



Lawrence Nicoll did his annual late spring trip to area baseball diamonds. He made a quick stop, but with limited time for research could not find out where the Warriors and the Orec baseball teams are from and why they were playing in Parrsboro. However, with a hometown crowd he learned the Warriors were getting ready to play Pugwash. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

June 2023

Continued from page 1

Brian Wood appointed as a building official, fire inspector and development officer

Council has appointed Brian Wood as a building official, fire inspector and development officer for the municipality. Wood has completed all the requirements to be a Level 1 fire inspector and is a provincially-certified Level 2 building official.



Seniors Share Stories on Impact of CoVid-19

By Harriet McCready

Approximately 45 seniors were hosted by Ottawa House Museum to share stories of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on their lives. The discussions were recorded and after professional editing will be retained in the museum's archives.

After a welcome by President Jack Boyd, the participants enjoyed a light lunch and music by Jim Chambers before gathering in small groups to relay their reflections.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic falling so closely on the 100th anniversary of the world-wide in-

fluenza pandemic (1918-1920), the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society had determined it would be important to capture and preserve personal stories to augment statistical and media information.

As an additional benefit, the session provided an opportunity for social interaction; to meet newcomers to our area and chat with newly inducted historical society president, Jack Boyd. Many expressed a huge thanks to the Society when they were leaving for providing the opportunity.

Photos by Lawrence R Nicoll, Landscape Photographer

Wildfires and Lightning Can Put Workers at Risk

By Wendy Irwin

The sun is shining, and the summer heat is right around the corner. As the warmer weather approaches, it introduces hazards that employers need to be aware of, so they implement the right safety measures to ensure staff are protected.

Conditions such as wildfires and lightning can put workers at great risk for illness and injury. Occupations, where workers are required to work outdoors in the summer, include farming, camps, construction, and landscaping. Employers are required under the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation in Canada to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of their employees.

The cost of not doing so is too great and there are hefty fines. For example, in Ontario under the OHS, if an employer is convicted of an offense, they may be subject to a fine of up to \$500,000 for all other persons and/or up to 12 months imprisonment. Health and safety inspectors will apply and enforce these laws based on the facts they find in the workplace.

Wendy Irwin, Health & Safety Consultant at BrightHR Canada, shares below the top climate hazards and how risk assessments can help keep staff protected.

Wildfires

There are roughly 8,000 wildfires in Canada each year. Such hazards can claim human lives, destroy buildings, and devastate communities. Wildfires have been on the rise and it's more important than before for employers to take precautions to protect their employees from exposure to wildfire smoke, especially if their business requires outdoor work.

Wildfire smoke contains hazardous components that can cause short-term and long-term health effects. When inhaled, carbon monoxide reduces the oxygen supply in the body. This can lead to nausea, dizziness, headaches, visual impairment, and loss of consciousness. If inhaled in great quantities, carbon monoxide may cause death. Additionally, particulate matter can affect your respiratory system and settle in your lungs causing irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, cough, or shortness of breath.

So, what can employers do to protect employees from smoke exposure? It's important to first conduct a risk assessment. A risk assessment helps to identify hazards and risk factors that have the potential to cause harm, analyzes and evaluates the risk associated with that hazard, and determines appropriate ways to eliminate the hazard, or control the risk when the hazard cannot be eliminated.

Risk assessments are an integral part of an occupational

health and safety management plan. It helps to create awareness of hazards, identify who may be at risk, and determine whether a control program is required for a particular hazard, among other benefits.

The Government of Canada's Environment and Climate Change provides information through the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). Through this index, employers can determine measures necessary to mitigate the risk of exposure to wildfire smoke. Employees should be trained on how to monitor and revise work when the index indicates extreme caution.

Below are a few recommendations on how employers can protect employees from wildfire smoke exposure.

- Increase the frequency and/or duration of breaks.
- Move work indoors or relocate to an outdoor location with better air quality. If you can't move, reschedule work till the air quality gets better. Follow air quality advisories in your area to plan shifts.
- Slow down the pace of work or increase the number of workers on the task. Reducing physical exertion will reduce the inhalation of polluted air.
- Wildfire smoke also causes heat stress. Provide cool drinking water on the work site. Remind your workers to drink a glass of water at least every 15 to 20 minutes even if they aren't feeling thirsty.

Lightning

Lightning kills more Canadians than hail, wind, rain, and tornadoes combined, making it an important safety consideration. The odds of getting struck by lightning are more than one in a million, it kills 2 to 3 people every year and injures another 80 people, according to Environment Canada (2021). It's important for employers to be aware that most of these injuries and fatalities occur between June and August.

This is especially important for outdoor workers involved in outdoor recreation, construction workers, and road crews. Employers must recognize the hazards associated with electrical storms and have safety procedures and a preparedness plan in place. This will help to minimize any harm or injury to employees. Such policies need to be reviewed seasonally.

Lightning safety produced may be included and are not limited to the following:

- Having a process in place to notify workers about lightning safety warnings.
- Establishing criteria/policy for stopping and restarting outdoor work activities
- Outlining what actions workers must take when hearing thunder or seeing lightning or warning signs of an approaching storm.
- Paying attention to weather conditions

Wendy Irwin is Health & Safety Consultant at BrightHR Canada

ABOUT BRIGHTHR

Award-winning smart HR software, BrightHR, is transforming people management for small businesses by providing leading HR and health & safety software as well as advice & support needed for owners to grow their businesses. BrightHR saves business owners and HR professionals valuable time & money through our innovative HR management software. It works to remove the stress and time of Googling for answers to critical and sensitive HR and health & safety-related questions.

CLASS 'A' Trucking & Septic Pumping

Call Us Now: 902-254-4109

SEPTIC PUMPING SERVICES

Enough Said!

You know what we do!

And, we do it well!



The Season of Giving is here

A Wonderful Gift for the whole year...
12 Months of the South Cumberland News

Please mail this personal subscription to:

Name: _____
Street: _____
Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
If RENEWAL: Sub # _____ New: _____ Gift: _____
This is a gift subscription from: _____

HST: 890564404RT0001

Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to The Shoreline Journal

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: BOM / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20

ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0

South Cumberland NEWS