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South Cumberland NEWS

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

June 2023

Municipality approves second reading of noise bylaw amendment

Council has approved second reading of the bylaw to amend the municipality's noise bylaw. The current bylaw covers noise caused by the municipality, federal and provincial governments, Nova Scotia Power and telecommunications companies and their contractors and employees between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m.

There are times when services to residents need to be provided during the nighttime hours or in the early hours of the morning. For example, snow removal may begin before 6 a.m. so roads and sidewalks can be cleared for travel before residents go to work or school.

Repairs of water mains, electrical or telecommunications infrastructure sometimes needs to be completed outside normal business hours.

Council approves first reading of two land use bylaw amendment applications

Council has approved first reading of an amendment to Schedule A of the Land Use Bylaw to rezone a property near North End Road in Sutherlands Lake from Rural Resource to Recreational Residential to facilitate the development of approximately 27 lots and a private road corridor.

The property is located east of North End Road and nearly residential recreational lots on Maple Drive, Wyllies Lane and Hardwood Drive. To the east, the property is bordered by Little Dead Lake and a stream that runs towards Purdy Road in the northeast.

Adjacent lands are zoned Rural Resource and contain a mix of woodland and wetland areas.

Council also passed first reading of an amendment to Schedule A of the Land Use Bylaw to rezone a property near the Hansford Road in Victoria to Recreational Residential from Agricultural.

The amendment is to allow for the development of approximately 10 lots and a private road corridor.

The property borders on the northeastern portion of McPherson Lake and is bordered to the north, east and west by properties zoned Agricultural. Properties to the south are zone Recreational Residential.

Municipal council approves Hastings Road Recreational Society request

Council has approved a request from the Hastings Road Recreational Society for the municipality to receive up to \$25,000 from the Christie Community Foundation and disburse the funds to the society to assist with the cost of completing a playground.

The project includes completing a playground, including landscaping around the cement pad, expansion of the parking area and the installation of a sandbox and a warming shelter that will include a hot water tank, the drilling of a well and the installation of electrical services and the placement of soccer nets.

The total budget for the project is \$50,000.

Municipality to negotiate agreement for Pier Road loop maintenance

Council has passed a motion to renew an agreement with the Parrsboro and Area Harbour Commission to maintain the loop portion of Pier Road.

The initial two-year term of the agreement expires this summer.

Maintenance includes filling potholes and grading when the municipality carries out similar activities on the gravel portion of Pier Road. It also includes plowing and/or snow removal when similar activities occur on Pier Road.

There have been no operational issues identified with respect to the maintenance of the loop portion of the road during the agreement. The agreement can be renewed for five years at the municipality's discretion.

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Cumberland Lowers Tax Rates

By Darrell Cole

The good news for residential and commercial property owners is tax rates were lowered during a virtual meeting when councillors for the Municipality of Cumberland approved a \$36.4 million

operating budget at a special virtual meeting held Friday, May 26, 2023.

Council approved a decrease in the general residential rate of three cents, from \$1.17 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessment and a decrease in the

general commercial rate of five cents, from \$ 2.71 to \$2.66 per \$100 of assessment.

The municipality is facing significant increased cost in the coming fiscal year. The recently awarded solid waste curbside collection contract is

estimated to cost \$544,000 more than last year. Costs for mandatory contributions to education are up \$323,000, RCMP policing costs are up \$312,000, insurance is estimated to increase by almost \$190,000 and salaries and benefits are estimated to cost \$634,000 more than last year.

The municipality is continuing to move forward with reforms to the fire service in the County, in the wake of the Gaudreault report. While some additional wage costs are budgeted for the last quarter of the year to address management and administration in the fire service, the biggest investment on the operating side of the ledger is a transfer of more than \$400,000 to reserves to address future capital investment in fire apparatus and buildings. The county is served by 16 volunteer fire departments in 18 locations, housing almost 90 emergency/fire vehicle vehicles. The municipality provides capital and operating support to each department.

Of the over \$36 million in operating expenditures, more than \$12 million are costs mandated by the Province of Nova Scotia, which the municipality simply sends a cheque to the province for. Mandatory contributions to education, corrections, housing, policing and assessment amount to about a third of the operating budget.

While property assessments were up this year significantly, on average about 12 per cent, cost pressures made this year's budget process a difficult one. Recognizing that rising assessments add to the tax burden for taxpayers, council approved a decrease in the general residential rate of three cents, from \$1.17 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessment and a decrease in the general commercial rate of five cents, from \$ 2.71 per \$100 of assessment. Deed transfer tax rates remain the same as do the area rates in the communities of Springhill and Parrsboro, where taxpayers remain responsible for street and sidewalk maintenance, storm water management and street lights.

"We understand the pressures being faced by our taxpayers, through additional costs for oil, gas and food, so we did everything we could to lower the residential and commercial tax rates, but we want

continued on page 4



A member appreciation with an unusual twist was held at the Hall, Parrsboro in mid-May. It was a welcome for Anne and Kerwin Davison for their years of community service. The underlying reason for the mid-May timing it was surprise to honour Anne and Kerwin on the occasion of their 90th birthdays. Also see photos on page 4. (Lawrence R. Nicoll photos)

Ryan Cook at The Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Concerts in the Park

The Parrsboro Band Association is once again sponsoring Concerts in the Park starting Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 7 pm. These concerts have become very popular every Sunday evening through June, July and

August. Different musicians perform each Sunday evening. A collection is taken and the money is donated to the musicians charity of choice. Make sure you take advantage of these concerts.

The Parrsboro Band Association is pleased to announce Ryan Cook will perform at The Hall on King Street in Parrsboro, Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 8 pm. Ryan is no stranger to Parrsboro. When he comes it is to a packed house so get your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are only \$35 and can be purchased by going on line to www.the-hall.ca or call 902 701 8951 and a volunteer will return your call. What a way to bring in the month of June going to a concert at The Hall with Ryan Cook. Tell your family and friends and come on up to the hall on June 3.



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