

\$500 Cheques Delivered to 10 Charities/Sports Teams

By Phillip Redden B. Sc.Eng.,
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 Director of Solid Waste presented an extensive report of solid waste activities at the August meeting of Colchester Council. Due to the length of the report, it has been divided into separate stories, based on the various operations at the Kemptown site and are scattered throughout this issue. This segment covers the Waste Reduction section of his report.

WASTE REDUCTION Education:

The 2023/2024 Divert NS Education and Enforcement Contract has been reviewed, signed, and submitted to Divert. The Education contract has a few changes, we are now contracted to focus our outreach on Middle Schools instead of Elementary as well as our overall outreach numbers have increased to 1,040 regionally.

Education Officer was invited to do a presentation to two grade 8 classes at the South Colchester Academy on the Divert NS lesson plan and Climate Change. The presentation and activities were great and informative. The Education Officer was asked to do another presentation to an ad-

ditional grade 8 class.

Another presentation was given to a grade 5 class at the Cobequid Consolidated Elementary School on Oceans Plastic and two grade 1 classes on littering. Education Officer conducted an afternoon waste management session at Future-Worx, the Women First Program.

WR staff connected again with Jaime Beaton who is the Northern District Community Relations Coordinator for the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency to offer solid waste education & refresher for residents in the month of March. The only buildings remaining are the ones in Tatamagouche where we are currently setting up a date and time for that.

Sharps issue is resurfacing again. The WR Dept. launched a Sharps campaign for the month of May raising awareness and education on proper disposal of sharps. We launched one campaign through our ReCollect app on May 1st and the other through all social media platforms on May 2nd. Another campaign is set to go out again for the month of August.

WR continues with online education across social media platforms (Compost Awareness Week, Plastic Free July

and What Goes Where-Wednesday) WR partnered with our Recreation Dept. for some summer day camps solid waste education and games which ran every Monday and Friday for the month of July.

Colchester Clean Litter Program started on April 22 and ran for 2 weeks. 365 individuals participated in the program; 14 registered charities/sports teams participated in the clean up; 257 bags of garbage were collected; 37 bags of recycling were collected; 52.5 hours were spent doing clean up and 63.1 km was cleaned.

WR delivered 10 \$500 cheques to the 10 charities/sports teams who registered on time, completed their clean up and submitted their data cards. The participants enjoyed going out and accepting the challenge. They sent their cleanup pictures which we posted on our social media platforms. Divert NS requires each region to contact a member of Directions Council and highlight their waste reduction and diversion effort. In 2022 the Education Officer reached out to Steps on Arthur to conduct a site visit and an interview. The plan in 2023 is to continue to work with Steps on Arthur.

Phillip Redden B. Sc.Eng. is Colchester's Director of Solid Waste

Mayor Blair's Moroccan Earthquake

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some rest. I paced most of the night.

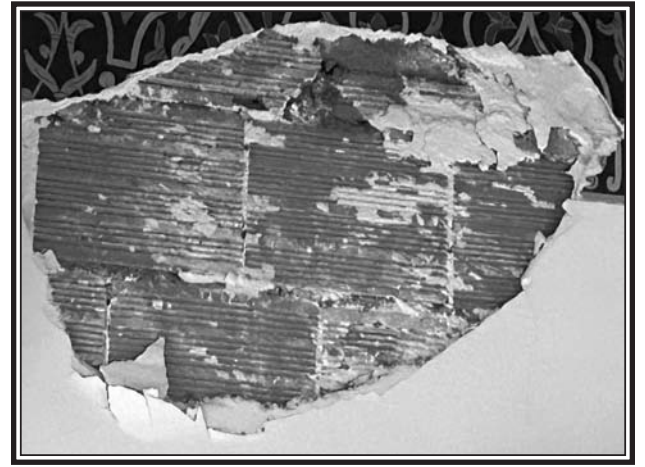
By morning, we were allowed to go to our rooms. Everyone who had flights were advised to stay where we were, not to go to the airport, and to keep the flights we had booked. Local officials didn't want chaos at the airport. Perfectly understandable.

Conference delegates were not allowed back in the conference centre as authorities had not had an opportunity to fully check the facility for damage. Apparently there were cracks in the structure. Conference delegates congregated in a huge tent-like structure where meals were usually served. The conference organizers worked with Moroccan authorities on a subdued and somber closing ceremony and with the time they had left, delegates were permitted to set up a blood donor clinic. Delegates who were able to do so, donated blood for injured survivors.

The two-day field tour was cancelled. The tour would have been in the Geopark, very close to the epicentre of the earthquake.

