



FORCE director of operations, Anne-Marie Belliveau, emceed a panel of speakers including FORCE, developers, and the provincial government at a public meeting at the Hall, Parrsboro on March 31st. (Submitted)

19,000 Visit Interpretive Centre

By Maurice Rees

A crowd of approximately 50 people gathered at The Hall to get an update from FORCE on the tidal industry. Gerard Cormier and Tom MacLaren welcomed the speakers, FORCE discussed their FAST underwater monitoring platforms, which are now in sea trials in the Minas Passage.

FORCE also announced a new \$500,000 environmental monitoring program, with tenders out for four separate programs: fish, marine mammal, seabirds, and lobsters.

Developers discussed their progress, with one company, Cape Sharp Tidal, nearing the completion of two turbines and getting ready for deployment in Fundy in spring 2016.

Melissa Oldrieve, the province's tidal policy lead, discussed new legislation that sets rules for projects, including special areas for development, and the importance of environmental monitoring.

FORCE's facility manager, Mary McPhee, closed the formal presentations with an overview of activity and visitors to the site.

2015 was a banner year with over 5,400 people making the trek to FORCE. Since the Interpretive Centre opened, it has hosted over 19,000 visitors today. As activity increases with more turbines in the water, the Centre

is expected to be significantly increase visitors to the area. To date the visitor origins comprise 55% from Nova Scotia; 20% the rest of Canada; 12% from USA and 5% overseas.

Attendees had questions about local benefits, which Nova Scotia companies were working, and how the long term cost of electricity would come down.



FORCE facility manager, Mary McPhee, speaks to a full house on visitor numbers to the FORCE centre: over 19,000 to date, 45% from outside the province. (Submitted)

First Ever Parrsboro Trade Fair – May 7TH

By Maurice Rees

When winter passes and warm weather starts to arrive, Parrsboro evolves from its winter hibernation to welcome cottagers and thousands of tourists. Within the last couple of years over 19,000 people have visited the FORCE Interpretive Centre at Minas Passage.

However, on May 7th will get an early start as it hosts the first ever Parrsboro Trade Fair at the Fire Hall and the Legion for businesses and attractions all the way from Minudie to Masstown. The underlying purpose of the Trade Fair is to educate representatives from communities and businesses about what is available in the area, so

Limited FREE bus tickets available in advance.

Call Anita MacLellan 902-647-2312

everyone can become better ambassadors, thus making a visitors experience more enjoyable.

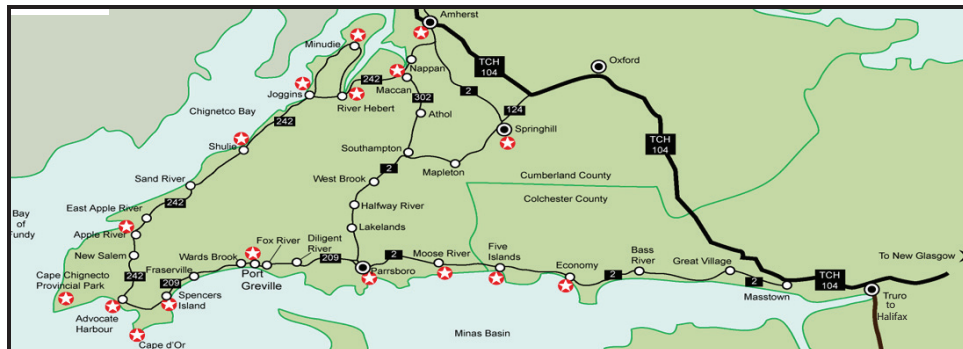
Each community has booked a table to display things of interest and some businesses will have their own. This is a familiarity show - a chance for far reaching communities to learn more about our shore and what we have to offer. This way we can

work together to promote and keep people on our shore longer. Free admission.

To make it easier for some to participate in the show, organizers have arranged for a bus to leave Masstown Market in the morning and picking people up at various points along the way.

Tickets must be obtained in advance. Bus tickets are free and limited and will ideally be used by people working with the public, however, we must ALL become good ambassadors for our shore and this will be a lesson well learned.

For information on how to get tickets call Anita MacLellan at 902 647-2312.



