



Thanks to Karen Casey, MLA, fire departments from Five Islands, Economy and Bass River will not have to drive so far to get fuel for their vehicles and equipment. Casey delivered a \$12,000 cheque to install new fuel tanks in each of the communities for each department. All smiles and appreciating Casey's efforts are (L-R): Alfred Grue, Bass River Chief; Eric Moore, Economy Fire Department; Geoff McLaughlin, Economy Chief and Darrell Spence, Five Islands Chief and Karen Casey, MLA. (Submitted)

## The Dog Days of Summer

By Chris Urquhart

The "dog days of summer" is a phrase used to describe the hot and humid days of summer. It can be traced back thousands of years to the days of the Roman Empire referring to the dates from July 03 through August 11, which is 20 days prior and 20 days after the star Sirius rises and falls in conjunction with the sun. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star", because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major "Large Dog".

The dangerous heat and humidity of these "dog days" can be harmful to not only humans, but human's best friend and other animals as well. Here are a few things to keep in mind to help keep you pets safe during the "dog days" this summer. Pets, just like humans, are susceptible to heat illness - make sure to keep your animals hydrated! For dogs, "a good guidance is that a healthy dog should drink between ½ and one ounce of water per pound of body weight each day under normal conditions.

Of course, any pet will need more water on hot and humid days and your pet's age, hair type, level of activity, medical history and any history of a prior heat related illness may dictate your pet needs more water than the average dog. "When it comes to diet, reducing a pet's food intake on warmer days can help the pet cope with the heat, especially reducing the intake of grain based foods that cause a metabolic spike in body temperature.

A common misconception is giving your pet a buzz cut in the summer is a good idea, but that may not be best for your pet. A pet's coat acts as insulation, it keeps it warm in the

winter and cool in the summer by blocking the heat of the sun from reaching the skin.

For example, the several layers of the dog's coat keep the heat out and air circulating. If you remove the natural cooling process the dog will have a harder time coping with the heat. Check with a veterinarian or professional groomer to find out what's best for your pet.

Hot asphalt or cement can easily burn an animal's paws, so try to minimize walking your pet during the hottest part of the day. Not sure how hot the asphalt is? Place the back of your hand on the asphalt - if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Also, as mentioned before, animals can suffer from heat illness.

A few signs of heat illness in pets are rapid or irregular heart rate, excessive drooling, lethargy, refusal to eat, or excessive panting. Panting is a normal cooling mechanism for a dog but a very bad sign for a cat. Be aware of excessive panting in dogs. If you notice any of these signs of heat illness, remove your pet from the heated environment and get it into a cooler environment.

Apply cool towels to the pets. Remove the towels, wring out the warm water, re-wet and reapply. Provide plenty of cool fresh water for the pet but be careful not to chill the pet. Last but not least, never leave your pet alone in a parked car! The temperature inside a vehicle can rise very quickly and is just as dangerous for pets as it is for people. Rolling down the windows is not a safe alternative. Keep these things in mind and have a safe and fun-filled dog days of summer!

## Residents Object to Development

By Maurice Rees

A public hearing for an application by Easy Living Homes Inc to rezone lands on College Road was held at the start of Colchester Council's April 26th monthly meeting. Helen Craig, who signed the application was seeking permission to construct a total of 97 units, comprising quadplex single story townhouses, which would be sold as individual freehold units each with their own paved driveway.

To comply with municipal regulations would require an amendment to Schedule 3, Bible Hill/Valley Zoning Map of the Land Use Bylaw to rezone lands of Easy Living Homes Inc., on College Road, from Residential Double Dwelling, (R-2), to Multiple Residential - Medium Density (R-3), to allow a new housing development for multiple 3 and 4 unit townhouses.

Pam MacIntosh, municipal planner, in her presentation to council recommended approval of the amendment. Considerable discussion from councillors included concerns about parking, because many residents in 55+ communities receive a lot of visitors, and this could pose a problem with an excess of on-street parking, on both sides of the road. MacIntosh explained that on-street parking would probably permit two vehicles for each four unit structure.

