



Margie Allens' Natural Homestead Product table is full of beeswax candles, honey, balms and soaps at the Spencer's Island Farm Market in 2015. A customer is viewing Geneva's Art display. (Margaret Allen Photo)

Spencer's Island Farmers Market Resumes May 22

By Margaret Allen

The Spencer's Island Farmers Market, which started weekly operations in 2015, will open for the 2016 season on May 22, 1pm - 4pm, located in the Community Hall, 69 Beach Road in Spencer's Island. The market runs on a weekly basis until October 2nd.

The weekly market permits you to enjoy a bit of history while taking in the warmth and charm of the old school overlooking the Bay.

You'll find home baking, honey, jams, jellies and vegetables, when in season. There's embroidery work, knitting, homemade quilts and other unique items.

The local artisans go all out to make sure your trip to the Spencer's Island market is enjoyable. You will find art, homemade beeswax candles, balms, oils and soaps. Please join us, bring the family, walk the beach and experience the warmth of our community at the market.



Elaine Elliott's large selection of homemade jams, jellies, fudge and whatever you crave is a popular spot at the Spencer's Island Farmer's Market. (Margaret Allen Photo)

Cumberland Energy Authority a Project in the Making

By Maurice Rees

The Cumberland Energy Authority is a partnership between the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, and the Town of Parrsboro. An Inter-Municipal Agreement was formed between the Municipality of the County of Cumberland and the Town of Parrsboro in 2012.

In 2010 a study was established "Regional Energy Strategy for Cumberland County" which showed large alternative and renewable energy opportunities thus showed the need for partnership in the communities.

The objectives of the Energy Authority are:

1. The development and implementation of the Energy Strategy for the County of Cumberland;
2. The promotion, attraction, and development of renewable and alternative energy sources;
3. The promotion and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs;
4. The development of community sustainability through increased energy security, economic development, and environmental protection;
5. The establishment of the Municipalities as leaders in renewable energy use, and energy efficiency and conservation; and
6. The planning, development, construction, and operation of Special Projects. Wind and Solar unique to the Amherst area, Tidal power in Parrsboro and Geothermal Mine Water in Springhill.

It was intended separate agreements would be drafted for Special Projects. These Agreements would specify the details of large capital, projects such as ownership, management, operational, funding and dividends. Such project could include large scale Wind Projects or the development of the Geothermal Industrial Park in Springhill, N.S. and creating a Parrsboro Green Industrial Park.

In addition to large scale wind turbines and the development of the Geothermal Industrial Park (starting with the Scientific Study,) other projects could include developing a Green Industrial Park in Parrsboro (Wind and Tidal), installation of LED Street Lighting, development of a program similar to Halifax's Solar City, and Green policy development for the Municipalities.

The Cumberland County Genealogical Society

By Ruby Bjarnason

The Cumberland County Genealogical Society was formed in 2000, just in time to participate in the Yorkshire 2000 celebration at Mount Allison University. At that time there was no central location and no facility, but a lot of enthusiasm among the small group who had been doing their own family research and collecting related stories, newspaper articles, census records, etc. and keeping them in their homes. Then, as now, the membership was not limited to Cumberland County, or even Canada, but spreads throughout North America with a few in other countries as well.

By 2005 they were able to move into space in the Professional Building at 16 Church Street, Amherst, which includes a research room named in honour of a local historian, Ernest Coates. His widow, Audrey, cut the ribbon to officially open this room on May 19, 2005.

The group holds monthly meetings, alternating between Amherst and Springhill and co-hosts a presentation at Ottawa House Museum in Parrsboro every summer. Sometimes there are guest speakers at the meetings and at other times members share their research, talking about the people they found, the processes they used and the problems they encountered. "Show and Tell" events are also popular.

A few years ago the society took digital images of all the headstones in all the cemeteries and private plots in



Cumberland County. These are being combined with obituaries to create a cemetery database. A map of Cumberland County cemeteries has been completed. In another project, they interviewed seniors and created a collection of DVD's which have been very popular.

Susan Hill and Ernest Coates, both well known local historians and genealogists, acquired extensive collections as a result of their research into various local families and their records now reside with the society. Families have also donated books they have compiled about their ancestors. These are part of an extensive collection that includes early copies of the Amherst Daily News and the Oxford Journal, census records, court records, will books, death records, school registers and year-books, obituaries, maps, family bibles, phone directories, etc. They also have a collection of publications for sale including Death Records for Amherst and area 1909 to 1963 in book or on CD, Vital Statistics from the Amherst Daily News from 1905, 1906, and 1907. (1908 is on the radar), some cemetery books

and the cemetery map to name a few.

From time to time they hold Genealogy workshops and present "how to" seminars for the beginning genealogist.

Currently they are in the process of identifying centenarians and collecting information about the lives of people who lived to be 100 years old who have a connection with Cumberland County. They searched their collection and have found 263 so far from as early as Joseph Debarres who died in 1824 to many who are still with us.

They have searched census records and vital statistics to confirm names, dates and places but want to expand to include more personal information to better tell their stories. Where did they work? What were their disappointments or achievements? What did they do for fun? To what do they attribute their long life? They are also trying to include two pictures with each story from two different periods of the centenarian's life.

They have found that some

travelled the world while others never left their community. Some enjoyed music and dancing and many mentioned their love of reading. Many women took pride in their cooking and their home made quilts, hats, mittens, scarves, doilies, etc. - many skills required to keep the family and home warm and comfortable. Men often mentioned how they had to work, sometimes at many different jobs, to keep their families housed and fed - even travelling as far away as the wheat fields of the prairies. It is surprising how often memories of fresh made cookies come to the minds of those telling the stories. There was one amusing quote of a mother's advice about plans to marry a violinist. "Unless you marry a farmer, fisherman or lumberman, you will starve to death."

With luck and a lot of hard work, they are hoping to complete the stories and have a book available in time for Christmas sales.

To learn more about the Society, including their hours available for research, find them on Facebook or visit their web site at cccgns.com.



Audrey Coates and Susan Hill cutting the cake at the opening of the research centre. (Submitted)

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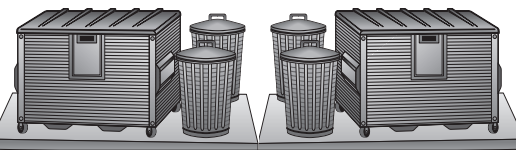
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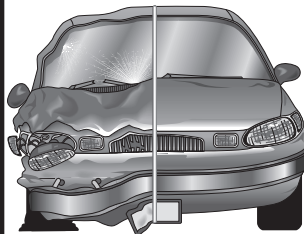
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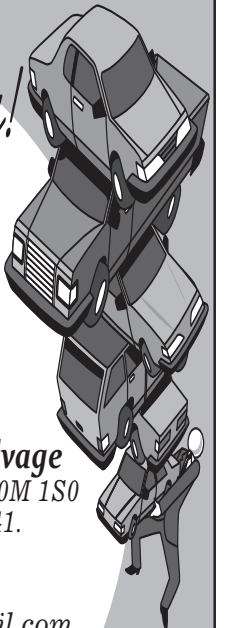
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