



The Mass Casualty Commission Investigations Director, Barbara McLean, briefs team during visit to Portapique community on June 4, 2021 (Submitted)

## Commission Toured Portapique on June 4

The Mass Murder Commission is taking a proactive approach to keeping families, friends of victims and general public informed about its activities and plans. On June 9th, the commission issued a press release concerning the phases of its hearings. The next public proceedings will take place between October 26, 2021, and December 10, 2021, at the Halifax Convention Centre and other venues in consultation with Participants.

These proceedings will contribute to the fact-finding and policy aspects of its work, as the commission focuses on what happened leading up to and during the events of the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia. Other topics will

include firearms access, police and service-provider responses, emergency communications and intimate partner violence.

The commission has been adamant by stating both in-person and virtual proceedings are needed, following the latest COVID-19 considerations and public health advice. Proceedings will be available by webcast, and recordings and additional information will be available online.

The press release stated in order to create a thorough, evidence-based record, difficult questions will need to be asked and uncomfortable facts will need to be considered. Commission members are committed to performing

their duties with compassion and with an unwavering commitment to a full, transparent, and independent inquiry. The release further stated the commission hopes all their progress to date demonstrates, the team's approach to always work in ways that are sensitive to and minimize the impact on those most affected. Those most affected are reminded they can always reach out to

one of the support services included on the website.

In the community notice shared on the commission's our website and social media, members of the team visited the Portapique community on Friday, June 4, 2021. This visit strengthened their knowledge of the community geography as they work to better understand the events of April 2020. More site visits to the affected communities in the months ahead.



Team members from the Mass Casualty Commission in Portapique on June 4, 2021 (Submitted)

## Colchester 100 Series Highway Ramp Clean Ups

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are continuously seeking ways to address the litter issue.

Colchester County has active volunteers and group(s) fighting against litter because they feel it is

the right thing to do. Staff and council would like to keep them motivated against this uphill battle and to also encourage others to join the war.

In the Municipality of Colchester the Waste Reduction Department has a budget in 2021/22 of \$57,000 to go towards litter clean up, derelict vehicle removal and illegal dump clean ups. Seventy percent of the budget is allocated towards salaries of students and supervisor. Prior to CoVid, two summer students were hired to assist with these programs. Proctor's submission stated a portion of the salaries this year will be to hire the Colchester Workshop to assist with litter pick up around the Solid Waste site in Kempton.

Here is some data from past students' roadside collection: 2016 - 44 kms of roadside was cleaned up removing 3,270 Kgs of garbage; 2017 - 45 kms of roadside was cleaned up re-

moving 6,280 kgs of garbage, recyclables, tires and in 2018 - 22 kms of roadside was cleaned up removing 6,150 kgs of garbage and recyclables.

In staff's investigation and recommendations the roadsides identified for clean up were in high traffic tourism areas, from public complaints as well as the 5 km radius of the Municipal Solid Waste Facilities in Kempton. Staff expects summer students would be hired next year to continue this type of work.

On Earth Day, April 22, a One Bag Challenge was promoted on the Colchester WRM Facebook page. There was great participation from schools, individuals, and work groups. Details on the Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program and listing of 17 participating groups is presented in an adjacent article.

Out of three options presented in terms of recommendation, Proctor's submission suggested staff continue to support Provincial and Departmental litter clean up programs and to seek innovative ways to attract new groups to participate and recognize the efforts of the current commu-

nity volunteers.

Councillor Taggart who has been a strong advocate for litter cleanup suggested money should not be taken from the

TAGGART: Should not take money from their existing budget, but should add money for the cause. He suggested the municipality should take ownership to the exists & entrances. They are just as important as the Fundy Discovery Centre, he added. He challenged council to develop program saying wWe should step up

Councillor MacKenzie said she was against hiring people when we have 17 groups willing to do it for FREE. She added perhaps hire students from May until Fall and the municipality should not expect boy scouts to do the cleanup as it is not Safe. Councillor Cooper suggested work with schools as it's the best way to go, but he did not agree with \$500 in a program similar to East Hants.

