

# REES' Pieces

## Wood for Heat

Can you remember back to your younger days, especially if you lived in the country, when on cold winter mornings, father got up, built a new fire, or stoked the hot coals, filled up the stove with seasoned hardwood, and soon the entire room was toasty warm?

I certainly do, and still remember occasionally water was frozen in the glass on the table, as a result I've always liked wood heat.

On Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, while attending the Central Woodlands Conference in New Glasgow, these memories flashed through my mind as I listened to Ian Ripley, General Manager, Athol Forestry Co-operative, Amherst present his views on using Wood for Heat to the 120+ attendees. His concept seemed very practical, as he outlined how his colleagues at North Nova Forestry Co-operative and Conform Ltd have been developing a plan for better usage of wood chips; replace fossil fuels, and keep money within the province rather than continuing major purchases for fossil fuels and Middle-Eastern oil.

Ripley's - or their vision - is to offer a "turn-key" program to install a wood boiler, supply seasoned wood chips to heat larger buildings or a collection of smaller downtown buildings with a district heating system. They are not concerned about the public's negative feelings toward clear cutting or chipping hardwood, because woodlot owners or the woodlot owner-owned co-operatives would send good quality saw logs to sawmills, and expand the availability of firewood. They intend to use low value forest products which may include both hardwood & softwood.

Part of Ripley's approach to a turn-key wood for heat system is the small amount of woodchips required. He cited as an example the Tatamagouche hospital. Its fossil fuel consumption is probably about 100,000 liters. His estimate was the facility could be heated with approximately 150 cords.

(Separate from Ripley's presentation, this writer knows of several outdoor wood boilers used to heat a workshop or a three bay auto garage are burning in 25-30 cords per year. Those who from Colchester and Cumberland counties, who are interested, or better yet, municipal leaders could ask owners of outdoor wood boilers, their level of consumption for a business that employs 5-6 people. If one then scales the size of the two operations in their mind, it's not hard to see efficiencies).

While the woodlot owned cooperatives have been developing their program, the one thing which has hampered quicker progress is the difficulty to change the mindset of those in charge. Negative publicity about the volume of wood chips used to generate electricity to operate the Port Hawkesbury paper mill has been a problem.

The efficiency and total usefulness of that boiler is lost, because the large volume of hot water is not used. Some experts suggest the boiler probably generates enough hot water to heat every home and business in Port Hawkesbury if a district heating system existed. Although that would not curtail criticism about clear cutting and chipping, when there is evidence old growth forests and perfectly good saw logs are chipped rather than being used in higher value applications.

The cooperatives are developing a "turn-key" program to finance installation, install the boiler; and supply seasoned high quality chips, every 4-7 days, or as needed. They realize they need the first large building installation, which can be used as an efficient working model.

As they continue to work on a long-term plan, they are interested in inquiries from property owners about "Wood for Heat" for large buildings or a downtown core district heating system. Look for them to start making presentations to a number of municipal councils.

On another totally separate matter, it was interesting to see Deputy Mayor Bill Masters bring to council's attention some of his observations on what the municipality and others in Colchester could raise the municipality's profile to encourage doctors to relocate here. Masters told council he saw one report about areas needing doctors and Colchester was not mentioned.

As a result of his observations, other councillors were in agreement, and decided to form a committee, seek participation from other Colchester municipal units. It's only in the formative stages, but it's probable once plans evolve, they'll be appealing for the general public to climb aboard.

Maurice

## Lr Onslow Preschool gets \$4,400.

By Linda Harrington

Lower Onslow Preschool gets \$4,400 as part of the Nova Scotia government's April 19th announcement of \$2.7 million to 51 centres in the province. These funds came from a Federal/Provincial agreement signed in January. Love, Laughter and Learning Centre Masstown will receive funding, whereas the Debert Child Development Centre did not apply for funding.

A \$2.7-Million-dollar space conversion grant will help convert five-hundred-seventy spaces in child care centres across the province. These spaces will support families with infants, toddlers and after school care.

Fifty-one centres received grants to convert their facilities. Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development says families want child care options that are affordable, accessible and inclusive and government is responding to that need.

Government originally desig-

nated two-million-dollars as grant funding to support existing centres to convert their spaces to meet the changing needs of their communities. Due to the overwhelming response from the sector for this grant funding, the province increased the original investment.

The five-hundred-seventy spaces reported by centre operators who applied for the grant include one-hundred-forty-four spaces for infants, three-hundred-forty-six spaces for toddlers, and eighty spaces for pre-primary wraparound care.

Lower Onslow Preschool has been awarded \$4,400. These funds are provided to assist in converting the centre to be able to expand their services for the surrounding community. Presently the age range at the centre is 3-5 year old's. In September 2018, the age will be lowered to 30 months. Lower Onslow Preschool's Director, Joann Micheline says this change is in anticipation of the loss of children that will attend the Pre-

Primary program in the surrounding areas. "The staff and Board are committed to offering the same high-quality child care service the centre has provided for the last 5 decades," she says. "We are very pleased with this funding, as it makes it possible to provide families in our community with a variety of options for preschool experiences."

