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South Cumberland NEWS

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Parrsboro Gets 162mm in One Storm

By Maurice Rees

Recent storms prior to Hurricane Dorian created havoc with roadways and in the woodlands throughout southern portions of Cumberland County. From Advocate down to Parrsboro report rainfall in excess of 155 mm on August 29th. Peter Spicer, Spencer's Island says the heavy rains softened the forest floor so when Hurricane Dorian blew through, trees were unable to withstand force of the wind. He has reported hundreds, if not thousands of trees of all sizes were blown over or severely weakened.

On his trip out to check for damage, Lawrence Nicoll found extensive damage in several areas around Parrsboro. He reports August 29th was certainly a day to remember. Parrsboro received the most rain in the

Maritimes, 162 mm. Cars had to pull over and the roads were rivers

The Ottawa House parking lot was severely damaged leaving a cut nearly 4 feet deep, unfortunately some of the rain did reach inside as well. Smith Hollow Rd (extension of Western Ave.) had, for the third time, the house at the end completely cut off. The 20ft long culverts were washed approximately 50 feet away. The driveway almost 5 feet above the creek bed was totally exposed. Driveways and roadsides all over were badly damaged.

Lawrence did some further checking and a house he thought on Lamb's Hill would be doing just fine, but it was almost washed away.

This story was created with files from Lawrence R. Nicoll, Parrsboro and Peter Spicer, Spencer's Island.



Fire fighters battled the fire from inside, but wind pushed the flames up to the roof, on September 7th. (Shaw Photo)

Heavy rains on August 29th caused widespread damage throughout South Cumberland. Shown here is damage at Ottawa House. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Heavy runoff exposed an old wooden crib. It will take a while to correct all the damage from the August 29th storm. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Another large washout occurred on Smith Hollow Road. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

Lighthouse Road, Parrsboro did not escape the rush of the water from heavy rains on August 29th in excess of 155mm. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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Western Avenue Home Destroyed

By James Shaw

The Parrsboro Fire Department responded to the report of a Structure Fire at 2363 Western Avenue at 10:30pm, on Saturday September 7th.

Upon Arrival Crews

found the fire to be in the rear of the Kitchen. Crews battled the fire from inside, but with deteriorating weather conditions the fire ultimately spread from the kitchen area, to the upstairs of the home.

With the wind pushing the fire, it eventually overtook the roof.

Parrsboro responded with all four pieces of apparatus. Mutual Aid was sought from River Hebert, Southampton, Fpw, Five

Islands, Springhill and Economy Fire Department.

Members were on scene from 10:30pm until 7am returning at 9am for a Hotspot in the Front Room Area.

James Shaw is Chief, Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department.



Sanitation Harvesting Controls Infestation

By Peter Spicer

Bark Beetle causes a lot of damage. What has to happen to control bark beetle is what is called "sanitation harvesting."

I keep an eye out for any dead trees and then go in to that area and remove them and any infected trees in the immediate area.

Northern Pulp takes these trees for pulp wood and some mills will take it for lumber if it isn't too far gone.

That is why our lot isn't wiped out yet. Several neighbouring lots have been, or are being harvested.

Several lots next to Cape Chignecto Park have had to be liquidated (cleared) as they were pretty well destroyed.

This is the problem that isn't understood by the environmentalists.

Protecting land is great, but old growth spruce is very susceptible to bark beetle damage. This same issue has reared its head with the pine beetle in BC. The result is devastating.

Forest fires in British Columbia destroyed over a million hectares last year and the industry has been turned on its head.

Managed forests are better able to withstand the effects of climate change and the resulting insect infestations.

In this area we were one lightning strike away from a disaster before several contractors and Northern cut the areas west of the park.

It was done at probably at very little profit, but it removed the infected wood.



Once the fire on Western Avenue got up to the roof, it didn't take long to engulf the entire second floor and send flames shooting out the roof and windows. (Shaw Photo)



Lighthouse Road, Parrsboro did not escape the rush of the water from heavy rains on August 29th in excess of 155mm. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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