



Municipality of Cumberland Deputy Mayor and District 6 Coun. Mark Joseph, Mayor Murray Scott, Kings-Hants MP Kody Blois, Cumberland County MLA and Natural Resources and Renewables Minister Tory Rushton and District 5 Coun. Angel McCormick following Saturday's infrastructure announcement in Springhill. (Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo)

\$6.4-Million for Junction Road, Athol Road

By Darrell Cole

For many years Cumberland County residents have complained about the condition of a major transportation link in the heart of the community. With the assistance of the federal and provincial governments, the Municipality of Cumberland is embarking on a pair of projects totalling more than \$6.4 million that will see new water and waste water infrastructure for both Junction Road and the Athol Road.

Municipality of Mayor Murray Scott was joined by Cumberland South MLA and Natural Resources and Renewables Minister Tory Rushton and Kings-Hants MP Kody Blois in making the announcement on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill.

"This is big news for Springhill and Cumberland County," Scott said. "We've had decades and decades of attempts with just patch work on Junction Road and the Athol Road. This is a complete overhaul and what needs to be done to do it properly."

The federal government is committing \$2.5 million to the project while the province is providing \$2.1 million. The Municipality of Cumberland's share is \$1.7 million.

Scott said he is so appreciative of the support from the federal and provincial governments. "Without their support it would be impossible for the Municipality of Cumberland to address this," the mayor said. "It's crucial to the success of our commu-

nity."

This project will completely renew all underground infrastructure as well as roadway and sidewalk on Junction Road, where, from Lisgar Street to Main Street, a stormwater system will be installed. The existing ditches will be replaced with curbs and gutters, and a new storm water outlet will be built. As well, the project will replace the existing sanitary sewer, which will eliminate stormwater from the sanitary system. The existing water distribution infrastructure will also be replaced.

"It will be all new infrastructure underground, removing the infrastructure that has been there for nearly a hundred years," the mayor said.

Along the Athol Road from the intersection of the road and McGee Street, 800 metres of aging water distribution line will be replaced. As well, the project will replace 125 metres of water line along Beaton Lane, extending off Athol Road.

The project also includes replacement of the asphalt roadway from the intersection with McGee Street to the former town boundary.

"This investment is all about critical infrastructure for the Municipality of Cumberland to upgrade and enhance stormwater systems and replace water lines, which will help contribute to a growing municipality," Blois said. "I am pleased to see this partnership with all three levels of government coming together to make this project a reality."

Rushton welcomed the announcement, adding it's something residents in the area have been waiting for.

"This is a project I've advocated for since I was first elected in 2018 and I know it's something the mayor has been working towards for many years. Finally we are able to get these projects off the ground," Rushton said. "It's great to see the three levels of government coming together to make this a reality. This is going to upgrade the link between one end of Cumberland and the other end of Cumberland. It's going to help drive tourism and commerce."

Media inquiries:
Darrell Cole
Cumberland's Corporate
Communications Officer and can be reached at
dcole@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca



Even though a photo, it could be mistaken for a painting. The old shed has withstood many a winter, and will do so for many more to come. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Winter is perhaps not the favorite of everyone, but storms and winter present wonderful opportunities to capture our local beauty in a different way at Partridge Island. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Funding Helps with Fiona Damage, Silviculture

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cleanup and to manage their lands sustainably: \$2.5 million extends eligibility for Fiona-related assistance to industrial private woodlots and provides more support for repairing roads; after the fall storm, the Department supported private woodlot owners with \$4.6 million for cleaning up trees, preparing to replant, repairing roads and re-establishing boundary lines and \$3.2 million is for silviculture work and will allow contractors to get started in the spring as soon as the weather allows,

rather than having to wait for the Department's 2023-24 budget to be finalized.

This marks a permanent shift in the schedule of silviculture funding. Starting with the 2023-24 budget, budgeted silviculture funding will be for work in the subsequent fiscal year. This change will give woodlot owners certainty about funding amounts, which allows for early planning, and means valuable time in the woods is not lost in the spring.

Here are some quotes from a number of forest sector executives:

David Sutherland, Executive Director, Association for

Sustainable Forestry - "We are pleased to co-ordinate the provincial forestry funding for both silviculture treatments and Fiona cleanup. The timely alignment of this funding with the considerable work to be done on the ground will provide vital resources to private woodlot owners."

Stephen Moore, Executive Director, Forest Nova Scotia - "Nova Scotia's forest sector provides a net environmental benefit. We plant more trees than we harvest, and we take more carbon out of the environment than we emit. As a sector, we are committed to the continued responsible

management of our forests and to furthering our positive environmental impact. The funding for silviculture and Fiona cleanup helps us do that."

Ralph Stewart, President, Nova Scotia Forestry Contractors Association - "We thank the Department for their continued collaboration with the forestry contractors in the province. This additional funding will assist the landowners to ensure better and healthier management of their forestry holdings for generations to come."

Provincial Burn Restrictions Began March 15

Provincial burn restrictions will be in effect from March 15 to October 15. "Burn restrictions help protect our properties, families, communities, forests, and wildlife," said Natural Resources and Renewables Minister Tory Rushton. "Burning is only allowed when there is the lowest possible risk of wildfires. I encourage everyone to check the BurnSafe map online before you burn. Please be responsible and safe."

The restrictions cover outdoor fires, including those in backyard burn pits, brush burning and campfires that are not in private, municipal, provincial or federal campgrounds with proper campfire facilities.

During wildfire season, burning is not permitted any-

where in the province between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each day at 2 p.m., the provincial BurnSafe map is updated to show where and when burning is permitted: if a county is shown in green, burning is permitted after 2 p.m.; if a county is shown in yellow, burning is permitted after 7

p.m.; if a county is shown in red, burning is not permitted that day.

Daily burn restrictions are also available by recorded message on the toll-free phone line 1-855-564-2876 (BURN). In an emergency, Nova Scotians can report wildfires by calling 1-800-565-2224 or 911.





6 McFarlane St., PO Box 250
Springhill, NS B0M 1X0

1-902-597-4039
Toll Free 1-833-597-8679
Fax: 1-902-597-3310

toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com

TORY RUSHTON, MLA Cumberland South

