

What's Happening in Oxford?

By **Ruthie Patriquin**

Have you noticed the new NO PARKING signs on Main Street across from Canada Post? To improve vehicle and pedestrian safety, no parking is allowed between these signs from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. No one wants a parking ticket!

Based on work they've done and public feedback, the Town of Oxford's Police Services Review Committee expects to have a recommendation to Council within the next month.

After a jam-packed schedule of holiday-related things to do in our little town, Oxford took a short breath and is right back at it, offering lots of ongoing activities in which residents and visitors can get involved. And behind the scenes a variety of special events are being planned. Here are some highlights.

The arena is open for free skating on Wednesday and Fridays (4-5 pm) and Sundays (4-5:30 pm). Those wanting to book ice time should contact Corey Skinner, Recreation and Leisure, at 902 447-2798, regarding cost and availability.

The Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club continues to provide various activities for residents ages 55 and up at their hall on Ellis Street. While some events are specifically for club members (join for \$5.00 annually) others are open to anyone in this age range. Examples are Bingo on the second Tuesday of the month, 1-2:30 pm at only \$.25/card, various types of card games three times a week, Potluck suppers the third Wednesday of each month. A new club executive has recently been elected: President Carolyn Myers-Young, Vice President Sharon Rogers, Treasurer Ron Porter, and Secretary Betsy Cook. The Club is a good example of how Oxford and area volunteers continue to provide opportunities for social interaction and personal enjoyment for community members.

Now, let's talk about the Bunny Trail. Yes, from the aerial view, it's shaped like a bunny! When accessed from Water Street (look for the Trans Canada Trail sign by Station Street), you proceed in the TC Trail toward the red bridge near the Trans Canada Hwy and then have the option to experience the Bunny Trail (on your right). Volunteers have contributed time and money to make this new walking/snowshoeing trail enjoyable for all ages. Stop and rest on donated seating and view the River Philip, watch for blue jays in the birdfeeders and feel stress ease away with this great woods-therapy experience. You'll come back out on the TC Trail at the red bridge.

Although June seems a long way off, many young people (and their parents) are already thinking about the Prom. Thank goodness OREC is having a Prom Dress Fashion Show and Sale on February 5 offering a great opportunity to sell last year's dress; buy one for this year at a very reasonable price; or just attend for the fun of it.

On February 15, you can spread a little love around at Trinity United Church's Valentine Tea.

Mark your calendar for Oxford's International Women's Day celebration on March 7. It's great to see several young women on the organizing committee and I'm sure it's going to be an entertaining event.

April is National Poetry Month and the six-member Oxford Poetry at Large Committee has been planning the 2020 Poetry Festival (April 25/26) since last September. This year they are excited to include an Open Mic for youth, ages 12-20. Those interested in participating can see details on the Oxford Poetry at Large Facebook page or may contact me, at the Town Hall, (902-447-2250; email: rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca).

If it's theatre that you're interested in, be reassured: plans are already in the works for the Church Mouse Players' April Dinner Theatre and the Cumberland Performing Arts Spring musical performances ("Aladdin Jr").

In May, you'll see two previous shows combined this year. The Oxford Hunting and Fishing Expo and the Wild Blueberry Show & Shine are scheduled for the Oxford Arena on May 23.

Many of the above activities and events are made possible by volunteers. The Town of Oxford is now accepting nominations for the Representative Volunteer of the Year Award. If you would like to nominate an Oxford resident for this award, please send the volunteer's name and a list of their volunteer contributions to Corey Skinner at the Town Hall by February 18.

Ruthie Patriquin is Community Economic Development Officer, Town of Oxford and can be reached at 902 447-2250.



Ruthie Patriquin

Shubenacadie Sam Ready for Groundhog Day Prediction

Shubenacadie Sam will be the first groundhog in North America to make a prediction, about an hour before his fellow groundhogs in Ontario and the eastern United States. Nova Scotians are invited to celebrate Groundhog Day with Shubenacadie Sam and watch him make his annual season change prediction from his home on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 8 a.m.

Folklore says winter will last for six more weeks if the groundhog sees its shadow. No shadow is a sign of an early spring. The

world can watch Sam make the prediction live at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park or via Sam Cam from his burrow at www.novascotiawebcams.com/en/webcams/shubenacadie-sam

The wildlife park will also celebrate World Wetlands Day on Feb. 2 with educational exhibits that show the value of wetlands in our environment. Wetlands provide an important service in carbon storage, flood mitigation, habitat for wildlife and other ecological benefits.

