

## Springhill Property for NSCC Student Housing Facility



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By Darrell Cole

The Municipality of Cumberland has sold property in Springhill to the Province of Nova Scotia to be used as the site for the previously announced NSCC Student Housing Facility.

The property being sold is the present site of the Springhill Fire Department at 6 Main St., Springhill. The site is immediately adjacent to the NSCC Cumberland Campus and has been determined to be an ideal location for the student housing project.

With a replacement fire station being constructed on Miner's Memorial Drive, the Main Street property has

been declared surplus to the needs of the municipality. It is expected that the new fire station will be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2025. The municipality will also enter into an occupancy agreement which will allow the Springhill Fire Department to continue to occupy the present location until the new station is ready.

The NSCC student housing project will provide very much needed student housing units to support the operations of the Cumberland campus.

Mayor Murray Scott is thrilled to see this site to be acquired by the province

for the NSCC student housing project.

"The impact of this decision will be felt for many years to come as students from outside this region travel here to take advantage of opportunities at NSCC's Cumberland Campus. While this facility will be located in Springhill it will benefit the entire Cumberland region," the mayor said. "It has the potential to enhance the capacity of the Cumberland campus to provide course offerings that were previously unavailable due to the unavailability of student housing. I want to thank my colleagues on council for their unwaver-

ing support on this file. This is a great example of the municipality working in partnership with the provincial government to secure opportunities in our area and how successful we can be when we work together."

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NSCC Cumberland Campus principal Don McCormack expressed his excitement at the news, "this will enhance not only our programming which ensures our stability but will also allow us to focus on growth opportunities in the region setting the stage for real partnerships between the municipality and Cumberland".

Municipal council gave its approval to the agreement of purchase and sale for \$25,000 and the related occupancy agreement at its September meeting held in Upper Nappan on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

Cumberland South MLA and Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables Tory Rushton noted that "since being elected in 2018, student housing for the NSCC campus in

Springhill has been a priority for me. It was an honour to announce this investment last fall on behalf of the provincial government. Along with housing for students, this project will bring many more opportunities to our area"

"As my time as Mayor winds down I would like to thank Premier Tim Houston and Minister Tory Rushton

for their support in moving this and other important projects in Cumberland County forward. Minister Rushton has championed this project with his government colleagues and is very deserving of our gratitude" Mayor Scott concluded.

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## First Jacob Melanson Hockey School Benefits Young Players

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and the feedback that was received from participants and parents.

"There's always unknowns when doing something for the first time, but it went very well," she said.

Melanson, who had six goals and 12 assists for 18 points in the American Hockey League with Coachella Valley Firebirds last season, said the message to the participants was a similar one for him.

"Whatever we told them is basically what we would be telling our younger selves. We're here to help them as much as we can so they can learn some things to take forward and keep developing their skills," he said.

The 21-year-old Amherst native is preparing for his third training camp with the

NHL's Seattle Kraken after being taken by the team in the fifth round of the 2021 draft.

"This is a big year for me to show myself and what I can do," he said. "I hope to get a few games this year and keep working on my skills."

He said playing with Coachella and going all the way to the Calder Cup final has helped his development a lot, considering it was his first full season as a professional.

Holding a hockey school in Springhill is something its coordinator, Ryan Reynolds, has been working on for five years. Working with Melanson's family and others to put the program together was a pleasure for him, as was working with the municipality to make it a reality.

"Having Jacob involved

and running the school with him was the extra kick needed to convince the municipality to put the ice in early. They knew we were serious about it and I think they saw the benefit of the hockey school and the people it brought into Springhill during the week," Reynolds said. "The restaurants, the gas stations and the grocery stores were busier than normal."

He said 94 per cent of the participants were from outside Springhill. It equates to more than a hundred players and an equal amount of parents coming to the community each day beneficial.

The school also benefitted from having Carly Jackson, who plays goal with the Toronto hockey team in the women's professional hockey league, and Mallory Rushton, who played with the Metropolitan Riveters.

Along with on-ice training, there were off-ice sessions on physical fitness and nutrition as well as sports psychology along with an open panel discussion with parents.

Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Murray Scott said Jacob bringing his hockey school to Springhill means a lot to the community.

"Jacob never forgot where his roots are and for him to be able to bring his first hockey school to Springhill means so much to the community," the mayor said. "He's a role model to the youth of our community. I watched him interacting with the kids the other day and they were so focused on what he was saying and doing. They want to be like him."

Scott said Jacob's grandparents played a prominent role in Springhill over the years and it's nice to see him giving back to the community like they did.

The mayor said he feels the municipality has benefit-

ted from the hockey school with the influx of people into the community.

"It was an economic benefit to the community and it was nice to be able to take advantage of the geothermal energy to put the ice in the arena earlier than we normally do," the mayor said.

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Jacob Melanson sits with a group of participants in the first JAHM Hockey Academy at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill.

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