

## JFAC Approves Two Flood Mitigation Projects

By Maurice Rees

The Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro are constantly dealing with issues relating to flooding and flood protection remediation. The problem is so critical that years ago they formed a Joint Flood Advisory Committee (JFAC) to try to keep ahead of potential problems.

JFAC is comprised of representatives of the County of Colchester, Town of Truro and Millbrook First Nation. At JFAC's May meeting it was approved two flood mitigation projects will be supported, as well as specialist consulting services.

The two projects include McClures Brook Drainage improvements to include

channel improvements along 2km upstream from highway 236 and trash racks also upstream from Hwy 236 and the aboiteau with a budget of \$300,000; and a \$200,000 pilot Best Management Practices project to include development of a project within a specific neighbourhood to measure the impact of rain gardens, capture of roof runoff and reduction of non-porous surfaces.

To proceed funding applications are being made to the Provincial Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program for McClures Brook and to the Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program for the pilot project. If approved 50% of the fund-

ing would be covered by the programs, while the Town and County would equally share the cost at a sum of \$125,000.00 each.

The Town and County will equally contribute \$4,800 for professional consulting services for flood projects. There are financial implications to the county if the projects are approved. The county's contribution would be \$129,800, but the Major Flood Reserve is in a \$40,000 shortfall, in spite of council's \$100,000 allocation for the current year. Internal borrowing from the Specila Operating Reserve could be used to fund the county's share of the projects if funding from external sources is approved.

## Master Plan Funds used for Palliser Purchase

The first item of business on Colchester Council's meeting on May 28th was appointment of Patterson Law as the municipal solicitor, with Dennis James, QC as the representative to Council for fiscal year 2015-2016. Minutes of council's meeting of April 30th was approved without discussion.

Considerable time was spent discussing council's committee decision on May 14th to use funds sitting in the Bible Hill Master Plan Reserve Fund to pay for the Palliser Property. When the real estate transaction was concluded funds had been used from a Special Operating Reserve Fund.

Bible Hill Councillor, Christine Blair, who had been recuperating from surgery, did not attend the May 14th meeting. She took objection to using master plan funds for something which was not located in Bible Hill.

The motion under discussion would use the Master Plan Reserve Fund for the purchase and development of the Palliser Property. The fund set up several years ago had a balance of \$1.753-Million. Speaking against the motion, Councillor Wade Parker said since there is no long or short term plan for the Palliser Property, it would not be in the best interests to use the funds.

Mayor Taylor stated things have changed, since the master plan was set up. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal have indicated an interchange would not be built; the notion part of the property at the centre of the plan would be used for a new school slated for Bible Hill did not become reality, and there has been no interest from developers for projects to include commercial, residential or high density housing.

Deputy Mayor, Bill Masters, stated the master plan and its accompanying funding was set up to purchase property, not water towers, sidewalks, water and sewer or other infrastructure projects.

Speaking in favour of the motion, District 10 councillor, Tom Taggart stated it was not reasonable to leave a large sum of money in an account, which is not being used. When the question was called the motion was approved by majority vote.

Council gave final approval to proceeding with the installation of 2 50 KW wind turbines at Kemptown Balefill Facility under the ComFit Program, as reported in last month's council committee meeting news.

First reading was given to Central Colchester MPS and Land Use By-law. It will come up for second reading and discussion at the June meeting. Council will be asked at the June meeting to approve a tender award for the Truro Height pedestrian overpass, which forms part of the Truro Heights Connector sidewalk project. Tenders closed on June 3rd. \$1-Million has been in the capital budget, which was moved from 2016/17 to 2015/16 in place of proceeding with the Plains Road sidewalk in Debert.

As part of \$2.6-Million in upgrades to the Biosolids Handling Facility in the dewatering building council awarded a \$514,700.00 tender to Filtrum Construction Inc for two new centrifuge units. An internal construction contingency of \$90,000 be carried and spent only on the authority of the Director of Public Works.

A new sidewalk in Hilden, between Truro Road and Avalon Avenue will be built by Atlantic Road Construction and Paving, who submitted the lowest of six tenders. Tender price is \$255,180.00.

A paving petition for MacLand Drive in Onslow will not proceed because four of 8 property owners decided not to approve the project. To proceed with the work would have required 66% of property owners in agreement.

