PAGE BRIEFS

Continued from page 7

Mental health supports offered to children and youth, through school facilities like youth health centres is one of four recommendations put forward by the Minister's Advisory Panel on Innovation in Mental Health and Addictions. The province will implement all four recommendations. The province will also provide an additional $4.4-million as a permanent investment in SchoolsPlus by 2019-20. This will support all schools in the province and add about 51 new mental health clinicians, SchoolsPlus facilitators and community outreach workers. The four recommendations include: Create a single web and mobile-based platform and 24/7 live answer, toll-free phone line to provide consistent access to mental health and addictions information, support and services province-wide. Ensure access to live counselling for youth; Ensure developmentally appropriate, evidence-based, consistent mental health and addictions curriculum at the primary to six level, as well as for students in grades nine and grade twelve; Develop a standard model for mental health/health-care delivery by integrating the supports and services offered by youth health centres, Schools Plus and Early Development Centres. The services provided must be evidence and needs-based, client-focused and youth-friendly, providing a full scope of needed supports and interventions and all mental health service providers must receive evidence-based suicide risk assessment and suicide risk management training.

Effective April 1 Nova Scotia is adopting changes to the National Building Code, which include increasing the maximum height of wooden residential buildings from four to six storeys. The Fire Safety Act and Regulations will also be changed to enhance safety requirements for the taller wood buildings. The province is also updating its own accessibility regulations to improve barrier-free provisions in washrooms, requirements for power door operators and barrier-free paths of travel. For more information on the regulations, visit: **https://novascotia.ca/dma/fire-safety/BuildingCode/**

Premier Stephen McNeil announced $300,000 in funding from the 150 Forward Fund to Grand-Pré 2017 - A Peace and Unity Gathering of the Mi'kmaq and Acadian Nations in a project that will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation by celebrating the historic relationship between the Mi'kmaq and Acadians. Grand-Pré 2017 is a series of cultural and educational events presented by the Ulnooweg Development Group. They take place during a four-day, multi-disciplinary festival in August 2017. Federal funding has also been provided through four departments and agencies: the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. For more information on programming and schedules visit **http://www.grandpre2017.ca/**

Indigenous women and children fleeing domestic violence will soon have a safe new place to call home, with the help of government funding for affordable second-stage housing. Second-stage housing is longer-term, individual housing, where tenants can live for an extended time. It offers programs and services to help them transition to independent living. The provincial and federal governments have committed up to $824,000 for the four-unit development, addressing the unique needs of urban indigenous families. Through this project, the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Gottingen Street, Halifax plans to provide support services for victims of domestic violence, including counselling, parenting and employment programs.

Renovating an unused operating room at the Hants Community Hospital in Windsor will mean 800 more surgeries at the hospital each year, nearly doubling the annual number of procedures. This is part of the QEll Redevelopment Project which will see services transferred from the QEll Health Sciences Centre to support the eventual closure of the Victoria and Centennial buildings at the VG site. Currently, the Hants Community Hospital has one functional operating room. A second operating room, dating back to when the hospital was originally built in 1976, will be renovated and prepared for use. The project is expected to cost about $3.8 million. Construction is expected to begin in August and be completed over a three-month period. Surgeries that would normally be done at the hospital during that time will be performed at other facilities in the province. The QEII redevelopment includes projects at the Halifax Infirmary, Dartmouth General Hospital, Hants Community Hospital and other sites.

continued on page 26

April 23-29 Declared Volunteer Week

By Maurice Rees

Acting on a letter from Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services, Colchester council proclaimed the week of April 23-29 as Volunteer week to coincide with other municipalities and the provincial initiative.

In other matters handled at its monthly meeting on February 23rd, council approved staff form an ad hoc working group to investigate the development of a collaboration with Northern Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority, on matters of community wellness of mutual concern; and, That at the appropriate stage of the working group's investigation, other jurisdictional leaders be invited to have their staff join the discussion; and, That the Colchester Working Group on Community Wellness report back to Council with their findings, including recommendations and required resources, within three months.

