



Braeden Connolly is the Official Cookie Tester for his family's Christmas baking business. Many crafters and bakers were set up at the Great Village Legion on Dec. 10th. (Harrington Photo)

## Chamber Actively Supported Tourism in 2016

In looking back of the year's accomplishments the Truro & Area Chamber of Commerce actively supported tourism in the region and will continue into 2017. Following the demise of the former Central Nova Tourist Association in March 2016, the chamber established the Colchester-Cumberland Tourism Committee with support from municipal partners and, local business, along with chambers and a board of trade in Cumberland County.

Committee accomplishments to date: Administered

provincial funds to eight Visitor Information Centres in Central Nova Scotia; Produced a series of "Top 10" rack cards highlighting local attractions in Truro and area, North Shore, Fundy Shore west and South Colchester; Developed a draft plan considering options for regional marketing and Contracted a part-time employee to market the region online, assist VIC's with information requests, and organize key events such as the two-week long Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Festival.

## Councillor Geoff Stewart now V-P Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

By Maurice Rees

Geoff Stewart, Colchester Councillor for District 3, has been chosen as Vice-President Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM). His electoral district, primarily referred to as Brookfield is located south of the Town of Truro and north of the Town of Stewiacke along the 102 Highway and Route 2. He was first elected to council in 2012 and is serving his second term.

Prior to being elected to Council, Geoff served over 25 years with the Fire Service, serving as Fire Chief and was recognized twice as Officer of the Year. Among other committees, he was also involved in Minor and Junior Hockey as President and a member of the Brookfield Cenotaph Committee.

Since joining Council, he serves as the Chair of the Palliser Re-development Committee, Vice Chair of the Library Construction Committee, as well as being a member on the Library Board, Tourism Committee, Dangerous and Unsightly Committee, and the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce.

He was elected UNSM Vice-president at the UNSM 2016 Fall Conference in Halifax from November 29th - December 2nd. Mayor Christine Blair and members

of the Municipality of the County of Colchester

Council have extended congratulations to their colleague.

Mayor Blair acknowledges that "Colchester County Council has long been recognized for its leadership capacity and Geoff's recent election is a further testament to the trust and confidence that our municipal colleagues have in the members of our County Council. We wish Geoff well in this new role".

In only his second term on County Council, Councillor Stewart is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the efforts of UNSM. More specifically, he stated, "I am truly humbled to have been elected Vice President of UNSM and I am looking forward to working with and supporting our President Laurie Murley and our Board of Directors as we work in partnership with the Government of Nova Scotia. Notwithstanding the many challenges facing our province and local communities, I know that our collective efforts can and will make a difference".

As the collective voice of Nova Scotia Municipalities, UNSM is committed to working with the Government of Nova Scotia in addressing the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova

Scotia. As Vice President, Councillor Stewart will focus his efforts on advancing the priorities of UNSM and further strengthening a productive and future focused relationship with the Government of Nova Scotia.

The UNSM is a not-for-profit organization mandated to

represent the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia. Total membership is 378 elected officials representing all 50 municipalities. Municipal interests are represented through three caucuses - a Regional Caucus, Rural Caucus and Towns Caucus.

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