

# Energy Symposium in Springhill – May 2nd

By **Maurice Rees**

On May 2nd in Springhill for the fourth consecutive year the Cumberland Energy Authority is hosting an opportunity for people to gather to learn and discuss on an energy-related topic. This year, the topic of the symposium will be natural gas development.

“Natural gas development is an important topic to people in Cumberland County, and to all Nova Scotians. Learning about the process and potential impacts on communities will only put all of us in a better position to make informed decisions, if the provincial government decides to revisit the topic,” said Rennie Bugley, chair of the board of directors for the Cumberland Energy Authority and CAO for the Municipality of Cumberland.

The May 2nd event will take place in Springhill at the Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre.

Although it is a free event, attendees are encouraged to regis-

ter so that catering can be arranged as lunch is provided. Registration can be found at this link <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/cumberland-energy-authority-19839841496>

Previous symposiums have covered topics including mine water geothermal, climate change and renewable energy. Cumberland Energy Authority (CEA) was formed in 2012 through an inter-municipal agreement between the Municipality of the County of Cumberland, the Town of Parrsboro, and the former Town of Springhill to promote regional energy development. At present, the CEA is wholly owned by the Municipality of the County of Cumberland.

For more information please contact: Amanda MacLeod, Sustainable Communities Marketing Officer, 902-664-9736, [amacleod@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca](mailto:amacleod@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca)

## Cumberland Energy Authority

Energy Symposium – Agenda

Topic: Natural Gas Development

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – Springhill

8:30 – 9:00 Sign-in and name badge pick-up

9:00 – 9:15 Opening remarks

9:15 – 10:00 Ray Ritcey, CEO, Maritimes Energy Association

10:00 – 10:45 John Hawkins, President, Heritage Gas

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:30 Jonathan McClelland, CEO, Cumberland Business Connector

11:30 – 12:30 Barb Harris, Author & Ken Summers, Journalist, Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition

12:30 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 Jennifer Matthews, Manager – Regulatory, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

1:45 – 2:30 Sandy MacMullin, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Mines

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:45 Q&A panel and discussion with speakers from the day

3:45 – 4:00 Closing remarks

# Council Studies Wheeler Report Chapter 8

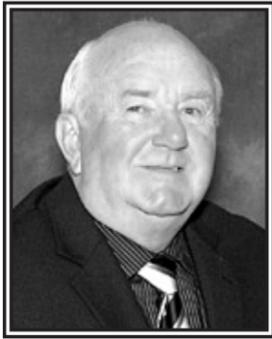
By **Don Fletcher**

An in-camera session started the council meeting on March 6 with three items up for discussion. The public meeting followed with two presentations. First was the sexual health center for Cumberland County, which have been in existence for over 20 years.

They use evidence based resources and individual guidance to help schools to do their work. Social media platforms are popular for sexual health promotion. It was a very informative presentation and appears much needed.

The YMCA provided information on how they have progressed in the past 10 years. They provide many programs throughout the municipality and are a vital part of physical health, child care and after school programs. Much needed.

Chapter 8 of the Wheeler Report on hydraulic fracturing was next. This chapter



Donald Fletcher

covered public participation in the assessment of risk. The main perceived risks by those submitting comments were related to water, community, infrastructure, economy, waste and clean-up, human health and climate change. They concluded by noting that ongoing public consultation, research and careful consideration of policies and regulations moving forward is required to ensure balance between sustainability and economic renewal in Nova

Scotia.

Council approved funds for adapted equipment to be purchased and used at Heathers Beach, the only provincially supervised beach in the county. This will allow everyone to enjoy physical activity and participate fully in our community regardless of ability.

A letter requesting a provincial representative for the RCMP advisory committee was approved as well as a letter of support for Canada Nature Fund Application. The annual volunteer recognition night will be held May 7th in Springhill. Mark your calendars and send in your nominations. See website for more information.

