

New Fire Rescue Vehicle Tidnish Bridge

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more effectively.

Earlier this year, in late January, the municipality delivered a new fire truck to the Wallace Fire Department while it also opened a new fire station in Springhill and continued its investment in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), communications equipment, hose testing gear and gear washers, helmets, boots and other personal protective equipment.

The municipality undertook an extensive review of the fire service a couple of years ago through a consulting firm that generated a 1,000-page report with more than 200 recommenda-

tions.

That report highlighted the aging equipment in most of the fire departments as well as a number of other shortcomings such as training and availability of new recruits.

The sixteen fire departments operated by the municipality are: Advocate, River Hebert, Joggins, FPW, Parrsboro, Southampton, Springhill, Collingwood, Truemanville, Tidnish, Shinimicas, Leicester, Pugwash, Wallace, Wentworth and Westchester.

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Councillor Anthony Fromm turns the keys for a 2024 Ford F550 rescue vehicle to Chief Mike Coffin and members of the Tidnish Bridge Fire Department. Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo

Nova Scotia Fire Training Advisory Committee Announced

A broad group of experienced firefighters and emergency management professionals will create a new firefighter training program for the province. The Province announced the establishment of the Nova Scotia Fire Training Advisory Committee September 22. The 32 member body includes:

Co-CHAIRS: Mark Bettens, Chief Director, Cape Breton Regional Fire Service and Paul Maynard, Director of Client Services, Department of Emergency Management

EXECUTIVE: Dave Rockwood, Department of Emergency Management; Doug MacKenzie, provincial Fire Marshal; Lynelle Vetsch, Deputy Fire Marshal; Fred Jeffers, occupational health and safety representative,; Greg Jones, President, Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia and Chief of the Amherst Fire Department; Rod Nielsen, Vice-President, Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia and Chief of Brookfield Fire & Emergency Services; Mike Lockett, President, Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association; Peter Andrews, heavy urban search and rescue, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Robert Patzelt, Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

REGIONAL TRAINING REPRESENTATIVES:

- Halifax Regional Municipality/East Hants/West Hants: David Meldrum, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Kensa Harris, Lantz Fire Department.
- Lunenburg/Queens/Shelburne/Barrington/Yarmouth: Paul Gould, Quinan & District Volunteer Fire Department

- Kings/Annapolis/Digby/Clare: Ian Fairclough, Kentville Volunteer Fire Department.
- Colchester/Cumberland/Pictou: Mark Goodwin, Amherst Fire Department
- Antigonish/Guysborough/Richmond/Mulgrave/St. Mary's: Shawn Andrews, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the District of Guysborough.
- Cape Breton Regional Municipality/Victoria/Inverness/Port Hawkesbury: Steve Marcellus, Regional Emergency Management Officer, Municipality of the County of Richmond and Craig MacNeil, Deputy Fire Chief, Cape Breton Regional Municipality

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Brendan Meagher, President, Halifax Professional Fire Fighters; Terry MacAloney, Elmsdale Fire & Emergency Services; Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Co-ordinator, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; Mike Devaux, Yarmouth Fire Department; Adam Levings, Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department; David McCormick, Bear River Fire Department; Kathy Babcooke, Wolfville Fire Department; Nick Power, Saint Bernard Fire Department; Blois Currie, Truro Fire Service; Rod Dykeman, Bible Hill Fire Department; Ross White, New Glasgow Fire Department; Jim Cavanagh, Port Hastings Volunteer Fire Department; Alfred Aucoin, Lemoine Volunteer Fire Department and Gaetan Goguen, Indian Brook Fire (Sipekne'katik).

Legislation introduced to Protect Nova Scotians

New restrictions on private companies collecting and retaining social insurance numbers are part of legislation introduced September 23, aimed at protecting Nova Scotians and their personal information.

"Social insurance numbers are a sensitive piece of personal information that need to be protected," said Colton LeBlanc, acting Minister of Service Nova Scotia. "Recent events have proven that the Province needs to step in to provide Nova Scotians with the protection they need. The Protecting Nova Scotians Act does just that, providing more support for Nova Scotians when they need it the most."

As well as introducing the new Social Insurance Number Protection Act, the bill will also amend the Residential Tenancies Act to: enable victims of domestic violence to stay in their rental unit after their abuser has moved out and enter into a new lease on the same terms and conditions as the previous lease and encourage more people to rent out rooms by removing boarders from the act, making it consistent with other provinces.

Other key amendments:

- removing the word "imminent" from the Personal Health Information Act to allow healthcare providers to disclose information if there is a reasonable belief a person is a significant danger to themselves or others; Nova Scotia will continue to have the strictest standard in Canada for disclosing information in high-risk situations;

- strengthening rules and regulations for funeral services, including introducing stronger laws to prevent wrongful cremations, through amendments to the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act and the Cemetery and Funeral Services Act;
- amending the Liquor Control Act to improve safety in licensed establishments, including requiring bouncers to have criminal record checks and security training to keep both bar staff and patrons safe;
- enhancing the Crown Lands Act to prevent the blocking of forest access roads and to allow structures to be removed without notice if they are a hazard to public health, safety or order or if they are impeding the lawful use of Crown lands;
- amending the Wildlife Act to clarify and strengthen the authority of conservation officers to do routine inspections and obtain information; it will also align penalties with other legislation and reduce the maximum voltage for lights that people can shine at wildlife habitat, recognizing that LED lights are brighter.

ment will continue to be able to collect social insurance numbers for administrative and program purposes; businesses may collect social insurance numbers for legitimate purposes such as income tax reporting for employees. Penalties under the Wildlife Act will increase to \$500,000 from \$3,000 (\$1 million for corporations) to be consistent with the Endangered Species Act and the Forests Act and penalties under the Crown Lands Act will increase to \$50,000 from \$2,000.

Quick Facts: the govern-

October Events at "The Hall"

Supplied by Geoff Ingram

We have the following scheduled for October:

Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm - "King Street Strummers" - practice your music with other friendly, supportive musicians. ALL welcome.

1st, 3rd (& 5th) Wednesdays at 7:30 pm - Movie Night at "The Hall"

Oct.01 - Movie Night at "The Hall", 7:30 pm: Origin [PG] (2023)

Oct.15 - " Movie Night at "The Hall", 7:30 pm: We Live In Time [PG] (2024)

Oct.29 - Movie Night at "The Hall", 7:30 pm: "Young Frankenstein" [PG] (1974)

Admission by donation, \$5 suggested.

Oct.8 & 22 - 2nd, 4th Wednesdays at 7 pm - Bartlett's Privateers rehearsal - shanties & sea songs - ALL welcome.

Parrsboro Citizens' Choir, Thursdays at 7 pm - rehearsals restart for the season after Thanksgiving, date TBA. ALL welcome.

Friday Oct.10 - then every 2 weeks at 7pm - Open Mic. at "The Hall" - Lots of music & fun. Admission by donation.

Special Event:

Oct.03-05 - Parrsboro Film Festival - A full weekend of films showcasing Atlantic Canada. Details & tickets at www.ParrsboroFilmFestival.ca

For more info on any films, send email to films@ParrsboroBandAssociation.ca music programs, send email to music@ParrsboroBandAssociation.ca

Geoff Ingram can be reached at: outreach@parrsborobandassociation.ca

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