



The little cabin hoped for company, but none came. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



The night snow covered the trees making a winter wonderland. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

## Equity and Inclusion

Recreation facilities and spaces, parks and trails should be welcoming environments for all peoples - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, ability, or sexual identity. Efforts are occurring across Canada to ensure that recreation facilities and parks embrace everyone. Deliberate planning and concrete actions are needed to ensure spaces minimize potential barriers and equity and inclusion challenges.

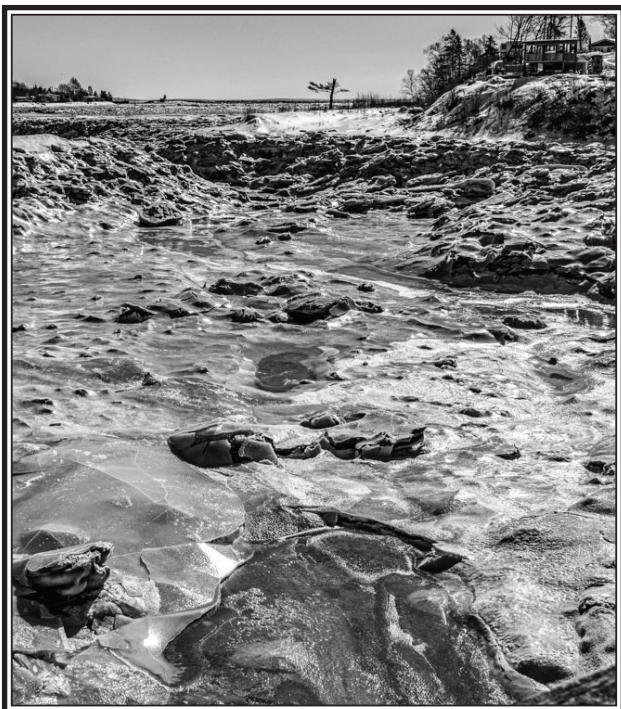
The direction for this deliberate action is set in strategic plans such as this Strategy.

The diversity of the region can only be expected to increase in future years; as such, we must consider how policies and practices will contribute to building bridges between socio-cultural and ethnic gaps and address barriers to participation. Equity is about creating fairness, and providing citizens with access

to spaces, facilities, services and supports that they require to meet their needs. Recreation providers are in an excellent position to improve the lives of those who have been oppressed through the delivery of services and programs that are thoughtfully designed to empower and provide a sense of self-determination.

A first step in creating and fostering equity is to facilitate inclusion. Inclusion is about providing a voice to all; it involves the conscious practice of activity engaging people of different backgrounds and experiences.

These processes require the acknowledging of our history and reflections on power and privilege. Such experiences and reflections should result in the valuing differences and recognizing that each person has a valuable contribution to society.



Whitehall Parrsboro has a steadily increasing pile of ice, the unrelenting cold weather keeps building up a steady supply. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)

## Cumberland RCMP Activities

The following is a recap of Cumberland RCMP activities which were included in notices issued to the public.

### UPDATE: Man wanted on warrant has been arrested

George Robert MacKenzie, 41, from Pugwash, who was wanted on a province-wide arrest warrant, was located and safely arrested on January 9th, 2025. The RCMP would like to thank the public for their shares on social media.

A public appeal, for MacKenzie's arrest had been issued on January 6th which read, Cumberland County District RCMP is seeking information on the whereabouts of a man currently wanted on a province-wide arrest warrant. George Robert MacKenzie, 43, from Pugwash, is presently wanted for Assault, Forcible Confinement, Uttering Threats, and Mischief in relation to an incident that occurred on January 5 in Cumberland County. MacKenzie is described as 5-foot-8, 180lbs. He has dark brown hair and hazel eyes. Investigators have made several attempts to locate MacKenzie and are requesting assistance from the public.

Anyone who has information on the whereabouts of George Robert MacKenzie is asked to refrain from approaching him and to contact the Cumberland County District RCMP at 902-667-3859 or the police of jurisdiction. To remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers, toll-free, at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure tip at [www.crimestoppers.ns.ca](http://www.crimestoppers.ns.ca), or use the P3 Tips App.

### RCMP make arrest for property crime & drug offences

Cumberland County District RCMP arrested a man for multiple property crime and drug offences after receiving information about a stolen dirt bike. On December 18, officers learned that a dirt bike previously reported stolen may be located in the Cumberland area. The information allowed investigators to conduct patrols in an attempt to locate the missing item.

