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South Cumberland NEWS

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Shinimicas Volunteer Fire Department

Municipal Council approved two major tenders this week to support the Shinimicas Volunteer Fire Department in rebuilding and reinstating their fleet following a major fire in April 2020.

"The award of this tender allows us to support the Shinimicas Volunteer Fire Department so that they can continue to keep residents of the area safe and I'm very happy to be part of this decision," stated District 3 Councillor Rod Gilroy. "Rebuilding and outfitting the fleet is exciting and I'm looking forward to seeing members back at their station once the build is complete."

The tender to replace the building was approved at a regular council meeting June 2, 2021. The new building will have a total square footage of 5668 sqft and contain 4 truck bays, a training/ meeting area and be a typical wood frame construction. "The officers and firefighters of the Shinimicas District Fire Department are very pleased to have reached this significant milestone in our rebuilding process. We are grateful for the support of the communities we serve and the wider fire-

fighting community. We are especially grateful the Bridgewater and Hantsport Fire Departments who have loaned us apparatus," said Fire Chief Jesse Brine.

The tender to outfit a fleet of vehicles was approved at a special meeting of council June 4, 2021. The low compliant bids received for each vehicle were: Rescue Command Vehicle, Helix Fire Trucks, \$310,323.20; Commercial Side Control Pumper, Carl Thibault Emergency Vehicles, \$454,033.82 and Commercial Pumper Tanker, Carl Thibault Emergency Vehicles, \$486,641.13. Total of approved contracts is \$1,250,998.14

"We continue to be grateful to neighbouring fire departments, who since the night of the fire have proven their commitment to community service and neighbourly cooperation," commended Mayor Murray Scott.

In the evening hours of April 23, 2020 a fire broke out at the Shinimicas Volunteer Fire Department.

Twelve Fire Departments were involved in the response, and had the fire under control shortly after 1 a.m., April 24, 2020.

Recognizing William Davis Miners' Memorial Day

Mayor Murray Scott, and members of council made quiet, personal reflections on a pandemic-Davis Day.

"This year, marks 130 years since the explosion of 1891 in

Springhill, but many more explosions and bumps followed in Springhill and River Hebert. For communities like River Hebert and Springhill our history is as deep as the mines beneath us,"

reflected Scott. "Davis Day is an important day to remember those who came before us who died in the workplace trying to provide for their families."

In a non-pandemic year, the communities of River Hebert and Springhill hold well attended ceremonies of remembrance. This year, due to public health guidelines organizers were unable to hold gatherings.

"Council and I encourage residents to take a moment to pause and reflect today while

following public health guidelines," said Scott.

June 11th is commonly known as Davis Day or Miners' Memorial Day in memory of William Davis, a coal miner who died on that day in 1925, and all miners who have died in Nova Scotia's coal mines. Nova Scotia's William Davis Miners' Memorial Day Act was given Royal Assent November 25, 2008, officially marking the observance province-wide.



William Davis Miners' Memorial site in Springhill. (Submitted)



Neat and tidy and newly updated, the Hall has great curb appeal. (David Townsend Photo)



As the sign on the verandah indicates the Ottawa House by the Sea will open on July 2nd after being closed all of last season due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Story on page 4. (Submitted)



At Newville Lake Geese parents usher their new ones to safe landing. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Blockade Ends, Smith-McCrossin Expelled

By Maurice Rees

Within a hours, at least 100 highway transport trucks were parking anywhere possible in the Town of Amherst and Aulac. By next morning, some drivers estimated there were over 200 as the result of west and eastbound traffic being blocked at exit 7 near Thompson Station.

As the hours past, volume of vehicles sitting idle increased and tempers started raging, the public became more aware of the initial involvement of Cumberland North MLA Smith-McCrossin things politically began to unravel for the outspoken MLA. In the beginning, at approximately 24 hours after the blockage began, PC leader, Tim Houston was very supportive of the MLA, but expressed disapproval over the blockade.

In a media announcement on the second day, Houston indicated following a caucus meeting and learning more details in his conversations with Smith-McCrossin, he announced she was being expelled from caucus and would not be permitted to run as a PC candidate in the upcoming provincial election.

Even before the blockade started the MLA expressed strong disapproval over Premier Rankin's change of heart not allowing people to enter Nova Scotia after NB government changed their mind and permitted people to enter the province

from the rest of Canada a week earlier than agreed.

The disagreement between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the amount of risk they were willing to take caused Rankin to delay non-isolation border crossings by at least a week.

In statements almost immediately following Rankin's change of plans, Smith-McCrossin appeared to be very vocal, almost appearing as the organizer or primary promoter of an upcoming blockade.

As time dragged on, situations began reaching crisis levels. The Amherst hospital had to cancel almost 170 procedures in one day, because staff or patients were unable to travel; the IWK Hospital in Halifax issued a release and public appeal that several vehicles carrying critical components or medications were tangled up in the blockade.

The fishing and marine industry voiced concerns about a number of semis caught in the blockade which were carrying live lobsters from PEI which was destined for timely air transport from Halifax. Other perishable truck loads included produce slated to major urban centres. One trucker reminded people that Newfoundland imports all of its food via truck transport, and some of the shipments are very time sensitive.

Of major concern to many was the dis-

ruption to the economy because hundreds of millions of product crosses, the NS/NB border daily.

On June 23rd the RCMP issued several press releases with one highlighting, "In light of the ongoing protests and the illegal blockade at the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border, the RCMP has deployed additional resources to the area to help keep the peace and hopefully resolve the situation."

The RCMP respects the Charter right of all Canadians to assemble peacefully. However, under S.423(1)(g) of the Criminal Code, blockading a highway is a criminal offence. Our members are trying to balance respecting the protestors' rights with enforcing the law, and they are continuing to engage protestors in meaningful dialogue in the hopes of achieving a peaceful resolution.

We are also aware that the ongoing blockade has caused many disruptions on both sides of the border to individuals, businesses and vital services such as health care. We are prepared to change our approach if our dialogue with the protestors is not productive".

Prior to the ending of the blockade several people were arrested or charged in the mishap. RCMP have indicated as their investigation continues more charges are expected.

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