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South Cumberland NEWS

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0
VOL. 8 NO. 8
JANUARY 2026
$1.95 + HST

Henry Ketchum Suspension Bridge Refurbished

Community celebrates the opening of refurbished Henry Ketchum Suspension Bridge in Tidnish Bridge

For several years members of the Tidnish Crossroads and Area Community Association have been working to replace the suspension bridge over the Tidnish River that's on the route of what would've been one of the world's greatest engineering marvels had it been completed.

Members of the association joined with other supporters on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, to officially open the recently completed Ketchum Suspension Bridge that's part of the trail signifying the historic Chignecto Marine Ship Railway.

"The new bridge replaces the old dilapidated and unsafe bridge that was originally constructed in 1996 that was truly past its best before date. It has been closed since 2015," association vice-president Jack Brown said. "The options we had were to remove it, leaving a void in the trail, or replace it. Given its history in relation to the ship railway as a tourist attraction we chose to replace it."

Removing the old bridge and replacing it with a new one was a monumental task, said Brown – one that local contractor, the Baxter Group, was up for.

The $1.2-million project saw the reinforcement of the abutments and towers at both ends of the bridge that support the massive steel cables. The new bridge is 218 feet long and the treated lumber decking seven feet wide.

The bridge is available to pedestrian traffic as well as all-terrain vehicles, including side-by-sides, and snowmobiles.

The trail upgrades included shale, gravel and crusher dust from the Ketchum Drive and Tyndal Road sides. A parking lot was built and surfaced on the Ketchum Drive side.

Association president Blair Andres said the opening is the culmination of more than three years of work. He said it was a huge community effort that saw a lot of volunteer hours put into raising the funds. He said the work will continue with the development of the trails.

The Municipality of Cumberland provided $50,000 to the project.

"This important milestone celebrates not only the preservation of a treasured landmark, but also the enduring spirit of innovation and collaboration that defines this region," Mayor Rod Gilroy said. "Originally part of the visionary Chignecto Marine Ship Rail-

Photos and this story continued on page 2

Pugwash beams with pride at international Communities in Bloom recognition

The accolades keep coming for Pugwash.

The village recently received a rating of 5 Blooms – Gold and a special mention for Friends of the Pugwash Estuary during the 2025 Communities in Bloom National/International Symposium and Awards ceremony in Stratford, Ont.

Pugwash participated in the International Small category along with Abbeyleix Tidy Towns in Laois, Ireland and Yarmouth, which took top honours.

The recognition for Pugwash comes three years after Communities in Bloom Canada declared it the winner of the Class of Champions – Small category.They received a rating of 5 Blooms – Silver and a special mention for Prospering Partnerships.

"This isn't as much a Pugwash Communities in Bloom award as it as an award for Pugwash as a whole," Communities in Bloom member Maureen Leahey said."It's amazing for Pugwash to be recognized internationally and it's even more special when the other communities we were competing against are either towns or cities.

"You can't buy the kind of publicity this gives Pugwash."

Pugwash was also recognized with an Outstanding Achievement Award for community involvement.

Susan Ellis of Pembroke, Ont.And John Lohuis from Tillsonburg, Ont. were in Pugwash on Wednesday, July 16, and Thursday, July 17, to judge the village in the 31st edition of the Communities in Bloom in the International Challenge Small category.

International Communities in Bloom judges John Lohuis (left) and Susan Ellis (second right) are shown with Teresa Kewachuk from Thinker's Lodge National Historic Site (second left) and Noreen Smiley of Pugwash Communities in Bloom during a visit to the community on Thursday, July 17, 2025.
Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo

The coldest morning (-22) has its own gift of the frost on the trees. Bitter is the best gift of a morning!
Lawrence R Nicoll photo
Also see the outstanding Parrsboro harbour sea smoke image from Lawrence on page 2.

Mayor helps MADD Canada begin Red Ribbon Campaign

Sober driving during the holiday season was top of mind on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, as Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy helped launch MADD Canada's Red Ribbon Campaign with members of the Springhill detachment of the RCMP, the Springhill Fire Department, Cumberland North MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin and EHS.

"This important initiative serves as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to keep our roads safe and to make the commitment never to drive impaired," Mayor Gilroy said. "As we enter the holiday season, I encourage all residents to display a red ribbon on their vehicles, keys, or clothing as a visible pledge to drive sober and support the victims and families affected by impaired driving.Together, we can honour those we have lost and help prevent future tragedies."

This is the 38th year for the campaign.

Across Canada, MADD Canada chapter volunteers will distribute red ribbons and car decals, and host local events to raise awareness and funds to fight impaired driving and support victims and survivors.

Once Canadians get their red ribbons and/or car decals, they are encouraged to tie them or display them on their vehicles, key chains, and personal belongings, and share their commitment on social media using the hashtag #ProjectRedRibbon as a visible pledge to sober driving and a tribute to all victims and survivors of impaired driving.

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