



Middle Road was temporarily blocked over the lunch hour on Thursday, December 8th as two tow trucks up righted a garbage truck onto the roadway. No injuries were reported. (Harrington Photo)

Funding Supports Local Food Production

The government is investing an additional \$7.9 million to help local farmers grow more food and get it into more of the province's largest kitchens.

"Buying local starts with growing local. That's the foundation - and we need it to be strong," said Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow. "This new investment will help farmers grow more and agri-businesses make more, and it paves the way for local products in our schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities."

The new \$5-million Season Extension Enhancement Program will help support fruit and vegetable growers who invest in innovative and labour-saving technologies to extend their growing season, adapt to a changing climate and open new market opportunities. The program will build on the success of recent pilot programs like the Long Cane Raspberry Pilot, conducted in co-operation with commercial growers, Perennia Food and Agriculture and Horticulture Nova Scotia.

A new \$2-million Local Food

Advancement Program will help local producers and agri-businesses invest in equipment and technology to increase production either by expanding their current operations or by creating new value-add products.

The government is also dedicating \$900,000 to help get more locally grown and produced food into large-scale kitchens through new pilots, like the one announced last week with continuing care provider Northwood.

Allan Melvin, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture said, "Our industry plays a big role in the health of our communities. This announcement means farmers can support more Nova Scotians in putting fresh, healthy, local food on the table. This is an investment in our food security and our rural economies."

Details on program opportunities will be available online in January. The initiatives support the government's goal to have 20 per cent of all food purchased in Nova Scotia be locally grown or produced by 2030.

Overview of Community Development Activities

The following is an overview of activities in the Community Development Department since August 2022, which was presented to Colchester Council Committee meeting on December 15th by Paul Smith, Director of Community Development. Because of the length of the update, we have separated into several segments and will appear under "Community Development Update".

COMMUNITY PLANNING - County-wide Plan:

Upland Planning Studio has been contracted to carry out a community engagement process that will be foundational to the creation of a county-wide municipal planning strategy and land use bylaw. The work on this component will commence in early December 2022 and conclude in the late spring or early summer of 2023. The Province has introduced legislation requiring all municipalities in Nova Scotia to adopt a comprehensive plan for all areas.

Tatamagouche Plan Review:

The Tatamagouche plan review continues to be slow due to competing demands for staff time on a number of time sensitive

planning matters. A redrafting of the document is underway, and the new targeted completion date is early in 2023.

Debert Housing Concept:

Progress on the Debert Housing concept has been delayed until the Municipality receives word on a funding application made under the Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program for needed servicing upgrades. If approved, the funding could provide nearly 75% contribution towards the anticipated \$7 million infrastructure improvement cost.

Fundy Discovery Site:

In August 2022, staff received word on federal approval of the Municipality's ICIP application which will fund nearly 75% of costs associated with the pedestrian bridge and other active transportation projects. As part of the federal requirements, staff have been involved in carrying out Indigenous consultations as well as acquiring federal permits and preparing for a service road extension so NSP can begin the power line relocation in spring of 2023. Tendering for the bridge is planned for early January 2023.

The picnic shelter planned to be constructed in the memory of former Councillor Bill Masters during the fall of 2022 was delayed due to hurricane damage and the availability of contractors. Staff is optimistic the Province will agree to an extension of the \$25,000 BSP grant and work will begin on the shelter in the early spring of 2023.

A Request for Proposals - Design Build is ready to be issued for a tidal viewing platform near the aboiteau in Lower Truro. The Municipality received a donation of \$150,000 which Council earmarked for the structure in the summer. It is anticipated work will begin on the platform during the spring of 2023.

Salmon River School Property

In October of 2022, Council considered a staff report on the future of the former Salmon River School property following an extensive public consultation program. It concluded the 14-acre site would be used for both housing (40%) and passive recreational uses (60%). A Request for proposals will be created and issued in early 2023 to developers who may be interested in the project.

Community Development – Recreation



Cara Carruthers-Fury of Tatamagouche, NS, was the 2022 Provincial Volunteer Award Recipient for Colchester County. The Municipality is fortunate to have Cara and so many other wonderful volunteers supporting Colchester County.

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dates will be arranged in the new year. The Department is working closely with the arena group to help manage ice time efficiently. Arenas are approaching capacity due to lost ice time at the Legion Stadium.

Parks and Trails

The parks and trails crew have been busy cleaning up after Fiona. We have had several trees down in various parks, trails, and green spaces. The hardest hit areas have been Nelson Park (Tatamagouche) and Burnside Park in Upper Stewiacke. These two areas are still a work in progress. Some of our small projects have taken a backseat to get these areas cleaned up. In the winter months and moving forward we will be assessing our green spaces (not currently used) and seeing the damage that

has occurred in those areas.

- The Department will be allocating funding in its maintenance budget to help plant some trees in several areas that have had significant losses.
- Work on Hearts Haven Memorial Park has been progressing with two parking lots installed, gardens established, and tulips planted. A shelter has been constructed and additional improvements are anticipated before winter sets in.
- Most municipal parks are closed (washrooms, gates, etc.) for the season but people can park outside gates and access the properties for winter activities.
- A couple of groups will be taking advantage of funding set aside for Fiona clean up on trails, the details of which are ongoing.

During the holidays remember to take care of yourself during the hustle and bustle. Taking good care of our customers has been our number one priority this past year.

To our families, friends and customers, thank you for your support. Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

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