



The Shoreline Journal

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JULY 2015

\$1.95 + HST

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS July 2015

Approximately 177 Canada Summer Jobs for students with a value over \$438,189 are being created locally throughout the entire riding of Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley according to information released by Scott Armstrong, MP, for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley. Across Canada the program will create 35,000 jobs for students. The work experience helps students gain the skills and experience they need to be successful, now and in the future, while earning money for the upcoming school year.

In late May, Nova Scotia Power warned customers about a telephone scam in which a caller poses as a NS Power representative demanding money via a pre-paid credit card, or PayPal stating the customer's account is in arrears and the person must immediately pay the balance owing or their power will be disconnected. The caller directs the person to buy a PayPower prepaid credit card, and then phone a 1-888 or 1-866 number to make payment, or to transfer funds via PayPal. Customers should report any attempted fraud to local police.

The committee now administering Bass River's Community Victoria Hall has been busy raising money for a new roof on the hall and other upgrades. Events to date include a very successful afternoon of music, bbq and bake sale. The next fundraiser is collecting refundables. A bin has been placed at the side of the hall. Just drop your bagged refundables in it. If you need them picked up call Wendy Cox at 647-2720. The kitchen and washroom facilities will be opened on July 11 for the big yard sale weekend, selling hot and cold refreshments, bbq hot dogs and a few sweet treats. The next meeting is Wednesday July 14, 7 pm.

Ken's Korner is not available this month, as he and Val have been busy moving to Truro.

Heather MacKay of the Great Village Learning Network is seeking photos of Great Village area from days gone by. She only needs to be able to copy them for a project she is working on. Anyone with photos can contact her at greatvillagelearningnetwork@gmail.com

Candidates for the three main line parties have been chosen for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley for the October 19th election. Scott Armstrong incumbent will carry the flag for the Conservatives; Bill Casey, a former MP, who represented the riding for a number of years has switched parties to carry the banner for the Liberals, while Wendy Robinson, who currently serves as Mayor of Stewiacke was chosen to represent the NDP at a nomination meeting earlier in June.

Gary Adams, a 27 year veteran in the education system and most recently the Senior Staff Advisor of the Halifax Regional School Board has been selected as the new CCRSB Superintendent of Schools, replacing Gary Clarke who retires July 31st.

Yard Sale Starts at Mingo's Corner

By Clair Peers

The West Colchester 75km yard sale on July 11 & 12 starts at Mingo's Corner, Onslow just past the Hwy 102 exit all the way to Parrsboro on the #2 highway all day from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm both days

New to the event this year you will finger food and refreshments at "In the Village Café in Great Village at the former St James United Church. They will also be barbecuing on the front lawn. The staff at Onslow Trading & Clair's Antiques, Great Village co-sponsor & promote this event at no cost to the community.

Kent Homes Facility to Ship Components?

By Maurice Rees

Might the former Kent Homes facility in Debert Industrial Park become a manufacturing facility to build ship components under the federal ship building pro-

gram? If Bill Casey has his way, it will.

Former MP Bill Casey who is the Liberal Candidate for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley for this fall's election has recently

approached Senior Officials of J.D. Irving Ltd to point out the potential for the Irving organization to build ship components in Cumberland-Colchester under the federal ship building program.

Casey met with Mr. Jim Irving, Co-CEO of J.D. Irving Ltd, and Mary Keith, VP Communications to discuss potential opportunities. Casey focused on vacant industrial buildings which are suitable for steel fabrication and for manufacturing ship structures and components. In a June 23rd letter to Irving and Keith he drew reference to the 98,000 sq ft former Kent Homes property in Debert Industrial Park and the 80,000 sq. ft. Robb Engineering facility in Amherst.

