

# Colchester Management Increases Local Inputs

By Maurice Rees

Local input from contractors, trades people and suppliers to the successful completion of Phase 1A at the Fundy Discovery Site definitely had a major impact on the local economy. Once staff had reviewed a series of tenders for the work they immediately discovered they were well in excess of preliminary budget forecasts.

After going back to the drawing board, a plan was put forward to council for staff to supervise and manage Phase 1A, which proved to be a successful venture achieving savings in excess of \$100,000. Many companies from within or nearby Colchester participated in the project which was officially opened on September 21. From the information gleaned from the project files, it is amazing how many more local firms were involved than would have been done with routine contracting practices.

*(It is not normal prac-*

*tice for a writer to offer an opinion, but the way this project evolved, there was a significantly more contribution to the local economy. It is a job well done. With the Fundy Discovery Site possibly requiring investments totaling upwards of \$15-Million, this could be a template to keep-more-money-at-home).*

The washroom facility had the largest number of companies working on the project. Russel Henderson Carpentry supplied a variety of services for the building of the washroom with Randell MacPhee responsible for plumbing. Curtis Concrete was involved in concrete portion using Quality Concrete, Truro for ready-mix to be poured for the foundation and into the ICF block walls, which was supplied by Home Hardware, Pictou Road. Cobequid Flooring, Maitland supplied and installed tile flooring.

Joe Nicholson, of Home Hardware indicated they supplied a lot more than ICF block and Styrofoam, by also supplying windows, lumber, siding and a variety of construction items. When it came to roofing, Mark Bonnell, Gutter Done supplied and installed the steel roofing, as well as gutters for the washroom facility. Royal Doors, New

Brunswick supplied doors and hardware, while Ron Welton Drywall & Painting Services, Bass River, provided trades people to hang, finish drywall and paint the facility. Welton also keeps busy in the Bass River area with an eighty acre blueberry farm.

The amphitheatre contract was awarded to Hornbeam Contracting who utilized the expertise of Jason Forward's team at Strait Forward Concrete, Scotsburn to finish the concrete supplied by Casey Concrete, Truro. Engineering services were provided by MEC Engineering who relied on DuraCast Concrete Solutions, Dartmouth to provide the concrete boxes, which form the sturdy sub-structure of the curved seating in the amphitheatre.

Specialty Steel, Debert used their expertise to fabricate and install stainless steel fixtures in the washroom and stainless steel LED light fixtures for walkways. MacCoul's Electric provided electrical services for the washroom and other locations on the facility. RHAD Architects provided their services for the washroom and playground areas.

The natural playground contract was awarded to Upland Planning & Design who worked on the master plan, and also the play-

ground. Upland brought in Fathom Studio for design services and Cobequid Consulting, Economy for playground fixtures. Cobequid has developed an Atlantic wide reputation for their expertise in designing and construction playgrounds.

Highway signage for a project as important as the Fundy Discovery Site is always important. Mattatall Signs, Dartmouth were awarded the job for highway signage and washrooms. Greg Simon, estimator for Mattatall says, "The Municipality of Colchester came to us with a pretty solid design - it just needed to be translated into signage but needed specifications for the Matthews Paint colors, 3M cast vinyl colors, the fabrication methods and installation.

A thorough survey was completed with Hazard Assessment and brought back to our draftsman who designed the framing and fastening details for the install crew".

Simon continued, "Our senior designer ensured the files were scaled properly and the color matching was accurate for final client approval. From there it went through production and was transported to Truro and hoisted in place after the old signage was removed and disposed.



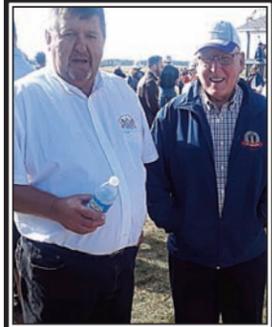
The Clifton 4-H Club volunteered to operate the BBQ since the entire complex is located in their area, and members will want to enjoy, when not attending to school work or 4-H activities. (Rees Photo)



Mayor Christine Blair chats with Mr and Mrs Allan Bruce. The Bruce's were one of the owners of the Palliser complex before selling to the Municipality. (Rees Photo)



District 10 Councillor, Tom Taggart (white shirt), on the left chats during opening ceremonies, while Larry Harrison, MLA for Colchester South is shown on the right. (Rees Photo)



Councillor Tom Taggart chats with former Mayor Bob Taylor. (Rees Photo)

## Forestry Sector Makes Presentation

By Maurice Rees

Several forest industry executives attended council meeting on September 6th to support a presentation being made by Earle Miller, Great Northern Timber and Robin Wilbur, Elmsdale Lumber, who asked council to prepare a letter to Premier McNeil.

The group requested: County of Colchester write a letter to the Premier asking for an Extension to the Boat Harbour Act to permit Northern Pulp sufficient time to complete the effluent plant and pipeline installation.

With the condition that Northern Pulp complete their required studies and ob-

tain EA approval - jobs must not come at a sacrifice to the environment

Note: Boat Harbour clean up requires its own federal EA with indications it will be two years before cleanup can start - let Northern Pulp use it until cleanup is ready to start

In addition to Miller and Wilbur making the presentation, executives in the gallery included: Jim Verboom, Nova Tree, Glenholme; Andrew Watters, Group Savoie - hardwood sawmill in Westville Pictou county; Mark Baillie, General Manager, Scotsburn Lumber; Mark Wilbur, Elmsdale Lumber; Les Flett, J D Irving Mill, Valley and Derek Prest, Eacan Timber, a lumber brokerage firm.

Speaking to councillors, Robin Wilbur, Elmsdale Lumber, stated that if Northern Pulp is forced to cease operating with the use of Boat Harbour in January 2020, almost immediately the remaining sawmills throughout Nova Scotia would be forced to close because they would not have market for bark, chips, and quantities of low value wood, nor would they have a source for additional sawlogs.

Expanded coverage of the presentation and coverage of the open house for 2019 Private Woodlot Owner of the Year presentations in Ellershous on September 28 will be included in the November issue.

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