

Natal Day Fun Day Lots of Fun



Marina Fisher was Teddy Bear Nurse at Natal Day, Fun Day at the Masstown Community Park on Aug. 1, 2016. (Urquhart Photo)

By **Christine Urquhart**

The Natal Day Fun Day held at the Masstown Community Park on Monday

August 1st was lots of fun! We had great weather and a good turn out! If it wasn't for a great team of loyal communi-

ty volunteers none of this would be possible.

Thanks to: Marina Fisher, our Teddy Bear Nurse, Sally Jennings & Miriam Gill for the great music; Tracy Carrigan for leading the games for the children and helping with the cookie decorating; to Bill and Shirley Leeming for doing the bar-b-queing; to Sarah Cavanagh for selling our 50/50 tickets, to the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade for their truck and items for the children.

A special thanks to Constable Fraser Firth of the RCMP for his time spent at the Park; Castle Hardware for the canopy tent and bottled water and Masstown Market for the Natal Day cake.

Salmon River School Slated For Immediate Demolition

By **Maurice Rees**

Discussions and recommendations from council's committee meeting on August 11th were approved by council at its monthly meeting on August 25th which included:

School Crosswalk - College Road at Burris Drive: Council approves the installation of a school crosswalk on College Road at Burris Drive, subject to provincial approval, at a construction cost of \$7,500 and an operations cost of \$5,200 per year, to be funded by the Active Transportation Rate; and, Council directs staff to bring forward recommended changes to the Crosswalk Installation and Supervision Policies at a future meeting; and, all existing and future crosswalks, including Valley, be covered under the Active Transportation rate."

Five Year Capital Budget: Council approved the 2016-17 Capital Budget. Council

approved Dr. Gord McIntosh of the LGL Institute be engaged to deliver a Strategic Priorities workshop and a half day workshop on Governance on January 18th and 19th, 2017 inclusive.

North River Ball Field: Council approved a land swap with the neighbouring property, owned by Jeff Fancy, which would include moving the fence to the side of the driveway and changing the property line.

R.L. Harvey Service Station Ltd tender submission be accepted for the immediate demolition of the former Salmon River School.

Council is working on it's Not for Profits policy and upon the recommendation from Recreation Director, Craig Burgess will be including Director's Liability to eligible items. Support of 50% of costs up to a maximum of \$1,000 will continue. Other minor changes in the support program may be made in future.

On the initiative of Councillor MacInnes discussion was held regarding the proposed spraying program by Northern Pulp for the Debert and Belmont Mountain areas as part of 1340 hectares which also included Halifax County. MacInnes was concerned about the implications for archery and muzzleloader activity which starts on September 12th. Northern Pulp had applied to Dept of Environment for the necessary permits, but announced on August 26 the program would be delay and would not start on August 25 until first of October as planned. Deputy Mayor Bill

Masters said he attended a forestry conference in Pictou last winter. Everyone seemed to agree silos exist and departments do not talk to one another.

A letter from Creamery Square, Tatamagouche concerning water bills was referred to staff. A motion to proclaim September 26th to October 2 as "Right to Know Week" was approved. Council referred a letter from Great Village Community Association to staff to investigate extending a sewer line along Route #2 and Station Road. The GVCA has conducted a survey which resulted in 20 property owners (75%) being in favour while seven representing 25% were against.

Council approved sending a letter agreeing to "Colchester" in the name of a tartan that will be developed for the Highland Games and Gathering to be held in September 2017. The letter was submitted by James Finnie, president the Scots Society of Colchester.

Council was not in approval of placing a celebratory advertisement in the special feature being developed by Hub Now for the opening of the new Truro Library and Civic Square.

The building inspector's report showed permits for June 2016 at \$3,027,827, which is a decrease from 2015's \$5,391,056. For the calendar year, permits are up nearly \$2.4-Million to \$19,367,877 compared to \$15,973,854. For the fiscal year, from April through end of June permits are up \$320,000 from \$11,102,638 in 2015 to \$11,422,327 this year.

County Approves New Livestock Control By-law

By **Maurice Rees**

Council spend considerable time in the second reading of Chapter 14 Livestock Control By-Law with input from municipal solicitor, Dennis James at its monthly meeting on August 25th. Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Clifton Federation of Agriculture had raised concerns about its implementation. NSFE expressed concern and noted provincially two current acts are under review and recommended future discussion. The Clifton District Federation in a letter date August 19th noted the same two acts - Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act and the Fences and Impounding of Animals Act are being worked through a review in Halifax. Council approved second reading of their by-law and stated when the province is finished they will gladly repeat their by-law and fall into line, providing their requirements are met. Councillor Ron Cavanaugh voted against the motion.

At their meeting of June 30, 2016, Council approved the expenditure of \$200,000 at the Debert Airport to prepare an area for future construction of aircraft hangars. The \$200,000 will be funded via Gas Tax, and \$150,000 will be allocated to the construction of a gravel pad, with the remainder being utilized for asphalt. Staff issued tenders with a total of nine plan packages purchased, but only three tenders submitted. Dexter Construction submitted the lowest tender at \$149,300; while Ian Sinclair Contracting submission was \$169,951, while Brycon Construction submission was the highest at \$194,900. Council awarded Dexter the tender with an additional \$10,000 internal contingency.

Council approved the Terms of reference for an Agriculture Working Group and will appoint a councillor to the group following the municipal election. The group will include a municipal councillor, NSFA rep,

one or two reps from the farming industry, a rep from Dal AC campus; NSFA executive director, Colchester's Directory of Community Development, CEO of Perinna and other members and staff as deemed necessary.

A \$3,000 expenditure was approved to develop a promotional video for the flood advisory committee to be used to demonstrate what council has done over the years to improve communities to eliminate flooding where possible. The committee has an annual budget of \$150,000 and it's expected to be increased in future years.

Tenders for Robie Street Sidewalk repairs do not close until September 7th, but council was asked to empower council committee to award the tender at its meeting in September. Construction will involve a new sidewalk along Robie Street from Truro Heights Road to the Highway 102 roundabout. The capital budget allocation is \$600,000 in 2016/17 and a further \$40,000 in 2017/18. Source of the funds are 50% gas tax and 50% active transportation area rate.

Although it will happen, planning of a delegation from council to tour a Lockheed Martin Gasification Plant in Owego, NY, it was recommended by Wayne Wamboldt, Director Waste Management, the trip be postponed until sometime early in the new year.

On the matter of county beaches, Councillor Taggart had an item placed on the agenda. He said, we need to be "All In or All Out". He asked council member to approve sending the matter to staff for discussion to see what direction needs to be taken for next year. Council approved referral to staff, but during discussion Councillor Blair commented, she had a feeling, "the matter is much bigger than we realize".

On the matter of the consultant's report regarding the Palliser Property, Councillor Stewart, who heads the committee informed council a joint

meeting of councils will be held at 2:00 pm on September 13th, with a public meeting being held at 7:00pm. Councillor Gibbs suggested staff might follow activity in Ontario as it relates to water royalties.

Debert Days was most successful and Councillor MacInnes thanked council for their support through a recreation funding grant to help the committee get the event restarted. Mayor Taylor mentioned he had attended a cadet function in Debert and it was great to see 41 cadets from Debert and 13 from Moncton get their wings. He added it was a pleasure to notice the cadets gave a loud and enthusiastic "Thank You" to the Debert Hospitality Centre for great food and accommodations.



Even the wild life was finding it very a hot dry summer! (Harrington Photo)

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