



Construction of the new home for Colchester Food Bank has started. The Insulated Forming System (ICFS) walls – insulation which is filled with concrete will provide an energy efficient building. Construction is expected to be completed by late fall. (D Brown Photo)

Fire Prevention Week October 7TH - 13TH

By *Christine Urquhart*

It is never too early to start thinking about how you, to can prevent fires! Every year the majority of fire deaths in North America happen at home. Home fires today burn faster than ever. In a typical home fire, occupants may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

Let's look at some home fire escape planning:

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practised before a fire strikes.

A home escape plan should include the following:

Two exits from every room in the home - usually a door and a window

Properly installed and working smoke alarms

A meeting place outside the front of the home where everyone will meet after they exit.

A call to 9-1-1 from a cell phone or a neighbour's phone.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms detect and

alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.

Working smoke alarms cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire.

Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the house, including the basement.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Cooking

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.

If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.

Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

Heating

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.

Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.

All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from heating equipment.

Have a 3 foot (1 metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters

Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.

Fire Prevention Week will soon be upon us. Take the time to talk to your family about planning your escape routes and work on making your home more about preventing that having a fire.

Council Committee Approves \$100,000 for Mental Health

By *Maurice Rees*

Two motions were passed by Colchester Council Committee after it reconvened from its closed session on June 14th. The meeting reconvened in open session at 10:20 pm.

After discussing matters relating to Canadian Mental Health Association - Colchester East Hants Branch on motion by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor MacKenzie, the committee approved, "That Council Committee recommends to Council the approval of the

\$100,000 funding for the Canadian Mental Health Association - Colchester East Hants Branch, be disbursed with \$50,000 in year one (2018-19) and \$10,000 per year for the next five years, with the final year being 2023-24. The source of funds be the Special Operating Reserve, and that these funds be paid back to the reserve." Motion Carried but was opposed by Mayor Blair and Councillor Pash.

In another motion from the closed session on motions Councillor Cavanaugh and

Boutillier, "That Council Committee recommends to Council the endorsement of the proposal from Pricewaterhouse Coopers to conduct a study of baseline services and develop key performance indicators used to measure effectiveness and efficiency of current operation." Motion Carried Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm on motion by Councillor Gibbs, seconded by Councillor Boutillier.

Council to Replace 2 Fire Repeaters

By *Maurice Rees*

At its committee meeting on August 9th Colchester council committee is recommending to council meeting on August 30th that Nova Communications be awarded the purchase and installation of two new fire repeaters at a cost of \$18,495.12 including rebated tax. At present, 7 of the 9 repeaters are currently older than 20 years.

At present, fire service paging and communications is facilitated by nine repeaters located in seven repeater sites throughout the County. These sites provide the critical infrastructure to ensure County Fire Services can receive and transmit radio and paging communications during emergency and non-emergency operations.

Two repeaters were replaced last year with the new Motorola SL8000 model. Colchester staff has recommended replacing two fire repeaters each year until the replacement program has been completed.

Nova Communications of Dartmouth, NS is the only Motorola dealer in the province and has been providing fire repeater site's repairs since 2003. At present, they are the providing maintenance and installations for the all of the provincial communication tower sites.

The new repeaters would be replacing one repeater at the Harmony Repeater Site and one repeater at the Nuttby Repeater Site.

At June Council, staff presented an item for the award of a new half ton truck for Waste-

water Treatment. The proposed new half ton truck will replace an existing 2011 Ford Ranger. Council expressed some concern that awarding to Bruce Leasing would require staff to travel to Middleton for any warranty repairs.

Staff have since confirmed with Bruce Leasing that the vehicle can be serviced in Truro by the local GMC dealer. The tender document did not include any clauses limiting the tenders to a specific geographic location and as such, the tender from Bruce Leasing cannot be disqualified on that basis.

Council's purchasing policy allows for a 2% margin on bid prices for local businesses for goods under \$25,000. By reducing the bid from Pye Chevrolet by 2%, their new bid amount would be \$24,273 which still exceeds the bid price from Bruce Leasing.

The tender results were as follows, which was for total price, excluding HST: Bruce Leasing \$23,968.00; Blaiki's Dodge \$29,181.16; Blaiki's Dodge \$27,812.16; Hollis Ford \$27,022.95 and Pye Chevrolet \$24,769.17.

At their meeting of June 28, Council authorized August Council Committee to award the vehicle tender, which the committee approved.

Council Committee recommends to Council that the approved budget of \$25,000 be maintained for the Colchester corporate branding including one public presentation at the launching of the final product.

A public petition to install

and maintain street lights on a 4.5 km stretch along Highway 289 in Upper Stewiacke (from the Upper Stewiacke sign to the Otterbrook Rd has failed. Council has to petition affected property owners to determine if a project will proceed. At least 2/3 must be in favour.

A total of 62 properties were identified as eligible for participation in the petition. It was determined it would cost \$5,000 a year to install and maintain 34 streetlights in the requested area of Upper Stewiacke. The cost would be shared among the identified property owners.

As required under the By-law, residents affected were informed by mail of a public meeting to be held at the Upper Stewiacke Fire Hall on the evening of June 21st to discuss the initiative. Individual petitions were handed out at the meeting, and the remaining petitions were mailed the following day to those not in attendance at the meeting. Property owners were given 30 days to respond.

As of the July 21st deadline to respond, 28 petitions (45%) had been signed and returned with only seven of those received being in favour of streetlights (11%). There were 34 petitions not returned and therefore, as per the By-law, were counted as opposed.

The total of properties opposed to streetlights was 55 (or 89%), concluding that there was not enough support to proceed. Letters have since been issued to residents involved in the petition to inform them of the outcome.

Not-for-Profits Must Apply in October

By *Maurice Rees*

Not-for-Profit Organizations, who annually apply for assistance with insurance costs, will now have to apply by the last Friday in October, for the coming year. There will be only one intake per year.

In September 2017, Council discussed amendments to the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not for Profit Organizations Policy. From these discussions, amendments were made, as agreed upon by Council, and were administered by staff. However, formal approval on the Policy amendments was not given by Council.

Along with some minor housekeeping

changes, the more significant amendments included: Definition of Association; Removing requirements of financial need; Reduced contribution percentage across the board should requested amounts exceed available funds; and, Only intake date per year - Last Friday of October for the forthcoming year.

Because there have been minor changes to the program offered by the Municipality, Not-for-Profit Organizations insurance assistance, it is recommended contact be made with Department of Recreation Services.

The revised policy was approved on motions by Councillors Stewart and Cavanaugh and will be sent to council for final approval on August 30.

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Liberal
COLCHESTER NORTH

COLCHESTER NORTH LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 7 at 7 PM at the Peg, across from Masstown Market

Guest speaker Laurie Jennings will tell the story of Masstown Market!

MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED