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# South Cumberland NEWS

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0  
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MAY 2016 \$1<sup>95</sup> + HST

**A.C. Collins Art Gallery**



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## Heather Lawson: World-Class Artist in our own Backyard

By Robert More

There's something special happening in Parrsboro this May 21 & 22. And one look at this stone carving by Heather Lawson tells you why. This sculpture is called "bird".

Its simplicity and evocative power is a testament to the extraordinary artist that Heather Lawson is. Not many with this kind of ability in the world and she lives in our own back yard.

Her gallery is on Hwy 2

just east of Bass River. If you haven't visited it, do yourself a favour and go. Believe me, you won't be disappointed. As soon as you walk in, you can't help but be struck by the atmosphere. Heather is setting up for the spring and

there are pieces scattered throughout the room. Heather Lawson is an original and every sculpture in the gallery is unique.

In her house, the light is bright and the space is filled with all kinds of interesting objects, paintings and sculptures. It's also a very warm and inviting atmosphere, and within minutes I find myself totally at ease, sipping a piping hot cup of perfectly brewed tea, all the while engaged in a highly entertaining conversation about her cat "Mr. Basil", her three highly enthusiastic border collies and a small herd of impressively hairy mountain goats.

After the "cook's tour" of her property, and after seeing the work in her studio, it's not hard to see why Heather has a reputation for being an inspirational teacher, the kind that students remember for a lifetime. Until this visit I had only seen pictures of her work. Now that I've seen them in real life, I am amazed. Heather Lawson is an artist who has found a way to breathe life into stone. Every one of her sculptures has a presence that radiates energy. After

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The photo above was taken from a drone. It was part of a special video presentation by NoKaOi Drone Guys aka at the Age of Sail AGM. They have desire to film, by drone all the lighthouses in Nova Scotia. They have been featured on Canada AM, newspapers around the province and on Youtube just to name a few places. (Oralee O'Byrne Photo)

## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2016

**Parrsboro & District Board** of Trade adopted a set of revisions to the by-laws and approved a new logo during the Parrsboro Board of Trade's AGM held Tuesday, March 29 at the Hall with Hon. Bill Casey, MP as guest speaker.

**Lyle Yorke** has been given a Lifetime Membership in the Parrsboro Board of Trade for over 50 years in business in Parrsboro. The presentation was made at the AGM on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Government is making** changes to ensure lawsuits arising from auto insurance claims are dealt with in a timely manner. The change means a lawsuit related to an auto insurance claim must be filed within two years, rather than the three years at present. This change makes the insurance rules consistent with the Limitations of Action Act, and common practice across Canada. Most claims for damages related to automobile accidents are resolved quickly and out of court. This change will make sure that court actions begin within a reasonable time frame. Two years is the norm in all other Canadian jurisdictions.

**Legal counsel** for the Municipality of Cumberland is working on migration of the Wentworth School property, which is in the process of being sold for \$1 to interested community Group.

**Three grape wines** from Nova Scotian wineries will be selected to receive the 2016 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines. The award, established by Lt.-Gov. J.J. Grant in 2014, recognizes the outstanding quality of locally sourced and produced wines and honours the commitment and craft of those in Nova Scotia's wine industry. The administration of the award is conducted in conjunction with the Winery Association of Nova Scotia and Taste of Nova Scotia. Those organizations will outline the submission process and criteria to their member wineries. Each winery is invited to submit up to three commercially available grape wines that have 100 per cent Nova Scotia content. The wines will be judged in June by a panel of 11 experienced, independent wine experts through a blind tasting process. The winning wines will be announced at an awards ceremony at Government House on July 21

**The Festival and Events Program** and two Events Nova Scotia staff will move from Tourism Nova Scotia to the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH), effective immediately. With the recent addition of Sport and Recreation to its mandate, and the transfer of the Festival and Events program and Events Nova Scotia staff, the department will serve as the "on-ramp" for all event requests. Criteria for the 2016 Festival and Events program will remain the same as last year. Application and contact information will be posted to CCH's web site in the coming days <http://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future>

## Ocean Sonics of Great Village, Creating Big Impact on Tidal Turbines

**icListen Smart Hydrophones** developed by Ocean Sonics, Great Village will play an important role in the Open Hydro turbine to be deployed at the Emera-Cape Sharp site in the Bay of Fundy later this year. Ocean Sonics has been testing its acoustic listening instruments in the Bay of Fundy for a few years now, and has worked with researchers from Acadia University since early 2012

Four of Ocean Sonics' **icListen Smart Hydrophones** will be mounted on the turbine base to detect the presence of sea mammals and fish nearby. The Great Village company's underwater listening devices can do this under a full range of tidal conditions.

The partnership of Acadia University and Ocean Sonics (as well as two UK companies) will produce an improved software and user interface that notifies personnel in real-time of the presence of fish and sea mammals, giving stakeholders a

better understanding of the interaction between the wildlife and turbines.

Mark Wood, Ocean Sonics, CEO says, "This is new ground for researchers, giving them a fresh view into wildlife behaviour around these machines". He continued, "We are excited to be part of this important event taking place right in our own back yard. We hope that when this project wraps up,

we will have an integrated product that combines the best of the Tritech Gemini Imaging Sonar and the icListen Smart Hydrophone. Our aim is to provide the best wildlife detection system available. We expect it to be used in a range of ocean environments around the world."

The overall project is directed by Emera Inc., and is expected to run until 2018.

Ocean Sonics is joined by Tritech, a UK company whose Gemini Imaging sonar can locate fish. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), based in the UK with offices in Canada is also involved. Each company contributes to the cost of the project, topped up by funding from OERA (Offshore Energy Research Association) in Nova Scotia, and InnovateUK in Britain.



This is all that remains of the large farmhouse belonging to Carolyn Cooper, Five Islands, which burned on evening of Friday, March 25th. The charred remains were still emitting some smoke on Tuesday, March 29th, four days later. (Rees Photo)

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