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## North Cumberland Health Care Centre Opens This Spring

Erin Forsey, NS Health



Photo supplied by NS Health

The new North Cumberland Health Care Centre is scheduled to open its doors in the spring of 2024.

The project team, along with the dedicated staff and physicians, are working hard to ensure that everything is in place for a smooth transition into the new building.

Over the next few weeks, clinical equipment is being installed and tested, such as booms and procedure lights. In March, staff and physicians will conduct a mock patient move exercise. The goal of this exercise is to validate a Move Plan that is currently being finalized, as well as test the communication plans and processes with partners.

In April, orientation to the new facility will begin for staff, physicians, and volunteers

and we expect the new furniture to arrive at this time. All exterior work is complete, except for fencing and laying of sods, which will be completed in the spring.

Nova Scotia Health is grateful for the community's patience and looks forward to celebrating the opening of the new North Cumberland Health Care Centre!



Visit [pugwashhealthcare.ca](http://pugwashhealthcare.ca) to view photos and video of the hospital construction.

Photo supplied by NS Health

## Member Pricing Returns to Pugwash Co-op

Pugwash Co-operative Limited will offer member exclusive pricing beginning just before the Easter Weekend and at the end of every month thereafter. Look for signage at the store entrance and member only price stickers on items in the store. If you are not currently a member, ask any of our cashiers for an application form.

In addition to receiving special pricing, members are owners of the co-operative and as such are eligible to be elected to serve as Directors and to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

From time to time, members are also invited to participate at special events. Members may also choose to participate in the weekly "snowball" community fundraising 50/50.



Helping to celebrate Johnny Cash Day at the co-op are (L-R): volunteer Barbara Clark, Co-op director June Beaton, principal Cyrus Eaton Elementary School Steve Wells, Co-op manager Steve Arkens, event founder Bert McWade and supporter Harold Patterson. Photo supplied.

Your co-op hosted a successful Johnny Cash birthday celebration fundraising event in February. We raised approximately \$2,400 for the Open Hamper Food Bank.

Pugwash Co-op is spearheading an effort to bring a credit union to Pugwash to ensure that local businesses and individuals have access to a full service financial institution following the departure of Scotiabank. Discussion is on going and looks promising.

Betty Ann Watts

## Solar eclipse on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>

This eclipse appear as a total eclipse in parts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. It will be seen as a partial, but almost complete, eclipse in Pugwash, peaking at 4:37pm.



Canada Space Agency

A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon comes between Earth and the Sun, casting a shadow on Earth. In Pugwash, the Moon's shadow will start covering the Sun from the lower right quadrant at 3:30pm. The Sun will be almost completely covered at 4:37pm. There will be a sliver of Sun visible as the Moon's shadow will continue to move towards the upper left quadrant. The eclipse will be over at 5:43pm.

It is essential to wear special glasses with filters designed for watching solar eclipses. If you don't have glasses, the safest thing to do is to not look directly at the eclipse at all.

The last total solar eclipse in northern Nova Scotia took place on July 10, 1972. The next one will be on May 3, 2106.

Staff/ [eclipse2024.org/CanadaSpaceAgency](https://eclipse2024.org/CanadaSpaceAgency)

## North Cumberland Historical Society

The volunteers of the Historical Society are still settling in to our new quarters. How wonderful to have people drop by and not have to huff and puff up those stairs, not to mention our own huffing. The office area is bright and warm, and we will be very happy in here. The only disadvantage is that we don't have room to display much. Our village model and the model of the Margaret King School remain upstairs. So do the bulk of our

archives as the space is really quite limited.

Moving has been our main focus over the last few months. We were featured in an article by the Nova Scotia Genealogical Society newsletter in honour of our 60th anniversary.

Hope you will drop by and see our new premises.

Dianne Elliott

A PRESENTATION ON  
**THE HISTORY OF THE PORT OF PUGWASH**  
 by Stephen Leahey  
(Preparatory to one for the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society in Halifax)  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2024**  
**6:30 PM**  
**THE PEACE HALL**  
 14 VICTORIA ST., PUGWASH, NS

Everyone Welcome Free. Refreshments will be served.

## Communities in Bloom Planning for 2024



The working committee of Pugwash Communities in Bloom (CIB) has been busy welcoming new volunteers, dreaming of new and exciting

initiatives and planning for spring, when the work for 2024 really begins.

We are looking at more ways to engage our community while helping our village look its best year-round. We are dreaming of projects that are inclusive and of benefit to residents and visitors while building on our historic assets. We are making plans to improve the tree canopy in the village which took a hit in the last two hurricanes. We are making plans to revitalize the streetscape by replacing the planters and window boxes around the village. We have been busy!

Here are two of the first public events on our agenda that you will not want to miss!

### Tuesday, April 23 - Communities In Bloom Fundraising Dinner At Inn The Elms

This annual dinner is an opportunity to support the work of CIB while enjoying the amazing food provided by Paul and Jackie deVries and catching up with your friends and neighbours after the winter months. Contact Stacie Fisher: [stacie.pablo.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:stacie.pablo.rodriguez@gmail.com); Tickets: \$50

### Saturday, April 27 - The Great Garbage Challenge

This annual litter pick-up invites everyone to help clean up our streets and roadways. Meet up at the Pugwash Farmers' Market site on Durham St. at 9:00am to pick up garbage bags and other supplies. This is a great way to show how much our community means to you and feel part of a group of enthusiastic volunteers who put caring into action! Contact: Mariana Nardy: [mariana.nardy@gmail.com](mailto:mariana.nardy@gmail.com) for more information.

