

Cumberland Applying for Smaller Council

By Maurice Rees

The Municipality of County of Cumberland has filed documents with the province's Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) to reduce the number on council to eight councillors, down from the current twelve. The municipality is also requesting approval to go switch to an elected Mayor from the current Warden system.

Under the warden system, he/she is elected as a councillor, then internally councillors choose who will be their leader. Under the mayoralty system, which if approved for this fall's municipal election, a mayor would be elected by taxpayers.

NSUARB must hold public meetings prior to rendering a decision.

If approved, the municipal council structure would be eight councillors, plus a mayor instead of the current system of thirteen councillors, with once selected as warden from within council, following the election.

On January 30th, Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North and Deputy Premier on behalf of Energy and Mines Minister Derek Mombourquette, announced \$245,000 for three projects under the Low Carbon Communities Program. The Town of Amherst will receive \$75,000 to develop a town-wide plan to reduce green-

house gas emissions.

Comments on the announcement, David Kogon, Mayor said "Amherst is committed to reducing emissions through increased energy efficiency and adoption of renewable energy. The funding received under the Low Carbon Communities Program will help the town develop an action plan that will lead to concrete reductions in the town's greenhouse gas emissions."

The other part \$170,000 of the funding was awarded to The Municipality of the County of Colchester will receive \$100,000 to design a pedestrian and active transportation bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site in Lower Truro to link a network of trails north and south of the Salmon River. The municipality will also receive \$70,000 to develop a community energy emissions plan to help guide the municipality to a low-carbon future.

What's Happening in Oxford?

By Ruthie Patriquin

Welcome all newcomers to Oxford. Whether you're here for the friendly atmosphere or the wild blueberries, we're glad you're putting down roots in our town.

In March we celebrate International Women's Day, the luck of the Irish, Pie, school break, Nutrition month (think wild blueberries), another time change (spring ahead on March 8!) and so much more. Here in Oxford, some of our friendly folks are still enjoying winter, while others can't wait for Spring.



Ruthie Patriquin

Sunset Thrift Store & Café is supporting Oxford's International Women's Day celebration by selling tickets on a basket of "treasures" with proceeds benefitting the Girls World camp held in Oxford each summer. The draw will take place at the March 7 (2-4 p.m.) event in the Capitol Theatre. Everyone is welcome to attend the entertainment that will feature music, dance, poetry and guest speaker, Rayliene Thompson, sharing her experiences as a fire fighter.

March's bi-weekly Jam Nights at the Capitol Theatre are March 13 and 27. The Main Street Music Society is to be commended for the ongoing success of these events and for booking a good variety of other entertainment into our historic theatre. In addition, it's worth a visit just to see the old pressed-tin tile interior.

Around the world, Pi (Pie) Day is celebrated on March 14th (3.14). Pi (aka 3.14...) Day honors the mathematical constant "pi". Because the concept of "pi" may be difficult to comprehend, a simpler, more delicious way to honor its significance is "pie". If you are from Wild Blueberry country, it's Wild Blueberry Pie! Be prepared for this March 14: full size pie, pie by the slice, hand pie, it all works! Email me pictures of your Wild Blueberry Pie and I'll post them on the Town's face book page. Be sure to include your name and share the recipe if you wish.

Oxford's Recreation & Leisure Services' Director, Corey Skinner, has several events planned for March Break so be sure the young people in your lives take them in. Watch for Corey's new trail map signage, "walk-the-block" signage, and other active transportation initiatives. They are going to be great additions to our community.

Keep in mind that the Crossing Guard is not on duty during March Break, other school holidays and weekends. Please always drive safely, and take extra care when approaching crosswalks and intersections.

Oxford's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #36, is hosting a Mega Bingo on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 1:00 p.m., with doors opening at 11:30 a.m. This is an important fundraiser for the Legion to maintain their building, used for various community functions, and to support services provided to veterans and the community at large. For example, every Friday evening is Community Social Night beginning at 7:30 p.m. Legion membership is not required for this drop-in event.

