

What's Happening in Oxford?

By **Ruthie Patriquin**

As I write this, we are in the grip of concerns about COVID-19 (coronavirus). Community programs, services and activities have been cancelled and meeting places closed.

Some businesses have made the difficult decision to shut down for awhile or are providing reduced service.

All decisions have been made with the health and well-being of members, staff, and the community at large, first and foremost, in mind and following recommendations from our Dept. of Health.

Things are changing constantly but here's what's happening as of March 18.

In an effort to provide an environment where Seniors are more comfortable to shop, Scott's Your Independent Grocer has designated the first hour that the store is open (8-9 am most days) for seniors shopping only. They are asking the rest of the public to respect and support this time period to help keep our seniors protected.

Lower Main Market has initiated grocery delivery, if required by those self-isolating.

The Church of the Nazarene Youth Group is offering to assist those who are house-bound due to COVID-19 by picking up groceries and other means. For more information, please contact Pastor Tyler (902 686-3806), or Pastor Jodi (902 303-0313).

PharmaChoice is offering to deliver your prescriptions if needed.

As for the Town of Oxford, it is working diligently on its response to the coronavirus outbreak, in collaboration with the Town of Amherst, Municipality of the County of Cumberland, and the Cumberland Regional Emergency Management Organization, to ensure the safety of its employees and the public.

This means making every effort to ensure the continuity of essential municipal services, while at the same time minimizing any potential spread of the virus. For details please see the Town's website and/or Official face book page or call the new recorded information line at 902 447-3129 for current updates.

The public is urged to consult the provincial website for official and updated information on the progress of COVID-19 at <https://novascotia.ca/CoronaVirus/#protect>. You can also call the Government of Canada novel coronavirus information line toll free at 1-833-784-4397.

Rachel Jones, Oxford's Chief Administrative Office stresses that "Keeping everyone safe and healthy, providing essential services, and maintaining emergency response preparedness are the primary objectives for the Town of Oxford. Adjusting programs and service levels to the developing situation may impact our customers.

We regret any inconvenience and ask for your support and understanding through this challenging and unique circumstance".

Ruthie Patriquin is Community Economic Development Officer, Town of Oxford, and can be reached at 902 447-2250



Ruthie Patriquin

Visitor Information Centres Closed

Provincial visitor information centres that are open year-round at Amherst and Halifax Stanfield International Airport starting March 17 will be closed until further notice. As an additional precaution, Tourism Nova Scotia office staff will work from home.

The tourism contact centre, which handles calls from travellers seeking trip planning information is also closed until further notice. Anyone who calls the 1-800 line or stops at a visitor information centre will be directed to the government of Nova Scotia's website for detailed information on COVID-19, as well as Nova Scotia.com

for travel information and updates. Operations will resume to normal when appropriate.

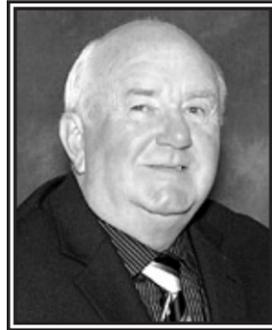
All Nova Scotia Museum sites and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax were closed effective March 13, until further notice. This includes Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Museum of Natural History in Halifax, Museum of Industry in Stellarton, Ross Farm Museum in New Ross, Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro, Firefighters Museum in Yarmouth and Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Birchtown, Shelburne Co.

Shubenacadie Wildlife Park was closed until further notice starting Sunday, March 15th. It will reopen when appropriate.

Cumberland Council Holds Telephone Meeting

By **Don Fletcher**

Wow, a different council session on Wednesday, April 1. We began in camera at 5 pm by phone, with everyone at home due to Covid-19. Four items were covered with one moved to public council. Public council saw the addition of media by phone and we covered each item and went around by district to speak and vote, actually very efficient. Draft capitol budget was first and then 2020/2021 operating budget. Draft capitol budget was approved by motion and staff



Donald Fletcher

will try and prepare the operating budget based on last year's

tax rate. Staff will work on the hard task of presenting a balanced budget to council. We hope to have it passed in May.

