



April Tonery, Chadia Farah, Samir Farah and Gabriella Farah were busy making Christmas tree decorations at the Debert Community Association Family Craft Time on Sunday, Dec. 10th. (Harrington Photo)



Hannah MacKay is putting the finishing touches on a Christmas card at the Debert Community Association Family Craft Time. There was an assortment of fun activities for all ages including cookie decorating and making tree decorations. (Harrington Photo)

Colchester Might Host Jordanian Delegation

By Maurice Rees
Councillor Tom Taggart informed council on November 30th Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Foreign Affairs Canada had signed an agreement to provide assistance to the Government of Jordan in an effort to improve their Municipal Solid Waste System.

The program will include representatives from FCM's member municipalities being selected to participate in the program by making a trip to Jordan, plus municipalities to host a delegation of Jordanian municipal officials and be willing and open to sharing their Knowledge and experience.

FCM is implementing a five-year project - The Jordan Municipal Support Project (JMSP) which will run from December 2017 to March 2022. It is fully funded by Foreign Affairs. The Major purpose of JMSP is to support municipalities in the Central and Southern regions of Jordan with a goal to strengthen the resilience of Jordanian municipalities.

Based on no cost to the municipality, council approved applying to apply for participation in the program. Which municipalities, from across Canada, selected to participate in the program has not been finalized.

Debert Systems Controls Tender Approved

By Maurice Rees

Authority to award three water related items were granted to council's December 14th committee meeting during November's full council meeting on the 30th. Council committee approved Staff recommendation to award the contract for the design and installation of the new Debert water system controls to Marcel Belanger/Crandall, for a total contract amount of \$153,979 excluding taxes, plus an internal contingency of \$15,000, if required.

Two other bids were received Fultrun at \$321,800 and Surfline for \$149,000. Even though they had not submitted the lowest bid, Marcel/Belanger/Crandall scored higher on a tender scoring process, which was outlined in the original tender documents.

The second and third items will be approval of the three

year operating budgets for the Debert and Tatamagouche Water Utilities. Staff have been analyzing budget and actual amounts which will focus on presenting the most accurate picture for the 2017/2018, 2018/2019, and 2019/2020 budget year for both utilities. The 3-year budgets are required by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) and must be approved by Council prior to submission to the UARB.

The overall budget for the Debert Water Tower and Controls project is \$4.2M. The project received 2/3 funding through the Build Canada Fund. Tenders for the systems controls closed on November 29th. Staff asked for at least a week to review submissions and to select the best candidate. Their recommendations were presented to council committee on December 14.

To date, the following amounts have been committed to the project: \$70,000 External Design Services; \$35,000 Archaeology Services; \$25,000 Staff time; \$50,000 Construction Support Services and \$2,040,000 Tank Construction Contract for a total of \$2,220,000.

The remaining budget for the project is \$1,980,000 which will be used for demolition of the old water tower, as well as the installation of the new system controls.

During the past few months council has spent considerable time, even with staff presentations, regarding revisions to the Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Policy and the Economic Development Grants Policy. After lengthy discussion again on November 30th, councillor Stewart commented he felt all the discussions have achieved

was to make a mountain out of a mole-hill when none existed.

To bring closure to the matter council approved the following motion, with Councillor Stewart casting a NAY vote. The approved motion was: Council adopts the revised Grants to Non-Profit Organization Policy, as presented; Council adopts the revised Economic Development Grants Policy, including its new title: Community Event Grants Policy, as presented and Council consider larger grant requests via presentations from organizations by staff developed guidelines that reflect Council's presentation and eligibility requirements.

It's expected a copy of the final guidelines and policies of grants to Non-Profits will be available soon. Because many community groups will soon be preparing applications for 2018, the Shoreline Journal will publish the information as soon as it is available.

Council Approves \$2,500 Grant

Continued from page 1

require a presentation before council the first year, then every fourth year. They might establish two categories.

Up to \$5,000 for the preceding scenario, but grants in excess of \$5,000 would automatically require a presentation before council.

Council's review of the program came about as a result that last year, they received three applications totaling \$400,000, which increased the total ask to over \$600,000 far above a much lower budgeted amount.

The matter was referred back to staff to provide a completed report on November 30th.

Current granting programs include: Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations; Grants to Non-Profit Organizations; Economic Development Grants; Community Trail Funding Program; Community Park Funding Program; Recurring grants (without annual application) to certain not-for-profit organizations and Contributions to the Truro-Colchester Event Attractions Committee.

There was an action item presented to council which outlined the total budget for Not-for-Profit Insurance program is \$24,000. As of the October 15th fall deadline 27 appli-

cations with policy premiums totaling \$32,447.07 having been approved for \$9,653.40 out of the total \$19,305.80 qualified amounts. Basically, the grant pays for 50% of the insurance cost up to a maximum grant of \$1,000.00.

Two applications were not accepted because the organizations do not have charity status.

Councillor Parker asked for an update on disposition of the East Court Road school property and if the process could be finalized before the end of the year. Solicitor, Dennis James, outlined the process council must follow and it probably would be near the end of February, however, with a speedy process on following all regulations, it might be possible to hold a public meeting at council's only meeting in December.

Details of how soon disposition of the former school could happen will not be known until Council's council meeting on November 30th.

Councillor Taggart who

is a member of the regional solid waste board, as well as the Divert NS board referred to forthcoming changes and asked for all councillors to study the documents that are being circulated regarding provincial solid waste programs.

He mentioned that solid waste costs are increasing for all municipalities and that revenue from the sale of recyclables has dropped considerably.

He has asked for a full analysis of solid waste stream to be prepared by

Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste and Scott Ferguson, Director of Finance.

A brief discussion regarding agriculture lands and a report by Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture which states that across the province 40% of all agriculture lands is in dance of encroachment.

A round of congratulatory applause was extended to Councillor Geoffrey Stewart, on being selected at President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

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Merry Christmas

 **Karen Casey, MLA**
Colchester North

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