Noreen Smiley



## Market Opening May 18th

Mark your calendars: Pugwash Farmers' Market returns for the season on Saturday May 18th 8:30-1:00.

The online vendor application form for the upcoming season will be made available in March.

Progress is being made in our Train Station space and we are "on track" to be able to share more exciting news about this project this spring - stay tuned!

For information and details about special events and market news follow us on Facebook or visit our website [www.pugwashfarmersmarket.com](http://www.pugwashfarmersmarket.com)

Marsha Amanova

## Pre-Primary Registration Now Available!



### Cyrus Eaton Elementary School

Pre-primary registration is now open for the 2024-25 school year.

The program is voluntary and open to all children who are at least four years old by December 31st, 2024, and live within school catchment.

To learn more and register your child today, visit: [https://www.ccrce.ca/programs\\_learning/pre-primary\\_program](https://www.ccrce.ca/programs_learning/pre-primary_program)



Canada Revenue Agency / Agence du revenu du Canada



The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is a collaboration between the Canada Revenue

Agency (CRA) and community organizations. The volunteers can prepare tax returns for individuals who have a modest income and a simple tax situation. Each year, community organizations and volunteers help over half a million Canadians file their tax returns.

The objective of the CVITP is to help eligible individuals who are unable to prepare their income tax and benefit returns by

themselves. The program and its services are offered free of charge to low or modest income families. The family incomes that qualify for free help suggested by CRA are:

Family Size	Total family income
1 person	\$35,000
2 persons	\$45,000
3 persons	\$47,500
4 persons	\$50,000
5 persons	\$52,500
More than 5 persons	\$52,500 plus \$2,500 for each additional person

See Page 9 for contact information for CVITP volunteers

CVITP{Staff}

## News from your MLA

On February 27, 2024, the spring session of the Nova Scotia Legislature began followed by the tabling of the provincial budget on February 29. Already debate in the House has been lively, at times even testy, and I anticipate the rest of the session may continue to be much the same. Nova Scotians are struggling in these difficult financial times and pressing the government to address inflation and rising costs is top of mind.

In preparation for the spring session, I held two town hall meetings in Cumberland North. The first was held in Amherst on February 8<sup>th</sup> with the second taking place at the Pugwash Library on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The Pugwash meeting was well attended with a variety of topics raised. Of particular concern were the pending closure of the Scotiabank in Pugwash, crime in the local area and the need for an increased police presence, the delay in opening the new hospital and the need for family doctors.

Matters raised at both of these meetings helped my team and I prepare the questions I am raising in the House of Assembly. Question period is the time when opposition MLAs have the opportunity to ask questions of government ministers, the time when we work to hold government ministers accountable for decisions and expenditures.

As always, I encourage residents of Cumberland North to reach out to my office if you have concerns with provincial government operations. Please call us at 902-661-2288 or email me at Elizabeth.Smith-McCrossin@novascotia.ca.

Elizabeth.Smith-McCrossin

## Thoughts from your Municipal Councilor



Jennifer Houghtaling, Councilor for District 3, Municipality of Cumberland County. Photo: Kaydance Smith

In our lovely rural village and surrounding area, it can make a person's head spin to try to keep up with all that goes on through the busy tourist season. We have traditional festivals and events that people attend from far and wide and a shore that in my humble opinion is the best place to be in the world on a beautiful summer's day.

While it seems as though Pugwash slows down for the winter, this is the time for planning and exciting new ideas that spring forward literally once the snow melts. It is amazing the amount of work that goes into planning, and the effort of so many volunteers that make our Village a destination for visitors.

The winter work looks very different than moving tables and setting up stages through the summer, but it is essential to making the season wonderful. Here is to the people doing the winter work and to a summer full of great things to do in Pugwash!

Councilor Jennifer Houghtaling



## ACTIVE WINTER FOR FOPE

Betty Hodgson

We had a very successful fundraising Dinner and Trivia Night on November 25th. Friends of the Pugwash Estuary (FOPE) is very grateful to John Caraberis and Bonnie Bond for providing the Peace Hall as a venue, Dianne Elliott and Doug Hunt for the trivia, Larry MacDonald for the bar, and to Natalie Coady and Susan Webster for going the extra mile on the Silent Auction. The funds raised will be used for the development of the Interpretive Center.

FOPE attended the Christmas Market at the High School, sharing a table with the North Cumberland Historical Society. We didn't make a lot of money, but we did make some good contacts.

Our hiking trails were clear through December and hiking was good until the windstorms blew through just before Christmas. Trees which were left leaning or damaged by Fiona fell and had to be cleared. Many thanks to Sarah Witney and the Trails Committee,

and especially to Bob Nogler who does most of the chain saw work and maintenance.

A successful snowshoe hike, co-hosted by FOPE and Hike NS, was held on February 17th. A group of 14 hikers and three guides enjoyed the sunshine and nice snow conditions along the Peace Trail as far as the picnic table and back again. Hot chocolate and cookies at Estuary House, rounded out a very pleasant afternoon.

The FOPE Annual General Meeting was held on February 25th. Organizational reports were presented and the financial statement and budget for the next year was presented and approved. FOPE remains in a stable financial position, however we are dependent on fund raising and grants to cover major expenditures and projects. The Outhouse building is largely completed and will be opened for use in the spring. Development of the Outdoor Interpretive Center will be a major project going forward and will involve

planning and fund raising. FOPE will be looking for involvement from the community and volunteers to help with this major project.

The nine member Board of Directors includes Chair Betty Hodgson, Secretary Marilyn Kinnear and Treasurer Eleanor Conrad. Bruce Madore joined as a new board member. FOPE would like to thank Mary Purdy, Susan Webster and Guy L'Ecuyer for their contributions while on the board.

