

Cumberland Business Connector Activities

The following is an update on activities of the Cumberland Business Connector for the month of January 2026 presented to Cumberland council committee of the whole on February 18TH.

Priority: Support Businesses (primarily 0-50 employees). Business Retention and Expansion visits are going well. Some highlights include: We had connected a business to Invest Nova Scotia who helped cover some exploratory travel costs to investigate new equipment to establish another manufacturing plant in this region. This research has increased the business' comfort level. They are planning on proceeding with the development of this second business in our region.

Another local business that has grown significantly over the past year is struggling to balance their valuable labour force during a slower period of the year. We discussed ways to proactively manage the ebb and flow of work for next winter while keeping the workforce productive.

We are working with a local business that lost their US market this past year. We sat down to discuss what their options are: discussed this specific business' challenges with Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs to see if there are ways to support the business; made an introduction between the business owner and another business that may be interested in purchasing the business' assets.

A company that is rebuilding had questions around rebuilding and zoning. I have connected them to the relevant staff at the Municipality of Cumberland's Planning Department.

Other initiatives include: Assisting Parrsboro Creative with their Strategic Planning process; Forestry; developed and submitted an application for a grant to Complete a BDO Zone rating for the Cumberland Region; met with the Maritime Lumber Bureau to discuss the current state of the industry and potential opportunities that may be relevant to the

Cumberland Region); attended Forest Nova Scotia's AGM; Attended the quarterly CFAC (Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee) meeting. One action item that came out of this was writing a letter in support of expanding the Low Grade Forest Products Assistance program; followed up with the Atlantic Economic Council re: the Chignecto Isthmus Economic Impact to get additional information on specific industries that would benefit from a project like this.

Other businesses have been helped who want to: Grow their sales outside if the Cumberland Region; Standardize and document HR practices; Strategic planning prior to selling a business; Strategic planning for creating a prototype for a new product and Strategic planning for market readiness of innovative products and services.

New Businesses: We continue to see people interested in entrepreneurship. Continuing to meet with an entrepreneur who has

moved to the area and wants to start up a business in the service sector; met with a professional services company that is setting up an office in the region.

Workshops: In collaboration with our local economic development partners, workshops are taking place through the winter and spring of 2026. The Tax Filing for Small Businesses workshop in Pugwash was well attended with 15 people in attendance. The upcoming Tax Filing for Small Businesses workshop in Parrsboro, have 19 people registered.

The Experiential Tourism Workshop (led by Eileen Davage and Jeff Baco) have 20 people registered

Social Media. The Business Spotlight program continues to

highlight small businesses on social media. We continue to share information that is relevant to the local business community from economic development partners and government departments.

Other Work: The Atlantic Economic Council prepared an overview of the potential economic impact of the multi-year Isthmus of Chignecto Resiliency Project. We are reviewing this now in order to prepare our region to be able to maximize the impact of this project on our local economy.

Website has been updated and now has a dedicated page for local businesses and organizations to post local jobs. Additionally, the Business Directory is now searchable.

Midwinter Market

in Parrsboro February 28

Join us in scenic, snow covered Parrsboro for a lineup of vendors, entertainment and more! Shake the February blues, warm your bones and come experience all the goods your local artists and artisans have to offer! The Creepsakes organized event will be held February 28th at Parrsboro Regional High School 109 King Street, Parrsboro NS, 11am - 4pm.

Free admission, donations accepted to go towards the High School. Food available on site through Flippin' Mike's Burgers

Volunteer Nominations Close February 27TH

The deadline for nominating your favourite volunteer is Friday, February 27th as Cumberland prepares to celebrate volunteers and volunteerism during "Volunteer Week" April 19 to 25.

Who shows up when no one is watching? Who makes your community better just by being there?

Everyone knows someone like that. Neighbours, organizations, and causes that matter, often without any expectation of recognition," Mayor Rod Gilroy said, "Help us give them the recognition they deserve".

The Municipality of Cumberland is inviting nominations for volunteers who go above and beyond. All nominees will be celebrated at a special event this April, where we will honour their contributions.

"Volunteer Week gives us an important opportunity to recognize and celebrate the people who make our communities stronger through their generosity and commitment. Volunteers give their time, skills, and compassion to support Rod Gilroy said. "From coaching and mentoring to helping neighbours and supporting local organizations, volunteers make a real difference every day."

Mayor Rod Gilroy said, "I encourage residents to take a few moments to nominate a volunteer who has made a difference in your life or in your community."

Whether their contribution is big or small, every act of service helps build a more connected, caring Municipality of Cumberland. Let's come together to thank those who give so much of themselves to help others."

