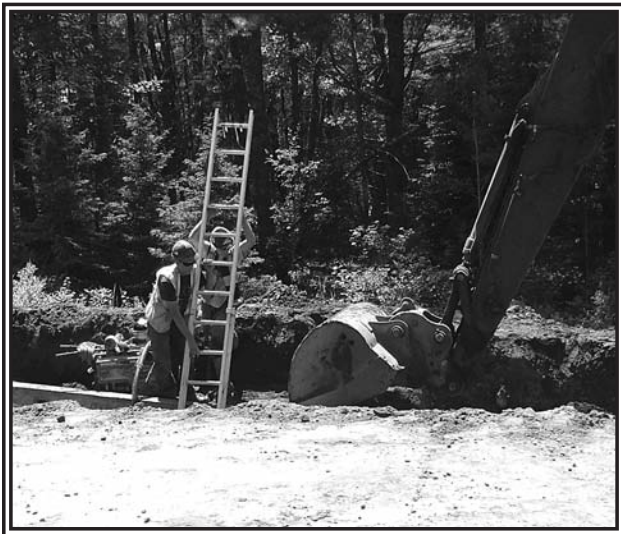




It's been stop and go traffic on Plains Road, Debert as new water mains are installed in preparation for the construction of a new water tower. (Rees Photo)



Safety is paramount on the water main construction site in Debert. Workers use a step ladder to get to the bottom of the trench, but are protected from collapsing walls by a sturdy steel enclosure. (Rees Photo)

Roundabout and Water Tower for Debert this Fall

By Maurice Rees

Construction on the new roundabout on the exit from Highway 104 to Debert is expected to be underway and possibly completed this fall.

The much anticipated roundabout will open up new lands for sale within the business park and open up lands for development of a commercial destination visible from the highway.

Currently new water mains are being installed parallel to Plains Road in Debert, which were required as part of several phases of Debert Water Utility projects prior to construction of Debert's new water tower.

The roundabout and water tower are two of three tenders to be issued in July for 2017/18 Colchester projects. The third project is a new sidewalk for Carter Road, which is estimated to cost \$250,000.

So as not to delay construction period in 2017, a staff recommendation to council on June 29th asked council authorize the CAO to award the tenders for the Debert Roundabout, Carter Road Sidewalk and Debert Water Tower, provided that the tender amounts are within the approved capital budget; and, Council authorize August Council Committee to award the tenders if the tender amounts exceed the approved capital budget.

Discussion indicated should tenders exceed estimated amounts, a special council meeting could be called.

The approved 2017/18 capital budget includes the following amounts for the three projects: Debert Roundabout at \$2.6M will

be funded 50% Gas Tax and 50% Debert Sale of Homes. Carter Road Sidewalk suggested to cost \$250,000 will see funding sourced - 50% Gas Tax and 50% Active Transportation Area Rate.

Scheduled to cost approximately \$-Million, the Debert Water Tower will be built with funding from all three levels of government.

The Federal and provincial governments will contribute 2/3 of the cost, while the remaining one-third cost comes from the municipality via Debert Sale of Homes account.

It is understood specifications for the water tower includes a 360 degree railing at the top, which could permit installation of fiber speed repeater towers to serve area businesses and residents should the current high speed internet feasibility determine fiber and equal speed internet service for the county is possible.

Internet technicians have indicated the top of the tower is visible for a wide surrounding area including Londonderry.

Although the feasibility study will determine where laying fiber lines is possible, some remote areas unfeasible because of the lack of population density could be served by repeater towers from high existing structures such as water towers or farm silos.

Where necessary, repeater towers will assist bringing internet service equal to the speed of fiber to the remainder of the county.

Details about the \$9,000 feasibility study were included as the Page 1 headline story of the July issue of the Shoreline Journal.

\$90,000 and location and directional signage, \$10,000.

The province has approved up to \$75,000 for approximately one third share of initial improvements. The dyke and connector trail costs of \$75,000 will be sourced from existing budget allocations in the recreation budget. The washroom building (\$165,000) will see \$10,000 allocated from the province, with the remaining \$65,000 allocated towards the \$90,000

natural playground.

The provincial contribution of \$75,000, plus existing allocations in the recreation department totaling \$175,000, left a shortfall which required staff asked council's approval of a capital budget of \$290,000 in order to proceed with the \$465,000 commitment. The Town of Truro was approached for a contribution, but have decided to decline participating in this initial phase.

August Events at Colchester East Hants Public Library

Aug 4: Author reading. Please join us in welcoming author Kathryn Smith who writes under the names Kate Cross and Kate Kessler, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch, 3:30-5:00.

Aug 8: Summer Fun program for ages 4-7. Program runs from 10:30-11:15, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch.

Aug 10: Fire Safety - Join the Truro Fire Service at the Library for a Story Time, followed by a fire station tour, fire safety and an opportunity to see the fire trucks. Ages 5-12 years. Pre registration required, Limit of 30 participants. 10:30-12:00

Aug 12: Library day at the Wildlife Park. Admission is half price with a CEHPL library card. Don't have a card? Drop by your local branch or sign up at the park. 10:00-2:00.

Aug 15: Jamie Junger, a children's singer/songwriter will be stopping by to perform his family show, "Fishin for Pickles", at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch. Show starts at 10:30.

Aug 17: One String Guitar Workshop. Come learn to make a One String Guitar. Program is for ages 8 and up. There is a limit of 10 spaces. A \$5.00 sign up fee is required, but will be refunded at time of the workshop. Program runs from 10:30-12:30, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch.

Aug 22: Family Fort Night in the Children's Department. Pajamas are welcome. Registration is appreciated. 6:00-7:30pm, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch.

Aug 22: Teddy Bear Picnic for ages 4-7, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch, 10:30-11:15.

Aug 24: Back to School Safety. Join the Truro Police at the library for a Story Time, followed by a police station tour, crosswalk safety and a K9 demonstration, at CEH Public Library, Truro Branch. Ages 5-12, 10:00-12:00

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted on a Wild blueberry processing line from Mid August into September. Also looking for blueberry rakers.

RED MOUNTAIN FARM East Montrose

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Palliser Property to get \$290,000 injection

By Maurice Rees

Colchester council has approved \$290,000 to implement Phase 1A of five phases to bring basic improvements to the former Palliser property, for which the masterplan concept was accepted by Truro and Colchester councils following a joint presentation in March 2017.

Initially called the Bay of Fundy Gateway Project, the property was purchased by the municipality for approximately \$750,000 with the intent to develop an iconic destination, which would promote the entire county and other areas bordering on the Bay of Fundy. Based on a conceptual master plan, the facility will require almost \$20-Million for complete development. A significant amount of the overall cost will require participation by provincial and federal govern-

ments, plus private sector investments to establish commercial operations.

With a phased approach, over the next few years, it is contemplated Phase three costing \$13-Million would include an interpretive centre, exhibition areas, restaurant, market kiosks, a kayak landing, along with a zip line over the Salmon River, plus other amenities. In the meantime, the county favours a staged approach to implement a higher level of basic services to serve the public, while the remaining phases of the project are being developed.

Phase 1a which was approved by council on June 29th will have a total cost of \$465,000. Components include: dyke and connector trail, \$75,000; Washroom building, \$165,000; Service (water and sewer) extensions, \$125,000; natural playground,

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