



Will this Hwy 209 abandoned farm house become as famous as the one which stood for decades on Nutby Mountain? (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)

## PHOTO FEATURE

February 11th was an eventful day in Parrsboro. First there was extremely high tide at 1:37 pm, then a major house fire just before supper at 21 Moore's Street. The tide at 1:37 pm was scheduled to be 13.59m or 44.59 feet.

Kristy Lee Walton was travelling Two Island Road, when she noticed several vehicles trying to navigate the rising tides. It has been quite a while since water came over Two Island Road. Mother Nature was showing its power with water spewing over the Aboiteau Bridge. Essay photos by Kristy Lee Walton.



# Hockey Program Rekindled in Parrsboro area

By Darrell Cole

It's been several years since children in the Parrsboro area have been able to play organized minor hockey under their own association - something that put a real kink in young players hoping to be the next Sidney Crosby or Nathan MacKinnon.

Jill Meyers, her husband Chris and a small group of volunteers have come together to try and rekindle the sport at the Parrsboro Lions Arena and the response has been amazing.

"It's been about nine years since we lost our minor hockey league and parents and kids have been asking for it almost since," Meyers said. "We don't have the population for our own minor hockey association, but there are kids who want to play."

For those children who have wanted to play competitively, they've had to play with either the Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association or in Truro.

Meyers' children are ages six and seven and they've been wanting to play hockey. Her husband, who is a certified coach who coached in the former Parrsboro association, wanted to give something back as well.

She worked with the municipality's active living coordinator to apply for some grants last summer and began the groundwork set up a community hockey program. She said she has also had wonderful support from Hockey Nova Scotia, which has offered to assist as needed.

Sport Nova Scotia has provided \$4,500 in assistance while members of the community have come forward with equipment donations.

"With the grant from Sport Nova Scotia we were able to purchase

gear for the players that had none," Meyers said. "The community response was great. We had people dropping off gear for months. We had an equipment exchange and fitted the kids and once we knew what we needed we went to the store to purchase more."

The 14-week program that started several weeks ago has seen 33 children, ages six to 12, sign up for the program that offers weekly 90-minute session that focus on the fundamentals such as skating and stickhandling.

There is a small fee to play, but Meyers stressed no one is turned away.

"We don't know what the future holds but we're very happy with the program the way it is. If our numbers continue to grow, and I've already talked to parents who didn't know about it or they're going to register their kids next season, we may have to look at options," Meyers said. "It has been a very positive experience for these kids and it speaks well for introducing the sport to more young people."

The group recently held an online auction that raised approximately \$1,500 and Meyers is also appreciative of the Municipality of Cumberland that donated around \$1,000 worth of ice time at the arena and has been helping promote the program in the community.

Carolyn Bollwerk, the municipality's active living coordinator, is happy with how the program has been received.

"The kids are loving it and I'm hearing from parents how much they enjoy it," Bollwerk said. "They're very appreciative of the relatively barrier-free way of trying out hockey in a situation where they're not committed to joining minor hockey. They can get a feel for if their children are really interested and if they are they can dive in by joining minor hockey."

Darrell Cole, Corporate Communications Officer  
902-297-1333  
dcole@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



The 14-week community hockey program in Parrsboro has 33 participants between ages six and 12.



This is the first year for a new community hockey program in Parrsboro that has 33 children, ages six to 12, trying out the sport. The Municipality of Cumberland has provided ice time at the Parrsboro Lions Arena and the group has secured funding from Sport Nova Scotia and donations of gear from the community.

## Mayor Scott Statement

Statement from Mayor Murray Scott, on behalf of Municipal Council, regarding the proposed site for the recently announced NSCC residence in Springhill

First, I want to acknowledge and thank all that have taken the time to reach out to me and the members of Council to share their concerns regarding the proposed site. We've spent the last couple of days speaking to many people about this.

We have heard the concerns of the community. The Lions Park site is no longer under consideration as the site of the NSCC residence. The item will be removed from the agenda of Wednesday's meeting and our staff will have further discussions regarding previously identified alternative sites and other options with Nova Scotia Public Works.

There has been lots of discussion in the community of Springhill about alternative sites and other options. I want to assure residents that other options were discussed with NSCC. For example, the site of the former Springhill Arena and the site of the current Springhill Fire Department were considered.

The Fire Department site was very attractive to NSCC for obvious reasons. However, it was not identified as the preferred site due to the timing of the construction of the new home for the department. A request for proposals has been issued for the design and construction of the new fire department facility. The RFP closes on March 11. If all goes well, we hope to have the department in their new facility this time next year.

The old arena site was also identified as a potential site. While certainly within a short

distance of the campus, it was not NSCC's first choice.

Finally, my concern all along has been that the Municipality in general and the community of Springhill in particular does not lose this extraordinary opportunity to ensure the future sustainability of the Cumberland Campus, boost the economy of the community and increase available housing in a time when appropriate housing is scarce and unaffordable for many.

I have been in discussions over the last couple of days with our MLA Minister Tory Rushton on this issue. He has assured me that the Government of Nova Scotia is committed to building this facility in Springhill and that provincial officials will work with the Municipality to identify the most appropriate site.

Darrell Cole, Corporate Communications Officer, 902-297-1333, dcole@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



A PART OF THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

WINTER HOURS:  
Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

fundygeological.novascotia.ca

Toll Free: 1-866-856-DINO



6 McFarlane St., PO Box 250  
Springhill, NS B0M 1X0

1-902-597-4039

Toll Free 1-833-597-8679

Fax: 1-902-597-3310

toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com

TORY RUSHTON, MLA  
Cumberland South

