



Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy and Springhill Fire Chief Matthew Ward cut the ribbon to officially open the new Springhill fire station on Saturday, June 21, 2025. The new station replaced the fire department's former home on Main Street. Photo credit: Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland.

## Springhill Opens New State-Of-Art Fire Station

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so more than one event or training session can take place simultaneously.

The new fire station has four large bays, including one which is a drive thru for easier access for the emergency vehicles. There's more space in the bays, including overhead, and there's a system that vents exhaust directly outside.

There's also more storage space and easier and separate access for bunker gear and other equipment used by the fire service.

Ward paid tribute to the department's former home saying it served the community well for more than

50 years.

"We've been champing at the bit these last few weeks looking forward to the opportunity to get in this facility," Ward said. "We were very fortunate to work with Iron Maple and project manager Roger MacIsaac of the Municipality keeping us up to date along their way and putting their heart in soul into providing the best building possible."

"This is the biggest investment in the Springhill Fire Department in my time as a firefighter and it's well needed and well appreciated by our membership," he said.

"Council is pleased to see this project completed.

"We have been continuing to implement the hub model of fire service in the county and this station is a key part of that strategy," Mayor Rod Gilroy said. "As important as buildings are, though, it's our firefighters that are most important and we see this investment as support as they keep our communities safe. Congratulations to Chief Ward and his department."

"As we navigated the transition between these buildings it gave us pause to reflect on all that those walls have borne witness to - moments of great triumph, moments of great sorrow. Hardy laughter and deep pain. We carry those

memories in our hearts and we honour those who served before us as we begin this next chapter," the chief said.

"Today is about so much more than any ribbon. It's about opening the door to a new chapter - one built on the strength of our past and the vision of the future. This hall will be more than a building. It will be where calls are answered, where skills are sharpened, where friendships are forged and where courage is called upon, day or night; rain or shine."

Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy said council is extremely proud of its fire service with 16 fire departments and 18 buildings across the county and almost 90 individual pieces of firefighting vehicles and apparatus.

"Supporting the fire service has been a stated prior-

## Congratulations from the *South Cumberland NEWS*

ity of both the present and most recent council. After conducting an independent fire service review, we have been pursuing the hub model of fire service provision," the mayor said.

"Central to the implementation of this strategy has been the establishment of support hubs in Truemanville, Pugwash, Parrsboro and here in Springhill. From these hubs the municipality will coordinate the provision of training, supplies, equipment to the other local fire departments.

"Supporting the fire service in a geographically huge, largely rural, municipality is very expensive. This new building is the biggest investment to date at over \$6 million dollars. Fire trucks can cost anywhere from

about \$300,000 for a rescue truck to well over \$1 million for the more complicated, larger units. You can do that math but it's in the many millions of dollars. So again, this expensive work but it's critically important."

The mayor also thanked Iron Maple Constructors for their work on the facility and recognized project manager Roger MacIsaac, who is retiring from the municipality after leading it through, among other things, the construction of the new library in Pugwash and the new fire station in Springhill.

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Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy addresses those in attendance at the official opening of the Springhill Fire Department's new fire station on Miners' Memorial Drive in Springhill on Saturday, June 21, 2025.

Photo credit: Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland.

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The properties are currently largely zoned Rural Resource (Rsrc) and are not actively used by the property owner, as they remain unmaintained.

The property owner is looking to develop the subject properties to create a golf resort, boasting an 18-hole golf course, approximately 180 residential building lots and 80 Recreational Vehicle parking sites. The development is also proposing a pro shop and an English-style pub and restaurant.

### Rezoning of Fox Harbour properties to Commercial Recreation passes first reading

Cumberland municipal council has approved first reading of an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to rezone four properties adjacent to the Fox Harb'r Resort from Agriculture (AG) to Commercial Recreation (CRec). A public hearing will be held prior to second reading.

The properties are 239 acres of land that are not currently being used for a specified purpose. With the lands being immediately adjacent to the Fox Harb'r Resort, the current land would not make suitable farmland or reserve farmland.

Fox Harbour Community is a largely commercial recreation area with a heavy tourism industry, with Fox Harb'r Resort making up a very large portion of the community. The current



property owner, Fox Harb'r Resort, is looking to expand their development to provide more residential buildings lots and infrastructure to serve their expanded resort amenity offerings.

The proposed expansion to Fox Harb'r Resort would provide infrastructure and amenities to support an existing multi-story residential building on the northeastern portion of the resort's property.

Supporting infrastructure and amenities would include parking, pools and patios.

The proposed expansion would also include the creation of new roads and the provision of a new service entrance.

The proposed expansion would create a total of 29 new residential building lots. Any land not used as a part of the expansion will be accessible to guests and residents for soft recreational activities such as walking and biking.

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