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South Cumberland NEWS

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Lighting the Tree at the Band Shelter in Parrsboro



This combo of two photos as one panel shows the winner lighting the tree at the band shelter in Parrsboro. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



As the photo shows the crowd ranged in ages from toddlers, to youth to middle age and those who are seniors. The Tree lighting is always a crowd drawer. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



The area in front of the bandstand was jam packed with youth waiting for festivities to start. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Whenever there's an event at the bandstand, you can count on a group of singers or musicians flocking to there in droves. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Mayor Scott calls for community to Fight Opioid Addiction

By Darrell Cole

The mayor of the Municipality of Cumberland says it's going to take a community response to deal with opioid addiction following a pair of deaths in Springhill last week.

"We've had two tragedies in the community and the community is really reeling from this," Murray Scott said at a meeting hosted by Nova Scotia Health in

Springhill on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023. "We're aware of addiction issues, not just in this municipality, but throughout the province."

Mental Health and Addictions organized the meeting to offer information on overdose prevention and to offer support to people in the community.

"It has to be a community response. I personally believe as a

former police officer who served more than 20 years there is no one organization that can address this on their own, we really need a collaborative effort," Scott said. "I'm appreciating the fact those people are willing to come here to allow the community to share their experiences and to listen."

Scott said it's important for families to never feel as though

they are alone. If they are aware of someone in their own home or in their community struggling with addiction issues that there is help. He said there are a lot of people who are willing to listen and to help.

He hopes the meeting is a positive step.

"The professional people here today are the people who can help and we also have a new citizens group called Save Our Families whose members have had loss themselves. They're bringing families together to see how they can help themselves and seek assistance," the mayor said.

Richard Harrison of Save Our Families said the group's priority is to help those struggling with addiction and to find a shelter for those struggling with housing security.

"Right now, help is almost non-existent unless you have a lot of money and we know there are a lot of people in the community who are struggling with housing as well as with addiction," said Harrison, whose nephew lost his battle to addiction in July. "We want to help people now and into the future because it's ongoing problem that's not going to solve itself."

Bertha Harrison said Springhill is in a crisis situation and the community is losing a lot of people.

"Our main goal is more accessible health care locally and we want to provide a 24-hour shelter

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Nova Scotia Health hosted an information session at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, to help the community in response to a pair of overdose deaths in the community last week. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

County Contributing \$40K to Geothermal Study

By Maurice Rees

At a meeting on November 29th, Cumberland Council agreed to contribute \$40,000 as its one-third share of a Feasibility Study for the use of Geothermal Energy in Greenhouse Food Production in the Municipality of Cumberland. The item was introduced by Greg Herrett, Chief Administrative Officer.

At a previous meeting Council received a presentation from NSCC Cumberland Campus, Principal Don McCormack and representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables regarding the Municipality's potential participation in a study for the feasibility of a geothermal greenhouse.

If determined to be feasible, this project has the potential to address both the use of geothermal energy in the Springhill area and food security in Cumberland County. The proposed \$120,000 cost

of the study be funded equally by the three partners - Municipality, NSCC and Dept of Natural Resources & Renewables.

It is proposed that Municipality's \$40,000 share be funded from reserves.

A series of overviews outlined the Proposed feasibility study be for the use of geothermal energy in greenhouse food production in the Municipality of Cumberland. Nine studies support the use of geothermal energy from former mines; industrial users have been using geothermal for heat since 1989 and there is large potential to extract more heat from the former mines.

GOALS are: Pilot project for food security - a greenhouse

heated by geothermal energy extracted from the mine water; future expanded district energy system for community and industry; partnerships and connects to expand on utilization of these resource and development of talent, training and innovation in geothermal energy.

Proposed Feasibility Study: Three partners, Cumberland, Province of Nova Scotia and NSCC; investigate potential benefits and required investment for a geothermal heated greenhouse in Springhill; include community engagement and student engagement and allocate \$120,000 for a 12 month study.

50 Attend Windfarm Meeting in Parrsboro

By Sandra Stephenson

Elemental Energy, a Western Canadian alternative energy provider with solar and wind projects already in operation across the country, invited citizens of the Parrsboro Shore to an information session on Wednesday, December 6th at the local fire hall at supper-time. They kindly offered sandwiches and sweets, and a suite of seven or eight information panels about an idea they have for a wind farm in the Cobequid Hills right behind Parrsboro, ENE of the town.

The site is currently owned by Northern Timber, and would be leased by Elemental Energy for 25 years or more, to build 20 to 25 turbines which could last 35 years before retirement (currently landfill). The existing lumber roads

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