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South Cumberland NEWS

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0
VOL. 1 NO. 10

JANUARY 2017 **\$1⁹⁵ + HST**

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Summer Student Deadline January 20TH

January 20th is the deadline for employers looking for funding to hire a summer student. The program provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create summer job opportunities for students aged 15 to 30 who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

Last summer the program funded 196 employers in Cumberland-Colchester from a budget of \$570,209 and created many valuable summer job opportunities for you

youth. Application packages are available on-line from Service Canada at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or from the Service Canada location in your community. The deadline for employers to submit applications is January 20, 2017.

Deadlines are earlier this year to ensure employers are notified early enough to do post-secondary recruitment for the summer job. Employers should find out in April if they are getting funding for a summer student. Anyone who needs help navigating the application process or has questions can call Service Canada at 1-800-935-5555 for assistance.



RCMP from the Parrsboro detachment nabbed the Grinch and marched him down the parade route. The men in red won the adult local non-business award. See story and pictures on page 2.

Cumberland Owed \$3,166,022 in Outstanding Taxes

By Maurice Rees

As of November 30th, the Municipality of Cumberland was showing property taxes owing of \$4,835,063 which included 5,203 properties. Of that amount 4,209 properties in the current category owing \$1,669,061. The worrisome part for council is the amount of \$3,166,002 for 814 properties that are far beyond the current stage. Of the 814 properties, 342 properties owing \$1,029,255 are in the

preliminary tax sale category.

Collections for the month of November were \$214,750, which is a 50% drop from the previous. Compared to November 2015 collections for November 2016 were down \$232,964.

Property taxes are not the only things being brought to council. Water taxes in Springhill and Parrsboro have caught council's attention. In Springhill the outstanding balance of water taxes was

\$260,066.29 as of November 30th. Staff had sent statements in early November. Meanwhile in Parrsboro, which became part of the municipality on November 1st, outstanding property taxes totaled \$156,601.48 at the end of the month. Staff are preparing files for tax sale for the Parrsboro District.

Outstanding Parrsboro Water Taxes at the end of November totals almost \$3-Million. Statements are issued

monthly with the actual amount owing being \$2,940.59. On December 8th shut office notices for water were sent to the delinquent accounts.

In a staff report to council dated December 8th, a preliminary tax sale report prepared showed a total of 439 accounts on the listing. A total of 259 requests for title search letters have been generated with a first batch of 55 requests were sent to the county solicitor on November 9th. Of the original 439 properties, 15 have been pulled from the list because there were either paid off, or a significant amount had been paid on the account.

A tax receivable analysis prepared by staff on November 30th, revealed the following: Current taxes, 4,209 properties, \$1,669,061; Preliminary tax sale, 342 properties, \$1,029,255; Payment arrangements, 248 accounts, \$1,412,026; Inactive or B/O Accounts, 38 properties, \$-3,315 and Owner Unknown, 45 properties, with \$48,491 being owed.

continued on page 3



Those who have a passion for photography and are willing to brave the weather will always find some great opportunities. Lawrence R. Nicoll captured this great photo of the Parrsboro Aboiteau. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

Is Beaubassin Cumberland's "Forgotten Jewel"?

By Maurice Rees, with files from Bill Casey

As stated elsewhere in previous issues Bill Casey's personal love of heritage, culture, history and the lives of our ancestors long before Confederation is an example of dedication and persistence which is unparalleled.

With Parks Canada now taking the lead and promises of an interpretive facility to be on-site for the summer season of Canada's 150th birthday things are moving ahead. How far they will go is unknown, but as interest mounts, it's fair to day things will happen just outside of Amherst.

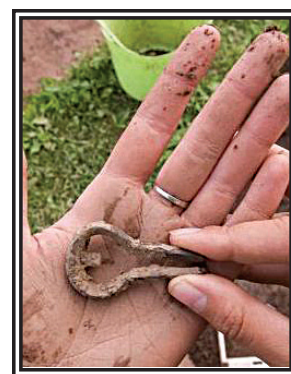
Casey's years of research and his desire for things to move forward quickly means that all of Cumberland and Colchester would be significant benefactors. In a discussion with Casey earlier this summer, he provided almost precise details, why "Old Barns" just outside Truro towards Maitland achieved its name. Without looking at any notes he could read off the

progression of the "Explosion of the Acadians" in 1755 from Tatamagouche down into the Annapolis Valley.

As the potential of Beaubassin grows, and as an aside, every community which may have been part of the 1755 activities, should ask their historical buffs and societies to lean toward Casey for details and ideas on how they would be able to capture some of the Francophone traf-

fic which will follow this incident to the "nth" degree.

It might be editorializing, but with Beaubassin on the NS/NB border and Debert's Mi'kmaq site as anchors, Cumberland, Colchester, Hants and down into the Annapolis Valley to Grand Pre over time can be the propelling forces, which drives Nova Scotia's tourism sector far beyond what is conceivable, on today's standards. What's needed is those interested in Beaubassin, Debert and Grand Pre should for a pact to see things through to the end. Costs might reach \$80-100-Million, but Halifax's new Nova Centre Convention Centre gobbled up slightly over \$300-Million far more provincial and federal money that all this would cost. It could be the way to revitalize the rural economy of Northeastern and Annapolis Valley areas and be the province's leader in developing new iconic attractions to



A Jew's Harp estimated to have been dropped in 1750 was retrieved in the ongoing digs since 2007. (Submitted)

continued on page 4

Parrsboro Dangerous and Unsightly Policy Repealed

By Maurice Rees

In order to unify how the Municipality of Cumberland would handle complaints concerning Dangerous and Unsightly Properties it was necessary to repeal the existing by-law inherited from the Town of Parrsboro.

Council was given notice of Council's intent to consider the repeal of the Policy of the former Town of Parrsboro regarding Dangerous or Unsightly Premises on December 7th, 2016. The action is recommended in order to ensure the Municipality, and its administrator of Dangerous or Unsightly Premises, can enforce the provisions of Part 15 of the Municipal Government Act uniformly throughout the Municipality, and in accordance with the Municipality's "Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Procedure" as adopted by Council.

The changes to repeal and replace with the municipalities existing policy were approved at council's meeting on December 14th.

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