How to submit a nomination: In person at any municipal Service Centre: **Springhill:** Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre, 6 Main Street; **Upper Nap-**

pan: 1395 Blair Lake Rd.; **Parrsboro:** 209 Main St.; **Pugwash:** Pugwash Library, 10182 Durham St. (Open Wednesdays & Thursdays, 8 am to 5 pm).

Service Centres are open Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

By email: Download the nomination form:

<https://shorturl.at/gttEw>

Oxford Awarded \$636,422 for Service Renewal

By Maurice Rees

Town of Oxford is receiving \$ 636,422 for Service Renewal to Support Community Growth as one of 18 provincial projects receiving \$15-million in total, covering up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs, from the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program. The Province is investing in critical infrastructure projects so municipalities can expand services, support housing growth, and build more inclusive communities.

Under the program Village of Bible Hill Bible Hill will receive \$ 486,136 for Accessibility Upgrades, Town of Stewiacke Town of Stewiacke was awarded \$ 1,702,006 for Phase 1 of a new Water Treatment Plant.

"These investments help municipalities with the infrastructure they need to support development and drive growth," said John A. MacDonald, Minister of Mu-

nicipal Affairs. "By strengthening core services, enhancing climate resiliency and increasing accessibility, we're helping to lay the foundation for more housing, more opportunity, and a better quality of life for residents across Nova Scotia."

Since 2021, the Province has committed nearly \$500 million to support municipalities with critical infrastructure projects, including water, stormwater, disaster mitigation, accessibility and transit.

The full list of projects receiving funding for the 2025-26 application year is at: <https://www.novascotia.ca/documents/growth-and-renewal-infrastructure-development-program-grant-recipients>. The Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) is open to municipalities and villages. Applications closed October 9.

Wentworth Rec Centre March 2026 Events

By Norah Topping

Here are the upcoming events at the Wentworth Recreation Centre:

On **Saturday, March 14**, from 3 to 6 pm or while supplies last, the ever-popular **Annual Pancake Supper** is taking place. This year we also feature the music of Kaden Mattinson.

On **Saturday March 21**, we are hosting a Bring in Spring Dance Party with **Signal Hill. Advance tickets are on sale** for \$45 plus service fees. Get your tickets now before Valentines Day. They could make a great gift! And keep in mind that it sold out the last time Signal Hill was at the Rec Centre so don't delay. Another event of interest to the local community is:

Wednesday Feb 25 Immunization Clinic 10:30-5:30. Our regular programs include:

Games Night - Every Monday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, join us for a variety of games. **Crib** is the most popular, but we also have a table going with 45's. Other possibilities include Sequence, LRC, Crokinole, and Darts. It costs \$5/Person and is open to all ages.

Tea/Coffee and a snack are provided. A prize is awarded to the winner of the night. Everyone is welcome!

Bingo - Sunday's at 2 pm.

Walk and Talk and Video Yoga - Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 to 2 pm.

Mixed Pickleball - All levels of play. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

Women's Pickleball - All levels of play. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 6 pm to 8 pm.

Basketball - Thursdays 8:30 to 10:30 pm

Badminton - Saturday 12 to 2 pm.

Youth programs - At various times for different age groups including basketball and other fun activities. Free of charge.

For more information on any of these events and programs or to purchase tickets for the Signal Hill dance party, please see our website at www.wentworthrecctr.com.

Norah Topping, Publicity Chair, Wentworth Recreation Centre Association

What's coming up at "The Hall"

Submitted by Geoff Ingram

Here's a summary of what's happening in March at "The Hall" in Parrsboro.

Tuesdays (March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31) at 7:30pm - "King Street Strummers" rehearsal - All welcome.

Wednesday Night Movies: March 4 at 7pm - "The Choral" [PG] (2025) and March 18 at 7pm - "Blue Moon" [I4A] (2025)

Note: Wednesday films will continue to screen at 7pm for the month of March.

Wednesdays, March 11 and 25 at 7pm - "Bartlett's Privateers" rehearsal - All welcome.

Thursdays - March 12, 19 and 26) at 7pm - Citizens' Choir rehearsal - All welcome

Fridays - March 13 and 27) at 7pm - *Open Mic* - Lots of music, 50/50, door prizes, canteen. Admission by donation.

Friday, March 6 at noon through Thursday, March 12 at noon - "The Hall's" Valentine's Auction

Special Events:

Saturday, March 7 at 6pm - "Circle of Her Voice" - in celebration of International Women's Day
Saturday, Mar 21 - Time: TBA - Ship's Company Theatre: 2026 Season Launch.

Need more information go to: www.TheHall.ca

Submitted by Geoff Ingram, Outreach coordinator, Parrsboro Band Association, outreach@parrsborobandassociation.ca



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

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