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# South Cumberland NEWS

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On September 10 a special event was held at Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum. Over tea & coffee people were encouraged to share stories of Queen Elizabeth II and to sign a book of remembrance. Those who attended had many wonderful stories to share.  
(Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)



## Cumberland County Seeking Tips on Suspicious Fires

By Darrell Cole

A series of suspicious fires in rural Cumberland County has the municipality's director of protective services urging people to report anything suspicious they may have seen in the area.

Bill Ireland said the outbreak of suspicious fires is troubling because it places a strain on the area's rural

fire departments and threatens the health and safety of community members and first responders.

"Because of the nature of our operations, it draws on the resources of not only the fire department that responds, in this case Collingwood, but it's also drawing on other fire departments, like Springhill, Oxford and Westchester," Ireland said. "It

doesn't leave those communities unprotected, but it's going to delay any secondary response."

Seven fires have taken place in and around the Collingwood-River Philip area since Aug. 5, including a pair of fires on Aug. 26 - one involving a structure fire on the Wyvern Road in Wyvern and another on Highway 321 in River Philip

that saw bales of hay set ablaze.

The latest fire, on Sept. 9, destroyed the former United Church building in River Philip.

The River Philip church was built in 1862 and was valued as an excellent example of a country church adorned with unusual design elements and Classical Revival features. The church is also valued for its association with the early settlers of River Philip and for the role it played in the development of the community.

The first Methodist meetings were held in private homes in River Philip and in 1827 the first meeting house was built for the congregation. The church was purposely built over the graves of John Black and his wife, Barbara, demonstrating the importance and high regard they were held in the community.

The River Philip congregation became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925.

While this fire and the others since Aug. 5 involved vacant buildings, Ireland said the risk to the community is too much.

"At the church fire there was a firefighter who suffered an injury. Every time you respond there is a risk involved," Ireland said.

Cpl. Chris Marshall of the



RCMP in Cumberland County are seeking information on a suspicious fire that destroyed a church in River Philip on Sept. 9 as well as a series of suspicious fires in the area since Aug. 5. (Submitted photo)

continued on page 4

## Changes at Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum

By Harriet McCready

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society is pleased to welcome Beth Peterkin as Interim Manager at the Ottawa House By-The-Sea Museum. She brings an impressive management background with not-for profits and community agencies, primarily in tourism-related businesses. As Interim

Manager she will guide the museum through the final weeks of the season, filling a key role left vacant by the resignation of Curator/Manager Sean Smith. We wish Sean well in his future endeavours.

Beth will be known to many through her most recent position as Executive Director of the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, where she demonstrated remarkable leadership in the early development of the organization. She also is an active volunteer at The Hall and The Ship's Company Theatre

With a background in marketing, finance, personnel management and event planning, Beth was an obvious



Beth Peterkin

choice for an urgent, short-term need. Fall represents a unique opportunity for programming at the Ottawa House, with local residents looking to enjoy the change of the seasons, and visitors and tourists appreciating a more

relaxed travel season than in the busy summer months.

Some new initiatives planned by Beth in the weeks to come include Monday Afternoon Teas, a book signing by Bruce Graham (October 2) and a full slate of activities on Thanksgiving weekend including harvest soup, homemade bread and desserts, beach walks and live music. For more information, you can visit our website at [www.otawahousemuseum.ca](http://www.otawahousemuseum.ca) or call the office at 902-254-2376.

Harriet McCready is President, Parrsborough Shore Historical Society and can be reached at 902-254-2092, [harrietmccready@eastlink.ca](mailto:harrietmccready@eastlink.ca)

## Cumberland County Will Hold Public Meetings on Policing

Submitted by Darrell Cole

*(Editor's Note: On September 6th the following information was distributed from the Municipal's office. The subject is so important to the entire County of Cumberland we wanted to present the entire picture. Even though some meetings have been held, others have been delayed for variety of reasons, especially Hurricane Fiona. We decided to print the entire original version. The Municipality will do anything within its power to advise residents when meetings are rescheduled)*

Cumberland County's re-

view of its policing services will take another step later this week with the first of five public engagement sessions in five communities.

The first meeting is set for Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Pugwash Fire Department with additional meetings on Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre; Monday, Sept. 19, at the Pugwash Fire Department; Monday, Sept. 26, at the E.D. Fullerton Municipal Building in Upper Nappan and Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the River Hebert community centre, located in the former Brookside Curling Club.

continued on page 3

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