

Notes from Colchester Council – January 30TH

By Maurice Rees

Even though the Shoreline Journal is the only media regularly attending Colchester Council, various items have been exposed in the public domain, so we will present each item in a shortened format for the following items approved by Colchester Council at its meeting on January 30th.

Code of Conduct:

After two years of ongoing discussion, Colchester Council decided to adopt the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) template for a code of conduct throwing out a more extensive one which had been developed by staff two years ago. During discussion on the matter, councillor Wade Parker, who has urged for a code of conduct, spoke against the intended template as it was incomplete, too watered down and needed a lot of work.

Parker said he has worked on many versions of a code of conduct and forecast the NSFM version if adopted could be disastrous in that it opens itself up to misunderstandings and could result in significant legal expenses, which would not be necessary if due diligence was given now.

Award of Tender – Loader Purchase

A tender for the purchase of a new loader for



the Balefill tipping floor was awarded to Maritime Case in the amount of \$224,710 excluding HST. Brandt with a price of \$250,399 was the other supplier who responded to the tender call.

Second reading Sewer Use by-law

Council approved second reading amendments to Chapter 29 - Sewer Use By-law, as presented.

Property Tax Exemption updates

Several changes were made to update the list of properties involved with tax exemptions included: The Colchester Foodbank located at 27 Blair Avenue in Tatamagouche leases a property from Sobey's. The assessed value of this property is \$46,700 which would generate tax revenue of \$1,064.76 billed to Sobey's; St. Mary's Archers of Truro is leasing property from the Province of Nova Scotia. This property is resource land and would generate tax revenue of \$192.93;

Central Nova Horse and Pony Club leases land from the Province. It is listed as resource exempt land so no fee would be applied; The Denmark Community Hall was sold to Cameron John Buckler and should be removed from the list as it is now privately owned; The Willow Lodge Association property is now the Fraser Cultural Centre and should be renamed on the schedule; The King George Lodge has been sold to the Debert & Area Community Association and should be renamed on the schedule; Quality Concrete leases property to the Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club. This should be removed from the list as leased property is not eligible. The assessed value is \$176,700. This would generate tax revenue of \$4,028.76 and would be billed to Quality Concrete; The Acadia Rebeka Lodge No. 115 no longer exists and should be removed from the

schedule; Bass River Community Association's exemption on schedule Part II list as Fulton, Pearl et al should be changed to reflect its correct name on the schedule and Reference to leased properties as noted on PART I and PART II under Conditions of Eligibility should be removed from the Schedules.

Dog By-law

Council approved first reading of Chapter 35 of the Dog by-law.

Doctor Recruitment

Council approved an expenditure of \$3,500 towards a budget of \$10,620 for the North Shore Development Association to sponsor a Physician & Family Recruitment & Retention Strategy: Rural Trauma Conference in Tatamagouche on February 28 - March 1. Other contributions are expected from:

North Shore Community Development Association, \$2,120.00; Nova Scotia Health Authority, Northern District, \$1,500.00; Village of Tatamagouche, \$2,000.00 and Private Community Contributions, \$1,500.00.

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Journal

Local Food and Beverage Campaign Launched

It is important for consumers to know where to find Nova Scotia's locally grown and produced food and beverage. A buy-local program, "Get Your Hands on Local" makes it easier for consumers to identify local products where they regularly shop.

Agriculture Minister, Keith Colwell said, "With this new retail campaign, consumers will easily find Taste of Nova Scotia branded food and beverages year-round." The in-store campaign includes displays that help shoppers find Taste of Nova Scotia products. An advertising campaign began this week and will continue in March and April.

Taste of Nova Scotia Members set standards

Taste of Nova Scotia has more than 200 members that set and maintain quality standards for food, service and hospitality. Members include farmers, fishers, chefs, winemakers, brewers, distillers, bakers, chocolatiers and many more. Major retailers Sobey's, Atlantic Superstore, Walmart, the NSLC and several large independent retailers often participate in major campaigns. For information contact: Taste of Nova Scotia: <https://tasteofnovascotia.com/get-your-hands-on-local/>

Call for Nominations for Order of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotians are encouraged to nominate someone in their community for the Order of Nova Scotia. Past recipients have included academics, athletes, volunteers, advocates and artists. The Order recognizes Nova Scotians whose commitment and efforts have made the province a better place. Nominations will be accepted by mail, fax or email until March 20. Nomination forms are available at Access Nova Scotia centres, Province House in Halifax, MLA and MP offices, municipal offices and online. To re-nominate someone, a photocopy of the previous nomination package with a new nomination form may be submitted. Nomination forms are online at <https://www.novascotia.ca/orderofnovascotia>

Changes Will Modernize Provincial Elections

Government is making it easier for Nova Scotians to vote for their Member of the Legislature and better support those who wish to serve their communities and fellow citizens by running for office. Over 40 changes to modernize the Elections Act will improve voting access for families, provide greater clarity for voters and candidates, reduce the risk of human error in vote counting and help Elections Nova Scotia streamline the running of elections.

Proposed changes will support the participation of more Nova Scotians to seek elected office by reimbursing candidates for additional family and accessibility related expenses incurred during the election. This funding will support greater accessibility for candidates with a disability and assist them with additional expenses for child care, spousal care, eldercare or care for a person with a disability. Additional changes are available from Elections Nova Scotia.

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Deadline for the April issue of

The Shoreline Journal

is March 24



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Karen Casey, MLA
Colchester North

10653 HWY. 2, MASSTOWN

(grey office building beside the Petro Can opposite the Masstown Market)

Phone: 902-641-2200

Fax: 902-641-2266

Email: karencasey@eastlink.ca

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