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# The Shoreline Journal

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SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 18

# Portapique Project Needs \$48,400

By Maurice Rees

Colchester Council committee, at the January 5th meeting, has jumped on the bandwagon approving \$70,000 for the Portapique Community Build-up Project on motion by Councillor Tom Taggart. On December 1, 2020 Council received a presentation from Alana Hirtle and Andrew MacDonald of the Rotary Club of Truro on the Portapique Community Build Up + Project.

Taggart's motion included \$70,000 be allocated, with balance of community park budget for 20-21; \$40,000

from 21-22 and balance from Unbudgeted Emergency Reserve and a contract with the proponent committee be developed.

The \$582,000 project got a big boost in it's fund raising efforts, when Karen Casey delivered confirmation the province would provide \$150,000.

The mammoth project involves the renovation and expansion of the existing Riverside Community Hall and development of an on-site outdoor recreation space as a positive enhancement to the community of

Portapique following the tragic events that took place on April 18 and 19, 2020.

A detailed overview of the project as presented to council on December 1st by Rotary Club of Truro by Alana Hirtle and Andrew MacDonald was published in the January 2021 Shoreline Journal.

Of the \$582,000 project, a total of \$253,000 is anticipated to be received through community inkind contributions while the remaining \$329,000 will be secured through donations, fundraising, government support and

other partners.

Because they are members of the Rotary Club both Mayor Blair and Councillor Sandeson declared a conflict of interest on the matter and recused themselves from the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

The Hall building and site resulting from the project will be owned and operated by the Riverside Community Hall Society. It will be maintained through user fees, grants, and fundraising. Mr. MacDonald is the current president of the Society which has a very active board.

Prior to any commitment from the municipality, \$210,600 has been secured to date from: \$10,000 dona-

*continued on page 2*

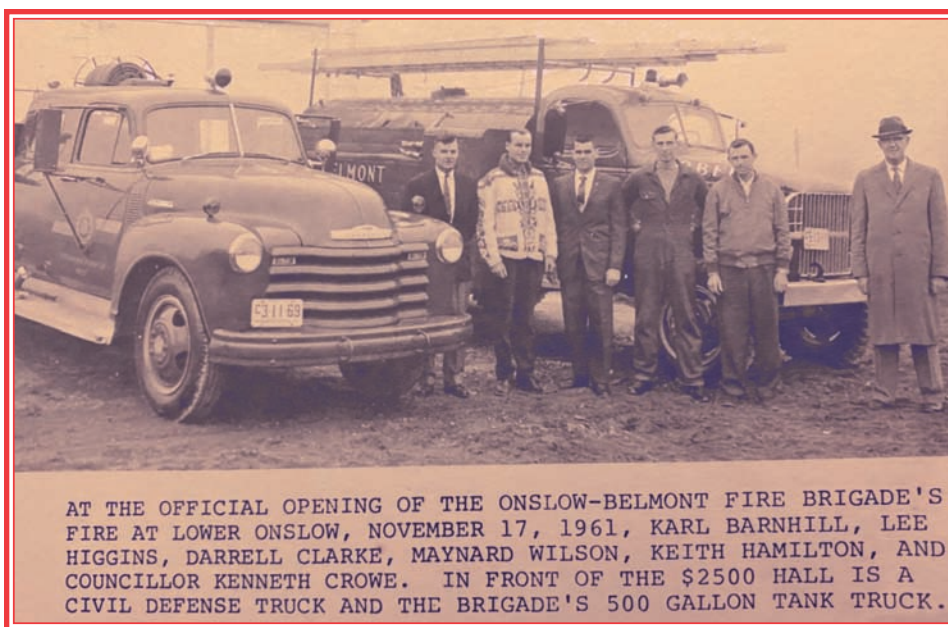
## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS February 2021

**Shubenacadie Sam** is turning to technology to help predict the arrival of spring. Nova Scotians are invited to celebrate Groundhog Day virtually this year and watch the prediction on social media. Shubenacadie Sam will emerge from his burrow at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park with his spring forecast Tuesday, February 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. There will be no public events for Groundhog Day at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park this year.

**Oliver is Nova Scotians'** favourite baby name for 2020 as outlined in Most Popular Baby Names in Nova Scotia list released on December 30, 2020. The top 10 names for 2020 are Oliver, Olivia, Benjamin, William, Jack, Charlotte, Levi, Noah, Ivy and Ava, according to Nova Scotia's Registry of Vital Statistics. There were 6,856 registered births this year in Nova Scotia as of December 29. Nova Scotia's Registry of Vital Statistics top baby names for 2020: Oliver (56), Olivia (54), Benjamin (48), William (48), Jack (47), Charlotte (41), Levi (41), Noah (41), Ivy (37), Ava (36), Henry (35), Nora (33), Liam (33), Owen (33), Luke (32), Amelia (30), Hudson (30), Thomas (29), Sophie (28), Evelyn (27), Isla (27), Sophia (27), Lily (26), Scarlett (26), Emma (25), Alexander (25), Leo (25), Theodore (25), Harper (24), Violet (24), Emmett (24), Jackson (24), James (24), Lucas (24), Carter (23), Ella (22), Abigail (21), Grace (21), Hannah (20), Avery (20).

