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South Cumberland NEWS

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By-Election Date Looms

By **Maurice Rees**

Candidates willing to stand for party nomination are coming forward; party volunteers are starting to get engaged even though Premier McNeil has not set a date for the Cumberland South by-election to replace Jamie Baillie, former Cumberland South MLA and provincial PC party leader.

Progressive Conservatives have four candidates vying for the nomination and will choose their candidate in Springhill on March 3. To date the Liberals have two candidates, who have filed nomination papers. Neither the Liberals nor the NDP have announced nomination meeting dates or locations. It is not known if the Green Party or others will enter the race.

The PC's currently have four confirmed candidates, Tory Rushton, Oxford and Oralee O'Byrne, Port Greville; Max Ross, Fox River and Marchel Strong. Advocate have announced their candidacy. Rushton, who volunteers as Oxford Fire Department chief was the first out of the gate with his announcement on February 2nd, while O'Byrne officially entered the race on February 12th. They have been followed by Ross and Strong.

Rushton, 38, is a production manager at Oxford Frozen Foods and a graduate of NSCC and Dalhousie Fire Services program. He has 20 years experience

with the Oxford Fire Department. In his spare time, Rushton coaches minor hockey and plays the bagpipes. He and his wife, Tracy, have three young children. His grandfather was George Henley, who was elected in 1963 and remained the area's MLA until his retirement in 1984.

Oralee O'Byrne, the seasonal curator/manager of the Age of Sail Heritage Museum in Port Greville, has always had a lot of interest in the community through her work with various organizations. She is familiar with the issues facing the health care system having helped care for a terminally ill family member and she has suffered health issues herself.

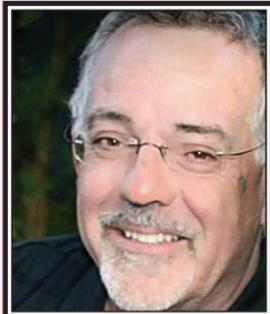
She has also worked in the tourism industry and knows about the realities of poor roads and deficiencies in key pieces of infrastructure such as bridges. O'Byrne has diplomas in law enforcement procedures, adult psychology, counseling and museum and archival training.

South Cumberland News has not been able to find much information about the other two PC candidates. Max Ross from Fox River has served on the School Board, while Marchel Strong is a residential care assistant at Chignecto Manor and lives in Advocate.

With the Liberals forming
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Scott Lockhart seeking nomination for Cumberland South Liberals. (Submitted)



Brian Sanderson, is second candidate seeking the Cumberland South Liberal nomination. (Submitted)



Oralee O'Byrne, Port Greville is seeking PC nomination in Springhill on March 3rd. (Submitted)



Tory Rushton, chief Oxford Fire Department is also seeking the PC Nomination. (Submitted)

Environmental Concern in Wentworth & Northern NS

By **Bob MacLean**

A community meeting to a capacity crowd was held at the Wentworth Recreation Centre on February 10th. The meeting was held to gather facts and opinions about the recent clear-cut opposite the ski hill that has diminished the beautiful vista we regard as "ours". The natural beauty of our area is why so many people have chosen to build their homes and cottages here, as well as the availability of recreational activities

including skiing, hiking, biking, swimming, snowmobiling and ATVing.

Reports in the Amherst and Truro newspapers failed to address the prevalence of clear-cut forestry, the evolution of which was detailed in the presentation by Joan Baxter, author of the book, "The Mill - Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest". This book presents a factual and disturbing account of greed and third-world politics in Nova Scotia and should be manda-

tory reading for all Nova Scotians. We have truly "sold-the-farm" and as Joan quoted in her book, "They are still laughing in Philadelphia" about our lack of any concerns for our environment, sustainable industry and wildlife habitat.

