

NSPE Requests \$200,000 from Municipality

By Maurice Rees

A three-member delegation representing the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission appeared before municipal council on March 1st, during the grants for non-profits presentations. Joe Nicholson, Stu Rath and Laurie Jennings representing the commission requested \$200,000.

The application indicated the funds would be used for infrastructure improvements to Exhibition Hall, which would enable the NSPEC to generate revenue from currently underutilized space. Commission representatives suggested the 4-H Clubs and Dal Ag College could use the space for events and a variety of activities. The commission would also have the opportunity to rent the space for other events such as weddings, music events and more.

Over the past few years, the facilities have faced a number of problems, primarily financial, and was taken over by the province in an initiative lead by Hon. Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture.

Since ownership was assumed by the province, ownership has since migrated to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan board, which now leases the property to the NSPE Commission for a one year lease, which expires on July 31, 2017.

Lease payments are \$2,100 per month plus HST. As long as the commission is not in default of the lease, it has the right to renew for an additional term.

For the calendar year ending December 2015, the commission showed net income loss of \$126,145.70, whereas for calendar 2016, it showed net income of \$221,769.20. Over the two year period revenue had increased by \$150,498.27 to \$3,168,021 in 2016 from \$3,017,523 in calendar 2015.

Questions from councillors focused around it is disturbing what has transpired at the site and very little progress has been made since the province took ownership and over 18 months has been wasted. Most of the debt has evolved from the raceway not paying other tracks in the US.

WCCDA Moves Closer To Revitalization

By Maurice Rees

Since last spring several shore residents interested in forming a community group to be representative of all of West Colchester reached a milestone on March 21st at the Bass River Fire Hall, by securing additional members for the somewhat idle West Colchester Community Development Association (WCCDA).

The next step is a meeting at the Bass River Fire Hall on April 12th, 7 pm to finalize interim WCCDA directors and

officers, to serve until the Annual Meeting. On April 12th a date for the General Meeting of WCCDA will be set to adopt the new by-laws and accept a nominating committee report.

Since May 2016, several meetings had been held to explore revising the WCCDA bylaws and various house-keeping items necessary to move forward. Earlier this spring three brainstorming sessions were held in Masstown, Economy and

Great Village. Those involved rated them as very successful with an overall turnout of approximately 80 people.

The purpose of the open houses was to stimulate discussions and to get ideas of what is needed along the shore. Outcome of all the meetings is there appears to be strong feelings; there is a great deal of interest in the future of the West Colchester community and a need for an organization like the West Colchester Community

Development Association.

The purpose of the March 21st meeting was to get additional members for WCCDA so that it can move forward. New members are: Tiffany Ward, Maurice Rees, Rebecca Taylor, Annie Phillips, Anna Grue, Cees Van den Hoek, Alexis McLaughlin, Marley Leslie and Joelle McLaughlin.

They are joining WCCDA's executive, Vernon McCully, Bob Smith, Martha Brown and Anita McLellan, who are interested in continuing with WCCDA but as members and not directors or officers.

2017 90 & 90+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We wish to thank all those who attended the 2016 Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party. We hope you had a good time.

While the party is fresh on our minds, I ask you to think about friends, relatives and neighbours from our coverage area, who will be turning 90 in 2017. Let's not wait until next year to get them registered.

This years Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party will take place Saturday, May 6 at the Economy Recreation Centre.

Next year will be special as it's Canada's 150th birthday. If you know of someone who turns 90 next year, please pre-register them by sending their name, mailing address, phone and date of Birth.

Please send to:

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Letters to the editor

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factor in doctors who are teaching the next generation of physicians and leading important research.

So, while it may be true that Nova Scotia has a high number of doctors we have people who don't have a family doctor.

Statistics Canada indicates that as many as 90,000 Nova Scotians - about 10 percent of our population - don't have a family doctor.

Government's own Physician Resource Plan indicates the province needs to hire more than 1,000 physicians (both family physicians and specialists) over the next 10 years.

So, let's stop the debate about the physician to patient ratio.

Let's make Nova Scotia an attractive place to practice medicine. Physicians are supportive of a move to collaborative care or team-based care, some physicians have been practicing that way for years. But to fully make the shift, it's going to take time and our patients need good access to care in the meantime.

I encourage the NSHA and DHW to be flexible and concentrate first on recruiting doctors, family doctors in particular. Once we have them working in our province, we can help them transition into

the new model of care.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michelle Dow
President, Doctors Nova Scotia

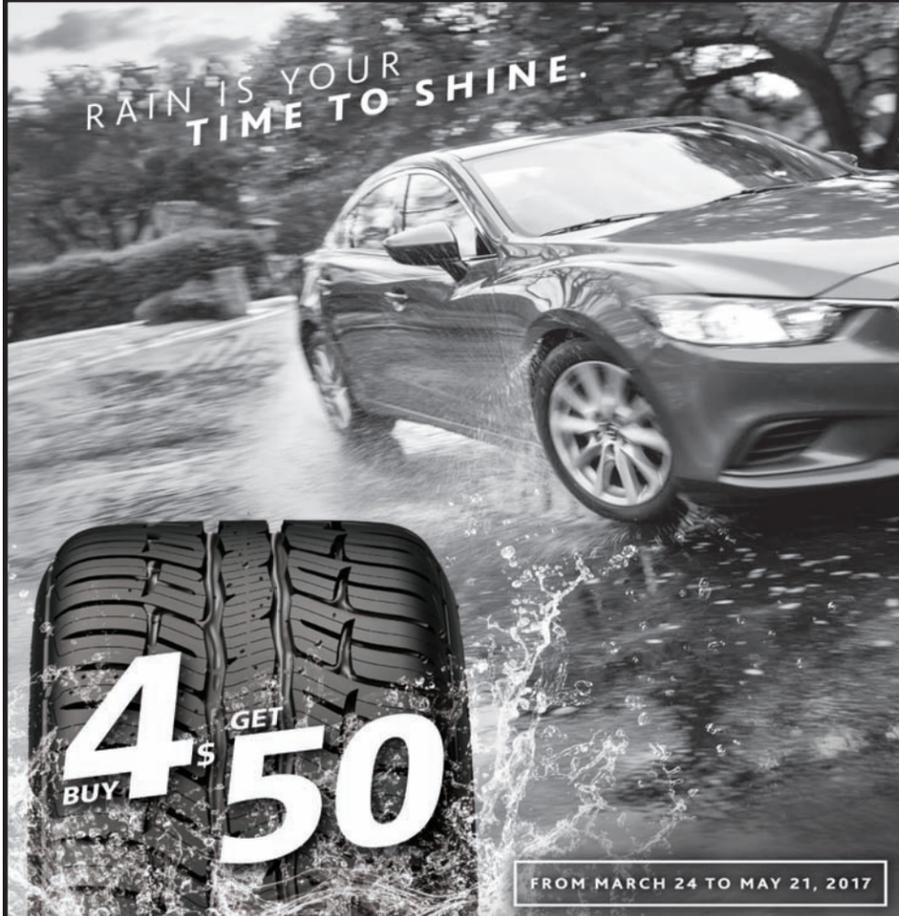
the new model of care.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michelle Dow
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