

Fletcher's May 25TH and June 15TH Council Corner

By Don Fletcher

(The June issue was already printed when Cumberland Municipal Council held its meeting on May 25th).

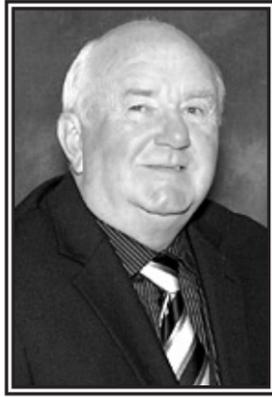
On May 25th, we passed our budget for 2017. A lot of hard work by staff and council went into this deliberation. It is becoming harder and harder each year to balance our budget without raising the basic tax rate and using up our reserves.

I feel going forward we will have to raise our basic tax rate to continue to provide the services residents expect and deserve. This is my fourth budget deliberation and it is a stressful time as we consider our responsibilities to the taxpayer, because that is where the majority of our funds come from. The operating budget for the municipality has increased by \$2,084,864 or 8.3% over last year for a total

budget of \$27,119,404.

No change in tax rates with the exception of area rates for residential and commercial for the former town of Parrsboro. Due date for 2017/2018 tax bills will be July 15th, 2017. Interest will be charged on outstanding accounts on or after July 16th, 2017. Council has included \$755,000 in this year's budget for the grants programs. This supports the many volunteer organizations that contribute so much to our county and remember this money stays within the county. Question: did you vote? Call your councillor

In beginning my report on the June 14th meeting, I'd like to acknowledge a big job well done to the Fraser twins from Advocate Harbour for their success in sports. They represent us well. Also, a thank you to



Donald Fletcher

Don Gamblin, the principal of Advocate School who is retiring at the end of the school year. Many thanks Don for all your years in the classrooms.

Three items were covered in the meeting which began at 5:00 pm on June 14th. Public council began at 5:45 with 2 presentations. The

first was about the upcoming Thinkers Lodge Climate Retreat scheduled for 4 days near the end of September. The sessions are based on the original conference 60 years ago. There will be 2 days of public input and 2 days of closed discussion. There will be more information closer to the date.

The second presentation was on the ENRICH program done by the Red Cross and Emergency Measures. The basis of which is to ensure people are prepared for 72 hours in case of an emergency. There were 7 public hearings, 5 dealing with dangerous and unsightly premises, and the other two dealing with an amendment to the Pugwash Secondary Planning Strategy to allow drive-thru's. Motion passed. The Springhill and Parrsboro deed transfer tax bylaw repeal bylaw was also

approved.

The tender for Pugwash Water Supply-Water Treatment Plant and Wellfield was approved as well as the Pugwash Water Utility, water rate study. The final pieces of the puzzle are falling into place.

The Springhill Memorial Dam Park will be turned over to the Municipality on completion of agreed work by the province, the current owner. Motion passed.

Three grant requests were approved. The Oxford Home and School funding approved last year and not used due to the work to rule was approved for this year. The new CEO of the Cumberland Business Connector was introduced and is on the job, 3 days in. Welcome Jonathan to Cumberland County.

Information items in our package included tax collection report, an update on the recent East Amherst Marsh Body Committee Meeting, the UNSM Colchester, Cumberland, Pictou, East Hants regional meeting held March 24th. The CJSMA board of directors meeting, minutes from the Joggins Fossil Institute board meeting, North Tyndal Wellfield advisory committee meeting and thank you's from a couple of grant recipients.

Next council meeting will be held July 5th. See you there. Question: have you received your tax bill yet? Deadline mid July for interest free payment. Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Deputy Warden and Councillor District 10, Municipality County of Cumberland.

ADDA to Organize Fireworks

By Maurice Rees

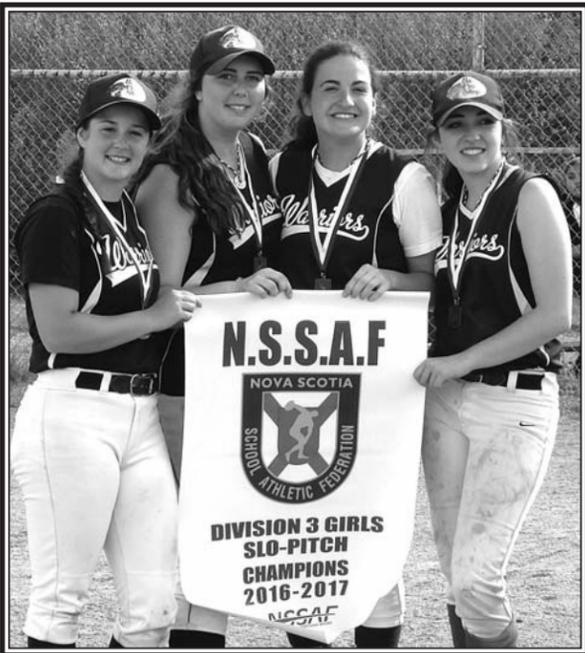
Each Canada Day, residents of Advocate are able to enjoy a \$1,800 fireworks display organized by the Advocate District Development Association (ADDA).

