



Cumberland Municipal Council supported Purple Day in the Municipality of Cumberland by declaring a proclamation, and wearing a purple ribbon during March 20 2019 meeting and having a group photo taken. Pictured above are: Back row (L-R): Councillor Marlon Chase, Warden Al Gillis and Deputy Warden Joe van Vulpen. Front row (L-R): Councillor Michael McLellan, Councillor Ernie Gilbert, Councillor Norman Rafuse, Councillor Don Fletcher, Councillor Dan Rector and Councillor Lynne Welton, Councillor Paul Porter. (Submitted)



The new Board of Directors for The Hall posed for a group photo following the AGM on March 6, Back Row (L-R): K. David Atkinson, Steve Johnson, Johannes Hiesberger, Rick Sylvester and Rob Bentley. Front (L-R): Nancy Curleigh, Patricia Burke, Lori Lynch and Brenda Wheaton. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

Enjoy the various Maple Breakfasts and other Community Events

By **Tory Rushton**

As your MLA, I do get invited to different events to speak or just attend and support the cause. One of the greatest events I have had the privilege to attend was the Parrsboro 1st Beavers and 1st Cubs celebration on February 19th. This event celebrated the annual Scout week and the founders, Lord Baden Powell's birthday.

I recall my days in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and the friendships and skills that were obtained from this organization. I was very pleased to see the abundance of kids in the groups and their pride in shouting out the "MOTO" During the evening activities, I had the chance to watch the Beaver Buggy races and the a few Cub Car races. These were a Highlight of the year for any Beaver or Cub. A Huge thank you must be extended to the

Volunteer Leaders and parents for making this group such a success in the area.



Tory Rushton

In February, I was preparing to back to the Legislature for the Spring sitting of the House, which opened on February 28th. It will be a non-stop daily routine of question period, bills and debates. The spring session is also when the gov-

ernment side presents the yearly budget for approval. We will listen to the tabling of the budget on March 26th, just one day before you are reading this column.

If you have a question needing asked on the floor of the Legislature, feel free to reach out to my office and we can try to get it answered. Which sometimes can not be an easy task. In addition to the budget and other debates, this session we will continue to discuss our extreme needs for healthcare, and we will repeat the pressure for this government to return the Public Accounts Committee to an open and transparent committee.

This committee gives opposition an opportunity to hold government to account for all Nova Scotians by calling departmental staff to testify and

answer questions. This is something that is currently being blocked by the current government.

Although I may be at the Legislature until the end of April, maple season is upon us and I hope to see you at some of the dinners. Please feel free to reach out if you need assistance on any Provincial matter and if you need a visit while I am away, staff will be happy to help you at the office or come to you.

Our contact number is 1-833-597-8679 or email at toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com. Monday - Springhill/Oxford, Tuesday - River Hebert/Joggins and Advocate, Wednesday - Caucous day, Thursday - Collingwood/Westchester/Wentworth, Friday - Parrsboro/Brookdale and Areas.

Tory Rushton is MLA for Cumberland South

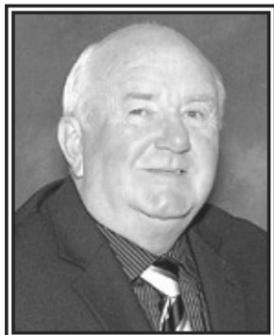
Municipal Council reviews Parrsboro Facilities

By **Don Fletcher**

Cumberland Council began the February 27 meeting with five items covered in an in-camera session. In a short nomination meeting followed the number of councillors on the Energy Authority was downsized from from 6 to 4.

After a short dinner break public council began with a short update on the Parrsboro Facilities review covering only municipal needs if we were to maintain current programs and service. 1650 square feet of space is required for municipal business only. A final report is due in April.

Council began a review of programs and services review with transfer stations the first item under discussion. After much discussion (mainly me) a motion was approved to put closure/area rates on hold until after boundary and council review are completed.



Donald Fletcher

ed.

The following items will be covered during the March meeting governance questionnaire, fire protection services, service centers, organizational structure and resources and police services. A joint council with Oxford will be included. The director of finance gave an update on the current tax rate structure and what will be reviewed.

Chapter 7 of the Wheeler Report was next which deals

with well integrity. It explains in detail how the vertical portion of the well is drilled cemented and prepared for production and how it is decommissioned. Five possible pathways for gas mitigation and possible contamination of ground water are illustrated and discussed. Bottom line, if there is to be multi-level ground water monitoring it should be started before any hydrocarbon wells are drilled.

Next up on the agenda was Notice of Intent to amend the personnel policy dealing with vacation carry over over 5 days was approved. Also a motion recommended by the audit committee and outside auditors to clean up the current carryover liabilities was approved.

The adjourned tax sale write off list was approved by motion as well as the minimum bid be set at \$100.00. A motion to allow the province

to do some improvements to the former court house, owned by the municipality was approved.

Next we approved budget meeting dates with May 15 set for final budget approval. Motion passed. A new collective bargaining agreement with CUPE local 919 was approved authorizing the warden and appropriate staff to sign the new agreement. Internet service was last and a motion was approved to have staff work with Colchester on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Staff was directed to prepare a letter to Develop Nova Scotia asking for a 90 day extension on their pre-qualification deadline and to re-allocate monies to the internet project from the CED budget.

Question? Are you following the gong show in Ottawa? Call your councillor!

Donald Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10.

Cumberland Fire Service Faces Downsizing

By **Don Fletcher**

Council meeting on March 20th began with a photo taken of councillors wearing a purple ribbon for World Epilepsy Day on March 26th as proclaimed later in council by the warden. Fire protection services gave a presentation covering all areas. The five year strategic plan from 2014-2019 was explained followed by services, downsizing and restructuring due to difficulty in recruiting and number of departments, membership, vehicle life span, cost of replacements, capitol costs buildings, and reserve fund requirements. Fire services represents a large part of the municipality's budget year over year, however it's a necessity.

Next was governance programs and services and municipal affairs will visit on April 1st to discuss. The police services review is completed and will be brought back to council for discussion. A review of solid waste management consultant's analysis by the three municipalities was approved by our council. They will look at all aspects of

recycling to come up with the most cost effective plan with a timeline of May 15th.

The Wheeler Report Chapter 9 was next covering regulatory issues. It deals with the roles of the different levels of government in developing and enforcing regulations with regards to risk management and the factors that influence their effectiveness. Complex and challenging questions need to be asked as the adequacy of the knowledge base and the effectiveness of a regulatory system are based on this.

Next we were presented with the energy authority budget and the community economics development budgets. Both will be discussed as part of the overall budget process. One information item on protecting Nova Scotia's coastline was in our package.

We went in camera and discussed seven items regarding staff resources and size of council.

Question: what do you think of the federal budget? Call your councillor!

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

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