

Area Schools to Receive \$3.5-Million

Schools across Nova Scotia will get retrofits, repairs and upgrades with more than \$25 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments. Projects, which vary by region and school, include: energy efficiency improvements, including new windows and upgraded building systems; improved accessibility, including new elevators and lifts and exterior and interior repairs, including new roofs or roof

repairs, facade upgrades and painting. The list of individual area schools was not released.

In the Chignecto Central area eleven schools have been allotted \$3.5-Million. The Government of Canada is investing more than \$20.5 million through the COVID-19 Resilience Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government of Nova Scotia is contributing more than \$5 million.

Proposed Bylaw Renamed, "Neighbourhood Nuisance"

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sance", which has a focus on local fireworks, and excessive noise within the municipality, primarily in sub-divisions or higher population density areas. Council is using its power to enact a by-law to prevent the unreasonable interference with the enjoyment of property.

At the Council Committee meeting on June 10, 2021, staff presented a draft Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law to help address complaints of noise and other reported nuisance activity throughout the Municipality.

Following the June 10th preparation staff shared the draft By-law with RCMP Staff Sgt. Curtis MacKinnon and he expressed concern that the proposed exemptions for Recreation Activity in particular, may be too broad. Hearing his concern, staff consulted with the Municipal Solicitor and it was recommended that a definition for "appropriate" be added to specify that the exemptions would be required to be "reasonable in the circumstances taking into account the intensity, frequency, duration and timing of the activity."

Staff then shared the revision with Staff Sgt. MacKinnon and he was satisfied that it addressed his concern.

In the First Reading version presented to council on June 24th, the proposed by-law sets out the prohibitions as follows: "No person shall engage in activity that by frequency or intensity unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of the neighbourhood, including but not limited to any one or more resident".

There are four fixed exemptions within the by-law. This By-Law does not apply to Disturbances that may result from a response to an emergency.

- (b) Businesses operating lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the business enterprise.
- (c) Recreation activity carried out lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the activity.
- (d) Community events carried out lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the event.

For those who are charged under the by-law once it is enacted, the following will apply: Any person who violates any of the provisions of this By-law may be guilty of an offence

and may, on summary conviction, be liable for:

- for the first offence to a penalty of not less than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not more than one year or both, including the imposition of the minimum fine;
- (b) for the second offence to a penalty of not less than Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) and of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not more than one year or both, including the imposition of a minimum fine;
- (c) for the third offence or any subsequent offence to a penalty of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not more than one year or both, including the imposition of a minimum fine.

Once discussion on the revisions ended, council moved to pass to second reading, which is where detailed discussion can be held.

ATS Projects to be Reviewed Annually

By Maurice Rees

At council's meeting on May 27, 2021, discussion was initiated by Councillor Parker who inquired about the status of a sidewalk project along Old Courthouse Branch Road in Bible Hill / Valley. Council discussion included how Active Transportation projects specifically sidewalks, are identified, prioritized and constructed within the parameters of its five year Capital Budget. Staff was asked to provide council with an update at the next monthly meeting.

To update council, Paul Smith, Acting Director Community Development provided an action item for council's fuller understanding and action.

The county's Active Transportation Strategy (ATS), revised 2017, established a foundation on which future projects are identified, prioritized and established. His update went back prior to 1995, through the various adjustments up until current times. In January 2018, Council approved a Revised AT Strategy that was completed in late 2017.

The document was remarkably similar to the original and the updated version focussed on Council's

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AT completed projects after 2011, integration of cycling networks and the NS Blue Route as well as a series of recommendations for future initiatives. A notable change also included several guiding AT principles which touched on several aspects of community health, activity and connectedness.

Although the AT Strategy attempted to rationalize the provision of sidewalks and trails in a proactive and systematic way, staff recognized it is a fluid document and Council's priorities may need to be adjusted or new projects introduced as circumstances dictate. This has been the case in the past where Council has established new sidewalk priorities along Highway 311, Harmony Road and most recently Pictou Road to Crowland Drive.

Discussion concluded when council agreed the AT projects in the five year plan will be brought before council on an annual basis prior to budget preparation and other application deadlines.

Recommendations Approved from Committee Meeting

By Maurice Rees

At its monthly meeting on June 24th, council approved five recommendations brought forward from the earlier committee meeting as follows:

Purchase of Replacement Fire Repeaters: The purchase and installation of two new fire repeaters from Nova Communications, at a cost of \$19,149.10, excluding HST.

Policy Amendments – Solar Colchester PACE Policy and Municipal Fees Policy: Council approved the amendments to the Solar Colchester PACE Policy and the Municipal Fees Policy, as presented.

Fundy Discovery Site: Phase 1D - Interim Capital Budget. Council approved the proposed Fundy Discovery Site construction and capital planning programs for the 2021-22 fiscal year and an allocation of \$227,540 to an interim capital budget.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) Application – Municipality of Colchester Commitments: Council approved: A municipal



financial commitment of 26.67% which will be allocated for the projects identified under its ICIP application; Financing the total upfront capital costs for all projects; Obtaining Temporary Borrowing Resolution(s) as a means of ensuring sufficient funds are available for project work; and acquisition of any land or easement purchases needed to implement the projects.

Colchester Christian Academy Request: Council approved that the original conditions of the sale of the East Court Road School to the Colchester Christian Academy be maintained. Having sold the property valued at approximately \$500,000 for \$1.00, council wanted to protect the taxpayers investment, that should the property not continue as a school, the Academy would not be able to sell the property at market value.

Tenders awarded by Colchester Council

By Maurice Rees

On recommendation from staff council awarded a tender to Hollis Ford for a total contract amount of \$21,172 excluding HST, for the purchase of a 1/2 Ton Truck for Wastewater Collection Operations. The tender was handled in the public manner, but only Hollis Ford submitted a bid. Hollis has guaranteed the price, but may not be able to deliver the vehicle for a few months. Public Works Director, Michelle Boudreau informed council two other vehicles slated for replacement have been pushed back to later dates.

An additional tender for a 1/2 Ton Truck for Water Utility Operations was awarded to Hollis Ford in the amount of \$39,472 excluding HST. The new 1/2 Ton Truck will replace an existing 2013 Toyota Tacoma with 230,000 km of mileage. Source of funds being the Public Works Vehicle Reserve."


To expedite construction work later this summer, council agreed for the August committee meeting of council to award two tenders. The



first was for the reconstruction of the Hill Street and William Street sidewalks.

August council committee meeting has been authorized to award the upcoming tender for Debert STP2 Elimination Tender. In notes to council, Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works stated, "Council's approved capital budget for fiscal 2021/22 includes the replacement of Debert STP 2 with budget of \$400,000. The project is 73% funded by the ICIP program, which offers both Federal (40%) and Provincial (33.3%) contributions. The remaining 27% will be funded by the Debert Sale of Homes fund. When questioned Scott Fraser stated the 27% municipal contribution will be funded from the Debert Sale of Homes fund as it has been previously allocated. He noted that as of March 31, 2021 funds from the fund are 100% allocated.

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Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North

10653 HWY. 2, MASSTOWN
 (grey office building beside the Petro Can opposite the Masstown Market)
 Phone: 902-641-2200
 Fax: 902-641-2266
 Email: karencasey@eastlink.ca
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