

Vultures Visit Parrsboro, again!

Story & photo by Lawrence R Nicoll

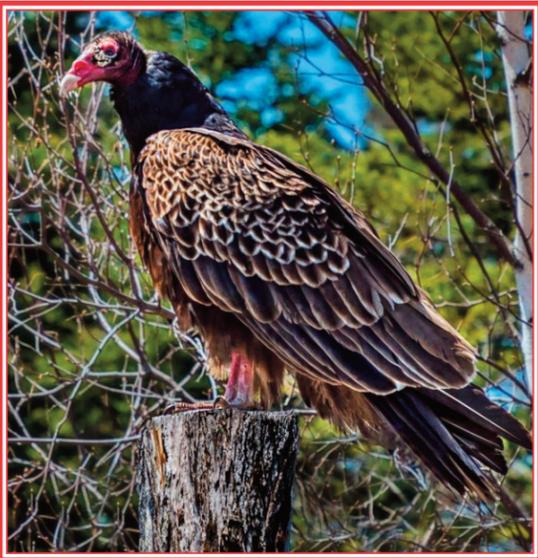
A family of turkey vultures from Advocate who were first noticed in Parrsboro in 2018 have more than doubled the size of the flock. Initially there were four, but when they returned to Parrsboro on April 9th the group had increased to nine,.

They spent a couple of hours during the high winds flying effortlessly around the area from the Aboiteau to the harbour. Incredibly agile, they floated across the sky doing acrobatics that was almost as thrilling to watch as bald eagles soaring over the water on a fishing expedition

The picture of a gigantic vulture on the stump is a file photo from 2018 when they visited last the Parrsboro area.



Extremely agile, the turkey vultures performed acrobatics which rivalled the flight of bald eagles.



One of the turkey vultures from Advocate sits proudly on a post.

\$172⁰⁰ or \$345⁰⁰ Per Year?

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April 10th, a balanced draft budget will be present to council on April 17th. Budget has to be approved by May 6th.

Additional items affecting the Parrsboro area were including in the draft Capital budget, which was approved at the April 1st meeting included: Whitehall Road Culverts Replacement, Parrsboro budgeted at \$80,000, funding sourced from Federal Gas Tax. The project is to replace three corrugated steel culverts that cross under Whitehall Road that were found on inspection to have corroded out bottoms and runoff is partially flowing below the culvert. The culverts are located: 180 m north of Phinney Lane; 150 m north of Lighthouse Road and 280 m south of Lighthouse Road

A Whitehall Road Guardrail Replacement, Parrsboro will receive \$15,000 from Federal Gas Tax for preliminary design for replacement of the existing guardrail on Whitehall Road at Ottawa House. Significant consideration will be given to the

steep bank beyond the guardrail and its stability. The proposed work as part of this stage includes: Determine the detailed requirements and prepare procurement document.

Parrsboro Service Building Purchase and Reno's valued at \$200,000 will be funded from Long Term Debt. The money was to purchase the former CIBC building. Project Description: Purchase of building in Parrsboro and minor renovations. Future use of the building to be determined at a later date.

The most expensive item on the Capital Budget also approved at the April 1 meeting was the Cumberland-Colchester Rural Broadband expenditure 2020/2021 of \$802,500 with Federal Gas Tax as source of funds is a three-year project in partnership with Colchester County to bring high speed internet to virtually all households and businesses in both counties, with work to begin this spring. The COVID 19 situation may accelerate this process.

Ashes to Rebirth in 7 Months



A kitchen fire on September 18, 2019 drew to shooting through the roof, as Parrsboro Fire Department uses an aerial ladder in attempts to save the building.

Story and photos by Lawrence R Nicoll

It took only seven months to go from Ashes to re-birth at 2363 Western Avenue, Parrsboro. The October 2019 issue of the South Cumberland News carried a story by James Shaw, Chief, Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department where he detailed the department was called at 10:30 pm to a kitchen fire on September 7th. Initially crews battled the fire from the outside, but it quickly spread from the kitchen to the upstairs and then soon was billowing through the roof.

