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Most Signage in Colchester County Illegal

By Maurice Rees
Thousands of highway signs throughout Municipality of Colchester are illegal and in violation of a by-law, which has been on the books since adoption in June 2002. If you or your business has erected a highway sign throughout Colchester you probably are in violation of the county's Land Use By-Law.

All signs are illegal if the sign owner does not own the land on which the sign is located. The matter was revealed at the September 15th committee meeting of Municipality of Colchester council following a complaint to the by-law enforcement officer and municipal officials about a sign in North River.

The matter was brought forward by Mayor Bob Taylor, who was not sitting in the chair as the committee meeting was being chaired by Deputy Mayor, Bill Masters. Mayor Taylor asked for "signage" be added to the agenda after it was brought to his attention an unidentified sign in North River was the basis of a complaint. He asked for council's consent to direct by-law enforcement to delay action on signs until council had the opportunity to review and possibly change the bylaw.

However county solicitor, Dennis James, interjected to say it would be illegal to direct staff to ignore an existing bylaw.

The existing Signage bylaw section 8.3 under the heading: Signs Prohibited in all Zones - All other provisions of this By-law notwithstanding, the following signs shall not be erected or used in any zone: 8.3.7: signs not related to any business or use located on the lot or premises.

Translated into general terms, the by-law is specific if a sign is to be erected it must be done on property owned

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS October 2016

The 2016 Reverse Trade Show, "Building Opportunities - in public sector purchasing" will be held on November 8th at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax. The 2016 Reverse trade show links business with the provincial tendering process. Those registering to attend the November 8th event will benefit from engaging with public sector buyers; exchange information and ideas, plus explore procurement opportunities for your business. Pre-registration is required. If interested an exploratory email can be sent to: supdev@novascotia.ca or contact: Beth Hartling- Project Coordinator - Outreach and Education, Nova Scotia Procurement; Tel: 902-424-7658, Fax: 902-424-0780; beth.hartling@novascotia.ca

Challenges in Western Canada continues to provide problems for Empire Co. (Sobeys) as it announced Q1 profit has fallen from year ago. It earned \$65.4-million in its latest quarter compared with \$108.8-million a year ago. Its stores in Western Canada continue to struggle.

If you haven't already experienced it traffic is reduced to one lane on three roads in Colchester County during paving and other road improvements. The roads are: West North River Road, from Onslow Road for 5.3 kilometres to Truro Road; Onslow Mountain Road, from West North River Road for five kilometres and Trunk 2, from Pleasant View Drive west for one kilometre. Work takes place from sunrise to sunset and is scheduled for completion on Oct. 31. Meanwhile in Bible Hill work will continue on Pictou Road until Monday, Oct. 31 which will periodically be restricted to one lane.

continued on page 6



Kyle Hill-McMillan fills his water bottle from the new filling station at Chiganois Elementary. The counter shows that over 600 water bottles have been filled since the start of the year. A \$2750 grant from DuPont Pioneer Full Belly! Full Mind! Program was used to purchase the filling station.

continued on page 4

Library Re-opens Sept. 29th

Story & pics by Maurice Rees

The Colchester East Hants Public Library will re-open its doors in its new \$-Multi-Million facility on Thursday, September 29th. Library patrons have been without the services of the library for the summer months, permitted staff to pack up all the books from the previous location and then prepare for re-establishing all the books and documents in the former Normal College and the new addition.

About six weeks month ago, the old building was demolished and work crews are busy building the new Truro Downtown Civic Square in front of the Normal College. The civic square will incorporate approximately 20 benches. Sponsorship of the benches is being offered at a cost of \$1,500 each. Constructed from solid cast aluminum, sponsorship includes installation, a customized plaque, and maintenance for 10 years.

The new library facility is *continued on page 3*

Odours from AIS Problematic

By Maurice Rees
At its committee meeting on September 15th new items added to the agenda included: Colchester Food Bank, Signage, Heavy truck traffic on Plains Road and odours from AIS in Debert. The subject of signage, added to the agenda by Mayor Bob Taylor involved significant discussion and is covered in another story elsewhere in this issue.

With regard to the Food Bank, it was noted that over the summer, contributions were low and the shelves were practically bare, but the major problem is the Colchester Food Bank has to find a new home within a year. Earlier in the winter, representatives from the food bank, appeared before council to explain their move from Lorne Street to downtown, and that the long term objective would be to construct a new facility.

With notice from their landlord, the current location will not be usable after next year, because the site is to be redeveloped.

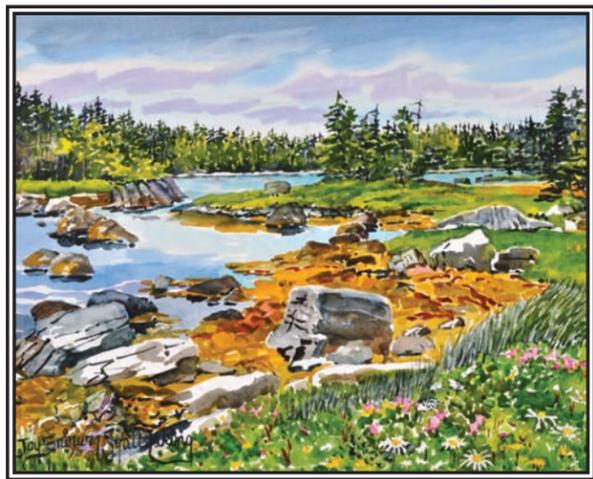
Councillor MacInnes added Plains Road heavy traffic to the agenda because of ongoing complaints about truckers using a back road instead of Highway 104 and using the Plains Road exit. Under previous discussion a letter was sent in May to NSTIR, but no response has been received. There is concerns in several areas, safety through the village is one, but also that the trucks are too heavy for the existing roadway and will soon destroy the newly repaved sections of the roadway.

MacInnes said in his discussions, TIR does not believe there is flagrant violation of truckers misusing the highway system. He added all they have to do is do a traffic study

to see how often it happens. It is anticipated the matter will be added to the agenda for the next scheduled meeting between council representatives and NSTIR.

Councillor MacInnes acting on complaints from Debert area residents added Odours from Atlantic Industrial Services to the agenda. Residents have complained they frequently are afflicted with strong unbearable odour from the AIS aeration ponds. It's not confined to the immediate area around the facility. Even residents on Crowe's Mills Road and Belmont have called him saying there are times, when they can not even enjoy a BBQ on their back deck. When it happens they have to go inside and close all the windows and doors.

In his research on the matter, MacInnes said he has been informed the aeration equipment is old and outdated, and *continued on page 24*



View this new watercolour during Joy Laking's 28th annual Open house Oct 15-16 and 22-23. More photos and the whole story on page 3 of this Shoreline Journal. (Photos Submitted)

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