

Cumberland Council Briefs – June 21, 2023

Municipal council approves \$850,000 in grants to organizations

Cumberland municipal council has approved more than \$850,000 in grants to organizations for the 2023-24 budget year. The municipality grants funding to organizations through several categories annually.

In 2023-24, the municipality is providing \$7,000 for school bursaries, \$90,000 in district grants (each councillor and the mayor has \$10,000 in district grants to spend), \$586,350 for general grants and \$125,000 in annual grants.

Cumberland municipal council hosts two public hearings for rezoning applications

Cumberland municipal council held a pair of public hearings during its June committee of the whole meeting on Wednesday, June 21.

A public hearing was held regarding the rezoning of a property near North End Road in Sutherland Lake from Rural Resource to Recreational Residential to facilitate the development of approximately 27 lots and a private road.

The property is located east of North End Road and nearby Residential Recreational lots on Maple Drive, Wyllies Lane, and Hardwood Drive. To the east, the property is bordered by Little Dead Lake and a stream that runs towards Purdy Pond in the northeast.

These adjacent lands are zoned Rural Resource and contain a mix of woodland and wetland areas. The application is to rezone the subject property to Recreational Residential to develop residential building lots on a private road.

Council also held a public hearing regarding an application to rezone a property near Hansford Road in Victoria from Agricultural to Recreational Residential to facilitate the development of approximately 10 lots and a private road corridor.

The subject property is located north of Hansford Road, bordering on the southeastern portion of McPherson Lake and bordered to the north, east and west by properties zoned Agricultural. Adjacent properties to the south of Hansford Road are zoned Recreational Residential.

Low-Income Tax Exemption Policy passed on to June 28 meeting for approval

Cumberland municipal council has voted to forward the approval of the Low-Income Tax Exemption Policy to the regular council meeting on Wednesday, June 28.

Council is recommending the policy be unchanged and that the income cutoff and exemption amounts be increased by the change in the Consumer Price Index of Nova Scotia of 7.5 per cent to \$34,400 with the exemption amount being \$505.

In May 2022, council approved revisions to the Low-Income Tax Exemption Policy to provide a property tax exemption of \$470 on residents' primary residences if household income was under \$32,000.

In 2022/23 there were 446 tax exemptions granted for a total of \$202,148.

Council is also forwarding the approval of amendments to the Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy to the June 28 regular meeting.

Being added to the list for 2023-24 is the Tidnish Crossroads Community Association for a whole exemption.

Council can provide a tax reduction from commercial to residential for all or part of the tax payable with respect to any non-profit community, charitable, fraternal, education, religious, cultural or sporting organization. The total tax exemptions and reductions for 2023-24 amounts to \$225,025.

Cobiquid Fun-Tones, Meadowpark group requests forward to June 28 for approval

Municipal council voted to forward to its June 28 meeting a pair of requests from the Cobiquid Fun-Tones and the Meadow Park Recreation Group to receive funds from the Christie Community Foundation to support a pair of projects within the municipality, contingent on the projects being recommended for funding by the Christie foundation.

The Cobiquid Fun-Tones is requesting funds to assist with the costs for registration fees and professional coaching session expenses in preparation for the Atlantic Provinces contest at Mount Allison University. The Meadow Park Recreation Group is requesting funds to assist with the costs for revamping the organization's playground.

The table below lists Cumberland's building permits issued each month since January 2020 until May 2023.

Building Permit Stats May 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	8	14	26	44
February	14	17	24	25
March	17	22	61	65
April	34	58	101	101
May	27	40	110	103
June	40	58	119	
July	50	42	67	
August	60	75	94	
September	46	59	87	
October	34	83	64	
November	24	79	65	
December	29	65	42	
TOTAL	383	612	860	338

Deadline for the August issue of
South Cumberland NEWS is July 18



Council forwards water meter tender approval to regular meeting

Council has voted to forward to its June 28 meeting a motion to award the tender for the supply and installation of water meters in Springhill to Neptune Technology Group Co. for a value of \$1,024,667.92.

The intent of this project is to install a water meter on the water service of every customer of the Springhill water system. After water meters are installed the Springhill water system can transition to rates based on a customer's water consumption.

There are currently 1553 customers of the Springhill water utility.

Municipality approves appointment of building officials

Cumberland municipal council has voted to approve at its June 28 meeting the appointments of Pat Boyce, Mike MacKenzie and Avery Withrow as building officials for the Municipality of Cumberland.

The municipality remains in a high level of demand for building inspections related to its continued growth in permits. To maintain a strong level of customer service the municipality needs to enhance its ability to conduct required field inspections in a timely manner.

Many projects, especially residential new home construction, have multiple levels of inspections and require the building officials on site to ensure the construction process continues without delay.

The contracted personnel will work on a rotational basis up to two days per week and will focus on the field inspections. All three have completed all the requirements to be a Level II Building Official and are certified by the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association.

Municipal council forwards motion for Biggs Drive Water Association to regular council

Council voted to forward a motion to its June 28 meeting adjust \$24,919.34 to eliminate the historical deficit of the Biggs Drive Water Association.

It has also forwarded a motion to set the rates for 2023-24 at an annual flat rate of \$910 and a consumption rate of 0.5283 per meters cubed.

Biggs Drive Water Association owns the water infrastructure on Biggs Drive. The municipality manages the operations and maintenance of this water system and collects the rates from these residents.

The current rates have not been enough to cover the costs.

NS utility and review board approves status quo for council size

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has approved the Municipality of Cumberland's application to maintain the number of polling districts and councillors at eight for the 2024 municipal election.

The existing boundaries of the polling districts have also been confirmed as previously approved in April 2020.

New “Museum” Definition Adopted

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through outreach efforts by revitalizing the Cobiquid chapter of the Nova Scotia Young Naturalists Club. We also recognize that we have a long way to go when it comes to creating and sharing inclusive stories at Fundy Geo. For example, we hope to fundraise enough to revitalize gallery signage to be in Mi'kmaq and French as well as English and provide more learning opportunities for those who are visually impaired. Lastly, we know the value of getting outside and learning-by-doing but we also recognize that not everyone is able to easily traverse cobble beaches, so we hope to expand upon virtual field trips and bring the outdoors into people's homes." says Serratos.

During the global pandemic in 2020 when the world was still, the Fundy Geological Museum was harnessing that time and developing new ways to engage their audience when it was safe to reopen operations. Working closely with various Nova Scotian experts, the Fundy Geo team transitioned much of their programming to a modern approach of connecting tourists to local attractions. Experiential tourism utilizes the natural resources of an

area, such as beaches, while taking a sustainable approach to developing programming, partnering with local businesses, and incorporating reusable products when possible. The Fundy Geological Museum created several packages that launched in 2022 to bring guests outside of the museum doors to active, local geological sites in order to get hands-on experiences along-

side an expert from the museum. This authentic type of programming gives visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in a place and time in geological history that leads to discovery, insight, and hopefully inspiration. Seasonally, the museum offers guided walking beach tours and year-round they offer scientific outreach opportunities geared towards encouraging the next

generation of citizen scientists. The Fundy Geo team recognizes the strength of the small business and non-profit entities that exist and live along the Parrsboro Shore and strives to build long-standing relationships that ultimately support the growth of the community in the tourism sector. Two of the Fundy Geo experiences are supported by local partners such as Spirit Reins Ranch, The Sunshine Inn, and The Wild Caraway Restaurant.



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