

## Fletcher's April 5<sup>TH</sup> Council Corner

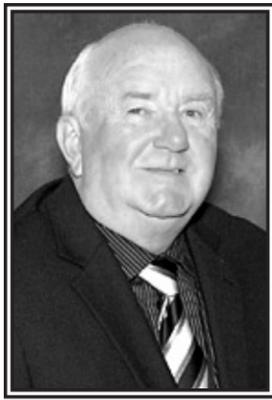
By Don Fletcher

We began council at 5 pm on April 5th with an in-camera session with 6 items covered. 2 moved to public council. Public council began at 7 pm with three presentations. The first was a great update from Ships Company Theatre who won 6 of 9 awards at the NS theatre awards in late March. They do a great job in adding to the tourists and locals visiting our communities. Check them out!

The Cumberland County Transportation Service was next. They provide a public service vital to our county. They will pick you up and return you home for a modest sum. They need 24 hour advance notice. Give them a try. The third presentation was on the Seniors Safety Program. They provide a FREE safety, information and referral program for seniors who are 55 plus. The coordinator Ray Bristol can be reached at 902 667-7484. Did I mention it is FREE!

Two public hearings were next with approval given to remove them. The Springhill and Parrsboro dog bylaw was repealed next. Pugwash water was next with a motion to approve the purchase of land within the watershed.

A motion to respond to a letter from concerned citizens regarding Pugwash water was also passed. The request for extension to the Pugwash Firehall for domestic water was discussed and approved. Continuing on with Pugwash Water approval was given to conduct a water quality



Donald Fletcher

testing program for residents to be served by The Pugwash Water Utility. The tender for the Parrsboro waste water treatment plant and collection system

expansion came in over budget and staff will revisit and report back at next council.

We approved a letter to be sent to the Towns of Amherst and Oxford regarding the new cell for the landfill and board representation pending UARB decision. Approval was given for the fees policy adoption at next council and the low income tax exemption.

Notice of intent to consider adoption at next council of the revenue collection policy, the procurement policy and the fire service purchasing policy was approved. This is to align the former Towns of Springhill and Parrsboro with the municipalities bylaws. The motion to approve first reading of the bylaw to repeal the Springhill and Parrsboro deed transfer bylaw was approved. Motion to approve

attending Ann Murray centre fundraiser in July was approved.

The warden also proclaimed April 23 to 29 as volunteer week. Our volunteers are our backbone and do great work. Please tell them!

The sunset credit card limit as well as temporary borrowing line of credit was approved next. We approved funding to finish the Springhill ball fields drainage project from next year's budget. Information items in the package included an update from the

bylaw administrator, municipal volunteer night, 12 months notice from municipal affairs and summer student employment. Municipal indicators and the 80/20 local truckers content are ongoing issues. Question: are you ready for a provincial election? Call your councilor, Don Fletcher.

**Don Fletcher is Councillor District 10 and Deputy Warden Municipality of the County of Cumberland.**

## Fletcher's April 19<sup>TH</sup> Council Corner

By Don Fletcher

We began council last evening April 19th at 5 pm in camera with 4 items covered. At 6:30 we began public council with 2 presentations. The first was the Pugwash Water Golf Shore extension. It seems the residents are not interested in a municipal water system which will provide safe drinking water at a cost. I am sure it will be on next council.

The second presentation was a representative from a company called Fire Marquee which basically will contact insurance companies after an incident and recover a cost for our fire departments at no cost to us. A 30/70 split. This will also be on a future council. At first glance looks like a win win!

A Climate Change retreat is being looked at for Thinkers Lodge in September 2017. We will meet with key players in the near future and more info will come forward. This will be an international group and looks very interesting.

Next, we had a short discussion on investing in equipment to do our own work, create jobs and save money. This matter will be an ongoing discussion. A short discussion on our financial indicators followed and this is an ongoing issue. Budget meeting dates was next and we will begin next Thursday.

The Municipality's fees policy, revenue collection policy, procurement policy and fire service

purchasing policy repeal policy were all approved. Say the last one three times!

A discussion on the 80/20 local truckers content was discussed and will be looked at on a case by case basis. A discussion followed on occupational health and safety brought forward by the committee. Staff will work with the committee to ensure we are all on the right track.

