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Sophia LeBlanc, now 8, but 6 at the time of the accident, Amherst, is presented with the 2019 Nova Scotia Metal for Bravery by Premier Stephen McNeil and Richard Petley-Jones, Chair of the Medal of Bravery Advisory Committee at ceremonies in Halifax on December 4th. She is the youngest person to receive the award. (Submitted)

Sophia Awarded Medal of Bravery

By Maurice Rees

Sophia LeBlanc, 6 at the time, now 8 years old, Amherst, the youngest Nova Scotian to ever receive the award, was presented with the Medal of Bravery in ceremonies held in Halifax on December 4th.

Eight-year-old Sophia LeBlanc was a passenger in her mother's car when it lost control and landed upside down, submerged in a river near Oxford. Sophia freed her youngest sibling from the car and then climbed a steep hill to flag down help for the rest of her family who were still trapped in the car. The accident happened November 11, 2018.

This is the twelfth year

individuals who have risked their own lives to help others have been recognized. Since 2008, 40 brave Nova Scotians have received the medal of bravery award.

On May 12, 2018 Elijah Watts was fishing with his father and another fisherman off the shores of Colindale in the Gulf of the Saint Lawrence. The vessel capsized and the occupants were thrown overboard. Mr. Watts pulled his father and the second fisherman ashore, regrettably, both men perished in the accident.

For more information on medal recipients, or to find out how to nominate a hero, visit: <https://novascotia.ca/bravery/>



Technicians, barely visible, work on the staging with fall-protection gear, installing panels on the roof of The Hall in Parrsboro on behalf of Doctor Solar. See the story and photos on page 3 of this South Cumberland News. (D Towns Photo)

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McCulloch Raises \$103,000 for Solar

By Maurice Rees

Bruce McCulloch has become a Parrsboro hero after raising \$103,000 locally to fund the installation of solar panels on the Hall and complete a solar project which received approval in 2017.

Always wanting to be energy efficient and green at the same time, the board of directors of The Hall, Parrsboro have been hopefully anticipating since 2017 they would be using solar panels to achieve those lofty goals.

After having their application approved to install solar

panels and place the generated electricity on the Nova Scotia Power grid, the project hit a roadblock and appeared to be dead in the water. When the association were preparing the application they had anticipated the nearly \$100,000 could be sourced from the Municipality of Cumberland. When the time came to get the money, the Municipality could not help. However, Johannes Hiesberger, treasurer of the Band Association, did not give up on his lengthy advocacy to switch to use solar energy. Enter fellow Parrsorian,

Bruce McCulloch, president of MCC Energy Strategies.

The local company works on projects providing insight into industrial and commercial energy efficiency opportunities. They work hard to determine how energy usage can be efficiently utilized, specifically through the application of industrial/commercial best practices.

McCulloch had a great investment story to tell. Everyone needs electricity and with enough power from the proposed 184 solar panels there would be enough electricity generated to supply 12

Nova Scotia homes, plus meet the needs of the Hall. Pricing and a source to sell the electricity to Nova Scotia Power for 20 years, the project will be part of an income stream for the Hall once the costs are amortized.

McCulloch raised \$80,000 from local investors while the Band Association contributed \$23,000 to seal the deal. Investors liked the proposal and wanted to help. The panels will generate 41 Megawatt hours annually for more at least 20 years, the life of the agreement with NSP.

continued on page 3



An early morning photo, after fire fighters had returned to the halls shows the devastation of the total loss of a garage, a vehicle destroyed and serious damage to the home. Another photo to view on page 2. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

No Broken Bones

By Maurice Rees

Not to make fun of a disastrous accident involving a b-train logging truck, but it pays to be small in stature. The driver, reported to be from New Brunswick, was small in stature and escaped without any broken bones and has been released from hospital.

Basic information and photos about this accident was provided by James Shaw, Chief Parrsboro Fire Department with some assistance from Lawrence R Nicoll.

On Monday December 9th, at 3:54pm Parrsboro Fire Department responded to a Motor Vehicle Accident with a reported entrapment in Halfway River. The Driver of a B-train logging truck left the road, rolling the truck and leaving him pinned inside.

Firefighters worked for over an hour to free the man. After he was freed from the wreckage, he was taken to the hospital in Amherst.

The South Cumberland News has been told the man was small and crumpled into a small space with his head below his knees. Fire Department volunteers and others on the scene used all the experience they have gained from many hours of training to extract him from the crumpled mess. They were overjoyed to learn he did not have any broken bones and was doing so good he was released from hospital on Thursday evening, December 12th.

Parrsboro Fire responded with trucks 2&3 and were on scene that evening until 9:00pm. Volunteer members

of the department returned to the scene at 8:30a.m. on Tuesday as a safety precaution for removal of the truck.

After helping to clear some debris they cleared the scene Tuesday afternoon at 4:30p.m.



It's hard to believe the driver survived this accident at Halfway River on Monday, December 9th. The accident happened late Monday afternoon and he was released from Amherst hospital on Thursday evening. See more photos on page 5.

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