

# REES' Pieces

## What a hectic last few weeks?

I can not remember when we have experienced such turbulent times: an unusual winter with very little snow; the weekly newscasts about the Mass Murder Commission; ongoing problems with healthcare with very little traction toward betterment; inflation and the rising cost of rent, furnace fuel and gasoline – all of which will always be out of our control. Regardless how much we complain these three things are what pinches our pocket books the most. I'll get around to discussing food a bit later.

Rising rents / mortgage / cost of accommodations, for all intents and purposes are beyond our control, unless we are willing to make fundamental changes. Some changes are possible.

**HOUSING / ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you are locked into a mortgage/ line of credit or lease, it is more difficult. There is a housing crisis and to save your own skin maybe you should search for a roommate / rent out a room, or make a decision to take on the responsibility of helping grandparents, parents or a senior friend. Not the way you planned it, but better than you being homeless, or stubborn letting your financial "deck of cards" collapse.

**ELECTRICITY / FURNACE FUEL:** These are problems and will continue until global, national and provincial governments stop giving grants and tax concessions to multi-nationals, implement a sur-tax on excess profits and convert what would normally go to very profitable multi-nationals into some form of assistance to those who are middle income down to those suffering from poverty. Privately all we can do is change light bulbs, turn off the lights we no one is in the room. We can find a sweater and extra socks and turn the thermostat down two or three degrees.

**GASOLINE / VEHICLE USAGE:** We need a vehicle to get to work. gasoline prices are killing us. Cut the cost by "car pooling"; drive only when necessary; walk to the store or remember to pick up the bread and milk on the way home. For those who have access use public transportation. Use it. If adventurous or capable and it's possible start using a bicycle.

**FOOD AND GROCERY STORE:** Now let's talk about food, or trips to the grocery store. Yes, food costs are rising, but in Nova Scotia, we need to temper our comments with gentleness. We have farmer friends who are also struggling.

The costs faced at the check out is far less than half for food. Toilet tissue, paper towel, laundry and dish detergent, razor blades, deodorant, although necessary, are not food. Instead of \$4.99 for four bran muffins, spend the time with friends or family member and bake your own. (You'll get a dozen or more for the same or less).

**Soda Pop, Pepsi or Coca-Cola,** why spend \$1.99 or \$2.49 for 500ml or 710ml, when you can buy four 2 litre bottles for \$5.00 or less. Have you looked at packaged cereal lately? It's not healthy for you and should be treated more as a chocolate bar (so much sugar and artificial fillers).

What happened to Oatmeal Porridge, or Red River Cereal? We grew up on it, every morning with homemade bread toast and jam. If when a toddler was getting old enough to feed themselves, if that is what you served them, they, like us older folk will love it. Conclusion: It's not in their diet, because you don't know how to make it; are too lazy or think you don't have time. If you are not into making bread, then please be considerate enough for your child's health to get up and make a batch of biscuits. Where's the molasses?

Is that enough preaching from this senior publisher for this month?

Now let me tell you are lucky to be reading this issue, right on schedule which we established in September 2021.

In mid-May, about two weeks ago, we suffered a computer crash. No computer for six days. Lost a lot of data, or can't find it. However, with new computer and very long three days we got to the printer on time. We will call this "OUR LUCKY ISSUE". This being the 60th year in publishing our record is intact: Not into missing publishing deadlines.

**Maurice**



Many hands made light work for clean-up day at Veterans Memorial Park May 14th. These willing souls from 36 Halifax Service Battalion started their weekend honing their skills in operating a Command Post, navigation, radio procedure, first aid, and mine prodding at the Naval Damage Control School near Halifax, on May 13. These soldiers finished their weekend by helping their community and fostering relations with volunteers, by cleaning and restoring the Veterans Memorial Park to its natural beauty, in preparation for International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers to be celebrated in Bass River, scheduled on Sunday, May 28. (Contributed)



The Municipality of Cumberland has awarded Dexter Construction Company Ltd. the contract for the Junction Road Rehabilitation Project for a value of \$7.292 million plus HST. Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland



Cumberland Paving and Contracting has been awarded the contract for the Athol Road Watermain Replacement Project for \$2,361,912 plus HST. Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland

## Junction Road, Athol Road Projects CONTRACTS AWARDED

By Darrell Cole

The reconstruction of a significant piece of municipal roadway infrastructure has taken a big leap forward in Cumberland County.

