

# Fletcher Reports on Joint Council Meeting Happy New Years!

By Don Fletcher

I hope 2018 brings all a prosperous, safe and healthy year. On the evening of January 9th we held a joint council meeting sponsored by the Town of Amherst. Approximately 25 councillors and staff met.

We had two presentations. The first an update on the YMCA, their struggles in the past and a positive outlook going forward.

It was stated the largest contributor to their sustainability since 2009 was the partnership with Amherst, Oxford and the Municipality proving that working together benefits all.

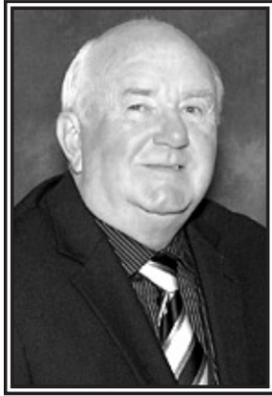
The second presentation was an update from the CEO of the Cumberland Business Connector. They are working on three main areas which include influence government, assist existing businesses throughout Cumberland to

improve productivity, and create a job ready workforce, all positive.

The business connector is also working with agriculture to increase farming and get high speed internet to our rural areas, which is something we are all working on. We discussed tourism its importance to Cumberland and how we can work together to showcase what we have to offer.

A short discussion on how the inter-municipal agreement seems to be working well with Regional Emergency Management and the Cumberland joint services management agreement. The border entrance was discussed next and a committee is working on ideas but a slow process as all levels of government are involved.

Last we had an update on the marshland flooding which has garnered headlines



Donald Fletcher

in the papers recently. All three levels of government are involved so again a slow process but as someone stated an ounce of prevention is worth!!.

Question did you spend too much over the holiday? Call your councillor.

**Don Fletcher is councillor for Cumberland, District 10. Municipality County of Cumberland.**

## Don Fletcher's January 24<sup>TH</sup> Councillor Corner

By Don Fletcher

We began council at 5:00 pm on January 24th, with an in-camera session that covered five items. We had a short break at 6:30 and we quickly public council with three presentations.

The first from Nature Conservancy of Canada on the importance of protecting lands and the isthmas between new Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Next was a presentation on Fundy Connect launched in Dec 2017. This user friendly website will let you find things to do in Fundy, search, find and play. Check it out at [www.fundyconnect.ca](http://www.fundyconnect.ca). It's free!

Last was a presentation on Wentworth Valley tourism potential for a four season destination. Well done and great information with lots of potential.

A public hearing on a development agreement for 106 Main Street, Parrsboro was approved. An update on tourism development of a planning process was next with an asset document pre-

sented as a first step. This will be ongoing. The local improvement by-law was adopted as well as our drug and alcohol in the workplace policy.

A notice of motion to council to consider adoption of an amended service recognition policy and our workplace policy at our February 7th meeting was also approved. An amendment to the inter-municipal funding agreement was approved. Next to be approved was a matter dealing with the Cumberland Business Connector.

Other items to be approved were: a motion to purchase compost carts and replacement parts; and confirmation for the Pugwash Water Zone boundaries. The Dilligent River streetlight project is moving slowly with staff working on it. Funding for the Shinimicas rescue vehicle was approved next as was a letter of support for the RCMP regarding DNA requests.

With increased focus on China banning importation of

low grade plastics on December 31, 2017, a motion to ban single use plastic bags, as well as, extended producer responsibility were approved.

A letter requesting the Rainbow Bridge be repaired or replaced immediately was approved by motion. We are asking residents to please sign the petitions, as well as, call your MLA's.

The rumour of a two year deadline floating around is not acceptable in this day and age. This bridge was built for horse and wagon and is on a major route connecting Amherst to the rest of the municipality.

Let's not forget the flooding in springtime on surrounding roads.

The ongoing process of restructuring personnel and job requirements was approved.

Information items included a tax collection report, municipal solid waste program, MPAL report, and the UNSM board report.

Question: What is happening to our politicians? Call your councillor.

**Don Fletcher is councillor for Cumberland, District 10. Municipality County of Cumberland.**

## Parrsboro is On The Move

These are exciting times for Parrsboro. It seems the word is out and more people are becoming aware of all the new things happening in this dynamic community. "We know we still have a long way to go," says Parrsboro Creative Executive Director Robert More, "but there's no question about it, our reputation is growing and we are now known as one of the most vibrant communities in the Maritimes."

