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# South Cumberland NEWS

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## Xplornet Attends Port Greville Meeting

By Maurice Rees

Thirty five residents from the Port Greville / Diligent River areas along Hwy 209 who are craving for better internet service attended a meeting to hear presentations from representatives of the Municipality of Cumberland and Xplornet on Thursday, February 23rd.

The group held its first meeting in February 2016 and call themselves the "Down Shore Internet Group" and has had presentations from several politicians, internet service providers and others who have indicated a desire to help bring better internet service to the area.

Chaired by Bob Brown, who introduced, Corey Hallett, District Sales Manager Xplornet Atlantic Canada, who stated the mission of Xplornet, is to make affordable robust Internet available to every rural Canadian home and business. The company has over 300,000 customers nationally.

He gave an extensive overview and history of the company stating that Xplornet is the only Internet provider to supply full high speed coverage across Canada combining two technologies, Wireless and satellite being better suited for economically serving rural Canada.

Xplornet will be launching two new satellites which will compliment the three already in orbit and currently serving customers.

Customers have the choice to have a fixed monthly bill or pay for extra data at an extra charge per GB. The package customers require would depend on that number of

devices in the home. Due to existing satellite coverage Xplornet does not cover the area from Advocate Fire Hall to just past Apple River half way between Apple River and Joggins. Mr. Hallett was accompanied by Troy Henwood of Cumberland Satellite, Springhill who is an Xplornet retailer. He will make available information on the cost per month and the upcoming promotion to those interested in the Xplornet service.

Michelle Byers, Community Economic Development Coordinator Municipality of Cumberland County, was the second presenter during the evening. She explained her role and responsibilities as community economic development coordinator for Cumberland County. She discussed the special funding for Internet improvement and referred specifically to the submissions for two Internet towers in Port Greville. Seaside has developed a proposal and, if approved, the municipality will offset some of the cost to individual residents or businesses.

Many within the Down shore Internet Group feel their persistence during the past year has contributed to Municipality seeking additional funding. During the past year, the group has met with Seaside High Speed Internet on numerous occasions and is appreciative of the inputs from Seaside during that time.

At the October 13, 2016 meeting 26 residents from Parrsboro, Diligent River, Port Greville, Wards Brook and

*continued on page 4*

## Fire Destroys Wiligar Garage

By James Shaw & Maurice Rees

A supertime fire on January 27 destroyed a garage belonging to Duggie Wiligar. Parrsboro chief James Shaw says his members arrived on the scene at 5:42 pm, within six minutes of receiving the call. Cause of the fire is unknown, but believed to be

either electrical or from the boiler.

Upon arrival the garage was fully engulfed in flames. Volunteer members were faced with the situation flames had started to spread to two nearby buildings located 20 feet from the burning garage. Fire on another nearby garage was knocked down

within a minute of being on scene.

Parrsboro members were assisted with mutual aid from five departments including: Five Islands, FPW, Southampton each with tankers. RIT members from River Herbert, Joggins and Southampton also responded to the call.

Parrsboro RCMP were called to shut the road down road to make tanker shuttle more efficient. At its Peak, 30 Members from 6 Different Departments were on scene. Call wrapped up at 11:30am, when all gear was put back on Trucks, and everything washed. The work of Class A foam prevented any flair ups at the fire.

*Additional photos on page 3*



When RCMP closed Highway #2, firefighters were able to use a portable tank to off-load water from several shuttle tankers. Up to 30 firefighters were on the scene for approximately six hours. (Lawrence R. Nicioll Photo)

## Cultural Campus 2017 – A Creative Adventure

By Robert More

Parrsboro Creative's Cultural Campus is now "live" and ready to go. Last year's classes were a hit across the board, and early indicators are that the momentum of the 2016 campaign is carrying over to this season as well with classes selling well ahead of last year's pace.

Monika Wright's workshop in Abstract Composition & Colour is sold out, and the master classes in painting from Joy Laking and Wayne Boucher are not far behind.

The 2017 roster features a wide variety of opportunities for creative exploration with sessions in painting, stone carving, blacksmithing, pottery, basketry, photography, theatre, geological adventures, and music.

Ukulele devotees will be happy to know that negotiations are in their final stages to bring back ukulele wizard, James Hill whose session in 2016 was a phenomenal success.

"We had an impressive array of courses in 2016" says

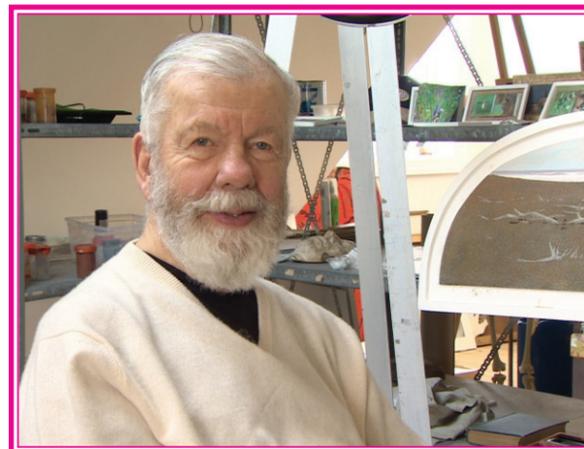
Michael Fuller, Chair of Parrsboro Creative, "and for 2017 we are offering an even greater number of classes with even more creative possibilities.

Every workshop is a high quality experience with instructors who are all established artists, and the whole program has been created to

attract all levels of expertise, from the beginner to the experienced, from the community artist to the professional."

In order to make the already rich tapestry of the Cultural Campus even more exciting, the 2017 courses will include hands-on instruction

*continued on page 5*



Tom Forrestall will be joined by his son, William, an accomplished artist in his own right. This course called "The Magic of Egg Tempera" is a five day session that promises to be one of the great creative adventures of the summer in Parrsboro. (Submitted)

## Beaubassin to be Ready for Canada 150

Parks Canada has informed Cumberland-Colchester MP, Bill Casey that the viewing park at Beaubassin Village will be open to the public in late summer. In earlier announcements, Casey was pleased to announce Maritech Construction, of Amherst, was awarded the contract last fall to build the park.

The park includes an open-air structure, walkways and interpretive panels, and parking for cars and buses. Casey has been working to have the site of the former Acadian village, razed by French soldiers in 1750, recognized.

"I am certain that Parks Canada will be impressed with the popularity of this park once it is opened," adds Casey, who says it will be a draw for tourists to the region. "This is only the beginning."

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