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The Shoreline Journal

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Same Take-Home; No Increase

By Maurice Rees

Colchester's Councillors and Mayor will take home the same money, but will not receive a pay increase. This is the result of a report from Gerald Walsh & Associates who delivered their report to Council at its February meeting. The report had been completed on January 17th and results reported to council at its January meeting. However, somewhat

unhappy with the report, council requested the consultant appear before council at its February meeting for fuller explanation as to the methodology.

Last fall, council asked for a consultant to determine the effect of CRA's changes eliminating "tax-free" amounts from elected official's remuneration. Colchester councillors were getting total of \$25,006,

of which 2/3 (\$16,671) was taxable income, while the remaining 1/3 (\$8,335) was a tax-free allowance. For Deputy Mayor the figures were \$30,598, \$20,399 taxable and \$10,199, tax-free, while the Mayor's remuneration was \$49,060, with \$32,707 taxable and tax-free as \$16,353.

During their presentation to council, Gerald Walsh Associates listed the scope of work

as: To determine: a compensation value (salary) for Council effective January 1, 2019 that will address: Canada Revenue Agency changes to Council taxation taking effect January 1, 2019; and Market value for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillor positions compared to the Nova Scotia market of municipal elected officials.

Walsh's comprehensive 10 page report suggested to give elected members the same "take-home" monies, salaries should be adjusted upwards, councillors to: \$29,494; Deputy Mayor, \$36,090 and Mayor, \$57,865. In grossing up would cost the municipality, \$59,177 per year.

Walsh's report concluded, the overall rate of pay should not be adjusted upwards as it was comparable to other municipalities. Walsh had replies from 21 of 32 municipalities

continued on page 9

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

April 2019

STRESS RELIEF: Ate salad for dinner ...mostly croutons & tomatoes ... really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce ... and cheese... FINE, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza!

The Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity will host its Newcomer Appreciation Night at the PEG in Masstown on March 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The evening will recognize one newcomer employee and one self-employed newcomer with the presentation of the inaugural Newcomer Appreciation Awards. The recipients of the 2019 Truro Colchester Newcomer Appreciation Awards will be Sergio Garrido, owner of Aroma Maya and Anita Kajtazi, an employee at McDonald's restaurant. Both were recognized for their drive, leadership skills and the degree to which their actions have made a meaningful contribution to their respective businesses and the community.

The event is free and will include complimentary finger foods, a cash bar and live entertainment by the band Gasper Cross. Those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to bit.ly/NewcomerNight.

A local man is seeking help in finding where his mother taught school in the Debert area 90 years ago. The Journal of Education stored at the Little White School House on Arthur St., Truro states Elizabeth MacKay was paid for teaching 102 days in 1926 and 98 days in 1927 in West Colchester. The school is not named. The late Beryl Putnam (nee McCully) once recalled attending Hardwood Hills School when Elizabeth MacKay was the teacher. Perhaps someone in the Debert area will have a picture of the Hardwood Hills School pupils and teacher during 1926-27. A reward is offered. Please phone 902-895-0036 if you have a photo you are willing to share.

continued on page 6



Colchester County Shows Support for Fallen Fire Fighter Skyler Blackie. Every overpass along Hwy 104 from Great Village to Truro was lined with fire trucks, firefighters, first responders and members of the community who all wanted to show their respect for Truro firefighter Skyler Blackie as his remains were brought home to Truro from Amherst on Saturday, March 23rd. Skyler, who lived in Debert with his wife Erin, was a career firefighter with the Truro Fire Service and he passed away March 20th, following a tragic training accident on March 9th. One could not help but shed a tear as the procession passed through our communities. (Harrington Photo)

Tragic Training Accident Claims Firefighter

By Maurice Rees

An unfortunate accident at the Fire Training School, Waverly has claimed the life of Skyler Lee Blackie, Debert. He was dedicated to his much-loved career as a fire fighter having joined at the age of 18 and worked with the Truro Fire Service.

On Saturday afternoon, March 23 Firefighter Skyler Blackie's remains were brought home from Amherst to Truro in a Regimental Procession of emergency vehicles. The public and firefighters with vehicles lined the Hwy 104 overpasses starting at the Great Village.

The procession from Amherst, escorted by RCMP vehicles veered off Hwy 104

onto the Masstown by-pass where approximately 25 fire departments plus Search and Rescue had assembled awaiting the procession from Amherst.

Overpasses on Hwy 104 were filled to near-capacity with the public, firefighters and fire trucks saluting the procession at Great Village, Glenholme, Masstown, Belmont Road and Crowes Mills Road. The lower parking lot at Colchester Consolidated Junior High School was almost full as public and firefighters with fire trucks lining the Onslow overpass on Hwy 102 to offer a salute before the procession exited to downtown Truro.

The procession from

Amherst included an RCMP lead vehicle and 2 RCMP units following blocking both lanes keeping other motorists from encroaching on approximately 25 participating Fire Departments and Search and Rescue from all over Colchester, Pictou County and East Hants who joined the procession at Masstown.

The Shoreline Journal's, reporter / photographer positioned herself on the Debert overpass to shoot a video, which was later uploaded to Facebook. Within 18 hours, by 7:00 am Sunday, the video had engaged 259,619 people from across Canada, throughout USA as far west as California with some viewing from over-

continued on page 3

Wellness Fair to have 25 Service Providers

By Maurice Rees

The along the Shore Community Health Board, under the direction of Doug and Wanda MacInnis, co-chairs, are stepping up the pace of community involvement by organizing A Wellness Fair at the West Colchester Consolidated School on Saturday April 13, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The purpose of the Wellness Fair is to help make individuals and families, who live along the shore more aware of programs and services available to them to support a healthier and more vibrant lifestyle.

In excess of 25 vendors / service providers are expected to attend the fair. Each of them will provide information on the services they offer to the community and how they can assist those wishing to live a healthier lifestyle.

As of March 20th, the following had submitted the necessary paperwork to participate: Transforming Tides Counselling; 211 Nova Scotia; Municipality of Colchester Waste Management; Genrus United; Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd; Lower

continued on page 3



Local MLA, Larry Harrison had the challenge of his life.... Trying to stay on the bull during 2018 Youth Expo. The 2019 Youth Expo is coming to the Don Henderson Memorial Stadium in Brookfield on April 27th from 9 am to 4 pm. See page 12 and 13.

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