Survey on Division of Property

Nova Scotians are invited to share their views on how property is divided at the end of a domestic relationship. People can share their opinions on the Matrimonial Property Act through an online survey <https://novascotia.ca/family-property-law-survey/>.

Currently, in Nova Scotia, the law on how family property - such as homes, vehicles, land, money and investments - is divided differs based upon whether a couple is married or common-law.

Government is seeking feedback on whether common-law relationships should be treated the same as married couples and registered domestic partnerships when

it comes to dividing property at the end of a relationship. Feedback is also being requested on possible changes affecting rights to possess the family home, as well as the treatment of busi-

ness assets, property owned before a relationship began, family debt and pensions. The deadline to provide feedback is February 20.

In addition to the online survey, people can also email

their opinions to info@narrativeresearch.ca or send by mail to: Nova Scotia Matrimonial Property Act, c/o Narrative Research, 5001-7071 Bayers Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 2C2

Working with Doctors to Red Tape

Work is underway to reduce administrative red tape so doctors across the province can spend more time with their patients. Initial discussions with doctors, health-care administrators, regulators and others have already identified several potential areas of focus, including: certification, licensing and privileging (which

includes permission to work in certain hospitals, perform certain procedures, etc.); billing and MSI audits; doctors' notes; paperwork and forms and access to disability programs and services

The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness has helped reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on businesses and

saved them \$34 million annually. It is on track to remove an additional \$10 million annually by the end of 2020.

There are about 2,600 doctors licensed to practice in Nova Scotia. Government and Doctors Nova Scotia reached four-year master and clinical/academic funding plan agreements in November 2019.

Cumberland Council Meets After Long Delay

By **Don Fletcher**

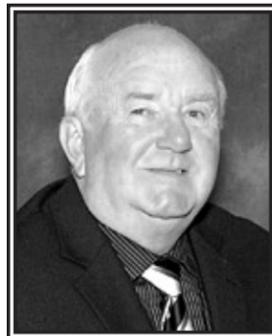
Happy New Year and long time no hear.

We were snowed out in December so January 15 was our first council in quite awhile. We began council in camera with three items covered. Nomination committee meeting followed where a motion was put forward to continue on our current committees and add a member to the solid waste efficiencies committee and two members to Geohazard committee.

All committees will have to be examined with the changes taking place this fall after the election, with council size reduction. We began public council with a presentation on 2020 taxable property assessments.

If no change in tax rate we will have only a very small increase in revenue so stay tuned. There could be a small increase if we wish to continue to provide same services.

A public hearing was next



Donald Fletcher

with a three month extension given to property owner. Motion approved. Three public hearings were heard regarding three properties requiring land use changes. All approved.

We next agreed on our budget priorities guidelines for the upcoming year. The canine control bylaw passed with 1 amendment. Second reading for three properties requiring land use changes were all approved by motion. Two grant requests were dealt

with, followed by a motion to approve the nomination committee's recommendation. Motion approved. A motion to approve the RFP for the Springhill Water Utility-vehicle was next. Motion approved.

A borrowing guarantee resolution for sunset was approved by motion. Changes to the provincial volunteer award nominations were approved by consensus. You can find them on our web page! There was a possible omission in the RFP with respect to parties to be included in the Chignecto isthmus study as we have not received any correspondence. Motion approved to have the municipality included.

The Parrsboro signage RFP was approved by motion. Work required on the elevator in the former town hall in Springhill was approved by consensus. A draft report was discussed regarding the condition of the former town hall

in Parrsboro. A motion to conclude the study was approved by motion. Report will be presented when complete. Motion approved.

A letter from Pugwash village commission regarding a faucet for public use will be worked on by staff. Info items in our package included letter of intent financial reports, yearly health and safety incident report summary, costs associated with divestiture of surplus property, Cumberland public libraries November report, pre-authorized debit payments, this service will be available in the near future to pay taxes, water bills etc. A thank you letter from Parrsboro creative and the renaming of the Rainbow bridge. Congratulations to Mr. Roger Bacon!

Question: Are you following the closure of northern pulp? Call your councillor

Donald Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10.

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