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The large highway "Welcome to Parrsboro" now includes a "No sewer charge" message. (Submitted)



Some doorways display opposition to the additional Parrsboro sewer charge, which has resulted from significant cost overruns. (Submitted)



The designs may be different, but the message is consistent showing resident's disapproval of the annual sewer charge. Several curbside signs have sprouted up throughout Parrsboro as residents show their opposition to the additional \$345 charge, which will be added to property taxes for the next 20 years. (Submitted)

Sewer Charge Opposition Mounts

By Maurice Rees

Parrsboro property owners who are now included in the new sewer and water system have been adding "No Sewer Charge" signs to their property as they protest the \$345 annual charge which will exist for 20 years.

The Municipality has been dealing with the construction cost overruns for several months and have passed several motions on how to secure payment. As part of the rationale, council decided to apply 50% of the overage to the general tax rate, which means it

will become part of the general tax levy applied to against all properties in the municipality. The remaining 50% will be applied against Parrsboro properties fronting on the main lines and laterals.

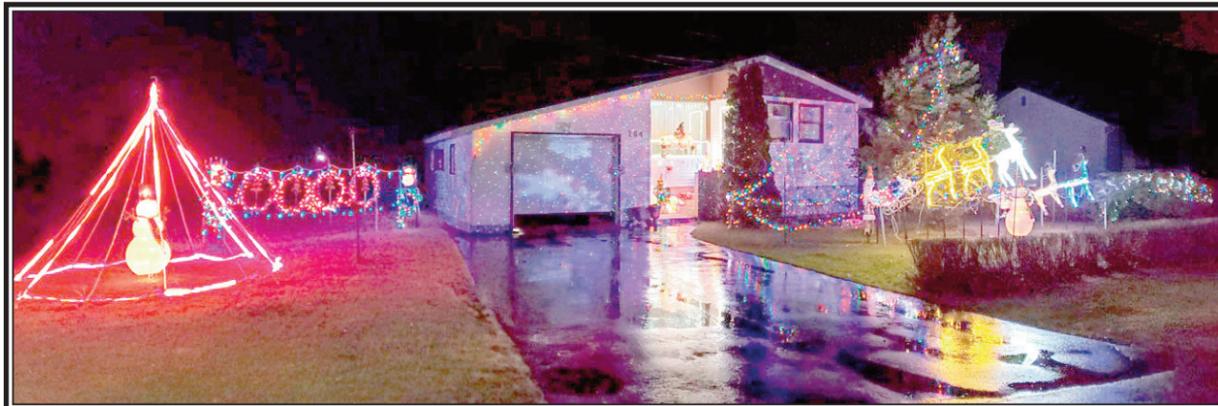
In its most recent decision, council agreed the \$345 annual charge, which will exist for 20 years, would be added to the 2021-2022 tax bills issued in May 2021. Property owners now have the option to three repayment choices: could be paid in one lump sum of \$4,941, or spread over 20 years at \$345.00 per year.

Council has recently added a third payment option, which allows for the annual charge to be automatically paid on a monthly basis.

The problem arose when the estimated cost of \$8-Million ballooned to \$12.7-Million and other levels of government have refused to increase their contribution. When construction was completed for the expansion of the Parrsboro sewage collection system and new sewage treatment plant, the total cost of this project was \$12.675 million dollars. Sixty-five percent of

the total cost was paid for by Provincial and Federal Grants, leaving \$4.4 million to be paid for by the residents in the service area. This amount was borrowed in the fall of 2018 and will be recovered from the residents in the service area over the next 20 years.

Many property owners in the areas serviced by the new system have revolted by placing signs on their property opposing the increase. Several photos were submitted to the South Cumberland News and are shown on page 2 of this issue.



Lawrence Nicoll spends days every year decorating his house and erecting many displays, then takes lots of photos which he can review throughout the year. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Depression During CoVid

By Rosemary Rowntree

Recently, the Southampton, Parrsboro, Advocate and Region (SPAR) Health Board hosted a discussion on depression that included advice for all during these strange COVID times.

The presentation was given by Dr. David Howe, a retired physician and long time resident of Parrsboro. Dr. Howe is an active member of the local

SPAR organization and shared many ideas from his personal and professional experiences that will help us deal with depression that can be brought on by isolation, lack of contact and uncertainty.

We might have expected some of his advice - exercise, go easy on the alcohol, take time for oneself and caring for others, but we were surprised by the lengthy list of positive

actions that could be taken to address depression. For example, going outdoors is good relief for the additional stresses brought on by the pandemic. Also, Dr. Howe spoke about the need to talk with a professional or a friend. Although more challenging right now, socializing is a good antidote for depression.

After the formal talk, a general question and answer took place; many personal stories and ideas for sound health promotion were shared.

The afternoon presentation, held at The Hall, was recorded by Rob Bentley and will be available at thehall.ca.

SPAR is a group of local volunteers who work to improve health and wellness in our communities. This includes income, education and a sense of belonging. Generally, events are posted on Face Book at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=spar%20community%20health%20board>

If you have ideas about programs that would benefit you and your community, please send a message.



John Brownlie and Dr David Howe prepare for the SPAR organization presentation at The Hall.

Traditional Live Nativity in Port Greville

In an effort to continue some normalcy and an ongoing tradition Oralee O'Byrne-Executive Director, Age of Sail Heritage Centre and Museum, Port Greville invited the public to a Traditional Live Nativity which took place in the Memorial Garden at the museum on Saturday, December 19th.

Visitors were asked to stay in their cars or stand in their bubbles while masked. Volunteers gloved and masked served hot chocolate or hot cider and individually wrapped homemade cookies. This event was free with any donations received going to The Parrsborough Shore Pastoral Community.

The Age of Sail Museum, a hallmark of the community, is operated by: Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society. They can be reached at: www.ageofsailmuseum.ca 902-348-2030 or 902-254-2079.

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