The speakers from the Community Eelgrass Initiative were not able to attend the AGM because of the weather. We are in the process of setting a time for Taylor Seed and Kristina Boerder to come to Pugwash for a community presentation about the eelgrass program.

Our website is being redesigned. Keep posted through our Facebook site *Friends of the Pugwash Estuary* or emails to our membership. New members are always welcome.



**Pugwash  
Harbourfront Centre  
Eaton Park**



**DAVE GUNNING + J.P. CORMIER**

**MONDAY JULY 1ST CANADA DAY  
PUGWASH NOVA SCOTIA**

**8:30pm**

In the case of rain, music entertainment will be at the Pugwash District High School, 192 Church Street, Pugwash

## Tartan Banners

Macdonald, MacLean, MacLeod, Wilson, Munroe, MacFarlane, Ross, Mundle, McKinnon, Macnab, Gordon, Anderson, MacEwan, Duncan, White, Cameron, Henderson, Huston, Gillis, Gullen, Cummings, Cunningham, Jamieson, Brown, Blackie, Irving, Patterson, Pye, Wells and Weir are just some of the old Scottish family names still to be found in Pugwash. Many more are common names in north Cumberland.

Whether your ancestors were highlander or lowlander Scots, display your family plaid with pride as we remember our predecessors who came to this beautiful part of Canada. They settled in this area of new opportunities which also reminded them so much of home.

Celebrate your Scottish heritage with a colourful banner. For \$200 you can purchase a custom made banner of your family tartan that will be displayed in the Village through the summer. We can store it for you to use again next year or you can display it at home or the cottage.

Pledges are already coming in. Let's paint the Village in plaid in 2024!

Staff

## Bring us your ideas

We are always interested in hearing what other activities, games or fun events we could be trying - or bringing back. Send us your ideas and proposals. How can YOU help us make July 1st even better?

## We Are Looking for Volunteers for Canada Day

The population of little Pugwash multiplies tenfold on Canada Day. Every year, we are blown away by the 150 or more people who volunteer part of their day. They help welcome our important visitors, competitors, judges and dignitaries, they secure the parade and the fireworks and keep playing children safe. Full time and seasonal residents alike, from Pugwash and from all over this end of the County, help out and have all kinds of fun doing it. Join us! The sooner we can confirm our volunteers, the more time we have to spend on making this annual community fundraiser better and better each year.

**Gates** - the six entrance gates are essential to the smooth running of the festival and the primary source of revenue to keep the festival going. Each one is run by a not for profit group. To keep everything secure and not too tiring, it takes at least 14 people to run each gate in 2½ hour shifts from 8am to 9pm. In return, the Gathering will make a donation to that organization. We have some excellent experienced groups and this year we need at least two new organizations to each take on a gate.

**Bankers and Runners** - essential helpers to assist the chief banker to keep revenues secure.

**Highland Dance** \*\* - the very essence of the Gathering of the Clans. This is the oldest existing event and a large part of why the Gathering happens at all. We need people to help the judge and scrutineers.

**Pipe and Drums** - pipe bands and individuals come to Pugwash every year to compete in the competition at Thinkers Lodge. We need people here too, to help the Chief Steward and judges. We will also need a scrutineer to keep score of competition results.

**Heavyweight Games** - national and international champions come to Pugwash to throw heavy object around the elementary school playing grounds. We need help to keep things in order there too. We could also use some help filling in the "divots" the cabers and hammers make when we fill them in later in the summer.

**Parade** - we need directors, marshals and judges. Sometimes the animals leave a deposit that should be cleaned up.

Staff

**Bouncy Castles and Giant Sand Pit** \*\* - Sell wristbands for rides and help supervise around the inflatables and the kiddies playing in the volleyball sand. The area needs some preparation ahead of the event to make it safe and clean to use.

**Vendors** - help set up in the right spot early in the morning.

**Entertainment** - help out our stage manager and technicians or help with keeping the stage area secure while the bands are playing. Artists often have merchandise to sell and we could use help with that too.

**Publicity and Marketing** - we could use your marketing ideas or your energy to distribute publicity.

As you can see, there are many moving parts to this important festival. If you are part of a group or organization, an individual, family or couple, please contact Lisa Betts, Event Coordinator at [events@pugwashvillage.com](mailto:events@pugwashvillage.com) or 902.243.2946 and we can find you something to do on July 1st.

\*\* Requires recent RCMP check

# Services Directory

A wide range of public services are available in the area. Sometimes it is confusing as to who is responsible for which service.

We hope the information below will help speed up your search for a particular service. For the sake of space, this does not include all services available, just those most inquired about at the Village Hall.

Keep this sheet for reference if you like. A chart of services offered is also at: [pugwashvillage.com](http://pugwashvillage.com) > Government Services. If you cannot find the service you are looking for on this page or the chart, Village staff are happy to help you find the appropriate department, organization or agency.

staff

## Village of Pugwash 902.243.2946

- Tourism - Visitor Information Centre (VIC) 902.243.2498
- Beautification – flowers, banners, flower boxes, heritage/interpretive panels
- Website and social media platforms
- Recreation - includes
  - summer programming
  - Eaton Park & playground, Peace Park
  - tennis and basketball courts
  - volleyball court
  - Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day
- Sidewalks – maintenance and snow removal
- Carparks at the train station and waterfront
- Boat ramp
- Cenotaph
- Public washrooms
- Quarterly newsletter
- Snow removal – sidewalks and car parks
- Lighting – board walk and carparks
- Waste management (sidewalk and park litter)
- Village Hall includes: Meeting room, VIC, kitchen, free wifi, AED, first aid kits.