There was a short discussion on council boards and committees and how they are being handled. Each councillor to report to CAO what they are doing. 1st quarter funding for YMCA was approved and will be looked at further in the near future.

We had an overview from each director on how staff were dealing with Covid-19 and their daily routine working from home.

So far all is working very well and staff are doing a great job! We approved a tender award for our tourism board, marketing strategy and website. We also approved the CAO to award the Springhill Service Center third floor renovation providing tender results are with estimates. We also approved purchase of former CIBC bank building in Parrsboro. An information item was final building condition assessment for 4030 Eastern Ave Parrsboro.

Question: Are you staying home and practicing safe distancing? Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10

Two Virtual Meetings Planned at Thinker's Lodge

By **Don Fletcher**

We began council on April 15th with one item covered for a tele-conference in-camera session. With some difficulties we had to dial in again for the public council session. Media were invited to listen to the proceedings.

First item was a brief update from the Center for Prosperity who are planning at least two programs this year; a virtual program in May dealing with climate crisis and uncertain future. The September event will be a meeting with community leaders on building resilience. It is anticipated 20/30 regional leaders co-learning on what works for the future. Both events will take place at Thinkers Lodge in Pugwash. The update provided great information which is very much needed in these times of crisis.

Next we approved by motion to provide notice to consider adoption of the parental accommodations for elected officials policy, as well as, the remuneration policy for members of council at the May 6 council meeting.

Two first readings were approved by council for the public sewer by-law and the local improvement by-law. First reading of an amendment to the land use by-law is regarding a property in Upper Nappan at 467 Mac Donald Ave which

owners are wanting to convert to commercial usage. Public hearing is scheduled for May 20.

A tax collection report for the past three months was next on the agenda. Collections are going in the right direction with regard to collecting back taxes. Collections are slightly slower, at present, due to crisis.

The CAO and directors each gave an update on how staff are functioning during the crisis. It's amazing how we can adapt and carry on day to day. Great

job! Short discussion on virtual meetings. We are looking at Zoom which seems to be product of choice as it allows phone in as well as internet access. There will be test trials soon.

For me the drive home is much shorter. From dining room chair to lazy boy, 20 seconds compared to hour drive! We approved a motion to allow our councillors on the CJSM board to deal with an issue regarding recyclables and what to do with them on a temporary

basis. Littering is a problem in Springhill and staff will look at putting out the summer cans.

A question arose about visiting seasonal trailers at Glooscap Campground. At present the campground is closed by provincial guidelines and not to be entered. Staff will follow up. A budget meeting is scheduled for the 29th of April.

Question: Have you adapted to staying the blazes home and washing your hands. If so we will all get thru this? Call your councillor.

Don Fletcher is Cumberland Municipal Councillor for District 10



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OFFICE HOURS:
 Springhill: Monday-Friday 9 - 4
 Parrsboro: Thursdays
 River Hebert: Tuesdays
 Please call to set up an appointment.



TORY RUSHTON, MLA
Cumberland South



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A MESSAGE FROM MEG AND STAFF AT WINNOCK PHYSIOTHERAPY:

"Winnock Physiotherapy has not forgotten you !"

We hope you are staying well and safe.

- The clinic remains closed to the public, but Meg is working behind the scenes, offering telephone and audio/visual consults by Tele-Health Virtual Care, using a 100% confidential soft wear program, called 'Doxy.me' trusted by doctors.
- The NS physiotherapy licensing board permits treatment to 'urgent' or 'worsening' conditions. This would be carried out in the clinic using strict precautions with only the physiotherapist in the clinic.
- All clients who were attending prior to the Covid 19 closure are being supported 'virtually'.
- New appointments may be possible, also conducted in this manner. The McKenzie method which includes guided self-treatment and education lends itself perfectly to this new model of care.

Call Meg for further information or assistance.

Meg Mooring • 902-297-9279

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