As part of his letter, Casey noted several assets of each of the buildings as follows:

Building No 1 is the former Kent Homes factory. This 98,000 ft.² building has a wide range of uses as it has few obstructions in the factory interior. It includes overhead cranes, office space, engineering area, stock rooms etc. Thousands of steel frames and structures were fabricat-

ed in this factory during its years of operation. The plant has a large fenced-in compound and includes considerable area for secure storage and parking. It has easy access for transport. This building is already owned by the Irving group and has been dormant for several years.

"...there are experienced trades people from the steel fabrication facilities in the area." **Bill Casey**

Building No 2 is the former Robb Engineering plant in the Amherst Industrial Park. Robb Engineering built many of the large bridges and buildings in this region and also fabricated structures for the offshore oil and gas industry. This building is 80,000 ft.² and is mostly clear-span. It includes interior overhead cranes as well two large outside gantries designed to move and store heavy steel. Again, there is considerable workspace and yardspace. It has close access to rail and highway transportation routes. It is available for rent or purchase.

In addition to suggesting *continued on page 3*



Colette Wyllie is one of the first to have her photo taken with the new "Welcome to Glenholme" road sign. The community signs are sponsored by the West Colchester Development Society and will be installed in communities along Hwy #2. They have a fresh wonderful look along the roadway and will mark the entrance to each community. See story on page 3. (Photo submitted)

SCCCC Emergency Department Closed 19 Times in 2015

By Maurice Rees

The Outpatient/Emergency Department at the South Cumberland Community Care Centre, Parrsboro has been closed a total 19 times for a total of 219.5 hours since January 1 until May 31, 2015. The only reason given was no physician was available.

In the month of June SCCC has been closed on three additional occasions. The 12 hour closures from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm occurred on June 15, 24 & 26th. No physicians available were given as the reason.

The centre, which gained fame a few years ago when it became one of the first

Collaborative Health Care facilities in the province, was not able to provide the services of collaborative nurse practitioner during any of the instances when a doctor was not available.

In an attempt to ascertain what is being done to reduce the frequency of closures, I spoke to Tony Kiritsis, Communications Director, Department of Health and Wellness, Halifax. Kiritsis said the closures were an operational matter and directed me to the Nova Scotia Health Authority. The new authority has five regional zones, and I was directed to contact the

continued on page 3

CCRSB Eliminates 36.1 NSTU Positions

By Maurice Rees

The closure of three CCRSB schools has resulted in a savings of \$900,000 which permitted the board to reduce its projected deficit from \$3.32-Million to \$2.42-Million, before taking action to implement addition cuts. Part of the cuts was the elimination of 36.1 full time equivalent NSTU positions, of which 17 are due to declining enrollment. The budget was passed at the CCRSB board meeting on June 23rd.

To balance the budget, CCRSB's elected Board has made the following reductions: School buses/routes, \$111,000; 5.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in property services: bus drivers with additional duties and custodial staff, \$193,500; Major maintenance, \$131,000; 36.1 FTE Nova Scotia Teacher's Union positions (17 FTE due to declining enrolment) - achieved through attrition, \$1.8 million; Programs, services & supports - Education Services, \$158,500 and Shared administration - Central Office, \$25,000.

CCRSB has a total revenue budget of \$202 million for the 2015-2016 school year. The input of \$7.6 million in provincial revenue for targeted initiatives, permitted the following to be included: Continuation of the Grade Primary-2 class cap of 20 students, Class Cap of 25 students for grades 3 and 4; Two new Options and Opportunities sites in CCRSB (Cobequid Education Centre and River Hebert District High); Continuation of Student Support grants for all schools; Increase in the number of Reading Recovery teachers and increased funding for Mathematics support.

Additional funds for Early Literacy/Reading Recovery and Mathematics is being held at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Declining enrolment remains a challenge for all school boards across Nova Scotia. For CCRSB, a decline in the funded enrolment of 433 students for the 2015-2016 school year has led to a reduction of 17 FTE NSTU positions from a staff of 2,700 for over 20,000 students from Primary to Grade 12, throughout the counties of East Hants, Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou.

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