

Air Show Delayed until August 2022

By Maurice Rees

The Atlantic Air Show, organized by the Nova Scotia International Air Show Association (NSIASA), slated for August 2021 but with May's CoVid-19 surge the show has been delayed until August 2022. Jenn Mantin, who replaced Economic Development Office, Mark Austin upon his retirement earlier in June advised council at the June 24th monthly meeting.

Mantin participated in the Zoom meeting to seek council's approval and discuss various aspects of the financing agreements which formed part of the 2020 postponed event. She sought Council's approval to maintain Colchester's previous financial commitment of \$25,000 to the 2021 Air Show Atlantic and defer contributions to be allocated to the 2022 Air Show Atlantic.

Discussion centered around the advance payment

of \$12,500 of the \$25,000 which is Colchester's share of the total contribution of \$50,000 shared with Town of Truro. Discussion ended with council approving a motion by Councillors Benoit and Patton for all conditions of contract be included prior to agreeing to deferral. Solicitor Dennis James suggested before advancing balance, distribution of ticket revenue be included prior to finalization.

As part of information presented to council, the total contribution from both municipal units is \$50,000 on an equal sharing basis. In October of 2020, Colchester paid \$12,500 to NSIASA, as their 50% contribution of the initial required \$25,000 contribution. To date, NSIASA has received \$25,000 from Colchester and Truro towards the 2021, now delayed until 2022, event. If the event were to be eventually totally cancelled, the Colchester and Town of Truro could be rebated the stipulated contributions, less a 10% penalty.

In May 2021, NSIASA made the decision to cancel the 2021 event. Planning and marketing efforts had already begun, but the cancellation of the event was a board decision, based on the uncertainty of the provincial regulations which might be in place due to the COVID19 pandemic at event timing of August 2021.

Economic data shows the 2017 Air Show in Kings County generated \$721,430 in direct spectator spending. Of this amount \$134,000 in spending was generated by Local residents; \$441,000 by within province travellers and \$146,000 by non-resident travellers. Air Show spectators spent, or planned to spend, an average of \$117 per party at the Air Show itself. Operational spending in 2017 in addition



to spectator spending was \$405,005.

Group ATN Consulting assesses the 2017 economic impact of Kings County hosting the ASA total spending of \$2.2-Million and helped sustain 12 direct and spinoff jobs (FTEs).

During discussion prior to the motion, Councillor Taggart requested somebody inspect the runway and other possible deficiencies to ensure there were no last minute increased costs similar to the \$20,000-\$30,000 emergency expenditure on the runway before Snowbirds would fly on it.

Taggart to Carry PC Flag

By Maurice Rees

Colchester veteran Municipal Councillor Tom Taggart has been selected at the PC candidate for Colchester North in the upcoming provincial election. Taggart decided to run in Colchester North, following Karen Casey, a close friend, announced at age of 74, she would not reoffer, even though she held the positions of Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance in the cabinet of Hon Stephen McNeil, who also retired after 17 years.

In the recent PC nomination race, which concluded on Saturday, June 26, Taggart defeated Robert Langille, the other candidate for the nomination. Langille's father Bill was a previous MLA for Colchester North. Taggart previously ran as a Progressive Conservative candidate in the 1993 provincial election, losing to Ed Lorraine. In 1993 there were 12,359 eligible to vote with a turn out of 76.83% as 9,496 cast their vote.

Taggart has been Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10 since 2008. In his acceptance statement Taggart said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to support the people and the communities of Colchester North," Taggart said. "I am eager to work with PC leader Tim Houston at



Tom Taggart

Province House to deliver the common sense solutions he is putting forward and make life better for the people of Colchester North."

During more than 12 years in municipal government, Taggart has distinguished himself as someone who will ask the tough questions, face challenges head on and advocate for rural communities. He is passionate about his family, his constituents and his community. He is a tireless volunteer and passionate about helping people.

He has also been elected for six consecutive years by his peers to be one of four elected municipal leaders from Nova Scotia on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

\$18.2 Million to Boost Tourism Restart

An \$18.2 million tourism restart package, announced on June 15, will provide operators with new grant programs and marketing support as well as offering tourists more outdoor public attractions and free admission to provincial museums.

