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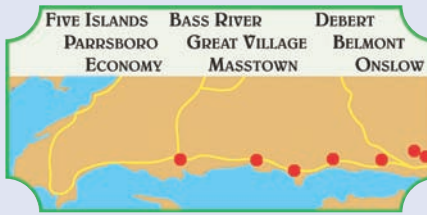
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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS
July 2019

STRESS RELIEF: Go ahead, have a good laugh - but be careful - someone might think you've lost your marbles!!

The Colchester And Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Member's BBQ on July 25th from 5:30-7:30pm at Warmth by Design. FREE. Drop in, or stay a while! Please RSVP (902)895-6328, ec@tcchamber.ca

A Bicycle Rodeo, sponsored by Colchester Recreation was held at Great Village Elementary School on Saturday, June 15th. (Submitted photos)

Hailyn Mercer is learning to use hand signals on her bike.

Gage Kinsman takes a turn on the Bike Rodeo course.

Future Great Village Elementary student Ethan Mercer is learning the rules of the road at a young age.

Debert fun run pictures can be found on page 13. Laced up and ready to go! (Harrington Photo)

Cumberland-Colchester Creating History

By Maurice Rees
The Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester Counties are about to enter the Canadian history books to become Canada's first federal electoral constituency to develop a joint approach to deliver high speed broadband services covering the entire area of two counties.

After reviewing responses to a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI), issued in late May, which was open to up to eight service providers who had been approved by Develop Nova Scotia ((DNS), in a pre-qualification process ear-

lier this spring, the two councils selected which ISP company with whom they will develop an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); then rush to complete a plan to go forward and submit a plan to DNS before the end of June.

Each municipal unit approved a motion similar to as follows: "That Council Committee recommend to Council approval of the Cumberland-Colchester Internet Committee's selected preferred respondent to the Request for Expressions of Interest for a Rural Broadband and Connected Communities Collabo-

ration with the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester for the purpose of having staff enter into negotiations toward a memorandum of understanding to facilitate inclusion of the Cumberland-Colchester internet partnership in the Respondent's proposals to Develop Nova Scotia that involve Cumberland and Colchester under the competition DNS-1920-0001."

It is recognized, during the negotiating period, a high level of secrecy is required and exact details are conducted "in-camera". One of the important aspects is to manage ex-

pectations of what can be delivered, for residents and business owners, who have been clamouring for improved internet service.

Once the plan has been finalized, things like geographic scope, service levels, timeline and roll-out strategy, financial scenario, and value-for-money will be revealed at the appropriate times. Financial estimates relating costs of the two-county project has not been revealed, nor has the required contributions from Provincial, Federal and Municipal sources.

Although details are sketchy, residents and business owners in Cumberland and Colchester Counties can start breathing a sigh of relieve improved broadband services are getting much closer that at any other point in history. When construction might start, and how long the "roll-out" will take will not be revealed until DNS has made its decision on acceptance of the two county initiatives.



One of the unique formations, a perfectly formed heart, was performed by the Canadian Armed Forces 'Snowbirds' at the Debert Flight Centre on June 19th. Air Show Atlantic which has produced shows in Shearwater, Yarmouth, Greenwood and at the Stanfield International Airport can now at the Debert Flight Centre to that list. See our photo spread and story on pages 16 and 17.

Citizens Oppose Asbestos Dump Site.

Maurice Rees
In support of residents of Middle Stewiacke, via a letter submitted by Ellen Durkee, Diane Redden, Marianne Lohnes and Hazel Caldwell, Colchester council will write a letter Department of Environment (DOE) asking for it to delay providing a ruling on the proposed Asbestos dump site in Middle Stewiacke as council is contemplating bringing in new regulations.

In its determination to support area citizens, council suggested it might bring in a new by-law if current by-laws do not cover the matter. Councillor Taggart asked if the dump site promoter had posted a "closure bond"? Normally such bonds provide the funding for site cleanup and remediation should a company go bankrupt, or the site ceased being active. Other comments included wondering why DOE had not referred the site developer to the existing site in Kempton, which could handle the debris.

Council quietly agreed that in the past DOE does a poor job regarding enforcement. Staff will also inquire how many C&D sites there are in the province, how many inspections of the sites were conducted last year.

Council specifically asked for a letter be sent to area residents stating council is aware of the situation and council and staff are working on their behalf.

Patterson Law Reappointed County Solicitors

By Maurice Rees
Following the public meeting on May 28th regarding the Leil property, council got into the regular part of the agenda, with the first activity being the appointment of Patterson Law as municipal solicitors for the coming year. Patterson Law has provided legal services to the Municipality for over 20 years. Dennis James, Managing Partner, has been the Municipality's Solicitor since 2002.

Minutes for meetings on April 25, May 2 and May 22 were approved, without any business arising from the minutes. In scanning the minutes of the April 25th, it is worthy to note:

Mayor Blair indicated that a Code of Conduct was discussed a year and half ago. At that time, it was decided that proceeding with a Code of Conduct would be held in abeyance until such time as the NSFM completed a model template. Given that a Code of Conduct is an MGA requirement, Mayor Blair requested that this be put back on the table for discussion. On motions by Masters and Gibbs, council approved, "That Code

of Conduct be referred back to staff." The CAO advised that NSFM Policy Advisor, Will Brooke, has developed a template which has been forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs. Staff will approach Mr. Brooke to request a copy of the model template and report back within 60 days. (also see 'Letter to the Editor, page 6)

Council approved at committee meeting on May 16th to beef up security in the council chambers. At the request of Councillor Boutilier, Council approved establishing a barrier separating the public gallery from the Council and staff and it become practice that during Committee and Council meetings that access beyond the established barrier be by invitation only.

Council has changed its mind on an earlier suggestion to rotate committee appointments so more councillors have experience on a larger variety of committees. At a May 17th meeting the nominating committee asked council to approve Council appointments to the various Committees remain status quo for the balance of 2016-2020 term of Council.

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