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# South Cumberland NEWS

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VOL. 3 NO. 12

MAY 2019 \$1.95 + HST

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## Parrsboro Plein Air Festival – Tops In Canada!

By Robert More  
The International Parrsboro Plein Air Festival (PIPAF) is now recognized as the top event of its kind in Canada. Plein air - painting in real time in the open air - is the fastest growing art movement in the history of North America. This June 20-23, thirty top painters will make their way

to Parrsboro to compete for more than \$8,000 in prizes, and they are coming from right across the continent: British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee,

Texas, and Washington DC.

The Parrsboro Plein Air Festival has also moved into the upper echelons of plein air competitions in the USA. "PleinAir Magazine featured an article called Dreams from Nova Scotia which gave it a rave review, and all the visiting artists have had the same enthusiastic response," comments Parrsboro Creative

Board Chair Michael Fuller. "Without exception, they have been swept away the warm hospitality, the high presentational quality of the festival, and by the spectacular location". Virginia Artist Lynn Mehta's testimonial sums it up perfectly: "Parrsboro is a Painter's Paradise".

"Our Plein Air Festival is a

"game-changer", says Parrsboro Creative Executive Director Robert More. "By attracting artists from across Canada and the USA, it has become a driving force in building an international reputation for Parrsboro as a major art destination, and it's also the perfect combination of art and cultural tourism. We believe that it's just a matter of time before PIPAF will draw large crowds of visitors whose spin-off spending will

pump significant dollars into the local-regional business community, a key factor in realizing the Parrsboro Creative vision of developing a vibrant cultural economy in Cumberland County."

The marquis event of the festival is The Collectors Preview and Artists Awards Night on Saturday June 22. This is the first showing of 70 brand new paintings - hot off the press! It's a high-energy, entertaining celebration. Judge for 2019 is Nancy Tankersley, an internationally recognized artist who is a central figure in the contemporary plein air movement. Tickets for Awards Night are \$100, which can go to the purchase of a painting, or \$40 for admission only. This provides an opportunity to purchase your favourite painting before the public arts sales, and it's also a chance to mix and mingle with the artists. Complimentary wine and delicious appetizers are included.

The following day, Sunday June 23, there are two Public Art Exhibitions, one at The

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## 4 Tragic Fires in New Salem

By Don Fletcher & Maurice Rees

The community of New Salem in Cumberland County is nervous after a recent number of structure fires. Recently 4 homes and buildings have burned, late night and early morning. This is keeping the small volunteer fire dept quite busy and concerned.

This reminds some citizens of a few years ago in Joggins. Sleeping with one eye open has become the norm.

If someone knows something please contact local law enforcement. Enough is enough! We are a small community and our seniors including myself are worried. We hope positive results will happen sooner than later!

(UPDATE by Maurice Rees)

A 31-year-old man from New Salem has been charged with six counts of Arson following recent fires in New Salem and Apple River, Cumberland County. On April 21 at approximately 12:30 p.m., Cumberland District RCMP and Advocate and District Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to a 911 call of a home on fire on Hwy 209 in New Salem. A man was outside the home when first responders arrived. The investigation determined the fire was suspicious and the man was later arrested without

incident.

Tyler Dara Stronge remains in custody and is scheduled to appear in court on May 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. He has been charged with six counts of Arson in relation to the April 21 fire and other fires at properties in New Salem. He has also been charged with four counts of Failure to Comply with a Recognizance. No people or animals were injured in the fires.

The investigation is ongoing and includes the following files: #2019252640 (home on Hwy 209, New Salem); #2019257033 (home on South Branch Rd., New Salem); #2019484938 (home on Hwy 209, New Salem); #2019506201 (garage on Hwy 209, New Salem); #2019535096 (sheep shed on South Branch Rd., New Salem) and #2019541370 (home on Hwy 209, New Salem)

RCMP is asking anyone with information about these incidents to contact Cumberland District RCMP at 902 254-2424. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at [www.crimestoppers.ns.ca](http://www.crimestoppers.ns.ca), or use the P3 Tips App.

## Rob Milner Returns to Parrsboro

By Lawrence R. Nicoll

March 29 saw the return of Rob Milner and his wonderful chainsaw carvings to Parrsboro. Under a barrage of interested onlookers and

Robert Milner, Hilden, Colchester County started chainsaw carving approximately 20 years ago. He is shown here starting with a new piece of wood, when he visited Parrsboro on march 29th. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



## Cliffs of Fundy Geopark on the Edge

By Don Fletcher

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society recently announced their UNESCO Global Geopark application has been selected for evaluation in 2019! It's one of two sites in Canada to be evaluated this summer. Cumberland and Colchester Municipalities have joined together to direct this project to a successful conclusion.

From Apple River to Debert our rugged coastline, quaint villages and residents have so much to offer out-of-area visitors and residents. The initiative is seen as an economic development tool for the potential increase in tourists and many other the economic benefits to our

communities.

In 2020 we could be the newest global geopark in Canada! The newly formed Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society, as well as, the steering committee are working hard to prepare for the site visit. There will be numerous community engagement sessions to inform citizens about the upcoming visit and ways they can participate.

Get excited and spread the enthusiasm, and hope it is contagious! If you have questions, you can contact coordinator, Marlee Leslie at [coordinator@fundygeopark.ca](mailto:coordinator@fundygeopark.ca) or myself Don Fletcher, society chair at 902 392-2727 or [dfletcher@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](mailto:dfletcher@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca)

questions he continued to demonstrate his skill carving a number of additions to his display.

Chainsaw carving is a labour of love for Truro area man, who has created a "wooden" wildlife sanctuary in a meadow near his home in Hilden. There's animals of all kinds - bears, eagles, falcons and owls.

When in Parrsboro, while he continued demonstrating his chainsaw skills, he also discussed how to both cut and know where wood over time might crack if not treated, and gave clues as to the proper gear for carving.

Milner, an Amherst native who lives in the Truro area, carved out a passion for his craft more than 20 years ago almost by accident. While cutting firewood, he quickly realized he was skilled with a chainsaw and had a desire to create. He's been sculpting ever since and is the owner of Eternity Chainsaw Carvings.

The average make-time for Milner's quick-carve creations, such as an owl, is between two to four hours from start to finish. Other larger requests, however, may take up to eight hours

to complete, he says.

Milner, 43, says different carvings call for various types of wood. He prefers working with hardwood, such as maple and birch, but also understands the value in creating a carving from softwood, such as pine.

"Most carvers like pine because it's so soft and it works so fast, but it doesn't lend to the level of detail," he said. "I like working with hardwoods. It gives that extra level of realism."



If you prefer a black bear, full size adult or cub, or you have a fondness for eagles, Robert Milner can meet your expectations.

(Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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