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# South Cumberland NEWS

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## Cumberland Adopts Sexual Harassment Policy

By Maurice Rees

A September 5th motion on a flag policy for Cumberland was sent back to staff for clarification at council's meeting on September 19th.

Cumberland has adopted a sexual harassment policy to provide a safe, healthy, and rewarding work environment for its employees. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The purpose of this Policy is to prevent sexual harassment and to deal quickly and effectively with an incident. Employees who violate this policy may be subject to a wide range of disciplinary measures, including dismissal for cause.

This Policy applies to sexual harassment occurring at the workplace, in the course of work, or during any activities which could reasonably be associated with the Municipality, including social events. This Policy is effective upon adoption and replaces any previous Sexual Harassment Policies.

Council has adopted a new LED Street Light Policy on motions by Councillors Fletcher and Porter. The purpose is to encourage a responsible attitude with regard to street lighting, to allow flexibility and individual system design, and to regulate the payment of the streetlight system by recovering a cost through a "user pay" system whereby streetlight strings are paid for by the people who own property within the boundaries of the string.

This Policy requires an "absolute majority" means agreement among two thirds of all property owners with one vote per property which fronts the area to be modified, added to or removed from the streetlight string, or which fronts on the proposed new streetlight string. Property is defined as a taxable assessed property, and includes vacant land, land

used for agricultural purposes, land used for forestry purposes, small remnant parcels of land and land with small frontages.

Each property within 30 meters of both ends of the string system will be billed a uniform rate. A property owner who owns more than one assessed property served by the same streetlight string shall make separate payments for each assessed property. Other stipulations and regulations are contained in the lengthy documents.

Council has adopted a new Fees Policy for the following applications, approvals, permits, licenses, certificates, or services as follows:

Preliminary Subdivision Application, \$75; Proposed subdivision \$200, includes a new, varied or extended public or private application; Open Space /Recreational Capital Fund Fee, to \$100 per lot;

Relation to Land Use Planning and Development, Zoning Confirmation letter \$25; Development Permit Processing, \$25; Variance Application Processing - No Fee; Site Plan Approval Application Processing \$200. A complete list of fees is available from the municipality.

Sewer Lateral Installation Fee, includes all costs for materials, labour, equipment and permits to install a sewer lateral from the Municipal sewer main to the boundary of the road right-of-way: 4" diameter lateral \$2,000; 6" diameter lateral \$2,500 and 8" diameter lateral \$5,000. For complete list of regulations and fees, contact the municipality.

All former Fees Policies of the Municipality are hereby repealed. All fees previously charged by the former Towns of Springhill and Parrsboro in relation to Subdivision, Land Use Planning and Development or Building and Demolition Permits are hereby repealed.

## MacKenzie Park Water Main Replacement

Brycon Construction has been awarded a tender for \$278,250.00 for Parrsboro's MacKenzie Park neighbourhood water main replacement. The tender was awarded on motions by Councillor's Fletcher and Welton at Cumberland's September 5th meeting.

The tender is a change order to the existing Waste Water Collection System contract. It will be funded by gas tax reserves.

In another matter the September 5th meeting package to councillors included an update on the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark update.

## Three New Solar Energy Projects for Cumberland

By Maurice Rees

Three solar projects for Cumberland County were announced by Deputy

Premier and Finance Minister Karen Casey announced in Springhill on October 15th. Funding will come from the

Solar for Community Buildings Program for three new projects in Springhill, Parrsboro and Amherst.

The Municipality of Cumberland will install a set of solar panels on the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre. The 75Kw project will dramatically reduce the energy cost for the facility. The centre already uses green technology with mine water geothermal heating and cooling. The solar panels will further drive down their carbon footprint.

