

The Cumberland CONNECTION



ISSUE 06 | Winter 2025



Winter Wonderland in Advocate Harbour

This winter let yourself wander

Winter in Cumberland has a way of slowing the world down. The tides seemingly move with a quieter rhythm, the forests grow still, and familiar roads take on a softer, hushed beauty. It is a season that invites us to pause, breathe, and look a little closer at the places we often pass by without noticing. This winter, we encourage you to let yourself wander.

Winter wandering is also a lovely reminder of how much our region offers year-round. A thrilling fat bike adventure in the snow, a quiet afternoon at a local museum, a winter hike with a guide who knows the land, a thrilling run down a ski slope, a cozy stay at a unique retreat, or a warm drink from a nearby café all support the people who keep our communities vibrant through every season. These small choices support our local businesses and tourism operators in meaningful ways, while giving residents a chance to experience Cumberland in a new light.

From the Fundy coast to the Northumberland shores, winter brings moments worth discovering. So this season, take the time to wander. Explore a little. Support the places that stay open through winter, and consider gifting a local adventure or experience for the holidays. Let the roads, trails, and tides lead you somewhere unexpected. You may be surprised by what you find right here in Cumberland.

Places to Wander This Winter...

Across Cumberland, many welcoming places stay open through the colder months, offering residents new ways to enjoy the season.

- Local cafés and restaurants
- Museums and art galleries
- Accommodations and quiet winter retreats
- Outdoor adventure and guiding services
- Ski hills and winter recreation areas
- Artisan shops and seasonal makers
- Community centres for events, and workshops



Explore more winter outings, experiences, and inspiration at [ExploreCumberland.ca](https://www.exploreCumberland.ca)

Winter Equipment Loan

Municipality of Cumberland Equipment Loan
2 week FREE lending program list!

- Adult and Children Snowshoes
- Adult Cross Country Skis
- Trekking poles
- Crampons
- Gaters

Stay active all winter!

 Pick up Mon-Fri
8:00am-5:00pm

 Available throughout Cumberland

RESERVE NOW!

 cbollwerk@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
902 664-9143



Fundy Shore WINTER CARNIVAL

SAVE THE DATE

Feb.12-16

Stay tuned for information on the 2026 Fundy Shore Winter Carnival.
Click here for updates:





Mayor - Rod Gilroy
902-664-7201
rgilroy@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 1 - Fred Gould
902-664-8081
fgould@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 2 - Anthony Fromm
902-669-1059
afromm@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 3 - Jennifer Houghtaling
902-297-1298
jhoughtaling@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 4 - Kathy Redmond
902-899-5441
kredmond@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 5 - Angela McCormick
902-664-9369
angmccormick@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 6 - Scott Lockhart
902-397-1741
slockhart@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 7 - Carrie Lee
902-397-0159
clee@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



District 8 - Marchel Strong
902-694-8422
mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

Mayor's Message

As we approach the festive season and look back on 2025, I want to extend warm greetings and heartfelt thanks to each person, family, business and community group who contributes to making our county a fine place to live, work and raise a family.

Reflecting on 2025

This year has brought both challenges and meaningful progress. I'm proud to highlight a few of our shared milestones:

- We supported the development of affordable and sustainable housing with an investment of \$300,000 in support of construction of new housing units at Sunrise Landing in Pugwash.
- We continued to invest in our rural fire departments with a new truck in Wallace, and delivered a new rescue vehicle for the Tidnish Bridge Volunteer Fire Department.
- We committed \$14.3 million in capital projects including upgrades to the Springhill Wastewater Treatment Plant, self-contained breathing apparatus and air cylinders for our fire departments as well as \$700,000 for capital paving in Springhill and \$450,000 in Parrsboro.
- We opened a state-of-the-art fire station in Springhill that's designed to meet the needs of a modern fire service and replaces a building that had served the community well since 1972.
- We successfully completed the Parrsboro Waterline Replacement Project that replaced water lines on Templar Street, Whitehall Road and Atlantic Avenue as well as a section of Pier Road.

