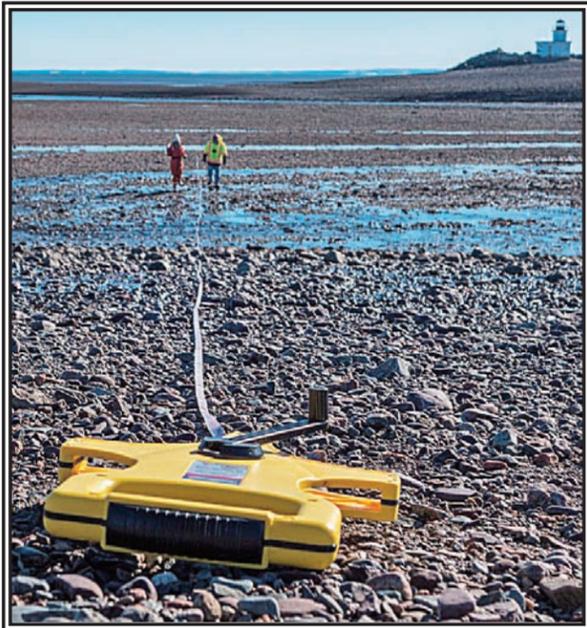


# Mount Allison Biology Department at Parrsboro Harbour

By *Lawrence R. Nicoll*

The afternoon of Feb. 2nd turned interesting when I saw two people studiously peering at rectangles on the beach in Parrsboro. After Introductions, I learned Prof. Ron Aiken and Natalie Rideout of Mt. Allison Biology Dept. were doing a diversity study of the life on many beaches.



Using a surveyors tape Prof Ron Aiken and Natalie Rideout lay out a grid to check the diversity of life on the floor of Parrsboro Harbour. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Prof Ron Aiken and Natalie Rideout from Mount Allison Biology Dept show the rectangle used to ensure there is consistency of finding what life exists on the floor of beaches as they conduct a study on numerous beaches. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

February 2nd was Parrsboros' turn and Natalie expressed surprise at the consistency of findings from area to area. She said this was an unusual occurrence for a tidal beach. Rectangles were used to ensure the measurable areas were the same and image taken of the type of life found in each search.

It was a beautiful day for our friends from Mt.A.



Natalie Rideout gets down on her knees to check what's within the triangle on the floor of Parrsboro Harbour on February 2nd. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

## Colchester Trefoil Met on Thinking Day

By *Goldie Chisholm*

Colchester Trefoil members met at Sobey's Community Room for their scheduled meeting on February 22nd, which happened to be Thinking Day, so our program centered around singing Guide songs. The Co-President welcomed everyone there and read a Thinking Day Poem before repeating the Opening Trefoil Prayer. She reported on those not able to be with us today and then told us of a visit she had made with our first Trefoil President, Ruth Hanham, who was celebrating her 92nd Birthday.

Colchester's Area Trainer invited us to attend the Maplewood Fun Day at North River School being held February 27th, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. The Theme is "Water for Tomorrow".

The Trefoil Semi-Annual Meeting is being held April 30th in Dartmouth hosted by the newest Trefoil Guild, Salt Water Sisters. Registration deadline is March 31st. Colchester Guild has been approached to host a forthcoming meeting, so members

were asked to give this some consideration and report at our March meeting.

The March meeting will be held at the same location with a speaker, Tawnya Barrington, speaking on the subject, "Days for Girls". Days for Girls is a grassroots non-profit project striving to create a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, education and sustainable feminine hygiene. We were given a list of several items to donate towards this worthy cause.

A letter was read regarding whether anyone would be interested in assisting by donations or otherwise to bring a refugee family to the area. If so, contact person would be Tony Phillips, Debert, N.S. phone 902-662-3399.

It was agreed we give an Appreciation Certificate to Sobey's with thanks and appreciation for the free meeting place to hold our meetings. We enjoyed singing the familiar Guide songs and then had Birthday Cake and Ice-Cream.

# UARB Public Hearing Starts March 30

By *Maurice Rees*

A community update meeting on the process of dissolving Town of Parrsboro and merging with the Municipality of the County of Cumberland was held at the Parrsboro Legion on February 25th. Additional meetings will be forthcoming at the end of March when the Utility and Review Board will hold public hearings on the merits of dissolution starting March 30. There will be sessions in Parrsboro and Upper Nappan.

The 25th meeting provided presentations on all aspects of municipal responsibilities, including customer service, solid waste, wastewater, streetlights, roads, fire and police services and the town's future financial condition if Parrsboro remains a town or if it joins the County of Cumberland.

One of the residents who attended the meeting understood the \$8-million sewer upgrade project will be proceeding and everyone will be connected to the service and there will be sewer fees added to the tax bills. Another resident said he understood taxes will be reduced on residential properties, but those with commercial properties will not be as lucky.

John Leefe, transition coordinator, who is former Mayor of Queens, the amalgamated units of Town of Liverpool and the Municipality of Queens County, a former MLA in the John Buchanan government, and transition coordinator overseeing the amalgamation of Springhill into the Municipality of Cumberland said, "This event was an opportunity for residents to learn more about the research that has been done and how services will continue to be provided if the Utility and Review Board approves the merger of Parrsboro with Cumberland."

Those who wish to appear before and address the Utility and Review Board must register by March 21 with written comments to be submitted by March 23. The public meetings will be held in Parrsboro and Upper Nappan starting March 30th. More information about the UARB hearings is available at [www.nsuarb.novascotia.ca](http://www.nsuarb.novascotia.ca) (search case number M07110 under Matters of Evidence). Other sources of information about the dissolution process are available at [www.town.parrsboro.ns.ca](http://www.town.parrsboro.ns.ca) and [www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](http://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca).

## 2016 Low Income Exemptions Announced

By *Maurice Rees*

Minor Changes were made to the county's Low Income Tax Exemption Policy including changing the name to Low Income Municipal Tax Exemption Tax Assistance Policy. In changing the policy council used the same categories as of January 1, 2014, which were: One person, income not over \$23,980 the exemption would be \$180.47; two person family, income not over \$31,554 with an exemption of \$240.61, while a three person family with income not over \$37,864 will get an

exemption of \$300.77.

However, council changed the policy that going forward beyond January 1, 2015, the income thresholds will be adjusted by the CPI rate used by Property Valuation Services Corporation.

The rates for 2016 are: one person, household less than \$24,685 will have an exemption of \$186.47; two person household income \$32,604 will receive an exemption of \$248.62, with a three person household income less than \$39,123 will have an exemption of \$310.78.

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