

Cumberland Council Approves \$711,801 in Grants

Council of the Municipality of Cumberland met via zoom for a Public Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement and a moment of silence in honour of William Davis Miners' Memorial Day.

Council approved \$711,801 in grants following a discussion at the June 9 committee of the whole meeting. These grants are for non-profit community, recreational, sporting, cultural, educational, and social organizations that provide benefits to the residents and communities within the Municipality. A list of approved grants can be found following this press release.

First reading was given to an amendment to the land use by-law pertaining to a property on the Gulf Shore Road. This amendment will be subject to a public hearing to be held July 21, 2021.

First reading was given to an amendment to the land use by-law pertaining to a rezoning request for 59 Charles Street in Joggins. This amendment will also be subject to a public hearing on July 21, 2021.

Council gave formal approval of updates to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy. This policy allows for an exemption of \$451 to municipal taxes when the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is \$31,161 or less the exemption. Prior to this update, there had been tiers of eligibility with lower exemption values. Applications forms are available on the municipality's website.

As part of the review of municipally owned properties, two properties were identified as surplus. The size of the lots are of insufficient size to be of reasonable use as stand alone properties, and as such, council has directed staff to offer the two properties to the abutting landowners for a cost not less than the migration and legal fees of the sale.

In 2016, the Shore Drive Community Development Association partnered with Seaside Communications and the Municipality of Cum-

berland on two broadband projects. In doing so, the municipality loaned the Shore Drive Association \$9,916.65 to cover an unexpected HST charge. That charge has since been reversed and the Shore Drive Association has been permitted to keep the loaned fund, with the expectation that the funds be diverted to community development projects and they will be foregoing other grants for two years.

At the February 17, 2021 council meeting, a request for a RFP for a consulting firm to conduct a salary review was approved. The personnel policy requires a salary review to be completed every five years.

The tender was awarded to Gerald Walsh & Associates at a value of \$19,275 plus tax at today's meeting.

Council approved flying the Mi'kmaq flag on June 21st in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

The current flag policy was also directed to the by-law policy and review committee for updating.

Further to the tender award on June 4, for the purchase of fire vehicles for the Shinimicas Volunteer Fire Department, a used rescue truck, with modifications is available from the low compliant bidder. Council approved the purchase of a used rescue vehicle in the amount of \$195,779.24 from Helie Fire Trucks in place of the new rescues truck. This will advance the delivery date by at least a year.

Council received a petition from concerned citizens in Parrsboro regarding the local improvement charge to finance sewer system improvements.

The next public council meeting will be July 7, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. A committee of the whole meeting will be held July 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Formal minutes of the June 16 meeting are available <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html>

New Cape Chignecto Hiking Challenge

By Janet Barlow

The challenge has been issued: hikers who haven't explored the Cape Chignecto area are up for a pleasant surprise and a challenge, but one that is worth it. Hike Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Provincial Parks are announcing the launch of the new Cape Chignecto Badge as part of Hike NS's Hiker Challenge.

"Our Hiker Challenge family of badges is growing and Cape Chignecto is pretty special," says Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia Executive Director. "We're excited about this new partnership with Nova Scotia Provincial Parks. As people flock to the outdoors in record numbers, this is yet another goal for them to work toward."

Cape Chignecto Provincial Park offers towering sea cliffs rising from the Bay of Fundy, while the world's highest tides lap at their base. Best described as a wilderness park, it has 50 km of pristine coastline, deep valleys, sheltered coves, rare plants, and old-growth forests.

