

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

Choose Gift Local First

Throughout the fall, the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce has been encouraging business partners to support members by choosing to Gift Local First this year. Every Tuesday the Chamber posted an update listing of local businesses who sell online. The service has been promoted as a perfect "one stop shop" to help find the perfect gifts this holiday season.

Public Input Wanted for New Traffic Safety Act

Nova Scotians can now provide feedback on proposed regulations that will govern how motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and those operating other types of transportation use the road. This is the third group of draft regulations being shared for public comment.

The proposed Use of the Road regulations are now available online.

Highlights of this phase of regulations include: Clarifying the use of hand-held devices while driving; increasing the parking distances from the curb to car; a variety of safety measures to better protect cyclists, including prohibiting the opening of car door in traffic without due care; updating hand signals for bicyclists, including an alternate right turn signal; updating the requirements for seatbelt use for emergency responders and taxi drivers; modernized language pertaining to commercial vehicles, including their safety fitness, securing of loads and carriage of freight; establishing red flashing lights for tow trucks and establishing which types of transportation may be operated on the roads and the rules they must follow, including bicycles, bicycle trailers, power-assisted bicycles and personal transporters.

Draft regulation addressing the use of e-scooters remains under development and will be included in a subsequent public input phase. The draft regulations are being released in phases. The phases include regulations for drivers, vehicles, rules for using the road, penalties and other administrative changes.

Nova Scotians can get more information and provide feedback by going to: <https://novascotia.ca/traffic-safety-act-public-engagement/>. The deadline for feedback on the Use of Road regulations is January 8, 2021.

Xplornet chooses Ericsson for 5G Wireless

Xplornet, the communications company chosen by Colchester and Cumberland Counties in a \$Multi-Million five-year deal to deliver faster broadband service has announced the selection of Ericsson as its technology supplier for the upcoming deployment of 5G wireless broadband in rural Canada. Getting Ready to Deliver Rural 5G Wireless Broadband.

Xplornet Communications Inc. is Canada's largest rural-focused broadband service provider. Allison Lenehan, President and CEO of Xplornet "Our rural 5G wireless network will not only benefit customers, but will create jobs, spur innovation and invigorate rural communities across Canada. We're ready to get to work."

Employment Growing by 10,000 in November

Nova Scotia employment was up 10,000 to 468,500 in November. This monthly gain was concentrated in full-time employment, which has risen to 383,200 - the highest level of full-time employment on record.

"Nova Scotia has recovered 97 per cent of lost employment since last April and this is a positive signal of a resilient economy," said Karen Casey, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

Nova Scotia has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 6.4 per cent for the first time in the 44 years of the Statistics Canada monthly Labour Force Survey. Employment among females - initially among the hardest hit by job losses - has almost recovered to pre-pandemic levels. The national unemployment rate fell to 8.5 per cent in November.

continued on page 15

Engineering Plan For Landfills Submitted to NSE

By Scott Fraser

The engineering plan for the required repairs to the caps at the Tatamagouche/Stewart Hill landfills, and the installation of 2 new monitoring wells at Stewart Hill, was received from Dillon Consulting and submitted to NSE for approval. Once approved by the NSE engineers, the work must be commenced by June 2021 as per our environmental approval from NSE.

Turners Excavating has completed the construction of the new C&D site, all test results came back great, and NSE approval has now been granted for us to start using the site.

Dillon Consulting's calculation to determine if we can go two more lifts higher on the current landfill cells, to bide time until construction is completed on a new cell, has come back with positive results. The report was sent to NSE and we received their blessing to go higher with the current cells if need be, as long as we stay within the recommendations of the Dillon Consulting report. The tender done by Public Works for the new landfill cell construction closed in December 2020, with construction hoping to commence in early spring 2021.

The Balefill's Efficiency NS LED lighting fixture upgrade is now completed. The tip floor and exterior lighting was done in 2019, and the remaining lights in the baling floor and maintenance shop areas were completed in summer of 2020. The Balefill's security system is now has a total of 10 cameras showing all 3 sections within the main Balefill building, the parking lots/access roadways, the public drop off and the scale house. This will be a great addition for the safety of staff, and for the liability of the County in the case of an accident or incident with a disgruntled customer.

Two thermal cameras

were also installed on the tip floor to monitor, and alarm if need be, for hot spots if they may occur. This will reduce the risk of a fire starting in the building during times when material needs to be stockpiled for maintenance or during heavy flow times.

Wood markets are struggling right now and other NS landfills have been recently forced to landfill their wood-chips after paying to have stockpiles processed as there was no market to send them to. We are currently still stockpiling our wood while the contractor looks for other market options. We hope something turns up before we run out of storage space and are forced to process / dispose of the material in the C&D site.

