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“Plan It Colchester” Presentation to Council

By *Maurice Rees*

Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson chaired for her first committee meeting on November 14th following being elected to the position at the October monthly meeting. First item on the agenda on November 14 was a presentation by Ian Watson, Uplands Studio on the progress of the “Plan It Colchester” initiative as it enters a series of engagement and public open houses.

Province mandated that all municipalities must develop a master plan by early 2025. Council received an update on the progress of public input into the planning process Upland Planning and Design, who have been contracted to do the study for completion by March 2025. The presentation to council included a series of Power Point overheads to explain the process.

The Shoreline Journal has

extracted the overhead data and converted them into an explanatory article starting on Page 6 of this issue.

Craig Burgess, Director Recreation service presented an update on the North Colchester Recreation Centre - \$1,767,890 Floor Replacement Project contracted to Lindsay/Higgins Construction to replace the floor at the North Shore Arena. Upon review of the contract, it was noted that the committee could do approximately \$119,000 of in-kind work. The community came together to do that work to help reduce the project costs to \$1,648,890 excluding taxes.

The item before council committee was to request consideration to cover costs associated with the replacement of the arena floor. Council committee recommended to council the request for the North



Colchester Recreation Centre for additional overages of \$359,115.02, with a cost to the Municipality of approximately \$70,300 once grants, tax rebates and GIC have been received.

More complete details on the project is contained in a separate article elsewhere in this issue.

Michelle Boudreau, Director Public Works presented a Funding Application, Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development

Program (GRID) to seek Council's support for an application to the GRID program. Funding priority will be given to shovel-ready projects that help communities address critical capacity issues, health and

safety, expand services, build more accessible and adaptable communities, and projects that enable and/or preserve housing.

Council Committee recommends that Council support an application to the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development program with the selected project being replacement of 833 metres of trunk sewer in Tatamagouche at an estimated project cost of \$1.3M. Council Committee was asked to seek Council's support for an application to the Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Program. Staff recommend using a project cost estimate of \$100,000. If the application is successful, the program would provide 70% funding, or \$70,000. The remaining \$30,000 would be covered by the Municipality and that amount would be included in the upcoming operating budget deliberations. Staff's recommendation was approved by council committee.

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS December 2024

Nova Scotia's HST to Drop in 2025

Nova Scotians will see more money in their pockets beginning April 1, 2025, with a one percentage point reduction in the harmonized sales tax (HST) rate. “We’re always looking for ways to provide relief to Nova Scotians. Now, in addition to indexing the personal income tax, we’re lowering the HST rate to help people who are struggling with the cost of living and additional taxes from the federal government,” said Premier Tim Houston. “This will be the largest tax break in Nova Scotia’s history. It’s the first time in 14 years that a provincial government in Nova Scotia has made changes to the sales tax. And this time it will be a decrease.”

Nova Scotia’s HST combines the provincial value-added tax with the federal goods and services tax (GST), and it is applied to the same types of goods and services. The federal portion is five per cent and, on April 1, the provincial portion will decrease from 10 to nine per cent.

The new combined sales tax rate in Nova Scotia will be 14 per cent. Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario also have a harmonized sales tax.

Postal Strike

The union representing Canada Post 55,000 workers is on a legal strike position as of last week. The Province has ensured Nova Scotians receive cheques and other important information from the government normally received by mail.

Information will be released at <https://novascotia.ca/postal-service-disruption/> and through traditional and social media.



Audrey Rushton, Darla Rushton and Macy Drummond place a wreath in Memory of their grandfather Bamford Rushton, Royal Canadian Ordnance Corp WWII. During the 2024 Londonderry Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 11th thirty-four wreaths were placed with a lovely social time to follow. Many photos from the day can be found on pages 16 and 18. (Harrington Photo)

Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation Update

By *Maurice Rees*

An information item was circulated to council committee at its November 14 meeting to update Council on the Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation Committee's activities since its inception in Fall 2023, with a focus on two key ideas that have emerged from Committee discussions.

The Carbon-Free Colchester Implement Committee, a committee of Council, began meeting in October 2023 is to advise the Municipality by assisting staff to set priorities for imple-



menting the Community Energy & Emissions Plan. The outgoing Committee consisted of two Councillors (Parker and Sandeson) and six enthusiastic and knowledgeable community members.

This Information Item aims

to share two key ideas emerging from the CFC Committee:

1. Incentives for Energy Efficient New Builds

One of the key ideas that has emerged from the Committee is an incentive for developers/builders to: build new homes and commercial buildings to a higher standard of energy efficiency than is required by the National Building Code; build to a “net-zero emissions” or “net-zero ready” standard; build new homes and buildings to be EV-ready, or add solar panels to

continued on page 9

Provincial Election Candidate Questionnaires

By *Maurice Rees*

All candidates in Colchester Musquodoboit Valley were asked to complete a questionnaire unique to the constituency. Answers from participating candidates can be found, in alphabetical order, in this issue of the Shoreline Journal.

- Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley - Gwyn Bellefontaine, page 5.
- Colchester North - NDP Candidate, Christina McCarron, page 6.
- Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River - NDP Candidate, Cailen Pygott, page 7.
- Colchester North - Liberal Candidate, Dustin Rekunyk, page 9.
- Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River - PC Candidate, Dave Ritcey, page 10.
- Colchester North - PC Candidate, Tom Taggart, page 11.

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