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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2018

Are Nova Scotians lazy like Jamaicans?
Has Cumberland North, MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin inflicted damage on her quest to win the current Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party leadership campaign? According to reports in The Coast, Halifax on April 18th and transcripts in Hansard from debate in the legislature the previous evening, Smith-McCrossin is reported to have expressed her worry cannabis will make Nova Scotians lazy like Jamaicans. Among her many comments on Tuesday, April 17th during third and final reading of Nova Scotia's new Cannabis Control Act, Smith-McCrossin told the Legislature legalizing cannabis could potentially make Nova Scotians as unproductive as Jamaicans. The potential Tory leader also said cannabis is "well known" by law enforcement agencies as a gateway drug to other illicit substances and actions. Nova Scotia's Cannabis Control Act eventually passed its third reading 31-15.

Cumberland South Liberals to nominate
Cumberland South Liberal Association will hold a nomination meeting for the upcoming by-election at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre, Springhill on Sunday, April 29th. Registration 1:00-2:00 pm. Members will choose between Scott Lockhart and Brian Sanderson. Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance will be guest speaker.

Cadence to perform at "The Hall" Wednesday, May 9
The Parrsboro Band Association is pleased to announce "Cadence" a four man vocal band based out of Toronto will perform at "The Hall" on King Street in Parrsboro on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 8 pm. This Acapella group has been wowing audiences across the country for nearly 20 years. This group has performed at Jazz clubs, concert halls, music festivals, education outreach sessions and for corporate functions. The members of this group bring an infectious energy and uncanny verve to every song they sing. Cadence has won or been nominated for numerous awards including 3 nods from the Juno Awards and 10 from Cara, the Contemporary A Capella Recording Awards. Cost for the concert will be \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Tickets will be available from Amethyst Boutique, Parrsboro Home Hardware, Ken's Grocery and Lynda's Guys and Gals all in Parrsboro. You can also go to the halls website www.the-hall.ca and go to the on-line payments section. Major credit cards also accepted. You must be 19 years of age to attend. Bar facilities will be available.

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Elton John showed up at the Tides and Times event and took Rob Bentley's place. See more on page 4. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

Big Moon Gets Tidal Power Test Permits

By Maurice Rees
Big Moon Power has been granted two permits by NS Department of Energy to test their technology for tidal power generation. The initial permit is for a 100-kilowatt prototype that is not connected to the electricity grid for up to 14 months. A press release announcing the Permits was issued on April 12th.

The second permit will

allow the company to increase the size of its project in phases up to a maximum total of five-megawatts. This five-year permit is renewable if the company meets performance standards, environmental requirements and community engagement conditions.

In an email exchange, following a telephone interview, Jamie MacNeil, Country Manager, Big Moon Power

Canada said, "We will be installing a 100kw non-grid connected prototype within the next 6 months. We will operate the prototype for a period of time to evaluate it's performance, test our equipment and ensure everything is ready for the deployment of the 1MW unit which we hope to have deployed by the end of this year or early next".

The prototype is 12 feet by 14 feet and will be operating

off of Cape Split almost directly across from the Force location. "All aspects of the project have been designed, developed and will be manufactured in Nova Scotia with the exception of the high modulus rope and the generators which we can buy from wind suppliers", MacNeil said.

Department of Energy release on April 12th stated, Big Moon Canada Corporation (BMP) has proposed to construct a tidal power demonstration facility in the Minas Passage, along the north shore of the Blomidon Peninsula, Kings County, Nova Scotia.

The permit included the following clarification: "This system will include a temporary 100 kW prototype installation and a permanent 5 MW project, installed in phases. BMP's tidal power system consists of two main components: a novel land-based generator assembly and a unique unmanned, passive barge. The barge is connected to the generator by a high strength rope in such a manner that is submerged below the drafts of local boat traffic.

Power is generated as the ebb and flood tides flow, causing the barge to move away from the generator and cause the generator to turn for generating electrical power.

The generator assembly area will be on land along the north side of the Blomidon Peninsula which rises to an elevation of 130 - 150 m above the low water mark.

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After you dig a hole, it's time to pour the footings, then put in the foundation. That's exactly what happened on for the new bakery and craft brewery on Main Street in Parrsboro during the week of April 9th. It didn't take long for the newest construction project on Main Street, Parrsboro to show significant progress. Early in the second week, the floor system for the second storey will be installed within a couple of days. More photos on page 3. (David Beattie Photo)

Amazing Artists Coming to Parrsboro

By Robert More
An incredible line-up of talented artists will be making their way to Parrsboro on June 14, 15, 16, 17 to compete for more than \$6000 in prizes at the Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival. They're coming from: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New York State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, Massachusetts, Ohio and South Carolina.

"This is only our second year for this festival," says Parrsboro Board Chair, Michael Fuller, "and the level of the submissions has been impressive to say the least. We have some of the very best plein air painters in North America joining us this year, and our Festival Judge, Richard Snearly, is recognized as one of the top watercolour artists in the USA."

Parrsboro Plein Air is a

juried competition, and the entry standards are very high. The jurors, Joy Laking and Bill Rogers, master plein air painters in their own right, had many difficult decisions to make, but in the end came up with a juried artists list capable of creating inspiring work in only three days of painting.

Plein Air is a power-packed event, and the artists waste no time in getting to work. After signing in, they will head out to their chosen locations early on Thursday June 14, and they are required to complete all of their work by 5:00 pm on Saturday June 16. Then, every one of these original new pieces is framed and mounted - some with painting still wet! - for exhibition at The Hall, 44 King Street, in Parrsboro.

This sets the stage for the marquis event of the festival which is the Awards Night and Collectors Preview on Saturday June 16, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. A catered affair with

complimentary wine and delicious appetizers from the BlackRock Bistro, Awards Night is a high-energy, very entertaining evening which gives art collectors, dealers, gallery owners, and lovers of art in general the opportunity to have first viewing of all the new works, as well as the first chance to buy a painting. Tickets are \$100, but this can be put towards the purchase of a painting.

"The atmosphere in the building last year was phenomenal," says Parrsboro Creative Board Member Lori Lynch. "It was an exciting evening, and that was true of the entire weekend. People really enjoyed the Public Art Exhibitions on Sunday, and were intrigued by the artists painting all over Main Street during the Quick Draw Contest, a two hour painting contest which is open to the public with prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100."

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Jamaicans Important to Local Agriculture

By Bill Casey
It is ironic to hear recent comments questioning the work ethic of Jamaicans by Nova Scotian politicians. Farmers in the Cumberland-Colchester area arrange for hundreds of Jamaican temporary foreign workers each year in order to manage planting, cultivation, growing and harvesting their crops. They do so under a seasonal agricultural worker program that has been in operation for more than 50 years.

Many farms are unable to attract local Nova Scotia workers to do this difficult horticultural work and without the seasonal workers, they would be out of business, dozens of rural Nova Scotians out of work, millions

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