Nova Scotia has had a disgraceful record of negotiating with multi-nationals. Joan refers to an article written in Harrowsmith, August, 1983 written by Harry Thurston. It infers "Expensive

infrastructure (Pictou Causeway) at no cost to the company, vast tracts of forest for the cutting, massive amounts of inexpensive water, and millions of liters of toxic waste in return for which Nova Scotians would be left picking up the very hefty tab. The Federal government also kicked in \$5 million and an additional five-year holiday on income tax for Scott".

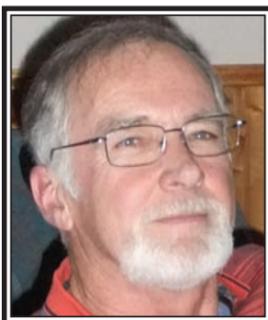
Investigations by many people, including myself, can come up with no rational explanation why all political parties in Nova Scotia have perpetuated, reinforced or expanded this assault on our environment, wild life habitat, fresh water and natural beauty, while the rest of the world seems to be moving toward the protection of these factors. Nova Scotia seems satisfied to play ostrich and bury its head to avoid what is going on all around them and in the rest of the world.

In 1965, it was proposed that the mill had a lifespan of twenty (that's 20) years. So, it should have been shut down in 1985. Now, thirty-three years later, it is still dumping effluent into Boat Harbour. At the meeting someone claimed that only half of what Joan had to say was true. First, she published her findings and if they were inaccurate, I'm certain she would be facing a lot of time in court. Second, if half of what she says is true, it does not paint a pretty picture.

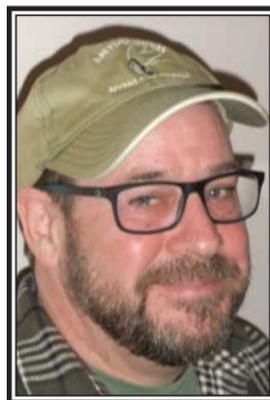
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It was an overflow crowd and more chairs had to be brought out on February 10th at the Wentworth Recreation Centre for a presentation to talk about sustainable development in the Wentworth Valley. (Rees Photo)



Bob MacLean, chair of the Wentworth Recreation Centre was M-CEE for the February 10th public presentation at the centre. (Rees Photo)



Raymond Plourde, Ecology Action Centre (Rees Photo)



Joan Baxter, author of "The Mill". (Rees Photo)

Jimmy the Janitor Coming to Parrsboro

By **Patricia Burke**

The Concert Committee at The Hall in Parrsboro is pleased to announce on Friday, March 2, 2018 at 8 pm Jimmy the Janitor will be bringing his "Canada's Best Clean Fun" to the Hall on King St. Price for the absolute evening of hilarious fun and comedy admission is \$25. Tickets can be purchased on "The Halls" website at www.thehall.ca or purchased at Ken's Grocery, Linda's Guys's and Gals, Harrison Home Hardware or Amethyst Boutique in Parrsboro. Get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment. You must be 19 or over to attend as there will be a bar.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 2 pm the Film Society will sponsor another Family Movie at 2 pm. The title has not been finalized yet but watch for the posters. Admission is \$2 per person or a family for \$5. We ask that you please arrive at the hall early. The door will open at 1:30 pm to allow ample time to purchase popcorn and lots of other snacks till 2 pm. The canteen will close at 2 pm to allow the movie to start on time. Your cooperation in this request would be greatly appreciated.

Another great event sponsored by The Hall on Saturday, March 17 at 7 pm will be the Annual Saint Patrick's Day Kitchen Party. Entertainment will be by Hooligan's Rough. This is always a fun night so don't miss it. Admission is \$10 per person and tickets can be purchased at the door.

For all other events sponsored by The Hall visit our website mentioned above or visit our Facebook page.



New Lion Barry Roberts lights the candles as part of his induction ceremony to become a member of the Parrsboro Lions Club. (Nicoll Photo)



Lion Laurie Reid installs the bib and rattle on new Lion Barry Roberts. In the Lions tradition the newest member gains special privileges: they cannot be fined, can choose to eat from anyone's plate, and cannot be interrupted while stating Lion's rules. Just a lot of fun as they become a valued member of the club. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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