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Colchester County

WORKING WITH
COMMUNITIES IN
COLCHESTER &
CUMBERLAND COUNTIES

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United Way Also Focusing on Cumberland County

By Sarah Flemming

Community is at the heart of everything the United Way does. As we at the United Way of Colchester County reflect on what our communities have come through this past year, all that we have accomplished, and how we prepare for what is ahead, we realize we have a lot to be grateful for... And it all comes back to "community".

As so many of us have discovered since early 2020, the world has drastically changed. We're all learning and adapting as we find new ways forward. In Nova Scotia's non-profit sector, the cry for change is particularly loud.

In Cumberland County, specifically, the local United Way office was forced to close in 2022 due to a variety of challenges that simply could not be overcome. Being a close neighbour, and already sharing in the support of many regional organizations and resources, the United Way of Colchester County is transitioning its operations in order to continue providing United Way services throughout Cumberland County.

As there are so many dedicated supporters of the United Way of Cumberland County, we want to assure the community that we are determined to not only grow our partnerships throughout the region, but to also work together to create positive change. As we set out on this new journey, our goal is to grow the work of the United Way in both counties - where money raised in either county will be respectfully allocated - and build on our commitment to supporting neighbours helping neighbours.

Increased need. This year, we have seen an increase of over \$150,000 in requests for program funding. The need is clear across the board for support in areas and issues that affect us all, particularly those most in need in our communities.

Through the support of individuals, families, and businesses, together with the United Way, we can achieve more than any individual or single organization could alone. When people continue to support the United Way of Colchester County, the funds get pooled together with other generous

donors to support vital human services organizations that focus on food insecurity, mental health support, pre-employment training and more.

Last year, United Way was lucky to have the opportunity to support programs in organizations throughout Colchester and Cumberland counties, including: Amherst Preschool Association; Autism Nova Scotia - Truro Chapter; BGC Truro and Colchester; Bridges Institute; Canadian Mental Health Association; Colchester Adult Learning Association; Cumberland County Transportation Services; The Lotus Centre, in partnership with the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre; MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning, Portapique Project; Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre, Colchester County; Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre, Cumberland County; Northern Healthy Connections Society; Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County; Tatamagouche Centre and Third Place Transition House.

Just as there is no shortage of need in our communities, there is no shortage of support. We've seen it first hand, consistently and without hesitation and we're grateful.

As we look ahead to this year, we are excited to have many events, partnerships and opportunities for connection and collaboration on the horizon. We truly could not do what we do without the support of our partners, supporters and friends... Our community.

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Archaeology Update re: Gateway Progress

By Maurice Rees

Members of the Debert Business Park committee learned that most of the archaeology has been completed at MacElmon gateway area. MacElmon West: the land is mostly cleared except for a buffer (50m) around any findings, which was shown on a map provided to the committee. This buffer would interfere with a roundabout. It was suggested Colchester could do more digging to further clear the land, but it is not

known if this will improve buffer. As an alternative it's likely best to proceed with developing the land that has been cleared.

On MacElmon East there are 4 findings in the NW corner, all 4 have a 50m buffer. Land is not usable, but surrounding property could be usable. Staff are currently waiting for a final report.

Abutting property at MacElmon East 2 report has been submitted with no major findings, but the report is

still not approved by DSRC. While the buffers are limiting, there may be potential to develop an intersection to access some of these lands.

Staff will be making a request to the province to eliminate the RBT and install an intersection. It's unlikely that immediate highway frontage development will happen due to archaeology demands. A truck stop is slated for MacElmond Road east.

CFFA 2023 Training Symposium Grant Request

At the March 30th monthly meeting a grant request was received from the Colchester Fire Fighters Association as a result of Mayor Blair received an email and accompanying documentation requesting funding support for up to \$3,000 for their Inaugural CFFA Training Symposium.

The CFFA represents 19 First Responders teams, comprised of 700+ members and is holding the event at the Debert Hospitality Centre from April 21-22, 2023. Purpose is to enhance and expand training opportunities for CFFA members and will bring many service providers to the area.

Debert Housing Study Funding Update

At a recent meeting of the Debert Business Park Committee, Michele Boudreau, Colchester Public Works, updated the committee on infrastructure funding related to the Hudson Housing Development. The County was awarded \$6 million in ICIP Funding, which is 70% of the expected costs to improve the capacity of the Debert treatment plant.

Additionally, 50% funding from the provincial government was received to extend the gravity line to service Hudson & Tracker. Boudreau indicated the next steps will be to

draft an RFP for developers and develop a framework to the 4 phased development project.

Councillor Tim Johnson asked if developers could proceed with their infrastructure prior to the municipality's being done to which Boudreau replied yes.

I-Beams Stolen in Debert

By Maurice Rees

It would be a sad, evil event at any time, but for thieves to steal two 700 lb I-beams destined for the Memorial Park in Debert during the third anniversary of the tragic mass murder in Portapique is unthinkable.

A Facebook posting by Nick Beaton stated, "A Cash reward for info that will lead me to the people that stole the two 18 ft steel I-beams from my wife and heather's memorial site for the bridge to connect the two for us, you low

life's hit an all time low".

District 9 councillor, Marie Benoit adds, "If anyone has seen anything we are thinking between Thursday and Sunday morning. These 2 beams are over 700 lbs and would need a trailer and multiple people. If you seen anything please let me know or RCMP. A case is opened and they are checking cameras along Plains Road".

Benoit continued, "All funds were donated or raised by community members or businesses, this is unbelievable and not fair to the families".

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