

# Did You Hear a Train Near Ottawa House?

By Harriet McCready

Anyone near the Ottawa House Museum in Parrsboro on April 7th might have thought they heard a train. In a sense, they did. The Parrsborough Shore Historical Society's Annual General Meeting was treated to the blast of a railway crossing signal, created on a large wooden whistle by Randy Mosher.

Those sonorous notes officially kicked off the Society's 2018 season theme: "Parrsboro's Last Train", marking the 60th anniversary of the last train to leave Parrsboro.

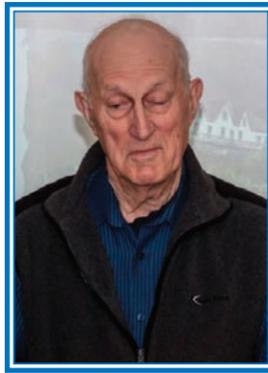
Mosher described exciting opportunities for public participation this season, including a ride-on model train pow-

ered by live-steam on July 14th and 15th and a modified re-enactment of the Springhill Miners' Picnic in August (bus tour in lieu of passenger train). Also in August, Ken Henwood of the Springhill Miner's Museum will speak at Ottawa House on the history of coal mining and the train which brought the coal to Parrsboro.

All this is in addition to new exhibits and popular annual events in a picture-perfect setting at Ottawa House Museum By the Sea. Highlights of a very successful 2017 were presented by board and staff members, including a balanced budget, a record number of visits, and nearly 11,000 volunteer

hours. Accolades were plentiful for the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the museum and archives (including staff, who volunteer in the off-season!). President Harriet McCready specifically expressed appreciation for the contribution of retiring board members Ray Hyslop and Kerr Canning.

Members also approved a budget proposed by Finance Committee Chair, Rosemary Rowntree and elected directors who will oversee operations for the upcoming season, the 24th year for Curator/Manager Susan Clarke.



PSHS Historian and master story-teller, Ed Gilbert, shared a "Moment in History", a tradition used to ground every meeting with a story that reflects the history of the Parrsborough Shore. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Parrsborough Shore Historical Society (PSHS) acclaimed a new board of directors at the AGM. Pictured above are: Front row (L-R): Bev Clarke, Harriet McCready, Rosemary Rowntree; Back row (L-R): Kerwin Davison, Randy Mosher, Ed Gilbert, Lauchie Currie, James Moore, Sandra Currie, Steve Johnson, Gale Boland. Missing from photo is Del Amon, who was away at the time. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Parrsborough Shore Historical Society's President, Harriet McCready, welcomed nearly thirty members and guests to the Annual General meeting at the beautifully restored Ottawa House Museum by the Sea on April 7th. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



James Moore of Truro, who chairs the marketing committee, shared updates on planned improvements to social media and web site marketing and thanked committee members for their hard work. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



It didn't take tradespeople long to install the flooring system for the ground floor of the new bakery. (David Beattie Photo)

## From Vimy to Juno Exhibition May 2-12

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #4 Joggins will host the travelling exhibition, From Vimy to Juno: Canada in France 1914-1945, May 2-12, 2018. From Vimy to Juno explores the connections between Canadian experiences during the First and Second World Wars and provides an opportunity for visi-

tors of all ages to learn about Canada's role in these conflicts. It also examines Canada's growth as a nation from 1914 to 1945.

Information panels, photographs and personal stories from Canadians who experienced the wars first-hand will be complemented by artefacts from the Joggins Legion and other Cumberland County military collections.

The exhibition will be available for viewing each day from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., May 2-12 at the Royal Canadian Joggins Legion Branch #4, 21 School Street, Joggins, Nova Scotia. Legion members will be on hand to lead individuals and groups through the exhibition. From Vimy to Juno features age-related learning activities for students of all ages. Legion Secretary Dara Legere says:

"We want to get the word out to as many schools as we can. This is something school kids should see."

An opening reception will be held at the Joggins Legion on Wednesday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m.; everyone is invited to attend.

From Vimy to Juno is co-sponsored by the Joggins Fossil Institute and is a national travelling exhibition created by the Juno Beach Centre in collaboration with the Vimy Foundation and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

For further information or to book a school or group tour of the exhibition, please contact Laurie Glenn Norris, Education and Outreach Manager, by telephone at 902-251-2727, ext. 224, or by email at [education@jogginsfossil-cliffs.net](mailto:education@jogginsfossil-cliffs.net).



Randy Mosher, board member and custodian at Ottawa House By-the-Sea, outlining feature events of the 2018 theme "Parrsboro's Last Train". (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Within four days at the end of the week, framing for the walls was erected awaiting the second storey floor system. (David Beattie Photo)



The landscape of Main Street Parrsboro is changing with the erection of the first floor walls at Two Island Brewing company taking shape on April 13th. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



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