

Residents Request Media Observe Privacy

By Tom Taggart

Residents of the Small Community of Orchard Beach in Portipique request that their privacy be respected.

I have been asked again, today, by the President of the Orchard Beach Land Owners Association to request the media please respect their privacy at this time. That they understand and respect, the role the media has in reporting on this Tragedy. They have advised that should they wish to speak with media, they will reach out, whether directly or by statement. Please respect their wishes!

Secondly, this is to advise Media that this small community and the road leading into it

are privately owned. When RCMP release the crime scene, a sign will be placed at the entrance advising that it is private property and trespassers will be prosecuted.

Private security will be in place to enforce their privacy. The community wishes to also advise that, enough cannot be said as to the outpouring of support they have received from their larger community.

However, security will turn away anyone who has not been specifically invited, as the residents attempt to return to some type of normality in their life.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, 902-899-7768, ttaggart@colchester.ca

Community Development CoVid Update

By Crawford MacPherson

The following is a brief synopsis of Department activity that may be of interest to Council regarding Covid-19 pandemic which has very quickly changed the world and how the Municipality operates. Staff have worked to keep our processes working as "normal" as possible while keeping our staff and the public safe and respecting the orders under the provincial State of Emergency.

Building inspection, planning and development control services continue to be provided during the Covid-19 outbreak. Although there has been a noticeable drop in subdivision, building and development permit applications, staff are using the downtime to explore ways to improve the Department's outreach services. Applications

are being received online or over the phone and arrangements are made to drop off plans at the door of the Courthouse.

All municipal parks and trails have been barricaded and posted as being closed because of the Coronavirus. All municipal programming has been cancelled or placed on hold until further notice. The interviewing/ hiring of the GIS Analyst position is on hold until it is safe to conduct in-person interviews.

Planning & Development: Staff have prepared a Request for Proposals to solicit interest in an affordable housing study for the Truro Colchester Region. The draft document is being reviewed by committee members and is expected to be issued by the end of April with a view to having a completed study by De-

cember of 2020.

Two Bylaw amendments have been considered by the PAC at its meeting on March 10; one involving a change to the Subdivision Bylaw that would enable the separation of a cemetery on an undersized lot and the other for a development agreement with Benchmark Developments for seven 2-unit residential buildings in Onslow. Staff are presently exploring ways in which a public hearing could be held in a virtual environment.

Fundy Discovery Site: A contract was awarded to COWI engineering for the design of a pedestrian bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site. The first two conceptual designs will be completed by April 22 with the detailed design process for the selected option commencing immediately. The design is expected to be completed by mid-summer of 2020.

A Request for Proposal was issued for the Interpretive Concept and Feasibility Study in mid February and a Council decision on a preferred consultant is expected to be in place on April 9, 2020. Staff are continuing to pursue a funding contribution for this Study through Tourism Nova Scotia.

A funding application is being made to NS Municipal Affairs Streetscape and Beautification Program for site improvements to the Fundy Discovery Site over the spring / summer of 2020. It is expected additional landscaping, site amenities / services and interpretive signage will qualify for such funding.

A capital budget is being prepared for site improvements at the Fundy Discovery Site over the spring and summer of 2020. This should be completed for Council's consideration at their regular monthly meeting in May.

Spring Clean-Up Cancelled

By Maurice Rees

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Colchester Council Committee will recommend to council will be cancelled for this year, but will be replaced with allowing an additional item per collection cycle for the next year based on motions by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Mayor Blair. The matter arose due to concerns raised by staff and commercial haulers related to COVID-19.

Brief discussion was held on total number of large items allowed per collection cycle; estimated cost savings of eliminating Spring Clean-up; and, parameters of the existing contract as it relates to collection during winter months for bulky items. The Municipal Solicitor advised that the current contract allows for the collection of one bulky item year-round. Discussion was also held on the possibility of having electronics picked up and stored 1910 April 9, 2020 until such time that the depots reopen. Mr. Fraser indicated that he would look into this. The Municipal Solicitor indicated that this is not part of the existing contract and would have to be negotiated.

If spring clean-up had continued the following schedule would have applied, but now has been cancelled: Zone 1 May 25th - May 29th; Zone 2 May 25th - May 29th; Zone 3 June 1st - June 5th; Zone 4 June 1st - June

Five new solar lights and seven site surveillance cameras have been installed at the Fundy Discovery Site in early March. Signage has also been fabricated and posted advising the public of site monitoring. The speed "ruts" will be infilled once the asphalt plant opens in the spring and a removable bump will be installed to replace the two asphalt cuts.

