

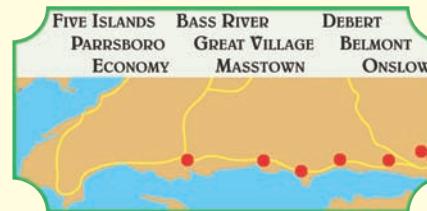
**Fish & Chip Boat
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The Shoreline Journal

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2023

Wentworth Recreation Centre Mega Bingo will be held, Sunday, May 7th, 2023. Doors Open @ 11:30 Early Bird Play Starts @ 1PM \$50.00 for 2-6 up Book (all 15 games Inc). \$3,300.00 Cash Prizes. Tickets Available In Advance & If not sold out - will be available at the door. Sold Extra: Early Bird Cards 4 Up \$5.00-10 Games. Canteen Available. Info: Contact Sandra 902 899 8583 E transfer Accepted @ sandra.mayne@ns.sympatico.ca

Following a ratepayers meeting on March 1, the North River & District Fire Brigade, The chief submitted a request to council at its March meeting to increase the area tax rate from 14 cents to 16 cents per \$100 assessment. Approximately 20 people were in attendance, and approved the 20 year plan for expenses, operating costs, future purchases, building maintenance & upkeep, training, calls & fundraising.

The North Shore Senior Citizens Association approached council for a \$1,500 grant for the 50th Anniversary Celebration to assist with costs for the 50th Anniversary being held along the North Shore on April 29, 2023. The event will attract seniors from the area as well as outside. The group is planning to have 100+ seniors attend the event.

Colchester County is showing a significant increase in development permits. 14 Permits have been issued in the current period compared with a total of 15 permits in 2022. 23 Permits have been issued in the year to date. In the current period 6 subdivision plans have been approved compared to five plans for all of 2022. With building occurring at a fast pace, 18 Plans have been approved, year to date.

Functional Space Analysis, Municipal Office. On motions by Councillors Boutilier and Patton Council authorizes staff to award the Functional Space Analysis for 1 Church Street to Root Architecture for a contract value of \$56,500 excluding HST, with source of funds being the Courthouse Reserve. The scope of work also includes the preparation of cost estimates for any renovations, as well as the estimated cost for a new building at an alternate location. Four (4) consulting submissions for the Functional Space Analysis were received by the closing date of March 23, 2023. The results are summarized as follows: Stantec, \$29,094; Nathaniel Salfas, \$34,543; Root Architecture, \$56,500 and DSRA, \$96,980.

By Maurice Rees

Because of their growing populations, Colchester and Truro will receive a combined total of \$2,610,901 for municipal enhancement's thanks to an investment from the Houston Government, Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River MLA Dave Ritcey said in a press release.

Town of Truro will receive \$1,065,723 which can be used to improve the community in a variety of ways, while

The Municipality of the County of Colchester will receive \$1,545,178 for the same purpose throughout the broader region.

This funding can be used for projects such as: the creation of services, accessibility, housing and improvements to transportation services. The Municipalities will have until March 31, 2025 to spend this funding and demonstrate the positive impact it has on the community.

"We believe that investing in municipal infrastructure is not only a wise financial decision, but also a critical step towards creating a more sustainable and resilient community," said MLA Ritcey. "This investment represents a commitment to building a better future for all of us, and our government is proud to be a part of it."

Officials from the two municipalities were unable to provide of specific plans to

use the money within the next two years.

This local development is part of a broader \$31.9 million investment through the Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF), which helps eligible municipalities grow their communities by aiding them with capital infrastructure needs.

Local MLA's have been making similar announcements for other municipalities across the province.

Permanent Memorial Planning Underway

By Maurice Rees

Mayor Blair sought council's support to move forward and start discussions on permanent memorial for the 22 victims, plus an un born baby who died in Canada's largest mass murder, which started in Portapique in April 2020. The motion was seconded by Councillor Patton.

During discussion on the matter, Councillor Benoit mentioned she had spoken to members of five families. They have given approval, but not sure how much they can help. During the meeting several suggestion were brought forward. One suggestion Fundy Discovery Site, perhaps across Salmon River via the proposed bridge might be good location; another was along the shore overlooking the water; on lands with the Bass River Historical Society, which is nearby Portapique and somewhat central to Debert and County of Cumberland might be an ideal location if discussions with the historical society were successful. Another suggestion was McElmons Pond, near Debert will be repurposed following closure of the Park.

Choosing a site, design and cost sharing will be a task in itself, because four municipalities are involved: Colchester, Cumberland, HRM and East Hants, because each were locations of tragedy.

The Colchester committee, initially charged with discussions with other municipalities, families of victims and general public is comprised of: Mayor Christine Blair, Councillor Marie Benoit, District 9 and continued on page 3



Now that weather is inching toward the construction season, framing of the new community hall has started. The original schoolhouse will be reconstructed adjoining the new structure. With the significant price increase in building materials, a funding gap needs to be overcome for project to reach completion. (Rees Photo) Also see story and photo on page 2.

Hurry, Get to Middle Stewiacke Tonite

By Maurice Rees

Those residents of Colchester who are interested / concerned, or just like personal meeting can attend the second in a series of five open houses tonight from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Middle Stewiacke Rec Centre, 2395 Highway 289, Middle Stewiacke. This meeting is part of the open houses for the Municipality of the County of Colchester "Plan It Colchester" - a project to develop a County-Wide Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). Please read on:

The project expected to take two months will include: Online Open House Presentation; Public Survey, Interactive Mapping Activity, plus five open houses. The project is be conducted by Upland Consulting, who were awarded a contract by the Municipality.

The first open house was held last evening (April 25th) at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall, Picton Road, Bible Hill. Upcoming meetings are as follows: April 29th, 1:30-3:30pm, Tatamagouche Public Library, 170 Main Street, Tatamagouche; May 2nd, 6:30-8:00 pm, Brookfield Curling Club, 55 Carter Road, Brookfield and May 8th, 7:00-

8:30 pm, Economy Recreation Centre, West Entrance, 3315 Hwy 2, Economy.

To give you as much information as possible, we downloaded information from the County's website (www.colchester.ca). This information about the process to discuss Municipal Planning Strategy (MBS) and Land Use By-law (LUB). Please read on:

Colchester, like the rest of Nova Scotia, has seen a recent population increase, and with a growing population comes pressure for new development. Without planning in place, communities have no say in where and how their communities grow and change.

Recognizing the changing dynamics of development in Nova Scotia, the Provincial Government passed Bill 58 in 2018, an amendment to the Municipal Government Act that requires every municipality to develop and adopt planning that meets the minimum planning standards. This project will bring Colchester County into compliance with the new provincial regulations, while also presenting an important and

continued on page 3

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