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# South Cumberland NEWS

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0  
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Children of the miners lost in the 1958 bump and 1956 explosion were among those to attend and lay wreaths at the Miners' Memorial Day service in Springhill on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

## Miners' Memorial Day in Springhill

Mayor Murray Scott said Springhill is a community of heroes during Miners' Memorial Day observations on Tuesday, June 11. This year marks 66 years since the last of three major mine disasters ended large-scale mining in the community. The Bump in October 1958 killed 75 miners, occurring just two years after a mine explosion in 1956 killed 39 miners. The 1891 explosion killed 125 men and boys. Miner's Memorial Day is also known as Davis Day, an annual day of remembrance of miners who were killed on the job in Nova Scotia. It's named for William Davis, a coal miner who was killed in 1925 during a protest by striking miners. "I'm proud to say I am a Springhiller surrounded by heroes," the mayor said during the church service. "I grew up in a town filled with heroes. Not the type of heroes that kids are in awe of who are seen on television or the movies, sports or the books they read. Springhill heroes were and are real-life heroes,

men, women and even children from different families and backgrounds."

### New tennis-pickleball courts open in Pugwash

Pugwash came together on Thursday, June 13, to celebrate the opening of new tennis and pickleball courts at Sunset Community. The municipality provided \$15,000 for the project along with \$6,500 in district grants. Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) was a major funding partner in the project, providing \$250,000 through its Canada Community Revitalization Fund, while the provincial government, through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, gave \$85,000. The Northumberland Tennis and Pickleball Association contributed \$37,000 and the Gulf Shore Campground and the River Philip Foundation each provided \$10,000. The facility includes two tennis courts and four for pickleball.

(Extracted from Cumberland Connection 2024 Summer Issue)

## Springhill Pauses for Miners' Memorial Day

By Darrell Cole

It's been nearly 68 years since an explosion in the Number 4 mine under Springhill killed more than three dozen miners, but Ethel Gilbert still remembers it like it was yesterday.

"I was teaching at the Valley Road school when it happened," Gilbert said following Miners' Memorial Day ceremonies in Springhill on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. "My husband came and got me. He was supposed to go to work that night at 11, and the explosion happened around 4."

Her father was working in

the mine at the time of the explosion and became one of the 39 coal miners who never made it out of the mine and whose names are engraved on one of the monuments at the Miners' Memorial Park.

"It was hard because it was just my mom and I left," she said. "My brother was working out in British Columbia, but he made it home in time for the funeral."

It just two years later in October 1958 when the ground underneath Springhill shook, killing 75 miners. Valerie Alderson lost her dad, Raymond "Tommy" Tabor, in the bump.

"It's important we remember because it's our past. A lot of people say if you don't remember your past how can you go ahead," she said. "Some think it's too much, but it's never enough."

"It was a long time ago. I was nine years old at the time, but the emotion is still there. Pretty soon there won't be any of the children left who are directly connected to what happened."

This year marks 66 years since the last of three major mine disasters ended large-scale mining in the community. The Bump in October

1958 killed 75 miners, occurring just two years after a mine explosion in 1956 killed 39 miners. The 1891 explosion killed 125 men and boys.

The names of the victims are engraved on the memorials in Miner's Memorial Park on Main Street along with several hundred more names of victims killed in the mines throughout the industry's history in Springhill.

Miner's Memorial Day is also known as Davis Day, an annual day of remembrance of miners who were killed on the job in Nova Scotia. It's named

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Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Murray Scott pauses for a moment after laying a wreath at Miners' Memorial Day ceremonies in Springhill on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

## Band Days, July 19, 20, 21 in Parrsboro

By Patricia Burke

The Parrsboro Band Association has held and celebrated Band Day in the Parrsboro Town Centre for over 50 years, gathering bands from far and near to perform and to enjoy a day of music in the park. In 2023 we extended this one-day event over two days to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We hosted 14 bands and received overwhelming support and attendance.

This year, Parrsboro Band Association/The Hall is introducing Band Days, a weekend event hosting over 20 Maritime Bands at the Bandstand July 19, 20, 21 performing a wide variety of band music including Marching, Jazz, Rock, Funk, Dixieland, Blues, wind, Country & Irish. The weekend

of music also includes three evenings with spotlight performances.

Here is the list of the Bands confirmed: Hub Town Big Band; The Andy Le Blanc Band; Hooligan's Ruff; Anna and The Astronauts (Children); Bridgewater Fire Department Marching Band; Cumberland Crooners; Joan Caddell & The Midnight Choir; Dave Pos Quartet; Riverside Ramblers (Mainstreet Stroll); Ian Janes; Bedford Brass Quintet; Truro Concert Band; She Jam Blues Band; Great George Street Brass B; Elastic Big Band; The Four Horsemen (Barbershop)



Quartet; Tucker & Watson Trio and the Soul Band; The Joy Curve.

During the event there will be several vendors selling food etc. Of course, the Band Association will be selling Strawberry Shortcake on Saturday and Sunday. Bring you lawn chairs and an umbrella to keep the sun off you. Hope to see all of you.

Most of you will know we have done a major renovation on the inside of the building and now we have just had a new paving job to the driveway. Drop by and see this. If you see a car in the driveway, come in and see what we have done. All of this work could not have been possible with the support of the area. Thank you.

## Information wanted on Garnett Allan Chappell

Cumberland County District RCMP is seeking information on the whereabouts of a man currently wanted on a province-wide arrest warrant. The warrant has been issued after Cumberland County District RCMP responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision involving a truck and an ATV in the 1200 block of Pugwash River Rd. on June 13, shortly before 6:30 p.m., in Pugwash River.

The investigation indicates the driver and sole occupant of the truck, a 30-year-old man from Pugwash, had been cut-off by an ATV and then run off the road. The driver of the ATV then pointed a firearm at him before leaving.

Garnett Allan Chappell, 36, of Wentworth, is wanted for multiple charges, including: Pointing a Firearm; Careless Use of a Firearm; Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm; Possession of a Firearm Knowing its Possession is Unauthorized; Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose; Unlawful Confinement; Dangerous Operation; Failing to Stop after an Accident Resulting in Bodily Harm and Failure to Comply with Undertaking

He is described as being 5-foot-7, 110 lbs. He has thinning red hair, blue eyes, and a crescent-shaped moon tattoo beside his right eye. He is believed to be travelling in a 2008, blue Ford Ranger with a white box, red tool box in the

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