

Debert Legion Notes

By Dan Martell

We pass along a tip of the hat and a very special thank you to all those people who take time out of their schedules this time of the year to help make up Christmas baskets, hampers, etc. for needy families who may be less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you very much for helping make someone's Christmas a whole lot brighter.

From our President, Comrade Gerry Dykens, the Executive and membership of Branch 106 we would like to say, "Let the spirit of love gently fill your hearts and

homes in this the loveliest of seasons, may your find many reasons for happiness". Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For those who may have missed it, here is a list of the prize winners in the Brookfield Elks Sports Draw- First Prize \$44,002 was won by Curtis Slaunwhite, Terence Bay; Second Prize of a \$5000 President Choice Gift Card went to Trueman Russell, Upper Stewiacke. Third Prize of a Snowblower was won by Diane MacMillan of Queensland; Fourth Prize a Generator was won by Howard Sleep of Port Hawkesbury and Fifth Prize a \$500 Gift Certificate donated by MacQuarries Pharmasave was won by Robert Downing of Bible Hill.

Happy Birthday wishes for November are passed along to Robert Hill, Deanna Martell, Skippy Dawson, Yvon Thuot, Gloria Campbell, Harold Barclay, Mandie Blackie, Shelly Vincent, Mary Jane Elliott, Steve Williams and Betty Crossman.

Happy Anniversary wishes for November are passed along to Bev and Lee McCulloch, Helen and Ron Eastcott.

Please don't forget to thank a Veteran, it is because of their sacrifices that we are able to enjoy our Country and our freedom.

Please say a prayer for our troops who are serving in foreign countries and their families.

Newell Updates Council with November Report

In an effort to bring the new council up to speed, Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided the following information in a detailed report for November Council Committee meeting on November 12th..

The following summary presents some of the projects and initiatives currently being undertaken by the Public Works Department. Staffing: Summer workers have recently wrapped up; We will soon hire winter casuals to support plowing operations.

The following tenders were awarded in Spring 2020. Status of projects is noted below: Sidewalk Reconstruction, Truro Road/Hilden Hill - Complete; Paving of Tidal Bore Road - Complete; Energy Improvements, Central Colchester WW Treatment Facility, VFD Project - Complete; Sidewalk Construction, Queen Street, Tatamagouche (Support for Village) - Complete; Highway 236 Marked Crosswalk at the Cobequid Trail - Complete; New Well Construction, Debert - Ongoing; Inflow and Infiltration Study, Brookfield and Tatamagouche - Ongoing; Pump Station 6 Replacement - Ongoing; Pump Station 15 Replacement - Ongoing; Tatamagouche Sewer Upgrades Phase 5 - Ongoing; Debert STP2 Elimination - On-

going; Debert Water Tower Demolition - Ongoing and Biosolids Larvae Pilot Project - Ongoing

Projects which will extend into 2021 include: Debert STP2 Elimination; Debert Water Tower Demolition and Inflow and Infiltration Study, Brookfield and Tatamagouche.

Projects on the list for construction in 2021 include: Highway 311 Crosswalk at Mountain Lee; Highway 246 Watermain Replacement, Tatamagouche; Debert Roundabout Construction (Pending Archaeology); Truro Heights Sewer Upgrade (Phase 1 of 3); Inflow and Infiltration Work, Debert and Hilden; Sidewalk, Highway 2 Hilden to Upham Family Outlet; New Landfill Cell (Kempton); Sidewalk Replacement, Hill and William Street; Screen for Grit Chamber, Lower Truro Sewage Plant and Robie Street Pumping Station Replacement.

Regulatory: The Federal drinking water standards on lead have changed, cutting the limit by half. Staff have undertaken a sampling program to evaluate the presence of lead in the Debert and Tatamagouche water systems. Some issues have been identified and staff are dealing with the homeowners to identify problematic water fixtures. There is no evidence of lead piping in any of the utilities

so far.

