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# South Cumberland NEWS

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DECEMBER 2021 **\$1<sup>95</sup> + HST**

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## Fines Increasing to \$11,622 for Second Offence

**By Maurice Rees**  
A rapid surge of CoVid-19 infections resulting in at least four deaths being attributed to an outbreak following a multi-day religious gathering in Amherst has resulted in a new category of fines which will hold organizers directly responsible for contravening the act and putting themselves and others in danger.  
Individuals and organizations hosting events or gatherings that ignore public health orders are now subject to penalties under the Health Protection Act. This is a new category of offence with fines starting at the highest maximum penalty under the act of \$2,422 for a first offence and increase to \$11,622 for individuals who either organize or attend an illegal gathering. Organizations will be fined the highest maximum penalty under the act of \$11,622 for a first offence and \$57,622 for the second and each subsequent offence. Individuals can also face jail time. The fines include victim surcharge and other court fees. The new fines announced on November 18th are effective immediately.  
"I don't want any more loved ones being lost due to this type of reckless behaviour and the fines that were in place were not enough to discourage it," said Premier Tim Houston. "My hope is that by substantially increasing fines and increasing enforcement we can save lives."  
Here are some quick facts about CoVid-19 enforcement: police and provincial inspectors are authorized to enforce orders under the Health Protection Act; fines were last increased in April; more than 1,375 summary offence tickets have been issued under the Health Protection and Emergency Management acts since the provincial state of emergency was declared and fines issued under the Health Protection Act total \$1.7 million  
Nova Scotia gathering limits and other COVID-19 restrictions and guidance are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/restrictions-and-guidance/>

## Tree for Boston

Natural Resources and Renewables, Minister Tory Rushton, who is sitting MLA for Cumberland South and Allan MacMaster, Deputy Premier and MLA for Inverness attended the Tree for Boston cutting ceremony on November 10. The event took place at the prop-

erty of the tree donors, L'Arche Cape Breton - 3 L'Arche Lane, Orangedale, Inverness Co.

L'Arche Cape Breton community members were in attendance. Andrea Currie from Waycobah First Nation performed a smudging ceremony before the tree was cut. During the ceremony We'koqma'qewiskwa Drummers performed the Honour Song.



## One Christmas Carol at The Hall – December 5

**By Patricia Burke**  
The Concert Series is gearing up again after an extended period of not able to have them due to restrictions from COVID 19. The first was Lennie Gallant on Sunday, November 29, 2021 On December 5 there will be another Christmas Concert at 2 pm by Showcase

Productions of Amherst. This is a one man show called One Christmas Carol. Doors open at 1:30. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Karen Byers at 254-2998 or at the door. You will need to show proof of double vaccination and masks are mandatory. Both concerts are sponsored by

the Parrsboro Band Association. Movies are going well. Dec. 1 film is **The Last Bus** and Dec. 15 is **Serendipity**. Movies start at 7:30 but we ask everyone to be seated at 7:20 pm. You do not have to reserve your seat but you will be required to show proof of double vaccination

and masks are mandatory. The canteen is now open again and will be serving delicious fresh popcorn, coffees, water and pop and juice.

The month of December The Hall will be the recipient of the 50/50 at Cross-Roads Co-Op in Parrsboro, so when you are buying your groceries buy a 50/50. This is a wonderful way to support the hall. Thinking of a gift for the hard to buy for person? Buy a membership to the hall for \$15. You can get a membership at any event at The Hall or go to our website at [www.thehall](http://www.thehall) and click on membership. Just a reminder to our present members you can also join know for 2022. There are lots of perks for being a member so send in your form today. For anyone who is new to the area and reading this for the first time go to our website above and see what wonderful things are happening at the hall regardless of COVID 19.

## Investing in a Rock Solid Future

**By Craig Johnson**

Our 2021 season has just concluded; and, while visitor numbers are up on last year, the Covid-19 pandemic has once again delivered a devastating blow. As a friend of the Joggins Fossil Institute (JFI), you know that the Joggins Fossil Cliffs are recognized by the United Nations as a globally significant site; and, typically, tens-of-thousands of visitors from across the globe visit the cliffs each year. This has not been the case throughout the pandemic.

In our last pre-pandemic season (2019), an estimated 20,000 people visited the Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site. 13,272 visitors paid admission to the Joggins Fossil Centre, touring the museum and cliffs with JFI interpretive staff.

In 2020, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, visitor numbers at the Joggins Fossil Centre plummeted to the lowest in our history. Only

4,643 paid to visit the museum or take a guided tour. This trend has continued in 2021, with a total of only 5,269 visiting the Joggins Fossil Centre.

Our team is encouraged by the uptick in visitor numbers in 2021, and we enjoyed hosting people from outside of Atlantic Canada for the first time since 2019. Unfortunately, however, the numbers are clear: we remain in uncertain times and we need your continued support.

As a not-for-profit, charitable organization, JFI is reliant upon our visitors and donors. We thank you for your ongoing support throughout this challenging time, and we ask that you consider making a tax-deductible donation to JFI. Please visit [www.jogginsfossilcliffs.net/donate](http://www.jogginsfossilcliffs.net/donate) or call 1-888-932-9766.

**Craig Johnson, Director, Development & Strategic Engagement, Joggins Fossil Institute**



Cadet Commanding Officer Keith Odlin, Reading the names on the cenotaph in Parrsboro. See more pictures of the service on page 2 of the South Cumberland Nwes.

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