The CJSMA budget was approved. A request from Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) for feel good stories to share about municipalities working together was discussed and the collaboration between

Cumberland and Colchester regarding the GEO park was approved as well as the collaboration between Cumberland, Amherst and Oxford regarding physician recruitment. Both will be put forward.

The personnel policy regarding vacation entitlement for up to a maximum of 5 days being carried forward was approved. Info items included Order of Nova Scotia, NSFM resolution process feedback, letters of appreciation, and NSFM housing survey.

Council will be meeting every Wednesday for the next month covering budget preparations in between regular council meetings 1st and 3rd Wed. See you at council.

Question: Have you lost faith in our governments? Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

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# Better Governance Could Save \$1-Million

By **Don Fletcher**

Three items were covered during the “in-camera” session of Cumberland Council on April 17th. Public council followed at 6pm with a presentation on business improvement districts. This initiative began in Halifax and has been in existence for over 10 years.

The process allows businesses in a district to form a non-profit organization to collect dues to attract new business, communicate with others and beautify the district. They hold public meetings and vote and council must approve. Good presentation that will work in urban areas.

Council then followed up on governance indicators and began filling out the questionnaire. Financial sustainability strategy was discussed. We have already covered transfer stations; LED streetlight replacement; a police services review; an ongoing governance review and fire protection services. Potential cost savings of more than 1 million dollars could be realized.

The five year capital investment plan and 2019/2020 capital budget was approved. The complete budget will be approved in May.

Management without borders report from Dalhousie students on merits & demerits of hydraulic fracturing was discussed and after considering all of the factors it is recommended the energy authority cautiously consider the potential of hydraulic fracturing operations and how

they would impact the local communities in the long-term.

This is NOT a yes! Motion to approve first reading of the bylaw to repeal the taxi by-laws was approved. A request to present to council on the economic impact if Northern Pulp closes was approved for our 1st May council session.

As there are two sides to every story the other side will be asked if they wish to present in the future. A

federal/provincial matter that effects us all. Next council meeting is May 1st, 6 pm. See you all there! Question: What is your opinion on boat harbour? Call your councillor!

Donald Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10.

# Spring Concert – May 26

By **Patricia Burke**

The Parrsboro Band Association will hold their Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 7 pm. There will be Jazz, King Street Strummers, Elastic Big Band and The Parrsboro Citizens' Choir. Admission will be a donation at the door.

Come and listen to the great sounds of the groups who have been rehearsing all winter for this concert. Tickets will be sold on the Armilerry that will be drawn for on Sat. June 1 so make sure you get your tickets.

If you have not renewed your membership or would like to join you can do it that evening so come out and enjoy a night of music at The Hall on King St. on May 26.

# Rushton Pushes for ER Answers and Solutions

By **Maurice Rees**

Since the Legislature started sitting in late February, Tory Rushton, MLA Cumberland South has been adamant trying to get answers on the status of open hours for the Emergency Departments in his constituency. On February 28th he pointed out to Hon Randy DeLorey, Minister of Health and Wellness the Emergency Departments in Cumberland South are of primary concern to my residents. He stated in 2018 the emergency departments in the Northern Zone were closed for a total of nearly 6,000 hours.

North Cumberland Memorial Hospital which serves residents in Eastern and Northern parts of his con-

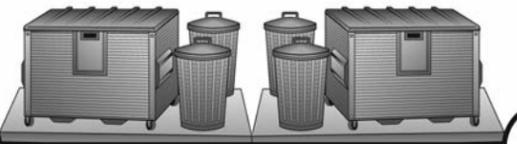
stituency were closed for 2,200 hours. South Cumberland was closed for a total of 1,700 hours. Residents in Cumberland South are travelling to the Amherst hospital which is already bursting at the seams with stretchers.

DeLorey replied, Closures of emergency departments only happen when the Health Authority is unable to staff adequately to provide safe care to the people through emergency services. He admitted many people going to emergency departments where it could be served in the community through a primary care provider. The Health Authority of over 120 physicians, about 55 or 56 of them are family physicians since April of last year.

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