased a home.

Paul Aitken told this reporter the move to Parrsboro is the culmination of a long time dream to return to Canada. He grew up near Strat-

ford, Ontario but moved to the United States in 1993 to pursue his Doctorate in Music. He has been the Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho.

The Maple Inn's prominence in Parrsboro dates back to 1893. The classic B&B is a 3-minute walk from Ship's Company Theatre and a 7-minute walk from the Fundy Geologi-

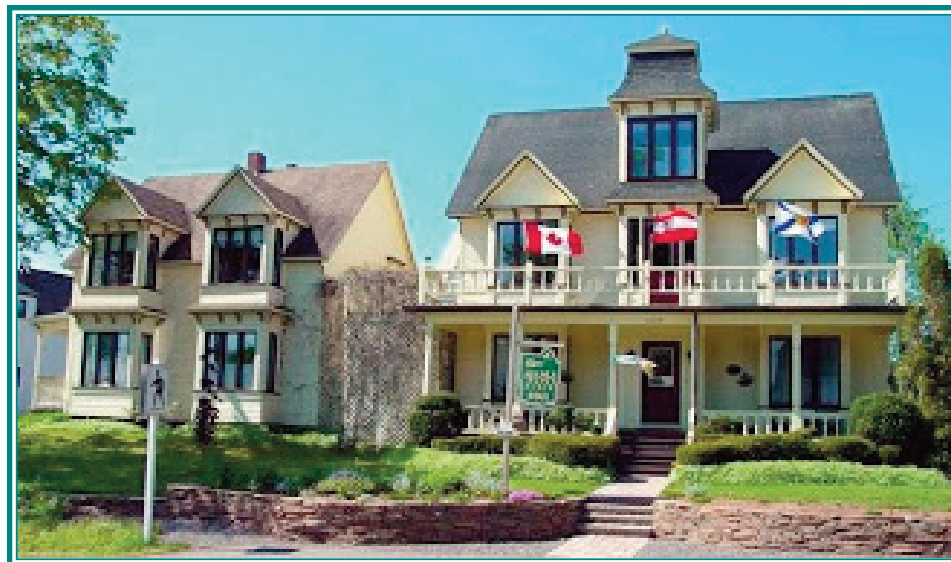
cal Museum.

Accommodations in the historic inn include 8 guest units (King, Queen, Double, Single); 6 guest rooms with an ensuite 4-piece bath; 2-bedroom guest suite with 2 baths (3-piece with shower and a 4-piece with jacuzzi) and a living

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room; and a 1-bedroom suite with a 4-piece bath (air-bubble tub). All of our guest units include a flat-screen television, hair dryer and wireless Internet access. An online listing earlier this year indicated the Maple Inn was listed for sale at a suggested price of \$499,000.

Cathedral of the Rockies, which was Aitken's passion for nearly 30 years, also known as the Cathedral of the Rockies First United Methodist Church, is a United Methodist church located in the historic North End district of Boise, Idaho, United States. The church is the largest United Methodist Church in Boise, Idaho, the largest in the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist denomination, and was the first Methodist church in Boise, founded in 1872.



The Maple Inn, Parrsboro is an iconic tourist accommodation and was recently sold. (Submitted)

Community Development Priorities

Community Development Priorities circulated to council for its November 18th meeting included:

High Speed Internet - The Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester, acting jointly, have invested \$6M in a 3 year Xplornet Communication Inc. project that will have the capacity to reach 100% of households in Cumberland and Colchester with actual highspeed internet. As part of the project the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester will receive the rights to two pairs of dark fibre on the entire Xplornet fibre network currently being installed.

Cape d'Or - The Municipality has completed a Master Plan for Cape d'Or that is designed to plan our investment in the site over a ten year period to work towards making this a world class that Tourism Nova Scotia will promote as a Nova Scotia icon. Following the completion of the Master Plan, we completed the detail designs and tender documents for the components of the site. At present, we are waiting for the Federal Government to complete the Duty to Consult process and we hope to be prepared to begin construction in spring 2021.

Partnerships (Amherst, Oxford, Cumberland Business Connector) - In recent years, the three municipal units in Cumberland have taken a collaborative approach to economic development planning and implementation. o The Municipality of Cumberland, the Town of

Amherst, and the Town of Oxford entered into a Memorandum of Understanding the provide funding to the Cumberland Business Connector. The Cumberland Business Connector is an independent, business led, non profit organization that focuses on economic development across the entire Cumberland region. The Connector also receives funding from the Government of Nova Scotia.

There is a monthly meeting for all players in economic development in the Cumberland region that keeps everyone informed of the priorities and programs that are available for the region. This informal group, referred to as "Team Cumberland."

Economic Development Strategies - Joint Strategy - The Municipality and the Town of Amherst worked collaboratively to develop the 2014 Joint Community Economic Development Strategy which includes priorities, goals, and activities related to four pillars - business, tourism, demographics, and community capacity. Our staff are currently working collaboratively with the Town of Amherst, the Town of Oxford, and the Cumberland Business Connector to revise and revamp this strategy. We expect to have this ready for Council to review and (hopefully) approve in January 2021. Springhill and Parrsboro - Following the dissolutions of the former Town of Springhill and Town of Parrsboro, the Municipality received transition funding, some of which was specifically for de-

veloping economic development strategies for each of the communities. The Municipality hired a consultant team to undertake this work.

Both plans define a community vision for success, a mission statement, and a number of strategic priorities and initiatives to achieve success. The strategies include a description of a community leadership model to use for implementation. These strategies were completed October 2020 and implementation will begin soon. Other Community Strategies - The Joint Community Economic Development Strategy calls for the development of community specific plans to address the economic situations in communities throughout Cumberland. The re-vamp of the Joint Strategy, which will be presented to Council in early 2021, will include a schedule to develop community specific economic development strategies throughout our region.

Tourism Strategy implementation - The Municipality of Cumberland, the Town of Amherst, and the Town of Oxford worked collaboratively to develop a strategy to maximize the value of tourism to the Cumberland region economy. The Cumberland Region Tourism Development Strategy was completed and adopted by all three Municipal Councils in May 2019. The Strategy includes a specific and ambitious goal to increase tourism revenues in Cumberland by \$27 million by 2024. Implementation of the goals, objectives, and action items included in this strategy is well underway. Developing a tourism brand, marketing

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