



Parrsboro firefighter Dave 'The Hammer' Young stands beside the rescue truck he drives for the Parrsboro Fire Department. Young, who loves to cook, served close to 700 meals to people during the extended power outage following post-tropical storm Fiona on Sept. 23 and 24. (Darrell Cole Photo)



A photo from the Parrsboro Fire Department's Comfort Centre went above and beyond the call of duty in the days immediately following Hurricane Fiona. Allan Bennet, one of four who basically lived at the centre during the busy time arranged for photo of the crew at the firehall was instrumental in arranging the photo. Pictured above (L-R): an unnamed visitor, Ricky Smith, Allan Bennett, Dave Young, Delorian McIsaac and Tammy McIsaac. Photo taken by the visitor's wife, who is a member of the McCully family. (McCully Photo)

## Cumberland County Firefighters Meet Fiona's Challenges

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while the farmer's market and the Co-op also provided things like eggs, bacon and other food.

"People really appreciated it," Young said. "We were here when we were needed. That's what the fire department is all about, being there for the community."

Cumberland County Mayor Murray Scott said Young is an example of how fire departments across the county responded during after the storm.

"It's amazing how firefighters went to work from one end of Cumberland County to

the other making sure everyone was safe when the rest of us were in the safety and comfort of our homes," Scott said.

"Firefighters went above and beyond during the storm in the days following making sure people had a place to go."

Of the municipality's 16 rural fire departments, 14 opened comfort centres. Also, when the storm knocked out communications in parts of the county, all the departments had someone at their fire stations around the clock should someone have an emergency.

"People knew if they were having an emergency and un-

able to call 911 they could go to their closest fire department and someone would be there to communicate with the appropriate first responders," the mayor said. "That peace of mind means a lot when you're living in a rural community and you can't pick up your phone to dial 911."

**Darrell Cole is Corporate Communications Officer, Municipality of County of Cumberland and can be reached at 902-297-1333 or dcole@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca**

South Cumberland NEWS

## Parrsboro Fire Dept Goes Above & Beyond

By Lawrence R Nicoll

The lights went out, the heating ability ended for many when Fiona arrived in Nova Scotia in late September.

The EMO declares the start and end of operation for warming centres in Nova Scotia, a place to seek warmth, recharge cell phones/tablets to communicate and hot beverage to warm up. Parrsboro Fire went far beyond this basic providing a hot breakfast and supper continually until there was only a handful of people

in need of meals.

The comfort centre operated from daylight until dark, and at the beginning manning the centre even through the night. On Saturday was especially hard for people as much in shock as cold, that day they fed over 300 people and took meals to 47 seniors.

Donations from citizens, the CO-Op and others kept the food coming, and many volunteers spent time helping. There were four who spent every day, all day at the fire hall

and need to be mentioned:

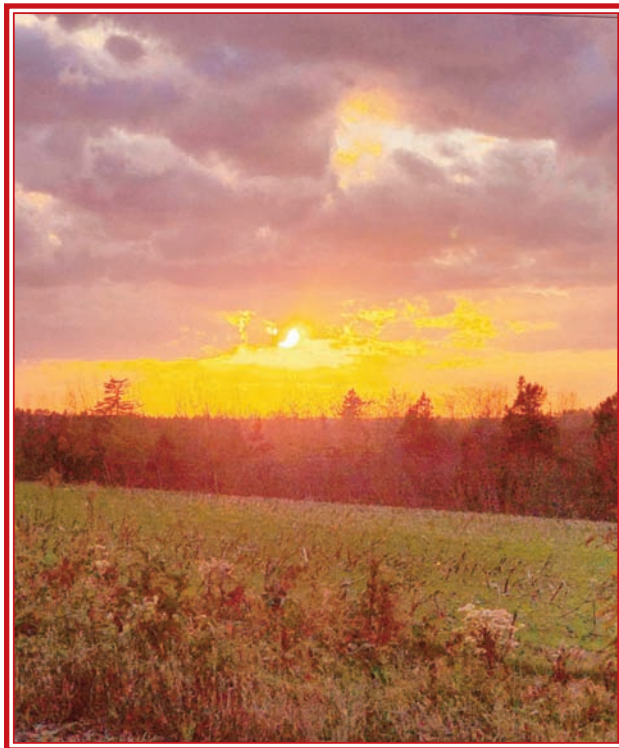
Tammy McIsaac, Dave Young, Ricky Smith and Allan Bennett all spent an exhausting few days serving the suddenly needy.

Health checks on many other seniors was also done. In a time of need, Parrsboro Fire Department filled the gap and stood tall.

They were helping to coordinate locations in need of tree removal for when the military arrived.



Parrsboro volunteer firefighter Dave 'The Hammer' Young, like countless others across Cumberland County, spent hours helping the community in the days following post-tropical storm Fiona. Young helped cook nearly 700 meals at the Parrsboro Fire Department. Darrell Cole-Municipality of Cumberland (Darrell Cole Photo)



The beautiful pink sky was on my way to work at 7am and the photo above was the sunset on the way home about 6 pm. Just about any time of day is a great time to have a camera handy. The world has so many beautiful moments. (Liza Madore photos)

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