



## Portapique Community Project Moving Ahead

By Maurice Rees

Covid-19 has delayed not derailed renovation progress at the Portapique Community Hall. Some of the "Get Things Done Days" when volunteers would carry out various renovations and property improvements have had to be cancelled to abide by health protocols.

Contingent on health regulations in place at the time, the next work day is tentatively scheduled for June 13th. If volunteers wish to sign up to assist, they should contact a project coordinator at: portapiquehall@gmail.com

Andrew MacDonald, one of the Rotary Club co-chairs, told the Shoreline the project continues to move ahead. Construction of the playground by Cobequid Consulting is well underway. Completion originally scheduled for May 2021 has been pushed ahead to June 2021. The planning committee is currently working on completion of detailed drawings, and will be going to tender later this summer.

Construction of the new additional is still expected to reach the stage, the building can be "closed-in" by November. Construction costs are expected to be higher than original estimates, because the interest from various groups wishing to use the facilities required construction of an additional 500 sq ft.

Groups identified, to date, expressing interest in the facility include: MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning (\$57k

project); NS Remembers Legacy Society - Community and Education; BBBS Children's Programs; Fundy Shore Community Health Board and Fundy GeoPark (UNESCO site).

The MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning are still planning on hosting four weeklong camps for children this summer. In order to acquire instruments and other necessary supplied, the centre embarked on a \$57,000 fund raising cam-

paign. Officials say fundraising has been proceeding on schedule and they have reached approximately 80% of their goal.

Once they are able to go to tender, the next moves will be to relocate the existing building on a new foundation and construct the addition. The Portapique Community Build-Up+ project is expected to cost in excess of \$800,000 upon completion.



The new playground at the Portapique Community Hall build-up site is under construction, Completion is tentatively planned for end of June. (Submitted)

## Economic Development Undergoing Changes

By Maurice Rees

The faces of economic development in Nova Scotia's northern region comprising Colchester and Cumberland municipal areas are changing. Two municipal colleagues, Michelle Byers, Cumberland, and Mark Austin, Colchester, have resigned. The two worked tirelessly on the front lines in navigating the two counties through the joint \$60+-Million broadband project with Xplornet.

Mark Austin, Colchester's economic development officer for almost four years has resigned effective June 11th. Meanwhile Michelle Byers,

Cumberland's Manager of Community Economic Development has also resigned her position to relocate to the Annapolis Valley on a full-time basis.

Byers, who lives in the Annapolis Valley and commuted to Amherst area for work duties is reported to have decided to go back to school. Research indicates Byers started her tenure with Cumberland in May 2015 with a scope of work involving: Lead implementation, assessment, and improvement of the Community Economic Development (CED) Strategy; present CED initiatives and opportunities to Coun-



cil, the CAO, the Director of Community Development, the business community, and community organizations; develop, implement, oversee, monitor, and evaluate CED initiatives and provide leadership and support in a wide variety of areas including tourism, project management, beautification strategies, cultural initiatives, and community engagement

It is understood, Austin will work two days a week until the 11th, while he uses up surplus overtime and vacation. When asked what is

## Turning Up The Heat

Continued from page 1 scared and losing hope for the future," said Martell. "We support public health in its efforts to restrict the spread of the virus, however, small businesses are willing to work with government to ensure public safety is not compromised beyond current restrictions with a tightly controlled approach to appointment only customer service during the lockdown."

For more information about E-Commerce support for small business in central Nova Scotia visit [www.truro-](http://www.truro-colchesterchamber.com)

[colchesterchamber.com](http://colchesterchamber.com) or email [ec@tcchamber.ca](mailto:ec@tcchamber.ca)

Businesses in the respective chamber areas are encouraged to contact: Sherry Martell, Executive Director, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, 902-895-6328, [ed@tcchamber.ca](mailto:ed@tcchamber.ca); Jack Kyte, Executive Director, Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, 902-759-9785, [jd-kyte@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jd-kyte@ns.sympatico.ca) or Ron Furlong, Executive Director, Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce, (902) 667-8186, [ronfurlong@icloud.com](mailto:ronfurlong@icloud.com)

## Ulnooweg Development Helping Build Economy



Justin Gloade, JG Financing and Auto Sales, Millbrook was selected as Male Entrepreneur of the Year. (Submitted)

The success of Indigenous businesses is essential to building a strong, innovative and inclusive Atlantic Canadian economy. Ulnooweg Development Group (Ulnooweg), located in Millbrook, Nova Scotia, and with offices in New Brunswick and in Newfoundland and Labrador, is one of a few Indigenous business support organizations helping Indigenous businesses reach their goals.

Lenore Zann, Member of Parliament for Cumberland - Colchester, on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, recently provided an update on the latest Government of Canada investments with Ulnooweg.

A recent contribution from the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF), delivered by ACOA, enabled Ulnooweg to help 23 Indigenous clients access the entrepreneurial training and digital support they needed to serve their own clients virtually and safely, in compliance with pandemic restrictions.

A second component of the project supported technology upgrades to Ulnooweg's office systems, allowing the organization to better respond to clients' needs in a virtual environment, while enabling staff to work securely and remotely from home.

With support from ACOA, Ulnooweg has hosted and organized the Ulnooweg Entrepreneur Award Show every other year since 2005. The event, which acknowledges

future involves, he responded he has no immediate plans, but has book in the works; there's a film project, and might do some contract work.

Speaking on the Xplornet project, Austin said faster broadband has already been delivered to over 19,000 homes, but the project has been affected by the CoVid-19 pandemic because health protocols have created a backlog getting approval to install infrastructure on Bell Aliant and Nova Scotia Power poles.

from Youth Entrepreneur of the Year to two lifetime achievement awards. Locally, Justin Gloade, JG Financing and Auto Sales, Millbrook was selected as Male Entrepreneur of the Year.

Ulnooweg Development Group is based in Millbrook, N.S. and has offices in Fredericton and Eel River Bar, N.B.; as well as Stephenville, N.L. Ulnooweg's Covid-19 Technological Adjustments and Support for Training to Indigenous Businesses project received a non-repayable contribution of \$205,000 through ACOA's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.

ACOA provided a grant of \$35,000 through its Business Development Program to help Ulnooweg offset the costs of producing and hosting the 2020 Ulnooweg Entrepreneur Award Show.

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