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Marie Benoit, chair of the Debert Days Committee has confirmed the committee is going to lease the North Star Masonic Lodge property in Debert. The lodge curtailed its activities on December 31st.

RCMP is investigating a string of thefts from vehicles in the Upper Brookside area of Colchester County which occurred overnight on January 13, 2016. Several unlocked vehicles were entered and items stolen including clothing, boots, a laptop computer, and a personal flotation device. It is believed a vehicle was used in the commission of these offences, however, descriptions of the suspects and vehicle are not available. Colchester District RCMP would like to remind the public to lock their vehicles and homes when left unattended. Anyone with information on these thefts is asked to call Colchester District RCMP at 902-893-6820. Should you wish to remain anonymous, residents can also call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), text TIP202 + your message to CRIMES (274637) or submit a tip by secure online tips at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca.

Employers are increasingly aware of the importance of managing employee stress and mental health. Morneau Shepell's latest survey on workplace mental health found that there is an increased likelihood for employees to take sick leave following an organizational change, such as job re-design, team restructuring or downsizing/layoffs.

Honda Canada has voluntarily recalled 52,710 Odyssey minivans from the 2011-2016 model years to install additional springs and brackets onto the slide mechanism for the outer second row seats, free of charge. No crashes or injuries have been reported related to this issue, which was discovered through warranty claims. Honda is announcing this recall to encourage all owners of affected vehicles to take them to an authorized dealer as soon as they receive notification from Honda that replacement parts are available for their vehicles. Additionally, owners of these vehicles can determine if their vehicles will require inspection by going to www.honda.ca/recalls or by calling (888) 9HONDA9.

J.D. Irving, Limited forecasts hiring for over 8600 skilled trades jobs across our Canadian and US operations in the next three years. 88% of these skilled trades jobs are in Atlantic Canada. The remaining 12% are in Canada (Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta) and the United States (Maine, North Dakota, and New York).

GI (Ike) Smith, grandfather, a former Nova Scotia Premier and then a senator was a founding partner, then Alan MacLean, her father, has been a partner for more than 30 years, now Sarah Emery has joined the Halifax office of Patterson Law. She has been with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP in Toronto since 2011, focusing on both class actions and environmental law. Emery formerly volunteered for the Pro Bono Law Society of Ontario, handling small claims work for those

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News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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responsible. I will do everything in my power to ensure any costs incurred because of this poor advise are recovered. Clearly there is no guarantee that I or we the Municipality will be successful, but I want to assure you I will not let up on this.

However we own this facility and yes, as I stated last month I voted to construct the building based on information presented to me at the time.

I have thought a lot over the past month, was I mistaken!!!! I still cannot honestly answer that question. I do, however, want to point out some of the positive's in this building, and ask you to consider where would we be as a region or Municipality if we were trying to attract events and attract new residents if we had not gone forward.

I believe the same Nay-Sayers who take great pleasure in pointing out all the negatives when referencing this facility would be up on their soapbox ranting about what kind of backwards community we have; with no vision; no reason or ability to attract new residents, nothing for the residents to do, on and on so to speak.

So what has this facility accomplished? Well it is a state of the art modern recreational facility. It has encouraged, or enabled, many residents to move to a more active and healthy lifestyle. When responding to a residents concern last week, I became aware in the past approximately 18 months since we hired a new manager, memberships have increased from 1000 to 2600. That alone is a great accomplishment and when you consider the majority of these participants are what I would call mature adults (say 35 years and up) who have become more active in swimming, yoga and overall fitness. I see this as a very positive outcome.

We currently have local doctors who are actually writing prescriptions for exercise at the centre as a way of encouraging us to lead a healthier lifestyle. In recent years the local Dept of Health or Health Authority has operated a Cardio Care Program which required specialized equipment for those recovering from a heart attack or operation. When funding for this program was either reduced or eliminated the Manager and operations board of the RECC went to them and offered, if they would loan this specialized equipment, the RECC would provide the space rent free to enable the program to continue.

Prior to building this facility public consultations were held. The number one request from seniors was an indoor walking track so they had some place to walk other than at the mall. If you stop in at

the RECC any day you will find hundreds of people use the free walking track every single day.

