

Code of Conduct Awaiting Municipal Affairs

By Maurice Rees

At the Council Meeting on June 27, 2019 Councillor Taggart referred to an article in The Shoreline Journal (published as Letter to the Editor) questioning why the Municipality had not yet implemented a Code of Conduct. He requested by motion a chronological statement of the dates and outcomes relating to Council on the issue of Code of Conduct be generated by staff for the next meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following is the report submitted as an Information Item at the August 8th monthly Committee Meeting:

June 26, 2017: Executive and Audit Committee Meeting - Closed Session Discussion was held on revisiting the introduction of a Code of Conduct for the Municipality.

August 2, 2017: Council Meeting (Special Session) - Council directed staff, by way of motion, to investigate and report back to Council, information on the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) Code of Conduct and Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. The motion was carried unanimously.

August 17, 2017: Council Committee Meeting - Councillor Stewart informed Council about the possibility of UNSM (now NSFM) holding a workshop on Code of Conduct and inquired about Council's Interest in hosting the workshop with the UNSM. Coun-

cil made a motion to indicate their interest in hosting the UNSM Code of Conduct Workshops. The motion was carried unanimously.

September 14, 2017: Council Committee Meeting - Information Item presented by staff member Mark Austin to update Council on the status of various policy related actions requested by Council. The update noted the target date for information on the Code of Conduct Policy would be March 2018.

October 26, 2017: Municipal Government Act was amended requiring each municipal unit to adopt a Code of Conduct.

February 27, 2018: Executive Committee Meeting - Due to time constraints with another meeting scheduled for 7 pm, Code of Conduct was discussed briefly in Closed Session. Some members of the Executive Committee expressed concern with having a Code of Conduct which was too comprehensive.

March 8, 2018: Council Committee Meeting - Information Item noting new target date for Code of Conduct and Diversity Initiatives as April 2018 pending additional legal analysis and input from Province regarding regulations. The issue was to be discussed again in an additional Executive Meeting.

May 7, 2018: Executive Committee Meeting - The UNSM Workshop was discussed and there was some uncertainty about whether a model or template would be created from the input received from

that session. Some discussion was held on processes for filing complaints; formal procedures on when matters would be dealt with by the CAO and when something would be handled by an outside organization; disciplinary actions including restorative justice measures such as workshops, apologies, etc. Further discussion was held on the topic being held in abeyance until the UNSM model template was available. Executive agreed a session with Council members be held to receive input on what should be included in the Code of Conduct.

June 5, 2018: Council Committee (Special Session) - Originally this meeting was intended to be an informal staff presentation rather than a Council Committee Session. However, it was agreed it is important to provide direction for the development of a Code of Conduct, therefore, by way of motion, Council Committee waived the requirements to give the two-day meeting notice to Council members and proceeded with a formal Council Committee meeting. Mark Austin facilitated the meeting on "Shaping a Code of Conduct Policy for Council". A presentation was made, and an extensive discussion was held. Near the conclusion of the discussion, it was suggested the Municipality's implementation of a Code of Conduct Policy be held in abeyance until the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM - formerly UNSM) model template was available.

August 30, 2018: Council Correspondence Information - An update from the NSFM was received noting their Board had received a presentation from the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) on the topic of Code of Conduct. The Board agreed AMANS should continue to work with NSFM to produce a discussion paper with options. The paper would be sent to Councils for feedback.

April 19, 2019: UNSM & AMANS Code of Conduct was hosted at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre.

April 25, 2019: Council Meeting - Mayor Blair indicated Code of Conduct had been discussed a year and a half ago and at that time, it was decided proceeding with a Code of Conduct would be held in abeyance until such time as the NSFM completed a model template. Given that a Code of Conduct is an MGA requirement, Mayor Blair requested this be put back on the table for discussion. A motion was made Code of Conduct be referred back to staff. The motion was carried unanimously. The CAO advised NSFM Policy Advisor, Wil Brooke, had developed a template which has been forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs. Staff will approach Mr. Brooke to request a copy of the model template and report back within 60 days.

