



The ground breaking for the new Portauptique Community Hall took place recently. Pictured are (left to right) Alana Hirtle (Truro Rotary Club), Andrew MacDonald (Truro Rotary Club, President of Project Trustees), Bjorn Merzbach (Project Trustee), Angela Shannon (Resident and Project Trustee), and Erin MacKinnon (Resident and Project Trustee). (Harrington Photo)

## Ground Broken for Community Hall

By Linda Harrington

Excitement was in the air at the recent ground breaking for the new Portauptique Community Hall project. The former building had been removed and the site was ready for the build to commence.

Several of the project organizers, with shovels in hand, were present for the celebratory moment including Truro Rotarian Alana Hirtle who was pleased to see the project finally getting to the construction phase. "The footings are ready to go in, followed by the concrete and we hope everything will be completed by the new year and ready for use by the spring."

The preliminary design concept incorporated the original Portauptique Hall, which was over 200 years old but when the structure was

looked at more closely it was discovered the floor was rotten it was decided to remove the building completely. The beams were salvaged and will be cleaned up and reused in the higher peak of the new building.

The fund raising for the \$822,000 project was originally under the "We Rise Again Fund" which is now called the "Portauptique Community Build-up", the name change reflecting the intention for the community to rebuild their community with support. Alana Hirtle says they are very grateful for all donations to date but about another \$100,000 in cash is needed to complete the project. Tax receipts can be issued through the "We Rise Again Fund" for amounts of \$20 or more and any donation is greatly appre-

ciated.

"We couldn't do this without the support of community and local businesses," says Hirtle. A few of the businesses helping get things literally off the ground were Mike Turner, of Turner Excavation who had his big rig completing all the site preparation and will also do the septic and back-filling, with Dan MacEachern ready to put in the foundation, concrete coming from Casey Concrete and rebar from John Ross & Sons.

The new Portauptique Community Hall will be 58' x 38', with a 40' x 38' pavilion. A children's playground was already completed early this year adjacent to the community hall and a weekly farm market is held on the property all summer.



Andrew MacDonald (Truro Rotary Club and President of Project Trustees) indicates where the Pavilion will be added to the build on the new Portauptique Community Hall, which faces the new playground, while Bjorn Merzbach (Project Trustee) looks around the completed site pad. (Harrington Photo)

## Environment and Climate Change Goals Report

The Province released its first annual report on July 22, on the work being done to address climate change and drive the province towards a healthy, clean and sustainable future.

Work on the legislation's 28 goals that has been done or is underway includes: protecting 266 hectares of Crown land at Owls Head as a provincial park; investing \$44.9 million from revenue from the carbon pricing program to support energy efficiency and the transition to a low-carbon economy; exploring opportunities for Nova Scotia to become a leader in the clean renewable energy sector, including green hydrogen production and offshore wind and committing \$15 million to create the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund to help communities adapt to climate change, mitigate its effects, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs.

Other inclusions: adding 10 per cent more renewable electricity to the grid and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than one million tonnes annually through a request for proposals for low-cost, innovative wind and solar solutions; completing consultation on expanding Nova Scotia's extended producer responsibility program to add printed

paper and packaging (blue bag materials) and batteries, lighting and additional electronics; regulations are being developed; drafting the Coastal Protection Act regulations; updating resources in the Science 10 course for environmental stewardship and climate change, and developing a new Environmental Studies 12 course centered on Netukulimk, from the Mi'kmaq concept of looking after one another in environmentally sustainable ways.

Consulting to update the provincial Air Quality regulations; investing \$57 million in expanding energy efficiency programming for homes and businesses across the province; investing \$2.5 mil-

lion in the Verschuren Centre for Sustainability in Energy and the Environment in Sydney to expand into a national centre for biomanufacturing; working to create a panel by the end of 2022 to address environmental racism; continuing to create an updated climate plan and risk assessment; to be announced later this year; creating a new provincial program to support the consumption of local food, Nova Scotia Loyal, which is in the prototyping phase and implementing the new forest practices' guide to ensure a sustainable forestry industry.

The full report is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/progress-report/>

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## Changes to OHS Education Trust Fund

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce electronic newsletter reported the following regarding changes to the OHS Education Trust Fund.

The Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Occupational Health and Safety Division, has an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Education Trust Fund available that has recently undergone a few changes. The objective is to make the fund more accessible to Nova Scotia organizations striving to influence, improve or impact occupational health and safety.

We want to make it, so workplaces, sectors and organizations have access to resources to become best practice safety leaders in their industries.

Here are some of the changes to the OHS Education Trust Fund: Open to small and medium workplaces taking on a new safety initiative outside of their core business; No funding limited listed on the application; Large workplaces working with an industry group to influence sector safety culture change are now eligible to apply and "Fast Track" applications-Applicants applying for \$2000.00 or less can be expedited through the process.

If the OHS Education Trust Fund is something your organization may be interested in learning more about, you can find out more information at <https://novascotia.ca/lac/healthandsafety/ohstrustfund.asp>, or send a email to [OHSTrustFund@novascotia.ca](mailto:OHSTrustFund@novascotia.ca)

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