## Municipality of Cumberland County 902.667.2313

- Sewer – up to property line of service address. Solid metal utility (manhole) covers
- Water supply - up to property line of service address
- Library
- Recreation programming
- Street lights
- Fire services – flushing hydrants
- Police services
- Building permits
- Sunset Community
- East Cumberland Lodge
- Bylaw enforcement – noise, animals at large, unsightly and dangerous premises, dog and rodent control etc
- Solid waste – weekly pick-up, transfer station

## Province of Nova Scotia

**Streets:** pot-holes, line painting, signs, curbs where is no sidewalk, crosswalks, culverts, street snow removal, storm drains and associated open grid metal utility/manhole covers.  
 Public Works 1-844-696-7737 or by email at [dpw-cc@novascotia.ca](mailto:dpw-cc@novascotia.ca)  
**Health Care**  
 Hospital/Health Care Centre/clinic 902-243-2521  
 Need a Family Practice (doctor/nurse practitioner) Call 811 or go to [www.needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca](http://www.needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca)  
 Seniors Pharmacare 1-800-544-6191 or [SeniorsPharmacare@medavie.bluecross.ca](mailto:SeniorsPharmacare@medavie.bluecross.ca)  
 Complaints/Concerns 1-844-884-4177 or [NZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca](mailto:NZpatientrelations@nshealth.ca)  
 Continuing Care (long term care/home care) 1-800-225-7225  
**Education**  
 Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education Family of Schools Office, Springhill 902-597-4207. Central Office, Truro 1-800-770-0008  
**Community Services**  
 Social Assistance 902-667-3336  
 Sunset Community 902-243-2571  
**Burn restrictions** <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>  
**Water Testing** Department of Agriculture, 902-893-6565  
**Wildlife/forest** Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Oxford office 902-447-2115 or email [DNR-MILTON@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-MILTON@novascotia.ca)

## Government of Canada

- \* Police services
- \* Canada Post – including Community mail boxes
- \* Harbours and beaches – below the normal high tide line
- \* Social assistance, Canada pension and other income assistance.

## On private property, owners are responsible for the maintenance of:

- steps or ramp connecting to a sidewalk.
- private lanes, including snow removal.
- water supply line within the property area.
- sewer line within the property area.
- Enclosed electrical supply lines from the supply masthead.
- Surface water drainage. Landscaping, overhanging trees etc.

## Private corporations/business - numbers commonly requested:

- Nova Scotia Power – outages 1.877.428.6004
- Keep Garbage Beneficial (KGB) 902.243.3333
- Mundle’s Funeral home 920.243.2506

For more businesses, follow the drop down menus at [pugwashvillage.com](http://pugwashvillage.com) > Living in Pugwash > Business

## Emergency – call 911

- Non emergency issues
  - Pugwash Fire Department 902 243 2600
  - Pugwash RCMP detachment 902.243.2181
  - Pugwash Hospital 902.243.2521
  - Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue 902.243.3245

## Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations

There are at least 60 specific interest local organizations in the area. Please check out the Village website for a list. Most have a link to contact information about each group.  
 Follow the drop down menus at [pugwashvillage.com](http://pugwashvillage.com) > Living in Pugwash > Volunteer Organizations



Our team of dedicated volunteers continues to plan the 2024 HarbourFest. Dates this year are July 26-28th. Along with long time favourite events- canoe jousting, the Sinkers' Conference (aka the cardboard boat race), beach volleyball, the Salt Dash, the Friday night dance, beer tent, food trucks and lots of music, we will be showcasing some of our new events, such as log rolling, stand up paddleboard competition, children's events and more.

In addition to our HarbourFest weekend, we are continuing our HarbourFest Presents series of music in the park. This year we are excited to offer the Halifax band, Signal Hill, on August 15. This concert is free to all, as are most of the HarbourFest events.

HarbourFest will continue to partner with other community groups, such as Communities in Bloom, Pugwash Open Air Gallery, and the Pugwash Legion among others. This year we are again supporting the Setting Day event- in honour of our local fishers. Details coming soon.

If you or your community group would like to be a part of HarbourFest, please contact us at [harbourfest1@gmail.com](mailto:harbourfest1@gmail.com).

Kirsteen Thomson

### Village Commission Meetings

Regular Pugwash Village Commission meetings are generally held on the second Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Village Hall at 124 Water Street.

Village residents or visitors are all welcome to attend a Commission meeting. As in any government meeting, the public may attend but, if not included in the Agenda, may only speak if invited by the Commission Chair.

The Agenda is set by the Friday before the meeting and is published on the front page of Village website. Correspondence or a request to make a presentation must be received at least 14 days in advance of a meeting.

A projector and screen is available to assist in making a presentation. Please send any presentation materials for distribution well in advance.

For more information on meetings, go to: [pugwashvillage.com](http://pugwashvillage.com) > Government > Village of Pugwash > Meetings and Minutes



Cumberland County Transportation Services is a rural transportation service seeking to provide reliable, affordable and accessible transportation to residents of Cumberland County to where they need to go, when they need to get there.

Call 902.667.8149 for more information.

[cctscumberland.ruralrides.ca](http://cctscumberland.ruralrides.ca)



Cumberland  
CBDC

A Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) assists in the creation of small businesses and Startups, and in the expansion and modernization of existing businesses by providing financial and technical services to entrepreneurs. We can offer:

- \* Financial assistance
- \* Business counselling
- \* Entrepreneurship development and training
- \* Technical assistance

Watch our for exciting training opportunities in the next Village newsletter. Find us at: 902.667.5700 or 5 Ratchford Street, Amherst. [businessatlantic.ca](http://businessatlantic.ca)

## Spring Events

For more information on each listing, go to the page number in brackets.