There was a lot of lives lost due to this 6.9 earthquake. Those of us 70 to 90 km away felt a ripple effect of the power but we were the fortunate ones. We are here to tell our stories.

Nova Scotia looked more beautiful than ever when that plane landed in Halifax on September 10th almost 24 hours after leaving Marrakech, and I am thankful.



As shown above plaster chunks fell off walls in the hotel after the earthquake. (Submitted)



Cracks in Mayor Blair's hotel room wall appeared shortly after earthquake. (Submitted)

Balefill Roof Repair Remaining Item from Fiona

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BALEFILL FACILITY Staffing:

In May, the Balefill Forklift Operator retired after 15 years of service, which lead to some internal lateral moves and promotions among the Balefill staff. The seasonal Grounds Maintenance position ultimately became vacant after the staffing shuffle as that employee was promoted into a full time Utility Worker position. This left the remaining three months of the seasonal Grounds Maintenance term position vacant, which has now also been backfilled by an external candidate who started on July 20, 2023.

The Scale House Operator will be taking a leave of absence this Fall for 12-18 months so recruitment took place to hire someone in a term position to back fill in time to do sufficient training for the position. The term was posted internally and externally for 2 weeks. The position was awarded to an internal candidate who was a permanent part time employee of the MRF. They will be starting on August 8, 2023.

The Manager of Balefill and Compost Operations was nominated as a new Director for the Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia (WRANS), as a director position was left vacant when Colchester's Waste Reduction Manager re-

tired. The Director and both Managers attended a SWANA Natural Disaster Preparedness Summit in June where there were presentations about handling various natural disasters and their debris, as well as a session on Disaster Preparedness with Dillon Consulting.

Production & Markets:

Halifax C&D was onsite this Winter and completed the grinding and removal of all the onsite wood debris during the spring road closure. In total 5,987 tonnes of wood chips were sent to market. They also completed the grinding of 853 tonnes of shingles while onsite that were then taken to be used as cover in our C&D disposal site. Dartmouth Metals was onsite this Spring and baled 344 tonnes of scrap metal. In May, the 2022 Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility Annual Report and the 2022/23 Annual Environmental Monitoring Report completed by Englobe were submitted to NSECC.

In late June, Englobe performed the Summer Environmental Monitoring Event at the Balefill Facility and the Tatamagouche and Stewarts Hill idled landfill sites. The idled landfill sites in Portapique and Whittenburg are now on a semi-annual schedule and were not scheduled to be done this Summer. In July, Englobe completed the Domestic Well Monitoring Program sampling in the host community and we are currently waiting for those results to return. These wells are tested every two years.

The North Wind Turbine is still not operational after a blade fell off in March. Investigations have been under way with the insurance company and the maintenance contractor to determine the cause of the failure and what coverage may be in place. We are awaiting the results

of those investigations. The South Wind Turbine is back in operation after testing was completed.

Projects/Operations:

The Balefill roof repair is the one remaining item from hurricane damage from last fall. A contractor is lined up and materials are ordered with the repairs expected to be completed in September. Staff began placing the first of two additional lifts of bales on top of the first three landfill cells as was previously approved by NSE while constructing cell five. This allows more efficient use of the infrastructure already in place. Once these two lifts are placed in the next few months, the first three of five landfill cells will be at design capacity and ready for final capping to take place in Spring 2024.

The new Nova Scotia C&D regulations were implemented in July 2023 that will see pressure treated wood no longer allowed to be disposed into the C&D landfill with a phase in approach. Staff currently are waiting for the educational material to be provided by the NSECC so an education campaign on the changes and the new sorting requirements can be developed. A new pad is being constructed as a treated wood stockpile area so that once the education phase is complete material can be separated. There are not requirements to separate material until the next phase begins July 2024 but there are plans

to implement the program once the education and pad construction is completed.

The Divert Landfill Audit consultant was at the Balefill site in May and collected various samples from incoming residential and commercial garbage loads. The study will continue throughout the summer, eventually gathering samples from all seven NS landfills and separating all the samples into 150+ sort of material types. A report will be completed in the Fall and shared with all participants. The week of July 10-15, the Balefill site participated in a wood waste characterization study that is taking place province-wide throughout the Summer. All incoming wood material that would normally go to our woodpiles to be ground up was diverted to a designated sorting area where the summer students helped separate it into five sorts (painted, laminated, treated, clean and brush).

This is a study that was funded by Divert and is being overseen by Valley Waste to help determine a breakdown of what types of wood waste solid waste facilities are receiving. The Manager of Balefill and Compost Operations and the Director of Solid Waste are both participants on the Committee for the study.

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