

# Blair Colchester's New Mayor

By Maurice Rees

Christine Blair who served three terms as District 1 Councillor for County of Colchester garnered 53.02% of the vote to nudge incumbent Mayor Bob Taylor 46.98% out of the County of Colchester Mayor's chair in municipal voting on October 15th. Blair received 3051 votes compared to Taylor's 2703. Bible Hill's districts 1 & 11 determined the outcome of the election with 1270 voters casting a total of 1270 votes. Blair attracted the support of 817 (64.331%) of Bible Hill voters while Taylor's 453 votes represented 35.669% support.

In the overall picture Blair earned 53.02% of all votes, with Taylor slightly behind at 46.97% support. In the nine council districts outside Bible Hill, Taylor edged out Blair by 12 votes, 2,246 compared to the new mayor's tally of 2234.

Prior to entering the mayoralty race, Blair had served three terms on council. She held the position from 1997-2000 and 2008-2012, a period of seven years. In the previous council she was Chair, Police Advisory Board; Chair, Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee; Member, County Flood Advisory Committee; Member, Sewer Use Appeals Committee; Member, Joint Taxi By-law Committee; Member, Community Advisory Committee for the new hospital.

In 1992, Councillor Blair became an elected Commissioner for the Village of Bible Hill and served in that position for 13 years. She served as Chairperson for the Village of Bible Hill and was the inaugural Chairperson for



Christine Blair

the Association of Nova Scotia Villages.

Taylor was first elected to County Council in October 1997 in District 1, representing Bible Hill and Valley. He was re-elected in October 2000 in the new District 1 representing the western section of Bible Hill and re-elected in 2004 for District 1. He was elected Mayor of the County on October 18, 2008 and re-elected as Mayor on October 20, 2012.

Taylor has been very involved in the community for the past 30 years, mostly in sports, recreation and the fire service. While serving on Council, he has served on the Planning Advisory Committee, the Police Advisory Board, the Steering Committee for the new civic centre and the Flood Advisory Committee.

As Mayor, he presided over Council and serving as a member of the Executive and Audit Committee, the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, and the Community Centre Operating Board. He was also the ex-officio member of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee. Recently, he was elected as a Rural Caucus Member and a Board Member of the UNSM.



The deck on "The Boat" at Masstown Market was full on Saturday, October 8th. This is the last weekend for the boat as it closes for the winter. (Rees Photo)



The crowd at Masstown Market was so large the parking lots were full and customers were parking their vehicles on the side of the road. The weekend was the last one this fall for "the boat", plus two tour buses were taking up a lot of room in the parking lot. (Rees Photo)



With two tour buses in the parking lot, fine weather and many people wanting to enjoy food at the boat, all parking spaces at Masstown Market were taken. Some customers were parking alongside the road, while other were parking across the road at Masstown Petro-Can. (Rees Photo)

## Water Tower Project In Design Stage

By Maurice Rees

Conceptual drawings for the new Debert Water Tower are still in the design stage. It's anticipated design of the new \$1.4-Million facility to upgrade the water system in Debert will not be available until December or January. Construction must be completed by March 31, 2018.

In addition to the \$13.8-Million that has been spent, since 2012, on the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment facility elsewhere in this issue, the September

issue we reported the Municipality of Colchester had received \$2.03-Million for three water and wastewater projects under recent funding announced by Premier Trudeau under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works for Municipality of County of Colchester says, all of the projects funded by the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund

must be complete by March of 2018, which means construction during the summer and fall of 2017.

The projects include: The replacement of a major sewage pumping station and forcemain in Debert (\$1.4M project, with 75% of funding coming from the province/feds); Construction of water/sewer/ stormwater piping to open up highway frontage lands in Debert

(\$750,000 project with 75% funding coming from the province/feds and replacement of aging sewer lines in Tatamagouche (\$500,000 project with 75% funding coming from the province/feds).

Newell added, "The Debert Water Tower project is still in the design phase, so no preliminary drawings to be released at this time. We should know more by December/January, since we aim to start construction in the spring of 2017".

## Colchester Mayoralty Candidates Results

District	# Polls	Christine Blair	Bob Taylor
District 1	5	287	166
District 2	7	296	383
District 3	7	201	239
District 4	5	101	207
District 5	5	233	257
District 6	5	402	277
District 7	7	183	204
District 8	7	348	225
District 9	7	260	226
District 10	7	210	228
District 11	5	530	287
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3051</b>	<b>2703</b>

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