**Mi'kmaw communities** and organizations across Nova Scotia will be able to provide more mental health and addictions support with new government funding announced today, December 23. A total of \$750,000 will be made available as equal grants to each of the 13 Mi'kmaw communities across the province, the Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselling Association and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. In addition, a one-time funding initiative of \$50,000 will go towards the Enhanced Home Visiting Program delivered by Nova Scotia Health Authority Public Health. Wagmatcook First Nation will host and plan community home visitor training that will be accessible for all First Nation communities.

*continued on page 6*



AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ONSLOW-BELMONT FIRE BRIGADE'S FIRE AT LOWER ONSLOW, NOVEMBER 17, 1961, KARL BARNHILL, LEE HIGGINS, DARRELL CLARKE, MAYNARD WILSON, KEITH HAMILTON, AND COUNCILLOR KENNETH CROWE. IN FRONT OF THE \$2500 HALL IS A CIVIL DEFENSE TRUCK AND THE BRIGADE'S 500 GALLON TANK TRUCK.

This archive photo shows the local residents who initiated the dedication which has followed OBFB for the last 60 years. Due to Covid-19, current members will be unable to organize and host many desired 60th anniversary celebration events. More information will be available in coming weeks in the Shoreline Journal and on OBFB social media platforms. (Submitted)

## Debert Memorial Park Being Considered

By Maurice Rees

A Memorial Park in Debert of those killed in last April's mass shooting is moving through the various levels of assessment through Colchester Council. In December, Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services and Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, met with Councillors Marie Benoit and Tom Taggart onsite to review the property and interests of the families.

The families are interested in creating a reflective park space that could include natural features such as walking trails through the forest, a playground, and a place where families and workers in the park could sit and have lunch. They would like to create a park that links both memorial sites to-

gether into one linear park are requesting the park be approximately 1,000 ft along the road and 300 ft deep comprising 6.8 acres.

During Council's committee meeting it was noted the proposed park could in future be surrounded by businesses. There was some suggestions businesses around the park would consider it as an asset for employees to have lunch or customers to meet.

The park would be owned by the municipality for liability insurance for any playground equipment, and potential long term maintenance although a commitment would be sought for local community to be responsible for maintenance.

Staff suggested although funding has not been re-

quested, it is important for the Municipality to be cognizant of the facilities being considered and the overall vision for the park. Speaking on the matter Crawford MacPherson stated, Most of design can be done in-house. However if desire becomes more elaborate it would be staff's role to guide them to get professional design. We need to be aware there are desires for other parks and we because of liabilities we must have proper equipment installed.

Debert has five other park spaces: the Riverside Park, Elementary School Playground, Military Housing Playground, the Debert Days Park and the Mi'kmawey Trail. The proposed project will be reviewed by staff, who will report to council for final decisions.

## Karen Casey Not Reoffering

By Maurice Rees

Karen Casey, who has been MLA for Colchester North since 2006 figures 15 years is enough and she will not re-offer for the next election, which must be held by May 2022. In addition to representing Colchester North, she was named deputy premier in 2017 and also serves as Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, as well as the chair of the Treasury and Policy Board.

Casey was successful in provincial elections in 2006, 2009, 2013 and her last in 2017. During those years she served initially as a Progressive Conservative and crossed the floor to become part of the Liberal ranks in 2011. During the 15 years she served as minister in several portfolios reaching a pinnacle of Deputy Premier, Finance Minister and President of the Treasury Board during her current term. (See separate story elsewhere in this issue detailing Karen's professional and political career).

Her decision not to reoffer opens the way for new blood to carry the Liberal banner. Search for a replacement is expected to start soon.

Rebecca Taylor who ran for the Progressive Conserva-

*continued on page 3*

## Shoreline Contributor Passes

By Maurice Rees

Wentworth residents and Shoreline readers lost a great friend with the December 26th passing of Elizabeth Hope Bridgewater at the age of 89 following a short illness. (See obituary on Page 17).

In later years, Hope was a community volunteer who spent many hours composing news about the Wentworth area and distributing to media to help promote the quality of life, community organizations and scores of volunteers dedicated to a rural area in a portion of Nova Scotia, she was most proud to call home.

In her working life as Co-ordinator of Children's and Young Adult Services in the former Halifax City Regional Library system, Hope was an outstanding accomplished librarian (B.A., M.A., M.L.S.) and leader, delighting children with story, puppetry, inspira-



tions and knowledge.

Survivors are Hope's beloved son, Gregory Bridgewater, Wentworth, sister, Greta Tratt, East Cumberland

Lodge, Pugwash; niece, Janet Tratt, Fredericton and sister-in-law, Barbara Tratt, Fredericton.

She will be missed by throngs of Wentworth residents who appreciated her volunteering responsibilities and profound dedication to the Wentworth area.

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