June 27, 2019: Council Meeting - The CAO informed Council the draft Policy template prepared by NSFM and AMANS is still awaiting review by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Big Bright Jupiter – the King

By Gary Boyle

On any clear night, look to the southern portion of the sky after sunset and you will come across a bright object. This is not a star but the planet Jupiter. Of the eight major planets in our solar system, Jupiter is literally the "king". This fifth planet from the sun is so large; eleven earths can line up across its equator and can hold a thousand more inside.

Jupiter along with Saturn, Mars, Venus and Mercury can be seen with the unaided eye while Uranus and Neptune are telescopic objects. In fact these five planets have been seen for thousands of years and along with the sun and moon, were naked after gods. These seven celestial objects give us our seven days of the week.

Jupiter has more than 70 moons that are small in size com-

pared to the four giant Galilean moons named Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. At 5,268 km wide, with Ganymede being the largest. Any telescope will show these very distinct worlds as they orbit its mammoth planet. Io is an extremely active moon with dozens of volcanoes that blast plumes of sulfurous material as high as 500 km high. These have been imaged by spacecraft orbiting or passing by the Jovian system.

At various points in the moons orbits, they transit or cross in front of Jupiter and casts a small inky black dot on Jupiter's cloud tops. At times there could be two or three shadows at the same time. These four objects were first observed by Galileo in 1609 with his newly built telescope. He also went on to observe the rings of Saturn, the crescent phases of Venus and the heavily cratered moon.

The moon, it will be located near Jupiter on July 13 and Saturn two nights later on the 15th. With orbits of 11.8 and 29.5 around the sun, they nightly motion against the background stars is extremely slow. For those living in dark skies away from light pollution, the Milky Way is wedged between the two thus making a striking view. July 20 will be the 50th anniversary of humans landing on the surface of the moon. The last half century has seen tremendous advancement in technology and space exploration. We have sent Voyager 1 & 2 to give us a close up look in the gas giants, sent an array of orbiting satellites and rovers to Mars. For almost 30 years the Hubble Space Telescope has imaged the far depths of the Universe. Gravity waves have been detected over the past few years stemming from Einstein's prediction in 1916. And finally imaging a black hole located 55 million light years away. This is a wonderful age to follow amazing discoveries and enjoy the night sky with today's state of the art telescopes and cameras.

Till next time, clear skies. Known as "The Backyard Astronomer", Gary Boyle is an astronomy educator, guest speaker and monthly columnist for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He has been interviewed on more than 50 Canadian radio stations and local Ottawa TV. In recognition of his public outreach in astronomy, the International Astronomical Union has honoured him with the naming of Asteroid (22406) Garyboyle.

Follow him on Twitter: @astroeducator or his website: www.wondersofastronomy.com



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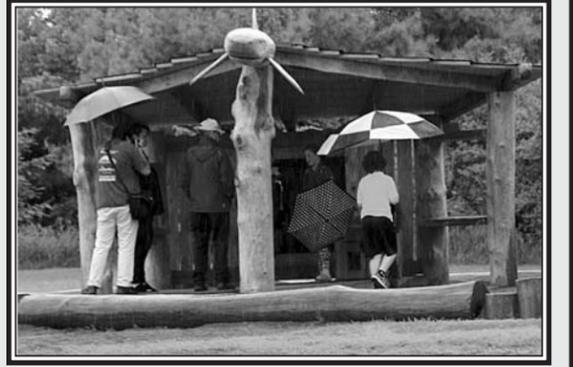
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PHOTO FEATURE

Grand Opening Chiganois Elementary Play Space held on June 21st (Harrington Photos)



The mud kitchen was part of Phase two for the Chiganois Playspace.



Tyler Murphy and Rhileigh Clark wanted everyone to make sure they saw the Thank You poster designed by the Grade Primary Class.



Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair and other guests make their way along the new walking trail.



Grant representatives who provided funding, including Tree Canada and County of Colchester, joined PTG President Jennifer McKay, students and other guests for the grand opening of the new play space.



Many sunny days ahead for students to enjoy this outdoor classroom space.

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