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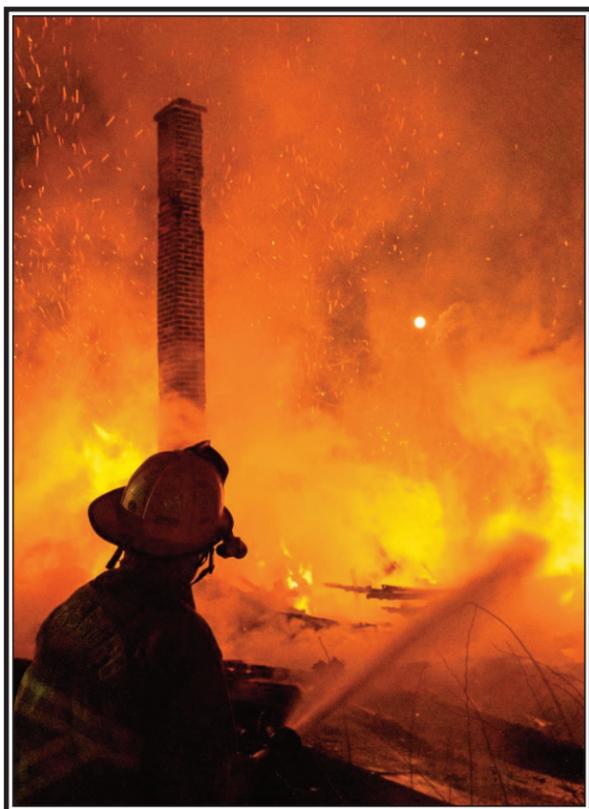
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The chimney is still standing as a Parrsboro member reduces the intensity of the flames in the un inhabited abandoned dwelling at 8353 Hwy 209, Port Greville. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



A Parrsboro volunteer firefighter pours water on a suspicious fire in an abandoned property at 8353 Hwy 209, Port Greville on New Years Eve. Five departments were called out as result of the mutual aid. FPW reported the call at 6:45 pm. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



It took Parrsboro and FPW Departments less than an hour to extinguish the suspicious fire at 8353 Hwy 209, Port Greville on December 31, 2020. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Council Receives GeoPark Presentation

By Maurice Rees

Beth Peterkin, Executive Director of the UNESCO Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark made a comprehensive virtual presentation to Cumberland Council of January 13th. Using the Power Point platform the "Zoom" meeting outlined the history of the local committee's activities in preparing the presentation to UNESCO which gave final approval early Summer 2020.

Because it was an online presentation, Peterkin, pro-

vided a lot of data in point form. She described the GeoPark boundaries as: From Lower Truro to Apple River; from the



shore to the Cobequid Highlands; including Isle Haute. The park is more than 2,511 square kilometres stretching a distance of 165 km long. The park has 43 geosites comprising sites of particular geological, historical, or cultural importance.

As a historical overview, Peterkin reaffirmed: 2015 - Original steering committee from the Cumberland Geological Society; January 3, 2019 - Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society was incorporated as a not-for-

profit; Colchester and Cumberland Counties became the founding partners and each County has committed \$75,000 in annual support; July 2020 - Designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark and July 2023 is the Revalidation date.

In the short time since its designation in July 2020, the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark has evolved into an organization comprising: 15 Board members; Committees; a full time *continued on page 3*



After the New Years Eve structure fire was identified as abandoned and un inhabited, several departments were called off. FRW and Parrsboro had the fire out in less than an hour. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Snowmobile Falls Through Ice

By Maurice Rees

A week before Christmas two snowmobile riders had a close call when their snowmobile went through the ice on Sutherland Lake in Cumberland County. An open winter and above normal temperatures have created less ice on waterways and lakes making it very treacherous near any body of water.

An RCMP officer responded and determined that both individuals had safely made it out of the shallow water without any injuries. As result of the impending dangers, the RCMP reminded snowmobile enthusiasts about the importance of safety this season. The weather is unpredictable at this time of year and temperatures fluctuate so often bodies of water are not completely frozen.

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind before heading out: Always check the weather conditions; Never ride alone; Take a cell phone in case of emergency; Let someone know your plans, including where you are going and when you expect to re-

turn; Always wear protective, warm clothing, including a helmet, gloves and eye protection.

Other tips include: When possible, avoid crossing bodies of water. If you are cross-

ing bodies of water, never ride in single file and wear a life jacket over your outer clothing; Ride at a reasonable rate of speed. Know your riding partner's driving limitations as well as your

own and operate only at a speed that allows you both to remain in total control and Ride sober. Don't drink or consume drugs before or while snowmobiling.

For more information about snowmobile safety, visit: https://novascotia.ca/natr/ohv/riders_handbook.asp.

Artist-in-Residence Program Celebrates 5TH Year

By Laurie Glenn Norris

The Joggins Fossil Institute has announced its 5th ArtScape Artist-In-Residence Programme. Sandra Phinney, a writer from Yarmouth, NS, was chosen by jury selection. Phinney's project, Fossil Mindfulness, will mark a new beginning.

Phinney has reached the stage in her long career where she is eager to make major shifts in the kind of writing she creates. Phinney is ready to experiment with a new body of work through creative non-fiction, nature writing and long-form essays and photo-essays, much of it informed by the writing of the late poet Mary Oliver, whose focus on attention to "the heavenly invisibles" remains an important

source of inspiration for Phinney.

Phinney says, 'I have visited the Joggins Fossil Cliffs and Centre in the past. But I did not have the time (or did not take the time) to really pay attention, and to discover the "heavenly invisibles" therein.'

'Listening, with empathy—to the site, the fossils, the people, the history—and taking the time to reflect at a deep and personal level. In the process, the "heavenly invisibles" will become evident and I will tease out the wonder, the beauty and the meaning of it all.'

Fossil Mindfulness also focuses on education and outreach. Phinney will interact with individuals and groups, one day per week, through

'drop' in and 'set appointments' for writing mentoring. Depending on the status of the COVID-19 epidemic, this outreach programming may be conducted online. Phinney's residency will be divided into two two-week sessions, the first in the Spring and the other in the Autumn.

The purpose of Fossil Mindfulness is twofold: the creation of a body of textual work and imagery that engages, at a deep level, with the culture and natural surroundings of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, which can be shared internationally through literary journals and nature/outdoor magazines, and the expansion of Phinney's work to a greater personal depth.

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