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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS July 2018

Illegal Tobacco Seized in Cumberland County
On Monday, June 11 in Amherst, a 29-year-old man from Johnstown, Ontario, was apprehended and found in possession of 240,000 illegal cigarettes. He was arrested and one vehicle was seized. The estimated provincial tax value of the cigarettes is \$66,048 and federal tax value is \$50,400. The Cumberland District RCMP assisted Service Nova Scotia with the investigation. The man was released on court documents and is scheduled to appear in Amherst provincial court on Sept. 10 to face charges under the Nova Scotia Revenue Act, Excise Act 2001 and Criminal Code.

25 illegal tobacco seizures undertaken
Since Jan. 1, 2017, Service Nova Scotia's Compliance and Special Investigations Unit has conducted 25 illegal tobacco seizures, seized over 12,200 cartons of illegal cigarettes, with an estimated provincial tax value of \$675,878. Service Nova Scotia, through its Audit and Enforcement Section of the Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel and Tobacco Branch, is responsible for reducing illegal tobacco in Nova Scotia by working with its law enforcement partners, and through education and enforcement. Anyone with information about the sale and manufacturing of illegal tobacco is asked to contact their local police or Crime Stoppers. Calls to Crime Stoppers are not taped or traced. If police make an arrest and lay charges based on a tip, callers qualify for a cash reward between \$50.00 and \$2,000.

County Clarifies Tax Rates

On May 30th Cumberland Municipal office issued a press release to clarify previously released information regarding the 2018/19 budget. The release stated the area rates for Springhill and Parrsboro are in addition to the base rates set for residential and commercial accounts for all of Cumberland.

In Springhill the total combined rates are \$2.03 for residential and \$4.94 for Commercial. In Parrsboro, the total combined rates are \$1.63 residential and \$3.93 Commercial.

Area rates are applied to recover costs of services which are received by a specific user or area.



Landscape photographer, Lawrence R. Nicoll captured this Hidden Falls photo. The Cobequid mountains areas of Cumberland and Colchester counties are dotted with many similar marvels of nature.

Rushton Trounces Lockhart

By Maurice Rees
The Progressive Conservative stranglehold on Cumberland South continued on June 19th, when Tory Rushton trounced Liberal candidate, Scott Lockhart, 3,417 to 1,829. The PC's have consistently won the wrong in every election since Murray Scott's first win in 1998, when he succeeded Liberal Guy Brown, who did not re-offer.

Two other candidates, Larry Duchesne, NDP and Bruce W. McCulloch, Green

Party, trailed far behind with 292 and 235 votes respectively. There were 10,889 eligible voters, but only 5,773, 53.02% turned out to vote. Voter turnout was down 9.35% from the May 2017 election, when 6,897 of 11,066 eligible voters representing 62.37% of the electorate casting their vote.

Voting patterns did not change from advancing poll voting to election day results, with Rushton capturing 59.7% of the vote with 1,229 of 2,057 votes cast at five differ-

ent advance polling stations. On election day 1,156 voters favoured Lockhart, while 2,188 voted for Rushton. Of 34 polls for election day, Lockhart won nine with Rushton willing the remainder. Lockhart's winning polls were 4, 5, and 35 in Parrsboro; 13, 16, 17, 18 & 19 in Springhill. Rushton won all remaining polls throughout the riding, plus the five advance polls.

Rushton, as expected, was the strongest in his home-



The horses look like they are discussing whether to wake up the other one. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

GeoPark Evaluators, Very Impressed

By Maurice Rees
Two Canadian GeoPark national committee evaluators, arrived, toured, enjoyed, talked, assessed and left. That's what occupied members of the Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring GeoPark steering committee members the week of June 18th. The evaluators were Sarah Waters of Tumbler Ridge Geopark in BC, and Pierre Verpaelst of Quebec City.

Although not speaking on behalf of the steering committee, Marlee Leslie, project coordinator did indicate, the evaluators were given a detailed tour of the area and most members of the steering committee pitched in to show off parts of the area. She said evaluators were very impressed with the gigantic action of the Bay of Fundy tides, and the mudflats.

As a result of a global competition a few years ago, spearheaded by Terri McCulloch, the Bay of Fundy tides were recognized as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. That recognition, in itself, has resulted in an increase in tourism activity for the Bay of Fundy shore.

With the possibility the Cliffs of Fundy may receive global designation as a UNESCO GeoPark site, even higher expectations are anticipated starting in 2020. The process is long, complicated

and expensive, but it goes like this. The initial local steering committee at the urging and guidance of John Calder, Senior Geologist with NS Department of Natural Resources and Dr Tim Fedak, who was manager and curator at Fundy Geological Museum until the end of 2017 prepared a 50 page submission to the Canadian National geopark committee. In order to apply to the global UNESCO committee, Cliffs of Fundy would have to be approved as a Canadian GeoPark site. Once Canadian approval is received, Cliffs of Fundy would be permitted to apply globally.

Upon receiving the Cliffs of Fundy submission, the national committee were impressed and agreed to send two evaluators to the area for their inspection and analysis during the week of June 18th. Steering committee members pitched in to help starting with a "meet and greet" at the Fundy Geological Museum on Tuesday, June 19th.

As shown in photos elsewhere in this Issue, John Calder provided a tour of the Cape d'Or area, and Anita MacLellan picked up the slack to provide a tour and interpretation of the mudflats and tidal action at Thomas Cove. Devin Trefry, staffer at Municipality of Colchester and

former CNTA executive director impressed the evaluators with a tour of the Municipally-owned, Five Islands Lighthouse Park.

The evaluators, Sarah Waters and Pierre Verpaelst left on June 22 and now must submit their report to the national committee. If they recommend approval for Cliffs of Fundy to become a Canadian Geopark, later this summer, the local committee would send a letter of intent to apply to the global committee for UNESCO approval as a Global GeoPark site.

The 50 page submission would require further tweaking and submitted before the end of November. If UNESCO approves initial acceptance of the application, a UNESCO evaluating team would visit the area in 2019. Based on the high level of impression of Canadian evaluators, it's hard to imagine their report will be anything but approval as a Canadian GeoPark site. If the national committee approves, Cliffs of Fundy would be the first Canadian site to be "fast tracked".

The steering committee and the newly organized advisory committee are hoping to get official Canadian acceptance within a few weeks.

See photos on page 4.

ARCHWAY INSURANCE PARRSBORO
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