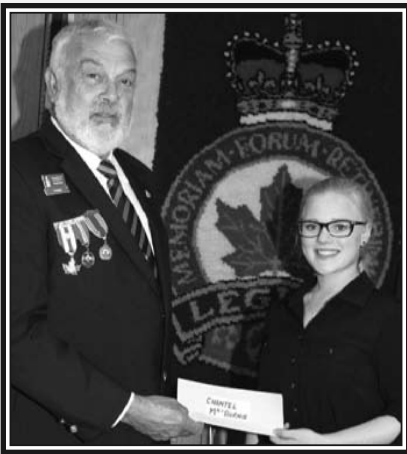


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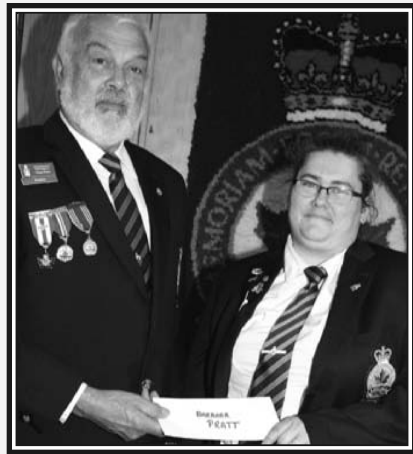
(Harrington Photos)



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 72, Great Village awarded six bursaries to students for 2018. President George Hudson and 1st Vice President Carlotta Langille congratulated the recipients. Left to right: Jason Reimersma (Acadia), Joseph "Noah" Tremblay (UNB), Bethany MacKinnon (Mount Allison), Chantel MacBurnie (Acadia), Jacob Spencer (UNB), Barbara Pratt (NS Community College). (Harrington Photo)



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 72 President George Hudson presents Chantel MacBurnie with a \$500 Bursary towards her tuition at Acadia University. (Harrington Photo)



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 72 President George Hudson presents Barbara Pratt with a \$500 Bursary towards her tuition at Nova Scotia Community College. (Harrington Photo)

Internet Ad-hoc Committee Being Formed

By Maurice Rees

Pressure from business owners and residents for better internet service has kept the matter in the forefront of Councillor Tom Taggart's mind. For months he had constantly raised the matter on every occasion.

His position as a realtor and director of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has provided him with a different perspective. The recent AGM of FCM in Halifax, which was attended by most Colchester elected representatives brought the matter to the forefront of other councillors, if they were not fully engaged.

As a result Colchester working quickly on establishing its ad-hoc committee with the anticipation Cumberland and Pictou will do the same. It is anticipated the committee will include, Mayor, CAO and at least two councillors from each municipality, as they search for a solution for rural areas.

Population of the three municipalities, without towns is 76,093. Elected officials feel the critical mass of three municipalities will make it easier to persuade Ottawa and Halifax to provide significant portions of cash to provide internet service speeds similar to urban areas. Including towns and villages located within the counties, the population jumps to 114,328. The foregoing data does not suggest the towns and villages are or not part of the ad-hoc initiative.

Pictou County has a population of 20,600, but jumps to 43,748, when the five towns of New Glasgow, Stellarton, Pictou, Westville and Trenton are included. Online data lists the county having 22,525 dwellings and a median income of \$43,475. The county has land area of 1,098.95 sq mi and population density of 40/sq mi.

The Pictou Municipal Council during a recent strategic priorities session identified the issue of bringing long term improvements to the internet backbone, and last mile infrastructure for the area as its number one priority. In February 2018 the county agreed to partner with i-Valley Intelligent Community Association for management services for the Municipality's rural internet and cellular initiative. i-Valley is a not for profit association comprised of Mayors, Warden, businesses, civic leaders, academia and experts



from around the world. This pan-Atlantic movement is dedicated to creating regions of Smart or Intelligent Communities. I Valley was identified through a Request for Proposals call issued by the Municipality earlier this year. It is anticipated the business case development will be completed earlier in the summer of 2018.

Cumberland is the least populated of the three with 19,402 residents in 8,714 dwellings. Its median income is the lowest of the three at \$38,433. When the population of Amherst and Oxford are included population jumps to 30,005 in 13,103 of its 18,445 dwellings. It has a land area of 1,651.9 sq mile and population density of 18/sq mi. When the numbers are reviewed, one of Cumberland's problems is its large geographical area and smaller population. Providing fibre speed internet service is expensive and with fewer customers along a roadway only compounds the problem.