Ruthie Patriquin is Community Economic Development Officer, Town of Oxford, 902 447-2250, Email: rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca

Bake Sale Continues Through Power Outage

By David Towns

The Hall has, as usual, been busy and held a couple of events as part of the Fundy Winter Carnival, one of which was a Craft Sale on Saturday, February 15th. The next day we held a Beach Party and Chili Cook-off which are always popular.

In spite of the bone-chilling temperatures and the loss of power, a great group of people came to The Hall on King St., to support the Crafters and Bake Sale. The power went out at 8:45 a.m. just as the doors were to open and did not come back on till noon.

In spite of the temperatures and the lack of heat and lights all the vendors carried on through it and did not give up in disgust. All those who came out to examine the results of the efforts of these talented people remarked on the great variety and incredible skills that were very much in evidence at every table.

There was a gift basket which contained samples from most of the vendors participating and the winner was David Brown, Queen St., Parrsboro. On behalf of the vendors and The Parrsboro Band Association, our heartfelt thanks to everyone who

supported our local artists and artisans and made this

event a resounding success. See photos opposite.

Don Fletcher Not Reoffering

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soon be in River Hebert and a Nurse Practitioner for the Advocate area is working alongside our current NP. There is more info and this will be provided soon.

Budget deliberations will soon be happening and then taxes. Remember the low income reduction both at the municipal level and provincial level for seniors. Info items included canine control/by-

law Enforcement report, order of Nova Scotia application information and a thank you from the Northumberland community curling club. Next council March 4th, 6 pm. See you there?

Question: Is the Federal government doing enough to end the blockades? Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

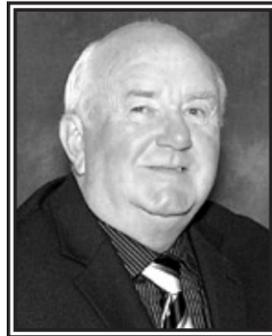
Cumberland Council Meets After Long Delay

By Don Fletcher

We began council Feb 5th at 5 pm in camera with 7 items covered. Nomination committee was next with a motion to approve a Cumberland forestry advisory committee council representative and an alternate. Motion approved and moved to public council. Warden Gillis and deputy warden Gilbert thank you.

We began public council with a presentation on no fee ice time. Very well presented and very good points for no fee ice time. The hope is to get more children active by helping to reduce the cost to families to participate and increase business for businesses like hotels and restaurants. We will discuss at a future meeting.

Next presentation was an update on the Cumberland business connector and their activities. Forestry is the big topic at present. They are also trying to understand the



Donald Fletcher

underlying reasons for leaving jobs or not taking them. Lots of job vacancies throughout the municipality.

Classification of jobs was next and a motion passed to establish two new positions and eliminate two other positions. This a continuation of the strategy to better align job positions to reflect the municipality as it is currently structured.

Motion to approve first reading and call for a public hearing for March 4th on an

amendment to land use bylaw to rezone a property on highway 301, Riverview. Motion passed. Reimbursement policy for council members and CAO were discussed and staff will bring back to council.

Three grant requests were approved. Motion approved to seek citizens for the accessibility committee as per steps outlined by staff. The Pugwash Village Hall water tap plan was approved with a change from yearly to quarterly for volume check. Motion approved.

Four councillors were approved to attend the FCM 2020 conference in Toronto. Motion approved.

Condition of Tyndal Road regarding Ice and dangerous condition during winter months was discussed. A letter will be sent to NSDOTIR. (Maybe the road from Apple River to Joggins should be added! My thoughts only!)

A motion was approved to release the former Parrsboro

town hall condition report in the near future once received. A short discussion was held on Amherst Rec Centre. We will ask for a presentation once more info is available.

A short discussion on kids home alone program in Springhill. They will apply for a grant. Info items in our kit included, tax collection memo, still making progress, great work finance staff! General operating revenue and expenditure report to November 30th. Still in the green, water utilities revenue and expenditure report up to November. African heritage month kickoff info, and Joggins Fossil Institute board minutes from November. Two thank you letters were also received. Thanks for them! Question: are you thinking about running for Mayor of Cumberland? Call your councillor

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

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