### March

- 10th First day of Ramadan
- 10th Daylight Savings Time starts
- 11th Village Commission meeting (12)
- 17th St Patrick's Day
- 15th Wild fire season begins (10)
- 28th Good Friday
- 31st Easter Sunday

### April

- 1st Easter Monday
- 1st April Fool's Day
- 2nd NCMH Auxiliary (8)
- 4th History of Pugwash (2)
- 6th Tartan Day
- 8th Solar eclipse (2)
- 8th Village Commission meeting (12)
- 9th Last day of Ramadan
- 20th Spring Fling dance (9)
- 21st Pancake Brunch (Wallace)
- 22nd Earth Day
- 23rd Passover starts
- 23rd CIB Fundraising dinner (3)
- 25th Roast beef take-out (9)

### April, continued ...

- 27th The Great Garbage Challenge (3)
- 30th Easter Hike (7)
- 30th Income taxes due
- 30th Passover ends

### May

- 1st Gaelic Awareness month starts
- 8th Commission Nomination Day (12)
- 13th Village Commission meeting (12)
- 14th NCMH Auxiliary (8)
- 17th June newsletter deadline (10)
- 20th Victoria Day
- 22nd Commission nominations close (12)
- 30th Village Annual General Meeting (12)

### June

- 1st Commission Election Day
- 10th Village Commission meeting (12)

Look for cribbage, darts, Chase the Ace and Bingo times on pages 9 and 10.

### Line Dance Classes with Anna Jones

10am Mondays at NCCC - Starts May 6th  
Beginners and Intermediate. \$5  
10am Thursdays at Northport Community Hall (summer and winter)  
All welcome

## Easter Hike

STARTS 9:30 AM  
SATURDAY MARCH 30TH  
THE PUGWASH SALT EXPRESS TRAIL  
ACROSS THE STREET FROM CUNNINGHAM CONSTRUCTION



## Dance and Exercise

Walking Schedule for Seniors  
At Cyrus Eaton Elementary gym  
9:30 to 10:30am FREE!

March 5	April 17	May 22
March 7	April 23	May 28
March 18	April 25	May 30
March 20	April 29	June 3
March 26	May 1	June 5
April 3	May 7	June 11
April 9	May 9	June 13
April 11	May 13	June 17
April 15	May 15	June 19

## The Wallace Wentworth Pugwash and Area Community Health Board (WWPA CHB)

The Board (CHB) has been busy gathering information for our upcoming Community Health Plan. The Community Health Plan helps guide our work. We have had several conversations to hear from people in our area about what they believe would create healthier communities. We anticipate our new plan will be ready for winter 2024.

The Cumberland County Community Health Boards have been working together with Maggie's Place, the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, and the Town of Amherst to support hosting local food summits throughout the county and the first one happened in Pugwash at the library. It was well attended with great conversation and information sharing. The Summits have also taken place in Amherst, Oxford, Springhill and Parrsboro.

WWPA CHB, along with SOAR and SPAR, are partnering with the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, the Town of Amherst and the Town of Oxford to offer Learn 2 Lead. A series of workshops and sessions both in person

and virtual to help strengthen our communities. You can find information about Learn 2 Lead programming on their Facebook page [Facebook Learn2Lead Cumberland](#).

We are pleased to announce the Wellness Fund applications will be out in early March and closing in May. Our CHB has just over \$10,000 to give to local non-profits who are working to improve the health of our communities.

The Funds are intended to support our current Community Health Plan priorities which include mental wellness and sense of belonging, community engagement, connection and inclusion, healthy active lifestyle and supportive environment and thriving communities, prosperity and affordability.

You can find our wellness fund information and the board on our Facebook page *Wallace, Wentworth, Pugwash & Area Community Health Board* or at the website [www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/northern-zone](http://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/northern-zone)

Colleen Dowe

### West Pugwash Women's Institute

We have been quite active over the last few months. Our combination December meeting and Christmas dinner was held at Inn the Elms. Many thanks to Paul and Jackie for the delicious dinner, as always.

*Newcomer's Bags* is a recent project to provide lots of information and a little gift for anyone who has recently moved into Pugwash and area. If you are new to Pugwash, or know someone who is, please contact Judy at [judyturple@gmail.com](mailto:judyturple@gmail.com) or Tracy at [tstaudt2@hotmail.com](mailto:tstaudt2@hotmail.com) and we will make sure a bag is delivered.

Coffee Time Drop is being held

Thursdays from 1-3pm at the Pugwash Village Hall. All adults are welcome to come and have a cup of coffee or tea, a chat with others and maybe have a game of cards. We hope to see you there.

The West Pugwash Women's Institute is a local branch of an international women's organization that meet once a month for social time and organize ways to help and support those in need in our communities as well as meeting socially for picnics, dinners, parties etc.

We meet at the Pugwash Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1pm. Guests are welcome to drop in to a meeting to learn more.

Judy Turple/Sue Duncan

## North Cumberland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary (NCMHA)

March 4, 2024 marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Cumberland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. In the beginning, funds were raised through an annual Christmas bazaar, raffles, pantry sales, donations, etc. For the last 25 plus years, most of our funds have been raised through our Thrift Shop, with the online auction being added in more recent years. Donations are still very much appreciated.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2PM in the hospital boardroom, except for January, February, July and August. New members are always welcome.