There will be a Spring Celebration at the Lower Onslow Preschool on Saturday, April 28th from 11:00-1:30PM with crafts, games and some outdoor time. The Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year. Feel free to drop in and check them out, make contact through Facebook or call 902-662-2495.

The Love, Laughter and Learning Centre in Masstown has also been awarded funding. At press time they could not be reached for comment but it states on their Facebook page they will have a new program beginning at the Centre in September. They will offer "pre-primary wrap around

care" along with the preschool program for those not wishing to attend the preschool primary program at school. The Centre is holding an Open House April 26th, from 6-7PM.

Debert Child Development Centre did not apply or receive any of the recent Provincial funding but Vicki McLean was contacted about the Centre, which is located upstairs at the Debert Legion. She said their program is play based and child led, for children ages 3-5 years old. The hours are from 9AM-12PM. "We have lots of fun exploring outside, doing crafts, science experiments, story time.. all playing while learning!!," says Vicki.

For registration at Debert Child Development Centre you can email debertpreschool@hotmail.com or call 902-662-2225 Monday to Friday between 9AM-12PM or leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

## National Pharmacare Would Save \$8.1-Billion

National Pharmacare would save Canadians billions of dollars and improve health outcomes. That's the bottom line of a new report tabled in Parliament Wednesday by Chair of the Standing Committee on Health Bill Casey, MP, Cumberland-Colchester.

The Committee reviewed a mountain of evidence from 99 witnesses and 31 briefs; from doctors, nurses, patients, drug manufacturers, insurance companies, economists, academics; from the Parliamentary Budget Officer; and from other countries.

Their conclusion is that a national approach to purchasing prescription drugs for use outside hospital could save Canadians \$8.1-Billion per year and possibly billions more.

"Today about 20% of Canadians are inhibited in following their prescription by the cost of prescription drugs," says Casey. The report found that as many as 10% of

**"Today about 20% of Canadians are inhibited in following their prescription by the cost of prescription drugs,"**

**Bill Casey.**

Canadians have no drug coverage, and many more find that deductibles and co-pays make it difficult to take medicine as prescribed.

The report also found Canadians pay the 3rd highest prices for prescription drugs in the 29-nation OECD.

"\$8.1-Billion is the savings from eliminating out-of-pocket costs and from harnessing the power of bulk-buying for 35 million Canadians," explains Casey.

"But the potential goes beyond that: there are savings from elimination of duplicated administration, and savings from tax credits that would no longer be claimed, and savings down-stream from people following their prescription and avoiding more costly acute care."

The report says a national pharmacare approach would also shift costs from the private sector to the public sector, but the overall burden on Canada's economy would reduce drastically.

This could even be good for drug manufacturers, notes Casey. "Today there are something like 80 public drug plans and 113,000 private drug plans.

So imagine if drug companies only had to negotiate with one national buyer. They would get their products to market much faster and be more efficient. Patients, employers, governments, drug companies: National Pharmacare is a win-win-win-win!"

## Medical Recruitment – a Priority

Continued from page 1

With eager discussion on the matter council concluded a committee should be formed to initially consult with other municipalities, and then broader the inclusion. Mayor Blair, and Councillors Boutilier and Gibbs were appointed to the committee from council and will first contact Town of Truro.

Speaking on the matter, Councillor Taggart suggested council needs to focus on its core responsibilities of which social development is an important part. Councillor Stewart, who is current president of the UNSM, indicated a motion is forthcoming which will ask the province to hold a minister's roundtable.

Councillor Gregory, representing the Tatam-

agouche area added they have a full complement of four doctors, but many people still don't have a family doctor. He added, it was disturbing to learn at the hospital the emergency department will not even see you if you don't have a family doctor.

Councillor MacKenzie suggested from what she has learned recreation and appropriate facilities are key to medical recruitment.

From the immediate interest from around the table it is anticipated council will work hard and fast to get a core committee organized and it will be expanded to include every segment within Colchester including medical profession, businesses, community groups, and other medical service providers.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

**BASS RIVER:**  
Bayside Pharmacy  
Dominion Chain Factory Store

**BIBLE HILL:**  
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy

**DEBERT:**  
Debert Mini-Mart

**FIVE ISLANDS:**  
Masstown Market Five Islands

**GLENHOLME:**  
Double "C" Truckstop  
Glenholme General Store

**GREAT VILLAGE:**  
Wilson's Gas

**MAITLAND:**  
Frieze & Roy General Store

**MASSTOWN:**  
Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

**MILLBROOK:**  
Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites

**NORTH RIVER:**  
Grant's Grocery

**PARRSBORO:**  
CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

**TRURO:**  
Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

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The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20

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HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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