

Xplornet to Erect 19 Towers in 100 Days

By Maurice Rees

Xplornet, the internet provider chosen by and in partnership with Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester will install 19 towers within 100 days in an effort to speed up high speed broadband installations as a result of the CoVid-19 pandemic. It's an unprecedented achievement in Canada to accomplish this feat in 100 days. It was originally a 12-month build.

Earlier this spring the Province committed \$15M in additional funding as an incentive to speed up delivery of high-speed Internet, where possible, because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With schools being closed the province identified a need to install high speed internet in underserved areas as soon as possible in order for students to access the internet for on-line education programming.

Develop Nova Scotia invited its newly chosen Internet Service Provider (ISP) partners to help solve this critical challenge with ingenuity



and urgency. Since those announcements close to 18,000 homes and businesses will have access to high-speed Internet service — what would have taken up to 12 months will now be completed within 100 days.

\$2.2 M has been approved from the Nova Scotia Internet Trust Fund to bring service at least 6 months faster than previously committed for projects in Caledonia, Elmsdale, Cumberland/Colchester and the Shelburne area.

A lot has to happen behind the scenes before connections are realized and this is the phase of the project now being undertaken by ISP providers. More than 260 kilometres of pole lines in rural Nova Scotia have been prepared - including inspecting existing poles for safety, replacing poles when needed, as well as dealing with water crossings.

Develop Nova Scotia is

working with Internet Service Provider partners looking at every project from all angles with an urgent aim to go faster - eliminating red tape to speed up regulatory approvals and ensuring better coordination among all of the people working to bring service to your door.

Internet Service Providers have been assembling expertise and crews from around the region and beyond to deliver projects faster. More than 125 kilometres of fibre have already been installed in Kings County.

In addition to new builds, Develop Nova Scotia is working with providers to ease congestion on existing services to enhance the quality of Internet connections for Nova Scotians who are trying hard to adapt their business, work, learn and stay connected with friends and family while hunkering down at home.

The next round of project announcements is expected to begin this August.

Recent Tender Awards Update

By Maurice Rees

L&R Construction has been awarded a tender for the replacement of Pumping Station 6 in Salmon River and Pumping Station 15 in Valley for a total contract amount of \$695,900.60 excluding HST and an internal contingency of \$75,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works. 73.33% of the project being funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the remaining funding being from sewer capital. The tender award was approved on motions by Councillor Gibbs and Cooper.

In another tender award,



staff was authorized to award the work for the Brookfield and Tatamagouche Inflow/Infiltration Study to Englobe for a total contract amount of \$150,798 excluding HST.

A Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility Energy Efficiency Project was awarded to Marcel Belanger Electric who submitted the lowest price of \$226,441.62, excluding HST. The approved

capital budget for the project is \$260,000 and Efficiency Nova Scotia has agreed to pay \$38,622 towards the cost of the project.

A contract for a study for installation of a new well in Debert relating to Hydrogeological Services Debert Water Supply was awarded to CBCL in the amount of \$22,300. Council's approved capital budget for this project is \$350,000 and this component of the project will be funded within this budget.

Three proposals were received in response to the RFP with all proposals being deemed complete. Staff reviewed and scored the proposals with CBCL scoring the highest. Staff recommend that the RFP be awarded to CBCL.

Gloade and Casey Concur "Bias and Distortion"

Continued from page 1

housing its headquarters is \$547 per square metre. Total current annual rent is \$10.5 million.

Casey is bewildered, why the Millbrook proposal only met minimum standards on human resource sustainability - the ability to staff the centre from the local population when the centre has operated in Truro for a decade and has never had a problem staffing. The RCMP estimated the cost of staff relocation would be \$1,800,000.

He added, the cost of Millbrook's proposal (\$6,421,750) would be more comparable if the RCMP had also added the same \$1,641,000 for space rental costs to its cost estimates as it did with the other five options. In rating the Millbrook proposal, the RCMP evaluation added \$3,319,750 for estimated property rental, while no value was listed in the Dartmouth analysis. A charge of \$600,000 for estimated Fitup OCC operation was applied to Millbrook, while no value was listed for Dartmouth. All figures are categorized as 10 year cost estimates.

Ironically, if the estimates for the Dartmouth location had entries for three items: space rental costs, estimated property rental and fitup OCC operations, which were included in Millbrook and not in Dartmouth the Dartmouth 10 year estimate total would have been \$9.105-Million compared to Millbrook's \$6.421-Million.

A 2004 RCMP report that initially led to the centralizing of communications at the centre in Truro specifically recommended against placing it in Halifax because it posed a risk

that one event could undermine the communication centres of both the regional police and the RCMP.

Several emergency organizations, including the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, recommend placing emergency operations centres in separate locations.

Gloade's March 25th letter was also sent to Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller and Crown-Indigenous Rela-

tions Minister Carolyn Bennett. All three recipient department's referred questions to the RCMP.

It is well known the RCMP considered six options which included doing nothing, upgrading the existing Truro centre, moving to a new location in the city, building a new location in the city or moving the centre to Millbrook First Nation.

See also: 'Letters to the Editor' on page 4, 5 and 14.

Gosse Bridge Reconstruction Starts Mid-June

By Maurice Rees

The Clarence L. Gosse Bridge, South Maitland, will undergo a major reconstruction starting mid-June lasting until late fall. The long awaited reconstruction will certainly disrupt traffic on Hwy 236, between South Maitland and areas between Truro, Brookfield and Stewiacke. The initial work will involve setting up signal lights at each end of the bridge with one-lane traffic over the bridge.

Some motorists may wish to access travel to Maitland, Kennetcook and Noel Shore areas by traveling Hwy 215 from Shubenacadie, Exit 10. In

the fall, the bridge may need short duration closures to all traffic. Deborah Bayer, Communications Advisor, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal said, The exact dates for full closure have not been confirmed, however detours will be in place when full closures are required.

Construction of the bridge was finished in 1979, after a 24 month construction process. At the time of construction and until 1983 the 213.4 m center span was the longest span in North America constructed using the free cantilever.

Basically the construction

method was a concrete hollow box post tensioned girder using the free cantilever method of construction. The bridge comprises three spans, each cantilever balanced on a concrete pier, measuring 113.4 m; 213.4 m and 113.4 m providing a total length of bridge of 440.2 m.

The river Channel at the site is 420 m wide under high tide conditions and 91 m at low tide. The tidal range is 10 m with currents varying from 1.8 to 3.6 m/sec. In the winter ice floes, raft ice and shore ice build-up which increased construction problems in the late 70's.



The old farmhouse at the former Ira McCabe homestead, Great Village was in recent years used by Balamore Farms to house immigrant seasonal workers was recently demolished. An excavator loads debris to clear up the site. (Rees Photo)



After the site was cleaned up the former Ira McCabe property now is home to a new modular home, which will eventually be used as new accommodations for seasonal immigrant workers. (Rees Photo)

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