

Colchester to Assist with Tatamagouche Sidewalk

By **Maurice Rees**

Colchester Council request staff cost out the design, survey and analysis of a request from James Baird, Tatamagouche Village Commission for a sidewalk project along a portion of Main Street. He also requested access to Gas Tax Revenue to offset, the Village's part of the project costs.

Council agreed to a proclamation for Epilepsy Awareness Month and participation during month of March.

A two page email with a three page attachment from Wayne Mason, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) was distrib-

uted to councillors. The email contained highlights of 11 items which NSFM has discussed at its December 7, 2018 meeting.

Because of lateness of the meeting time, a portion of council's monthly meeting was recessed until February 5th to follow the monthly presentation session. Two items were handled in open session of the 5th with continuance of dealing with closed session items.

One of the items was a request for a letter of support for the Colchester Highland Games Society, which will assist them in applications for

funding from other levels of government.

A January 15th letter from Robyn Homans, Area Manager, NSTIR in response to Colchester's letter of December 11th concerning concerns about how highway maintenance was handled in the Bass river areas on November 13th stated on that date NSTIR did not have all their existing and new winter operators in place. As a result he was not able to fully staff Londonderry based equipment.

Homans' made the assurance that in future he would enlist aid from Parrsboro / Economy and Bible Hill bases.

S.W. Weeks Wins \$108,325 Tender

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installed to connect well 1C into the existing 350 mm diameter (14 inch) water line which runs behind Kohltech.

Well 1C currently has a direct and independent connection to the water tower on MacElmon Road via an aged 150 mm diameter (6 inch) waterline which does not have sufficient capacity for filling the new water tower.

Council's approved budget includes \$2.35M in 2018/19 for Debert Water Tower replacement project.

The lowest tender price of \$108,325 plus HST is well within the remaining budget for the water tower project, which is approximately \$1,551,000, given existing contractual commitments.

Remaining project funds will be used for the Well 1C piping upgrades as well as some control upgrades and the demolition of the existing water tower on MacElmon Road.

An internal contingency of \$10,000 for the project was added to the tender price. The overall project has a projected cost of \$2.35-Million and will be completed in 2019.

Survey Results: 106-3-3

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cillor Masters suggested council's action to bring in zoning regulations in 2002, in essence, protected the community. He expressed the opinion, without any regulations, and if action had not been taken at that time, any developer could have undertaken any time of project, as long as they meet other criteria regarding water and sewage, building codes and highway

access. In the final analysis, after nearly two hours devoted to the public opinion, council denied the application. Several councillors stating their difficulty: it was a good proposal; they liked it, it was slated for the wrong location. They councillors stated a big part of their job, and perhaps most important, is to respect the wishes of the community.

Director's Report: Public Works

By **Michelle Newell, Director**

At Colchester's Committee meeting on February 14th, Michelle's Newell's report summarized some of the projects and initiatives currently being undertaken: **Staffing:** Lee Ogden was hired in October as our second engineering technician. He comes to us from PDI Engineering in Truro (Formerly EXP/Horner ADD); hiring summer students will occur soon in the areas of mowing, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment and water treatment/distribution; Tim Naugle is serving in his third year with us as winter casual to assist with plowing. Our Water Utility Manager is currently on extended medical leave and we are exploring op-

tions for covering related duties.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects: The upcoming construction season will include: Teviot Sidewalk Reconstruction (Thrush to Salmon River Road); Highway 311 Sidewalk Construction (Dickson to Big Brothers/Big Sisters); Energy Improvements, Central Colchester WW Treatment Facility, VFD Project; Debert STP2 Elimination and Debert Water Tower (Ongoing).

Expansion: Public Works Garage, Lower Truro; New Stairs and Ramp, County Courthouse; MacElmon Road Roundabout (Pending Archaeological Clearance); Roof Replacement, Debert Incubator Mall (Completed in Decem-

ber) and Roof Replacement, Debert Water Utility Building (Completed in January).

Design activities are ongoing for the following projects: Harmony Road Sidewalk to Blainedale; Gasper Cross Stormwater Study and Teakwood Stormwater Study.

Siting: Secondary Debert Well. If funding applications to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program are successful. Design activities on the following projects will also commence: Pumping Station 6 Replacement (Salmon River); Pumping Station 15 Replacement (Valley) and Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement.

February 2019 Regulatory: Annual reports for all waste-

water treatment and water treatment facilities are due by March of each year; New guidelines for lead in drinking water will be released shortly, and staff are developing sampling programs that will support the new criteria. Staff continue to support the Tatamagouche and Debert Source Water Protection Committees. The Tatamagouche Committee is working on a process for designation of the watershed, which is a lengthy regulatory process.

New regulatory limits have been set for the Brookfield Sewage Treatment plant and staff are reviewing operations to identify any necessary upgrades; New drinking water treatment standards come into effect in 2020, and staff are working with Nova Scotia Environment to ensure compliance. Public Works has established its own Health and Safety Committee, which feeds into the County's overarching committee. We are making great progress in the area of workplace inspections and safe work practices. Staff are working with NS Environment to gain authority to seasonally disinfect treated wastewater effluent, meaning that UV systems would be shut down in winter, reducing power costs.

Other Tidbits: Staff continue to support the County Flood Advisory Committee and the Joint Flood Advisory Committee. We continue to monitor the quality of sewage entering our sewage collection systems and are addressing issues of high strength wastes in problem areas. Staff continue to work on the asset inventory for all water/sewer/stormwater/road and sidewalk infrastructure currently owned by the County.

Staff are working to develop a new street light policy, at the request of Council; updating Colchester's Municipal

Services Specifications, which detail how infrastructure is to be installed within the county. A portion of these specifications will focus on new stormwater management approaches.

Equipment purchased by Public Works this year so far includes a new sidewalk plow (replacement of unit), a backhoe, and a 1.5 Ton Truck (replacement of unit). All staff have been working to complete annual performance reviews under the new program which was developed in 2018.

Michelle Newell
is Director of Public Works for County of Colchester.

Expanded Programs to Keep More Waste from Landfills

Nova Scotians will be able to recycle used oil and glycol and more electronics next year through expanded extended producer responsibility programs.

"Nova Scotians are national leaders in keeping unnecessary waste out of our landfills and we want it to stay that way," said Environment Minister Margaret Miller.

"That's why we are requiring industry to recycle more products."

With changes to the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations, industry must be ready with programs to recy-



cle new products by January 1, 2020.

In addition to the industry recycling programs, effective March 1, 2020, the following products will be banned from landfills: microwaves, e-book readers, GPS devices, video game systems and controllers, external hard drives, optical drives, and modems; used oil, oil filters, and oil containers

and glycol, which is a coolant, and glycol containers

The affected industries must develop or expand recycling programs for these products. The Electronic Products Recycling Association has been running Nova Scotia's electronics recycling program for the past 10 years. It will expand its program to recycle the new products. The Used Oil Management Association runs a used oil and glycol program in other provinces. It will expand its program into Nova Scotia to recycle these products.

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