

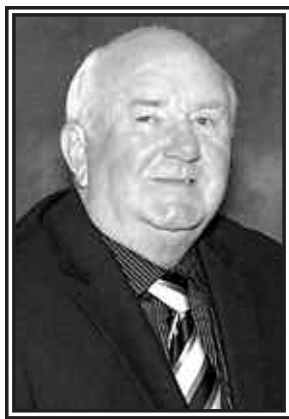
Fletcher's March 1ST Council Corner

By Don Fletcher

We began council on March 1st at 5 pm in camera with one item covered. Public council began at 6 pm with three presentations. First was an update from Cumberland connector, formerly the Cumberland Enterprise Network. They are very close in filling their fulltime staff position and hopefully help our economy throughout Cumberland County. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. John Calder, and David Beattie, part of the steering committee on establishing a UNESCO global Geo Park along the Fundy shore. It would be Nova

Scotia's first. They have an aggressive time table and are hoping to have a designation by 2020. It's a very detailed process and exciting the area and county.

Next was an update from staff on Plan Cumberland, a project to update municipal planning strategy and land use bylaws. There will be public consultation over the next 6 months. Check plan Cumberland.ca. Next we approved the Pugwash water system treatment equipment. Notice was given to consider adoption of our meetings and proceedings of council policy at next council. We adopted our new wellness policy



Donald Fletcher

by motion with an effective date of April 1, 2017. Next we moved the adoption of the bylaw respecting tax exemption for fire companies, charitable and non-profit organizations. Two grants were dealt with followed by a finance department update. A tax collection report was deferred.

A tax sale will be held on April 3rd. Listings have been advertised in the paper and are listed on our website. These are from district's 1, 2, 3 and 4. District's 5-8 will follow later, followed by 9-13 at a later date.

A motion was approved to re-allocate funds for a Cape D'Or master plan. There is an opportunity to enhance the market readi-

ness of the site with the goal of providing a world class lighthouse experience unique in Nova Scotia. Again exciting times for tourism and the Fundy shore. Next a motion was approved to provide a letter of support to the Anne Murray Centre for funding to renovate and repair their basement. Motion passed.

We approved six councilors for the regional emergency management organization (REMO) advisory committee. A tender for purchase for two replacement vehicles for our building inspectors was approved. A motion to approve the purchase of a larger

generator for the Springhill water treatment plant was also approved. Last item was a motion to approve the hiring of a student to assist with the Plan Cumberland project this summer. Information items in our package included the Parrsboro Shore Project facilitator's report and the annual fire report from the Amherst fire chief. Question: Are you happy with the teacher/province results? Call your councillor Don Fletcher.

Don Fletcher is Councillor District 10 and Deputy Warden Municipality of the County of Cumberland.

Fletcher's March 15TH Council Corner

By Don Fletcher

We began council March 15 at 5 pm in camera with 3 items covered. Public council began at 6 pm with three presentations. First up was Natural Forces, the company that built the small 2 windmill farm near Amherst. It was commissioned on Jan 1st 2017. One turbine is under repair and soon will be producing power. Estimated taxes to the municipality is \$39,000 yearly for 20 years and the electricity goes to the local area, not exported. A win win for us!

The second presentation was Community Food Initiative, a local group connecting health and local farms to provide a good food source while engaging the communities through community gardens and farmers market. They are trying to expand throughout the county. A great local initiative.

The third presentation was

from the Cumberland County Riders ATV club representing 4 clubs throughout the county. This was an update from last fall. They are very frustrated with lack of support from the provincial government. Economically we are losing millions of dollars due to our antique laws, lack of vision, and reluctance to work together.

A survey from 844 households in 2015 estimated total spending by riders at \$160-Million. We need action NOW. Let your MLA know! It's time for tourism, transportation and economic development to work together for us all and instead of the CANNOT do attitude get with the CAN DO attitude. That is my rant for this week!

Three public hearings with three properties approved for demolition. A motion was approved for an easement for Pugwash Water System and

option 1 for the local improvement charge bylaw for the water project.

We next approved the award for the Parrsboro waste water treatment plan and an alternate location for the plant. These are two very large projects and a benefit to our citizens. The tax exemption and reduction policy was amended and adopted by motion.

The meetings and procedures policy was also adopted. A motion passed to repeal the springhill and Parrsboro dog bylaw first reading. A motion was approved for a borrowing resolution while awaiting taxes. We next approved a motion for staff to update our economic development strategy developed in 2014 in collaboration with the town of Amherst. A hiccup has evolved with citizen appointments for Pugwash Source Water protection commit-

tee. The matter was deferred to next council.

A tender award for Joggins Fossil Institute stairs was awarded. The tender award for the Cape D'Or master plan was also approved.

Staff will continue looking into fire insurance payback to departments responding to calls. Ongoing. Info items in our package included revenue and expenditure report, canine control/bylaw report for January-February, internet meeting notes and the upcoming regional UNSM meeting.

Question: do you think we will have a spring election? Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Councillor District 10 and Deputy Warden Municipality of the County of Cumberland.

Geopark Initiative Evolving Slowly

By Maurice Rees

In a story published last August, Lawrence Nicoll noted there is a possibility the Bay of Fundy will join the prestigious group of Global Geoparks, which are popular in Europe, China and other Asian Countries. In his account Nicoll outlined The Fundy Geological Museum board was approached by Dr John Calder, Senior DNR Geologist, in the early spring 2016 concerning interest in the creation of a Geopark, and to see if there was a desire to assist with its creation. To determine if there was any interest, meetings were held in Parrsboro, Port Greville, Advocate and Economy.

As the momentum builds, Tim Fedak, curator at Parrsboro's Fundy Geological Museum says

unlike other UNESCO designations such as world heritage status, global geoparks are much less about protection and much more about promoting an area to visitors.

Last fall, Fedak told the Shoreline Journal achieving designation is a lengthy, detailed and expensive process. He suggested before it was completed the process could cost \$250,000. A steering committee is now raising awareness of the idea at different government levels, to attract funds. Those working diligently on the project hope to complete a draft application this year, for final submission to UNESCO in 2018. Once the application has been submitted, awarding the designation might not be completed until early 2019.

As the relevance of Fundy

Cliffs gains more global interest, there is a particular and important story, which needs to be told. 300 million years ago the world's continents came together to form one 'supercontinent' — Pangea. Then there was a separation in the Age of Dinosaurs some 100 million years later.

For the novice visitor, who admires the beauty of the area, and has only a slight understanding of the importance of the cliffs, it is one thing. However, to those who really understand the significance of the cliff's it transcends into a global attraction.

Fedak and those on the steering committee believe designation would be important to the area, to become an "icon" raising the area's profile internationally, while also creating a unified brand and identity for the area.

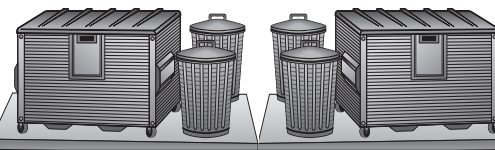
It is proposed becoming an "iconic" designation would link

the cliffs' natural wonders with the area's cultural attractions such as theatres, museums and provincial parks, as well as boat tours, hikes and other attractions greatly enhancing the area's importance as a tourism destination.

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