

Cumberland First to Make History

By Maurice Rees

Cumberland Council was the first to make Canadian history by being one day ahead of Colchester to approve the municipalities agreement to sign the contract binding the two municipalities together on a \$60.2-Million Broadband initiative which has been in the works for almost two years.

During the August 19th meeting approved two motions which approved proceeding and to sign documents as long as Colchester would be approving the same at their special "in-camera" meeting on the 20th. Cumberland's approval was held in an open public meeting, but council then held an "in-camera" session to discuss confidential parts of the contract with Xplornet.

In earlier announcements, it was revealed the two municipal unit were investing Municipality of Cumberland, \$3.21-Million and Municipality of Colchester, \$2.79-Million.

The \$60.2-Million initiative will enter the history books as the first agreement involving two adjoining municipalities who had developed a contract to provide high speed broadband, with 5-G capabilities, to all residences and businesses. The contract signed on Friday, August 21st by the municipalities and Xplornet Communications Inc, is believed to be the largest or one of the largest broadband contracts in Canada.

A public media spectacle for-

mally announcing the initiative and its joint signing with Development Nova Scotia is expected to be held before the end of the first week in September. The major problem facing the municipalities will be to "manage expectations" by residents and business owners, who want the service as soon as possible, but it will take approximately two years to complete the build-out.

The municipalities experienced their first presentation from Xplornet at a meeting organized by former MP Bill Casey and Maurice Rees, publisher of the Shoreline Journal and South Cumberland News. Organizers invited the Mayor / Warden and CAO's, municipal economic development officers, MLA and Deputy Premier,

Karen Casey and representatives from Develop Nova Scotia to a special confidential meeting in Masstown with representatives from Xplornet Communications Inc, which is based in Woodstock, New Brunswick.

When completed, the broadband network will make the two municipalities one of the most connected areas in Canada. To deliver this service, Xplornet will deploy fibre optic cable, as well as 5G-ready broadband infrastructure to its existing network, delivering fibre-to-the-home and wireless services to approximately 22,000 homes in the two Counties. This includes 16,000 homes as part of the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust (NSIFT), and an additional 6,000 homes outside

of the scope of the program.

The result will be access to affordable Internet packages, unlimited data, and speeds up to 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) and beyond, exceeding targets established by the CRTC. This project was made possible because of major investments by Xplornet, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester. Project funding and investment includes the following: Xplornet Communications Inc, \$34.3-Million; Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust, \$19.9-Million; Municipality of Cumberland, \$3.21-Million and Municipality of Colchester, \$2.79-Million for total initiative investment of Total \$ 60.2 Million.



Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival IN ISOLATION a Success

By Bruce Lantz

Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers report that the 2020 Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival has topped last year's numbers. Based on web and social media analytics, the event had over 7,000 in engagement and more than 1,300 in website traffic.

For the first time the festival, in its fourth year the largest of its kind in Canada, was conducted only online, due to restrictions put in place due to the virus. That forced the 30 artists from all over North America competing in the June 20-21 juried outdoor painting event to stay home instead of travelling to Parrsboro, on the shores of the world-famous Bay of Fundy, to paint scenes there.

Their work-in-progress was presented via video livestreaming, and images of the final artworks were sent via email for judging, followed by an online awards ceremony. The art was then made available for purchase on the organizers' website, www.parrsborocreative.com

This year, PIPAF IN ISOLATION artists outsold last year's

number with 10 plein air paintings sold online instead.

"Going into this we didn't know what to expect," said Parrsboro Creative's Executive Director, Jocelyn Li. "The board deserves credit for having the vision to make this happen despite the virus, and of course staff worked very hard. But the real accolades should go to the artists, who persevered despite the challenges of such an online event and really made it a success."

The winners: New Hampshire artist Debbie Mueller's "Suspended Service", Best in Show; New York artist Diane Leifheit's "Bog River Falls", 2nd Place; Washington, DC artist Thomas Bucci's "Caffe Pomeridiano", 3rd Place; and Debbie Mueller again for "Nubble Morning", People's Choice. Awards for Best Nocturne and Best Use of Light went to Nova Scotia's Wesley Lowe and Maryland's Alison Menke, respectively.

What next year's PIPAF will look like is unknown at this time, Li said, but all of this year's participants will automatically be invited back for a chance to explore and paint hidden gems

all over the Parrsboro area.

Artists from as far away as Florida, California and British Columbia participated in the festival, based on a French style of outdoor painting that captures landscapes and views in natural light, a popular practice for centuries that requires specific skills and techniques.