During a special council meeting via Zoom on Monday, May 1, the Municipality of Cumberland has awarded Dexter Construction Company Ltd. the contract for the Junction Road Rehabilitation Project for a value of \$7.292 million plus HST, while Cumberland Paving and Contracting has been awarded the contract for the Athol Road Watermain Replacement Project for \$2,361,912 plus HST.

Council also voted to approve the revised budget and capital funding for the projects at \$10,068,065.

"These contracts that we awarded are very important to the whole of Cumberland County," Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Murray Scott said. "Junction Road in Springhill has been in need of major repair for decades. It's the main connecting road on Trunk 2 from the northern part of Cumberland all the way down to Parrsboro and the Fundy Shore. It's a major part of highway infrastructure for emergency vehicles, tourism and business. Everyone agrees it's one of the worst pieces of road that's maintained by the municipality.

"For us, as a municipality, I'm really pleased to see council make this investment. It will pay dividends for many years."

Tenders for both the Junction Road and Athol Road projects were called earlier this year and closed on April 5 with two submissions received for each tender.

The costs of both projects exceeded cost estimates provided by the engineering consultant when preparing the application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The primary driver of the cost overages is the water infrastructure. Stormwater infrastructure was also significantly above the project's estimate.

After HST recoveries, the Junction Road project will cost \$7,604,827. Funding is coming from a variety of sources - \$3.7 million from the ICIP Fund, \$730,000 from the CCBF Fund (formerly Gas Tax),

about \$170,000 from general capital reserves and almost \$3 million from funds generated by the Springhill area rate and the former Springhill Water Utility.

Net costs of the Athol Road project of \$2,463,238 are being funded by just over \$1 million in ICIP funds and the balance of about \$1.45 million from water utility surplus funds.

The Junction Road project will see a completely new streetscape with a new urbanized right-of-way, including sidewalk on both sides of the street, concrete curb and gutter and new asphalt.

The project will see a new watermain as well as the replacement of the sanitary sewer along the right-of-way and a new stormwater system and replacing ditching with curb and gutter.

The Athol Road project will replace an aging water distribution line that extends for about a kilometre from McGee Street to Beaton Lane, replacing aging and smaller diameter water line that serves approximately 60 residents. It will also see street resurfacing from McGee Street to the former town boundary.

Council also approved the contract for paving of municipal streets in Parrsboro and Springhill to Cumberland Paving & Contracting for a value of \$830,111.

The contract is valued at \$522,301.01 for the Springhill portion of the project, and \$343,421.76 for Parrsboro. Both portions are funded by CCBF Funds.

Through the dissolution of the former Towns of Springhill and Parrsboro, the Municipality remains responsible for about 32.4 kilometres of roads (including 3.15 km of gravel) in Parrsboro and 36.3 kilometres of roads (including 1.3 km of gravel) in Springhill. Taxpayers in both communities pay an additional area rate to fund maintenance of streets, sidewalks and storm drainage.

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## The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

- BASS RIVER:** Bayside Pharmacy, Dominion Chair Factory Store
  - BIBLE HILL:** C.W. Fraser Pharmacy, MacQuarries Pharmacy, Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave
  - DEBERT:** Debert Mini-Mart
  - FIVE ISLANDS:** Masstown Market Five Islands
  - GLENHOLME:** Double "C" Truckstop
  - GREAT VILLAGE:** Wilson's Gas
  - MAITLAND:** Frieze & Roy General Store
  - MASSTOWN:** Masstown Market, MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)
  - MILLBROOK:** Super 8 Motel, Hampton Inn & Suites
  - NORTH RIVER:** Grant's Grocery
  - PARRSBORO:** CrossRoads Co-op, Ken's Grocery, Wright's Pharmasave
  - TRURO:** Atlantic Superstore, Best Western Glengarry, Holiday Inn, MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade), Rath Eastlink Comm Centre, Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop
  - NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:** Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal: Bass River Consolidated; Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.
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