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Past board chair Michael Fuller, left, and new chair David Beattie, outside the office of Parrsboro Creative. (Submitted)

David Beattie, Chair Parrsboro Creative

By Bruce Lantz

A Nova Scotia champion of the arts, Parrsboro Creative, is continuing to expand under new leadership. Longtime arts supporter and former Parrsboro Creative vice-chair David Beattie has been named the organization's new chair, replacing founding chair Michael Fuller, who will remain on the board as a director. Beattie helped found the group in 2013 and served on the board until 2019. Its goal is to rejuvenate and repopulate Parrsboro with an influx of artists and art enthusiasts.

"After a brief vacation from the PC board I agreed to return as chair to provide continuity with our partners and funding agencies, as it is important not to lose the momentum that has been developed establishing Parrsboro as one of the leading artistic communities in Nova Scotia," Beattie said. He said he joined the organization initially because he saw that the arts could be a "stepping stone" to building a vibrant cultural community in Parrsboro, "building on the rich history of music, theatre, art and artisans in the area".

Fuller, who began championing the organization's concept in 1995, said it's vital for any startup organization to ensure orderly succession to move beyond the "visionary stage" crucial to its establishment.

"With David rejoining the board, the opportunity to move forward with succession was in place and not to be missed."

The organization is in a "transitional stage" of its development, Beattie said, after a first phase of creating awareness of the organization and creating partnerships in the community, and a second phase which focused on program development and seeking regional, national and international recognition. Some of those programs include the Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival - which gets underway for the first time as an online-only event June 20 - the Artist-in-Residence program, and the Cultural Campus.

"In this next phase I believe we will focus on enhancing the quality of our program delivery, broadening our national and international reach, and strengthening our relationship with our partners, the community, and program participants," Beattie said.

Fuller said the organization is well on the way to establishing a "critical mass" of artists moving to town and generating the creative interest that leads to positive economic impacts through cultural tourism.

"This is happening so we must work to support the elements that have led to this success," he said. "At the same time there is opportunity to explore and embrace other cultural opportunities that support the goal."

Bruce Lantz is marketing and communications director for Parrsboro and can be reached at: 902-728-2007 or info@parrsborocreative.com

Lions Club Hosts PRHS Graduation

By Cristine Peers

The Parrsboro Lion's Club property was the site to hold the 2020 CoVis-19 graduations ceremonies on June 24th starting at 5:30 pm. Nineteen graduates were present, but approximately five were unable to attend. Tory Rushton (MLA) was the

special speaker. After welcoming the PRHS graduating class of 2020 and their families, he then called Valedictorian Morgan Dickinson to the stage to present her speech.

Alex Harrison from Harrison's Home Hardware Building Center Parrsboro congratulated the

graduates on the behalf of Harrison's Home Hardware before Tory Rushton began to call each graduate up one by one to receive their diploma and bursaries. When all the graduates had received their diplomas and returned to their designated spot in front of the stage they celebrated

their achievements with large confetti poppers, a little present from Crystal & Gerry Taylor to the graduates.

As the graduates walked from the stage to their cars, Mike Fisher played the song We Will Rock You. Cristine Peers handed out blue roses to the graduates for a final congratulations. This whole Community graduation could not have been possible without the community's support.

Thanks go out to: Parrsboro Lions Club, for providing the space for the event; Harrison's Home Hardware Building Center, Parrsboro, for sponsoring the Community graduation ceremony; Parrsboro Fire Department, for helping direct traffic.

Other community contributors included: Crossroads Co-op, for supplying the water and ice; Tory Rushton, for being special speaker; Mike Fisher, as audio engineer; Lawrence Nicoll, for photography and Highwaymen, bike group, for loaning a tent just in case of rain. Of course should not forget the parents who donated money for decorations and the three volunteers Crystal Taylor, Cristine Peers and

Lesley Whitford-Fulton for organizing the ceremony. Congratulations PRHS Class of 2020.

See photos on page 4



Kerwin Davison didn't just build models. This replica of Train #4 like other projects he undertook was not just a stationary model. It had moving parts and was a working model. He is a man of action and talent having owned several businesses in Parrsboro over the years. Even as even as he celebrated his 87th birthday he has another project in the works, while he continues to ignore the word "retirement". See the 'Kerwin Davison' photo collection by Lawrence R. Nicoll on page 2.

Victory Weir Adorns Main Street Parrsboro

By Bruce Lantz

The words 'Parrsboro' and 'creativity' go hand in hand. Just take a walk down Main Street and see for yourself.

While artists' organization Parrsboro Creative readied for its PIPAF in ISOLATION online international plein air competition starting June 20, the street is home to character-filled buildings, historical displays, a cluster of gaily-painted birdhouses along the Nesters Fence, 250 gaily-painted miniature lighthouses, photo banners featuring individual 2020 high school graduates and, at the town's entrance, a Victory Weir organized by local arts advocate and Cumberland County Project Facilitator Taylor Redmond.

"Getting the community to take ownership and have pride on their little community was important," said Redmond, who has led many of the art initiatives in

Parrsboro. "Having an artistic street that also shares Parrsboro's history is important to the community."

Redmond, who operated an art gallery on Main Street before it was lost to a 2011 fire, is a director with Parrsboro Creative, which is devoted to attracting and enhancing the skills of artists, and has worked with local government to implement unique initiatives such as the weir, located at the town's information kiosk. The goal is to make Main Street more engaging, get people out of their cars and onto the sidewalk to interact, and get them through the retailers' front doors.

"Every project on the street is creative in an artsy/historical way and they are all designed to be a promotional opportunity for Parrsboro," she said. "I always make sure the community involvement element is the

heart of each project, if at all possible."

Parrsboro's Victory Weir, which features about 400 wooden 'fish' painted by local citizens and displayed in a weir at the community's entrance, evolved from Redmond's viewing of a similar project in the Yukon pro-

moting clean waterways; she just shifted the focus to community and art. The project is meant to acknowledge that, as a community and by working together, people are making it through the difficult COVID-19 pandemic. Redmond said it gave people something to focus on during the isolation period and was a great family

continued on page 3



Parrsboro Creative Project Facilitator Taylor Redmond, left, and area resident Beth Peterkin at Parrsboro's Victory Weir. (Submitted)

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