People are curious to see what's happening here, and we're seeing a steady increase in visitors from the larger population centres such as Moncton and Halifax."

This momentum was recognized in 2017 at a provincial level when Parrsboro won the prestigious Nova Scotia Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award for the community which best integrates the arts into everyday life.

"The number of people engaged in artistic pursuits in this town is really something", comments Parrsboro Creative Chair Michael Fuller. "People are involved here year round with music, art exhibitions, theatrical presentations, painting, artisan crafts, heritage story-telling sessions and a

film festival. Add high-profile artists like Tom Forrestall, Joy Laking and Bill Rogers, who teach courses at Parrsboro Creative's Cultural Campus, and you, have a creative mix that is truly unique."

Certainly, the tourists in Atlantic Canada seem to think so. They are showing up in greater numbers each year to such major events as the Plein Air International Festival in June, and "10 Days in October", a Cultural Feast that is a fascinating combination of art and festive entertainment. And it doesn't stop there! Parrsboro, because of its unique geological environment, is a centre for one of the greatest fossil collections in the world, and this has been the basis for the annual Gem and Mineral Show with enough creative punch to bring 4000 visitors a year from across Canada and the USA.

What's brewing for the future? "Plenty," says Exec Director Robert More. "We're making plans for some public art installations that we think will knock peoples' cultural socks off, and put Parrsboro on the tourism map. And we're also looking to create a new look to our Main Street core that will have the kind of

"wow" factor to make this community one of the major tourism destinations in the Maritimes."

"And there are international possibilities as well," adds Parrsboro Creative Vice-Chair David Beattie. "The Parrsboro Shore region is on the road to becoming Nova Scotia's first UNESCO Global Geopark, and because Global Geoparks are an established brand, this means we would have the potential of attracting geotourists from far and wide, and of showcasing our extraordinary land and seascapes to the outdoor enthusiast tourism sector around the world - a real feather in our cap."

The times they are a-changing and the Parrsboro Shore is about to be a "best kept secret" no longer. It's on its way to becoming Atlantic Canada's new playground of the spectacular great outdoors, while Parrsboro is fast becoming the new creative kid on the block with its Cultural Campus offering a playground of the imagination. Now that's a winning combination!

**For Further Information, please contact: Robert More, Executive Director Parrsboro Creative, 902-728-2007 [www.parrsborocreative.com](http://www.parrsborocreative.com)**

## New Tidal Demonstration Permits Created

By Maurice Rees

As referred to in other stories in this issue the Province of Nova Scotia proclaimed the Marine Renewable-energy Act on January 24th, which will permit proponents of new projects to apply to generate up to five megawatts in size, and the ability to sell the electricity they generate.

Energy Minister Geoff MacLellan said, "These permits will help us stay at the forefront of this rapidly changing industry by finding ways to address technical challenges while lowering the cost of tidal energy."

No more than 10 megawatts of total power will be authorized. All operators are required to have applicable permits and approvals, including an environmental assessment approval for tidal projects that could generate two megawatts or more.

The permits fall under the Marine Renewable-energy Act.

Government and approved administrative regulations for the industry.

For more information or an application form email [marinerenewables@novascotia.ca](mailto:marinerenewables@novascotia.ca)

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## INFORMATION NEEDED

### On Emma Winter

My name is Liz Yorke, I live in Toronto and also split my time at my beach house in Fox River, just outside Parrsboro. I am writing about my aunt, Emma Winter. Emma was born in Fox River in 1909 and died in Toronto in 1985. She spent most of her life in Boston.

In 1947, when I was about 15 months old, Emma came to Nova Scotia to look after me in Halifax. Emma apparently spent her days with me at my parents' place in Halifax - Madge (Winter) and Donald Yorke and stayed at the home of another sister - Mabel (Winter) Rowlings - also in Halifax.

I would like to know more about Emma's looking after me and would appreciate speaking with anyone who knows anything about this period of Emma Winter's life and of mine.

**You can reach me in Toronto at 416-481-4096 or at [lizyorke@rogers.com](mailto:lizyorke@rogers.com)**

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