

RCMP urges Motorists to Prioritize Car Seat Safety

With the summer season approaching and an increase in road travel expected, Nova Scotia RCMP Traffic Services emphasizes the critical importance of properly securing children in vehicles. Last week, Nova Scotia RCMP Traffic Services, Springhill Fire Department, and local first responders, conducted a traffic check stop in Springhill in efforts to make roads safer for our youngest, most vulnerable passengers. As a result, all vehicles inspected required some form of adjustment, from improper use of restraints to missing car seats.

Over the next few weeks, Nova Scotia RCMP Traffic Services will be increasing check stops in Cumberland County, with a particular focus on enforcing car seat safety regulations. "A roadside study in Atlantic Canada found that while nearly all children were buckled in some way, 73% of car seats were used or installed incorrectly," says Katherine Hutka, IWK Child Safety Link.

Drivers are reminded that Nova Scotia has mandatory booster seat legislation: Children must weigh a minimum of 40 pounds before moving to a booster seat and they must continue to use a booster seat until they are 4-feet-9 inches tall, or nine years old

Follow these car seat safety tips: Make sure your child is in the right seat for their age, weight, height, and development; Always follow the instructions for your car seat or booster seat and make sure your child is safely buckled on every ride, including when travelling with grandparents, friends and in taxis

For more information on how to install your car seat and safely buckling your child, visit: <https://childsafetylink.ca/car-seat-safety>. Many of these resources have been translated into additional languages including French, Mi'kmaq, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Nepalese, Ukrainian, Russian, Somali, Farsi, Dari, Swahili, and Tigrinya.

10 Poets from Parrsboro

By Suzanne Gauthier

When Angela Leuck, president of Haiku Canada, approached Carole Martignacco and Blanca Baquero in early January to edit an anthology of Maritime Haiku, they thought a total of 18 poets might send poems. Instead, 52 haiku poets from the Maritimes have 3 poems each in the handsomely designed book, Porch to Porch: A Maritime Haiku Anthology. The title, Porch to Porch, is a line from a haiku by PEI poet Nancy Richards.

Sandra Stephenson and Brendan Hewitt led a renga during the Parrsboro Winter Festival in February and the resulting linked haiku poem, with contributions from 10 poets, forms part of Porch to Porch.

Haiku Canada was founded in 1977 and continues to provide members with opportunities for readings, meetings, an annual conference and various publications. Few members adhere to the classical 5/7/5 syllable form of the haiku poem. Many contemporary poets adopt a pared down minimalist approach. An example from Carole Martignacco:

**fiddleheads—
feasting on spring's
coiled greens**

The launch of Porch to Porch, A Maritime Anthology took place Wednesday May 22, from 2-4 pm, at Parrsboro Creative, 223 Main Street, with readings and book signing.

May 18, at the KC Irving Centre in Wolfville, as part of the Haiku Canada conference. Poets in attendance were from BC, Yukon, Quebec, Ontario, the United States, and of course the Maritimes. Three of the 10 poets from Cumberland County, Suzanne Gauthier, Brendan Hewitt, and Sandra Stephenson, participated in all the events over the weekend. The events were varied, from a guided tour of the native plant botanical garden to a Japanese origami and calligraphy workshop, from lectures to late night renga sessions.

How were haiku poets sought out for inclusion in this maritime anthology? The New Brunswick Writers Federation, the Nova Scotia Writers Federation, the Fundy Bay Writers were all contacted. Sandra Stephenson said in interview that she "is very impressed how important Haiku Canada, a national organization, feels that this particular book by 52 Maritime poets is on the national scale." She added that this is "a major event" for Haiku Canada.

A second launch of Porch to Porch, A Maritime Anthology took place Wednesday May 22, from 2-4 pm, at Parrsboro Creative, 223 Main Street, with readings and book signing.

Solid Waste Management April Report

Community Cleanups - Through social media, staff encouraged groups and individuals to conduct a cleanup in their community/neighborhood. Litter kits were made available at all 7 library locations and interested residents were encouraged to stop by their library to pick up a free Litter Kit.

On April 22nd (Earth Day) staff were set up at the Amherst Stadium to hand out bags, gloves, compost vouchers, and seeds for residents interested in participating in a cleanup.

School Cleanups - Staff reached out to all schools in Cumberland County encouraging staff and students to take part in an Earth Day Cleanup. Cumberland County Solid Waste provided the bags and gloves to interested schools. We were very

pleased that we had 11 schools sign up to collect litter around their community. All schools that took place had their school's name entered to win \$100 for their breakfast program; River Hebert District was the winning school.

