

Cumberland Council Briefs

The following briefs from Cumberland Council's January meeting were supplied by Darrell Cole. Cumberland municipal council receives Active Living & Recreation Strategy

Cumberland municipal council voted to receive a new Active Living and Recreation Strategy during its Jan. 22, 2025, regular meeting.

In 2023, council identified rural recreation as a priority. This direction aligned with the requirement for the municipality to update the existing recreation strategy that was adopted by council in 2018.

Developing and maintaining an active living strategy every four to five years is a requirement of the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program, which is a partnership between the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and the municipality.

To achieve the stated objectives for the development of a new strategy for the municipality, residents and community partners were engaged to understand their preferences and perceptions of active living and recreation in the municipality.

The overarching purpose for this strategy is to remove barriers to participation and maximizing opportunities for as many people as possible to live a healthy active lifestyle and improving their quality of life.

Council approves first reading of land-use by-law regarding undersized lots

During its January regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, Cumberland municipal council approved first reading of a bylaw to amend the land-use by-law to amend to requirements surrounding the development of undersized lots.

A public hearing will be scheduled prior to second reading.

At the request of council, staff have reviewed the existing standards for developing undersized lots, with a focus on the undersized lots in the Recreational Residential Zone (RRec) and the development challenges experienced by owners.

It is not the intent of this review and associated recommendations to engage in a wholesale change to any zone, including the RRec zone, but to assist in the reasonable development of properties in the short term.

From discussions with residents and developers over the last number of years, it appears that the greatest concerns surround the development of smaller, undersized lots, is primarily in the Recreational Residential (RRec) Zone along the ocean shorelines.

Although the focus has been on setbacks from property boundaries, feedback previously

received from residents suggest that limits on lot coverage, shoreline/watercourse buffers and the challenges posed by very small lots have similar or greater impacts on development.

It is not the intent of these proposed amendments to make wholesale changes to current shoreline and watercourse buffers, but to allow a controlled approach to development on undersized lots, in the specific circumstances in which the impacts on the environment can be mitigated.

Council approves first reading of amendments to land-use by-law to permit salt brine well in Upper Nappan

Council approved first reading of a bylaw to amend the land use bylaw to rezone a piece of property in Upper Nappan from Agriculture to Rural Industrial to permit the development of a salt brine well for Compass Minerals. A public hearing will be held prior to second reading.

Currently, the property is part of a network of land parcels that are used for cow pasturing. Compass Minerals has acquired the mineral rights for the subject property and is now looking to obtain a development permit for the development and operation of a new salt brine well. This would allow Compass Minerals



to enhance their current operation and provide a backup source for salt brine acquisition.

The proposed development would be essential for the continued operation of the salt plant, as Compass Minerals is in the process of decommissioning one of their salt wells and will need to replace the decommissioned well to meet production market demands.

Council passes first reading of development agreement for Springhill property

Council also approved first reading of a development agreement for 2 King St., Springhill.

A public hearing will be held prior to second reading.

The property is currently zoned Lower Density Residential (RLow) and is located on the outskirts of a residential neighbourhood, adjacent to the Springhill Industrial Park.

The current property owner would like to re-open a commercial business on the property, a tire and auto parts store. The existing structure was previously a small retail and small engine repair establishment.

Council defeats motion asking for draft by-law regarding operation of food trucks

Cumberland municipal council defeated a motion by District 6 Coun. Scott Lockhart asking

staff to draft a by-law regarding the operation and location of food trucks.

Cumberland municipal council approves new hospitality policy

Cumberland municipal council has approved a new hospitality policy for the municipality as required by the Municipal Government Act.

The policy provides direction and guidance respecting hospitality expenses while ensuring hospitality is offered in an accountable, economical and consistent manner while making sure taxpayers' dollars are used prudently and responsibly.

A hospitality event is a reception, ceremony, conference or other event that involves hosting individuals from outside the municipality - hosting foreign dignitaries; engaging in official public matters with representatives from other governments, business, industry, labour or community leaders; sponsoring or hosting conferences, hosting ceremonies/recognition events and other official functions as approved by the CAO, his or her designate or council.

Municipal council approves new student bursary policy

Cumberland municipal council has approved a new student bursary policy.

In recent years, Cumberland County's seven high schools have presented bursaries from

the municipality amount to \$1,000 per school.

Students receiving the bursaries must be residents of the municipality.

The policy establishes consistent guidelines for awarding the bursaries to deserving students. They are aimed at recognizing and supporting academic achievement, leadership potential and community involvement among eligible students.

Christie Blackie approved as new member of municipality's Accessibility Advisory Committee

Cumberland municipal council has approved the appointment of Christie Blackie, acting clerk of the Village of Pugwash, to the municipality's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The committee was established in 2021 and consists of representatives from the municipality as well as the Villages of Pugwash and River Hebert. The committee gives advice to council on removing obstacles for people with disabilities in all the municipality's programs and services and putting our ideas into action to make life simpler and better for people with disabilities.

At least one half of the members of the committee must have a disability (or represent an organization that serves people with disabilities).

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Remembering Conrad Byers Part 5

By Sandra Stephenson
(Editor Note: Sandra is preparing a multi-issue account of Conrad Byers' impact on Parrsboro and his renowned worldwide reputation. She hopes to eventually turn her extensive investment of time interviewing Conrad into a book.)