Our Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday from 1PM-4PM; Thursday from 10AM-4PM; and on Saturday from 9AM-12 Noon. The online auction is posted weekly on Monday and can be accessed on our Facebook page at [ncmhathriftshop](http://ncmhathriftshop).

Winners of the draws during Christmas-by-the-Sea were Rosemary Rideout and Emily Demings.

Faye Moore

Marilyn & Friends' Feral /Stray Spay and Neuter Program

### Outstanding Funding Drive Revives Program

The first three months of 2024 have been extremely busy to the point where funds completely exhausted and a brief shutdown was necessary to look after the outstanding vet bills. Support from many kind and generous people came together, offering donations to clear up the outstanding balance as well as making sure funds are available to get the program up and going again.

I am still overwhelmed by the way people shared their hearts for the kitties. Winter is very hard for outdoor cats and kittens, but lives have been saved. Many are now warm and safe, all possible because of the kindness and support of wonderful folks from far and wide. I can never thank people enough for what they have done. Bless you all!

Marilyn Williams





### Royal Canadian Legion Peace Branch 60

Ken Cameron

**Cribbage** - 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. 1pm  
**Darts** - Friday evening 7pm. \$10  
**Chase the Ace** - 5pm Saturdays  
**Bingo** - 7pm Wednesdays (starts in May)

**Spring Fling dance** - April 20th 9pm to 1am  
Live music

**Canteen:** 902.243.2123

**Bar hours:** 2-6pm Friday & Saturday

New members always welcome.  
Check out our Facebook page for more news.

### Wildfire Risk Season

15th March to 15th October

No domestic brush burning or campfires are allowed between 8am and 2pm. The entire online map will be in red.

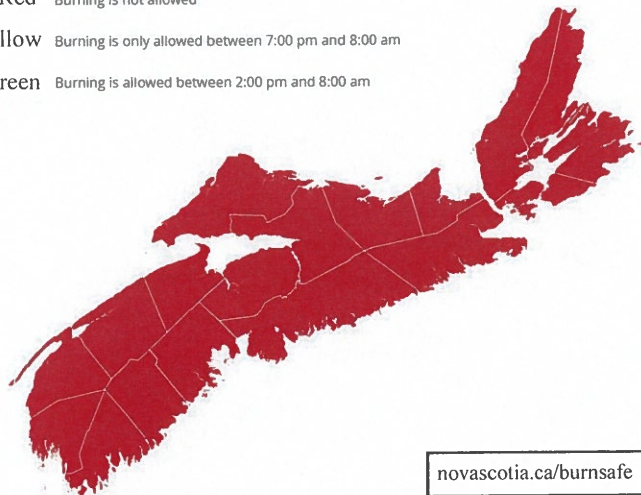
When burning is permitted from 7pm to 8am in certain counties, they will appear on the online map in yellow.

When burning is permitted from 2pm to 8am in certain counties, they will appear on the online map in green.

Burn restrictions are updated daily at 2pm.

You also need to follow municipality of Cumberland County Open Air Burning bylaw (21-06).

- Red** Burning is not allowed
- Yellow** Burning is only allowed between 7:00 pm and 8:00 am
- Green** Burning is allowed between 2:00 pm and 8:00 am



[novascotia.ca/burnsafe](http://novascotia.ca/burnsafe)



### Pugwash and District Volunteer Fire Department

Amy Laird

In December, the Pugwash Fire Department hosted its annual banquet where firefighters John Murray and Bob Messenger each received recognition for an impressive 50 years of service with the department. Firefighter of the Year was presented to Captain Kenny Casey.

On April 25, the department will be hosting a Roast Beef Takeout Supper. Tickets will be available through any member of the Pugwash Fire Department.

Pancake breakfasts will be hosted at the fire station in June and July. Please stay tuned for additional information including dates and times.

This August will mark the 30th Annual Mackerel Fishing Tournament. Additional information will be available in the coming months.

A reminder that wildfire risk season officially began March 15th. On this date, burn restrictions are in effect. No burning is permitted between 8am-2pm. Burn restrictions are determined daily and posted on the Burn Safe NS webpage or available by calling 855-564-2876.

The Pugwash Fire Department appreciates your continued support through the weekly provincial 50/50 draw.

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to join your local fire department, stop in at the station any Wednesday evening at 7pm.



Canada Revenue Agency / Agence du revenu du Canada



### Contact Information for tax help volunteers

- Tyler Levesque** [john Tyler Levesque@gmail.com](mailto:john Tyler Levesque@gmail.com) 613-807-3935
  - Albee Zhan** [kongking930@gmail.com](mailto:kongking930@gmail.com) 902-456-0145
  - Mentor Ramosaj** [mentor.ramosaj@gmail.com](mailto:mentor.ramosaj@gmail.com) 902-292-9138 (weekends only)
  - Vipul Patel** [vipul194patel@gmail.com](mailto:vipul194patel@gmail.com)
  - Jacob Mattews** [jacobkhai05@gmail.com](mailto:jacobkhai05@gmail.com)
- Or go call the Village Hall at 902.243.2946 for assistance

See page 3 for more information on this program.

## Pugwash Open Hamper Food Bank

The recent fundraiser was a huge success.

Over 100 contributors donated more than \$80,000. It is with such gratitude I wish to say the biggest "Thank-you" to each of you. Such generosity puts Open Hamper in a positive position for 2024 in dealing with the requirements of our ever growing client base.

We also wish to thank Mr. Lee Weir of Crossroads Cycle Sales for his ongoing support. He continues to cover our accommodation, allowing us to focus on food supply. It is heart-warming to belong to such a generous community.