A Season of Thanks

During this festive season, I encourage you to connect with family, friends and neighbours — share stories, offer help, celebrate what is good and recommit to being the kind of community we want for the next generation. I am deeply grateful for your trust, your participation and your generosity of spirit.

On behalf of Council and municipal staff, I wish you a joyful, peaceful holiday and a New Year filled with promise, good health and new opportunities. Together, let's make 2026 a year of unity, progress and enduring community strength here in Cumberland.

- Mayor Rod Gilroy, Municipality of Cumberland

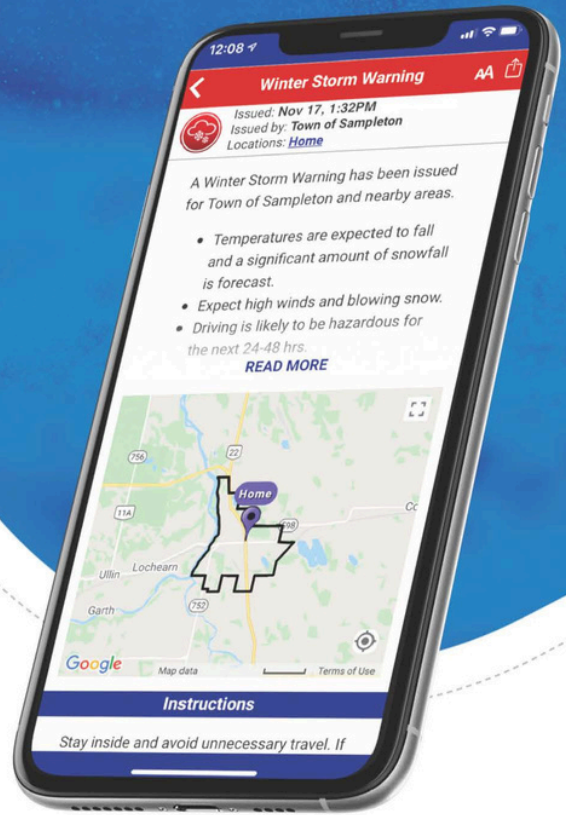


REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY

WHAT IS VOYENT ALERT!?

Voyent Alert! Is a multi-purpose communication service provided by the Municipality of Cumberland to keep you informed of critical events like fires or floods as well as day-to-day communications such as road maintenance and closures, water advisories, etc.

**NOTIFICATION
SERVICE**



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

PERSONALIZED COMMUNICATIONS

Voyent Alert! provides informative communications. Critical information such as the distance and direction from an incident, and preferred evacuation routes from your followed locations may be provided.

FOLLOW MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Voyent Alert! allows you to create and follow multiple locations such as "Kids School" or "Mom's House". Any event or communication related to your followed locations will be forwarded to you along your preferred communication channel.

COMMUNICATIONS YOUR WAY

Receive alerts over a wide variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice dial. You can register for one or more communication channels.

NO MESSAGE FATIGUE

Smart alerting capabilities ensure that you will only get notified when a communication is relevant to your or one of the locations you are following.

EASY REGISTRATION

Registration for the service is FREE, simple and anonymous.

REGISTER NOW!



MOBILE APP USERS



Download and install the Voyent Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.



Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at:
register.voyent-alert.com



December Council Meetings

December 10, 2025

Committee of the Whole at 4 pm

December 17, 2025

Regular Council Meeting at 4 pm

Upper Nappan Council Chambers



Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre
PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE
2025/26

- Adult Skate: Tues. to Thurs., 1 - 2 p.m.
- Parents & Tots: Tues. & Thurs., 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- After School Skate: Mon., Tues. & Fri., 3 - 4 p.m.
- Sticks & Pucks: Thurs. 3 - 4 p.m.
- Family Skate: Sundays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

*It is mandatory for all skaters to wear a helmet
 Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.*

WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTY.NS.CA



We Have an Equity & Diversity Plan

Photo courtesy of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, Leah Benetti



We have a plan to improve equity in our services, for everyone from newcomers to those who have always been here.

