

Our Kitchen Korner

Occasionally, we get lucky. So far this winter, we have been extremely lucky in comparison to last winter. All along we feared, snow storms and accumulation might rival previous years, but so far we have escaped its rage. Sure we've had a couple of storms and students have had been able to enjoy a few storm days.



Now that we are into March, as bad as it might get, there's only about six weeks left and the sun will be so strong any amount of snowfall won't last long. During the nine years Maurice commuted daily from Maitland to Halifax-Dartmouth he always dreaded the storms in April, because more often than not, each storm was wet packy snow making driving treacherous.

Other than work, I haven't done much since last writing and no, we've not had a stormy Sunday, so Maurice has not made the Dark Fruitcake yet, but assures me he will with or without a storm. With all the smut, lies and dirty politics south of the border, I wonder if there might be an increased number of Trump-Dodgers moving to Cumberland-Colchester now that a \$60.2-Million broadband initiative has been announced.

It seems a large number of Americans are serious that if Donald J. Trump is re-elected in November, they are out of there. It's even been a boom to Cape Breton realtors, and other realtors around the province with a constantly increasing number of serious inquiries about purchasing property. Some of those who apparently are well heeled, have inquired about starting businesses.

With broadband coming over the next three years and the proposed Cliff of Fundy GeoPark expected to get UNESCO approval in April, the economy of Cumberland and Colchester Counties should be on the upward swing for the next decade or so. Economic development officials at the two counties who are peering into their crystal ball see nothing but good. However, they do have a major concern. Will the career training institutions get ahead of the ball and offer training so we have a trained labour force when existing businesses or those willing to start or relocate need them?

With the high cost of vegetables this winter, I noticed that cabbage is not too bad, so it made me think about a Cabbage and Macaroni Salad recipe, which Hazel Hill forward several years ago. In fact a nice home-made salad is a nice break during the winter.

Cabbage Macaroni Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 - 8 oz box of ring or small shell macaroni
- 3 cups grated or chopped cabbage • 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped • 1 cucumber, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped fine • 1 red pepper, chopped, (Optional)

Cook macaroni to desired tenderness. Drain and let stand few minutes cool. Add cooked macaroni to other ingredients and let stand, while preparing the dressing.

Dressing:

- 1 cup salad dressing • 1/3 cup vinegar • 1/2 cup sugar

Mix these three ingredients together. Be sure to stir long enough to ensure all the sugar is absorbed into the fluid. This makes a very large salad. If you wish adjust recipe to make only half.

Even though you will have salad left over add the dressing to all the vegetable ingredients. This recipe keeps well in the refrigerator.

If you have a favourite family recipe and would like it published in the April issue, please send on or before March 15th. Please send to:

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Fax: 902-647-2194 or email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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August, 2020	July 21	July 29, 2020
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October, 2020	September 22	September 30, 2020
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December, 2020	November 17	November 28, 2020
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Notes from our National Capital

Unfortunately Lenore Zann's column not available at press time.



Lenore Zann

Notes from our Provincial Capital

Access to reliable high-speed internet service

In 2018 the Government established the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust with a commitment of \$193 million to help improve internet access to underserved and unserved areas of the province. We recognized that reliable internet service is important and allows Nova Scotians to live where they choose and stay connected.

Develop Nova Scotia was given the responsibility to oversee this project and called for proposals to be submitted for review and approval. Connectivity in the province helps to support business startup and growth. It is critical for Tourism and most importantly it improves the quality of life in our rural communities. A better connected Nova Scotia is critical to our expanding economy.

On February 7th the first round of Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative projects was announced and I was delighted to see one of those five contracts included the Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester. They will partner with Xplornet as the service provider. This is great progress. Multiple communities and individuals will be captured in this project and the solution in our County will include a mix of wired and fixed wireless services. I under-

stand the limitations for small business owners in rural Colchester County and this improved access to reliable high speed internet service can be a game changer for them. It is anticipated that work will start in some communities early this year.

Currently about 70% of homes and businesses have access to high speed internet. This recent announcement will bring us close to 90% of homes and businesses. In addition to the five projects that were announced on Friday, a request for proposals is now going out and we are expecting another round of projects to be announced this summer.

