

Major Changes for Ottawa House By-The-Sea

By **Harriet McCready**

A "sea-change" is sweeping through the Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum in Parrsboro. When the museum opens its doors to the public on July 2nd, after an extended closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will be with a new Curator/Manager, a change in hours and days of operation and some program changes as well.

The Canada Day event will once again be virtual, filmed and shared on Facebook, due to the uncertainty around Nova Scotia's reopening plan. This means the museum and grounds will remain closed to visitors on July 1st, with opening day moved to July 2nd.

New Curator/Manager Sean Smith has taken up the reins from twenty-seven-year incumbent Susan Clarke, who will continue to assist part-time in the transition before moving on to a well-deserved retirement at the end of the 2021 season.

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society President Harriet McCready said the board is both excited to have recruited Smith, and extremely thankful for Clarke's faithful and exemplary service. "She has been instrumental in the development and success of the museum for nearly three decades and knows every crack and cranny of the huge historic building."

Clarke is looking forward to retirement, but with mixed feelings. "This place is like my home!" she said. "I am as much at home here as in my own home".

Originally from Colchester County, Smith brings a wide range of experience beneficial to the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society and its museum. From an early career in museums and archives in Nova Scotia he moved on to such roles as a tourism director in Arkansas, director and development coordinator for a wildlife agency in Texas, heritage interpreter and manager with

Parks Canada in Ontario and finally back to Nova Scotia to interpretation roles with the Nova Scotia Museum and a small private business.

Smith says "I am very excited to be working in Parrsboro. It is a community that celebrates its remarkable past with colourful stories that still resonate today. I'm thrilled to be part of a vibrant organization supported by so many dedicated to community history and spirit."

With a background in Atlantic Canada history and culture from Mount Allison and St. Mary's Universities, he also has a certificate in museum studies. Smith is a passionate naturalist and birder and has published in a variety of birding publications.

Although his experience is highly relevant to his new role with the Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum, Smith admits that learning the rich history of the area and the intricacies of managing a small museum in a 200-plus year-old building will take some time.

Having remained closed for 2020, the board, management and staff are especially eager to reconnect with old friends and greet new this year. Most of the events planned for 2020 around the theme of transportation will be offered this season, though some have again been deferred due to pandemic uncertainties. Those planning a visit are urged to check Facebook, the Ottawa House Museum website and/or call ahead (902-254-2376).

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The hall showing Solar panels. (David Townsend Photo)

The Hall Getting Through COVID 19

By **Patricia Burke**

Most organizations put all events in their buildings on hold due to restrictions placed on them by the Provincial Government. Not the hall, I say we trudged on with several events. Being as The Hall has a genius for a Chairperson Rob Bentley is the man that came up with a musical evening every Sunday evening based from the hall. Rob and a different group or musician taped and hour concert mostly from the hall, some musicians sent in their own music to Rob and it was played on Sunday evening at 6 pm. Whenever musicians were in the hall, there were not more than was allowed. The name was Social Distance Concert which was sponsored by the hall, CICR and Parrsboro Lions Club. These Concerts ran every Sunday until the end of May.

While restrictions allowed 20 people to be at the movies, once lockdown came, movies had to be put on hold and hopefully will be started soon. Watch for publicity.

The Hall was very fortunate to receive a New Horizons Grant for Seniors last year and due to COVID 19 the work could not be started until about a month ago. New clap-

boards and a new window on the Bell tower is nearing completion. Beautiful job by Rafe's Construction. If you are ever driving up King St slow down and take a look. Thank you for this Federal Program to make the funds available.

We are still accepting memberships for 2021. You can send in to Parrsboro Band Association, POB 712, Parrsboro, NS, B0M 1S0 or go to our website www.thehall.ca or stop by the hall. We thank you for renewing or if you would like to join we would love to have you. Only \$15.

If you are new to the area and are not aware we have an account at Durant's Bottle Exchange. If you want to donate your refundables, just drop them off and tell them you want them donated to the hall. Every little bit helps and thank you in advance for your donations.

Have you seen the Red Lighthouses at the bandstand? You can drop your bottles or cans in them and they go to The Hall as well.

We are hoping restrictions lift enough so we can get back in the hall in the near future.

Patricia Burke is Communications Chair Parrsboro Band Association

Creative Art Lab Studios Nabs \$2,000

By **Maurice Rees**

Allocation of a \$2,000 grant to another development association, which did not operate this year, gave Cumberland Council the room to approve a \$2,000 funding request from Parrsboro Creative Art Lab Studio. The group was seeking funds to assist with "The Water Column Project" a new program under Parrsboro Creative Community Artist Support Project.

The object of this project is to carve, over a five-year period, five separate wood sculpted columns (one per year) depicting the world as it was in the waters from the time of Pangaea to the current-

day Bay of Fundy. Since 2019, Art Lab Studios has benefitted from the talents of master wood carver, Jennifer Marlow, as one of their faculty in their art education section. Marlow has attained her status through years of dedication working in wood with mallet and chisel.

This year, Art Lab intends to take her annual three-day woodcarving class to a new level over a seven-day period in August. Seven selected students will be challenged with working on a collaborative wood carving project. The project will cost \$13,300 with Creative Art Lab Studio contributing \$10,000.

Rushton to Reoffer as the PC Candidate

Cumberland South MLA Tory Rushton will continue to advocate for the people of Cumberland South as the PC Candidate in the upcoming provincial election.

"It's been an incredible honour serving the people of Cumberland South the last 3 years," says Rushton. "I grew up here, got married, had a family and built a life right in Oxford. Cumberland South will always be my home."

Rushton was elected in the Cumberland South by-election in 2018. In a short time, he distinguished himself as an advocate for better healthcare services in his communities.

"There's no shortage of work to be done across our communities and I've always been up to that challenge," says Rushton. "Our communities deserve good roads, access to healthcare and mental health and I won't rest until those services are available."

PC Leader Tim Houston



Tory Rushton

says Rushton has been an asset to his team and is happy to see him continue to advocate for Cumberland South as the PC Candidate.

"It was clear from day one that Tory was an effective, honest and hardworking MLA," says Houston. "Cumberland South has been well-served with Tory as their MLA and that will continue to be long into the future."

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