The Municipality of Cumberland’s Equity & Diversity Plan is here! Some examples of action items in this plan are:

- Anti-discrimination training for staff, specialized to their roles
- Build closer ties with Mi’kmaq communities
- Review policies and key procedures
- Learn how to attract diverse staff and councilors
- Explore multilingual signage

Read the plan on our website:

<https://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/equity-and-diversity.html>

Equity & Diversity Plan, 2025-2028

We have a plan to improve equity in our services, for everyone from newcomers to those who have always been here.



Thank you for helping create this plan:

- The Equity & Diversity Advisory Committee
- All who shared during community engagement
- The Administration of Municipal Administrators (AMANS)
- The Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

2025 Springhill Christmas PARADE

Save the date!
Dec. 4, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.



Santa's making one last stop
in Springhill!

After the parade, swing by
the Dr. Carson & Marion
Murray Community Centre
to meet Santa before he
takes off for the North Pole!



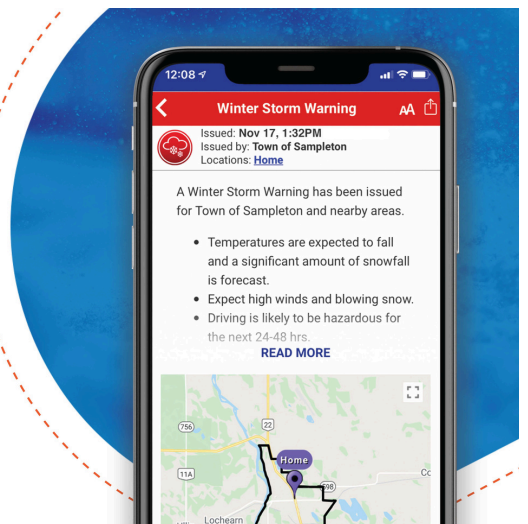
candy cane
LANE

Presented by



VOYENT **ALERT!**

NOTIFICATION
SERVICE FOR



Changes coming to recycling in N.S.



Get ready, Nova Scotia

Starting December 1, 2025, you'll be able to recycle the same curbside materials no matter where you live.

You'll also be able to recycle more than ever before!

- Frozen juice containers
- Deodorant & toothpaste tubes
- Coffee cups
- Ice cream tubs

Learn more about Nova Scotia's enhanced recycling system:
[circularmaterials.ca/NS](https://www.circularmaterials.ca/NS)



New provincial rules will soon shift recycling responsibility from municipalities to the companies that make and sell packaging and paper.

Starting Dec. 1, the Municipality of Cumberland is partnering with Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization that is committed to building an efficient and effective recycling system in Nova Scotia.

Residents will continue to receive the same reliable services- with the added benefit of being able to recycle even more materials!

Stay tuned as we get closer- we'll share updates on what materials you'll be able to add to your recycling bags and how this benefits our community and environment.

Learn more:

<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident.../nova-scotia/>



NOON YEAR'S EVE Party

NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN
at the #DCMMCC
Wednesday, December 31
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
ALL AGES | FREE ADMISSION

6 Main St. Springhill NS • 902-763-3000
www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



Learn 2 Lead Cumberland

Who are we:
A partnership committee between the Municipality of Cumberland, Town of Amherst & NS Community Health Board to support volunteers and volunteer organizations throughout Cumberland County.

What do we do:
The committee subsidizes and coordinates workshops throughout Cumberland to support individuals and organizations who provide recreation and active living opportunities. The goal is to build their skills and knowledge in order to support the communities where they live, work or play.

Types of Workshops

- Board Governance
- Fundraising
- First Aid
- Hike Leader
- Marketing
- Facilitating
- Self Defence
- Food Handlers
- Babysitting/Home Alone
- Non-violent intervention
- Recruitment
- Safe Talk

and many many more...

facebook.com/L2LCumberland
cbollwerk@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
902 664-9143





CUMBERLAND

CHRISTMAS PARADES 2025

Oxford

Friday, November 28
6:30pm

River Hebert

Sunday, November 30
5:30pm

Amherst

Saturday, November 29
6:00pm

Springhill

Thursday, December 4
6:30pm

Pugwash

Friday, December 5
6:30pm

Parrsboro

Saturday, December 6
6:00pm

Advocate

Sunday, December 7
6:00pm

Wallace

Saturday, December 13
7:00pm

Advocate Harbour opens new library

Advocate Harbour came together on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, to celebrate the opening on a new library on Mills Road.