I want to congratulate both Cumberland and Colchester Municipalities and in particular, Councillors Joe vanVulpen, Mike Gregory and Tom Taggart who worked with Council staff to prepare the successful application. I am excited to be part of the Government that is providing the support needed for the Municipalities and Xplornet to be successful in the competitive procurement process.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North also is Deputy Premier and President of the Treasury Board, plus has other duties.



Karen Casey

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

The work is just beginning

This month, as I set inside this Saturday morning it being -20 outside, I am going to focus mostly on the recently announced Cumberland Colchester fiber optic / broadband internet network. First, how did we get here. I have looked back over council minutes to try and determine where this all started. From my quick review, it appears that on June 16 2016 Councillor Gregory, Tatamagouche, and myself made the first motion on Broadband, asking that Local internet providers be eligible for assistance to upgrade their services.

On Feb 15 2017 exactly 3 years ago today, Councillor Gregory and I moved a motion to write all local internet service providers to ask them to apply for funding from Federal Connect to Innovate Program and provide better service to our residents. There were other references to broadband request in the following time until we came to the meeting that Maurice mentioned on the front page of the Shore line Journal. Regular readers may remember that my article that month expressed my displeasure at not being invited. However that meeting was the beginning of where we are today and I am very grateful that that meeting took place.

The one point I wish to make is that Maurice spoke about He and Bill Casey deserve much credit. This is true, however, in the big picture he actually thanked the wrong Casey. Funding for this \$60-Million project includes no money from the Federal Government. (I do, however, look forward to working with MP Lenore Zann and Federal Government in securing funding to ensure future opportunities that will put us in a position take even greater advantage and grow our community as a result of this critical new infrastructure). Current funding, Xplornet Net \$34.3 Million, Province of Nova Scotia \$19.9 Million, Municipality of Cumberland \$3.21 million and the Municipality of Colchester \$2.79 million. Now I am sure this was just an oversight, and I expect Maurice was really just speaking about the actual arranging the initial absolutely critical meeting. This announcement is, a result of very complicated and extraordinarily, successful negotiations. I will elaborate on this later in this article.

However my motivation for addressing this is not so much to point out that the Feds did not support, but to make you aware that, having been closely involved and very passionate about the outcome of this, I do not believe we would have succeeded without the support, mostly behind the scenes, of Colchester North MLA Karen Casey. Do not perceive this in any way, as taking away the tremendous job that Cumber-

land Colchester Staff, the Joint Municipal Broadband committee and the strong support of both councils both financially and morally. This is without question the greatest accomplishment and will have the greatest positive impact on our rural communities in my 12 years on council.

As one would expect, in any negotiation of this magnitude, there will inevitably be challenges and roadblocks. Often, I would contact Karen with my concerns, complaints. The answer was always, well I will look into, never commit, just, just supportive. Typically, the problem would go away or a way was found around. I appreciate that quiet support!

Back to how did we get to this point. After that above mentioned meeting Colchester and Cumberland councils agreed to form the Joint internet committee and signed a memorandum of understanding to work toward providing state of the art, reliable, affordable high speed internet access to all residents of our Municipalities. Much time and effort was spent on understanding the challenges we faced; determining the costs of construction; staff in particular worked to gain a very complete, factual and professional understanding of costing, reliability, challenges service levels, future proofing etc. The committee then sent out a request of interest, (not sure if wording is proper), to all national and local service providers. This request indicated our desire to provide service to all residents in both Municipalities and asked if they were interested in investing and at what level. All proposals were thoroughly evaluated by the committee and the decision was made to move forward with Xplornet in terms of negotiating terms and conditions as well as pursuing funding from Federal and Provincial Governments. Here we are.

To my earlier comment about extraordinarily successful. I talk often of my involvement with other Rural Municipalities across Canada. Many of these have been working on rural broadband for years. There are many different business models, but most involve some type of Community involvement or ownership. This brings many different challenges and regulations required to protect public money and a long and difficult struggle to get off the ground. With the support of Xplornet and the province we have succeeded with a business model that has no Municipal ownership. This will be owned and operated by private business. That

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Tom Taggart

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