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South Cumberland NEWS

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Parrsboro Tree Lighting Ceremony was a fun night at the bandstand with one of the largest attendance in memory. Lots of children who had a great time and the choir had everyone singing with them. It was a fun time and finally a draw to see who got to light the tree, and POW, there it was. Photos by Lawrence R Nicoll.



The tree displays a variety of lights from the Band stand.



These youngsters are enjoying a hot chocolate while waiting for the Tree lighting ceremony in Parrsboro.



In Parrsboro there is always lots of caroling during the tree lighting ceremony at the bandstand.

Proposals on Policing Services

Cumberland municipal council is going to issue a request for proposals for policing services.

Council accepted the recommendation from its policing options review committee during its December meeting on

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022.

With council's decision, the committee has been tasked with drafting the request for proposals, based on the concerns raised in the public consultation process and bring them back to coun-

cil for review and approval.

"As we consulted with the public through five public consultations with Narrative Research there were common themes in the communities we visited," Cumberland

County Mayor Murray Scott said. "Those being visibility, response times and the need to feel safe in homes and communities. The report and survey reflect that and council has made a decision to issue an RFP."

Scott said council is hopeful the current provider and other potential providers respond to the request for proposals.

"It will be up to council at the end of the day to determine what that service looks like," Scott said. "We understand the challenges in all levels of services around resources, but we need to do the best we possibly can for the residents of Cumberland County."

The municipality established the review committee in May, which recommended a public engagement process be followed.

In August, Narrative Research of Halifax was hired to facilitate this process and reported back to the committee in October. The process included five public meetings in Parrsboro, Pugwash, River Hebert, Springhill and Upper Nappan, an online survey and one-on-one stakeholder meetings as well



Part of the crowd who gathered for the annual Parrsboro tree lighting ceremony waiting for ceremonies to start. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

continued on page 2

Geothermal Potential Heating Up

Geothermal energy already heats some buildings in Springhill, and a study funded by the Province will help advance its full potential in the area.

"Nova Scotia is becoming a world leader in green energy by being innovative and exploring the potential of our province's rich natural resources," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "Cumberland County is one of eight areas in the province where there is geothermal potential, and we want to harness every bit of it as a clean source of heat."

Geothermal energy is generated by extracting heat from underground sources. In Nova Scotia, abandoned mines that are at least 1,000 metres deep have warm water that can be used to heat homes and other buildings. Cumberland County is already successfully using geothermal technology in shallow depths at sites that have potential at deeper levels.

Murray Scott, Mayor, Municipality of Cumberland said, "It is very exciting for the Municipality of Cumberland to see this initiative progressing. With the support of the provincial government, we will be able to build upon previous successful geothermal research in the area. With the need to explore and expand renewable energy opportunities, this is the time to pursue this very valuable resource."

The Department is investing \$80,000 in a study by the Municipality of Cumberland County to determine how to make full use of the area's geothermal resources. The municipality will hire a new graduate from a Nova Scotia post-secondary institution to work on the one-year project.

The project is led by a working group with representatives from the Department, the municipality and the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Cumberland campus.

Don McCormack, Principal, NSCC Cumberland campus commented, "The vicinity

of the campus to the underground mines provided us with a natural alignment to the study of geothermal energy. Our living lab is heated by the nearby geothermal energy source supporting hands-on learning for students in the refrigeration and air conditioning - geothermal program."

Geothermal energy is already being used in Springhill by Surette Battery, Ropak Packaging, NSCC Cumberland campus and the Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre. The project complements Net Zero Atlantic's work to build community capacity for advancing geothermal opportunities; the Province supported Net Zero Atlantic in accessing \$1.3 million in federal support.

Information on how to apply for the student contract position will be available on the Municipality of Cumberland website

Additional Resources: NSCC Cumberland campus geothermal program:
<https://www.nsc.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/plandescri.aspx?prg=GEOTH&pln=GEOTHERMAL>

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