

## Nominate Energy Efficiency Leaders

Nominations for Efficiency Nova Scotia's Bright Business Awards are now open. The awards recognize businesses, non-profits, municipalities and community leaders from across the province who are leading the way in energy efficiency initiatives and energy savings.

Winners will be recognized at a special awards presentation as part of the Bright Business Conference on October 14th, 2020 at the Halifax Convention Centre. Today, there are over 1,400 people are directly employed in Nova Scotia's energy efficiency sector - a contribution

of over \$400 million to the annual provincial economy.

Online applications can be submitted at [www.brightbusinessns.ca/awards](http://www.brightbusinessns.ca/awards) in any of the following 5 categories: Community, Engagement, Innovation, Partnership and Leadership

Winners will receive an award, a professional video highlighting their organization's efforts in energy efficiency and will receive promotion of their success throughout the year on Efficiency Nova Scotia's social media platforms. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2020.

## Annual General Meeting April 8

The Parrsboro Band Assoc. will hold their Annual General Meeting on Wed. April 8, 2018, 2020 at The Hall, 44 King Street in Parrsboro at 7 pm. Various reports will be given and the Financial Statement

for 2019 will be presented.

Come and hear all the great success stories from 2019. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Everyone welcome

## Cumberland Council will Meet Via Teleconference

By Shelley Hoeg

The Cumberland Council meeting scheduled for the April 1, 2020 will be held via teleconference, as per Provincial directive.

Staff are working diligently to be able to provide our upcoming meetings as video conference meetings using Zoom, so please have patience. We are anticipating being ready to do so for our 2nd meeting in April, which will allow more access for the media and public to our meetings as our Zoom meeting will

be broadcast via facebook live.

DRAFT minutes will be posted on our website within 24 hours of our meetings, again, in following Provincial directives.

Council's meeting scheduled for March 18th was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Thanks everyone for your patience as we strive to adjust to our new "normal".

**Shelley G. Hoeg is Communications Officer/Executive Assistant to the CAO for the Municipality of the County of Cumberland.**

## Other Aspects of life in Oxford goes on

By Ruthie Patriquin

The Oxford Area Lions have recently circulated a newsletter and survey through Canada Post and posted it online.

If you haven't already, please read the newsletter to learn about our local Lions Club, part of this community since 1959. And, we know your minds are on other things, but please don't forget to complete the survey. If you prefer to do it online, the survey link is posted on their face book page [www.facebook.com/oxfordarealions/](http://www.facebook.com/oxfordarealions/). What do people in Oxford and the surrounding area want the Club to do next? By completing the survey, you will help them determine priorities moving forward.

With fewer activities available to us, walking and hiking is still an option for many. Corey Skinner, Director of the Town's Recreation and Leisure Dept., has developed new signage for the Northumberland Nature Trails (near the school) and the OREC Walking Track. "Walk the Block" signs were also developed, stating the distance around two specific walking areas in Town. When posted, these new resources will highlight fun way to add more steps to your day.

And while you're out and about, take a garbage bag and a pair of gloves and add some bending to your exercise routine by picking up trash along the way. Spring is here and that means clean up season. All property owners are encouraged to tidy their properties, pick up garbage and ensure their yards don't attract rodents and pests. The Town will be looking to enforce the legislation around dangerous and unsightly premises through the coming months. An attractive community helps welcome visitors to our businesses and encourages peo-

ple to relocate to our community. Pride in our homes, properties, and businesses reflects on all of us and makes our community more liveable, healthy, and attractive.

If you have specific Earth Day (April 22) plans for property, trail, or sidewalk clean up, please let us know.

April is Volunteer Month. Al and Maxine Clarke have been chosen as the Representative Volunteers of the Year for the Town of Oxford. Thank you, Al and Maxine, for all that you do.

April is Poetry Month. While plans for the Oxford Poetry Festival currently continue, time will tell if the COVID-19 pandemic will allow it to move forward. Please stay tuned to the Poetry At Large face book page or email me at [rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca](mailto:rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca)

Please remember, most people who get COVID-19 will have mild symptoms but, it is potentially life-threatening for some and many vulnerable people live in our area. It is everyone's responsibility to take strong action to delay the spread of the virus to protect as many people as possible. Please continue to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home if you or someone in your home is sick. Self-isolate for 14 days if you have been out of the country.

Let's be caring and safely check on family, neighbours and friends, ensuring that they are well, have the resources they need, and are receiving public information. Thank you for working together to keep our community healthy and safe.