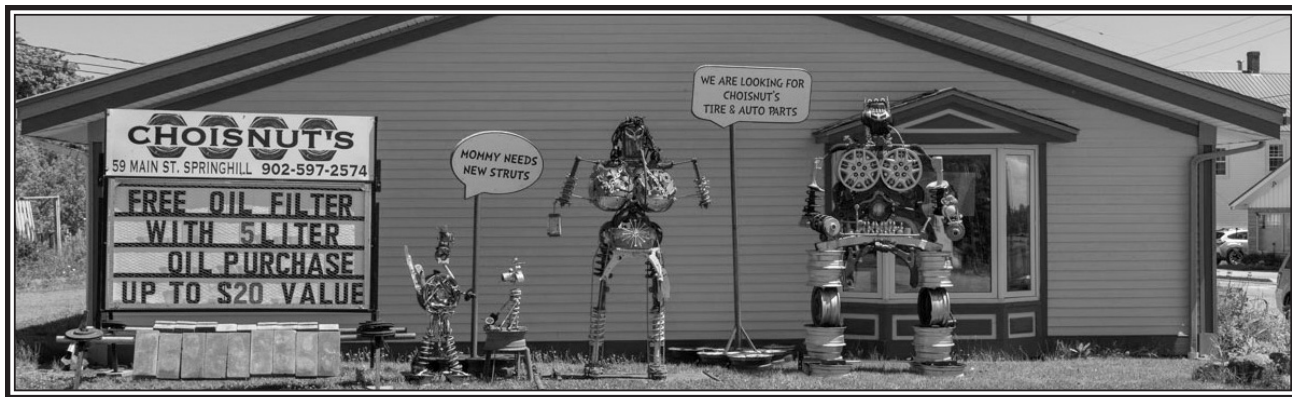
To earn the new Cape Chignecto Badge, over the course of a year you must hike the entire loop starting from the Red Rocks trailhead around the coastal loop and

back, which totals 53 km. Most people will likely choose to do the challenge in one multi-day trip. Once you've completed the challenge, apply for the badge on the Hike NS website. Badges are \$5 for Hike NS paid members or \$7.50 for non-members.

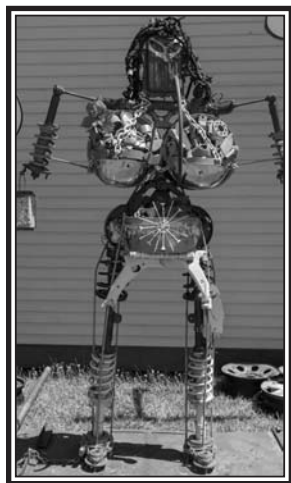
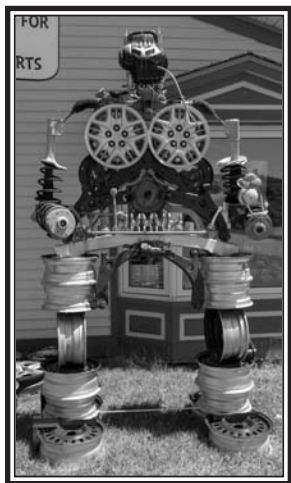
The Hiker Challenge is about inspiring, motivating and rewarding trail users - especially new and novice hikers - to get out on Nova Scotia's beautiful trails and start hiking or to hike more. Your reward for completing each challenge is a badge to show off on clothing or backpacks, as well as being listed on the Honour Roll. There are several badges to earn across the province as part of the Hiker Challenge.

Each season there is a prize draw including everyone who has earned a badge in the last three months. Prizes are gift cards generously provided by The Trail Shop. Learn more about the Hiker Challenge at www.hikenovascotia.ca/projects-hiker-challenge.

For more information on the new Hiker Challenge badge or Hike Nova Scotia contact: Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotian (902) 717-4408, info@hikenovascotia.ca



Artistry runs in the veins of so many Maritimers. Choisnut's of Springhill brought their display to the Art Lab, and what a sight to behold. I was mesmerized by the detail and imagination, the mind of a true artist created this. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photos)



Cumberland Council Receives Status of Tax Accounts

Cumberland council Committee of the Whole (COW) met via zoom on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Council now holds COW meetings the second Wednesday of every month with delegations, presentations and petitions a major focus of these meetings.


This month, the committee received two presentations. The first presentation was from Nova Scotia

Works-CANSA and the second from Funday Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE). A written update was provided from Cumberland Public Libraries.

Staff updated the committee on the status of tax accounts for the period ending April 30, 2021. Overall collections continue to be positive. A summary of grant applications was provided to council. The summary provided a brief history of the relationships with the applicants and potential projects. Council will take the grants under advisement and referred it to the next public meeting for final consideration.

Mayor Scott proclaimed June 15, 2021, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the Municipality of Cumberland.

Formal minutes of the June 9 meeting are available <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html>




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