Council discussed what to do to assist residents on Chantilly Lane in Truro Heights who have suffered flooding as a result of ponding of water and poor drainage. It was revealed the problem stems from a 25 acre of land, which now belongs to an estate. Deputy Mayor Masters stated he's been concerned and the property has been discussed by previous councils. He was upset because for some reason there is not PID number for the property hence thousands of dollars of taxes has not been collected over the years.

Staff will investigate and the matter will be brought back to council for further action with the anticipation they will be able to start collecting taxes.

Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Michelle Ferris, Organization and Outreach Director of Tatamagouche Centre, which cited a misunderstanding on ticket prices which had caused council at it's May 14th committee meeting to deny funding for Festimagouche event. The letter was referred to council for further consideration.

## 45 Staff Honoured for 25 Years Service to CCRSB



Pictured above are 26 CCRSB staff members out of a total list of 45 who attended CCRSB's annual 25 year service recognition ceremonies held on May 30th. (Submitted)

On Tuesday, May 26, elected members and staff of Chignecto Central School Board paid tribute to 26 employees from across the school board, in attendance, at the annual CCRSB 25-Year Service Awards Ceremony.

Gary Clarke, CCRSB Superintendent/CEO, thanked employees for their dedicated service and their commitment to students. "On behalf of the students, staff and elected members of CCRSB I want to express our deepest thanks to all of you for your many years of service," said Clarke. "I know that our students would not realize as much success without all of you."

Twenty six of the forty five employees across the system were in attendance for the event: Those being recognized were: Patsy Addison, Teacher, Trenton Elementary School; Jean Blakney, Library Services, Northumberland Regional High School; Therese Boudreau, Teacher, Truro Junior High School; Brenda Campbell Lapierre, Teacher, Harmony Heights Elementary School; Leon Cavanaugh, Tradesperson, CCRSB Central Office; Louise Cloutier,

Teacher, Pugwash District High School; Nancy Curley, Educational Assistant, Thorburn Consolidated School; Dianne Fraser, Vice-Principal, Hants East Rural High School; Kenda Harris, Administrative Assistant, Truro Junior High School and Stephen Hartlen, Teacher, New Glasgow Academy.

Others being recognized were: Teresa Kewachuk, Teacher, Pugwash District High School; Vanessa Knock, Teacher, Amherst Regional High School; Donna MacGregor, Administrative Assistant, North Nova Education Centre; Jeanne MacLaren, Educational Assistant, Cobequid Educational Centre; Paul Martin, Teacher, North Colchester High School; Sherrie McKinnon, Administrative Assistant, New Glasgow Academy and Eileen Millard, Educational Assistant, Redcliff Middle School.

Also recognized were: Bruce Moore, Teacher, Northumberland Regional High School; Karlene Morris, Teacher, Parrsboro Regional High School; Gregory Nix,

Consultant, Chignecto Family of Schools; Peter Oldreive, Teacher, Riverside Education Centre; Dale Roberts, Department Head, South Colchester Academy; Irma Roberts, Teacher, Truro Junior High School; Katreena Ruddick, Educational Assistant, West End Memorial School and Ann Rushton, Teacher, Cumberland North Academy.

Brenda Ryan, Teacher, Central Colchester Junior High School; George Ryan Jr., Mechanic, Truro Garage; Angela Saunders, Teacher, Chiganois Elementary School; Kenneth Savage, Teacher, Northumberland Regional High School and Brad Smith, Teacher, Tatamagouche Elementary School.

Heather Teasdale, Teacher, Winding River Consolidated School; Charlene Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Pictou Academy; John van Vulpen, Vice-Principal, North Nova Education Centre; Cindy Watton, Educational Assistant, Truro Junior High School and Muriel Wright, Educational Assistant, Bible Hill Central Elementary School.

# 2015 West Colchester 75 km YARD SALE JULY 11-12

## "Last Year Was A Great Success, So We Want To Do It Again!"

Businesses or anyone wishing to help sponsor/promote this event with an ad please contact the undersigned. This is also a great opportunity for Community organizations, clubs, etc. to raise some money.

We want to get this going again with some help from the community. The date will be the weekend of July 11 and 12. Saturday & Sunday.

As before the sale will start at Mingo's corner in Onslow and run through to Parrsboro!

This is a great opportunity for households to turn those unwanted items into useful cash and recycle instead to hauling them off to the balefill.

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