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South Cumberland NEWS

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Parrsboro Fire Department's rescue craft on shore at Two Islands to rescue two girls and a dog. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Two Girls & Dog Rescued

By Lawrence R. Nicoll

Gary Ross from Dartmouth has a cottage in Two Islands and while travelling the beach on his four wheeler spotted the girls in trouble on the big island. They were going to try swimming across but Gary advised against that due to the currents and called 911. A call to Parrsboro Fire came in at 5:38 on August 15th for a water rescue at 2242 Two Island Road.

It didn't take long for Andrew Smith, Fire Chief and crew to gather their equipment. A rescue truck, side-by-side and boat responded and took the narrow path to the geological formations near Two Islands to the beach.

Chief Smith and crew launched the boat and rescued the two girls and dog off the larger island and brought them to the beach. The girls were from out of town, unaware of the danger the tides could present. They were, apparently, so embar-

rassed that after arrival on shore they disappeared quickly before any other information could be obtained.

Many local residents, and fire department personnel have strongly suggested there needs to be warning signs at the base of the trail to warn against any travel to the islands due to the rapidly rising tides.



Gary Ross called 911 to help rescue two girls stranded by the tides at Two Islands. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Two girls and a dog safe at last after being rescued by Parrsboro Fire Department personnel and an RCMP officer. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Geopark Celebrates UNESCO Designation

By Beth Peterkin

There are many good reasons for a party, but the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark had a special reason to celebrate. On Wednesday August 5, Board members and volunteers gathered with 150 invited guests to applaud the UNESCO designation which was received just a few short weeks ago. The Cliffs of Fundy has joined an elite group of only 5 Geoparks in Canada and only 161 Global Geoparks in 44 countries world-wide.

The event was held outdoors at Five Islands Lighthouse Park. Guests enjoyed a beautiful

sunny afternoon and a chance to celebrate, while adhering to all the COVID-19 precautions. Don Fletcher, Chair of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark and Councillor for Cumberland County commented "A great day and a special thank you for all the hard work to get us to this special event. We accept the challenge and will strive to be the best Geopark in the world. Bring on the visitors!"

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of pro-

tection, education and sustainable development. They are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organizations).

In the case of the Cliffs of Fundy, in addition to extreme tides, this is the best place on Earth where one can see the record of the assembly of super-continent Pangea 300 million years ago, and its breakup 100 million years later within the stunning landscapes that exist

today. "The Cliffs of Fundy will be a jewel in the crown of Canadian Geoparks, and certain to take its place among the premiere UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world, not only for its spectacular geology and the strong support of the community but for its respect for the Mi'kmaq people, whose home this has been for thousands of years" said Dr. John Calder, Chair of the Canadian Geoparks Network.

Visitors to the Geopark will also discover stories of Canada's oldest dinosaurs; of Mi'kmaq legends and the earliest human settlement in eastern North America; and of Canada's lead research facility for green tidal stream energy technology among the many attractions, experiences and geosites to explore. The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark stretches for 165 km from the Fundy Discovery Site in Lower Truro to Apple River with over 40 identified geosites, presenting many opportunities for tourists as well as local residents to visit and explore.

"As we have achieved this goal, the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, we recognize this is only the beginning; a door is now open to an array of opportunity and potential - potential to grow tourism and increase economic development; generate pride of place with our communities; retain youth in our rural areas; educate; and most importantly, showcase our extraordinary *continued on page 4*



Atlantic Tiltload equipment was used to remove equipment from the R J MacIsaac Construction barge in Parrsboro on August 19th and delivered to another barge owned by MacIsaac's in Sheet Harbour. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

MacIsaac's Barge Equipment Removed

By Lawrence R. Nicoll & Maurice Rees

Parrsboro Wharf has continued to be home to the barge which was used several years ago to lay sub-sea data lines and associated equipment for the demonstration turbines at the FORCE site. The barge is owned by R J MacIsaac Construction, Antigonish who removed some equipment from the barge to be used on another job in Sheet Harbour.

Darren Webster, a manager at MacIsaac's confirmed the company purchased the barge 12 years ago and brought it to Canada, and for the most part has been deployed in the Bay of Fundy. The company worked for FORCE in designing the site, laying data and power lines from turbine locations to on-shore facilities.

Anticipating more work in the Bay of Fundy, MacIsaac's left the barge in Parrsboro. They have additional barges and equipment located elsewhere for other jobs. On August 19th the barge equipment was

loaded onto Atlantic Tiltload equipment. A Tiltload representative confirmed they were working for R J MacIsaac's and delivered the equipment to a barge in Sheet Harbour.

Tidal power development in the Bay of Fundy came to an abrupt halt, when the multi-million dollar project was plagued with problems. The first turbine failed and was subsequently removed from the ocean floor. A second turbine was installed with much fanfare, but it failed within a couple of days, and sits abandoned on the ocean floor. Within hours of the second turbine deployment, owners were in courts in Scotland placing the company into bankruptcy.

Deployment contractors and suppliers, including many Parrsboro area suppliers of food and lodging were left with unpaid bills while lawyers and several levels of government were jockeying for position as to who was responsible. Most local suppliers were eventually paid, but many marine contractors involved in deployment of

the second demonstration turbine are still owed large amounts.

The experience placed a

scar on project enthusiasm as hopes were dashed for potential economic benefit and a

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Masks for grade 4 and up

By Maurice Rees

To combat Covid-19 in the schools the province is setting aside \$40 million for more teachers, cleaners, and supplies. But is not the big news.

Students who have not been in the classroom for six months will be required to wear masks if they are between grades 4-12. All students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear a mask inside schools except if they are seated at their desks while two metres apart and facing in the same direction. They must also be worn in hallways and other common areas if a two-metre distance cannot be maintained.

Staff must follow the government's mandate announced on August 9th, by wearing masks when social distancing isn't

possible. Nova Scotia's original plan had mandated masks only for older students and only in hallways.

Education Minister Zach Churchill announced \$40 million will be spent to hire more teachers, cleaners and other staff, as well as supplies such as masks.

Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, said he "fully expects" there will be COVID-19 cases in schools and the goal will be to keep case numbers as low as possible.

Additional measures and information for families ahead of September include:

- school-by-school ventilation maintenance will take *continued on page 4*

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