



Dylan MacIsaac (left) of Iron Maple Constructors and Pugwash Library project lead Roger MacIsaac look over the newly poured concrete. (Darrell Cole Photo)



Excavating work at the beginning of the project on the corner of Highway 6 and Durham Street in Pugwash. The new library will be completed by the end of October. Roger MacIsaac/Municipality of the County of Cumberland. (Darrell Cole Photo)

Pugwash's \$2.198-Million Library Project Taking Shape

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tractor is facing across Atlantic Canada.

He said the library will begin taking shape once the walls are in place and work moves inside.

"Our next step is to get the walls framed and the roof in place. Once we get the structure in place we can focus on the internal work."

Cumberland County's chief librarian Denise Corey is thrilled with progress.

"We're very excited and will be thrilled to move into the new library," Corey said. "I've seen the pictures that were in the RFP and they look great. Now that I actually see the foundation in place and the slab being poured, I can see that vision becoming reality."

Corey expects the library to

be ready for the public by the beginning of 2023 as it will take a couple of months to set up the facility once construction is completed in late October.

She said the new building, which is four times larger than the existing library, will provide so much more opportunity for the community. For example, she said, the new library will include program space - something the existing one doesn't have.

"Right now, the book club can only meet when the library is closed because there just isn't the space," Corey said. "The opportunities are almost endless."

Corey is pleased with how the community has gotten behind the project. The Municipality of the County of Cumberland is providing \$1.5

million with the community expected to raise \$500,000.

"The community has really supported the project and the fundraisers have almost raised the community's portion of the funding," Corey said. "That says a lot about the community and what a new library means to it."

There have been numerous discussions over the years about replacing the library with a new building. Earlier this year, the municipality announced its plans to move forward with the project. The Pugwash Master Plan proposed a community centre, valued at more than \$4 million.

Cumberland County Mayor Murray Scott said council made the decision that it was time to move forward with the project because it's some-



Darrell Cole

thing that's needed and a facility that will serve a lot of people along the North Shore.

"I believe this is more than a library, it will be a gathering place for the community," the mayor said. "A great deal of credit has to be given to the fundraising committee and the community for the support offered to this great project already".

"All Old-Growth Forest Protected"

Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables, announced an updated old-growth forest policy is effective August 18 all old-growth forest on Crown land is now protected as part of the Province's new approach to ecological forestry.

"Protecting our old-growth forests is part of our ongoing work to implement ecological forestry on Crown land in Nova Scotia," said Minister Rushton. "We believe this revised policy makes Nova Scotia a leader in protecting old-growth forests and demonstrates our commitment to prioritize biodiversity on Crown land."

For a forest to be considered old growth under the policy, at least 20 per cent of the trees must be the minimum age for that forest type. The minimum age varies from 100 years old for some types of forest to 140 years old. The forest must also be relatively undisturbed by human activity.

There are also certain areas where the Department has identified forests that are approaching the definition of old

growth. They are called restoration opportunity areas and are also protected by the policy.

The updated policy applies to all old-growth forest on Crown land that is not already designated as part of a protected area. The policy does not require protection of old-growth forests on private land, but the Department will work with private landowners, land trusts and others to support conservation.

Commercial and industrial activities are not permitted in

areas protected by the policy. Hiking, hunting, fishing, wilderness camping and harvesting plants for Indigenous cultural uses are permitted. The policy also includes a commitment to support education about old-growth forests.

Under rare and exceptional circumstances, an old-growth forest area can be removed from protection or certain activities permitted if it is in the public's interest. For example, land may be needed for the construction of a new hospital

or trees that fell in a storm may be a fire risk to neighbouring communities. Before the Department would decide on changing protection, the policy requires a 30-day public comment period and consultation with the Mi'kmaq.

The Department conducted a public consultation last year to revise the Old Forest Policy. Feedback from the forestry sector, environmental groups, the Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotians and other stakeholders helped clarify and strengthen the policy language.

Participants From All Over The Map

By Lawrence R Nicoll

Finally up and running again. The Not Since Moses Race was on full swing Sunday, August 14th with participants from all over the map. Well over 400 people ran in the 5K, 10K and youth race. The weather was cool although soggy at times but not a bad day for running.

As the pictures show, some ran, some fell and many energetically closed the race with a sprint. The event began in 2007 by Dick Lemon, who played a large part in raising the profile of Five Islands, and the adjoining islands. An iconic event of this nature was too much for the small rural community to handle, so Bluenose Marathon became the organizer. Under the guidance of Samantha Toulany, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Blue Nose Marathon the

2022 version was able to restart with plenty of enthusiasm, after two year Covid shutdown. Cliffs of Fundy Geopark also played a role in the day as the Not Since Moses event aligns with global geopark values.

Many local faces could be seen volunteering their time to help keep it all on track and all went home with well earned medals.



Photos of the 22nd annual show and shine provided by Lawrence R Nicoll, landscape photographer.



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