

## Gala Dinner raises \$10,000 for Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society



The rich history of Hazel Hill and area was celebrated and supported on, April 16 at a gala dinner in support on the Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society. The gem of the Commercial Cable Company for over 70 years, The “Canso Station” was once again the center of attention. A local community-based group, The Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society, is raising funds to save the building and return it to the majestic beauty it had during the heyday of transatlantic cable communication era.

More than 100 guests were in attendance for the dinner at St. Ninian’s Place in Antigonish. The event raised more than \$10,000 for the society’s work to rehabilitate the historic Commercial Cable Building in Hazel Hill.



The meal was catered by Chef Mark Gabrieau with the help of culinary arts students of the NSCC in Port Hawkesbury. The menu featured sun-dried tomato & roasted red pepper bisque garnished with Nova Scotia seafood to start. Next, a beet, orange & goat cheese salad with baby arugula and honey sherry vinaigrette was served. The main course was slow roasted strip loin of beef sauced with red wine demi-glaze, roasted garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetable medley. For the desert course guest enjoyed an apple, pear frazipan pastry with maple mousse and chocolate brandy sauce. The guest thoroughly enjoyed the meal with plenty of compliments to the Chef and his crew.





The highlight of the evening was a special presentation to Miriam Smith of Antigonish who has been leading a penny campaign in support of the project for the past few years. She received a framed print of the building with a 1962 penny inserted into the bottom, representing the year that the Commercial Cable Building known as “Canso Station” closed its doors.

As word has spread about Smith’s penny campaign, containers of pennies have been dropped off to her home. The pennies are rolled by Smith and her friends with the proceeds sent to the society. Smith has fond childhood memories of being in Hazel Hill. Her father and husband were both employees of Commercial Cable.



Students at Fanning Education Centre in Hazel Hill have followed her lead recently undertaking their own penny campaign in support of the project. The students collected over 100,000 pennies to bring the total of the campaign to date to over a quarter of a million pennies.

An auction featuring beautiful works of art donated by NS Artisans raised over \$7,000.



Speakers at the event included Guysborough Warden Lloyd Hines, who spoke about the rich heritage of Hazel Hill and other areas of the municipality, MP Rodger Cuzner, MLA Jimmy Boudreau and incoming Society Chairperson Crystal Richards.