Presentations/Meetings

Nova Scotia Housing - Presentations were given to tenants to review our solid waste programs and source separation. Staff are hoping to reach all the buildings over the summer months.

Schools - Presentations were given to students from West End Memorial, Junction Road Elementary, and Spring Street Academy. Staff conducted a cleanup of one of the parks in Amherst with students from Spring Street Academy.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Staff once again participated in the Agriculture Safety Day held at the Oxford Arena. Approximately 280,

Grade 4 students from schools across Cumberland County participated in the event where staff spoke about the importance of source separation.

Enforcement - Miller Waste reported 352 rejections in the Municipality of Cumberland during the month of April. Recycling rejections accounted for 79% of the rejections, with Garbage & Organics accounting for 21%.

Northern Region Update Funding - The final payments from Divert NS were received for our Education and Enforcement programs. Staff are currently working on the workplans for the Education &

Enforcement Programs for 2024-2025 year.

EPR for PPP - Regional staff met with representatives from Circular Materials on April 12th to discuss EPR for PPP. Circular Materials reviewed the EPR for PPP Program, proposed collection details, program management, and the promotion and education program. Municipalities were encouraged to send feedback on the meeting to Circular Materials (Cumberland Region Solid Waste submitted feedback on April 26th).

EPR for Batteries, Lighting, and Additional Electronics (BLAE) - The following dates outline when the programs for BLAE will come into effect. Once staff receive approval to share detailed lists of included items, we will begin education on the programs.

- 1. Additional Electronics- July 1, 2024
- 2. Batteries- July 1, 2024;
- 3. Lighting- August 1, 2024.

County Maintains Commercial and Residential Tax Rates

The Municipality of Cumberland approved a \$38.9 million operating budget at a special Council meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in Upper Nappan. The municipality continues to face increased costs due to inflation and population growth. Solid waste management costs are up almost \$100,000. Costs for mandatory contributions to education are up \$625,000, RCMP policing costs are up \$337,000, and salaries and benefits are estimated to cost about \$700,000 more than last year.

The fire service continues to be a major priority for the municipality. This year sees the addition of a full-time fire services manager, as the Hub model is implemented, but by far the biggest investment is the transfer of more than \$1.2 million to reserves to address capital investment in fire apparatus and buildings. In addition, the municipality is budgeting over \$2.7 million in operations and administrative costs related to the fire service. The county is served by 16 volunteer fire departments in 18 locations, housing almost 90 emergency/fire vehicle vehicles. The municipality provides capital and operating support to each department.

Of the over \$38.9 million in operating expenditures, almost \$13 million are costs mandated by the Province of Nova Scotia, for which the municipality simply sends a cheque to the

province. While the new MOU between the province and municipalities has seen the province absorb the costs of housing and corrections, mandatory contributions to education, policing and assessment still amount to about a third of the operating budget.

Property assessments were up this year again, on average about 9.8 per cent. The capped assessment program ensured that those who were eligible only experienced an assessment increase of about 3%. Residential and commercial rates remain at \$1.14 and \$2.71 respectively. Deed transfer tax rates remain the same as do the area rates in the communities of Springhill and Parrsboro, where taxpayers remain responsible for street and sidewalk maintenance, storm water management and streetlights. Sanitary sewer rates in all areas will rise by 5%.

"The inflationary pressures that we have all experienced these past few years show up in the costs of providing municipal services as well," Cumberland Mayor Murray Scott said.

"Increases in policing, employee wages, solid waste and mandatory transfers along with the costs of reinvesting in our infrastructure like sanitary sewers, fire stations and fire apparatus and equipment and municipal



properties make it challenging to even maintain tax rates. I am pleased that we've been able to do that."

Council also approved a general and water capital budget of just under \$15.5 million.

The biggest single project is the replacement of the fire station in Springhill at a cost of \$6.1 million funded by Gas Tax, transfers from reserves and about \$400,000 in debt. Year 2 of the capital budget also includes a provision for the replacement of the fire station in Parrsboro at an estimated cost of \$6 million.

More details on both the operating and capital budgets will be available on the county's website.



**6 McFarlane St., PO Box 250
Springhill, NS B0M 1X0**

1-902-597-4039
Toll Free 1-833-597-8679
Fax: 1-902-597-3310

toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com

TORY RUSHTON, MLA
Cumberland South



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 send this Personal Gift Subscription to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

If RENEWAL: Sub # _____ New: _____ Gift: _____

Country/Special Mail Instructions: _____

This Personal Gift Subscription comes from:

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

HST: 890564404RT0001
Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to **South Cumberland News**

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / 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

South Cumberland NEWS MAIL TO: **South Cumberland News, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0**