



Powerful clouds almost overpower a peaceful moment at Newville Lake. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Colchester Public Works to Have Busy Summer

Submitted by Michele Boudreau

The following summary presented by Michele Boudreau, Director of Public Works to Colchester Council committee on May 11 highlights the projects and initiatives currently being undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Staffing:

- Recruiting efforts are underway for the following positions: Project Engineer, Public Works GIS Technician, Wastewater Treatment Maintenance Technician; Recruitment will start shortly for the 2 summer mowing terms and one year admin term which were recently approved in the Public Works operating budget and summer mowing term in Debert commenced on May 1 and will continue until October. This position mainly focuses on mowing the airport.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects:

The following projects are ongoing or will commence construction in 2023: Debert STP2 Elimination (Ongoing); New Well, Debert Water Utility (Ongoing); Courthouse Functional Space Analysis (Ongoing); Sewer and Water Capacity Review, All Communities (Ongoing); Support for Proposed Housing Development, Debert (Ongoing); Marshland Drive

Screw Pump Replacement (Ongoing); Sidewalk replacement, First/Second/Mosswood (Ongoing); Truro Heights Crosswalk at Morley (Upcoming); New Sidewalk, Brookfield, Highway 2 to Whidden Road (Upcoming); Repaving and Stormwater Improvements, Cornerstone Drive (Upcoming); I/I Repairs, Sewer Pipe, Brookfield (Upcoming); Street Light replacement, CPDS, Debert (Upcoming) and Topping up of Gravel Roads (Upcoming).

Regulatory: Receiving water study is underway for the Brookfield sewage plant. The province has recently tightened our treatment criteria for this plant and the study is needed to determine if the plant requires any upgrades; Water System Assessments for both water utilities were recently completed with some minor improvements required; Staff are currently completing videos and cleaning of the Robie Street sewer to assess status of grease. Compliance efforts are ongoing; We require volunteers for lead testing for both the Tatamagouche and Debert water utilities - notices have been sent to customers. This is a regulatory requirement of our operating permit.

Other Tidbits: Staff are working with Provincial Public Works to assess the feasibility of the Debert Roundabout construction given archaeo-

logical buffers; We are assisting Community Development with a trail project on Tidal Bore Road at the Fundy site, as well as the tendering of the proposed bridge.

Gravel road grading is nearly complete with dust control expected in June. The parking lot at the Lower Truro Spring will be graded in the coming weeks. Some gravel roads will also receive a topping up this summer.

Funding has been received for upgrades to the sewage collection and treatment systems in Debert. Work will proceed pending status of the Debert Housing development project. Expressions of Interest for site development are due later this month.

Staff continue to work on capital upgrade costs and the business plan for the Debert Airport. Staff are investigating options for implementing a computerized maintenance system for Public Works equipment and facilities. Staff will be tendering for 2 new pickup trucks in the coming months, as per the approved capital budget.

Northern Pulp continues to haul wastewater to the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility. Their hauling approval was renewed for the 2023 calendar year. Staff are providing input and data for the establishment of GIS based infrastructure mapping, which will also incorporate the abil-

Ground Search and Rescue

In 2021 the team submitted successfully for the Emergency Service Providers Fund to supply a basic content of PPE gear for our existing members and in turn purchased 2-in-1 jackets, splash pants, protective helmets, headlamps, safety vests, ball caps and signalling whistles for each of our existing members at a cost of approximately \$600 per individual. This has been adopted as the standard, basic minimum gear for a member, and moving forward the team has committed to provide all new members this minimum

gear as an annual budgeted team cost.

As a result of the recruiting drive we held in October of 2022 the team had an unprecedented 35 new members join the team and enter the Searcher Training Course. Historically the team has only managed to recruit 6 to 8 participants from these drives. With the overwhelming results we have found ourselves under-budgeted to provide these new members with the standard minimum gear we have committed to this year.

Therefore, we are applying for the Municipality of the County of Colchester Grants to

Non-Profit Organizations for the maximum amount of \$5000 to cover the cost of the protective helmets, headlamps, and signalling whistles our members require to safely perform their duties in the wilderness. In turn the teams budget will cover the remaining gear to fulfil the complete minimum gear package that we have adopted.

Johnson - Put on general tax rate, get them some money. We treat the fire depts well, let's do the same for these folks.

Parker. We are major funder. Maybe we need to encourage other municipalities to cough up more money. We are in at \$56,000.

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Director's Report – Waste Compliance

By Phillip Redden B. Sc. F.E.

The following is the Waste Compliance portion of the report to council committee on March 16th by Phillip Redden B.Sc.F.E., Director of Solid Waste on Materials Recovery Facility, Kemptown. (We divided Redden's report into several separate articles).

For the reporting period from late November to late February, there were 38 visits made to properties/locations for the various reasons of education, compliance and follow up. Of these visits the main enforcement issues were nine (9) illegal dumping complaints/issues and seven (7) accumulation of solid waste complaints/issues. The remainder of the visits would be to address compliance follow up, investigate curbside collection complaints/issues, drop off educational material along with other customer service-related reasons.

From the enforcement side, when complaints are received about solid waste being an issue on a given property, Section 14, No Accumulation of Solid Waste is used to bring that property back into compliance. This section of the Solid Waste By-law is easier to navigate through en-

forcement to compliance as staff are dealing with specific properties and property owners. When dealing with illegal dumping complaints (breakdown down for this period shown below), there are many times staff are unable to determine the culprit when dealing with property owners who didn't dump the material themselves. For sites of smaller quantities, the material is sifted through and taken away to avoid further litter and dumping. If sites are comprised of larger piles on private property, the property owner is brought in on the cleanup plan as Municipal and Provincial legislation holds property owners accountable for their property. For situations where large clean ups are required, tipping fees can be reduced or waived to help with the cleanup cost.

Accumulation of Solid Waste/Litter - seven (7). Colchester Housing Property Onslow Mountain; Salmon River, two (2); Bible Hill, two (2); Harmony, two (2).

Illegal Dump - nine (9): Blackburn Rd., Belmont: one (1) bag; identification found - educational visits made; Belmont Rd., Belmont: illegal dump com-

plaint - is an accumulation issue as dumping can't be proven; may have to be dealt with through Section 14 with the property owner; Rocky Ridge Rd., Truro Heights: complaint about dumped brush from one property to another - spoke with both parties and resolved the issue; Glenwood Dr., Truro: black bags placed in front of another property for collection - spoke with 87 year-old woman who did it and asked she not do it again; Onslow: multiple black bags of construction waste - picked up and taken away.

Other illegal infractions included: Wood St., Truro: black bags placed in front of a property, identification found for a Lyman St. address; took bags and made a site visit to address the issue; Pictou Rd., Kemptown: multiple black bags of household waste - no identification found; bags taken away; Graham Rd., Belmont: black bags dumped - identification found for a Graham Rd. property; bags removed and taken away and Shore Rd., Old Barns: several bags of household waste - cleaned up by passersby; identification found with follow up still on going; bags taken away.

Tom TAGGART



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Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in Parking Lot