Two grant requests were approved along with helping fund a summer student position for Pugwash. We also approved a letter of support for councilor Palmer dealing with change of service levels at the Westchester post office. Six remittal of taxes were approved next. If you do not

get a tax bill contact the municipality or your councilor to sort out the problem.

Approval of first reading of a development agreement - Rafuse subdivision was next. This was followed up from Parrsboro merger. We agreed the McGee Street culvert project would be used to seek funding from the provincial capital assistance program. Motion approved.

Information items included canine control/bylaw officers report, dangerous and unsightly update and a thank you from the Pugwash Legion for assistance.

Question: Are you celebrating Canada 150? Call your councilor.

**Don Fletcher is Councillor District 10 and Deputy Warden Municipality of the County of Cumberland.**

## Fraserville Community Hall to Re-Open May 6

See photos on page 3

By Barbara Bennett

For decades rural Nova Scotia has been on the decline. The downward trend became really noticeable with the closing of small rural schools. Fraserville, located down the shore from Parrsboro towards Advocate on Hwy 209, is a no different. It's not a very big place. The hall, now a community centre was a one room school house. It is across the road from a little church. That's all we have except a few homes, cemetery and beautiful scenery. No stores, etc.

The community will again come to life on May 6th with the re-opening of the Fraserville Community Centre from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 6th.

If you are determined, miracles can happen. When you think there is no way forward occasionally something happens, out of the blue, and changes everything. Well that happened to us.

The little Hall in Fraserville began its life as a one room school. Many people from here and away remember learning their ABC's in this little building. If you peeled away the wall boards and insulation you would find the original chalkboards still there. Water was carried in by the bucket. There was a woodstove and an outside toilet.

As the years went by the little one room school had to be replaced by a regional school built in Advocate meaning children had to be bussed out of the community. Since the little building was still in good shape several people got together agreeing to take it over as a community hall. The original trustees were Mable

Crossman, Russell Bennett and Hollie Robinson.

In its 'hay day' the building saw a good deal of activity: quilting groups, suppers, dances, church receptions, family reunions, yard sales, bake sales and even a dinner theatre. Then after a number of years things began to slow down. Fewer and fewer people came forward to volunteer to help keep the building open.

The very few people who remained dedicated to the building tried their best to keep the building open as long as possible. They held yard sales and bake sales just to pay for electricity. They held on to the faint hope that somehow the building would be fixed up and used again.

However, time took its toll on the little building. There was still no reliable water source, the electricity was getting outdated, and the built-on kitchen began to break away from the main building. It began to look like the beginning of the end for the Little Hall.

A few of us were concerned what would happen to the hall, because it was falling into a state of disrepair. In the fall of 2013, at a small event at the Hall, a member of

this Community came to us and offered to donate a sizeable amount of money which we could use to make the Hall useable again. This person wishes to remain anonymous, but wanted the Hall to begin living its life in style again.

Over the next several months we joined up with the Cemetery Association which acquired legal ownership of the Hall. We could now get to work planning for required renovations. We hired a local contractor, Stephen McLellan, who used local trades people for carpentry, electrical, plumbing and construction. It took a long time but we feel very fortunate to have these people. We need to thank Mr. McLellan, who went above and beyond to help keep costs down and ensure we had a beautiful, sturdy building. We now have a hall which has a new kitchen, wash-room, sewer, a deep well, electricity, plumbing and siding.

After doing the final inside cleaning, a little decorating and some outside yard work we will be ready to open up the doors again for a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6th. We are so proud to now have a beautiful building to be used

by the Community for the Community. It has been quite a journey for our small group to get the hall fixed up and ready to have a new life serving the surrounding community.

Executive members of the organizing committee responsible for the cemetery and hall include: Malcolm Bennett, president; Monica Strong, Secretary and Annis Strong, Treasurer. Directors include: Louis Lambe, Geneva Bennett, Carol Allen and Robert Bennett. Barbara Bennett, Victoria Melanson and Mark Melanson are volunteers working with the committee. Barbara Bennett and her husband look after the cemetery in Fraserville, which is a free, historical burial ground.

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