



Royal Canadian Legion Debert Branch # 106 President Robert Pash presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Shelly Vincent for 30 years of excellent service to the branch. (Don MacQueen Photo)

63% of Project Committed

Continued from page 1
for years to come."

Already the Hall has hosted programs for youth, facilitated by Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning. With the addition, the space will be able to accommodate up to 100 people. It will be a space the community can gather to celebrate, to heal and to plan for the future.

It will provide the community with a meeting place, a home for a market, and so much more. "We plan to break ground for the addition in the New Year," said Hirtle. "Donations of all sizes are welcome; every dollar will help us get this project to completion."

Donations may be made through the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia www.wearegafund.ca

Donations larger than \$20 will qualify for a charitable tax receipt. Anyone wishing to make an in kind donation of supplies may contact the club via email: trurorotary@gmail.com

About the Rotary Club of

Truro: The Rotary Club of Truro has been part of the fabric of the community of Truro as well as the network of Rotary Clubs around the world since 1926. In addition to providing assistance to countless individuals with special needs for medical treatment or equipment over the years, the Club has continued to focus on the needs of children with disabilities. Internationally, the Club has contributed generously to the Polio Plus campaign of Rotary International to help eliminate polio and to many other projects around the world.

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Federal Support Needed on RCMP Costs

Submitted by Geoff Stewart

Significant and unbudgeted costs linked to contract policing following the recent RCMP bargaining agreement will have a significant financial impact on municipalities, Geoff Stewart 3rd Vice President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities said in a recent release. Stewart is also Deputy Mayor, Municipality of the County of Colchester.

"Maintaining effective police services is a top priority," said Geoff Stewart. "Yet municipalities cannot run deficits and we have limited revenue tools, and the recent bargaining agreement between the federal government and National Police Federation has left municipalities across the country with unexpected costs. We need support from the federal government."

Where municipalities were advised to prepare, estimates of 2.5% per year increases turned out to be far below the

final agreement's 23.7% increase over six years, with retroactive pay going back to 2017. Facing such unplanned costs, many local governments, especially in rural areas, are concerned about how they are supposed to pay.

"Municipalities were not consulted during the bargaining process, despite its outcome having a substantial impact on our finances," said Geoff Stewart. "We're asking the federal government to absorb all retroactive costs associated with the implementation of the new RCMP collective agreement, and going forward, municipalities need to be properly consulted prior to the implementation of measures that have a direct impact on our operations. Growing our partnership on public safety across orders of government is the best way to maintain the service levels necessary for community safety and the fi-



Geoff Stewart

nancial sustainability of contract policing services across Canada."

Geoff Stewart is Deputy Mayor Colchester County and earlier in 2021 was elected as 3rd Vice President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He can be reached at: 902-899-6312, gstewart@colchester.ca

Burrill to Resign, Asks for New Leader

By Maurice Rees

On November 9th, NDP Leader Gary Burrill announced he going to step down as Leader in order to provide an opportunity to renew the leadership of our Party before the next election. Earlier in the day he met by conference call, with the Provincial Council of our Party.

He will be continuing as



Geoff Stewart

the Leader of the NSNDP until a new Leader is chosen. Beyond that, he will continue as the MLA for Halifax Chebucto.

Burrill said, "One of the most important parts of leadership is knowing when the time has come for renewal, and knowing when to bring your own leadership to a conclusion. In my judgement, this is that time".

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