

\$10,000 to Lr. Onslow Centre



Councillor Doug MacInnes, and Lower Onslow Community Centre Board Chair, chats with volunteer carpenters Arnold Selway and John MacKay about the recent improvements to preschool entrance. The stairs have been widened to accommodate a chair lift to ensure the playschool is accessible. (Harrington Photo)



Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey looks over the new ramp with Lower Onslow Community Centre volunteer Ann Fiddes, after the funding announcement of a \$10,000 grant towards accessibility upgrades at the Centre. (Harrington Photo)



Emcee Jenn MacKay introduces the guest speakers, right to left, MLA Karen Casey, Lower Onslow Community Centre volunteer Ann Fiddes, Councillor Doug MacInnes and from St. John's Anglican Church, Warden Michael Sherren. (Harrington Photo)

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Let me personally thank the many volunteers and the fundraisers in the community who are the drivers behind successful proj-

ects like this community centre. Our province is committed to continue our support and in 2016, we will be introducing Nova Scotia's first Accessibility Legislation.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North

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what was done 30 years ago.

With this in mind I have had the 2016 Municipal Election added to the council agenda next week so we can attempt to ensure we can make things a bit easier in the next Municipal Election.

Now on to my second rant. It's one I intend to try and address at next weeks council meeting.

I am sure you have heard me mention garbage and road side litter before. Well last week I got a call from a resident who was tired of picking other people's litter off the side of the road. He said he walks every day and every day he picks up a grocery bag almost full of coffee cups, cigarette packages, fast food containers and other junk as he walks along the road.

At the same time I was a bit irritated because the drive-thru where I had been getting coffee every morning had removed their garbage cans (To be fair, from the drive thru only, not from the parking lot). However I, like I am sure many coffee drinkers, have a cup in their Cup holders and are in the habit of throwing it in the garbage when they get a new one. Now that the garbage

cans have been removed, mine goes on the floor, but if you take a drive out to the Highway ramps in Debert or Truro you will quickly see where most are going.

Since this was irritating me I went to 11 different fast food and coffee drive thru's and guess what, with the exception of 2 all of them had removed their garbage cans. Now I am not trying to excuse the pigs that throw their garbage out the windows but I am going to try and force the restaurant owners to replace their garbage cans.

On that same theme, what has happened to all the signs that used to be roadside that said **DO NOT LITTER**, I wonder when the last time the RCMP charged someone with littering. It is out of control and in my opinion time we raised the profile a bit.

To further this discussion, I would comment that I spent last weekend in New England and on two occasions saw prisoners out cleaning the sides of their roadways. Now is that not a novel idea!

On the bright side it is an outstanding fall day. West Colchester is providing some breathtaking scenery, I encourage you all to make the time in the next week or so and take a drive along our shore. Tom

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

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I would like to deal with the facts in this situation.

Here are some facts about the WCUA operations over the past few years:

- Ice rentals in Debert for minor hockey went from 981.5 hours in 2011/12 to 878 hours in 2012/13 to 453.5 hours in 2013/14. (This is the major cause of the projected deficit)
- Skate sharpening went from 871 pairs in 2011/12 to 641 pairs in 2012/13 down to 559 pairs in 2013/14.
- In 2011 the WCUA had a significant reserve in the bank and had been carrying a reserve fund for some time.
- WCUA board of directors is projecting a \$53,000 deficit for the 2015/16 season.
- The County paid \$72,500 in capital cost last year, no operating cost.
- The County also paid \$9,000 in insurance cost last year.

The arena did have a contract with a local company to use the facility for storage during the summer months. This agreement has ended and so has the revenue.

The County Recreation Department set aside \$38,000 in 2014/15 for all three arenas to be used for new program opportunities. Along with this our county Rec department also made up and distributed information packages to the local schools in the area. They also purchased ice time for schools, public skate

times and figure skating.

The fact is Colchester County Council has always supported our local arenas and will continue to do so. We can debate the merits of the RECC until the cows come home but the fact is it wouldn't help the situation the WCUA finds itself in. Personally I'm going to move forward and try to help find new revenue streams and funding for our rink.

I sure hope some of you want to help because I know for a fact it's going to take everyone getting involved and supporting our rink to turn this around. We can stand around pointing fingers at the causes all day or we can put our heads together and come up with some solutions. Which do you think will be more productive?

In closing I would like to say thank you to the Board of Directors and the staff of the West Colchester United Arena. For decades you have poured your heart and soul into this facility and you deserve the gratitude of the entire community.

Thank you all.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

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