

Notes from Colchester Council Meetings

\$15 mortgage fee approved

During the March 28th council meeting, Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, informed council 65% of municipalities currently charge mortgage listing fees to banking institutions. Of those not currently charging this fee, many have indicated that they intend to start doing so.

A rate of \$15 per listing would generate annual revenue of approximately \$64,500 for the Municipality. Discussion was held on the cost associated with reconciling the records from the bank. Some members of Council expressed concern with implementing this charge to banking institutions as the charges will get downloaded to customers. On motion by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Cooper the motion passed with councillors Gibbs and Taggart opposed.

Flood mitigation and regulations letter approved

Councillor Taggart advised council on discussions held at a recent FCM Rural Caucus in Laval, Quebec, on the proposed changes to the Navigation Protection Act and Federal Fisheries Act. Many municipalities

have faced/are facing challenges with regard to regulations under the Acts including permit and letter of credit requirements. Marc LeBlanc, Policy Advisor and Government Relations, will be participating in discussions on this and is requesting written information on the challenges faced by municipalities. On motions by Councillor Parker and Cavanaugh staff was instructed to prepare a letter to be written to FCM, over the Mayor's signature, outlining the challenges the Flood Advisory Committee has faced with respect to flood mitigation and regulations under the Navigation Protection Act and Fisheries Act."

Rural internet discussed

In referring to the recent announcement from the Provincial Government regarding funding for rural internet, Councillor Cooper indicated it would be good to receive a staff update on this issue. Councillor Taggart advised he learned through recent discussions at the FCM Board meeting in Laval, Quebec, the only municipalities experiencing success regarding the Rural Broadband Initiative are those who became actively engaged in ac-

cessing the federal funding. Staff were to present a report at the April council committee meeting.

Committee recommendations approved

At the April 26th meeting, council approved four of the five recommendations from April 12th committee, which included, Scott Fraser's appointment as chief negotiator for upcoming contract negotiations with CUPE; Tom Taggart's re-appointment to the FCM board of directors; refusal to write off \$480.00 in water charges for Acadian Beverage Room, Tatamagouche, following a broken water line following installation of a water meter and non-union salary increase of 2.25% for 2018-19. A council committee recommendation to send \$2,900 to Humboldt, Saskatchewan was defeated. The matter is covered in a separate story in this issue.

Sidewalk, authority to approve

April 26th council meeting authorized the May 16th committee to award the tender for the construction of a new sidewalk on Village Line Avenue from Pictou Road to College Road. The draft capital budget for 2018/19 includes \$800,000 for the construction of the sidewalk. The Village of Bible Hill will cover 50% of the cost. Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will need to approve the work prior to construction.

Hilden Fire Brigade Sidewalk Request

At the April 12, 2018 meeting, Council Committee received a request from the Hilden Fire

Brigade to extend the existing sidewalk along Highway 2 in Hilden from Civic 1249 to Civic 1215. The new piece of sidewalk would extend 120 metres along the

frontage of the lot recently purchased by the brigade for the construction of a new fire hall. Suggested estimated cost is in the range of \$200,000. A new sidewalk in Hilden would be funded via the existing Active Transportation Area Rate for the Urban Core. On motions by Councillors Stewart and Deputy Mayor Masters staff were instructed to meet with the fire brigade to discuss the project.

Building Permit Activity Report

The building permit activity report from Colin Forsyth, Development Officer circulated at the April 26, 2018 meeting, for the month of March 2018 included 31 permits totaling \$4,121,500, compared with 39 permits valued at \$6,370,900 for March 2017. Yearly totals for January to March 31st were 59 permits valued at \$6,091,500 for 2018 down from 79 permits in 2017 valued at \$15,716,100. For the Fiscal Period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, the report showed 416 permits at \$39,103,611, while the previous year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 there were 460 permits valued at \$43,703,246.

5 Year Capital Budget plans

A lengthy information item was distributed at the April 26th meeting detailed the Capital Budget descriptions. Details and description of the items will be published in an upcoming issue of the Shoreline Journal.

Councillors get 1.1% raise

Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for calendar year is 1.1%, which became effective April 1, 2018 giving Colchester Councillors and appointed committee members a 1.1% increase.

Community Park Funding Program

A total of \$51,763.00 has been approved for three projects under the Community Park Funding Program. The last round of approved applications were reported to council in May 2017. For Spring 2018 three applications were received by the deadline. Approval has been given for the following:

Chiganois Elementary School Parent Teacher Association requested \$38,500.00 (50% of project cost) for the development of a natural play space and outdoor classroom to enhance the existing school grounds. Staff has approved a grant of \$38,500.00 pending confirmation of other funding sources. North Shore Recreation Centre requested \$2500.00 (33% of project cost) for upgrades to the surfaces of the ball field and soccer field at John K. MacDonald Memorial Sports Park. Staff has approved a grant of \$2500.00. Le Jardin d'Enfants (French day-care) requested \$10,763.00 (50% of project cost) for a sand play area, shade structure, natural play features and accessible surfacing in their new outdoor play space adjacent to École acadienne de Truro. Staff has approved a grant of \$10,763.00 pending confirmation of other funding.

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

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Truro Learn 2 Fish – June 21

An expanded Learn 2 Fish programs being offered this spring. A community event for adults and children is being offered in each recreational fishing area. Learn 2 Fish teaches the basics of sportfishing, along with ethics and environmental stewardship. The free community sessions are organized by staff of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture or volunteers from local sportfishing organizations. Participants will be shown how to assemble basic tackle, casting with both open and closed-face reels and proper handling for catch-and-release. They will be able to keep their fish if they choose. All ages are welcome and early arrival is recommended as participation is on a first come, first served basis. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian. Locally a Community Learn 2 Fish Session will be held at Kiwanis Pond, 32 Juniper St., Truro, June 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more details, call 902-485-7021.

National energy efficiency report highlights Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia features prominently in a new report on energy efficiency and climate change from Clean Energy Canada and Efficiency Canada. The report, entitled "Less is More", cites the success of Nova Scotia's energy efficiency programs in reducing electricity use and carbon emissions, while also helping Nova Scotians save over \$165 million annually on energy bills. EfficiencyOne, the non-profit operator of the province's energy efficiency utility, Efficiency Nova Scotia, released its 2017 Annual Report on May 10th. Independently evaluated results show Nova Scotia's efficiency programs have reached an impressive milestone: a 10 per cent reduction in the province's overall electricity use since 2008. Efficiency Nova Scotia programs also cut 840,000 tonnes of carbon pollution. Energy efficiency is a fast-growing industry in Nova Scotia, and directly provides more than 1,400 full-time jobs in the province. Efficiency Nova Scotia is operated by EfficiencyOne, an independent, non-profit organization based in Dartmouth has helped more than 400,000 program participants save energy and money.

Gaelic license plates are now available to Nova Scotians who wish to celebrate their Gaelic heritage or their connection to the language and culture. The plate features the symbol of Nova Scotia's Gaels, the salmon of knowledge and the Gaelic name for the province, Alba Nuadh and are available at Access Nova Scotia and Registry of Motor Vehicles offices for passenger and light commercial vehicles. A \$50 donation will be collected with every purchase or renewal of the new plate and will go to the Gàidheil Air Adhart

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