For the Cobequid Trailhead Council authorized staff to proceed with a purchase and sale agreement for a

parcel of land located at No. 236 Highway, Lower Truro, PID # 20449708, at a purchase price of $37,000, with source of funds being the Parkland Reserve. The Mayor and CAO were authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

To add more Recreation Land on Ventura Drive, Debert council authorized staff to proceed with a purchase and sale agreement for a parcel of land located at 44 Ventura Drive, Debert, PID # 20445938, at a purchase price of $25,000, with source of funds being the Debert Sale of Houses. Mayor and CAO are authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Council approved the Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy be approved as presented to staff at the February 15th committee meeting. Council approved the Balefill Closure Liability bank funds be invested in the Principal Protected Notes recommended, as presented by staff, which will be more advantageous and save the municipality money.

The building permit activity report for January showed permits totaling $7,784,500 had been issued, which was a significant increase over January 2016 permits totaling $1,385,500. The $5.575-Million permit issued to Green Diamond Equipment accounted for the significant monthly increase.

For the overall fiscal year, issued permits totaling $35.771-Million are $2.455-Million less 2016 $36.226-Million for the same time.

FREE Community Supper at The Peg

By Linda Harrington

Come out for a hearty meal and meet your neighbours! This is what Laurie Jennings hopes to see happen on April 19th. Masstown Market is hosting the event across the road at The Peg from 5:00 until 7:00PM.

There is no charge to attend but to plan for food preparation there will be limited tickets available at Masstown Market for those who wish to attend.

"We hope to fill The Peg," says Laurie. "It will be a nice social time for the community to come together and chat with their neighbours. Masstown Market has some exciting things happening and we would love to have input from local people, including thoughts on a community garden and walking trails."

If the event is embraced by the community, there is a possibility the event could be held monthly. "We would like to think of it as a big family supper where people can get to know one another, share ideas and just have a good time," adds Laurie.

The Community Supper is open to all ages and the main floor of The Peg is wheel chair accessible. Tickets will be available for pick-up until Monday, April 17th.

Colchester Recreation Facilities Association

COLCHESTER RECREATION FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

Improving Our Community Facilities Survey

The Colchester Recreation Facilities Association (CRFA) is working hard to improve our community facilities. We now have a brand new website, an online booking system, and most importantly, a commitment to better our services and offerings to meet your needs. Our recreation facilities are cornerstones in our communities, and we are dedicated to ensuring this remains the case, but we need your help! Thank you for taking the time to answer the six (6) questions below, and telling us what you think. Your perspective is valued!

1. Please identify the facility for which you are providing feedback.
☐ Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex
☐ North Shore Recreation Centre
☐ West Colchester United Arena
☐ Other (please specify):

2. Do you currently use our facility?
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please specify how/why. If not, please specify why:

3. What would you consider our facility's primary asset(s)?
1 being the most important asset; 5 being the least important.
___ Offerings/Programs
___ Infrastructure/Space
___ Atmosphere/Feeling of the Space
___ Staff
___ Other

4. What barriers exist, if any, preventing increased usage of our facility?
1 being the most prominent barrier; 6 being the least prominent.
___ Infrastructure/Space
___ Hours of Operation
___ Accessibility (i.e. space; ability to obtain/confirm information; etc.)
___ Atmosphere/Feeling of the Space
___ Offerings/Programs Not Available
___ Other

5. What is needed to overcome these barriers?
1 being the most important factor; 5 being the least important.
___ Increased Hours of Operation
___ Additional Staff
___ New Programs, Events and/or Offerings
___ Modified/Additional Infrastructure, Space and/or Equipment
___ Other

6. Do you have any additional feedback you wish to share?
If you answered "Other" in questions 3,4,5, please expand further below.
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please expand:

Please provide other comments here:

Please complete and send to The Shoreline Journal, PO Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0
FAX: 902-647-2194 or **EMAIL**: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com