Even use of an aerial ladder failed to contain the blaze, which caused extensive damage and the house eventually had to be torn down. With strong winds pushing the Fire, it eventually overtook the roof. Parrsboro responded with all four pieces of apparatus. Mutual Aid was sought from River Hebert, Southamptn, Fpw, Five Islands, Springhill and Economy Fire Department.

Members were on scene from 10:30pm until 7am returning at 9am for a Hotspot in the Front Room Area

On April 9th a new beginning started to unfold when a 22 wheeler from McConchie's Trucking, Sussex rolled into Parrsboro with a 2 piece modular home from the Prestige Homes factory in Sussex. It didn't take long for the new site to be hub-bub of activity.

A crane from A. W. Liel's, Dartmouth was already on-site and soon was lifting half the new home into position on the new foundation. Liel's experienced crane operators, who handle all the heavy lifting for Prestige Homes, skillfully separated the home while on the trailer, lifting each half into place as if it was nothing more than a piece of lego.

Soon other tradesmen were busy mak-

ing the final adjustments to seal the halves together as it they had never been separated. Within a few days the new home will be ready for the family to return to the site of their former home.

The sale of the home originated from Prestige Homes location on Hwy 102, Stewiacke. All homes are manufactured at the factory in Sussex, NB.



A rig from McConchie's Trucking, Sussex, in Parrsboro with the 2-piece modular home.



On the existing foundation, the new home is almost ready for owners to move in.

Reducing Staff Impacts Service Delivery

By Maurice Rees

The town of Oxford has been forced to lay off staff and curtail some services due to continued impact and uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the very early stages of the pandemic, essential services were identified as governance/legislated decision-making, sewer, water, streets,

accounts payable and receivable, payroll, information technology, and communications.

With no clear directive on Social gatherings and physical distancing there is a shortage of work for some areas within the organization not involved in the delivery of critical and essential municipal government services. As a result the

Town is not anticipating hiring summer students for this year. This will impact service levels within the community over the next several months for organized recreation programs, individual business supports, event planning, and greenspace development and maintenance.

The financial implications with these decisions are

between \$8,000-9,000 /mo.

The Town will regularly evaluate the changing requirements around the COVID-19 pandemic to be able to meet its obligations around staffing and financial management for the best long-term results for the community. Impacts on service levels and programming into the future will also need to be considered as this public health threat continues to evolve.

We Can and We Will

By Tory Rushton

WE can and WE will get through this together. As a COMMUNITY, PROVINCE and COUNTRY. This has been a statement I have been using on all my social media post since March 15, 2020 when my Facebook page became an avenue to update Cumberland South on COVID 19. Our worlds have been changed since the middle of March. Our localized world became very independent in a matter of days. Schools have been closed, events cancelled, business windows with closed signs. The most restricted era of any recent generation in Canada.

Since mid-March, I have followed the advice and recom-



Tory Rushton

mendations of Dr. Strang and I have been working from home. Staff have been in our office daily responding to issues as normal and doing check in calls around

Cumberland South. Many of you may have already received these calls. My staff and I are ensuring you are doing ok and making sure you are aware of the assistance programs being announced by the different levels of government. There are 2 key webpages that most of the information is found. <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/> is the Provincial site to follow and the Federal site is <https://www.canada.ca/en/dpartement-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses> We have been contacted by many residents and businesses that have not been able to qualify for any programs. We have been assured by both Governments; changes are on the way.

On March 15, little did I

know I would be utilizing my phrase of togetherness in a way I never imagined. On April 18 and 19, our province witnessed senseless acts that have impacted so many lives and communities. These acts do not define us as Nova Scotians. The acts of so many reaching out to help and help heal are what defines us as Nova Scotians. There were many areas impacted and Wentworth happens to be in Cumberland South which I represent. In a letter directed to the residents of Wentworth this week, I ensured them all we are here to listen and lean on.

To all families, friends and communities, Nova Scotia is with you, today and all the tomorrows. The Novau next month.

Tory Rushton is MLA for Cumberland South



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