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Amateur Radio Club Unveils New Communications Trailer

The WestCumb Amateur Radio Club recently unveiled an auxiliary communications trailer that's the only one of its kind in the Maritimes and was developed with financial support from the Municipality of Cumberland, the Town of Amherst and the Christie-Smith Community Fund.

"Across the country various radio clubs have had these for many years, but this is the first one in the Maritimes," Steve Orr said. "Moncton and Halifax have something similar, but it's more for equipment and you can't go inside it. There's no other trailer like this that other amateur radio clubs in the Maritimes have."

Hurricane Dorian in late 2022, the wildfires in HRM and Barrington in 2023 and in the Annapolis Valley last summer are examples of the extreme weather and natural conditions being faced by first responders and emergency management officials in Nova Scotia.

Orr said residents expect communications to be there no matter the conditions, but with the increased frequency of severe weather, things like phone, internet and other communications tools may not be available.

That's what makes units such as this so important.

"We always like to think that the internet will always be there and that cellular phones will always be there, but the reality is that we know from previous experiences they can be affected," he said. "As much as the province has a terrific TMR system, weather and the environment can still get you. The concept is if all those services go down, amateur radio operators can bring their unique set of skills to continue communications in a disaster."

Orr said sections of Cumberland County could be considered remote and its unique geography make this command unit vital. The trailer can be taken anywhere in the county, set up and immediately begin communicating - even if landlines, cell phones and digital services (like the internet) are knocked out.

It's equipped with solar panels for power and has numerous antennae in support of various communications tools, most notably high frequency radio - something that may seem aged compared to modern technology but remains infallible during a crisis.

"When it comes to EMO and the province's deployment of resources, the closest office we have is in Truro. The issue is Truro is on the other side of the Cobequid Pass, which can be a huge geographic roadblock in certain weather," Orr said. "We approached the county and enlisted the town's support as well as the Smith-Christie foundation. Between the three of them it's fully funded."

The trailer was first proposed by longtime WestCumb ARC member Jim Langille and in early 2025 Orr and Mike Johnson made presentations to both municipal councils and last June both councils provided \$15,000 in grants funding with the charitable Smith Christie fund rounding out the required funds.

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Anne Murray's Juno Lifetime Achievement

Award has a new home in Springhill

For generations of Canadians, Anne Murray's voice has provided the soundtrack to countless memories.

Now, her latest honour—a Juno Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her enduring contributions to music—is the centrepiece of a new exhibit at the Anne Murray Centre that was unveiled during a ceremony on Friday, June 19, 2026.

"I was so excited the day the award arrived at the museum by courier,"

centre executive director Wanita Shay said. "It's a beautiful award and I know it is very meaningful to Anne."

"I knew right away that we needed a special spot for it, so we created an entirely new display case. I'm very happy that her fans who visit the centre will get to see this milestone award."

Prior to it being presented to Murray in March 2025, the Juno Lifetime Achievement Award had only been presented once before, in 1989, to Pierre Juneau, who the Juno awards are named for. This

past year, it was presented to Joni Mitchell.

Wearing a bedazzled Team Canada jersey that has become an icon in itself, Murray received the award from another Canadian music icon, Sarah McLachlan.

Shay said Murray donated the award to the museum so it can be on display with her many other awards including Grammys, Junos and countless gold records.

Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy said the exhibit not only celebrates a remarkable career, but also the pride

and inspiration she continues to bring to Springhill.

"This new exhibit honours a woman whose voice touched millions around the world while never losing sight of her hometown roots," Gilroy said. "Anne's Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to a legacy built on talent, perseverance, and genuine Canadian values."

The mayor said Murray has always been one of Springhill's greatest ambassadors.

"Through her music, her generosity, and her enduring connection to this community, she has put our town on the map for generations of visitors. We are proud to unveil this exhibit so that residents and visitors alike can experience the story of an artist whose achievements have helped shape Canada's cultural landscape," Gilroy said.

Murray was the Juno Awards first Best Female Vocalist recipient in 1971. She has more Junos than any other artist, with a career total of 26. A trailblazer in pop, country, and adult contemporary music, her catalogue globally has surpassed a billion streams and she has sold over 55 million albums worldwide.

She also paved the way for artists such as Céline Dion, Shania Twain, kd lang, Alanis Morissette and Sarah McLachlan.

"For decades, Anne Murray has represented the very best of what it means to come from a small community with big dreams. This exhibit celebrates a career that broke barriers, earned international recognition and inspired countless Canadians. We are honoured to share this new chapter of her story here at the Anne Murray Centre, where her legacy continues to inspire future generations," Anne Murray Centre board chair Bill Munro said.



Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy (left) is joined by Coun. Scott Lockhart and Coun. Angel McCormick in helping unveil the new Juno Lifetime Achievement Award exhibit at Springhill's Anne Murray Centre. Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo

2026 Cumberland Summer Programs Announced

The Municipality of Cumberland announced registration for its 2026 Summer Recreation Programs opened during an announcement Monday, June 9, through Amilia.

Families can look forward to another summer packed with fun, active, and engaging opportunities for children and youth across Cumberland County.

Programs will be offered in communities throughout the municipality including Parrsboro, Springhill, Pugwash, River Hebert, Wallace, Advocate, Northport, and Wentworth.

This summer's lineup includes:

- **Day Camps** in Parrsboro, Springhill, and Pugwash (July 6-Aug. 20)
- **Pre-K Camps** in Parrsboro and Springhill (July 6-Aug. 19)
- **Mini Camps** in Wallace, Advocate, Northport, River Hebert, and Wentworth
- **Timbits Soccer** in Parrsboro, Springhill, Pugwash, and River Hebert
- **T-Ball** in Parrsboro, Springhill, and Pugwash
- **Advanced Soccer** in Parrsboro, Springhill, and Pugwash
- **Active Sports**, featuring a different sport each week, in Parrsboro,

Springhill, and Pugwash

• **Pickleball** in Parrsboro and Pugwash

• **Pre-Teen Softball** in Parrsboro and Pugwash

Registration can be completed online through the Municipality of Cumberland's Amilia registration portal: <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/municipality-ofcumberland/shop/programs>

Families are encouraged to register early, as space in some programs may be limited. For more information about summer programming, contact the Municipality of Cumberland Recreation Department (Nick Leopold) or visit the registration page online.

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