"The folks at Parrsboro Creative did a fantastic job," said participating artist David Lussier of Somersworth, NH in a post on his website. "In what seemed like the blink of an eye, they shifted their focus from planning a live event to planning an online festival that still had the focus on plein air painting."

Key to the success, Lussier said, was how the organization kept the 30 participating artists aware of their plans "every step of the way" and managed to give the website the "flavor and vibe" of a live plein air event.

"We are deeply grateful to the artists, and the sponsors, who enabled us to proceed with this year's event," said Li. "It was a lot of work but definitely worth it in the long run." For more information contact: Jocelyn Li at 902-728-2007 or

director@parrsborocreative.com

Bruce Lantz is Director of Marketing and Communications. He can be reached at 902-728-2007 or info@parrsborocreative.ca

Joggins Fossil AGM Sept. 17

The Joggins Fossil Institute will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. This meeting will be live-streamed from the Joggins Fossil Centre. Public attendance on site will not be an option for this meeting, but public attendance online is welcome.

For information on how to access the meeting online contact Laurie at education@jogginsfossilcliffs.net or 902-251-2727 Ext 224.

Happenings at "The Hall"

By Patricia Burke

So what has been happening at The Hall in Parrsboro since March? Not much some would expect. But just to the contrary, I would like to report. Rob Bentley has come up with a night of music each Sunday evening at 7 pm. He has called it "Social Distance Concerts." This idea is based at the hall and people send in their videos to Rob by Tuesday evening and he puts them together and runs them on Sunday evening.

Thank you to CICR who plays this series on Sunday evening at 7, Eastlink Cable 5 or go to www.thehall.ca and click on Social Distance Concerts. You can stay in the comfort of your own home to listen to this. We have had Cassia Bard-Cavers working at the hall for 8 weeks on a student grant. She was finished on August 21, 2020.

At the Board meeting in July Rob Bentley read a letter from Patricia Burke asking for a leave

of absence from the Board for a 2 year period effective August 15, 2020 for medical reasons. Patricia will stay on the Communications Team for the organization. This request was approved.

During the winter months the organization sold tickets on 10 lbs. Scallops. Regardless of how hard it was to sell tickets during COVID-19. The organization realized over \$500.00. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and the lucky winner was David Towns of Parrsboro.

Memberships are still being accepted. If you are a present member or would like to become a member go to the website www.thehall.ca and go on the membership icon. We would love to have you a member.

The Hall is still active and hoping COVID-19 will clear up soon so we can back to fundraising.

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municipality of
cumberland

REVISIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS

The Municipality of Cumberland Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020

The preliminary lists of electors (voter's lists) have been prepared for the upcoming election. Additions or corrections to the lists can be made by telephone, or e-mail.

To find out if you are on the list of electors please contact the municipal office(s) in Upper Nappan or Springhill between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. from August 10th to August 31st.

Ph: 902-667-2313 or Ph: 902-597-3752 E-Mail shoeg@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca or ccoon@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca You will be asked for your name, address and date of birth.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned will accept nominations for the following offices in the Municipality of the County of Cumberland for which an election will be held on the 17th day of October, 2020:

MAYOR

8 Councillors elected by district (One Councillor for each of Polling Districts 1 – 8)

AND TAKE NOTICE that a nomination shall be filed at the office of the Returning Officer, Rennie J. Bugley, **E. D. Fullerton Municipal Building, 1395 Blair Lake Road, Upper Nappan** between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on **Nomination Day** which is **Tuesday, September 8th, 2020**, or by appointment during the period August 27th – September 4th.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that electors in the **Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial** electoral district of Truro, which includes Truro, Colchester, Cumberland, Amherst, Oxford and Stewiacke, will elect one person to be a member of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial and a nomination for that office shall be filed at the office of the Returning Officer, who is **Kenneth Henderson, Truro Welcome Centre, Victoria Square (493 Prince St., B2N 1H5) Truro, NS, (902)898-2020** elections@truro.ca, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Nomination Day which is Tuesday, September 8, 2020 or by appointment during the period of August 27 – September 4, 2020 during regular business hours.

DATED AT Upper Nappan, Nova Scotia, this 17th day of August, 2020
Rennie J. Bugley
Returning Officer



6 McFarlane St., PO Box 250
Springhill, NS B0M 1X0

1-902-597-4039
Toll Free 1-833-597-8679
Fax: 1-902-597-3310

toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com



TORY RUSHTON, MLA
Cumberland South

OFFICE HOURS:
Springhill: Monday-Friday 9 - 4
Parrsboro: Thursdays
River Hebert: Tuesdays
Please call to set up an appointment.