Here is Part 5.
Every day for three weeks in 2014 and 2015, I hiked from the top floor of the Old Post Office at Main and Station in Parrsboro, where I was in residence as an artist and yoga teacher, over to Conrad's house three doors down. I was a Humanities teacher at John Abbott College on professional leave. Thanks to a member of the Professional Development Committee at the College in Quebec, who had met Conrad during a stint at the Ship's Company Theatre, I had funding to help Conrad collect his poems into a book. The book was published by Harvey Lev and Judith Bauer of Black Dog and One-Eyed Press at Main and Station in 2015.

As we leafed through his papers pulling out the poetry, Conrad would talk. Some of the poems in Salmon Dreams were written during his travels abroad. Sometimes I asked him about the origin of a poem and he would launch into a story. The following is taken from my recording of such a monologue.
"My wife and I had planned to teach a couple of years and put money aside to travel. It was totally my idea, I just presumed she would like to do that, as you do when you are young. She was teaching in the county. We lived on the main street in Parrsboro, and I taught in River Hebert and she taught in a school down the Shore for a year or two. When it got close to the time to travel, she didn't want to go. She hadn't saved money in the two years, and she wasn't a traveller.

"I had been saving all along, so I said, 'Well, I'm going to do this, regardless,' thinking that she would change her mind. I neg-



lected my wife at that time, though. I was building a boat, I was doing all sorts of things in the evenings, and anyway, this guy came and he was very funny, entertaining and everything. So she stayed behind.

"In Korea they were nice to me and showed me around. They had a curfew in Korea then. You couldn't be on the street after 10 or 11 o'clock. I was visiting with a couple of Americans and a Korean girl, who were teaching, and curfew time came so I couldn't leave. I had to sleep on the sofa. Korea was depressing. I wrote a poem about that.

"Canada was in Korea as part of the United Nations force, to keep the North Koreans from taking over. All Korea was involved in a war. It was sort of an undeclared war, so many countries that were UN members made up an army to stop the Chinese (it was really the Chinese) from coming in from the north. They fought for several years over that, and eventually they got a truce and all the North part stayed with Communist China, and the South stayed where it is today. That was early 1950's.

"When I was there, it was still a depressed area. People were upset about all this. It was a long time for South Korea to build up, mainly through the Americans

and United Nations' money. It kind of became a battle between West and East and the battle lines were drawn across mid Korea. It was very mixed up. There were still a lot of American troops there, and Canadian representatives too, I guess. It was quite brutal. A lot of people were killed. My cousin was sent over there. They were rebuilding. There's always politics in these things. Korea was like the Ireland of Europe. The Japanese were like the British - they had taken over Korea during the second World War. Just like the Irish and the British, they always fought.

"There's a ship model I have over there on the wall, with oars. It's commonly called a turtle boat. One of the few times that the Koreans ever beat the Japanese was in an iron-clad boat. They rowed into the Japanese fleet and their cannonballs just bounced off it, and it was about the only time they ever beat them at anything. There's still that animosity.

"When I was in Seoul, they were still rebuilding. I went to the Canadian Embassy, and it had just opened. That would be 1973 or '74 [ten years after diplomatic relations began], and the Canadian Embassy was brand new. I sat and chatted with the person who was there, and he pulled out the guest book. I was the first person to sign that book. But the guy said, 'You can't sign the first page because the Ambassador and the Prime Minister are coming.' I had to sign on the third page!"

In a story about Peru, Conrad's bag was stolen with his papers and money in it. He had to go to the Canadian Consulate in Lima. He didn't have good memories of Peru. "The Communist rebels were like the Chinese communists. The country was close to civil war between the two blocks, and every foreigner was being robbed, even on the bus. There was a girl standing, and she had a purse bag, and all of a sudden I realized the guy standing behind

her had a knife in his hand. He just put the knife to her back and reached around and took her purse off her shoulder. She didn't dare move, and I didn't dare move either because I thought he'd just put the knife in her. The bus was packed, and he just pulled off her purse, and when the bus came to a stop, he backed out and jumped off.

"It was like that all the time. You'd see robberies all around, but the Canadian Consulate was good to me. It took a whole week to get all my papers straightened out again and get a passport and my airline tickets. Everything was in that bag. I had to go every day to the Canadian Consulate.

"I told the Consulate I had gone to the travel agency saying I'd lost my ticket, and the airline wouldn't talk to me. The Consulate got on the phone and called the travel agency, and told them he had a Canadian citizen who lost his passport and tickets. He said, 'You know how often we use your airline for all our people to come in and out of the country. Your airline was recommended, but it will be blacklisted now, unless you pass this guy.' He got off the phone and told me, 'You go back up to

the office and pick up your ticket.'

"When I travelled I made a list for my family, and said, 'I'll be checking into every one of those embassies.' Every country I went to I'd go to the Canadian Consulate or Embassy. My family sent my mail there.

"I don't regret choosing to travel. My wife married a few

times since. It was my ambitions that caused the problem, not her. You come to crossroads in life. You may have to make a decision, and no matter which one you take, you always wonder about the other road. It's all very fascinating. I'm often troubled, but I'm never bored by it."

Recorded by Sandra Stephenson



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