

Looking Ahead to 2020 Municipal Elections

By Maurice Rees

Even though municipal elections across Nova Scotia will not be held until October 17, 2020 some people are advocating the electorate must become more engaged.

In 2016 Colchester's current council was determined by 9 of 11 councillors returning to council via acclamation.

Candidates stepped forward in Districts 2 and 11. Incumbent Bill Masters, District 2, who was first elected in 2000, and served as Deputy Mayor for several years captured 82.77% of the vote to easily beat Shawn Duffy, 567-118.

In district 11, Wade Parker faced competition from Tom Burke, but won 50.59% of the vote in a tally of 416-403. Parker, a red seal auto body technician was first elected in 2012.

Councillor's elected by acclamation included: Geoff Stewart, District 3, first elected in 2012; Mike Cooper, District 4, first elected in 2008 is serving his third term as Councillor. In District 5, first elected in 2008 Lloyd Gibbs is serving his second term as Councillor.

Karen MacKenzie is serving her third term as Councillor in District 6 having been elected in 2008. Mike Gregory was first elected to Council in 2012 and is serving his second term as Councillor for District 7.

Ron Cavanaugh, District 8, was first elected to Council in 1988, serving two terms until 1994. He was re-elected in 1997, and returned by acclamation in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. Bob Pash served his first term on Council from 1985-1988. He is now serving his second term as Councillor representing District 9.

The 9th councillor to be elected by acclamation includes Tom Taggart, first elected in 2008, is serving his third term as Councillor in District 10.



There was a contest for the Mayor's position with veteran Bible Hill councillor, Christine Blair defeating incumbent Mayor Bob Taylor for the top position. Blair captured 53.02% to Taylor's 46.98% to win 3051-2703. Mayor Blair is serving her first term as Mayor for Colchester County. She also served three terms as Councillor for District 1, representing Bible Hill and Valley from 1997-2000; Bible Hill and Brookside from 2008-2016.

Taylor was first elected mayor in 2008 winning the top post in 2008 and 2012. He had previously served as councillor for 11 years. The electorate was disengaged with 20.28% turnout for the mayoralty position, while the two council districts elicited a turnout of 26% and 31%. A total of 1,604 cast votes in the two council districts. Colchester County is a jurisdiction of 38,000. Average age of council is 64. Around the council table, except for Councillor Karen MacKenzie and Mayor Christine Blair, 83% are male.

During late summer, a recent failed attempt to introduce a temporary Kennel By-law ignited some discussion for more people to seek public office. The proposed temporary by-law resulted in several public protests and some kennel operators were vowing to find candidates to run in each electoral district.

OpenHydro Seeks \$17-Million Tax Credits

By Maurice Rees

Even though the tidal turbine is not functioning; the company is bankrupt and over \$6-Million is owned to several of Atlantic Canada's most prominent marine companies, the corporate entities involved in the defunct tidal turbine on the FORCE site near Parrsboro are seeking over \$17-Million in tax credits.

An affidavit filed with the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on behalf of Open Hydro Technologies Canada Ltd indicates the company has filed for credits in three categories: \$7,360,751 in provincial tax credits under the scientific research and experimental development program for the fiscal years 2015 and 2016;

\$6,318,954 worth of the same credits at the federal level and a \$4,127,686 Capital Investment Tax Credit with the provincial government.

In early November, Laurent Schneider-Maunoury, who is listed as president of French defense contractor Naval Energies, parent of OpenHydro was also listed as a director of Open Hydro Technologies Canada Ltd.. In a filing with Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock in early November, Schneider-Maunoury and that of Alisdair MacLean were removed as directors.

Apparently, the application

is presently under review and is the subject of a number of questions and request for documentation and clarification from the Government of Nova Scotia. Scheider-Maunoury has suggested the company wishes to undertake an orderly wind-down and liquidation of its affairs under the supervision and approval of the Court. That wind-down would include maintaining and preparing to sell the purpose-built barge Scotia Tide; planning for the removal of the experimental turbine placed in the Minas Passage.

Open Hydro claims to have spent \$30 million building the

catamaran style barge with a three point hitch system capable of lifting 1,150 tonnes. Four days after Open Hydro Technologies Canada Ltd. placed the two-megawatt tidal turbine in the Minas Passage in July, Naval Energies pulled the plug on financing Open Hydro's Irish parent company.

Sources suggest removal of the turbine might not be possible until mid-May. Other early November documents show the company has been approved for a one time loan of \$500,000 from its bankrupt Irish parent company to fund its operations and legal expenses for another month.