In the 2020 calendar year we received over 23,000 metric tonnes of soil from Groundfix, mostly from one large project over the summer. We also received nearly 1,300 tonnes of soil from Atlantic Industrial Services. In total, contaminated soil earned us \$275,000 in 2020.

Even without holding our spring and fall annual compost giveaways the amount of compost moved off site this year was 609 metric tonnes which was 167% increase from 2019's 367 metric tonnes. The manager continues to work on trying to establish new markets for the finished product and is also working with the Waste Reduction team to make plans for a modified compost giveaway in 2021 so that it can move forward this year regardless of the COVID situation. We also continue to work with LP Consulting and participate in the study to create agricultural markets for compost.

The manager and director are currently working with Dillon consulting to complete an RFP for complete replacement of the Balefill's baler. This baler is an original piece of equipment and has



been operating for 25 years so is long past due for replacement. The tentative timeline for doing the replacement is summer 2021.

Two employees who will be retiring this winter. Recruitment will take place in the near future to fill those positions.

We are currently working with the Waste Reduction team to update all of the signage at our site to go along

with the new branding. Many of the signs are original from 1995 and are in poor condition.

With regard to COVID, operations continue as usual at the Balefill and Compost Facilities. Staff and visitors continue to follow all of the public health protocols previously put in place.

**Scott Fraser, CPA, CGA, BBA
Hons. is Interim Director of Solid Waste**

New FOIPOP Portal Launches

Nova Scotians have a new, easy and secure online portal to submit and receive Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) requests. Launched on January 21, the new portal allows the public to submit information requests, track the progress of requests, pay fees and receive responses online. A new and updated disclosure site was also launched to replace the temporary site and will give the public access to previously released information requests.

Information Access and Privacy Services processed 3,974 requests between fiscal years 2018-19 and 2020-21 while the new portal was being developed. Almost 2,000 FOIPOP applications were submitted in 2019-20 and 87 per cent were processed within the time limits set out under the FOIPOP Act.

Materials Recovery Facility Production Report

Submitted by Scott Fraser

As part of his regular report to Council, Scott Fraser, Interim Director Solid Waste submitted the following production update concerning the materials recovery facility, Kemptown.

Adjustments were made to the sorting lines, and to the products sorted to increase marketability and production. The facility is currently operating a 50-hour week, with adjustments to production it is expected will be able to keep up, however the backlog from residents stockpiling may be a hurdle to overcome.

For the Month of December 2020, 706 commodity units were produced compared to 764 units in December 2019. He reported Staffing for part time positions has been a challenge during the fall. Several interviews have been conducted but finding and re-

taining candidates continues to be a challenge. Overtime has been minimized with the addition of the 50 hour schedule.

Fraser report stated New markets have been secured during the MRF closure, which will have increased pricing. Commodity prices in fiber have seen significant increases since 2019 but have not recovered to pricing received in the past. Plastics continue to be a challenge for commodity marketing.

He said, Markets are directly impacted by consumers purchases. If more consumers, business, or municipalities, choose a product with recycled content over the same product with virgin materials, market prices for recycling from MRF's would increase.

Scott Fraser, CPA, CGA, BBA Hons. is Interim Director of Solid Waste

WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

AVG CloudCare™

Is a virus driving you crazy?
Bring it to us for CPR - \$83 + HST

Need antivirus Software?

AVG Antivirus - \$50 + HST for two years

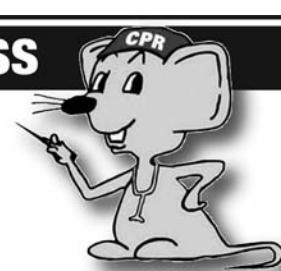
www.failsafe-computer.com

10 Dominion Street

893-2171

askus@failsafe-computer.com

Proudly Educating our Customers in Plain English



- COMPUTER & LAPTOP SALES
- WIRELESS/ROUTER SECURITY
- VIRUS & SPYWARE REMOVAL
- CABLES & ACCESSORIES
- OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30
- Saturday 9:00-1:00

Love Right Pet Supplies

1114 Highway 2, Five Islands Nova Scotia

Open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We have Lifetime, Fromm, Canadian Naturals, Pulsar, & Oven Baked.

All with the same Frequent Buyer Program as the big chain stores.

Bring us their FB card & we will carry it on to your free bag.

We have feed for Chickens, geese/ducks, goats, hogs &

rabbits. We have oats, barley, beet pulp, alfalfa/timothy

cubes & Corn. And a large variety of Bird seeds & feeders

Call 902-613-9898 to check stock levels.

