

Officers Cleared in Struggle with Man

The province's Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT) has released its report in relation to an incident involving RCMP Officers. On August 6, 2021, officers responded to a 911 call about a man threatening to harm himself. Upon arrival, officers concluded the circumstances justified placing the man in custody and taking him to hospital under the provisions of the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act.

When the officers tried to arrest him, a struggle ensued when the man dropped to the floor and placed his arms un-

derneath him, refusing to provide his hands for handcuffing. When the officers were able to gain access to the man's hands, they were handcuffed in front of his body instead of behind his back as officers were aware the man had a previous shoulder injury.

The man was transported to the hospital and released after being examined both mentally and physically. There were no physical injuries to the man noted during this hospital visit.

On August 9, 2021, the man went to the RCMP detachment in Bible Hill, complain-

ing about an injury to his hand which he stated had occurred during his arrest three days earlier. The RCMP referred the matter to SiRT later that day.

The main question was whether the force used by officers during the arrest was excessive and did that force result in a serious injury to the man. The evidence showed the police had the right to arrest the man. The force used by the officers to control the man was reasonable and justified as necessary. No excessive force was used and any injury to the man's hand was unintentional and as a result of the struggle with police. Therefore, no charges are warranted against the officers.

The full report is available at <http://sirt.novascotia.ca>

SIRT is responsible for investigating all serious incidents involving police in Nova Scotia. Investigations are under the direction and control of independent civilian director Felix Caccione, who is solely responsible for decisions respecting the laying of any charge.

RCMP Retroactive Pay Increase to Cost Mega-\$\$\$

By Maurice Rees

Retroactive pay increases for RCMP and National Police Federation for the period from 2017 until present, and going forward is expected to cost the Municipality of Colchester, in a lump sum payment as much as 23.5% of the annual bill. Going forward annual costs will rise in the range of 2.5% the average of the calculations used in the 2017-2021 review. In his motion to council, Stewart noted the costs far exceed the estimates given when negotiations started

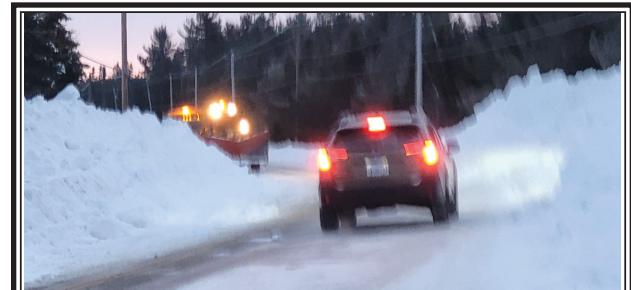
The matter was brought to Colchester Council at its January 27th meeting by Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, who is also FCM 3rd vice-president. If relief is not received from Federal intervention, Stewart stated it would require significant increase in taxation rates; possible cuts to or elimination of some programs. He further stated his belief the county's

energies should be directed to economic development, and rebuilding the economy following two years of CoVid-19.

Council unanimously agreed for the county to align itself, along with most municipalities across Canada, with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) requesting the Federal Government to underwrite the cost. Municipalities base the request on the fact they were not part of the negotiating team; RCMP

cost increases will disproportionately impact rural communities and municipalities are not permitted to run a deficit.

The motion introduced by Deputy Mayor Stewart also stated, "the federal government should commit to ensuring municipalities are properly consulted prior to implementation of measures that impact local fiscal sustainability and ability to maintain effective levels of police services in communities."



We really have not had much winter, but when it came on January 20/21, it was one to remember. At the end of Five Houses 40 hours after end of storm and two machines can be seen trying to open it up Highway 2, which in certain area snow drifts were over 12 feet high and extended for 25-30 feet. Even with the best efforts of Transportation plowing crews, the highway was still one lane. (Taggart Photo)



Years ago many would remember walking atop snow banks and be above the telephone lines. Climate change has brought some several and totally unexpected weather. Even 40 hours after the storm abated, it was still one lane on Hwy 2. Not in recent memory has drifting been as severe. (Taggart Photo)



Lornevale Road, Great Village was another which the winds created major drifting. This photo was taken Sunday noon showing how impossible and dangerous travelling was in West Colchester. (Taggart Photo)



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