The restart package will help the tourism industry prepare to welcome visitors to Nova Scotia as part of the province's phased reopening strategy.

The Tourism Accommodations Restart Customer Attraction Program will help registered tourism accommodations develop and imple-

ment tailored marketing activities to encourage overnight stays. Eligible operators will receive a grant of \$1,000 per room for the first 10 rooms and \$500 per room for each additional room.

The Small Tourism Operators Restart Program will offer a one-time grant payment of \$5,000 to help tourism businesses that were affected by COVID-19 restrictions but were not eligible for earlier provincial programs. The grant will help operators with advertising and other restart expenses such as purchasing personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.

The province will invest an additional \$3 million this year in its marketing campaigns, designed to attract visitors through television advertising, videos, radio spots, social media, billboards, display ads and search marketing tactics.

The Atlantic Canada campaign, called Do More, was launched June 15. Investments will also be made to attract the public to communities across the province. Visitors will enjoy free admission to the 28 sites included in the Nova Scotia Museum system and the two sites of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in July and August. The province will

also work with community organizations to offer outdoor public events that feature local artists and diverse cultural activities.

Shoreline Journal Awarded Silver Medal

Data Compiled by Maurice Rees

Maurice Rees, publisher, The Shoreline Journal has been advised he will receive the Silver Award for second place finish in the Atlantic Journal Awards 2020 competition in the Best Community Newspaper News Story category. The gold winner is: Tina Comeau - Tri-County Vanguard - Yarmouth, NS - Bringing life to unmarked graves. Rhea Rollmann - The Independent - St. John's, NL was the third winner in the annual contest for "An empty lot on Eric Street".

Due to CoVid-19 restrictions the awards will be presented, probably virtually, at a later date.

Rees' entry submissions were for coverage he developed within seven days, for the May 2020 issue following the April 18-19, 2020 mass murders which started in Portapique, Colchester County. The assailant was shot and killed by RCMP at the Irving Big Stop, Enfield in the afternoon of the 19th after murdering 22, plus an unborn baby, innocent victims.

The eight components included: May 2020 front page containing photos of all 22 adult victims; additional coverage was included on Pages 12-13, 15, and 16. Page 17, May 2020 was dedicated to obituaries of all victims.

A Page 1 story in May 2020 issue of the South

Cumberland News details a recap of the murder rampage in Cumberland County areas. Additional coverage on Page 7 of the September issue included details of decisions by municipalities in consultation with funeral homes on paying for funeral costs of the victims.

As part of the submission a detailed description of events on Canada's Largest Mass Murder was also included in the May 2020 issue.

Readers who are interested can View/listen to all 2020 finalists at www.ajasonline.org/finalists2020. Scroll down the list of winners to the "Best Community Newspaper News Story". It should be possible to view the eight components of the Portapique coverage which comprised his entry. Some of the accompanying notes to the submission should also be visible to the reader.

Since becoming owner and publisher in February 2008, Rees and The Shoreline Journal have won several awards through various competitions conducted annually by Newspapers Atlantic, the association for community newspapers throughout Atlantic Canada.

Rees was also inducted into the Atlantic Journalism Hall of Fame at a gala celebration held in Halifax in 2018.

Colchester and Cumberland Facilities get Funding

By Maurice Rees

Colchester East Hants Health Centre will receive \$790,000 in funding for energy upgrades to the heat recovery devices, heat pumps, system automation, monitoring technology, and solar installations will reduce energy costs and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Federal contribution will be \$792,000 and the province will add \$198,000 to the project.

The announcement was made by Lenore Zann, MP Cumberland-Colchester at the two levels of government announced investments in healthcare and long term care facilities to respond to the im-

pacts of CoVid-19.

In Cumberland County the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre will receive \$500,000 for upgrades to the buildings automation and monitoring technology will reduce energy costs and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Two projects at Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche long term care facility formed part of the roll-out. The feds will contribute \$163,480 to the Replacement of the existing nurse call system and bathing system in the Barrachois Neighbourhood of the facility. This will ensure the safety and security of residents. The

province will contribute an additional \$40,960.

Installation of two sets of commercial washers and dryers to increase capacity and efficiency at Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche will involve \$52,036 from the feds, while the province will contribute \$13,009.



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