



Each summer for many years, downtown Parrsboro's centre of attraction is display of Kerwin's creations. Many of the items are mentioned in the lengthy biography submitted by Lawrence R Nicoll printed elsewhere in this issue. The conclusion, Part 2, will be published in the April 2022 issue. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

## Kerwin Davison: A MAN WITH A VISION

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required if you were to continue to study for a full engineering degree but he did not continue with that avenue. In the summers he did work as a miner's helper in Normata, Quebec at a copper/lead/zinc mine to earn money for Mt. A. His first day he went down 1000ft, then along ¼ mile and down another 1200 feet.

After the course, an Aunt directed Kerwin to a place to board in the north end of Halifax in HydroStone Village on 971 Gottingen St., Rev. Borden Tupper lived at 983 (his future father-in-law) who was minister of the New United Memorial Church, the church Kerwin attended.

Kerwin eventually decided to pursue a different path, and took a four year Marine Electrician apprenticeship program at the Halifax Shipyards. He worked on the ships Margaree, St Laurent and new sub chasers, going on the sea trials with the last. While there with help he designed a system to humanely electrocute chickens at the home farm, not fond of chopping their heads off!!

While working at the shipyards, he took a 1 year Electronics course on evenings and started a little company to

fix TVs. They were a relatively new idea and in need of maintenance and he was allowed to do that in the basement of the Manse where Rev. Tupper lived at night after work.

Rev. Tupper's daughter, Anne also went to Mt. A. She came home, and in 1957 Kerwin and her were married. Kerwin built a clock radio for Anne at a time when there were none. They bought a VW van and in 1958 loaded it FULL and he drove at 49mph all the way to Parrsboro (with a tailwind!). Anne stayed in Halifax until Kerwin had things settled, they took over a building beside where the Rexall drug store and started a little electric/electronics store adjacent to what was Wheaton's Restaurant.

Lyall Yorke came back from Ontario and had experience in TVs so Kerwin hired him. Along with the appliance part, he also did house electrical work. He started Davison Heating and Electric. Johnny Atkinson, Ronny Dunphy and several others also worked there.

Davison Heating/Electric did work for Irving Oil who had 1000 or so customers. Furnaces were troublesome in those days and required yearly

service. Kerwin was busy!!

In 1961 they moved to where Tim Hortons is today in



File photo shows Parrsboro Metal Fab, which was started after when he and Floyd Brown chatted while taking two carloads of kids to a 1976 trip to concert in Moncton. The two talked about building a company and that was how Parrsboro Metal Fab idea started. The company was originally created for the Scotsman furnace that Kerwin designed. (Nicoll submitted photo)

a house Irving owned. He had a big workshop out behind and that is where the first SCOTSMAN furnace was designed. The house tap, door and other things he made to operate electrically by push button!

In 1974-75 Kerwin tried to make a Dune Buggy himself,

but was not happy with the result. He and Graydon Nickerson went to Toronto to a firm selling fiberglass bodies. Kerwin had a half ton and Graydon bought another. They loaded them up with about a dozen or more buggy shells and home they came. Soon were sold outright, some used

on cars people had and for a few they got cars and made them into dune buggies. They sold the last one and decided that was enough. Kerwin kept one that was the first Dune Buggy certified to be on the highway.

In 1976 the idea for the

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