

Remembrance Day in South Cumberland

Unfortunately, we encountered some technical difficulties last month. We could not correct the problems to include photos from Remembrance Day in the last issue. Even though they are late we wanted to publish them to provide publicity to all those who attended or volunteered to make the services a highlight to the community. We apologize for the unexpected problems

Story and photos by Lawrence R. Nicoll

The weather forced the call to have the Remembrance Day Service at the Legion #45 Hall. The result allowed about 350 people to

attend for a very nice ceremony, many seniors who might not have been able to attend in the weather

First was the Ecumenical Service, then starting at 10:55 the wreath laying ceremony. The names on the cenotaph were read, then the veterans who had died in the last year including Harold Hatfield, a friend.

Wonderful to see such a large turnout.

Lawrence R Nicoll is Landscape Photographer in Parrsboro who regularly sends photos to South Cumberland News.



Glooscap Staff Fundraiser Already Successful

By Maurice Rees

Residents and businesses in Parrsboro have rallied around the 14 staff members of Glooscap Restaurant and Lounge, which was destroyed by an early morning fire on Tuesday, December 11th. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The building was insured and the owners have indicated they will be rebuilt and hope to be open for the 2019 summer season.

The community has been hit hard with the fire, because the restaurant was the town's only eatery which is open year-round. A GoFundMe pages organized by Kürsten Kelly, a friend of the owners, has generated over \$14,000 as of Sunday, December 16th. An online action, organized by Cheryl Johnson, a local elementary teacher, is underway and will close on Wednesday, December 19th. As of Sunday after her auction included in excess of 130 items and bids, to date, were totaling \$3,700.

One feature of the Glooscap, which was always a big hit with children and tourists was the life-size statue of Glooscap which stood inside the entrance. During the hectic activities at the fire scene, firemen and concerned citizens were able to save the statue, and also the two Glooscap "heads" which were on the outside of the building.

The statue and heads were taken to Earl MacAloney's garage. Since the fire volunteers have spent hours cleaning and refinishing. The three items will be taken to the fire hall and used decoration, but a backdrop for pictures.

Tom Field, a local carpenter, rallied to the rescue with plans to hold a Wing Night at Parrsboro fire hall on Thursday, December 20th. Field who is an avid snowmobiler says area

clubs will be affected, because many of them headed to the restaurant for warm up, dry off and get something to eat during the snowmobiling season. Area clubs include the Chignecto-Glooscap Snowmobile Club, approximately 50 members; Springhill club has in the range of 150 members.

In total Fields predicted there are approximately 300-400 members in area clubs, when other clubs in Collingwood, and Sutherland's Lake are included. On Thursday, December 20th, the Glooscap would have held its second largest wing night of the year, as it helped kick-off the snowmobiling season.

When he realized what Thursday, December 20th would have meant to the staff, who make most of their money from tips, he wanted to do something. Late Tuesday, he talked with some of his colleagues and discussed holding a wing night he got immediate enthusiasm.

On Wednesday he started putting a plan together. Believing in buying local, he went to CrossRoads Co-op to see if Rob, manager could get a large supply of wings. Late in the day he got confirmation 2,500 wings were on order. He was further surprised when the Co-op offered to supply half of the 2,500 wing order. He checked with the Parrsboro Fire Department who agreed to make the hall available and to seek members who would operate the bar. The Fire Department agreed to donate proceeds from the bar to the relief efforts.

Others have stepped forward. Amber Fisher, owner of the restaurant contacted Fields, and told him to call SYSCO, a large supplier to the restaurant. SYSCO had heard about Fields fund raising initiative. When he

called them SYSCO donated an additional 5 cases (500 wings), plus three cases of mozza sticks, 3 bases of haddock bits and four cases of french fries.

In a small community it doesn't take long for news to travel. Before he knew it, Fields was receiving calls from Glooscap staff asking how they could help. His replay was he wanted them to come and enjoy. However, the staff persisted and indicated they wanted to serve wings on December 20th.

To add to the night's festivities, local DJ, Wesley Andrews, will set up his gear and donate his services to provide music. On Thursday, December 15th, the menu had not been finalized, but Fields will add more food items to the menu including haddock bits.

Fields said his phone has been ringing constantly with people offering to help and provide cash donations. Most of the snowmobile clubs from Amherst to Sutherlands Lake are arranging or have made donations. From the way he was outlining interest it's very conceivable cash donations will exceed \$1,500. Donation jars will also be available at the fire hall during wing night.

Because it's getting close to Christmas and he expects the hall to be filled to capacity 240 people, Fields has decided to include "take-out" for those who wish to support but eat at home. He has also received several calls from members and officials of the snowmobile clubs who indicate they are working on ways to raise additional donations.

Some anticipate with the GoFundMe; online auction, wing night and cash donations, the total funds raised should be between \$25-\$27,000. Not bad for a small community in a short time.



It was a frigid -20 degrees and very cold on the Parrsboro Fire Department's aerial ladder as water is pumped down onto the Glooscap Restaurant. (Shaw Photo)



The Glooscap Restaurant fire could be seen from miles away. (Shaw Photo)