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 VOL. 8 NO. 12
 MAY 2026
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municipality of cumberland

Cumberland Council March 25TH Tid-Bits

The following decisions were approved by Cumberland Council at its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 25th.

Cumberland approves rezoning of Springhill, Port Howe properties
 Cumberland municipal council approved second reading of an amendment to the Land Use By-Law to permit the development of a self-storage facility on Junction Road in Springhill. The property, which was one time housed the NSLC, is 3,965 square metres of vacant land. The property owner is looking to create self-storage facility on the subject lands. The facility would consist of two 20x80ft storage containers, which will house individual self-storage units. Council also approved second reading of an amendment to the Land Use By-Law that will rezone a portion of land at 3544 Kolbec Rd., Port Howe from Agriculture to Commercial Recreation. This will permit the development of a campground on five acres of a 40-acre plot of land. The subject property is a waterfront lot located along the River Philip.

Council gives first reading to rezoning of former Pugwash fire hall
 Cumberland municipal council has approved first reading of an amendment to the Land Use By-law to rezone a property at 10260 Durham St., Pugwash, from Institutional to Commercial General. A public hearing will be held prior to second reading. The property is the former site for the Pugwash Fire Hall. In 2009, the Pugwash Fire Department moved to its present location at 11057 Highway 6. The owner of the Durham Street property is proposing to retrofit the building to create commercial and residential uses. The intent would be to establish one rentable commercial unit and a short-term rental unit on the second floor of the building.

Gilbert Hill Roads Maintenance Assn Petition approved
 Municipal council has approved the petition for Private Road Maintenance and Improvement Charge for the Gilbert Hill Roads Maintenance Association. The Municipality had received a signed petition from the Gilbert Hill Roads Maintenance Association. They have outlined that the estimated maintenance costs for the applicable roads will be \$22,800 which will be charged equally to all property owners listed on the applicable roads. There are 79 eligible properties in the charge area so there will be a charge of \$289 per property. The private road charge will be added to each property and will be billed with the annual tax bill each year.

Sharon Rogers, Mackayla Scott approved as Adult, Youth Representative Volunteers
 Council has approved Sharon Rogers as the Municipality's Adult Volunteer Representative of the Year and Mackayla Scott as the Youth Representative Volunteer of the Year. Each year the Municipality hosts a Volunteer Recognition Event to recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals who volunteer their time and skills to provide services and programs in our communities. This year the Municipality will be honouring 33 local volunteers at its annual Volunteer Recognition Event on April 21 at 6 p.m. in the CIBC Common Room at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill. This event coincides with National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 2026.

Council approves purchase of four properties near Pugwash Wellfield Protection Area
 Municipal council has approved the purchase of four properties from WH Forestry Canada Inc. at a total cost of \$198,310 plus HST. These four properties all neighbour the Pugwash Wellfield Protection Area and have been identified as properties that would help protect that wellfield and the water supply for the Pugwash area for many years to come.

Cumberland Recognizes 8 Employees for Service

The Municipality of Cumberland honoured eight employees for their years of service to the residents of Cumberland County during an all-staff event at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

"Each year of service represents more than just time on the job. It reflects dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to serving our residents with care and pride. Whether you work behind the scenes or on the front lines, each of you plays a vital role in keeping our communities strong, connected, and moving forward," Mayor Gilroy said. "Local government is

where people experience public service most directly. It's where roads are maintained, water flows, recreation programs thrive, and support is there when it's needed most. That doesn't happen by accident—it happens because of people like you who show up every day ready to make a difference."

Chief Administrative Officer Greg Herrett said employees play a prominent role in making the municipality a great place to work. He congratulated the eight recipients for their years of service and dedication to the municipality.

"Reaching a milestone like this doesn't happen by chance.

It reflects years of hard work, consistency, and a strong commitment to public service. Each of you being honoured today has helped shape this organization in meaningful ways—through your experience, your knowledge, and your willingness to go the extra mile," Herrett said.

"What stands out most about long-serving employees is not just what you've done, but how you've done it. You've supported your colleagues, adapted to change, and continued to deliver high-quality service to our residents year after year.

"As an organization, we rely on that kind of dedication. It creates stability, builds trust, and

sets an example for others to follow. You've helped build a workplace culture we can all be proud of."

