

REES' Pieces

Is there an obstruction to finding doctors?

I think I am becoming cynical and every day seem to find it harder to appreciate that the province's public servants and their corresponding departments hold the best interests of rural Nova Scotia and its residents in highest regard.

Let's get one point straight, right in the beginning. If it wasn't for farmers - dairy, beef, poultry, eggs, swine' fishermen who put their lives in danger every time their vessels ply the oceans they are putting their lives in danger where would Nova Scotia's economy look like.

Without farmers and fishermen, also foresters, what would they have to eat, or lumber to build a house, shed, or do repairs their cottage as they get out into the country on a weekend during the warmer days?

Certainly they are not willing to experience cold winds off a bay, or loss of power during a storm, or poor internet service at the best of times.

Here's the background to my high level of ire for this month.

Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the licensing body of NS College of Physicians have made banned acceptance of various doctors, who were in various stages of applying, prior to CoVid-19. Causing them to "start over" with all the paperwork. Nice to sit behind a big desk in HRM and flex your muscles. With a worldwide shortage of doctors you know where some candidates told them to shove it.

In another conversation with at least some of my province-wide acquaintances, I was told one area was looking for a doctor for a totally rural area, were basically informed by NSHA officials, their priority was finding medical people to replace several doctors who would be leaving an urban area this fall.

How brazen is it to tell a committee from a very rural area, they don't really matter and a town about 40 KM away with a large hospital was more important? Every area of the province is in dire need of doctors: Cape Breton needs several; South Shore is pleading for replacements, and Truro is scheduled to lose nine doctors this year.

West Colchester Medical Clinic has lost both Dr Rowe and Dr Ewing to retirement, and would soon be without a doctor. The local committee had been working hard making progress, and in fact were very close to choosing a replacement from the United Kingdom. He visited the area, liked what he saw and had a good relationship with local committee and residents he had met.

As planning proceeded late last year and winter, he was anticipated to be here for a short work term, and to be approved to relocate by now. However, plans were delayed due to CoVid-19, but apparently has lost interest continuing as a candidate, when he was informed his paperwork was stale dated and would have to start over.

As an aside, if Premier McNeil and his cabinet are dedicated to "rebuilding rural Nova Scotia", as a thriving vibrant contributor to the provincial economy, now is the time to show their true intentions. If they come forth to reaffirm their vows, the matter is rather simple to enforce.

It is up to Premier McNeil, his entire cabinet, and all MLA's, especially Hon Karen Casey, local MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, to send a strong message to all departments: "Never tell or hint a rural community an urban area is more important regardless of the subject".

As a suggestion, I would suggest every resident in northern Nova Scotia - Colchester and Cumberland contact the Premier, Ministers of all department and local MLA's demanding a public message be sent that rural Nova Scotia is as important as any other area.

Also it is suggested citizens contact the media and send letters "To the Editor" voicing their concern. Public pressure will right what is wrong, or not happening to the benefit of rural Nova Scotia.

Now that I have finished by rant, I want to plead for the public's participation.

Municipal government is very important. Please exercise your rights. VOTE ON OCTOBER 17th for the candidate of your choice. Just vote.

Maurice

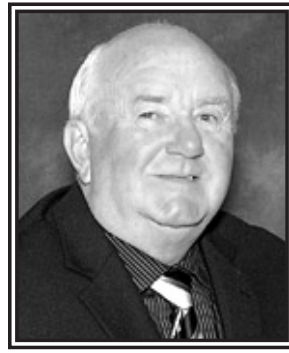
Don Fletcher Report

By Don Fletcher

Let me start by thanking Saltwire for the Cumberland wire that came with this week's flyers. Many missed the weekly read and I hope it continues. As this council is winding down to election this will be my last councillors corner and I thank all for reading the last 7 plus years. I hope I have provided some insight into municipal politics and how we do our work. Please stay informed and hold the new council and mayor to account.

We began council at 5:30 in camera with 1 item covered in zoom. Public council began at 6 pm with Facebook live also. First two items were public hearings on land use bylaw amendment in east Wallace area and the second hearing was regarding a development agreement in Parrsboro. No issues with either.

An update on the high



Donald Fletcher

speed internet project was discussed and this is exciting times for Cumberland/Colchester with this project. The naming of the Mechanic Street Park in Springhill was selected and an update on the project was discussed briefly.

The results of the public consultation regarding the former town hall in Parrsboro was discussed and the following motions were passed: Mo-

tion to demolish the building; motion to work with chief librarian/library board on suitability of the CIBC building as a location for the Library; motion to initiate discussion with the Parrsboro playground committee to determine suitability of site for new playground and motion to work with Parrsboro and area historical society to explore installation of interpretative panels, signage etc.