Other councillors offered a variety of suggestions: Parker suggested a \$5,000 challenge rewarding volunteers \$1 for every bag picked up, but they must pre register. Councillor Johnson tossed out the idea

for Darlene and staff to develop a plan for spring, summer and fall.

Mayor Blair liked the idea of hiring summer students, but cautioned, the positions are part of a government application process and need federal or provincial approval. She added a summer student program would provide income for students in various areas. Mayor Blair added on Earth day on Harmony Road one student picked up 3 bags in 50 foot distance.

Council recognized it will take time to develop the right approach and will involve input from councillors, staff, and the general public. One suggestion was to start with a focus on the youth, perhaps much in the way seatbelt regulations were introduced, with the thought, "youth will force parents not throw out litter.

no monetary reward but for a betterment of their community. Residents and group involvement includes some of the 100 Series Exit ramps. Four of the 100 series exit ramps are currently being cleaned.

There are 12 exit ramps in total as listed below:

Highway 104 - Exit Ramps include: Exit 11 - Glenholme; Exit 12 - Masstown; Exit 13 - Debert; Exit 14 - Truro; Exit 14A - Truro; Exit 15 - Central Onslow; Exit 17 - Valley; Exit 18 - Kempton and Exit 18A - Mt Thom/Kempton

Highway 102 - Exit Ramps include: Exit 12 - Brookfield; Exit 13 - Truro Heights and Exit 13A - Mill Brook.

Currently the following major exits already have volunteers to clean up highway litter. They include: Exit 13 - Truro Heights; Exit 14 - Truro; Exit 14A - Truro and Exit 17 - Valley

As with any problem as large and unsightly as Highway litter there are a lot of factors to consider to develop the appropriate strategy. Some of those questions include: Would the introduction of funding specified clean up areas create unintended negative impact and demotivate goodwill? Or, could a funding model motivate new groups to participate and adopt new areas that are not currently being cleaned.

## 17 Groups Actively Involved

Maurice Rees

When readers finish this article their comments are encouraged. We encourage people to submit their comments to the Municipal office, their local councillor. The Shoreline Journal wants to see highway litter eliminated as a problem. We pledge to do our part and will print any letters received from residents, businesses, or community groups.

As outlined in Darlyne Proctor's submission to council on June 24th there are seventeen active Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Groups across the Municipality of Colchester doing annual roadside clean ups at Registered Adopt A Highway Groups Locations: Rotary Club of Truro Highway, 104 Exit 14 - Truro; Baha'l Community of Truro, Highway 104 Exit 14A - Truro; Valley Volunteer & District Fire Brigade Highway 104 Exit 17 - Valley; Future Worx, Highway 102 Exit 13 - Truro Heights; Dal'AC, College Road; Fellowship Lodge 112 (AF & AM), 5km Route 4 Pictou Road & Main to Valley Cross Road and Truro Lions Club, Highway 311 5km from Marshalls Corner Truro Lions Club towards North River;

Outside the more highly density area around Truro includes: Brookfield's Men's

Club Carter Road to Whidden Road for 2km and Hwy 289 to Hwy 2; 569 Brookfield Air Cadets Hwy 2 for 6km Hilden to Brookfield; Brookfield Community Assembly, Hwy 289 from Upper Brookfield Rd to Overpass of Hwy 104;

Great Village & Area Community School Great Village, 2.5 km towards Glenhome; Friends of the Community, Glenhome to Great Village Station Road/Wharf Road; Bass River Heritage Society, Hwy 2 - 5km Birch Hill to Little Bass River; Granny and the Kids Five Islands, North River Lane and Phillip Fulmore Road; North Shore 4H Club, Hwy 6 - 4km, from West End Signage to Tatamagouche; Earth Day Friends, Sand Point Road & Brule Shore for 8km to Narrows Bridge and 596 Phoenix Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Sunrise Trail, Rte 6 for 7km from the Brule Point Road to Home Hardware.

Proctor has also identified and acknowledged The Municipality of Colchester is fortunate to have so many volunteers that care about their community and local environment. She added, Residents across Colchester County are currently volunteering through various clean up programs to pick up litter with

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