Chiganois Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

Virtue of the Month was PEACEFULNESS- An inner sense of calm. It comes especially in quiet moments of reflection or gratitude. It is getting very quiet and looking at things so you can understand them. Peacefulness is a way of approaching conflict with others so that no one is made wrong. The Virtue of the Month Assembly was held on Nov. 5th.

Literacy Tip of the Month Talk to your child about what you are reading. When reading with your child, you can discuss what might happen next, using, 'I wonder' type questions, such as: "I wonder what this story might be about". Also, asking "Who, what, when, where and why" questions during reading is beneficial to developing student comprehension of the text.

For parents who may be looking for extra support or ideas for children with autism; the Colchester Autism Support Group for Parents and Caregivers meet the last Tuesday of the month at Maggie's Place (1027 Prince St.) at 6:30pm. All are welcome! Visit their website at <http://www.autismtruro.ca/> Attention Regarding Christmas Concert! The music teacher has been out of school since the beginning of June, and therefore there will not be a Christmas concert this year; however, there will most likely be a Chiganois Spring Concert in late April or early May, 2019. When a spring concert was performed by the students a couple years ago, the school received many positive comments.

This year the school, in collaboration with the community, will be celebrating the tree lighting at the Masstown Community Park on Friday, December 7th at 7:00PM. There will be a sing along lead by community, staff and students and a chance to celebrate with hot chocolate and treats. Everyone is welcome!

A Remembrance Day Service was held on Nov. 9th in the gymnasium with members of the local Legion Branch and two members of the RCMP present.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood in consultation with the Council on Classroom Conditions have made some changes to the report card templates for elementary school students and the reporting of student achievement. These changes will be in effect for the first reporting period at the end of November. There will be future correspondence regarding the specific changes in the coming weeks before report cards are sent home. The changes will be communicated to parents via email attachment, the school website and a hard copy for parents who receive the school newsletter as a hardcopy. Report Cards will go on home

on Nov. 27th followed by Parent/Teacher Interviews on Nov. 29th from 5:30 - 7:30PM and Nov. 30th- 9:00- 11:30AM.

The SAC/PTG will meet on Nov. 27th with the SAC at 6:00PM and the PTG at 7:00PM.

Pancakes with the Principal for November birthdays will be held on Nov. 27th.

A huge thank you to all the parents and community members and local businesses who have contributed in any way to support the additions underway to the school playground. This endeavor has been in the works for about a year and began with the acquisition of grant monies through the efforts of the Parent Teacher Group. A task of this magnitude could not be realized without the support of many. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Just a reminder to please check the school website and facebook page regularly. Hotmail users, please check your "junk/spam mail" folder as this is often a problem with those users not receiving emails. Also, if you are still not receiving the school emails please contact Mrs. Keizer and she will help assist you with this issue.

The Parent Teacher Group is pleased to announce they will be holding their annual Christmas Store on December 17th for all students. At this time, The Parent Teacher Group would like you to start putting aside those items that can be donated for this much anticipated event. Items for the store are donated by parents, teachers, etc. Please send in any donated items to the school by Wednesday December 12th. Examples are books, CDs, movies, ornaments, mugs, toys, etc. We are usually in need of items for Dads/teens. New or gently used and clean items only please.

If you have wrapping paper, tape, and gifts bags that can be donated it would be greatly appreciated. Students will purchase gifts for family whom will be with them Christmas morning. If there are any items/time remaining, students will have a second chance to shop for themselves. Items will range from \$0.25 to \$1. Students are asked to bring in their shopping list and money (\$5 is suggested - in a sealed baggie) on the 17th. All students are invited to shop. If someone forgets their money at home, they will be given an IOU to bring in their money late.

The Boston Reading challenge is well underway! Don't forget to send in your reading logs and your coupon will be issued to you by PTG not long after. Please note; ignore the expiry date on the coupons as Boston Pizza has indicated to PTG they wanted to use up the ones they have from last year before printing more. Boston Pizza will definitely honour all coupons from the Boston Pizza Reading Challenge!

Our Furry Friends (Pets)

*Sometimes it is the dark
When the angels come to call
Sometimes it is the bark
Of a dog down the hall*

Time is healing my heart and soul

*Sometimes it is the light
That fills my eyes with tears
Just knowing wrong from right
Remembering back all those years*

Time is healing my heart and soul

*Sometimes just a gesture of a friend
Who gives from their heart and soul
Or a book you don't want to end
Maybe the site of a grave-yard hole*

Time is healing my heart and soul

*Life is full of ups and downs
With sadness some do part
It has its demons and its clowns
But time heals my soul and heart!*

Time is healing my heart and soul

*God Bless and Thank-You
Thomas A Marshall, (Ex-Navy)*

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YOUR FAMILY MEMORIES**



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