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Debert Airport Strategic Plan Before Council

By Crawford MacPherson
(In his report to council at the August 8th council committee meeting Crawford MacPherson, Director of Community Development reported staff are preparing a Strategic Plan for the Debert Airport which is projected to be ready for Council Committee meeting in September). The remainder of his report focusing on Debert Airport follows:

The Strategic Plan will combine previous assessments of infrastructure, and airport development opportunity into one document. The plan will include a program to explore two key, strategic business opportunities.

Municipal staff recently hosted the CEO Joyce Carter and a Paul Baxter, Vice President of Operations at Halifax Stanfield airport, for a tour of the Debert Business Park and the Airport. This was the second meeting with Halifax Stanfield officials this year and part of an effort to build relations and demonstrate how Debert can complement the growth plans at Halifax. Ms. Carter and Mr. Baxter acknowledged that Debert has the potential to complement their long-term growth plans.

Halifax Stanfield will be updating their 20-year master plan and committed to having their consultant visit

Debert and meet with municipal staff. As Halifax expands their commercial cargo program and the passenger terminal, some existing support businesses will need to relocate. Debert is well positioned to support the aviation maintenance and repair business that may be displaced from prime airside locations at Halifax. Halifax Stanfield has in-house expertise that the Municipality may be able to draw upon as plans are prepared for growth around the Debert airport.

In July, municipal staff met with eight provincial staff from various departments and ACOA to discuss Debert Airport and its po-



tential for economic opportunity. The meeting was hosted by David Oxner, the Executive Director of Transportation and Trade Corridors (TiR). The response was positive and has resulted in plans by NSBI officials to visit Debert Business Park and Airport in August to better understand the asset and how Debert may be a good match for their clients.

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS September 2019

Stress Relief - I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

The International Day of Peace will be held at 11:00 am on September 20th at Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Bass River. Peace is a Dream Unfolding will be performed once again by Students of West Colchester Consolidate School will animate giant peace doves as they carry peace into the four directions, but only if the people, REMEMBER. All are welcome.

Colchester staff have completed contract negotiations with SPCA. The contract is due to start August 1st. Staff are now reviewing the wording contained in the Municipality's Animal Control By-law to make sure it is current. The review is expected to be completed for September Council Committee.

Debert Land Sales appear to be gaining momentum. Colchester staff have been dealing with several inquiries to purchase land in Debert and expect to bring one or two sales agreements to Council in the early Fall.

The program to install solar panels on the roof of the Brookfield Sportsplex and the RECC has gone to tender. A bidder's tour of the two facilities was held in July, with as many as eight companies in attendance. The tender closed on July 25 and an Information Item on the results of the tender is expected to be prepared for Council Committee's August meeting. August 9 was deadline for the last round of applications under the Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Program. At the direction of Executive Committee additional applications will be made for the arenas in Debert and Tatamagouche.

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Village of Bible Hill's has accepted delivery of its new custom built 2019 Spartan Metro Star Pumper Tanker built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks of Winnipeg. Features of the truck include: 20" raised roof, 400 horsepower Cummins diesel engine; Allison automatic transmission; 4,542 litre poly tank and a side mounted pump that delivers 4,731 litres per minute at 150 PSI. On hand for the acceptance ceremony were Fire Chief Joey Bisson and Bible Hill Village Commission Chair, Lois MacCormick. (Submitted)

Appending May Take 5 Years

By Maurice Rees

It may take up to five years for Millbrook First Nation to find out if its request to append additional property to Millbrook Indian Reserve No 27 has been granted.

As a follow up to the May issue headline story, "Will Millbrook Double?", we contacted Indigenous Services Canada for additional information regarding reserve creation for the Millbrook First Nation. Millbrook had assembled purchase of 13 individual properties and was applying to have the additional properties appended to existing Millbrook First Nation.

A response from Michael MacDonald, Communications Officer, Atlantic Region, Indigenous Services Canada stated the consultation and negotiation time lines for an Addition to Reserve vary as each Addition to Reserve proposal is unique.

MacDonald indicated questions regarding what

the lands would be used for should be directed to Millbrook First Nation and the timeline to submit an Addition to Reserve for approval can vary on average between 18 months to five years. Each Addition to Reserve proposal is unique and may include work to address environmental concerns, title issues, third party interests or concerns arising from consultations.

In the original letter from Adrienne Murray, Lands Manager for Indigenous Services Canada the county was given an opportunity to reply to the request. We are attempting to get a copy of Colchester's response.

As of June 2019, the Millbrook First Nation's registered population is 1,931 with 905 people on reserve. Millbrook Indian Reserve No. 27 is located in the County of Colchester approximately eight kilometres from Truro, Nova Scotia.



Over 800 athletes from Nova Scotia participated in the Special Olympics 2019 Provincial Summer Games at Acadia University from July 12-14. Catherine McNeven wishes her son Mark good luck as he enters the Markie Bus for the trip. A large number of athletes were represented from Colchester. (Brown Photo)

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