

Cumberland County Seeking Tips on Suspicious Fires

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Nova Scotia RCMP said police are continuing their investigation of all the fires. He is urging anyone with information on the fires to contact the Cumberland RCMP at 902-597-3779. Should they prefer to remain anonymous, they can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca or us the P3 Tips App.

"We are actively investigating these fires and we're looking into every lead we get and every bit of evidence," Marshall said. "Someone out there may think what they have isn't significant, but every bit of evidence is another piece of the puzzle and that piece of the puzzle that someone has may be the piece that puts it all together."

Besides the fire that destroyed the church, other fires include:

On Aug. 5, at approximately 5:10 a.m., Cumberland County District RCMP and fire responded to a report of a barn fire on Highway 321 in River Phillip.

On Aug. 12, at approximately 4:30 a.m., RCMP officers and fire responded to a structure fire on Silica Road in Williamsdale.

On Aug. 19, at approximately 6 a.m., RCMP officers and fire responded to a structure fire on Westchester Road in Rose.

On Aug. 25, at approximately 9:55 a.m.,

RCMP officers and fire responded to a covered bridge that was on fire near Mountain Road in Collingwood.

On Aug. 26, at approximately 1:55 a.m., RCMP officers and fire responded to a report of a structure fire on Wyvern Road in Wyvern

At approximately 2:35 a.m. the same morning, RCMP officers and fire responded to a report of hay bales on fire on Highway 321 in River Philip.

Great Nature related Apps available for you to Better Identify and Understand Nature

A Walk In The Woods

By Donald Cameron, RPF

(This article was previously published in the Cumberland Forestry Advocacy Committee (CFAC) September 2022 Newsletter)

Recently, when I asked my tech-savvy son Chris what he thought might make for an interesting column subject, he suggested nature related apps. I thought it was a great idea and wondered why I hadn't thought of that.

If you enjoy nature and carry a cell phone, you may be aware of some computer apps that are useful in helping you better identify or understand what you are seeing or hearing in nature. I am by no means an expert on this topic. I am simply going to review a few apps that I am familiar with and enjoy.

The all-star of the group, from my perspective, is INaturalist. It is a free platform in both a website and app form. INaturalist was established to help people identify and learn about plants and animals, using photographs that you take or acquire. It also provides a classic entry point to citizen science where the app user records the occurrences of the plants and animals and can choose to share the observations. The data can be easily forwarded to a global dataset of biodiversity information used for both science and conservation purposes.

INaturalist is compatible with iPhones and Android devices. It is especially useful for gardeners and nature lovers who want to learn how to identify plants and animals of virtually any type around the world.

Once downloaded from the App store, one simply clicks on the INaturalist icon; then click on the camera icon to prepare to get a photo. Then you can take photos of the wildlife until satisfied. The best photo is then used so that you then click on the "What did you see?" icon. This will provide you with the object



Donald Cameron, RPF

identification, other photos, and a detailed description. If you would like to submit it to the global database, you simply click on the Share button.

BirdNET is another impressive free app that literally recognizes birds from the sounds they make. As wild as it sounds, BirdNET uses artificial intelligence to be able to quickly identify nearly 3000 of the most common bird species in North America and Europe. All you need to do as a user is click on the app record button to capture the sound of your bird of interest. It will then identify the species of bird most likely making the sound.

Picture Bird is another cool bird ID app, that comes with a small cost.

eTick - the explosion of Lyme Disease and rapid spread of certain species of ticks across Canada has led to the creation of another citizen science app called eTick. The objective of the app is to provide tick identification to users ASAP. The user simply sends photos of ticks via a mobile device or the online eTick website for quick identification by trained personnel. The identification result is usually done within one day and will appear in real-time on a public interactive map so that visitors can see all entries for a specific area and time and/or examine individual submissions. All this occurs with individual privacy.

Check out the eTick map

that is available, and it will reflect the distribution of both the black-legged tick that can carry Lyme Disease, as well as the many other possible tick species. It is always good to be prepared in case you need such a service after you or someone you know, is bitten by a tick.

Skyview Lite is a free app that allows you to learn what is up above. No longer will you look up into the night sky and wonder what you are looking at. Once downloaded, all you have to do is point your IOS device at the sky to identify stars, planets, constellations, and satellites. This is a big hit around the campfire or beach bonfire at night...

There are many free magnifying glass and flashlight apps to choose from. They often come in handy when you need a light or to take a closer look at something, such as a small plant or a tick.

There are also many free weather apps available to allow you to plan activities, based on expected weather, which can be so unpredictable here in the Maritimes. I personally like Accuweather, and find it to be quite accurate and specific.

Finally, it's a good idea to be comfortable with a way-finding GPS based app to find your way around. There are apps such as All Trails, which you can use to find hiking and biking trails in a given area. Google Maps provides a great all-purpose app to find just about anything you would like.

Enjoy the technology, while most importantly, enjoy your time in nature. It's priceless.

Donald Cameron, RPF works out of the Truro office of Department of Natural Resources & Renewables

We Welcome Your Story Contributions.

Deadline for the November issue of *South Cumberland NEWS* is Oct 18



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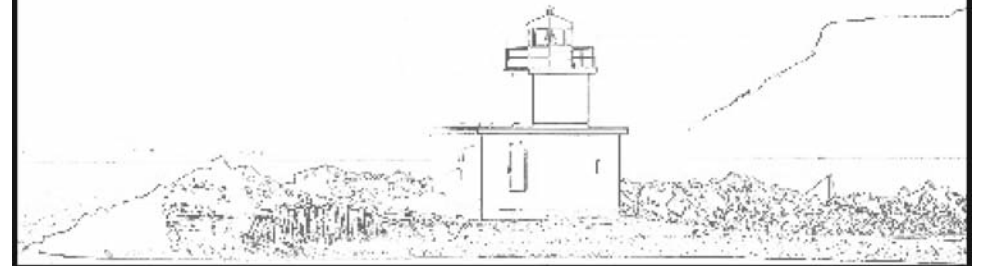


**TORY RUSHTON, MLA
Cumberland South**

Parrsboro Lighthouse Society

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, October 15th
1:00 to 4:00 pm**

The Annual General Meeting for the Society will be held at 'The Hall' on King Street, Parrsboro. Our speaker this year is Len Wagg on Tourism in Nova Scotia especially as it relates to Lighthouses. Everyone is welcome, a membership table will also be available. Help us to preserve our lighthouse. Hall opens at 12:30 pm



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