

A Rocking Evening with Kevin Wood

By Sandra Stephenson

Saturday, April 13 was a rocking evening at Parrsboro's Two Islands micro-brewery and bar. With a presence large enough to fill a stadium, solo musician, Kevin Wood played to a small room of about 30 people. Beginning with acoustic guitar and slow-paced maritime songs, he warmed the venue and established a healthy volume level. Despite his chilly make-up as a skeletal Tim Burton type of pirate character, there's no mistaking the east coast warmth of Kevin's music.

As the evening progressed, he donned his signature crown of thorns - "people need to believe in something," he said. The music became more soulful, deeper, and enrapturing. A cover from "Misfits" and several of his songs from the 2022 album, "Salted and Smoked" were especially memorable, along with genre-bending covers blending styles and tunes. Kevin's original compositions include a lovely song, "Ash" with the familiar-feeling lyrics:

*"I should have listened
to the things you had to say.
If I'd have done these things,
we'd have never parted ways."*

Before closing time, he had told us of being the youngest of four brothers, of his first voice teacher and her friend's album collection, of playing The Band Hall as a teen and learning from the many musicians in Parrsboro. He told of the factory that is his day-job, and of composing poetry all the time. Kevin scratching down a song is a familiar sight to his friends.

Then he got out his white electric guitar, matching the black-and-white theme of his get-up, and rolled out a couple of heavier tunes. He likes to caution the older folks - unnecessarily, I assure you, as we created the modern live concert - that his music is loud and the words at times profane. It's probably out of respect for his family members that might be present! He identified some songs as "punk" and "rock and roll", but there's nothing much punky about Kevin Wood. He is not grunge, but class. He is not in your face political or violent, but heart-felt; one might even say visceral. He is not emo, but has a finely tuned voice that's alluring and layered. His guitar can be intricate: picking, strumming and using the resonance of the instrument like a musician who listens to what he plays.

Kevin has his own brand of maritime wit. The songs he writes are often nostalgic, lightly ironic, full of self-examination and a biting gusto for life. There is critique and even complaint, but it's



Kevin Wood during his appearance at the Two Islands Micro-Brewery and Bar. (Sandra Stephenson Photo)

light-handed. He does wicked covers of Neil Young and other Canadian song-writers, that do them proud. CBC scouts ought to be right on it.

Though he played alone at the Brewery on April 13, he is currently recording with a new band, ViscrA. The band, "Limits of Control" that produced "Salted and Smoked" two years ago (during Covid) is no longer together. Their CD is available, but you won't find it easily on the internet. Youtube has a video of "Salted & Smoked", and the CD can be ordered for \$10 from bandcamp.com's facebook page. Kevin plays occasionally in Amherst, by surprise almost in his home town of Parrsboro.

Parrsboro resident, Sandra Stephenson submits articles to South Cumberland News. She can be reached at: mostlyczam@gmail.com

30+ Honoured During Volunteer Week

Continued from page 1

plying for grants, he is also manager of the River Hebert District School junior soccer team, organizes school badminton tournaments for youth and is goalkeeper on the high school soccer team.

He contributes to the school food pantry and its breakfast program and the community centre front desk. Additionally, he serves as secretary for the River Hebert-Joggins and Area Development Association.

This year's recipients included: Alain Couture, nominated by the Parrsboro Radio Society; Anthony and Debbie Boudreau, nominated by the Minudie Heritage Association; April LeBlanc, nomination from the community at large; Barbara Palmer, nominated by the Wentworth Learning Centre Cooperative; Bea Harkness, nominated by the Tidnish Crossroads Community Association; Beverly and Eric Hunter, nomination from the community at large; Bill Martin, nomination from the community at large; Bonnie Boyce MacDonald, nominated by the Springhill and Area Lions Club; Clifford Hazel, nominated by the South Cumberland Adult Day Unit; and Chris St. Peter, nomination from the community at large.

Also nominated were: Christine Hodge, nominated by the Cumberland Y Service Club; Donna Weatherbee, nominated by the Wentworth Recreation Centre; Faye Spence, nominated by the IODE Cobequid Chapter; Harry Dow, nomination from the community at large; Helen Thompson, nominated by the Springhill Senior Club;

John-Adam Smith, nominated by the First Fenwick Group, Scouts Canada; Karen Dickinson, nominated by the Cumberland Geological Society and the Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show; Marchel Strong, nominated by the Advocate Fire Department and Patricia Burke, nominated by the Parrsboro Band Association

The last of those being honoured included: Rick VanSnick nominated by the Amherst Rotary Club; Russell

Springhill Heritage Group; Sandra Mayne, nominated by the Wentworth Recreation Centre; Thomas Trenholm, nominated by the Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society; Timothy Boyd, nominated by the Wallace Area Development Association; Dawn Aubry, nominated by A Hand Up Society; Linda Reid, nominated by the Cumberland Museum Society and Jill Meyers, nomination from the community at large.



The Municipality of Cumberland honoured more than 30 volunteers during its annual National Volunteer Week dinner in Springhill on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Mayor Murray Scott is shown with the municipality's representative volunteer Kyla Cardinal and representative youth volunteer Alex Poplar. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

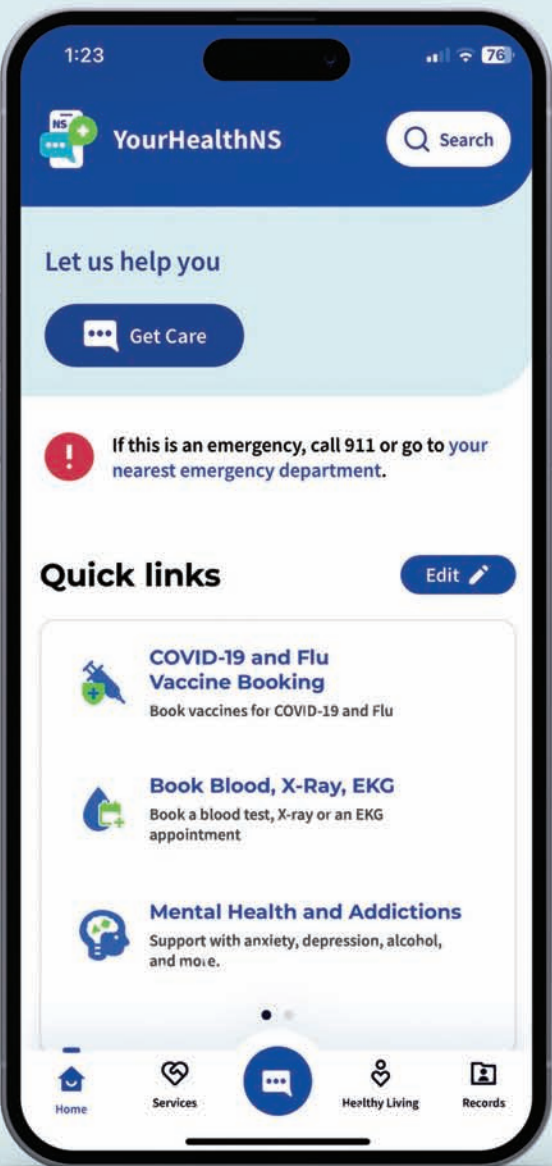
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