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Kerwin Davison A MAN WITH A VISION

By Lawrence R Nicoll
(Editor's Note: This detailed submission from Lawrence Nicoll on Kerwin Davison was so lengthy and the many photos depicting his contribution to making Parrsboro a better place, we have had to present in two Parts. The Conclusion will appear in the April issue).

Kerwin is certainly an ambassador for Parrsboro, what he has created, done for and shared has brought a great deal of attention and admiration to our area. Kerwin Davison was born on April 15, 1933 in the Davison house in Halfway River. He went to Halfway River East in a little school in the bush, then at age 12 to Halfway River West in the school until recently on Newville Lake. He went to Parrsboro for High School.

His father had wanted to be an animal doctor but when his own father died suddenly, he had to give up that dream to take over the farm, originally about 1200 acres. The farm was expanded by thousands of acres over time, and the op-

portunity to tinker there was a good start for Kerwin.

Kerwin at age 12/13 had trap lines for mink, weasel and muskrats. He sold the pelts for \$13.00. George Privel owned a little store across from the school and Kerwin bought a chocolate bar and pop every day for a year from his earnings. At the end of the year his teeth were pretty well gone (not owning a tooth brush didn't help).

At the same time, the water for the house was stored in a 500 gallon tank, a pump would build up pressure in the tank and when you heard the pump labour you had to scurry down quickly, go behind the tank, and shut off the pump so the tank wouldn't burst (especially as it got older). Kerwin didn't like that so he designed a device on the pressure dial to stall the engine out when the pressure was enough.

In 1952 after high school Kerwin enrolled in the Pre-Engineering course at Mt A.,
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A much younger Kerwin Davison speeding along with his dune buggy with all four wheels clear of the ground. The buggy was built 1974-75 after he and Graydon Nickerson went to Toronto to a firm selling fiberglass bodies. (Nicoll submitted photo)



Two things to image. The many years that steam locomotives helped create Canada. Second the amount of exacting work by Kerwin Davison to create Train #4, which is ready to go. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Clear the Deck to Unify Municipality

The Municipality of Cumberland approved a \$310,000 project aiming to complete the transition of the municipality to one, fully integrated, municipal unit serving all its communities as effectively and efficiently as possible. The Province of Nova Scotia is providing financial assistance for the project in the amount of \$232,500.

Approved at its regular monthly council meeting February 23, 2022, the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, through the dissolution process, has absorbed the former Towns of Springhill

(2015) and Parrsboro (2016). Although a significant effort has been put forward by council and staff, both past and present, the municipality is still not one, fully integrated, municipal unit.

In the span of less than 24 months, the Municipality of Cumberland went from being a completely rural municipality, providing services from only one location, to a hybrid rural/urban municipality providing urban services like water utilities, year-round street and sidewalk maintenance and capital re-investment, operating larger sanitary

sewer services and recreation facilities from three locations in a widely decentralized service model. The Municipality of Cumberland continues to operate three separate and distinct public works facilities and three administrative offices.

The dissolution of the former Towns of Springhill and Parrsboro were both completed on tight timelines - Springhill because of the financial situation it was facing and Parrsboro due to urgent infrastructure concerns. The current circumstances though, present the municipality with

a perhaps unique opportunity to clear the deck and start afresh. The municipal elections in 2020 returned a completely new council with a mandate for change. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, council wishes to explore the optimal operational and financial configuration of the municipality.

The Clear the Deck project intent is to finally integrate all aspects of the municipality through a review of: service centre locations; public works service delivery; rate/revenue structure, and a harmonization of sewer and water rates across the municipality.

As well, it seeks to complete the harmonization of policies and bylaws that existed on dissolution and to create a new capital asset financing policy which will guide council as it considers how to fund new projects going forward with a "one municipality" mindset.

In supporting the project, Mayor Murray Scott said, "We are the Municipality of Cumberland, not the municipalities of Cumberland and I am so pleased that we are moving forward with this project".

Media inquiries: Amanda-Leigh MacLeod, Corporate Communications Officer
902-664-9736

amacleod@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

CoVid Delays Delivery of Fire Trucks

Committee of the Whole (COW) met via zoom on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

The first order of business was a suggested update to the municipality's grants policy. Since the policy was first implemented in 2015, the title of grants offered and administration of the grants program has evolved. Council referred the amended grant policy to the February 23, 2022 council meeting for approval.

Two rezoning applications were presented to council. Both will be considered for first reading at the February 23rd council meeting, with public hearings at the March 23, 2022 council meeting. One rezoning request is to rezone a property at 3055 Kolbec Road into a combination of commercial recreation and country residential. The sec-

continued on page 3



Kerwin Davison didn't just build a replica of Train #4 to be looked at. He built it as a working train. Additional photos and part 1 of the biography of still very active 89 year old, Kerwin Davison are printed adjacent and on page 2.

Part 2, the conclusion will be published in next month's April 2022 issue. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

The Hall Easing to Having Activities

By Patricia Burke

The Hall in Parrsboro is easing back ever so cautiously in opening its doors to supporters. Organizers are following all the mandated protocols such as masks are mandatory, 6 ft. apart, sanitize and show proof of vaccine. Our doors have opened to Movies every second Wed. at 7:30 pm. You must e-mail Nancy Curleigh to let her know you are coming. All people must be seated by 7:20 pm. There will be 3 movies in March starting on Wed. March 2 with "The Eyes of Tammy Laye", March 16 will be "Brassed Off" and Wed. Feb. 30 is "The Loneliest Whale". We will be shifted to spring at that time what a great way to celebrate and come to the hall. It is just a donation at the door.

It is also membership time either to renew or join. Cost is single \$15 or a family \$25. There are benefits to being a member such as you get the first dibbs at getting tickets for concerts here, voting at AGM, most weeks a list of what is going on at the hall and lots more. We need members who can volunteer and it is strength in numbers

when we apply for assistance from the Municipal, Provincial or Federal Governments. You can go to our wonderful website at www.thehall.ca. You can download the membership form and send it through paypal or forms will be available at all events at the hall and when we are on Mainstreet at events or just send it in the mail.

We would like to remind you that we still have an account at Durants Bottle Exchange just outside Parrsboro. Just drop them off at Durants and the fine folks there will do the rest. This is a great way to support the hall and we do very well with this fundraiser.

Our yearly AGM will be held on Wed. March 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm. You will hear reports from the last year and maybe a bit of what our plans are for 2022. All are welcome but you must be a member to vote. Good time to join or renew your membership. Hope to see you all there.

Well I think that is all for this month. Have a great March everyone and hopes of no more snow.

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