



The Fellas from Amherst certainly provided a wonderful concert of singing a cappella during a celebration located at the Wentworth United Church. (Barb Palmer Photo)

## The Fellas Come to Wentworth

By Hope Bridgewater

On the 53rd anniversary of the opening of the present building of the Wentworth United Church, a special service was held and featured the talented singing group, The Fellas, coming from Amherst. The anniversary is celebrated annually and as usual a meal of salad, ham, anniversary cake with ice cream was served at 5 pm with an open invitation to everyone posted. At this time the minister, Rev. Jean Ward, was attending the Maritime Conference of the United Church in Sackville, N.B. Members of the congregation organized the celebration.

The celebration began in the downstairs church hall and after

the meal of friendship and goodwill, the service moved upstairs to the sanctuary for a service featuring The Fellas who sang a cappella in beautiful harmony in a spirited and sincere style many favourite hymns and songs. Their resulting enthusiasm made all present feel glad the church had been built and had served the community all these years. This year the women of the congregation serving the meal made a pledge to all dress in skirts as a memory of past times.

The director of The Fellas, Glen White, said that they are happy to sing at any gathering and may be reached at his phone 902-667-9133.

## Casey is Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance

By Maurice Rees

Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North was sworn in as Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance when Premier McNeil announced his new cabinet. Nova Scotia's new Executive Council is in place after Premier Stephen McNeil and 16 other cabinet ministers were sworn in by Lt.-Gov. J.J. Grant during a ceremony at Pier 21 in Halifax on June 15.

Premier McNeil will continue to serve as President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Minister of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, and Minister responsible for Military Relations. He is also the Minister responsible for Youth.

Karen Casey is the Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. She will continue in her role as chair of the Treasury and Policy Board. Ms. Casey is also the Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Liquor Corp. Ms. Casey had previously served as the Education and Early Childhood Development Minister, and is a former Health Minister.

Keith Colwell returns as the Minister of Agriculture, and Fish-

eries and Aquaculture. His past cabinet responsibilities include Minister of Consumer Services (now Service Nova Scotia) and other posts.

Leo Glavine was sworn in as the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and will continue to serve as the Minister of Seniors. Mr. Glavine had served as Minister of Health and Wellness since 2013.

Kelly Regan is the Community Services Minister. Ms. Regan is also the Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, a position she has also held previously. She has also held the Labour and Advanced Education portfolio.

Geoff MacLellan is the Minister of Business, Energy, Service Nova Scotia, and Trade. He has responsibility for the following Crown corporations: Tourism Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Business Inc., and Innovacorp. Mr. MacLellan is also the Government House leader. Mr. MacLellan had served as the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Zach Churchill is the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Mr. Churchill has previously served

and Municipal Affairs.

Lloyd Hines is the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Mr. Hines served previously as the Minister of Natural Resources.

Margaret Miller is the Minister of Natural Resources. Ms. Miller had held the Environment portfolio. Three of the cabinet members sworn in are new to the Executive Council.

Patricia Arab is the Minister of Internal Services and Communications Nova Scotia. The former high school teacher/counsellor was first elected in 2013.

Iain Rankin joins Executive Council as the Environment Minister. Mr. Rankin was a business and project manager before being elected in 2013.

Derek Mombourquette is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister responsible for the Emergency Management Office. The former Cape Breton regional councillor was first elected in 2015.

Premier McNeil also announced that Kevin Murphy, who served as Speaker in the last General Assembly, will be nominated for House Speaker during a special sitting of the House of Assembly on Friday, June 16.

## Council Supports Saltmarsh Restoration

By Maurice Rees

Colchester council is supporting NS Department of Agriculture for an Onslow North River saltmarsh restoration project and gave staff authority to vote in favour of the project. Dept. of Agriculture and TIR coordinated on the purchase of a significant area of land, protected by dykes, to be returned to the floodplain. Forty six landowners have lands in the area, but improvements would be contain on land owned by the province and no privately held land would be impacted by the changes.

The project would involve construction of two new lengths of dykes situated on either side of cemetery island in Onslow. Following construction a portion of the existing dyke along the Salmon River would be removed permitting

the lands to be flooded and returned to a saltwater marsh. The location of the proposed improvements is in the vicinity of two sharp turns in the river where ice damming often occurs.

In a presentation by Mark Austin, acting Economic Development Officer, council learned about the Rural Vitality Projects. In early May funding of \$15,000 for each of two project were approved for small projects around the theme of rural vitality to celebrate Canada's 150th.

To receive the \$30,000 combined contribution, council must contribute a total of \$14,000 (\$7,000 per project) toward the PlaceSpeak Colchester and Connect Colchester. PlaceSpeak Colchester is centre on the introduction and use of a civic software platform offering capacity for a

moderated online topic-specific discussion forums with geo-location of participants. Kings County and Town of Wolfville already are using PlaceSpeak.

PlaceSpeak will be used to explore and possibly begin the establishment of a 'database of Colchester belonging' — essentially an alumni-like approach to keeping graduating students from the region (including the Towns and Millbrook) connected with our communities, even if they leave.

Connect Colchester is the second Rural Vitality project is an effort to connect new entrepreneurs in Colchester with each other. The focus will be on those in the start-up mode, but also on social enterprises, people working from home office and those in the gig economy or self-employed.

This will be achieved by staging networking events in four or five communities to present the idea of co-work spaces and virtual networks using PlaceSpeak. Co-work spaces are shared office areas that promote collaboration and shared services. These spaces and the networks they support are sometimes used to stage Dragons Den-type events. The Town of Truro may collaborate on this effort so that a network of these hubs can use each other's resources.

The entire Rural vitality projects will cost cost, \$49,680, of which \$28,680 comprises Colchester's share of \$14,000 cash and 414,680 for in-kind service and facilities. The remaining \$21,000 comes from cash infusion of \$16,000 in cash RV grants, plus in-kind services and facilities totaling \$5,000.

## Internet Study Approved

Continued from page 1

and funding scenarios for solutions.

Other aspects of the study include: Prioritizing incremental installations in conjunction with above information (quick wins and bang for buck analysis); Exploring funding and partnership opportunities, including other municipalities, community groups, businesses, Federal and Provincial agencies and department; Considering other jurisdictions who where municipalities have

had central roles in internet improvements (eg. Ammon Idaho, Olds Alberta, Stratford Ontario and Annapolis County Nova Scotia).

Methods of community engagement, funding mechanisms and other content identified in the project design or implementation phase will form part of the study.

Implementation of the study anticipates \$2,000 of staff time and up to \$7,000 for a consultant.

## CCRSB Submits \$230.8-Million Budget

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) submitted its Draft 2017-18 \$230.8-Million budget to its governing board on June 21 during a public board meeting

at the Dr. W.A. MacLeod Consolidated School in Stellarton. Although individual departmental cuts had to be initiated, the Board is not expected to see a decrease in its total

number of teachers.

The 2017-18 budget makes funding available for alternative classrooms, more innovative programming, and the implementation of a system-

wide behavioural support model. CCRSB is also adding capacity in guidance, reading recovery and math interventionists. To view CCRSB's Draft 2017-18 Budget, visit <http://www.ccrsb.ca/budget>.

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