



Light Show Outstanding Success.

By Sherry Martell

For the past nine months our Chamber has been working on a massive community-building project with our many partners across the county.

This ACOA funded project was focused on boosting consumer confidence as we

emerged from the pandemic and giving people opportunities to visit storefronts again to support small business as they returned to main street shopping areas.

One of the last parts of this project for us to complete was hosting a Welcome to Spring - Butterfly and Blossom Celebration at the Truro Farmers' Mar-



Sherry Martell

ket on March 21, adjacent to the Civic Square.

This area was fluttering with a kaleidoscope of activity for the whole evening as we awaited dusk to mark the official launch of a spring-themed lightshow appearing on the Colchester East Hants Regional Library. The Chamber and Downtown Truro Partner-



More than 200 people attended a Welcome to Spring - Butterfly and Blossom Celebration at the Truro Farmers' Market on March 21, hosted by the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Truro Partnership. Submitted photo.

15 Ventura Drive, Debert to be Demolished

A municipally owned property at 15 Ventura Drive in Debert Business Park failed to find a new owner following an RFP in February 2023 is slated for demolition. The property and building details are as follows: Lot Size: 1.13 acres; Building Footprint: 4422 square feet (approx.); Frontage: 281 feet along Ventura Drive; Paved driveway and parking area and is cleared and has municipal water and sewer services.

In February 2023, an RFP was issued to attract business proposals for the purchase and use of the building and associated property at 15 Ventura Drive. While there was much interest from the private sector, no submissions were received. Staff conducted multiple walk-throughs of the building, but all prospective

buyers felt the building would require too much investment to make the building usable for their needs.

An independent market appraisal of the property (completed in November 2022) values the building and land at \$250,000. Currently the building is vacant and does not have any prospective tenants. Staff have listed the building for lease; however, utility expenses and deteriorating building conditions have deterred any potential tenants.

In 2022, the operating costs for 15 Ventura Drive were \$27,300 (fuel and water utility expenses). There was no revenue (lease or otherwise) associated with the building in 2021 or 2022.

Based on the current market and building conditions, the building could be leased at

an approximate rate of \$6/sq. ft., equating to \$26,532 in lease revenue/year. A potential tenant would also be responsible for utility expenses. It is unlikely that Colchester will find a tenant based on the building conditions and high associated utility costs.

The site is an important parcel considering it is the entrance to Ventura Drive. Over the past three (3) years, Colchester has been working to re-gentrify and improve the aesthetic of this area of Debert Business Park.

Improvements in this area include: The purchase and ren-

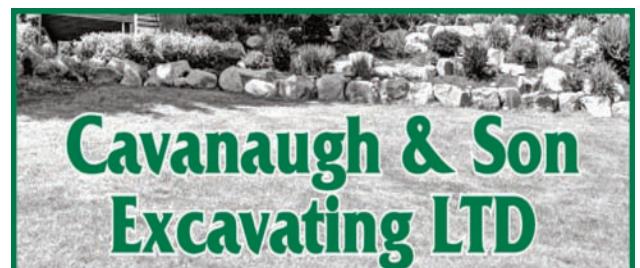
ovations to 266 Ventura Drive (Debert Aviation Centre); Sale of lot 89 Ventura Drive to Global Construction; Tentative sale of 18 acres of property (scheduled to close on April 15, 2023) and Private investment by Colchester Ground Search and Rescue and Black River Realities through construction of new commercial warehousing for both companies.

As the sun went down and the light show launched even more people arrived to watch. We are excited to share that the lightshow will be extended for viewing and will be cast daily from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. until April 21. This spring-themed lightshow transitions from winter to spring with colourful animations set to music that highlight our strong

tie to agriculture, tourism, the tidal bore and Victoria Park. It also recognizes that the North America Indigenous Games will be held in Nova Scotia in July with the archery portion of the games hosted in Millbrook First Nation.

This event will draw thousands of participants and spectators from all around the

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Grade 1 students (L-R) Blake Julien, Paisley Staples-Barkhouse, Hunter Spencer and Leah Robinson were among the students expressing love by collecting items for the Truro Homeless Shelter. (Harrington Photo) See also page 16.

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