

J-Class Road Policy Development Handed to Staff

By Maurice Rees

After several years of kicking the can down the road has come to an end. At its committee meeting on May 13th, Colchester Council committee finally developed a consensus on what is expected when staff develop a policy on the repaving of J-Class roads.

In a report to follow up discussions earlier this winter and again at the April meeting, Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided four options: (1) Direct staff to draft a policy for J Class Road paving, to include area rates by district; (2) Maintain status quo, with properties fronting on J Class roads covering the 50% contribution; (3) Identify a different source of funds for J Class Road paving and (4) Not participate in the J Class Road paving program.

Her report recommended to council: "That staff draft a policy for the funding of J Class Road paving for Council's consideration". Following some intense discussion, it was clear council wanted to provide more specific direction, and for policy development focus on areas expected by council, hoping it would bring a quicker conclusion.

Early in the discussion, Councillor Johnson suggested one problem in paving county roads they often are less travelled and in better shape than provincial roads. He stressed a policy be developed before proceeding. Councillor Cooper stated he preferred options #2, maintain the status quo, with properties fronting on J-class roads pay the municipalities 50% contribution, or #4, not participate in a J Class Paving program. It was noted District 4, had only 0.4 Km of class roads, the least of any councillor.

The other two districts with least amounts are District 7 - Tatamagouche with 4.4 Km and West Colchester's District 10 with 5.9 Km.

Prior to making a motion, Mayor Blair asked "Will there be long term funding for J Class Roads from the province"? Mayor Blair moved,

"Request staff to develop a policy", which was seconded by Councillor Sandeson. During discussion, council had to vote on two amendments, prior to voting on the original motion.

As discussion intensified around the table, Councillor Johnson said, "Why not do it by area rate, when other districts would not be paying. Not fair when councillors can stop other areas, when they don't have any J-Class roads". He suggested Do it by district, my residents want roads paved, not fixed. Why hold us back by district?

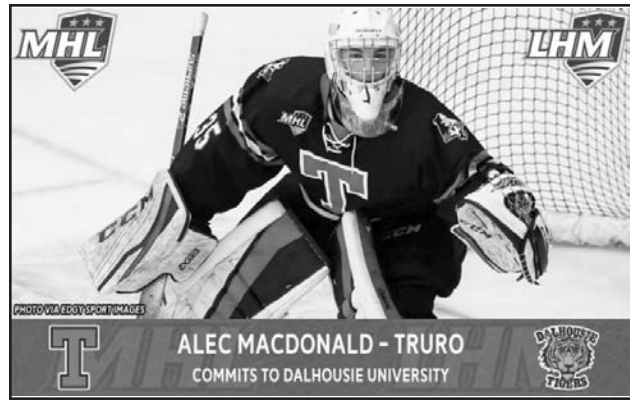
As part of her background on the matter, and assist council in its deliberations and resulting directions. Newell's report also stated: There has been no public consultation around the setting of area rates by district to support the paving of J Class Roads.

Given these realities if there is a preference to utilize an area rate funding model, it would be more appropriate for Council to consider a policy change that would apply an area rate when a specific project has been approved and is proceeding. This would mean that the J Class area rate in a given district would increase over time, as new paving projects are advanced.

Staff also suggest it may be beneficial to introduce a public consultation component to the area rate process. This has been previously used in relation to funding for enhancement of school construction in Brookfield, Stewiacke and Salmon River and has been suggested by Council as well during discussion on this topic.

Since the matter of collecting area rates by district presents many complexities, staff are recommending that Council consider developing a policy for J Class Road Area rates which would address items such as public consultation, the manner in which paving projects can be funded using area rates, and the setting of the rates based on approved projects.

Truro's Alec MacDonald Commits to Dalhousie University



The Truro Bearcats have announced that goaltender Alec MacDonald has committed to Dalhousie University for the 2020-21 season. The 21-year-old from Truro was a Territorial Draft selection by the Bearcats in the 2016 MHL Entry Draft. MacDonald split his time between Truro and the QMJHL's Moncton Wildcats in 2017-18, logging twelve games between the pipes in Truro where he went 8-3-0-0 with a 2.13 goals against average, a .916 save percent-

age, and two shutouts. He stayed with the club in 2018-19 with an 8-7-1-1 record in 20 games, a 2.82 goals against average, a .915 save percentage, and one shutout.

Taking over as the starter in 2019-20, MacDonald was a workhorse in goal. He played in 44 of 52 games with a 23-13-3-4 record. His win total was third-highest in the MHL, while his 2.93 goals against average was sixth-best and .911 save percentage was fifth best. MacDonald also logged the most minutes of any goaltender that season at 2,658 and had one shutout. He was named the Gongshow Third Star of the Month in December 2019.

In 2020-21, MacDonald played in 25 of the team's 32 games. He had a 17-6-1-0 record, with his win total again being second-most in the MHL. MacDonald's 2.79 goals against average was tied for fourth-best, while his .909 save percentage placed him third. He played the second-most minutes at 1,485 and had one shutout. He started three of the team's five games during the Canadian Tire Cup Eastlink South Playoff Round-Robin, with a 1-2-1 record, 4.71 goals against average and .857 save percentage. MacDonald was the Gongshow Top Goaltender in March/April and a Player of the Week twice. He also passed a milestone this season with his 100th game played.

Gendunov Commits to Wilfrid Laurier University

The Truro Bearcats have announced that forward Bair Gendunov has committed to Wilfrid Laurier University for the 2021-22 season.

The 21-year-old from Toronto, ON was acquired from the OJHL's Burlington Cougars by the South Shore Lumberjacks prior to the 2018-19 season. In his first year in the MHL, Gendunov finished fourth in team scoring with 24 goals and 23 as-

sists in 50 games. He added four goals and eleven assists in fifteen playoff games for the Lumberjacks as they fell to Yarmouth in the Canadian Tire Cup Eastlink South Division Final. In 2019-20, Gendunov led South Shore in scoring with 35 goals and 37 assists. His 72 points placed him tenth in league scoring.

Gendunov began the 2020-21 season with South Shore, but was traded to Truro in late

November. He had 29 goals and 32 assists in 33 games to lead the MHL in scoring. He went from scoring one point per game with the Lumberjacks to averaging over two points per game with the Bearcats. Overall, his 1.85 points per game was second only to Edmundston's Joshua Nadeau. Gendunov led the MHL in goals and assists, powerplay goals with 12, and powerplay points with 23.

Gendunov had one goal and five assists in the Bearcats' five games in the Canadian Tire Cup Eastlink South Playoff Round-Robin.

For his career, Gendunov tallied 88 goals and 92 assists for 180 points in 135 games, including twelve game-winning goals. He added five goals and sixteen assists in eighteen playoff games.

The MHL congratulates Gendunov on his post-secondary commitment.

Eight of this team have aged-out, including four-year Bearcats, Alec MacDonald and Jack McGovern. The team thanks each for their contribution and wish them the best going forward.

Left is a strong corps of potential returnees. The Bearcat brain trust is focused on the June midget draft and on acquiring depth and experience.

The end of one season is the beginning of the next, hopefully with a real hockey closure.

Partial Closure

At the end of the day covid won out.

Last Tuesday (April 27), the MHL Board of Governors came to grips with the realities of increased spread and subsequent restrictions.

At the conclusion of that virtual meeting, all Eastlink South Division teams, including the Summerside Capitals, and the North's Grand Falls franchise, called it a season.

Fredericton, Miramichi and Campbellton are continuing a play-off, maybe to declare a New Brunswick Championship. For the second consecutive year there will be no Canadian Tire Cup presentation.

Credit goes to the MHL for its planning and perseverance throughout the season. The franchise fought the good fight and the cooperation exhibited was clear to all.

The only area of major dispute was the decision to go with a Round Robin in each Division to determine seedings rather than use the win percentage of regular season play regardless of the number of games played; however, majority ruled.

The hometown Bearcats had a successful regular season, finishing third in the Division with 32 games played, sitting behind Yarmouth and Amherst.

A strong finish with 11 consecutive victories, perhaps a franchise high, suggested the Bearcats were geared for a deep post-season run. It was another what-could-have-been season.

The Bearcats opened the season with a good crop of returnees, in all three zones. Off-season acquisitions, most of whom are eligible to return, made the team a contender. The rookie contingent was a strong fit, as well.

Mid-season trades and acquisitions created an enhanced confidence. When all on the same page, this team showed they feared none in the MHL.

When discussion drew to a close, committee meeting chair, Deputy Mayor Stewart asked for the vote on

Councillor Johnson's amendment to the original motion: Johnson asked for repaving of J-Class Roads be accomplished by applying area rates by district. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Parker. The amendment passed even though Mayor Blair and Councillors Cooper, Patton and Stewart voted against.

Councillor Boutillier then introduced a second amendment, which requested public consultation be part of policy for J-Class roads. Boutillier's amendment was seconded by Councillor Cooper. The amendment carried.

During final discussion on the original motion, Mayor Blair said she was uncomfortable with entire district paying an area rate as it creates a challenge. Deputy Mayor Stewart called for the vote on the original motion and explained it also included the two approved amendments. Voting nay were Mayor Blair and Deputy Mayor Stewart resulting in specific instruction will be passed to staff to develop a policy and bring the matter back to council.

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