There are presently 40 volunteers helping at the local food bank. The Sharing Kitchen is

back in operation on Wednesdays. Open Hamper clients and volunteers prepare a hot lunch which they enjoy along with invited seniors in our community. Leftovers are distributed in the afternoon when the clients arrive to collect their groceries.

We are hoping the Community Garden will be back up and running this year. Supplying fresh produce is a major bonus for the clients, as well as, community members. If anyone is willing to volunteer on this project please contact Dot Pal 902-664-8691

In closing, if anyone is in need of food don't hesitate to contact Open Hamper. It is open on Wednesdays 1-3:00pm in the Crossroads Cycle Sales building.

Judith Rickard

## Ross Hamilton



Ross Hamilton was born in Pugwash in 1889. While in active service in World War I he became part of the renowned Concert Party known as the Dumbells. His extraordinary talent as a female impersonator, notably portraying the character of "Marjorie," captivated and comforted audiences on French battlefields and beyond, making the Dumbells a post-war sensation throughout Europe and North America during the 1920s and 1930s.

Ross served in the Canadian army during World War 2, but in 1942 he was discharged for "reasons other than medical," a phrase often used as a euphemism for dismissing individuals due to their sexual orientation.

Ross went on to perform as Marjorie for many years and some may remember him coming home to Pugwash for the 1957 Gathering of the Clans.

Ross Hamilton's story is a testament to his enduring strength, talent, and unwavering commitment to bringing joy to those around him. A formal nomination to Canada Post with the aspiration that Ross will be recognized with a commemorative stamp has been submitted.

The Village Commission has agreed to send a letter of support in this submission to Canada Post. Individuals can also send a letter to: Chair: **Stamp Advisory Committee**, Canada Post, 2701 Riverside Drive, N1070, Ottawa, ON K1A 0B1

Mieke van Vulpen/ staff

# 123

Could emergency services find your home - at night - in a snow storm - in a power outage?

Help fire, police or EHS find you and your loved ones in an emergency by clearly posting your civic sign. The Municipality bylaw on signage states where these reflective signs must go.

The Pugwash Fire Department will sell you a sign and post for \$45 and, if you are in their fire district, will even put it up for you. Delivery could take 2-3 weeks. Call 902.243.2600 to order yours today.

Andy Yarrow / staff

## I♥Cribbage

Join us for a fun evening of Cribbage & Conversation

Wednesday Nights  
7pm  
October - May

Wesley St. Matthews Church Hall  
14 Church Street, Pugwash

\*\*\* \$5.00 \*\*\* Snacks \*\*\*

Single Players Welcome

## It Takes a Village Newsletter

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The deadline for our next issue is **May 17th**.

Maximum word count of 250. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. Submissions from non-profit groups only please. No business advertisement accepted. Photos or graphics will be used as space allows. Please source all information and photo credits. Please send in a Word document.

The newsletter distribution covers the Village and all rural postal routes serviced by the Pugwash post office.

Send articles to:  
villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com

For more information call:  
**902 243 2946** or visit  
<http://pugwashvillage.com/index.php/government/village-of-pugwash/it-takes-a-village>

## Mixed Palette Art Group

This fun group is a great way to spend Thursday mornings at the Pugwash Village Hall. No fee. Bring your own materials.

There is much to learn and we have lots of laughs.

Heather Cunningham

From Greg Nix

### Route Six Snowmobile Club

Route Six Snowmobile Club: Though the season was short, trails were mostly reported in fantastic condition for the month of February. Many locals enjoyed the groomed trails in Wallace (Quarry Branch Trail) and the Pugwash Salt Express, noting the continued improvement of trail etiquette between snowmobiles, ski, hike and snowshoe users. A very successful rally was held on February 24th despite a stormy day! We can't thank our business community and our rally sponsors, online participants and volunteers enough. The rally raised a much needed \$12,000! If you see one of these business owners, please thank them for supporting our trails and groomers and purchase their products! Our primary trails project is to support the trail permissions program on the Kate Tucker by moving the trail on the pipeline to the east and repairing some of the trail damage on private property. President, Greg Nix

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### Cumberland Trails Association

Due to an injury we have not had any formal hikes or events this Winter but hopefully soon. Valerie Brown, our local hike leader, is out most days on the Pugwash Salt Express and always loves company. Our Bunny Trail Stewards in Oxford continue to care for the trail daily and report icy conditions are improving. Summer work is currently being planned as well as our April Fundraiser which helps us repair and maintain the trail system. Our big project this year is to repair another large arch culvert on the Shortline (Trans Canada Trail). Other work will be to continue with drainage ditches and to upgrade the Salt Express to connect to our new restaurant in the Village of Pugwash! Finally, if funds allow, we hope to continue improving the link to Nelly's Grill. As always, we continue working with our partners in Parrsboro to make our hiking trails there more accessible at Ward's Falls, Jeffers Falls, Henry Brook, The Old Parrsboro Dam, Hidden Falls and Bumper Brook! Hope to see you on the trails soon! Check out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/933121780095660>

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### Nova Scotia Trails Federation

The Federation has been busy taking many calls throughout the province looking for support from floods and wind damage. If you are a trail group, it is worth joining the Federation. They provide a low-cost insurance for trails and often have free events/training. Check out their calendar of events and their Trail resource page with information about trails in Nova Scotia. We are in the Fundy Region if looking for area trail information. There is also some information on the media folder on the Cumberland Trails Association Facebook page. Check out: <https://nstrails.com/> Greg Nix- Fundy Rep

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### Hike Nova Scotia

A reminder to our hikers and walkers that the annual Hike NS summit is coming up this summer and will be held in Antigonish. Get accommodations arranged early. Winter hikes continue and several have been held in Cumberland County, including here in Pugwash, thanks to The Friends of The Pugwash Estuary! Check out their page for hike information in Nova Scotia at: <https://www.hikenovascotia.ca/> Greg Nix, Field Leader (Instructor), Nav/Compass Instructor

### No Wake Zone

**Boaters:** please observe the no wake zone in Pugwash Harbour. The outdoor theatre in Eaton Park is a good visual cue of the location of where speeds should be dropped. This is to avoid creating a wake that is damaging to the environment, docks and is potentially hazardous to other boats, divers and swimmers.