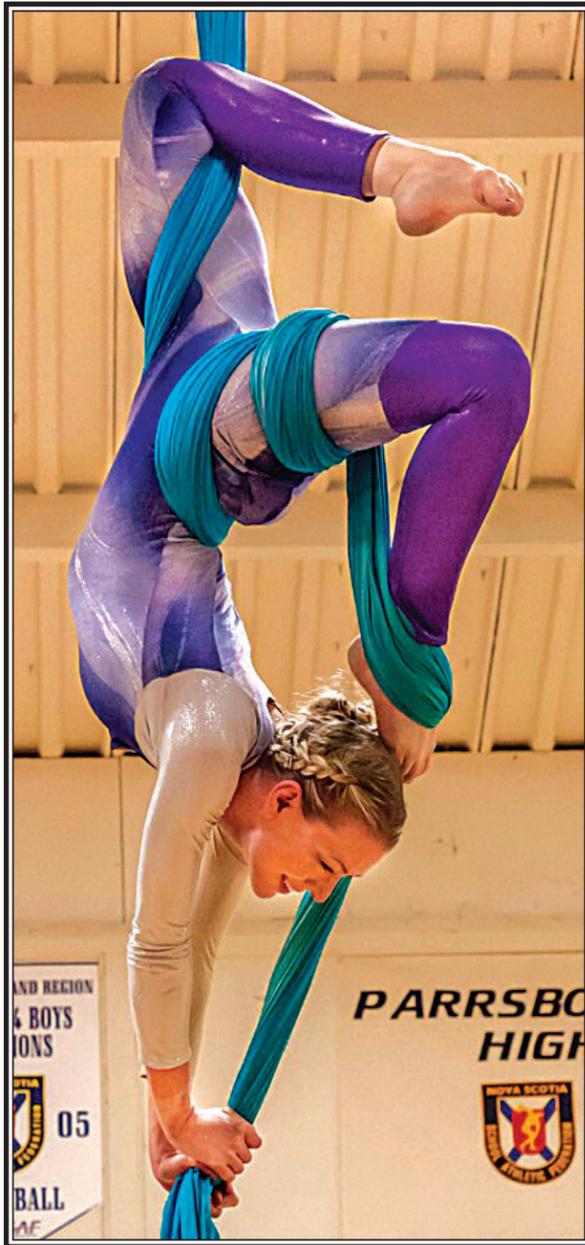
The Solar for Community Buildings Program enables eligible community groups and organizations to generate up to 75kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity on their roofs or properties and sell it to their utility under a 20 year contract.

The Municipality of Cumberland has the goal of

being the greenest municipality in the province and to be an example of sustainable planning worldwide," said Warden Al Gillis. "Much like other examples of renewable energy innovation in Cumberland County, such as the Springhill Geothermal Industrial Park and the FORCE tidal energy research site, this sustainable energy installation will move the municipality forward to a greener future."

The Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy (FORCE) will install a 25kW project on the roof of its visitor centre located near Parrsboro, N.S. The install will coincide with FORCE's efforts to foster tidal research, another alternative energy source. "We are very pleased to participate in the Solar Electricity for Community

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Kristen Ribbons, Parrsboro was part of the Halifax Circus Troupe who delivered a spell-binding performance at Parrsboro Regional High School on Wednesday to a packed gymnasium of 225 people. (Submitted)

## Develop Nova Scotia to Lead Internet Strategy

By Maurice Rees

Michelle Byers, Amanda MacLeod, Stephanie Moreau provided a written report to Cumberland Councillors for their September meeting outlining their findings from a Develop Nova Scotia stakeholder

engagement session in Truro, NS on August 21st. The Province of Nova Scotia announced in July the Waterfront Development Corporation was to become

Develop Nova Scotia.

Develop Nova Scotia will help connect communities and create vibrant places that strengthen the province's economy — they will encourage investment throughout Nova Scotia by creating sustainable places. Develop Nova Scotia will be expanding their board from that of the Waterfront Development Corporation to create a governance model that will represent

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## Two More Tax Sales Scheduled For 2018

By Maurice Rees

Cumberland's outstanding property taxes were \$124,550 higher in August 2018 (\$6,784,905) than in August 2017 (\$6,660,355). A total of \$591,463 was collected during the month of August 2018. Property tax collections for the month of June and July 2017 were \$545,901.

The 2018/19 levy amount is \$21,805,434 compared to the 2017/18 levy amount of \$19,722,723.

A second adjourned tax sale was scheduled for October 16, 2018. There are 33 accounts on this list including those minimum bid accounts that did not sell on June 21 and June 22 as well as the tax sale that occurred on August 14, 2018.

Preliminary Tax Sale Accounts Preliminary tax sale letters for Ti accounts (accounts with 6 and 7 years outstanding) were issued February 14, 2018 to a total of 116 accounts with an original outstanding balance of \$417,877.64. Title searches have been received back for 31 accounts in this group. The

60 day notices were issued by September 14, 2018 which will establish a tax sale date of November 20, 2018. Preliminary tax sale letters for T2 (5 years outstanding) were issued March 13, 2018 for a total of 84 accounts. Request for title search for the 52 accounts was sent to the lawyers, 20 searches were received back from the lawyers.

A further sales is slated for November 20, 2018 for those from the Ti group and issuing 60 day notices on September 14, 2018. There are 28 accounts awaiting title searches to be completed for this group.

Preliminary tax sale letters for TS (4 years outstanding) were issued April 24, 2018, originally there were 234 accounts with this group and an outstanding balance of \$689,990. There were 111 accounts sent to the lawyer on August 17, 2018 to have title searches completed. A deadline of November 8, 2018 was established to have these searches completed by.



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