



Shown above is wreath made by Deb Howell, and is being offered as second prize in the Debert Military Museum annual "Quilt Raffle" (Deb Howell Photo)



The Debert Museum annual quilt raffle is for this quilt made Wanda Frizzle. Also shown is the poppy wreath made by Deb Howell. (Deb Howell Photo)



Debert Elementary Grade 1 students are following the Mi'kmaq Teaching through the book "The Lost Teachings". During February their theme was Love. They were inspired to put their love into action by collecting items for the Truro Homeless Shelter. (Harrington Photo) See also page 2.

Debert Truck Parking Area Could Cost \$250,000

By Maurice Rees

In the ongoing discussion concerning establishing a truck parking area in Debert Business Park, Jen Mantin presented cost estimates from Wilkare for a truck parking area, which would be intended to decrease the volume of trucks along MacElmon Road. Estimate for the excavation work and 18" class A gravel and a roadside curb would be \$250,000. Paving of this area would add \$75,000.

Mantin pointed out the subject parcel (572 MacElmon Road) is a prime area for development (18 available acres). There's potential for commercial development, a truck parking area may interfere with developer investment. However, with the archaeology progress at the Debert gateway (exit 13), there may be available areas there to accommodate trucks in the near future.

The park committee is faced with the ongoing question: If we don't do this, what is alternate plan in meantime?

Community members are still required to clean up trucking litter and it's become a bio-hazard (150 bottles of urine per year). Mantin has discussed with stakeholders, but the issue is specific to 3rd party truckers. It has been reported Tim Hortons and TDL are frustrated as the 3rd party truckers are using their parking lot for parking overnight. The problem is causing serious traffic concerns as truck parking is also causing visibility issues.

Signage, fines, cameras and RCMP presence were discussed as potential solutions.

Marie Benoit District 9 councillor and committee chair, Asked about hiring someone short term for roadside litter. A grant was secured in 2022 but the committee

couldn't find an employee to take on the term. The grant money doesn't roll over, but the same funding stream will be available again this year. Last year, approval was late in the season. Staff are to look into signage expenses for next meeting.

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