Parrsboro Shore Hospitality Trade Fair

May 7th, 9am-5pm, Parrsboro Fire Hall & Legion

Shuttle service available from Masstown & Amherst, info at www.town.parrsboro.ns.ca

Fundraising at Age of Sail Musuem

By Oralee O'Byrne

The Age of Sail Museum, Port Greville is working on 2 upgrading projects for this year. The first and most immediate is to provide adequate and cost effective heating in all the buildings for the comfort of staff and visitors. It is anticipated these upgrades could prolong the season and use of the washrooms.

Part of the plan would be to make the buildings more readily available for off season usage by the society and community.

The second project is the iconic Grandma display. It is 23 years old and in need of upgrad-

ing. Funding is needed to upgrade the audio equipment as well as the motor responsible for making her rock and the motion device to activate her. Grandma is by far the most memorable attraction, but after 23 years her equipment is failing resulting in scratchy audio and an overheating motor. As a result these upgrades need to be done this season.

As always we are looking into available grants that may help with these projects but a portion is always required from the society. Donations to these projects would be gratefully appreciated.

Arlene Collins Donates to "The Hall"

By Patricia Burke

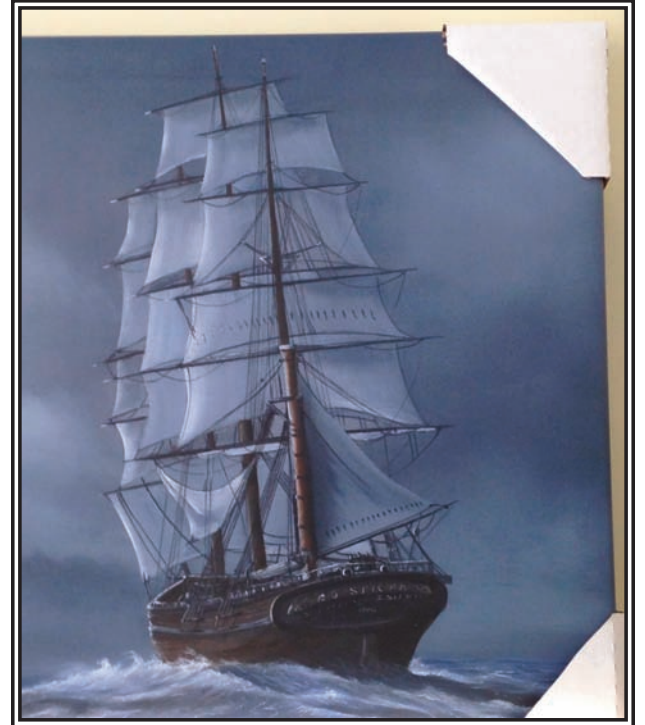
Artist Arlene Collins has once again donated to The Hall with a print titled "Spicer Scooner" to sell tickets on. Price for the tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

The print will be on display this year at Amethyst Boutique in Parrsboro where you can also buy tickets and at The Collins Studio in Diligent River.

Tickets can also be purchased at all the events at the hall as well and as well occasionally at The Co-op in Parrsboro and events that are held throughout Parrsboro.

This print will be drawn for at The Bernie Burke Memorial Golf Tournament, Fri. Aug. 19, 2016 at The Parrsboro Golf Club.

The Parrsboro Band Association would like to thank Arlene Collins for her donation of the print for a fundraiser.



Not even out of it's packaging, this shows the gift from Arlene Collins for the Parrsboro Band Society to sell tickets on. The draw will be made on August 19th. (Submitted Photo)

90 Students Visited FORCE on April 18TH

By Maurice Rees

FORCE continues to attract visitors to the Parrsboro area. The latest example occurred on April 18th when 90 students and 15 chaperones from the Spring Street Academy Elementary School made a tour of FORCE (Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy) as their end of year class trip.

Following nearly a two hour tour at FORCE's Interpretive Centre, the student participated in a Tidal Art Meets Science Class at the Parrsboro Legion. The class was conducted by artist, Darlene Morrison, in partnership with Minas Energy and the Cumberland Energy Authority. Morrison was assisted by John Woods, VP Energy Development, Minas Energy.

The session started with a short presentation on science and engineering principles

associated with renewable energy. However, the real attraction came immediately after when students were asked to apply imagination, manual dexterity and a love for art in creating their personal version of what is possible at the FORCE site.

Materials such as recycled plastics, bits of wire, modeling clay, straight pins, and discarded items that often find their way into landfills were transformed as young hands fashioned a marine scene that brings together the various

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