On December 19, officers from the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit (CISCEU) located the vehicle on Hwy. 204. When the dirt bike pulled over, officers were able to prevent the vehicle from continuing on and arrested the driver for Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

During a search incidental to arrest, the officers found that the man, who was identified as 32-year-old Jesse Parlee from Moncton, New Brunswick, was also in possession of multiple stolen drivers licences and cheques, a variety of drugs believed to be ready for sale, and a conducted energy weapon which is a prohibited weapon and was possessed contrary to probation conditions. Parlee also had a warrant for arrest from New Brunswick.

"The information that we received helped officers do targeted, proactive patrols, and lead to locating more than just the missing dirt bike," says Sgt. Jarret MacDonald, Cumberland County District RCMP. "We appreciate receiving tips that support our investigations because what may seem like a small detail can lead to an outcome that is more significant than anticipated, like in this investigation."

Parlee has been charged with Resist Arrest, four counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, four counts of Possession of Weapon Contrary to Order, six counts under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of Possession for the Purposes of Trafficking, in addition to his previous warrants. He was held in custody and had his first court appearance on December 20, 2024.

### Notes from our Municipal Councillor, Marchel Strong, District 8

#### By Marchel Strong

Strong Hello everyone, I hope you enjoyed the holidays and now 2025! Time seems to be moving faster than ever. I am learning every day about how I can support my communities through education and training that is provided by the Municipality.

There have been many opportunities for me to engage with stakeholders in my district and I have enjoyed meeting and building on these new relationships.

Advocate Harbour will be welcoming our RCMP Officer in

### RCMP seeks to identify a man associated to suspicious circumstances

Cumberland County District RCMP is seeking assistance from the public to identify a man following a suspicious incident in Springhill.

On December 17, Cumberland County District RCMP received a report that at approximately 8:30 a.m., a silver SUV approached a child on Princess St. in Springhill and the driver attempted to get the child into the vehicle. The child ran away, went to a safe place nearby, and reported the incident to trusted adults. The child was not physically injured.

The driver is described as a white man, approximately 5'5", and 180 lbs. He was wearing a black coat, beige pants, and a gaiter-style mask with the Boston Bruins logo.

The investigation is ongoing and Cumberland County District RCMP understand the seriousness of and concern that comes from an incident like this. Officers want to speak with anyone who has information about this incident and anyone with doorbell or dashcam footage that shows Princess Street around the time this incident took place. Please contact Cumberland County District RCMP at 902-243-2181. To remain anonymous, contact Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers, toll-free, at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at [www.crimestoppers.ns.ca](http://www.crimestoppers.ns.ca), or use the P3 Tips app.

## Active Living & Recreation Strategy 2024 – 2029

The Municipality of the County of Cumberland Active Living and Recreation Strategy (2024 - 2029) is aligned with and supports meeting the objectives and goals set out in the Province of Nova Scotia's Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia: An Action Plan. This guiding strategic plan seeks to encourage more movement in the daily lives of Nova Scotians through: Finding ways to participate in activities that fit into the lifestyles, abilities, and interests of residents, as well as those that are an important part of our culture; remove barriers that keep some residents from participating; consider the needs of the less active, aging, and other priority groups.

A key component of the Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia action plan is the supporting Municipal Physical Activity Leadership (MPAL) program, a partnership between the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and municipalities which cost shares the hiring of an active living coordinator position. A

requirement of this program is to create an active living strategy every 4-5 years. The Municipality participates in this program and has created this new Active Living and Recreation Strategy to support a healthy and active community. As well Council has made rural recreation a key priority.

To achieve the stated objectives for the development of a new Active Living and Recreation Strategy for the Municipality, the residents and community partners were engaged to understand their preferences and perceptions of active living and recreation in the Municipality. The study process and inputs which led to the creation of the Strategy included a comprehensive engagement and research program which included: Relevant trends influencing active living and recreation provincially and nationally. Current and future demographics and population. Current programs, services and events offered in the Municipality. Relevant policy and planning documents.

March. A great opportunity to have engagement here in our community and district.

Please reach out to me at [mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](mailto:mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca) or 902-694-8922.

VoyentAlert! Is a free APP to download. It will give you warnings and information for Cumberland County and beyond!

Stay safe, be well!

**Marchel Strong, Councillor District 8,**  
[mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](mailto:mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca)  
Ph: 902-694-8422



Marchel Strong

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