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# South Cumberland NEWS

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It was Friday April 19 and Bay Burgers Food Truck was open in Parrsboro just off Main St. Ken Wood was creating candy floss and it was free to all the children who were delighted. This was an all day event. It was fun and great opener to the 2024 season. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

## Springhill Man Charged with Firearms Offences

Cumberland County District RCMP has charged a man with multiple firearms offences in Springhill. On March 25, at approximately 1:45 p.m., Cumberland County District RCMP responded to an anonymous firearms complaint on Mechanic St. RCMP officers learned that a man was involved in a verbal altercation with a woman, known to him, when he drew and pointed a handgun at her. The man then fled the area.

From the information and evidence gathered, officers identified the 26-year-old Springhill man involved in the incident. On March 29, Cumberland County Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU), with assistance from the Cumberland County District RCMP, executed a search warrant at a home on Main St., in Springhill. At the residence, officers safely ar-

rested the 26-year-old man then located and seized two handguns, a replica firearm and ammunition.

Klase David Mitchell, 26, has been charged with: Assault, Mischief, Pointing a Firearm, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm (three counts), Possession of a Prohibited Weapon and Unauthorized Possession of a Prohibited Weapon

Mitchell was remanded into custody and then released on conditions imposed by the court on April 4. He will return in Amherst Provincial Court on May 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The investigation remains ongoing; Additional charges are anticipated.

Cumberland SCEU is comprised of officers from the Amherst Police Department and the Cumberland County District RCMP.

## 30+ Honoured During Volunteer Week

By Darrell Cole

Thirty people were recognized by the Municipality of Cumberland during the organization's annual celebrating of volunteerism as part of 2024 Volunteer Week celebrations at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill on Tuesday, April 16.

The theme of National Volunteer Week 2024 is Every Moment Matters. It highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment when we need support more than ever. The sharing of time, skills, empathy and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength and wellbeing of our communities.

"There are so many peo-

ple who volunteer their time across the municipality every day. You are the backbone of the municipality and what makes the municipality a great place to live," Mayor Murray Scott said, adding he believes Cumberland County has among the highest levels of volunteerism in Atlantic Canada on a per capita basis. "We are so fortunate to have young volunteers and as well as older volunteers and everywhere in between. They mean so much to our communities."

Kyla Cardinal, nominated by the Springhill Fire Department, was selected as the municipality's representative volunteer while Alex Poplar, a dedicated volunteer with the River Hebert Community Centre, was named

the youth volunteer.

Over the last two years, Cardinal has been an incredible force in her community, organizing food drives, raising money and food donations to support those in need.

Her dedication expands beyond food drives. For five years, she has been an active member of the Springhill Fire Department, contributing to the safety and wellbeing of her neighbours.

Sparky's Food Drive, a project she initiated, has achieved remarkable success by raising more than \$32,000 in cash and food donations for local organizations. She continues to lead this initiative with the assistance of the entire department ensuring the local food

bank and school programs receive the vital resources they need.

Poplar has been diligently writing and submitting grant applications for the River Hebert Community Centre. His recent success in securing an \$18,000 food pantry grant will directly benefit all residents who rely on the food pantry.

Beyond financial achievements, his impact extends to the sports community. His ability to inspire both badminton and soccer participants to strive for excellence while enjoying themselves has led to improved skills and elevated league standings.

Along with his work in researching, writing and ap-

continued on page 2



More than 30 people were honoured during the Municipality of Cumberland's National Volunteer Week dinner in Springhill on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

## Great White Sharks at the Hall

By Sandra Stephenson

(Editor Note: A CBC film on Great White Sharks was aired at The Hall in Parrsboro at 2pm on Saturday, April 27, 2024, followed by a discussion. Even though the film has been aired, we felt those who were unable to attend, should know about Great White Sharks because they do frequent the Bay of Fundy.)

Great White Sharks in the North Atlantic were placed on the Endangered list by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but according to Dr. Steven Crawford of Guelph University in Ontario, the numbers of sharks in Canadian maritime waters is on the rise.

DFO closed the window for public comment on their strategic plan for researching and managing great white population density and habitat this April. The plan sets the stage for trying to count, identify and tag sharks in Canadian waters, to determine in part what the risks to the shark population are. One risk that has been identified by DFO is

fishing.

In 2023 as many as 8 white shark corpses beached in the North Atlantic. At least two of those were on the shore of West Bay near Partridge Island. One was caught in the weir, another washed ashore with markings that may indicate propeller cuts. Fishermen in the Bay of Fundy have filmed Great Whites following their boats, even biting at the boats and swimming under them. There is no public information to date about toxic chemicals in these animals. By comparison, Beluga whales that beach in the St. Lawrence River contain so much toxicity, they are treated as toxic waste.

Sharks are fish, in that they cannot breathe out of water, but they give live birth like mammals. A 2024 Nature of Things documentary Jawsome, available on CBC Gem (40 mins.) shows footage of a shark in Passamaquoddy Bay that measures over 17 feet in length. She could be as old as 70 years, and still able to bear progeny. The film examines the presence of Great White Sharks in the

North Atlantic, particularly around Nova Scotia and off the Fundy coast of New Brunswick. It will be aired at Parrsboro's Hall on April 27th at 2pm, followed by discussion.

Great Whites have been in this area for thousands of years. Mi'kmaw burial sites contain sharks' teeth. In recent years there have been more sightings, and more concern for the safety of bathers at beaches. Sharks are thought to be unlikely to attack a human "unless they mistake you for a seal."

In the Parrsboro area, locals refer to the sharks that have been regularly in the harbour itself, by name. From 7 to 9 Great Whites are reputed to hang out in the Bay of Fundy annually, migrating to warmer waters in October, to return in spring. Three have been tagged.

Dr. Crawford hopes that a citizens' group will rally around the Sharks on the Parrsboro shore to help gather shark stories, fishing or boating encounters, indigenous knowledge, sightings; and to communicate with researchers.

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