The group received \$800 from Heritage Canada and is investing \$500 from its own

funds.

The group made its annual appeal to the Municipality of the District of Cumberland for its annual contribution of \$500 to finish the fundraising effort.

The matter was handled at council's meeting on June 14th.



Parrsboro Warriors Senior Girls Softball Team are provincial champions winning the honours at a tournament held in Cheticamp. The 4 Captains holding the Provincial Banner are: Sarah Merriam, Victoria McLellan, Jasmine Walton and Ashley Hamel. (Submitted)

Warriors Win Provincial Title

Parrsboro Warriors Senior Girls Softball Team are big winners this year. They won the Districts winning all their games and moving on to regional competition. They won the regional tourney, undefeated again, and moved to compete in the provincials.

Travelling to Cheticamp area for the provincials, they ended the round robin portion winning two games and losing another two. The 2-2 record permitted them to move on to the championship final, which they won 15-12 to take provincial honours.

Ottawa adds \$1-Million to Tidal Power Research

By Maurice Rees

The Offshore Energy Research Association (OERA) will lead a \$1-Million study to look at current knowledge gaps in tidal power. Jim Carr, Canada's natural resources minister announced at a press conference in Halifax on June 22nd, the federal government will bolster a project aimed at addressing challenges in harnessing the crushing tides of the Bay of Fundy and beyond to create

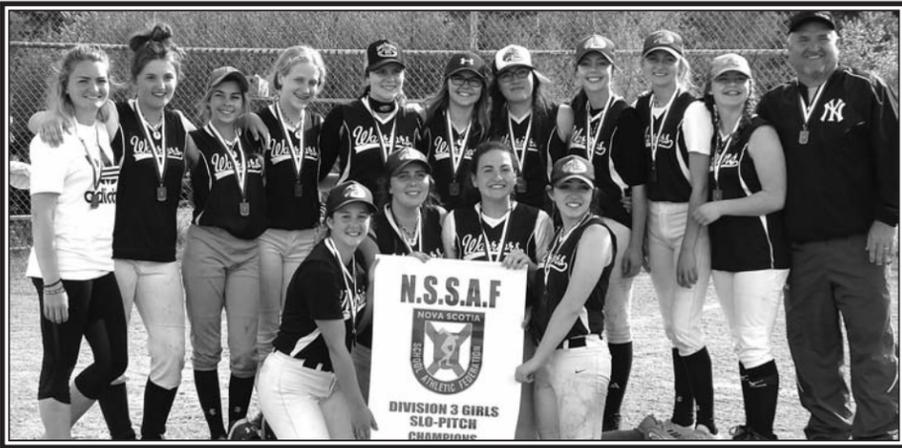
renewable energy.

Stephen Dempsey, OERA, executive director said there are many challenges including addressing the unknown environment impacts. Fishers and various associations have maintained a baseline study has not been undertaken to determine any impacts. Fisheries groups have also maintained because the way processes have been handled proponents of tidal turbines do not have a social license to proceed, and that is critical for responsible development.

Another area included in the study will be how technology could reduce costs. Fishers, government and proponents have realized the harshness of the Bay of Fundy tides will require specialized equipment and unique approaches, but acceptance is only possible once a social license has been obtained.

In addition to Ottawa's \$1-Million infusion towards the study, the province and OERA will each contribute \$125,000.00.

Currently Cape Sharpe's 1,000 tonne turbine is in Saint John for modification, inspection and repairs having been successfully removed from the Minas Channel.



The Parrsboro Warriors Girls Softball team returned home as Provincial Championship winners following a wins in local and regional tourneys then going to Cheticamp for the provincials. Shown above are: (Front) Sarah Merriam, Victoria McLellan, Jasmine Walton and Ashley Hamel. Back row: Assistant coach Brook Walton, Ella Harrison, Meana Oliveira, Erin Trotter, Danielle, McLellan, Dakota Ferdinand, Casey Hamel, Kenzie Ferdinand, Haley Harrison, Skye Yorke, and coach, Bliss Walton. (Submitted)

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