**Ruthie Patriquin is Community Economic Development Officer, Town of Oxford, and can be reached at 902 447-2250**

## Thefts from Community Mailboxes

Cumberland District RCMP is asking residents to check their mail more frequently in light of recent complaints of thefts from community mail boxes.

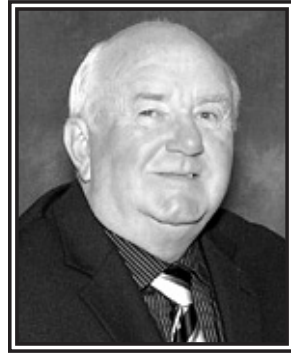
Since March 20, three incidents have been reported, on Athol Rd. in Athol, Rodney Rd. in Rodney, and Green Rd. in Tidnish Bridge. In all three cases, the door of the mail box was pried open and the contents of the box removed.

The RCMP is asking residents to consider checking their mail box regularly, while adhering to current social distancing protocols related to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are also encouraged to report suspicious activity to their local RCMP detachment. Should you wish to remain anonymous call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at [www.crimestoppers.ns.ca](http://www.crimestoppers.ns.ca), or use the P3 Tips App.

## Citizens Encouraged to Become Aware

By Don Fletcher

Recently I have had an issue in my district concerning by-laws due to land use and changes to the land use. This is an important issue because it impacts citizens in many different ways. First let me state that all public council minutes are published on our website and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. I would encourage citizens to become more aware of what is happening throughout Cumberland by either attending our council sessions, normally 1st and 3rd Wednesday's of the month in council chambers starting at 6 pm or familiarize themselves



Donald Fletcher

with the website.

Most everything council does is by way of process as dictated by the municipal government act (MGA). This is the gov-

ernance body that we must follow. In the land use bylaw case, a citizen will contact our planning department with the issue they want addressed. Staff will research and if doable will bring to council with a recommendation. Council will receive a presentation from staff and vote on 1st reading and pass by motion. Staff then publish this info in the local paper, twice announcing the change and when the public hearing will be held in council.

Currently the Warden will open the public hearing where the public can have their say and ask if any written statements. If no issues the public

hearing will be closed and then council will proceed with a vote. Once the vote is taken then the results are again published as notice of adoption. For the past seven years I have written this column with my take on what happened the evening before at council and I have encouraged citizens to become more engaged and with the new changes to council this fall I again encourage all citizens to get engaged. Hope this helps. As my grandfather would say, it's too late to close the barn door after the horse is already out! Call your councillor.

**Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10**

## Home Warming Program Presented to Council

By Don Fletcher

We began council March 3th at 5 pm in camera with 1 item covered. Public council began at 6 pm with a very interesting presentation on the program home warming, a combination of efficiency Nova Scotia and clean energy. This program will allow homeowners to remain in their homes and save on energy costs. Highly recommended for low income families. Jenn Hickey is the local agent and can be reached toll free at 1-877-955-4333 ext 220 or [www.HomeWarming.ca](http://www.HomeWarming.ca). Please check this out and pass on the info!

By the way it's official. New council this fall will have 8 councillors and a mayor. Please vote! The public sewer by-law discussion was next and will be back on next council agenda. Council is trying to find ways to fund the annual capitol debt of the Parrsboro sewer system and help citizens with the cost. Four options have been provided. More information will be made public very soon.

Budget time is fast approaching. Motion approved for second reading for amendment to land use by-law to rezone a property in Riverview. First reading of the livestock control by-law was approved by motion. Changes to Cumberland Regional library

board were approved. If board accepts the changes only one councillor will be necessary on this board.

Motion approved for a funding request for Tignish Bridge fire department. Tender award for Springhill building demolition was approved. A motion to wait until new budget and an upgrade to security system at the arena in Springhill was approved for relocation of the Carnegie medal from


the former town hall.

Council has been recognized by the Cumberland community health boards and Municipal Alcohol project committee as a community vibrancy and harm reduction champion. The MAP committee meet on a monthly basis and promote family friendly events throughout Cumberland. A very worthwhile project and the recent Fundy shore winter carnival was a prime example.

Motion approved for the mechanic street playground RFP. Information items in our package included Fundy shore winter carnival report, library February report, NSFM communications for provincial budget 2020 and NSFM spring meeting dates.

Question: Are you concerned about the Covid 19 virus? Call your councillor.

**Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10**




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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Springhill: Monday-Friday 9 - 4  
Parrsboro: Thursdays  
River Hebert: Tuesdays  
Please call to set up an appointment.



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