

Aimee Hirtle - New Director of Finance



Aimee Hirtle is the Municipality of Cumberland's new director of finance. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

Aimee Hirtle has always had strong Maritime roots and childhood connections even though she was born and raised in Alberta. Those connections have drawn her to Cumberland County as the municipality's new director of finance.

Hirtle's parents live in Sackville, N.B. and she remembers spending many summers vacationing in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. When she saw the Municipality of Cumberland's job listing on a website used by chartered professional accountants, she was quick to respond.

"I found out about the opportunity on the Nova Scotia CPA website. I've been coming here for about 15 years. Most of my family lives in the Halifax and Sackville, N.B. area, so the location was perfect and the job I thought would be a great challenge and a change," said Hirtle, who started her

new position earlier this month. "I wasn't born a Maritimer, but I'm a Maritimer at heart."

Hirtle replaces long-time director of finance Andrew MacDonald, who departed the municipality for another opportunity last summer after more than 30 years services. He was replaced on the interim by Deana Pike, the manager of financial services.

Hirtle is a CPA with 12 to 13 years public accounting experience. Some of that included auditing, not-for-profits, municipalities, school boards and First Nations.

"I like the challenge presented by something new. I don't like being bored and am always looking for new challenges," she said.

Her most recent position was secretary-treasurer of the Aspen View Public Schools in Athabasca, Alta. She has also served as the corporate treas-

urer for the Holy Family Regional Division in Peace River, Alta. and did a term position in Amherst with McIsaac Daragh in 2016.

Although she has only been on the job a short time, Hirtle is fitting in well with her new team in the municipality's finance department. This has allowed her to sort of hit the ground running as the municipality prepares for its 2023-24 budget process and the annual audit.

"I can't say enough about the people I work with. They're so professional and have really helped me with the transition," Hirtle said. "Everybody is great to work with and my finance team seems to work hard and get things done."

Hirtle is presently living in nearby Sackville, N.B. and recently purchased a home near Amherst. Away from the office, she said she's a huge sports fan, admitting to staying up late recently to watch Super Bowl LVII and being a big supporter of both the Edmonton Oilers and Toronto Maple Leafs. She is also a dog lover which keeps her more than busy.

"We're very pleased to be able to recruit someone with Aimee's public sector accounting and management experience," Municipality of Cumberland CAO Greg Herrett said. "She has fit in well and is already an important part of our senior management team. I'm happy to welcome her to our group."

Glen Boone - Director of Development & Planning



Glen Boone is the Municipality of Cumberland's new director of development and planning. (Darrell Cole - Municipality of Cumberland)

Glen Boone is experiencing a homecoming of sorts as he joins the Municipality of Cumberland as its new director of development and planning. Boone worked as a development officer for the municipality between March 1988 and March 1991 and was also a property mapper with the Nova Scotia government, based in Amherst, from 1997 to 1999.

He comes to the municipality with more than 30 years experience in administration, business development and municipal planning in both the government and private sectors.

Boone comes to Cumberland County from the federal government, where he was the director of real estate Atlantic for the Canada Lands Company after spending sev-

eral years as director of cargo and real estate development at Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

Boone took the helm of the newly-created Department of Development and Planning on March 6. He is responsible for permitting and inspection, land-use planning, economic development, climate change and tourism.

"This is an opportunity to get back to a little more of the grassroots of development and planning," Boone said. "Cumberland County has changed much since my first tour of duty and I'm looking forward to be part of a growing municipality."

Boone said his previous experience in the municipality and his familiarity with the region will prove helpful for him on the job. In his previous po-

sitions with the municipality and the provincial government in land information he gained a lot of knowledge of the communities and their diversity.

He's very excited to be part of what's becoming a very strong team within the Municipality of Cumberland that has included the addition of a new director of finance, a new director of protective services as well as other positions.

Boone said he's learned a lot from each position he's held during his career that saw him work in places like Rankin Inlet, Nunavut as well as with Crombie REIT in Stellarton and the MacKay Group Limited in New Glasgow.

"I've always moved for opportunity and experience. I've been very fortunate in that I've worked for a lot of very good mentors. Even in the latter part of my career I still try to learn from every opportunity," he said. "It has helped me develop a greater base of knowledge and have more experiences."

Along with his previous work experience with the municipality, he was also active in minor basketball with the AMBA and junior varsity basketball at Amherst Regional High School.

"The creation of the new department of development and planning and Glen's appointment to the director's role are important milestones as we continue to implement the recommendations from the Clear the Deck initiative," Municipality of Cumberland CAO Greg Herrett said. "Glen's diverse background and experience in these areas will serve us well moving forward. We are excited to welcome him to our group."

"Join Us In Cumberland" Encourages New People to County

Continued from page 1
people with certain skills to the area, Furlong added it's also important to consider their spouses and finding work for them as well.

Also, as the pandemic showed, people with jobs in places like Toronto showed they can work remotely and with the technology available they can live in places like Cumberland County and complete their work via the internet.

"If you're thinking about where else you could be, keep us in mind," Furlong said.

Patrick Manifold moved to Cumberland County after a professional basketball career and established a marketing company, Nova Scotia Media & Marketing. He said moving to Cumberland County was one of the best decisions he ever made.

"I fell in love with Cumberland County, Nova Scotia many years ago after spending many summers here between university and going overseas," Manifold said. "After retiring from pro basketball in 2018, we were starting a family, so we needed to lay down roots somewhere and begin our new life. With multiple passports to my name, the countries we had to choose from seemed endless - but we chose Cumberland."

"After living all around the world, we chose to make Cumberland our home because it was safe, affordable, welcoming, friendly, full of opportunity and allowed our growing family to experience all four beautiful and exciting seasons.

It is also full of incredibly kind people, who make living and doing business here a pleasure!

"The Municipality of Cumberland's mayor Murray Scott supports the program because it's important to the future of communities across the county and to the economy.

"We're in a very competitive world and we need to step up our game and show how Cumberland County is a great place to live for many reasons," the mayor said. "This province, like every other province, is trying to attract people. We need people to work here in many areas. It's so important to our economy and our future and the message has to be loud and clear that Cumberland County is a great place to live."

Among the positives to attract and retain people is the area's central location in the Maritimes and the only land entrance to Nova Scotia from the rest of Canada, as well as beaches with some of the warmest waters north of the Carolina, a world-class ski hill in Wentworth, a five-star resort at Fox Harb'r, areas of natural beauty and numerous small businesses.

"There are people all over Canada and the world who are looking to make a fresh start or begin a new chapter in their life, and we believe that Cumberland is the perfect place to do so... they just don't know it yet," Furlong said. "And that is where we come in. We want to start appearing on their radar and make Cumberland an option

for all of those people considering somewhere new. These people love the idea of joining a kind, safe, affordable, and welcoming community like ours, so it's our duty to inform them about us."

For more information, go to: <https://joinusincumberland.ca>

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Nova Scotia Forest Sector - Quick Facts

Did you know?:

Silviculture funding helps with the cost of lower intensity harvesting practices and supports private woodlot owners to implement ecological forestry on private land; the money is paid to contractors who do the silviculture work;

Industrial private woodlots are at least 2,000 hectares in size and their owners also own a sawmill or wood products manufacturing facility;

There are about 30,000 private woodlot owners in Nova Scotia;

The Association for Sustainable Forestry is managing the funding for silviculture and most aspects of the Fiona cleanup, and

Forest Nova Scotia is managing funding for repairing roads damaged by Fiona

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