The second readings of the land use amends and the development agreement was approved by motion. First reading on A public highway signage bylaw and tourism signage guidelines regarding the entrance on Highway 2 entering the province was approved by motion. A grant request from the Northumberland Boating Association was approved. Congratulations to Melissa on receiving her level

2 building inspector certificate was discussed. Great job Melissa. Motion to place the location for the new elementary school in Springhill was deemed surplus by motion and a motion to allow Warden and CAO to negotiate sale of property to province was approved by motion.

Information items included the 46th annual provincial volunteer awards. A discussion on October council meetings was held and were further discussed at the September 16th meeting of council.

Again thank you all for reading and please call your new councillor!

Don Fletcher is retiring Cumberland councillor for District 10, which has been eliminated and will be part of a larger District 8 following the October 17th municipal elections.

Don Fletcher Thank You

By Don Fletcher

As I ride off into another chapter of my life I wish to take the opportunity to thank each (media) and everyone of you for your dedication, hard work, professionalism and expertise provided to me and the citizens of District 10 over the past 7 plus years.

As I was elected in a by-election in Feb 2013 I looked to staff for guidance on my journey and you did not disappoint! I knew nothing about municipal governance, at first, but made it a point to walk thru Upper Nappan and talk to staff on what they did.

You were always open, friendly and at times

I know I was a pain but you always helped me when I needed it and gave sound advise to follow. A councillor is only as good as the staff behind him and to many of my constituents I was/am pretty good thanks to you. So thank you for the Friday town day talks and there was a method to my madness.

I cherish the years and the friendship given me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please give the new council the same commitment and if they listen the Municipality will be fine.

Thank You,

Don Fletcher, Councillor District 10.

Cumberland Art Bank Chooses Painting

By Bruce Lantz

The work of an Ingonish, NS artist is the latest addition to the Cumberland Art Bank (CAB), based in Parrsboro. 'Back Street, Advocate Harbour', a 14x21-inch watercolour by Christopher Gorey, was the unanimous choice of a five-member jury and was recently approved by the CAB committee. It will join the work of previous winners Joy Laking and Susan Paterson on display in the new municipal services building in Parrsboro.

Limited edition prints of the work are available to purchase at the Parrsboro Creative office at 151 Main St., Parrsboro or online at www.parrsborocreative.com

The Cumberland Art Bank was established in 2017 to build an art collection that is Cumberland County-inspired. It is meant to represent the best of visual expression in Cumberland, encourage artistic creation in this region, stimulate public interest in

the visual arts, and raise awareness of Cumberland County artists and their work. The collection resides in Parrsboro but is available for exhibition throughout Cumberland County.

The CAB is made possible through the sale of limited-edition prints of the collection and by donation.

In 2017 Joy Laking's 'Parrsboro Starry Night' was selected, followed by Susan Paterson's 'Parrsboro Reflection' in 2018. Both are on display in Parrsboro and prints are available through Parrsboro Creative.

All three artworks will soon be on display at the new Cumberland County municipal office in Parrsboro.

To donate and support the Cumberland Art Bank, please contact Jocelyn at Parrsboro Creative at 902-728-2007.

For more information contact Bruce Lantz at: info@parrsborocreative.com or 902-728-2007.

Campaign Part of National Canada United Movement

Canada United, a national movement to support local businesses was created by RBC in collaboration with the national network of Chambers of Commerce bringing together more than 50 of Canada's leading brands and Business Associations to rally Canadians to buy, dine and shop local.

Everyone is invited to join the Canada United movement, including the #LocalUnited campaign, by buying and dining local, and celebrating and supporting local businesses during the official Canada United Weekend from Aug. 28 to 30, 2020.

People are also encouraged to watch the Canada United videos online at GoCanadaUnited.ca, like posts from @GoCanadaUnited on social media and use #CanadaUnited to demonstrate their support. For each of these actions until Aug. 31, 2020, RBC will contribute 5 cents up to a maximum contribution amount of \$2 million to the new Canada United Small Business Relief Fund, while working with government and corporate partners to source

additional contributions to the fund during the course of the campaign. The Fund will provide small businesses with grants of up to \$5,000 to cover expenses related to personal protective equipment (PPE) renovations to accommodate re-opening guidelines and developing or improving e-commerce capabilities.

Small Canadian businesses across the country will be able to apply for up to \$5,000 in grant funding. The program intends to support small Canadian businesses of all kinds. Small business owners who are interested in the program can visit GoCanadaUnited.ca to learn more about grant application details, including eligibility criteria, and to apply or follow this link <https://occ.ca/canadaunited-ns>.

For more information about the #LocalUnited Scavenger Hunt and how to support the Canada United movement, visit the Chamber website www.trurocolchesterchamber.com, or follow on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

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Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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