Staff have submitted the application to have the French River Watershed designated as a protected area under the Environment Act. No response from the Province at this time. Staff continues to work on Sewer By-law Compliance issues with the goal of removing high strength wastes from our systems.

By-law Officer, JP Wood, has been visiting restaurants recently to educate owners on the importance of grease traps. Tatamagouche Brewery has recently installed a wastewater pre-treatment system which will improve the operation of the Tatamagouche Sewage Plant.

Staff are working with NS Environment to gain authority to seasonally disinfect treated wastewater effluent at our Lower Truro plant, meaning that UV systems would be shut down in winter, reducing power costs. Nova Scotia Environment has issued an updated Guideline for Monitoring Public Drinking Water Supplies which will increase lab costs slightly for both utilities as extra parameters have been added. Staff are working to update annual monitoring programs.

Staff were recently advised by Nova Scotia Transportation that the use of 40km/hr signs is prohibited, even on County roads. Therefore, staff have been replacing signs as necessary.

Other Tidbits: Staff completed a significant amount of sewer main cleaning and videoing this summer and Fall, especially in Tatamagouche. We continue to monitor sewage quality in various communities and are addressing high strength wastes when possible. Work is continuing at the Tatamagouche water plant to resolve changing pH issues, and to install all necessary equipment to address the problem.

Dry conditions this summer caused a small shortage in river water at the Tatamagouche Water Plant. Voluntary water

conservation measures were put in place.

Staff are working with legal to complete a review of our standard tender document and to update all contract terms to better protect the Municipality; Staff are working to develop a new Street Light Policy, at the request of Council. Staff recently completed a flow monitoring program for Town of Truro sewage flows.

Staff are working to update Colchester's Municipal Services Specifications, which detail how infrastructure is to be installed within the County. A portion of these specifications will focus on new stormwater management approaches. Staff continue to provide input on proposed new developments/ongoing developments across the County.

Public Works is conducting a review of all sewer service boundary to ensure accuracy of serviceability and connections. Staff are providing input on the bridge design for the Fundy Discovery Site. Source Water Protection Committee meetings for the Debert and Tatamagouche Water Utilities have been put on hold due to COVID.

Northern Pulp has been hauling wastewater to the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility since July with no issues. Their permit will be reviewed in December. Staff are in discussions with the Village of Bible Hill re: an updating of the sewer service agreement.

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works authored the Directors Update to Colchester Council.

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

No Cookie Tins
The Economy UCW reports the cookie tins normally delivered to residents over 80 will not be available this year due to concern for safety of everyone involved. The group anticipates resuming the service in 2021.

Five Islands Hoodies
The Five Islands Lighthouse Preservation Society still has a few t-shirts, \$15.00 and Hoodies, \$25.00 available. Sizings are limited. Contact: Gloria Lewis, 902-254-2968.

Christmas Eve Service
There is limited seating available for the Riverside United Church Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7:00 pm. To confirm seating, contact: Carole Dibbon, Economy, 902-647-2022; Dorothy Carson, Five Islands, 902-254-3759 and Janice Sutherland, Bass River, 902-647-2018. Masks are required. The service will also be available, in a limited range, on 95.3 Radio at 7:00pm.

Holiday Break for Public Schools Extended
Nova Scotia public school students will have an extended holiday break out of an abundance of caution. The last day of classes was December 18 and classes resume January 11. School-based staff will be returning to schools on January 4 for five days of professional learning.
During the week of January 4, principals, teachers, support staff, specialists and early childhood educators will be in school for professional development, learning on behalf of their students in areas such as inclusive education, social emotional learning and technology.
To learn more about Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan, and for FAQs about learning during the pandemic, go to: <https://novascotia.ca/backtoschool>

Choose Gift Local First
Throughout the fall, the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce has been encouraging business partners to support members by choosing to Gift Local First this year.
Every Tuesday the Chamber posted an update listing of local businesses who sell online. The service has been promoted as a perfect "one stop shop" to help find the perfect gifts this holiday season.

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