



Colchester North MLA, Tom Taggart is shown in upper right corner of this photo taken while the Nova Scotia Budget was presented. (Comm NS Photo)

Unightly Premises By-law – First Reading

By Maurice Rees

Colchester Council approved first reading of Unightly Premises By-law at its committee meeting on March 16th. The recommended by-law is intended to supplement the MGA process to incentivize property owners to comply with D&U orders and to attempt to prevent D&U situations from arising. These goals are addressed by allowing for greater fee recovery by the Municipality and introducing penalties for non-compliance and non-payment of fees. As well, the by-law discourages repeat infractions by shortening the timelines for compliance with the orders, while

respecting the appeal period requirements of the MGA.

The recommended by-law contains the following key provisions: A requirement that every property owner must maintain their property so that it is not dangerous or unsightly, and that they must comply with an order to rectify any dangerous or unsightly condition; Permission for the Administrator/Building Inspector to enter onto property to ensure compliance with the by-law; A standard timeline of 30 days to comply with a first order against a property, and a shortened timeline of 7 days to comply with a second or subsequent order against the property. The shortened timeline of 7 days also

applies if the owner has other property in the Municipality that has previously been subject to an order. These timelines are discretionary.

Additional factors that may be considered when assessing timelines are identified, including the complexity of the required work, the season/time of year, the availability of resources such as contractors and supplies, the existence of a reasonable plan to perform the work, the existence of any immediate safety concerns, and discretion for the Building Inspector to identify other issues. The appeal period is referenced in the by-law, consistent with the MGA.

A fees section is set out,

which is intended to allow the Municipality to recover costs incurred other than the amounts paid to contractors for the work done. These costs could include costs for staff time (for example, a per-visit charge for each time the Building Inspector has had to attend the property) or hearing costs. The fees will be set by policy, and it is recommended that they be incorporated into the existing Municipal Fees Policy. The by-law then allows that outstanding fees may be recovered through taxation.

A penalties section sets out monetary penalties for non-compliance with either an order or the payment of fees. There is an escalating scale for owners (including common owners of multiple properties) starting at a fine range of \$500-\$1,000 for a first offence, \$1,000-\$2,500 for a second offence, and \$2,500-\$5,000 (the maximum allowable under Part XV the MGA) for a third offence. By-law does not include length of grass on lawn, property.

Marketing Levy – In place by September 1?

By Maurice Rees

If things go according to Hoyle, Colchester municipalities and tourism stakeholders will have a new marketing levy implemented September 1, 2023. Colchester council committee was provided with a preview of the Draft By-law at its meeting on March 16th.

First Reading of the proposed by-law will take place at

the upcoming March 2023 Council meeting. A Marketing Levy By-law has been drafted collaboratively with the Town of Truro. The intent is to have the two by-laws mirror each other, as funds will be pooled and used towards regional marketing efforts.

A working group has been formed to develop a suggested framework for a Regional Des-

tinuation Marketing Organization (DMO). The working group includes representation from the following organizations: County of Colchester (CAO, EDO & Community Engagement); Town of Truro (CAO, Manager of Economic Development); Town of Stewiacke (CAO); Millbrook First Nations (EDO & Hotel Property Rep); Hotel Industry

Representative (GM of Best Western Glengarry); Tourism Industry Representative (GM of the RECC) and Chamber of Commerce (Executive Director).

At this stage, the working

group will develop a proposed governance model and board composition for the DMO. These recommendations will come before each Council for approval before the launch of the organization.



On March 1st the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce hosted, Newcomer Voices Vignette Evening, to showcase stories from 5 people who immigrated to this region and have launched businesses or have had a very rewarding careers in our area. Pictured (L-R): Rhon Canalin, Kabitenyos Filipino Asian Variety; Laura and Zach Bloom, Pearl House Farms; Anja Willems, Coldwell Banker Open Door Realty; Sam Abushenaf, LIBCAN, and Davinger Mavi Singh, AA Warehouse. These videos can be found on the Chamber's YouTube Channel,

(<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0UBtEjavATeNmA2c10Kzz87Ib90JRt7>). Contributed.

Community Park Funding – Winter 2023 Applications

Three applications were received for the September 2022 and February 2023 deadlines:

Hilden Elementary School Home and School Association requested \$40,000.00 (14% of estimated project cost of \$277,486.00) for extensive playground upgrades including new swings, large traditional play structure, two spinners, carousel, hill slide, ninja course, accessible playground surfacing, benches, and a short forest trail. Staff has approved a grant of \$40,000.00 pending confirmation of project costs and other funding

sources.

North Shore Recreation Centre (John K. MacDonald Memorial Sports Field) requested \$11,051.00 (50% of project cost of \$22,103.00) toward ball field upgrades for improved safety and playability including a sun screen, batters mat, portable pitching mound, improved field drainage, and gravel for the driveway/parking area. Staff has approved a grant of \$11,051.00.

Truro Alliance Church requested \$40,000.00 (32% of project cost of \$126,270.00)

for development of a public playground on a large field area of the church property in Truro Heights. The natural playground will include swings, play hill with slide, obstacle course, benches, natural landscaping, and accessible surfacing. Staff has approved a grant of \$40,000.00 pending confirmation of project costs and other funding sources.

Check out our Daily Food Specials and Homemade Desserts!

Try Our Steaks!

THURSDAY Wing Night!

SATURDAY - B'buque Ribs & Skins!

PUB & GRUB WHISTLERS

Famous for our POTATO SKINS!

Our FISH & CHIPS are made with Camille's World Famous Batter!

Conveniently located on your way to or from Halifax!
285 George Street, Stewiacke
Call ahead or just drop in! 902-639-9221

Colchester
be centred here.

Budget Meetings
Tuesday, April 11, Monday, April 17
& Monday, April 24 @ 6pm

Council Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 13 @ 6pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, April 27 @ 6pm

Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro
902-897-3184 | Colchester.ca

MAGNOLIA

CLASSIC CABINETRY

www.magnoliaclassiccabinetry.ca or email: info@magnoliaclassiccabinetry.ca or call us: 1-902-843-4140

LEDWIDGE LUMBER

Forests Our Future

Maritime Grown & Produced from a Renewable Resource

**Always purchasing studwood & stumpage,
paying premium prices for spruce & fir**

Contact Rob at 902-221-0324 or Shawn at 902-221-1263

195 Old Post Rd. Enfield, NS www.ledwidelumber.com