

Staff saved over \$100,000 on Discovery Site

By Maurice Rees

When Colchester staff reviewed various tender submissions for Phase 1 of Fundy Discovery Site, they felt the submissions were overpriced.

They went to work and developed an outline of what might be possible if the County became the lead on the work.

Staff then went to council seeking approval to change

the way contracts would be handled. Council approved staff recommendation. Things worked out well and approximately \$100,000 in savings were achieved.



The walkway to the amphitheatre provides a great overview of the natural kitchen and swings. Five wind turbines on Millbrook First Nation can be seen in the background. (Rees Photo)



The amphitheatre with curved seating will definitely be an area offering many local entertainers to show their talents. Mr and Mrs Robert Francis, seated far right, had prime seating to enjoy the entertainment. (Rees Photo)



An overview of the washroom complex and large crowd lined up for the BBQ operated by members of the Clifton 4-H Club. (Rees Photo)



There's even an opportunity for children to climb and fall on three round rocks. Cobequid Consulting, Economy, who have developed a reputation for natural playgrounds worked with Upland Consulting to design and built the natural playground at Fundy Discovery Site. (Rees Photo)



There is not one but two slides in play area of Fundy Discovery Centre. (Rees Photo)



There are enough swings even the adults can enjoy at the same time. (Rees Photo)



A slide to permit three children to have fun at the same time was one of the creations created by Cobequid Consulting, Economy. (Rees Photo)



With an emphasis on cycling bicycles always are in need of repair. This bicycle repair station is state-of-the-art complete with pump, repair rack and a few wrenches. (Rees Photo)

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Council of the Municipality of Colchester.

On May 16, 2019 Paul Smith, Senior Planner, provided an overview of the progress made including background information, work completed as part of Phase 1A, review of process undertaken, project budget and funding contributions. It was noted that costs of work completed to date versus budget has resulted in a surplus of slightly more than \$100,000.

Details of the proposed work associated with Phase 1B including construction and planning components, estimated costs and funding sources were presented. Construction components include completion of the natural playground, amphitheatre, site security and safety, landscaping and amenities, trail connector, and entrance signage.

Future phases of the Fundy

Discovery Site will require a significant amount of planning and design. Capital project and planning components include planning and design work for bridge and geotechnical; interpretive and business plan; and, site and landscapes. Smith indicated staff constantly explore funding opportunities and partnerships for the project. Staff continues to keep council involved with copies of consultant reports and inviting discussion and input on the need to review future phases and plans, plus identify potential opportunities for the site to generate revenues. Under constant review is composition of the Project Steering Committee, and building to achieve the Rick Hansen Foundation's Gold Level Standard. At the May 16th meeting considerable debate was held

on source of funds for the project. Always mindful of spending taxpayer dollars concerns were expressed relative to the amount being spent on the natural playground and funding sources for this component of the project.

As discussions drew to a conclusion, moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Masters council committee approved recommending to council the proposed Fundy Discovery Site construction and capital planning programs for the 2019-20 fiscal year be approved and that \$487,000 (less the 2018-19 capital budget surplus) be forwarded to the Capital Budget.

Committee approved for staff to investigate the Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Level Standard for the Fundy Discovery Site.

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