“Several months ago we made the painful decision to demolish our community centre. As you know, the log building hosted our local library. With the uncertainty of whether library services would return to our community, the ADDA organization worked very hard to ensure that it did,” association president Courtney Morris said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “After endless meetings, letter writing campaigns and grant requests we did it.”

The Municipality of Cumberland provided \$26,000 toward the project.

Mayor Rod Gilroy said the library is an example of what happens when a community comes together to support an important project.

“The community rallied behind this project and I want to thank everyone who supported this library project in any way,” the mayor said. “I also want to thank the municipality and the county councillors who were wholeheartedly behind this. It has worked out very well.”



Charlotte Gallivan, community engagement librarian for the Cumberland Regional Library, thanked the community for its support for the library.

“You’ve gone above and beyond,” she said. “Without the community and our municipal partners this wouldn’t have gone ahead so quickly. Rural access to services is vital and you really showed that it’s important and is required.”

She also thanked library staff for gathering materials from the former facility and offering library services in a temporary location.

STICK N' PUCK

TUESDAYS | 3 – 4 PM
@ PARRSBORO LIONS ARENA
HELMETS, GLOVES, SKATES AND STICKS REQUIRED.

HELMET FACEMASKS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ALONG WITH SHIN GUARDS. LIMITED QUANTITY OF STICKS AVAILABLE.

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT.

WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTY.NS.CA

The advertisement features a background image of two hockey players in action on an ice rink. One player is in a white jersey and the other is in a red jersey. The text is overlaid on a red and white background.

Cumberland Rec | Parrsboro Lions Arena

PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE
2025/26

THURSDAY: 5:30 - 7 PM (all ages)

THURSDAY: 7 - 7:30 PM (adults only, 18+)

FRIDAY: 7 - 9 PM (all ages)

It is mandatory for all skaters to wear a CSA certified helmet. Skates & helmets available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult.

Parrsboro Lions Club will have canteen open with french fries, drinks, chips, etc on Friday's.

WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTY.NS.CA

The advertisement features a background image of a young girl in a green jacket and pink pants helping a young boy in a blue jacket and yellow pants who has fallen on the ice. The text is overlaid on a blue and white background.

A look back at 2025 in the municipality



- In late January, the Wallace Fire Department took delivery of a new fire truck from the municipality and Fort Garry Fire Trucks of Winnipeg, Man. The truck carries 800 imperial gallons of water and has a pump capacity of 1,040 imperial gallons per minute. It replaces a 1999 Sterling truck that will become the department's second-out vehicle.

- The municipality honoured 11 employees for their years of service during an all-staff event in Springhill in late March. Among those recognized was Steve Varner for 35 years of service, John Burbine for 30 years and Chris Clarke and Fred Arsenault for 25 years.

- In mid-March, council approved \$3.2 million in capital projects ahead of the 2025-26 capital budget. Projects included \$1.1786 million for an upgrade to the Springhill Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$265,000 for self-contained breathing apparatus, \$54,000 for air cylinders for fire departments, \$700,000 for Springhill capital paving and \$450,000 for Parrsboro capital paving.



- In late March, council approved a \$41-million operating budget and a \$14.3-million capital budget. To address long-term challenges, council voted to approve a three cent per \$100 assessment increase to the residential and commercial tax rate. The general residential rate rose to \$1.17 per \$100 and \$2.74 per \$100 commercial. Area rates in Springhill and Parrsboro did not change.



- In May, the municipality recognized 37 volunteers during its Volunteer Week celebration in Springhill. Valerie Brown was named the municipality's Representative Volunteer of the Year and the Leard family was recognized as the Volunteer Family of the Year.

- In June, the municipality helped members of the Springhill Fire Department celebrate the opening of its new state of the art fire station on Miners' Memorial Drive. The 11,000 square-foot building replaces the former fire station on Main Street that was built in 1972. The new fire station has a large training room that doubles as a community room. It has four large bays, including one that is a drive-thru bay for easier access for emergency vehicles.