Those recognized in 2026 include: Betty Anne Paris, 45 years, Customer Service Representative in Parrsboro; Isabelle Chapman, 40 years, Crossing Guard/Flagger; Cathy Ward, 35 years, Payroll & Benefits; Candace Calder, 20 years, Crossing Guard; Barry Melanson, 20 years, Wastewater Operator/Mechanic; Melanie Predergast, 15 years, Recreation & Community Services, Admin Assistant; David White, 10 years, Driver and Bradley Wood, 10 years, Water Treatment Operator.



Municipality of Cumberland Chief Administrative Officer Greg Herrett is shown with service award recipients David White, Isabelle Chapman, Bradley Wood, Cathy Ward and Melanie Predergast. Missing are recipients Betty Anne Paris (45 years), Barry Melanson (15 years) and Candace Calder (20 years). (Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo)

Greg Herrett, CAO Retiring Sept. 30, 2026

After a career spanning nearly 30 years in municipal administration, Greg Herrett has announced he is retiring as the chief administrative officer with the Municipality of Cumberland effective Sept. 30, 2026. He'll be staying on with the municipality in an advisory role until Dec. 31, 2026, to assist with the transition to the new CAO.

Herrett made the announcement during a special meeting of Cumberland municipal council on Monday, March 30, 2026.

"There's been lots of challenges but there's also been a lot of accomplishments we've completed together with this council and the last one. We've done a lot of work together and I'm proud of that work and the people I work with," Herrett told council. "Even though it will be tough to leave I'm looking forward to what's next."

Municipality of Mayor Rod Gilroy thanked Herrett for his contribution to the municipality since he arrived in the position five years ago.

"The list of accomplishments

is a mile long," the mayor said. "None of us would be sitting here and we would not have enjoyed the success we've had if not for everything you've done."

After working in the private sector, Herrett, a Chartered Professional Accountant, joined the Town of Amherst as the director of Corporate Services in December 1997 and became the town's chief administrative officer in August 2005. In April 2021 he became CAO of the Municipality of Cumberland. He is a past president of the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia and served terms on the Boards of both the NS Property Valuation Services Corporation and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (now NSFM).

During his tenure with the Municipality, with the support of Council and staff, he led a complete overhaul of its organizational structure to address gaps and redundancies leftover from two municipal dissolutions a decade ago. He oversaw a detailed review of the fire service and the

implementation of the "hub" model of the fire service. Most recently, under his leadership, the Municipality undertook a detailed review of the development, planning & permitting function with a report & recommendations due later this spring.

A number of major capital projects were completed during his time including construction of a new library in Pugwash, the Junction Road reconstruction and new fire hall in Springhill, with planning now underway for both a new library in Parrsboro and new fire hall in River Hebert.

Herrett, along with Amherst CAO Jason MacDonald, successfully negotiated a landmark inter-municipal agreement between the Municipality and the Town of Amherst, which enabled the development of a major housing project in an area on the boundary between the Town and County, in return for access to hundreds of connections to Amherst's sewer infrastructure for county properties in an area just outside the town.

RCMP Investigating Thefts and Damage to Infrastructure

Cumberland County District RCMP is investigating several recent incidents of intentional damage to critical infrastructure. The damage appears to be associated to theft or attempted theft of copper wire and investigators are seeking information from the public.

On April 6, two thefts of wire were reported to police. First, officers learned of a theft of cable from a location near Thomson Rd. in Wallace Bay. Later, a second theft of between 50 and 100 feet of copper wire was reported from a location near Kolbec Rd. in Kolbec.

On April 7, officers learned of damage to cables off Hansford Rd. in Hansford. It appeared that the lines were cut but not stolen.

Property crime associated to critical infrastructure like power and phone lines often cause power outages and disruptions in Internet and phone service. Service disruptions did occur in all three incidents on April 6 and 7.

These investigations are ongoing.

Anyone with information about intentional damage to critical infrastructure or other property crime is asked to contact Cumberland County District RCMP or local police.

Contact information for RCMP detachments in Nova Scotia is available here [link: <https://rcmp.ca/en/nova-scotia/detachments>]. To remain anonymous, call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers, toll-free, at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca or use the P3 Tips app.

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