

Cumberland Continues Admission Restrictions

As the CoVid pandemic continued its unwelcome surge, municipalities are reinforcing their public message to help control the virus. On December 2nd, In keeping with Provincial Health Guidelines from both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Municipality of Cumberland is requesting people who have been to Hants and Halifax counties in Nova Scotia, and Orange Zones in New Brunswick to not enter any municipally owned facilities including but not limited to Service Centres and the Dr.

Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre.

This request is being made because of the current list of restrictions that have asked the public to avoid nonessential travel to and from areas of high-risk. For the list of restrictions please see <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/county-restrictions/>

A reminder that there are the following methods of payment possible: DROP BOXES LOCATED AT ALL 3 SERVICE CENTRES: The Upper Nappan Service Centre -1395 Blair Lake Road, Upper Nappan (Mon - Fri,

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.);The Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre - 6 Main Street, Springhill (Tues & Thurs, noon-2 p.m.) and The Parrsboro Service Centre - 209 Main Street, Parrsboro (Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Cheques can be mailed to: 1395 Blair Lake Road, Upper Nappan, NS B4H 3Y4. Ensure tax account number is included on the cheque.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: Contact your local bank. Payments can be made at most financial institutions via phone or online banking

service. (To add the Municipality of Cumberland as a payee, search for "Cumberland", select Cumberland Municipal County Tax from the list, use your six digit tax account number shown on your bill (this number begins with a 6). Remember to submit payments separately for each tax account number.

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT: The Municipality of Cumberland now accepts pre-authorized payment. Forms can be found on our website or call 902-667-2313 to request one to be mailed. Please provide staff at least 14 days to complete the request.

PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Credit card payments are only available online through Paymentus a secure third-party credit card provider. We cannot take credit card payment

over the phone or in person. Paymentus charges a service fee of 2.85% for each transaction. To access this service visit: www.cumberland-county.ns.ca

Cumberland Council Wraps Up 2020

(Newly elected councillor, Carrie Goodwin, for Cumberland District 8 will be starting a monthly submission in the next issue. In the meantime, she shared a summary of Cumberland Council's 2020 "wrap-up" meeting held December 16).

Council of the Municipality of Cumberland met via zoom for their final meeting of 2020 on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Mayor Scott opened the meeting with two presentations. Paul Pynn and Helen Browne from One Wind Services and Katalyst Wind Inc. provided an update to council on the status of the potential wind project on Higgins Mountain.

The second presentation was a special recognition of two staff members for the roles they played during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. REMO Coordinator Mike Johnson and Desktop

Help & Support Administrator Dannie Sampson used their specialized skills to help to guide the organization through an unprecedented and uncertain period.

Council was updated by Councillor Gilroy on the Shinimicas Fire Hall progress. The Municipality and the Shinimicas Fire Department will co-own the building and property until the mortgage is paid off and then ownership will be transferred to the Fire Department. Tendering of three vehicles will also proceed shortly.

Four By-Laws were given first reading, two were for requests for rezoning, with a third for a development agreement. The fourth By-Law was the Sewer By-Law which was amended to include the option of monthly payments for the local improvement charge for the Parrsboro area. The

next step for all four By-Laws to be finalized is to have a public hearing, followed by a second reading.

During the global pandemic, all public hearings continue to be virtual with the option for residents to write-in, call-in or zoom-in to provide comments. A deadline for comments on each By-Law requiring public hearings will be provided in the official advertisement.

Turning to business issues, Council was made aware of a new concern for the Parrsboro Water Utility. The concern is that water quality tests have identified increased concentrations at some residences, all homeowners who have had lead tests above the maximum allowable concentration have been contacted. Staff presented a plan to investigate the extent of the concern. It was noted that the Parrsboro

Water Utility remains in compliance with its permit to operate as issued by Nova Scotia Environment.

Council was then made aware of the tax collection efforts up to November 30, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tax sales originally planned for 2020 were cancelled. Staff hope to be able to hold tax sales again in 2021.

Council approved a \$2000 grant to the Shinimicas Community Hall (Northport Sunrise Seniors). To do this, Council approved moving \$15,000 from a projected operating surplus into the Grant Program budget.

The next meeting of Council will be January 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. Formal minutes of the December 16 meeting will be available <https://cumberland-county.ns.ca/2020-council-minutes.html> within 24 hours of the meeting. A Facebook live recording is available here: www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland

Parrsboro Sewer Project Discussions Ongoing

It has been a busy few week in Cumberland South. In the last month, I have had meetings with residents and municipal officials over the Parrsboro Sewer project. Since the spring of 2019 when this came to light, I have worked to find answers and I continue to work on your behalf. I have received many calls wanting to know why the province did not assist with this project. The provincial and federal governments did contribute to this project that had a federally mandated deadline. In total, the provincial and federal governments contributed approximately \$8 million. In a Q and A letter dated June 2019 published by the County of Cumberland, they asked residents to contact my office to advocate to the provincial government for support in further financial assistance. I have written the Minister of Municipal affairs and have had meetings with the department's directors. This year I continue this advocacy and continue to communicate with residents, county officials and the department on your behalf. Communication is key in any issue.

I have attended several zoom meetings and Legislative committee meetings in the last several months. I was very pleased to attend the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society AGM this past weekend via zoom. It was exiting to hear the positivity from the Board, Staff and Members of the society. The Ottawa House did not open this year but there was a busy season behind the scenes and there is great optimism for the 2021 season. Positivity like this has overflowed our area this year despite a worldwide pandemic and so many



Tory Rushton

tragedies in Nova Scotia. Cumberland South residents certainly define what it means to be Nova Scotian.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who stepped up and assisted your neighbors or community in the wake of COVID 19. My staff and I were doing wellness checks all over Cumberland South during and after the lock down this spring. We heard so many good news stories during those check ins. Thank you, you have done us all proud here in Nova Scotia. This is what I will remember of 2020, the acts of goodwill

and kindness.

I hope you can all enjoy the upcoming holiday season. As I write this note, Hanukkah celebrations are ending, and children are preparing to leave school for the Christmas break. I hope each of you find time to reflect on the positives of 2020, spend time with

loved ones and look forward to a positive 2021. Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Tory Rushton is MLA Cumberland South and can be reached at: 833-597-8679

Harbour View Restaurant

"See You There!"

"Merry Christmas to all"

476 Pier Rd, Parrsboro, NS B0M 1S0 Phone: (902) 254-3507

Wishing you a beautiful holiday season!

All the best for 2021

NS SURE ELECTRICAL LTD

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season's greetings

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HOURS: Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

PHONE: 902-254-2827

PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE

Small country market, selling many local items, made in Parrsboro and surrounding area including: Knitted Sweaters and Mittens, Home Baking, Christmas Wreaths and Home Decor items, Scenty Products, Purses, Jewelry and Penny Candy.

"Merry Christmas to all and all the best in 2021"

High Tides Country Market

223 Main Street
Parrsboro, N.S. B0M1S0

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"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL"

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