

Meet & Greet in Parrsboro for Syrian Family



Tarek using his phone app to communicate with Rod Tyson while family looks on. School Principal, Sue Stevenson sits on the couch beside the family. (Helen Tyson Photo)

By Helen Tyson

On Sunday, April 10th, volunteer sponsorship group Parrsboro Welcomes Refugees held a Meet & Greet to celebrate the arrival of the Noaman family: father Tarek, mother Rina, daughter Seba (almost 5) and son Zaid (2 1/2). Hosted at Main & Station by Judith Bauer and Harvey Lev, roughly fifty guests were treated to a feast of Syrian, Lebanese and Canadian food. The Noamans - originally from Syria - arrived in Canada in mid-February, after a lengthy stay in Jordan. But their spon-

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That one's easy.
Shukran.

sorship group (PWR) waited until April before having a public celebration, in order to give Parrsboro's new residents time to become used to Canada.

For many people, Sunday afternoon was their first opportunity to meet the Noamans—and to try communicating in Arabic. As the new family is just learning English, Tarek Noaman spent much of the afternoon showing people how to use their cell 'phones as translators. A common question was: "How do you say: 'that was delicious' in Arabic?" (Answer: "an kan ladhidha.")

As well as Syrian recipes made by the Noamans, Walid Mohamed (of Parrsboro's Pizza L'Amore) and his wife, Dima, made Lebanese dishes. Two long tables were covered with plates of tabouli, hummus, walnut dip (made by Main & Station's Judith Bauer), roasted vegetables and other delicious appetizers. Members of the sponsorship group told guests that the Mohameds have gone out of their way to be helpful during these early weeks.

Main & Station—the old Parrsboro post office—was a perfect venue for the afternoon. Filled with books and art and comfortable chairs, there was enough space for people to browse and mingle while the centre floor gradually filled up with children, drawing and reading and playing with toys. By the end of the afternoon, when most of the food was gone and Zaid was sleeping peacefully on the sofa, there were still a few adults trying out the translators.

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Ottawa House and Age of Sail AGM's Attended

By Don Fletcher

Recently, I attended two annual general meetings of iconic tourist attractions in my district namely, Ottawa House and Age of Sail, both valuable assets to our county. The Ottawa house held there's on April 2nd and was very well attended.

This great team of volunteers has and continue to do an excellent job of preserving our heritage and now that they own the building have a greater challenge going forward. At the meeting they introduced a plan to get 100 people to give \$100 each. These monies will really help with the operating budget.

The have exciting ideas going forward and I encourage everyone to visit and if you wish to volunteer some time that would also be greatly appreciated.

Visitor experience is one of the main themes going forward as well as an updated website.

Please check it out.

On Sunday April 10th I attended the Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum society (Age of Sail) annual general meeting. This was also well attended and the many volunteers continue to make this a must place to visit. Volunteers make the difference and if you have some time they can also use your help. Most of our volunteers throughout the county are on the senior side and could use a break. However, without them we would not have the attractions for our tourists to visit and stay in our area.

All museums will undergo a thorough evaluation from the Community Museum Assistance Program (CMAP) a government body that provides core funding. This will, and is taking much time and preparation in order to maintain the core funding needed to continue. Fundraising is a big part of all

our attractions and please continue to support these.

Keep an eye open for some of the upcoming events such as annual bean and brown bread take out May 7th, salute to our armed forces on June 12th, annual salad supper June 18th and 22nd anniversary heritage festival on July 16th and 17th. These are just some of the many things going on this summer so plan to get out and enjoy! One of the main attractions is in need of repair (Grannie and her rocker) and if you have ever visited you will know what I mean. I am sure you were startled as I was as she started talking and welcoming you in to visit. She is in need of some major work with a hefty price tag so a donation for Grannie would be greatly appreciated. I know this is not my regular column but I feel its important.

NSUARB Decision Expected Within Two Months

(In an effort to keep all Parrsboro resides informed about ongoing activity regarding the merger of Town of Parrsboro into the Municipality of County of Cumberland, we've edited the March 24th report from John Leefe, transition coordinator as presented below).

On March 16th the Transition Co-ordinator was interviewed by Stephen Pettitcomb on CBC Information Morning. On March 16th and 17th the Cumberland and Parrsboro Councils authorized Warden Hunter and Mayor Smith to sign the Letter of Intent with the Province of Nova Scotia. On March 17th the Co-ordinator and Manager met with CAOs Bugley and Hickey to review the DAM, the Letter of Intent and the proposed post hearing schedule. Following this meeting they attended the signing of the \$5.3

million Letter of Intent with the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Parrsboro Council Chamber. On March 18th the Letter of Intent was filed with the NSUARB.

The Co-ordinator and Manager prepared the agenda for the Transition Committee and Joint Council meetings scheduled for March 24th. Witnesses for the NSUARB hearing were lined up. March 22nd the Board confirmed that no citizens had applied to speak at the Parrsboro evening session scheduled for March 30th. Another busy month has come and gone and much has been accomplished since we last met. All pre-hearing requirements of the NSUARB have been met. The NSUARB hearings once complete, the Board will deliberate and render a decision sometime in the next two months.



There was lots of food at the Meet & Greet the Syrian Family on April 10th. (Helen Tyson Photo)



There was plenty of room for everyone to mingle at the Meet and Greet Parrsboro's newest residents on April 10th. (Helen Tyson Photo)



Micheal Fuller sits with Tarek, Rena, Seba and Zaid at the meet and greet. (Helen Tyson Photo)

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