- In July, the Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark hosted a UNESCO evaluation team. Dr. Arthur Sa and Dr. Sigurdur Sigursveinsson spent several days in Cumberland and Colchester during a re-validation of the global geopark as a UNESCO attraction. The park first received its UNESCO global geopark status in 2020. Part of the process includes periodic revalidations that either approves the park's progress or suggests ways to improve and maintain its status.



- The park first received its UNESCO global geopark status in 2020. Part of the process includes periodic revalidations that either approves the park's progress or suggests ways to improve and maintain its status. Later, the park received news it had been revalidated with a green status.

- In July a time capsule that was put together in 2000 by students of Parrsboro's schools and area businesses was opened at the Parrsboro Service Centre. A centrepiece of the time capsule, which was a millennium project, was a small chest of letters students wrote to themselves in 2000.



- The Municipality of Cumberland supported numerous organizations through County General Grants for 2025-26 provided \$913,979 to close to approximately 70 organizations in support of programs and events with the aim of promoting arts, culture, tourism and recreation. Funding requests totaled approximately \$1.8 million.

- Dexter Construction was awarded the Parrsboro Waterline Replacement Project at a cost of \$1.124 million. Parrsboro's water system has more than six kilometres of cast iron water pipes that are more than a century old. These pipes are at an elevated risk of leaks and other failures. The project included replacing waterlines on Templar Street, Whitehall Road, Atlantic Avenue and a portion of Pier Road.





- In October, Springhill’s GOVRC was recognized by the Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the Municipality of Cumberland’s Community Support and Service Award. The event was held during Small Business Week. GOVRC opened as an activity centre in 1972. It opened a workshop in the industrial park in 1980 and an expansion was completed in 1988 with the construction of a greenhouse. Today it operates a social enterprise including the greenhouse, on-line auction, laundry services and a woodworking shop that assembles pallets, survey stakes and kindling.

- In August, Mayor Gilroy, Deputy Mayor Fred Gould and Coun. Jennifer Houghtaling were at Sunset to help announce a \$7-million housing project that will see the construction of 40 housing units in Pugwash through the Affordable Housing Fund. The municipality is supporting the project with \$300,000.



The project, called Sunrise Landing, is being developed by Crossroads Cycle and is designed to meet urgent housing needs by offering quality, affordable homes for individuals transitioning from Sunset’s care programs, as well as members of the broader public.

- November saw members of the Tidnish Crossroads and Area Community Association celebrate the official opening of the refurbished Ketchum Suspension Bridge that’s part of the trail signifying the historic Chignecto Marine Ship Railway.

- In September, the Tidnish Bridge Volunteer Fire Department received a 2024 Ford F550 four-door, four-wheel drive rescue vehicle that will enhance the department’s ability to respond to emergency calls in their coverage area along the Northumberland Strait. The vehicle has multiple uses including carrying the department’s forestry gear for fighting woodland fires and will be primary response vehicle out of the department’s sub-station in Linden.

The \$1.2-million project saw the reinforcement of the abutments and towers at both ends of the bridge that support the massive steel cables. The new bridge is 218 feet long and the treated lumber decking seven feet wide. The Municipality of Cumberland provided \$50,000 to the project.

Contact **US**

Upper Nappan Service Centre
1395 Blair Lake Rd.
Upper Nappan, N.S. B4H 3Y4
Phone: 902-667-2313

Springhill Service Centre
6 Main St. PO Box 1000
Springhill, N.S., B0M 1X0
Phone: 902-597-3751

Parrsboro Service Centre
209 Main St. PO Box 400
Parrsboro, N.S., B0M 1S0
Phone: 902-254-2036

Pugwash Service Centre
10182 Durham St.
Pugwash, N.S., B0K 0B2
Phone: 902-297-8022

Engineering & Operations 24-Hour Emergency Phone Number: 1-833-834-0020; Toll-free: 1-888-1-888-756-6262
Email: customerservice@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca