

# Mayors and Chief Breakfast Sponsored by Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce



Seated at the head table for Mayors and Chief Breakfast sponsored by Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce are (l-r) Chief Bob Gloade, Millbrook First Nation; Mayor Bill Mills, Truro; Mayor George Lloy, Stewiacke and Mayor Christine Blair, County of Colchester. (Contributed)

## Mayor Bill Mills Promotes the Town of Truro

The following are highlights of Truro's Mayor Bill Mills' remarks at the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce's sponsored Mayor and Chief Breakfast held May 19<sup>th</sup> at Inn on Prince.

### Highlights of Mayor Mills' presentation:

**Regional Viewpoint Approach** - TIDS regional viewpoint contract began on April 10, 2019 through the Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity this has an annual cost to the town of \$6,000 and has been renewed on an annual



basis. TIDS was previously paying \$12,000 per year for one viewpoint contract.

**Business Park Master Plan** - The majority of 2021 was used as a planning year to develop plan for future growth through the Business Park Master Plan Project through assistance from Fowler Bauld & Mitchell (FBL), Englobe and Colliers International. TIDS completed a Master Plan for expansion of the Truro Business Park. The final Master Plan report considers several factors in its recommendations, including stakeholder feedback, geographical and topographical challenges, marketability of future lands, municipal servicing, street networks and road design, land use planning and overall development and infrastructure costs.

**Land Sales:** Lots 6A, 7A and 8A (733 Young Street), sold 7.73 acres to AIM Recycling in December 2020 for \$170,000. As a result a building permit for \$1,150,000 was issued for construction of a 25,000 sq ft warehouse for metal recycling facility.

Lot 12A (825 Young Street) sold 13.5 acres to 4337139 Nova Scotia Limited in January 2022 for \$270,000. This is for an accommodations / tourist business associated with Victoria Park and the Railyard. While the sale did not run through TIDS it shows growth in the area of South Young Street.

**Significant Projects and Permits**

is a \$61.1 million dollar project, which will have capacity to serve 24,400 civic addresses.

The second project is the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark. The Geopark spans from the Fundy Discovery.

We are especially proud to have the extraordinary and beautiful work of well-known local artist, Gerald Gloade, featured on our new signage along the Trans Canada Highway depicting the three sisters, one of the Geosites.

**Issued:** Assante Logistics, 435 Willow Street purchased the former Tandus Creative Carpet Factory for \$5,000,000 in December 2020.

The opening of the largest Home Hardware store east of Montreal will happen soon in Truro Mall. The hardware store in the former Sears location and included a complete rebranding of the mall with a new anchor store at the other end of the mall is currently under construction.

**African Nova Scotia Committee:** Staff worked with African Nova Scotia Committee to develop a category in AlertTC dedicated to community access for the local African Nova Scotian community. Its purpose is to keep the local African Nova Scotian community informed about news and events impacting black residents. Information will be delivered by the African Nova Scotian Committee.

**No 2 Construction Battalion National Apology Event** - Town staff have been working with the Canadian Armed Forces to organize the No 2 Construction Battalion National Apology Event. The event is taking place on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the TAAC grounds will include a march followed by a ceremony and a gun salute.

Town officials and staff are working with everyone on the TAAC \$8-Million upgrade and expansion. The town has committed \$500,000 toward the project.

**Deer Hunt** - The town has been working collaboratively with Department of Natural Resources and Renewables for the last few years and continues to do. Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction over wildlife in the province. The department required extensive concrete data to work from before any action could be taken. Over the last four years the town has collected extensive data to determine

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## Mayor Christine Blair Promotes Colchester

The following are highlights of County of Colchester Mayor Christine Blair's remarks at the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce's sponsored Mayor and Chief Breakfast held May 19<sup>th</sup> at Inn on Prince.

### Highlights of Mayor Blair's presentation:

Good morning, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here and especially in-person.

Council recently completed its operating budget with no increases to the residential or commercial tax rates. This is the fourth year of the last five that we have been able to accomplish this, with just a half cent increase in 2019.

44% of our budget is determined and charged to us by the province for services such as education our biggest provincial bill at \$8.2 million - corrections, libraries, and policing.

The cost of policing alone went up 11.4% this year - \$580,000.

In the past several months council reviewed and renewed its strategic priorities. Policing was identified as our #1 priority.

In 2020 an external consultant with extensive expertise in policing was hired to serve as a technical advisor to council. A survey of council was also completed to identify policing priorities.

The RCMP have since been advised of these priorities and the results of the consultant's report.

Debert business park remains a priority. In recent years we have completed new branding, have 14 new businesses, 7 business expansions with new



construction, several new property leases, have hosted major events such as mud hero, and a snowbird air show.

We currently have Airshow Atlantic slated for August 27 & 28.

We have spent \$8.7 million in infrastructure enhancements and have a dedicated website: [debertbusiness-park.ca](http://debertbusiness-park.ca); we installed new promotional signage and updated highway signs; we have formed the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee and established an office for on-site staffing.

The Debert Airport is an important asset within the business park for which we are continuing to develop a strategy.

The lack of affordable housing is a significant concern for many. Comparing 2020 to 2021, we had a 58% increase in building activity from \$50 million to \$79 million, most of which was residential construction. Comparing April 2020 to April 2022 there was an increase of 138%.

We recently identified a piece of county-owned land in Debert and hired consultants to develop schematic design options for a housing development and water and sewer expansion. Next steps will be

to investigate development partnerships and confirm the preferred project delivery approach.

We continue to work with the TCPEP to recruit physicians.

We partner with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, and Millbrook First Nation, along with the Chamber with the Truro Colchester Economic Partnership for Prosperity (TCPEP) to advance economic development in our region.

Most recently, as a region, we have collaborated on an accessibility plan for all of Colchester County. The plan will guide us on how to make our municipalities more accessible to all residents.

In addition, our Municipality has formed an equity, diversity, and inclusion committee. The committee will first focus on how we can improve our organization internally before advancing to more community related initiatives.

Public consultation is underway for the future use of the former Salmon River Elementary School property. Three concepts are being considered for the future use of this land.

Tatamagouche Development Plan will soon be completed. In the near future a similar planning process will be undertaken for the entire municipality as the province will require all municipalities to have complete planning strategies and land use bylaws in place.

Heart Haven Memorial Park is a project initiated in Debert by the community and families of two victims of the mass shooting. The municipality offered land within the business

park and design support for the project. Work will soon begin to bring this project to fruition.

In 2021/22 the Municipality granted \$575,000 to not-for-profit groups who provide important facilities and services contributing significantly to the quality of life.

I'd like to particularly acknowledge our many volunteer first responders, especially our firefighters and ground search and rescue teams. They are critical to our communities.

Carbon-Free Colchester energy and emissions plan is our next big step as a community toward a carbon-free sustainable green future.

Solar Colchester and Cozy Colchester are two very popular programs that support the plan by offering 0% interest financing programs to eligible homeowners in the municipality to install photovoltaic solar panels or make energy upgrades to their homes. Participants can pay for their project over a 10-15 year loan term.

Another project having positive impacts on our environment and business community is our recent Colchester Clean Anti-Litter Campaign.

Fundy Discovery Site continues to advance and remain a priority of council. Provincial support and approval has been received for an active transportation bridge at the site.

The Municipality of Colchester and the Municipality of Cumberland are collaborating on two historic projects that will have a significant impact on business in our region. One is the major optic fibre-based network for rural broadband internet under construction. This

## Bible Hill Canada Day Parade and Summer Day Camp

### CANADA DAY PARADE IS BACK

The very popular Canada Day Parade is back. Lots of Bible Hill businesses have decorations and materials to help you create an awesome float. To apply online go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/bKC9rebtch> or drop into the Village Hall at 67 Pictou Road. The excitement and celebrations for Canada Day continues at the Bible Hill Recreation Park. Check out Gordon Tucker, Fiddles and Feet, Bouncy Castles, Foam Party, Pony Rides, Face Painting, Balloon Twists, Petting Farm, Cotton Candy, Cup Cakes, the splash pad and playground.

### SUMMER DAY CAMP

An exciting fun filled summer awaits Day Camp participants in Bible Hill. Summer Day camp registration starts, Wednesday, June 1st from 1:30 in the afternoon to 6:30 in the evening, at the Village office at 67 Pictou Road.

Please note, registration is on a first come, first serve basis and spots are not guaranteed until payment and forms are completed.

You may also register starting June 2nd at the Village office from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.



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