Have a great, and safe, boating season!

Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide / staff



## Northumberland Community Curling Club (NCCC)

A busy season at NCCC! Enough can't be said about the wonderful group of volunteers who put in so much time and effort for the benefit of all.

Our Turkey-spiel, December 1-2, was well attended. The "3-game" winning team was Team VanTheilen.

Our first ever New Years Eve Dance sold out in no time. Attendees danced the night way to the fabulous music of Scott and Rita of "Take 2". BIG thanks, Alex and Deb, for organizing this successful evening.

Our **Alice M Power Memorial Invitational** bonspiel on January 27-29 was another resounding success with Team Lovett Allen from Sackville, NB winning the trophy. This event fields 18 teams, with 6 slots available for NCCC.



L to R: Judy Lockhart, Judee Wellband, Michelle Barkhouse and Darlene Carhart. Photo supplied

The annual themed bonspiel has a **Wild Wild West** theme this year. Held on February 23-24 and hosted by "West of the Pugwash Bridge," the club was decorated to reflect the theme. Friday evening entertainment was supplied by several groups of local musicians and dancers.

Our AGM, held on January 21st, saw 3 members step away from Board duties. Thanks to Walter McCormack, Betty Hodgson and Beryl MacLean for their past contributions. Bill Munro, Mechele Scott and Alan Boddy stepped up to fill the vacated positions.

The club continues to see growth in our Little Rocks program. Our Juniors competed in the Regional playdowns in Antigonish in February.

NCCC recently hosted several "Intro to Curling" sessions for the Cyrus Eaton Elementary School, hopefully piquing the interest of younger curlers to participate in the sport. Plans are underway to host the same for the High School age group.

## Pugwash Village Commissioners: Who are they?

Pugwash Village has five elected Commissioners who volunteer their time to help decide what is going on in YOUR Village. To be a Commissioner, you have to live within Village limits and willing to give up a little bit of time to work for the sake of all Village residents. Terms overlap, thus elections are held every year for one or two positions.

**Brent Wilson** (902 664 8695) is the Commission Chair. Brent lives on Durham Street and works at Sunset Community.

**Sue Duncan** (902.243.2595) is Vice Chair of the Commission. Sue lives on Water Street. She and her husband Terry retired in 2017 and moved to Pugwash from Ottawa.

**Margie Anderson** (902 694 5133) email: [lindsayandme@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsayandme@hotmail.com) Commissioner since 2022. Margie lives on Water Street and is a retired teacher.

**Dave MacEwan** (902 694 8072) lives on Willow Street and also works at the Sunset Community.

**Roger Mundle** (902 243 2042) Roger lives on Water Street and is retired after delivering furnace oil to the area for 28 years.

### Pugwash Village Commission Meetings

Regular meetings are generally held on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. Come to the next meeting and find out what is going on in YOUR Village!

Meetings often include special presentations from local organizations and groups, the RCMP or Provincial representatives

If you would like to make a presentation, call the Clerk at 902 243 2946 or email [villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com](mailto:villagecommission@pugwashvillage.com)



**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin**  
MLA for Cumberland North

5 Ratchford Street, Amherst, NS, B4H 1X2  
or

124 Water Street Pugwash, NS, B0K 1L0

Phone: 902 661 2288

Fax: 902 661 0114

e-mail: [Elizabeth.Smith-McCrossin@novascotia.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Smith-McCrossin@novascotia.ca)

<https://elizabethsmithmccrossin.ca/>

MP for Cumberland Colchester  
Stephen Ellis  
902 - 667-8679  
\*\*\*

MLA for Cumberland North  
Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin  
902 661 2288  
\*\*\*

Councilor for District 3  
Jennifer Houghtaling  
902 297 1298

### Next Regular Commission Meetings

April 8th  
May 13th  
AGM May 30th  
June 10th

Village Hall Board Room  
124 Water Street  
7pm

## Village Commission Election Day 2024

Saturday, June 1st 9am to 7pm  
One vacancy

Nomination papers will be available May 8th. Complete nomination papers must be delivered to the Village office by 4:30pm, Wednesday, May 22nd. Nomination papers must include signatures from five Village nominating electors.

To be eligible for the Commission, a candidate must be 18 years old or older on the day of the election and a Canadian citizen. Candidates for the Village Commission must also normally reside within the Village of Pugwash and have lived in the Village for at least six months.

The same qualifications apply to electors. There is no advance poll or proxy vote permitted.

## Village of Pugwash Merchandise



Front licence plate \$10



GOC hat \$15



Pens \$5



GOC crest lapel pin \$5



Lapel pin \$2



Gathering of the Clans shirt \$20

Prices may vary as new stock is delivered

Cumberland-Colchester is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.



@PugwashVillage

facebook

Village-of-Pugwash

Did you know *It Takes a Village* newsletter goes out to over 800 local homes and is available at various downtown Pugwash locations? Look for the version number for the most recent printing and on the website for the colour version.