Secondly, when you combine this modern facility with our central geographic location we see an ever increasing number of hockey tournaments and swimming meets right here at home, which achieves two goals. It allows our youth to proudly compete at home in front of their friends and family while saving the associated travel cost. This clearly benefits the local hotels and hospitality businesses located in our community.

A third benefit, which I believe is not widely recognized or valued is the events center side of this complex. Without this facility we would not have had the ability to attract entertainers such as Kenny Rogers, the Beach Boys, Blue Rodeo and the Harlem Globe Trotters to name a few.

When we hosted the Pintys Curling event there was an independent community value assessment completed. It was determined participants, media and spectators spent \$1,300,000 in the Central Nova Scotia Region. That is money our local business would not have received without this investment in our community. As time goes on and the word gets out we have this facility, new and bigger opportunities will come our way. Events which previously would be held in Halifax, Moncton or Sydney are now coming to our region.

With that in Mind I attended a press release at the RECC on Thursday, January 27th, where it was announced December 10 to 16 of this year we will host the 2017 World Junior A Hockey Challenge featuring teams from around the World including 2 from Canada. This week long event will include 13 games and is expected participants, families and fans will spend between \$2-3-Million in the local community.

In closing, I would say yes we have had our challenges. Yes, I am discouraged in the position we find ourselves in as a result of very poor professional advice.

Yes, as a councillor, I am disappointed and stressed about the operating deficit which continues to fall to the residents.

However, I still believe this was a needed facility which is and will continue to benefit our community. I believe management, staff and Operating Board are working hard and succeeding in improving the viability of this facility. I ask for your patience and support. I assure you I will not only do my absolute best to hold those professionals accountable for the financial situation, but do my absolute best to help find ways to mitigate future operational losses. Tom.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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I always look forward to meeting with the Confederacy for these updates on the Mi'kmawey Debert project. The economic impact the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre/Museum will have on the local economy once brought to fruition will be tremendous.

With a total budget of over \$30,000,000 which includes a 30,000-sq. ft. \$11,000,000 centre this will be a world class experiential facility all Nova Scotians will be proud of. The Centre will be a place to celebrate the ancestors of the Mi'kmaw people who lived here over 13,000 years ago. Since the site was first discovered in 1948 there have been thousands of artifacts found with some dating back over 13,300 years ago.

In just the past year 10 new sites have been identified within

the 1000 acres under the protection and preservation of the Confederacy in Debert. When you realize King Tut's rain was 3300 years ago, it brings you to the realization of what Debert really means to the history books. It is the oldest dated archaeological human inhabited site in Canada.

If you're looking for a fun filled way to spend a Saturday don't forget to sign up for this years Mayor's Challenge Curling Fun-Spiel. It's fun for the whole family and no experience necessary. The event takes place at the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, Brookfield on Saturday February 4th, 2017. Teams of four are \$40.00 and you can sign up by calling the County Recreation department at 902-897-3185 or email recreation@colchester.ca

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

WCCDA Moving Forward

By Maurice Rees

Open house community meetings will be held in Masstown, Economy and Great Village on February 22, 28th and March 7th to generate more community participation to revitalize the West Colchester Community Development Association (WCCDA).

The meetings starting at 7 pm will be held at the Peg in Masstown on Wednesday, February 22; Economy Recreation Centre on February 28th and at the Great Village Legion on March 7th. Light refreshments will be served at all

events.

At a meeting held in Bass River in early January, progress was made with finalization of revised by-laws and Memorandum of Association, updating with Registry of Joint Stock and receipt of a financial report.

Those attending the meeting decided to hold the public meetings to increase more participation prior to selecting area

directors and executive.

It's been a slow process to get back up and running with lots of community participation. Interested residents started the process last May and have held several meetings in recent months.

WCCDA has been in the idle mode for several years, as it was down to a long serving executive.

The meetings are open to community groups and individual residents. Community organizations are urged to have a representative in attendance.

Email your comments and suggestions to:
maurice@theshorelinejournal.com



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