

## Come Home Year a success - Noseworthy

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The Coaster

From a classic screech in to a mummer's dance, the Harbour Breton Come Home Year celebrations had a little bit of everything.

Ray Noseworthy, chairperson of the Come Home Year committee, said all of the hard work paid off and deemed the 10-day event a success.

"From all accounts it was a success," Mr. Noseworthy said. "Everyone seemed to have enjoyed it, the committee members worked really hard and worked long hours, but it all went along pretty good."

It was hard for Mr. Noseworthy to select a highlight of the long-awaited festival. The Red Head Rocks concert brought in the most people (about 1,200), but Mr. Noseworthy said the tribute service held at the Lions Club and the high school reunion were arguably the highlights. In fact, he said the tribute service went over better than anybody expected.

"The service that we had at the Lion's Club for our 34 community members serving in the Canadian Armed Forces exceeded all expectations," he said. "There were two sub committees setup to work on the high school reunion and the service and they just ran with it. It was really well done and everyone was talking about it once it was over."

Mr. Noseworthy gave a lot of credit to the service's success to and Jeanette Taylor. The two volunteers, like numerous other besides them, are a major reason why the celebrations went so smoothly.

"We had a list of 70 or 80 volunteers when we started and that's not counting the people on our committee. People that came home even volunteered. The Allen and Bugler families came in and gave a few hours at the bar - nobody had to do anything, they just took over," he said. "The Hynes family pitched in and Maureen Ion stepped in and she did all sorts of things. People jumped in and helped out the two sub committees (high school reunion and tribute service) and, of course, and Jeanette Taylor took control of the tribute service and they did a smash up job."

Mr. Noseworthy noted that that there were a few bumpy roads along the 10-day event, but nothing he considered serious. There was a brief power outage during the high school reunion and a bathroom problem during the Rimshot concert at the tennis court, but nothing that couldn't be dealt with.

"There were a few little things that happened but nothing of any consequence," Mr. Noseworthy said. "We had considered having the Red Head Rocks concert out at the tennis court, but after that event (Rimshot concert) with the bathrooms, and even though the bathrooms were okay by then, we would have had to stay out there after everything was done and pack everything up and take it back to the arena."

If the Red Head Rocks concert was its own one-day event, Mr. Noseworthy said he'd have no problem having it somewhere like the tennis court. However, after several days of breaking rest, it seemed logical to hold the concert at the arena.

"There were a lot of late nights - 3:30 a.m. to 4 a.m. Most of the time it would be 4:30 a.m. before you showered and went to bed," he said. "You could manage having Red Head Rocks somewhere like the tennis court for a one-day event, but after breaking rest for five or six nights straight and doing it again, it's a different story."

Mr. Noseworthy said he heard nothing but positive remarks about the ceremonies and the town in general. One of the biggest remarks circulating Come Home Year was when the next one was going to be held.

"Everything that I heard was positive and there wasn't anything negative at all. I had compliments on how well things were organized, how well everything went off and those that haven't been home in a while were quite impressed with the town. There were people here that hadn't been home in 15 or 20 years and they were really taken back at how the town has progressed," he said. "Those that came home were suggesting that high school reunions and Come Home Years should be held every five years. People are getting older and you don't know when a particular Come Home Year will be your last. The last Come Home Year was 1989, so that's 19 years ago and that's too long. We need to have them more often."

Mr. Noseworthy said money will be made from the successful event, but the question now is how much will be made.

"I've been going around today (Wednesday, Aug. 6) collecting all of the bills...but we're going to make money. I was a bit concerned when we saw some of the bills coming in," he said. "We were looking at them saying 'How much are we going to need to pay all of this off?' All in all we should come out of it on top and we'll know this week how much was made."



(Right) Laura Woodworth, Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador, and Miss People's Choice Nicole Whittle were two of the many special guests that took part in the parade and opening ceremonies. Matthew Molloy photo