



The Portapique Community Build-up + Project received a significant boost when Karen Casey, MLA, on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia delivered confirmation of \$150,000 for the \$582,000 project of which \$253,000 is anticipated to be received through community in-kind contributions while the remaining \$329,000 will be secured through donations, fundraising, government support and other partners. Representing the Rotary Club of Truro, which the lead for the massive project are Alana Hirtle and Andrew MacDonald who accepted the donation during a presentation with Karen Casey (Submitted)

Portapique Project Needs \$48,400

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tion to purchase adjacent land; \$150,000 from the Province; \$20,000 committed by the Community Foundation of NS; \$5,000 donation from Big Brothers Big Sisters and \$25,600 in donations from other sources.

The Rotary Club has been in touch with

and will be applying to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for federal funding. \$253,000 is anticipated from community in-kind contributions. Following Colchester's commitment the Club still requires \$48,400 to reach its \$582,000 target to complete the project.

Streetlights for Gorman Road?

By Maurice Rees

During committee meeting on January 15th, Director of Public Works director Newell reported on her finding regarding street lights on Gorman Road. The matter originated with a letter from Ms. Elizabeth

Thompson at the November 20, 2020 meeting whereby she was requesting streetlights on Gorman Road in North River. In her letter, Ms. Thompson referred to streetlights on Ella Jane, which Director Newell clarified stating the residents on the Ella Jane subdivision pay an area rate, however Gorman Road is outside of the Urban Service boundary, and therefore residents are not paying for streetlights.

Newell outlined Under the County's Local Improvement By-law, streetlights could be installed on Gorman Road provided a formal petition shows more than 50% of owners and 50% of assessed value were in favour of the improvement.

The annual cost of a streetlight is \$240, bringing the total estimated annual cost for 13 lights on Gorman Road to \$3,120. If the number of streetlights was reduced, the annual cost would also be reduced. This amount would be

shared among the 41 property owners based on assessment, meaning the majority of costs would be borne by the 23 homeowners.

The current by-law requires a public meeting to be held as part of the process, once it is determined a formal petition confirms at least 50% approval rating.

However, with CoVid prohibiting such public meetings, Newell asked to deviate from the by-law with a mail-out whereby each resident would receive an individualized petition with their estimated annual cost for the streetlights and would be required to mail back their decision.

Staff were given approval to commence a petition to the 41 property owners.



388 kg's of Needles Received

By Scott Fraser

During Covid many pharmacies stopped accepting sharps for proper disposal. There was great concern that the public may put them in their recycling or garbage. This is very hazardous for the collections and solid waste operations staff.

The Waste Reduction Department organized three free drop off events for the public to bring their back log of needles for proper disposal. All collected sharps were dis-

posed through Stericycle. Over 388 kg's of needles were received.

Staff have moved to developing educational presentations and messaging on social media, because we have less in-person presentations. Approximately 22 videos were created from April 1st to December 31st, 2020, covering such topics as 'What Goes Where' for each stream, illegal dump clean ups, reducing food waste, profiling Colchester solid waste operations

staff, getting the best of recyclables and about different provincial recycling programs (oil, electronics, sharps, and tires). These videos and messaging can be found on the County website Colchester.ca and on the Waste Reduction Department's Facebook page and Twitter accounts @ColchesterWRM.

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

541 Education Hours Completed

By Scott Fraser

The report to council committee on January 15 outlined the education contract with DivertNS requires Colchester Waste Reduction Department to perform 534 education hours for the period April 2020 to March 2021. 541 hours were completed by the end of December 2020.

The 2020 Waste Reduction Week Event that took place in October consisted of two radio interviews on Pure Country and Big Dog on the promotion of the end of single use plastic bags. There was a 19-week campaign that concluded during Waste Reduction Week where a grand prize was given out of reusable items such as bags, mug, drinking straw, and a blanket scarf.

Divert's Mobius Awards of



Excellence will be different this year. Instead of new nominations the past winners from the last 21 years were reviewed. Colchester's three nominations for Northern Region who will be profiled and recognized sometime in January during Divert's celebration will be Tim Horton's Camp, Clay Café, and G-Man Waste Hauler.

The Colchester Helpline is fielding approximately 30 to 40 calls on average per day. Most questions pertain to hours of operation, education on sorting, green cart replace-

ments and collection days. The upgraded Colchester website has been well received by the public. We are receiving reports on green cart request, illegal dumping reports and downloading of the residential collection calendars. Recollect is the electronic collection calendar software. Between April 1st to December 31st, 2020, we had 618 new addresses, 78,874 calendars viewed, 2,069 calendars printed and 26,525 first time visitors.

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

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