

Masstown Community News

By *Christine Urquhart*

Summer is officially over. It is now autumn. Let us enjoy the cool nights with the warm days while they are here. The leaves are starting to turn and this is a good time to go for a drive in the country to enjoy the beauty of our world!

School is back in full swing! The children are doing better at watching for cars but please keep an eye out for them. Our children are our future.

The DGM Men's Club will meet on Saturday October 1st at the Double C Restaurant at 8am. All men are welcome!

The Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday October 6th, 7pm, at the home of Gail Hines. All women are welcome!

The Masstown Community Association are selling tickets on a "Ready For Christmas" basket. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. You can get your tickets from any Association member. The Association is also holding their annual Pumpkin Carving event on Saturday October 29th from 1-3pm at the Masstown United Church basement. All children must be accompanied by an adult and should bring carving materials with them. Pumpkins are donated by Blake's Pumpkin Jungle. The next meeting of the Masstown Community Association will be held on Monday October 17th, 7pm, at the restaurant part of the Masstown Market. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings!

Looking ahead a couple of months to December, the Masstown Community Association will be holding their Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Park on Friday December 2nd at 7pm. Just something to mark on your calendar!

There have been a few visitors this past month: Steve & Jodie Barley and their twin sons from Kitchener Ontario visited his parents, Jack & Mary Barley. Ron and Chris Urquhart drove up to Sydney where they first visited with Rev. Carol Gillard and then on the

following day visited with Chris' cousin, Jennifer and her husband Stuart Barker of Shaw, England who were on a cruise which docked in Sydney for a day. Brenton and Denise Smith, Kentville and Debbie Baillie, Amherst visited Ron and Chris Urquhart at their cottage in Brule. Sharon Keokeok, Paris, Ontario visited Lynda Stevenson and Bob Warning.

Congratulations to Bill and Shirley Leeming who just celebrated their 31st Wedding Anniversary!

Condolences go out this month to Owen Coffell on the death of his companion, Elizabeth Merle "Betty" Langille.

May you take the time to enjoy the little things in life - stop and smell the roses, listen to the birds singing, notice the rain drops falling, smell the dried up leaves crunching under foot - and may you be blessed with appreciation for these many gifts we have been given!

Council Cancels Tender Call for Robie Street

By *Maurice Rees*

After approving the agenda for its committee meeting on September 15th, Colchester council delved into making changes to personnel policies, which included increasing vacation to six weeks for employees attaining 22 years service. Previous the limit was five weeks after 15 years service; maternity and parental leave was combined and that employees caring for a new adopted child is eligible for the Top-up provision as provided to employees on maternity leave.

There was considerable discussion if adoption of a 10-12 year old child would entitle employees to the same benefits if the adopted child was a new born, or preschool. After discussion and explanations of the legal framework by county solicitor, Dennis James, the motion was adopted as recommended by staff.

At end of discussion committee approved staff recommendations as presented that included changes to Personnel Policies covering: 2.03 Harassment Free and Respectful Workplace; 3.01 Salary administration; 6.05 Vacation; 6.06

Maternity and Parental Leave; 6.18 Group Insurance Plan; 6.19 Payroll Administration; 6.23 Non-Uniforms, Uniforms and Identification; and 6.24 Wellness Program be approved, as presented.

At the time of closing on August 12th two tenders had been received for a new forklift for the Materials Recycling Facility were opened. Net bid amounts were Liftow \$77,149.00 and Wajax \$67,035.00. Liftow's net bid amount was recorded incorrectly by their representative, and when the review was completed by Municipal staff, it is noted that the actual amount should have been recorded as: \$88,084.00. Staff recommended, which was approved by council on motion by councillors MacInnes and Cavanaugh to purchase a 2016 Hyster, H60FT from Wajax at a cost of \$51,199.00 for the unit, and an additional

\$10,275.00 for the optional onboard scale.

On motions from councillors Cavanaugh and Cooper council approve the terms of reference for the Livestock Control by-law and appoint four councillors to the committee as part of council appointments, following the October 15th municipal election. The committee will also include on representative from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Council deferred until spring 2017 awarding a tender for Highway 236 / Robie Street Trail through the Robie Street roundabout to Truro Heights Road and the existing Cobequid Trail. The current budget allocated \$640,000 for the project, but results from the tender call came in at \$723,172, plus contingencies, exceeding the budget by approximately \$83,000.00.

Ian Sinclair Contracting Services had submitted the low-

est tender at \$354,972 and it was deemed to be complete. However, the McClure's brook crossing and other items were estimated to cost \$368,200, of which the crossing was pegged at \$303,000. Staff will revisit the design of the trail and come up with an alternative crossing over McClure's Brook.

In an information item presented to council, staff are recommending council consider developing a policy which would set up the scope under which the County would consider exercising its authority under the Ditches and Watercourse Act. In discussion on the matter, it was noted by solicitor, Dennis James, that the act developed to handle 1900's situations is problematic by trying to affix 2016 Infrastructure requirements. The matter was brought to council some time ago, because of ongoing problems with stormwater run-off in the area Teakwood Court and College Road.

2017 90 & 90+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We wish to thank all those who attended the 2016 Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party. We hope you had a good time.

While the party is fresh on our minds, I ask you to think about friends, relatives and neighbours from our coverage area, who will be turning 90 in 2017. Let's not wait until next year to get them registered.

Next year will be special as it's Canada's 150th birthday. If you know of someone who turns 90 next year, please pre-register them by sending Name, mailing address, phone and date of Birth.

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