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# South Cumberland NEWS

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## Pumpkin Carving Contest

This photo essay of photos illustrates the great time area children during a pumpkin carving contest as part of the 10 days in October festivities held this year. Government funding is very important to assist local groups to develop additional tourism and local activities in small communities. Children learn various skills including how to work as a team and use sharp instruments carefully to carve a delightful series of monsters. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)



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## Hurricane Fiona Clean up in Cumberland

By Darrell Cole

At its October meeting Cumberland council approved plan to collect brush and wood left by Fiona

The Municipality of Cumberland has approved a plan that will see the collection of brush and wood left on people's property following post-tropical storm Fiona in September.

Part of the municipality's support to the community in response to Fiona was to pro-

vide locations for residents to dispose of brush and wood from their yards and these sites have been used since the post-tropical storm hit the area on Sept. 23 and 24.

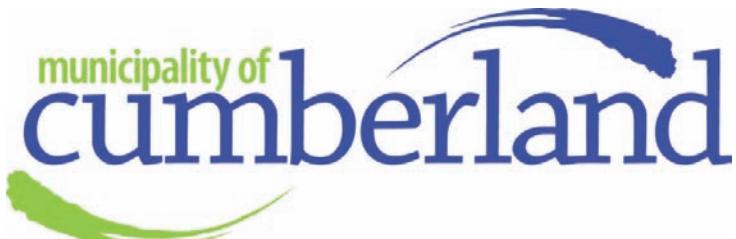
Support has also been provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and the Canadian Armed Forces to cut and move trees that were obstructing residents' enjoyment of their properties. However, this program did not remove

wood and brush from the properties.

There may be residents without the means or capacity to transport brush or wood from their yards. To support these residents, the county is proposing to offer a request-driven program to remove wood and brush with requests being handled by the municipality's front counter and Public Works staff would coordinate an organized response to these requests.



## Council Focuses on Homelessness



Cumberland municipal council has accepted a discussion paper on homelessness in the municipality.

In recent months, council has received presentations and committee motions regarding homelessness, including a presentation from the Cumberland YMCA about its services targeted at the homeless population and assisting homeless and transitional individuals with navigating the various supports

On November 24th, Councillor Houghtaling initiated and go got council's approval for a discussion paper regarding the Municipality setting aside .25% of our Deed Transfer Tax to be used for poverty reduction initiatives, for consideration in our next budget cycle.

The motion approved by council read: That Council direct staff to prepare a discussion paper on what it would look like for the Municipality of the Count of Cumberland to use .25% of the deed transfer tax toward poverty reduction initiatives for the next budget season.

Council has also had a presentation from the non-profit organization Cornerstone, which is working to establish a permanent emergency shelter in

Amherst. As part of this, they are hiring an executive director for a one-year term and would welcome a monetary contribution to the position or in-kind support in general.

The poverty reduction advisory committee has requested municipal councils in Cumberland County to make a "meaningful contribution" to the construction of a new emergency shelter.

Council directed staff at its October committee of the whole meeting to gather more information regarding the funding request by Cornerstone and the relationships between Cornerstone, the YMCA and other working groups remediating homelessness issues.

During its November committee of the whole, council decided to forward to its

regular meeting on Nov. 23 a motion to request CAO Greg Herrett to talk to Amherst CAO Jason MacDonald about entering the memorandum of understanding between the town and Cornerstone to cost-share the cost of an executive director for one year.

In Cumberland County, out of 48 homeless people identified in a 2021 scan, 16.7 per cent were unsheltered and 79 per cent were provisionally accommodated with anecdotal information suggesting provisionally-accommodated individuals are underreported.

There is also a misconception that that the homeless population in Cumberland County is mostly transient in nature when, in reality, the majority call Cumberland County home.

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