Crawford MacPherson is Director Community Development for Colchester County

5th; Zone 5 May 4th - May 8th; Zone 6 April 27th - May 1st; Zone 7 May 11th - May 15th and Zone 8 May 19th - May 22nd. Other areas would have been Town of Truro April 27th - May 1st and Town of Stewiacke May 15th.

Allowable items for spring clean up are as follows, but will be replaced by allowing one ad-

ditional item per collection cycle for the next year: Appliances (maximum one of each type); Boxsprings & mattresses; Broken glass (safely packaged); Furniture; Hot water tanks; Lawn furniture; Toys (bikes); Max. weight of individual items is 50lbs; Carpet 3ft. lengths and Bagged loose material in clear bags only.

Community Trail Funding Program Update

By Maurice Rees

Council requested clarification on funding for the Community Trail Funding Program winter applications at their meeting on March 26th. Specifically, Council asked if the funding for the approved applications, as presented, would be from the 2019/20 budget or the yet to be approved 2020/21 budget?

Staff confirmed there were sufficient funds in the 2019/20 budget to cover the applications. As in past practice, an amount will be put forth for consideration in the upcoming budget deliberations to replenish funds in the reserve.

Below is a summary showing the funding status of the reserve, with the inclusion of the Winter 2020 applications: Parks Reserve as of April 1, 2019, \$187,329; Interest (estimate Q4) \$1,000; Community Park Funding Spring Applications (April 2019) - \$ 50,078; Community Park Funding Information item (March 26, 2020) - \$ 68,552 and Balance, year end, \$69,700.

As a recap from the Information Item presented at the March 26th Council meetings, the following is information on the four applications were received for the February 28, 2020 deadline:

West Colchester Minor Baseball Association requested \$9,324.00 (50% of project cost) for the extension of the Great Village ballfield infield and outfield to accommodate older

(midget) teams. Staff has approved a grant of \$9,324.00 pending confirmation of other funding sources.

Valley Elementary School requested \$31,253.00 (38% of project cost) for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment to replace a large, unsafe play structure at the school. Staff has approved a grant of \$31,253.00 pending confirmation of project costs through the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education [CCRCE] tender process) and confirmation of other funding sources.

Harmony Heights Elementary School Parent Teacher Group requested \$11,300.00 (50% of project cost) for purchase of a disc swing, trees and shrubs as well as design of a new natural play area at the north end of the school. Staff has approved a grant of \$11,300.00 pending confirmation of project costs (through CCRCE tender process) and confirmation of other funding sources.

North River Elementary School requested \$16,675.00 (50% of project cost) for the installation of playground enhancements including musical instruments, a hill slide and sand kitchen. Staff has approved a grant of \$16,675.00 pending confirmation of prices from the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education (CCRCE) tender process and confirmation of other funding sources.

Total funding for the Winter applications is \$68,552.

"No Plastic in Green Cart" Logo Created

By Maurice Rees

Colchester's diversion and recycling team continued with an aggressive education campaign during 2019 by visiting twenty-one businesses - while there they shared the new solid waste education materials. New materials from Divert NS included "Refuse to Waste" collateral which is made up of table toppers, poster and door decal. Staff also completed a visual waste audit to ensure proper separation of materials in bins and appropriate signage was available.

Day long presentations were given to all the classes at Brookfield Elementary. Primary to Grade six were given the importance of recycling; what goes where and tips to "Reduce Single Use". Staff also met with the recycling club and rewarded them with reusable steel straws. They created a new decal "No Plastic in the Green Cart".

200 Apartment Sorting Guides went to a large apartment owner, while 50 went to a local real estate company. Working with the

Manager of the Burger King on Robie Street, staff completed a solid waste audit. In the beginning the only had garbage bins throughout the store. Staff had them change to organics and garbage. They were also given new signage.

Other activities included meeting with the Bible Hill Junior High guidance counselor to develop a plan for the Discovering Opportunities Grade 9 Class. This year the theme is the environment. Correspondence sent to the local VON office asking them to advocate for their patients by providing them a safe sharps container for safe disposal of their needles. Patients have been given non-program containers and they are not accepted at the pharmacies. Updated the waste sorting guides and created four versions - Residential, Apartments, Business & Schools formed a part of the education program, while updating the 2020 Waste Reduction Guide. Another facet was the analysis of the GHD Waste Audit for Nova Institute for Women.

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