Colchester, like the other counties has many areas where only dial-up service is available. Some areas have Bell Aliant fibre; and Seaside High-speed Internet serves some areas. Other internet providers include North Nova Cable and NCS Network.

Taggart has complained for months, like other realtors, he is unable to sell some properties, because of the lack of reliable fast internet service. Some realtors in Colchester and around the province are refusing to take listings if they are outside reliable internet service areas.

He also claims there are constituents in his riding, who could work from home, but are unable to do so, because of

the lack of service. His contention is that businesses in rural areas are at a disadvantage, because they can not compete with similar businesses located in urban areas, where fibre service is available.

Last year Colchester approved \$9,000 for internet analysis, to be done internally, with some outside consulting. The report was supposed to be presented to council in November, but the project was not completed. Regardless, the funding allocated was not large enough to provide the required data, plus it got sidelined from a lack of human resources.

Colchester has the largest population, 36,093, which escalates to 50,585 with the inclusion of Truro, Millbrook and Stewiacke. It also has two incorporated villages, Tatamagouche and Bible Hill, which are a part of the county wide municipality but are created to provide additional village services. In the 2016 census, Colchester County recorded a population of 50,585 living in 22,229 of its 25,378 total private dwellings. Colchester has a land area of 1,400.82 sq mi and a population density of 36.1/sq mi. Median income is \$42,782.

Taggart to Serve Fourth Term on FCM

Tom Taggart, District 10 councillor, has been elected to the board of directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for a fourth consecutive year. Members of the board were announced at the FCM's annual conference held in Halifax, May 31-June 3.

Taggart was also elected as Chair of the Atlantic Caucus. The conference experienced record-breaking delegate attendance and played host to every federal political leader, setting a new high water mark

for municipal sector engagement in Canada.

"There's no doubt in my mind that FCM is an important organization for our Municipality, and I am honored to be representing Colchester County on the board and especially as the Atlantic Caucus Chair," says Taggart. "During my previous three years I was a very vocal advocate for rural communities, emphasizing their value and the important role that they play in our Country. I

look forward continuing this work."

"We are delighted to have a member of our Council involved in a national organization that is so important to not only our Municipality, but the many municipalities across the Country," remarks Mayor Christine Blair. "FCM programs have certainly been of great benefit to our Country."

Since 2014 the Municipality of Colchester has received over \$9 Million in Federal funding for local infrastructure projects through programs championed by the FCM. These programs include the Gas Tax, Clean Water & Wastewater Fund, Build Canada Fund, and Municipal Asset Management Program.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is the national voice of local governments, with nearly 2,000 members representing more than 90 per cent of Canadians. FCM will hold its next annual conference in June 2019 in Quebec City.

Hayman Family Reunion AUGUST 10-12

By Christine Urquhart

There is going to be a Hayman Family Reunion August 10th to 12th at 30 Gould Crescent in Brule NS. If you are a Hayman, Amon, or any other miss-spelling of the name "Hayman" and would like to come to our reunion, please phone: 902-662-3550 or email: rcurquhart@ns.sympatico.ca

There are plans for loads of fun at this reunion! We will get together on Friday supper time and have a BBQ of hot-dogs and salads and desserts. A bon fire with guitars, fiddles etc. once it gets dark will happen.

On Saturday we can do a

bunch of different things - tours of grave yards, yard sales, swimming, sandcastle building, game of golf etc. and at supper time get together for a great meal at the Brule Community Centre (\$12 each) and then some card games to follow.

On Sunday we will all go to Church together at the Brule Union Church and then back to the cottage for some silly games and lunch. I do know there are some folks coming who have never been to Nova Scotia before so that should make it even more fun! I am so looking forward to this reunion!

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CANADA

VON Colchester East Hants

is looking for "VOLUNTEER DRIVERS" in the East Hants, Truro and surrounding areas that will provide services to clients requiring transportation to medical appointments or in the delivery of our "FROZEN FAVOURITES" program.

VON Colchester East Hants has launched the "FROZEN FAVOURITES" program, if you know someone that could benefit from this program, please contact Donna Verheuevel at 902-893-3803 ext 313.

2018 West Colchester 75 km YARD SALE JULY 14-15

"Past Years Have Been 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 14 and 15. Saturday & Sunday.

As before the sale will run along Highway #2 from Mingo's corner in Onslow 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 landfill.

**For further information
contact Clair Peers
Call 902-897-5951
Join our Facebook Group page.**

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