



Debert Legion Branch #106 President Robert Pash, left, presented the Past President's Medal to Comrade Gerry Dykens assisted by Sgt-at-Arms Rob Collins at the recent General Meeting of the branch. (MacQueen Photo)

Council Discusses Civic Address Signage

By Maurice Rees

Following a previous request from council, Colchester reached out to fire and emergency services partners over the past few months inquiring about the status of civic address signage and any identified issues that have been related to civic addresses posted in the field.

The staff report stated: Those who reported back indicated that civic address signage is much better now, but there are regions within every fire service coverage area that have pockets where signage is sporadic.

The report also stated:

All the volunteer fire services have made civic address signage education a priority every few years. Many have provided civic address signage as fundraisers in the past and continue to do so today. Private companies had also sold the signage. Fire services are preferring the double signed reflective white numbers on a blue background that have been adopted across Nova Scotia.

Presently the Municipality does not have a policy or by-law on civic addressing or signage standards like other municipalities (Town of Truro, Town of

Stewiacke, Cumberland County, Pictou County and Municipality of East Hants).

Should Council wish to implement a policy or by-law, consideration would have to be given to how this would be enforced.

Staffer, Dave Westlake said a number of neighbouring municipalities have signage bylaws, but Colchester does not. Councillor Johnson suggested about 30% have signage. Not good but better than in previous years. Maybe include stipulation when issuing building permits until by-law is developed. Start off with policy and work toward by-law to require signage with all new

permits.

Councillor Benoit indicated she had checked with Debert and OBFB. Both said there is a problem. Councillor Parker stated when he received a building permit from Cumberland, a sign and post for installation arrived in the same package.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Benoit "That staff be directed to create a policy or by-law that addresses a civic address program inclusive of standardized signage and enforcement provisions including requirement through all new building permits being issued." Carried unanimously.

Oxford's 5th Annual Poetry Festival

Two events will be held to celebrate Oxford's 5th Annual Poetry Festival. Celebrating Poetry Month & Gathering in Person will be held on Saturday, April 23 at Capitol Theatre, Oxford.

A free poetry workshop lead by published poet and local favorite, Richard Dittami from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Seating is limited and advance registration is required. To Register Email: oxfordpoetryfestival@gmail.com by April 8, 2022. Free entertainment, of Words & Music - an Afternoon of Folk Music & Poetry with local musicians and poets will be held from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

The Oxford Poetry Festival Committee Welcomes One and All. For More Information: Visit Poetry At Large Oxford's Annual Poetry Celebration on Facebook. COVID -19 Health Protocols in place at the time of this event will be observed.

Fire Department each to get \$10,000

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relief from the impacts of COVID-19," John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Organizations will not have to apply for the

grant. Funds will go directly to the organizations.

For additional information about increased coverage for fire fighters, please see: "Heart Attacks, More Cancers Added to Coverage" below.

Heart Attacks, More Cancers Added to Coverage

Heart Attacks, More Cancers Added to Firefighters' Insurance Coverage following a March 22 announcement by Jill Balser, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration, and Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness.

The Province is acting on its commitment to increase presumptive coverage to 19 cancers from six and to include heart attacks that occur within 24 hours of an emergency call. The additional coverage will be in amendments to the Firefighters Compensation Regulations under the Workers' Compensation Act. The 13 types of cancer being added are: esophageal, lung, testicular, ureter, breast, multiple myeloma, prostate, skin,

ovarian, cervical, penile, thyroid, and pancreatic. There is existing coverage for bladder, brain, colorectal and kidney cancer, leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"About 6,600 firefighters and their families will benefit from these changes, making Nova Scotia one of the leading provinces in Canada for presumptive coverage for firefighters," said Jill Balser, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. "I'd like to thank our firefighters for helping to advance these changes, and for the sacrifices they and their families make every day to keep us safe."

The amended regulations take effect July 1. Firefighters with a cancer diagnosis since

July 1, 2021, will be able to access the expanded benefits. The Province will cover the total liability cost of \$80.6 million for four fiscal years. Municipalities will not incur additional liability costs until 2025-26.

Quick Facts about Nova Scotia's firefighters: There are more than 6,000 volunteer firefighters and 600 paid firefighters work in Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia joins Manitoba and the Yukon as leaders in the country for presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters and the Province will cover \$67.4 million in initial liability costs for municipalities in 2021-22, and \$4.4 million in annual liability costs for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25

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The Portapique Community Build-up Project is continuing its mammoth project, but still needs to raise approximately \$40,000.

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