Edith Payne, a daughter of the developer of the Guest Drive subdivision was concerned if surface water could have a negative impact on private wells for each home in the sub-division. Another nearby resident, Addy MacCallum who resides at 46 Osprey expressed concerns about the density and if the cul-de-sac subdivision was the right fit

for Bible Hill. Even though the proposed development is slated to be a "55+" community, he wondered if regulations could be enforced, and noted accordingly, under regulations permitting three dogs for each property, it was possible the development could be home to 300 dogs.

Peter Mussaro, who two years ago purchased his residence, complained since trees had been cut to clear the land, his property has suffered from six falling trees, which has devalued his property, and is a concern for safety for his children. He explained six trees in his back yard have fallen on outdoor play equipment and caused other damage.

Dr Bruce Short, who lives at 66 Osprey, voiced his concerns, but started his address to council asking why a March 2nd letter he had submitted was not included in the rezoning application package. Short continued his opposition by stating he had written assurance from the developers existing trees would remain to create a buffer zone of 175 feet from the common boundary line with his property, but after the clear-cut that was not the case.

He also voiced concern the two overflow containment areas to slow down the flow of excessive surface water entering the storm sewer system, although not holding ponds, would create a breeding ground for mosquitoes increasing the threat of West Nile virus.

While Dr Short was speaking a flurry of activity by staff produced his March 2nd letter, which Rob Simonds, CAO read into the meeting minutes. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mayor Blair asked for council's approval to receive the rezoning application documents.

## Free Poetry Workshops

Elizabeth Copeland, the 2018 ArtScape Artist-in-Residence is offering free poetry workshops during the month of June. The workshop schedule is as follows: Saturday June 2, Poetry Workshop for Adults 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Thursday June 7, Poetry workshop for students in grades 5 to 8 and Friday June 8, Poetry workshop for students in grades 9 to 12.

Registration is required. To register and for more information contact: Laurie Glenn Norris (902-251-2727 Ext 224 or education@jogginsfossilcliffs.net

More activities with Elizabeth are planned over the next few months. The ArtScape Artist-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Municipality of the County of Cumberland.

## The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Journal

Continued from page 9

### Cultural Trade Mission to Asia completed

Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Leo Glavine has completed a culture trade mission to China and Japan to explore business and export opportunities for Nova Scotia's growing culture sector. It was Nova Scotia's first culture sector mission to Asia and builds on the strong relationship the province has with China in other sectors such as seafood and agri-food. The government and business delegation met with Chinese and Japanese government officials, cultural organizations, and business leaders and attended an International Cultural Industrial Fair in Shenzhen to learn more about China's culture industry. In 2016, Nova Scotia's culture sector was valued at \$874 million and supported almost 14,000 jobs. Nova Scotia exported \$141.5 million worth of culture products in the same year. This represents a 61 per cent growth in culture product exports since 2010. For more information on the strategy visit <http://NovaScotia.ca/china>

### Province hiring 190 people

Nova Scotia students will benefit from the hiring of more than 190 people, including child and youth care practitioners, parent navigators, education assistants, psychologists and speech language pathologists, to address student and complex classroom needs, starting with a focus on behaviour and autism supports. The province is spending \$15 million, including \$5 million for complex classroom needs, to enable changes to take place for the upcoming school year. By September, the province will have in place the following new resources and training supports: 100 student and classroom supports which includes 40 child youth care practitioners and 60 education assistants; 70 specialist teachers with expertise in supporting children with behavioural challenges and complex needs. They include behaviour support teachers, learning and resource teachers and autism supports; 11 parent navigators who will help families access available programs and services; eight alternative education programs throughout the province; six school psychologists and speech language pathologists; four student health partnership nurses who will help ensure care plans for students are appropriately implemented and two achieve programs that will help students with complex needs better prepare for life after high school. The Commission for Inclusive Education's full report can be found at, <https://inclusiveedns.ca/>

continued on page 15

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