

On May 10th late afternoon and the game was on. Amherst Vikings and Pugwash were playing a hard game of baseball, with a great crowd of onlookers to cheer them both on. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)



After the hit, it's a mad dash for first base.



A hard game goes on between Amherst Vikings and Pugwash in Parrsboro.



Running the bases in style.



A hard game goes on between Amherst Vikings and Pugwash in Parrsboro.

Miner's Memorial Park to be Unveiled June 6

Springhill will pause to remember its coal mining heritage at noon on Thursday, June 6, 2024, when a park is unveiled on the site of the former Lamp Cabin building near the pitheads to the Number 2 and Number 4 mines.

The Lamp Cabin Memorial Park includes interpretive signage detailing the history of the site and mining in Springhill, a sign in tribute to the women of Springhill, a brick planter, a walking trail, benches and accessible picnic tables.

The estimated cost of \$17,535 was funded by the estate of the late Dr. Dorothy Safron, a Springhill native who went on to practice as a psychiatrist in New York. The former Lamp Cabin structure on Miners Memorial Drive was demolished in 2020 after falling into disrepair.

"The site of the former Lamp Cabin building was known in Springhill as the last walk," Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Murray Scott said. "The miners would come into the building as they

headed off to their day or night of work in the mines. They would exchange their street gear for their underground gear and come back when their shift was over. For those who lost their lives underground they never came back."

The unveiling was originally scheduled to occur last October on the 65th anniversary of the 1958 Bump that ended large scale mining in Springhill, but had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The park is a memorial to all the miners who worked and lost their lives in the major disasters of 1891, 1956 and 1958 as well as the wives who kept vigil at the pitheads awaiting word on the fate of their loved ones. 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. In total, approximately 440 miners lost their lives in Springhill's coal mines between 1876 and 1969.

Seeking Voluntarism and Local Ambassadors

By Sandra Stephenson & Devin Trefry

The Maple Inn in Parrsboro, shortlisted as one of the Best of the Best international destinations by TripAdvisor in May, took 16th place for best Inns and B&B's anywhere in Canada this year, thanks to on-line support from locals and satisfied travellers to Parrsboro. The Inn changed ownership three years ago when music composer and choral singer Paul Aitkin moved here from Boise, Idaho with his wife. One source of the Inn's popularity is the owners' commitment to the cultural community of Parrsboro, a commitment shared by the Inn's previous owners.

On May 8, 2024, the Maple Inn hosted a meeting of people and businesses interested in new ways to promote tourism on the Parrsboro Shore. A beautifully creamy seafood chowder was served with herbal scones for a lunch that should be on Nova Scotia's "Chowder Trail" list. The goal of the meeting was to learn how to "Attract ... guests that grow local economies while supporting community values and protecting ecological integrity."

Presentations from Devin Trefry of the Fundy Geopark office, Beth Peterkin of Cumberland Business Connector, and Jennifer Dingman, for UNESCO and Destination Canada. Dingman is a biologist at Stonehammer Park, a New Brunswick UNESCO Biosphere area) impressed on the 20 or so attendees, the international significance of our local shores. It seems the new Geopark at the Minas Basin is in the same class as the Amazon Rainforest, the Galapagos Islands and the Florida Everglades.

The United Nations designation of the north shore of the Minas Basin as a Geopark through its organization for Education, Science, Culture and Communication (UNESCO), in 2020, is a game changer for Nova Scotian tourism. At least on paper, so far. Local groups and individuals are expected to make the most of it without a lot of direct funding from governments, but the area will be ad-

vertised around the world as a top destination for tourists. "They're coming," said a representative for the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce. "We have to be ready for them."

People world-wide who are interested in the geological history of Pangea, as well as those interested in First Nations cultures, the phenomena of the highest tides, large sea creatures, gemmology and current art cultures in cuisine, visual arts, theatre and music will be attracted in even greater numbers than at present. They will even be lured to the Shore, which is Truro to Advocate Harbour, and around through Apple River and Joggins World Heritage Site. There are 213 UNESCO Geoparks in 48 countries; only five in Canada, of which 4 are on the East Coast within tourable distance of each other. Joggins Fossil Cliffs and the Fundy Geopark are within tourism corridors supported through Destination Canada's Tourism Corridor Strategy Program.

The Federal organization, Destination Canada, and the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark are attempting to get "all" local busi-

nesses, government departments, fishing folk, cottagers and locals "rowing in the same direction," to protect and promote the local jewel that is the Bay of Fundy, for ourselves, our children, and our guests. Some funding may be available to train people in promoting each other and the Geopark with its multiple richness, especially in fall, winter and early spring when regular tourism falls off.

Over lunch, we learned that caribou used to thrive on these shores, that mud-piddocks (small white-shelled clams/molluscs) are a threatened species. The clams burrow only into Jurassic mudstones of the McCoy Brook Formation, and so walkers and runners at Five Islands are coached to avoid stepping on them during events like the Not Since Moses run on the sea bottom.

Questions were raised about a need for signage indicating the dangers of high tides, sharks, falling rocks, and eroding cliffs, such as the signs already posted to indicate unstable berms or bears on hiking trails.

Connecting the Geopark with the Trans-Canada walking

trail was proposed, and the abandoned day use pavillion at Chignecto park was mentioned; as was the proposed wind energy project on the Cobequid Hills. The Geopark is not intended to interfere with life as it would normally be lived in the area, but to encourage appreciation for special and irreplaceable features. It was noted that tourism needs to include authentic experiences of Mi'kmaw history and culture.

The Geopark office in Debert and Destination Canada are looking for voluntarism and local ambassadors, Seniors and organizations like the Force, Oearch, Museums and others to help promote each other and the Geopark in its 17 sustainable development goals that the Geopark designation is supposed to support. These include local health, education, work, economic growth, reduced inequality, climate action, ocean life, land life, peace, justice, and "strong institutions."

If you are interested in more information or wish to volunteer, please contact Devin Trefry at Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, 902-641-2225.

Concerts in the Park start Sunday June 2

By Patricia Burke

Popular Concerts in the Park begin on Saturday, June 2 and run every Sunday at 7 pm at the Bandstand in Parrsboro. A few years back Rob Bentley came up with the idea to have music in the Bandstand every Sunday during June, July and August. Each Sunday evening a different group or individual entertain for 1 hour. The Hat is passed and the donations are given to the musician's charity of choice. The bandstand is a busy spot during the summer with several events happening there.

During the month of May we at The Hall sponsored Bandstand at the Hall and this was very popular with a good attendance at the ones held. This event will be held during the month of

September as well giving supporters 5 months of music on Sunday evenings to enjoy. If you are a musician and would like to perform in the Bandstand or at the hall in September give Rob Bentley a call at 902-254-4669.

Movies will continue during the month of June on Wed. June 5 & 19 at 7:30 pm.

Classics by the Bay Festival will be based out of The Hall with concerts being held there as well as the Anglican Church. Mark June 28/29/30 down on your calendar and make sure you support this Festival.

Save The Dates: Band Days will be held this year on Fri. night July 19, Sat. July 20 and Sun. July 21. Mark these dates on your calendar. Details are being worked out now.

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