

Hants Family Named Woodland Owners of the Year

By Maurice Rees

Spence Managed Forest, Ellershouse, Hants County has been named the provincial 2019 Woodland Owner of the Year.

Ian Spence credits his father and grandfather's vision for how the company operates today.

There will be a public field day on the Spence property Saturday, Sept. 28. Working in the woods has been a family affair for three generations.

"By balancing industry with ecology, they laid the groundwork for land to be enjoyed and sustainably managed for generations to come," said Mr. Spence.

"We are following their example by looking forward with everything that

we do."

The Spence family owns 810-hectares of a diverse variety of tree species and ages. It is a favourite location for many outdoor enthusiasts. Recreational activities have been enjoyed in the area alongside the forestry operations for decades.

"The Spences are a great example of how we can successfully balance the use of our natural resources," said Iain Rankin, Minister of Lands and Forestry. "It is my pleasure to help recognize their good work and the good work of others in our forestry industry as we all move to a more ecologically based approach."

Cindy and Sherm Em-

bree from Sable River in Shelburne County are the winners for the western region, while Terry Cameron from near Cape George in Antigonish County is the winner for the eastern region.

The department has presented the Woodland Owner of the Year award since 1990. Nova Scotia residents who own 20 to 2,000 hectares (50 to 5,000 acres) of woodland are eligible for woodland owner awards. Nominations are accepted until April 15 each year.

More information is available on the department's website at <http://www.novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot/woya>

What's Involved to Livestreaming Meetings

By Maurice Rees

Earlier this year council at the request of Deputy Mayor, Geoff Stewart, approved a request to staff to investigate and report on what would be involved to "live stream" council meetings on the internet to permit the public an opportunity to access council sessions. The original request of council was "That staff review moving forward with the live streaming of Council meetings."

After undertaking a review, a report authored by Timothy Smith, reported to council with an information item for the August 8th committee meeting. The report stated:

Staff undertook a review of existing hardware and conducted research into how various neighboring municipalities were handling the streaming of their respective council meetings to the internet. There was a variety of technology and processes being used from very simple audio only streaming to multi camera setups controlled by a camera operator during sessions of council. In the end it was thought to utilize hardware that was already owned by the Municipality for both ease of use and to minimize initial cost to the Municipality.

Hardware:

Polycam CX5500 conference camera - This camera has the ability to focus itself on the area of a person speaking and has multiple microphones capable of good audio transmission from any of the Council desk seats using natural voice or microphones.

Windows-based desktop computer - This is used to connect and manage the video live stream. This would be separate from the current presentation computer as logging into and out of the computer would disrupt the streaming video.

Software:

Facebook Live streaming via Municipality of Colchester account, or, YouTube Live streaming via Municipality of Colchester account.

Staff also tested several open source video editing software packages with OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) being the preferred package. This allows for the a more polished presentation of the video stream with audio and video mixing controls and the ability to add graphics overlays and title cards to the stream for a more polished presentation.

Process:

Option 1: Facebook Live allows for simple streaming of live video through its platform. This would be via the existing Municipality of Colchester Facebook page and includes notification of page followers of an upcoming live stream event. Facebook allows for the storage of video after it has been streamed for access by members of the public. The platform also allows for the video to be downloaded so it can be saved in Laserfiche as the official record of the meeting.

A very similar configuration is currently in use by the Town of Wolfville



and can be viewed via their Facebook page.

Option 2: YouTube Live, similar in process and execution to the Facebook option, although Facebook would provide for better exposure to the stream to members of the public. The staff of the Information Systems Department have conducted a live stream test using our existing hardware from the Council Chambers and found that the video quality, camera tracking, and voice levels were all an acceptable quality for live streaming.

Staff Impact:

Impact on staff is anticipated to be minimal. Prior to Council meetings, a member of the Information Systems Department would set up and verify function of the camera and the stream and prepare it for the meeting. Starting, stopping, and monitoring the stream is a simple process of a single start/stop button

in the software and can be maintained by one of the staff members regularly attending sessions of Council. Information Systems Department staff will provide the training to staff as required.

Policy Impact:

A survey was conducted via the AMA listserv to see if other municipalities had developed policy around livestreaming, with responses indicating none had done so. If this initiative is adopted, it is not expected that existing policy would need to be updated or any new policy needs to be developed.

Budget Impact:

This setup is very budget friendly, as all the hardware is already owned by the Municipality. Also, any software we have tested has no cost to the Municipality. Staff training and materials can be developed and delivered by the Department of Information Systems.

Operational and Implementation

Consideration:

Council and staff would have to be mindful not to display any protected information on the live stream.

Attention would have to be paid to the start of In-Camera/Closed sessions so that these sessions are not livestreamed.

There is an option to allow comments from the public via Facebook during live streams, however, should Council wish to allow this, it would be recommended that initially, commenting be disabled until such time that Council and staff are comfortable with the process.

Colchester Happenings in September 2019

TRURO JUNIOR A BEARCATS

Yes it's getting close to the regular hockey season for the MHL and the Truro Junior A Bearcats. Check out the Exhibition games on August 31st at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre starting at 7pm as the Bearcats take on South Shore and on September 7th at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre at 7pm as the Bearcats take on Pictou.

FOOD TRUCK RALLY & EAST COAST ARTISANS MARKET - SEPTEMBER 4

Food Trucks and East Coast Artisans team up on September 4, at the Truro Farmers Market location on Young Street. There will be more than thirty artisans in attendance. As you know their work is of the highest quality. As a fund raiser for the Farmers Market, \$ 2.00 gets you into the Food Truck section and all the great selections of cuisine to satisfy your taste buds. Time: Wednesday, 4pm-8pm. To learn more, visit the Farmers Market facebook page.

HIGHLAND GAMES AND GATHERING - SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

Located at Jennifer Drive at the ball fields in Bible Hill check out the traditional highland games, dancing, food, music and special events. Featuring tug-o-war Maritime Championships, wrestling, archery, historical re-enactors - 18th century swords and musket, dance - showcasing Irish, Scottish Highland, Mik'maq and Ceilidh plus bands and international and local singers. You will also find food trucks, craft fair, workshops and more.... Time: 11am-6:30pm Check their facebook page.

EMBRACE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 14

Embrace is a celebration of all the cultures that make up the mosaic of this community. Hosted at Civic Square from 10am to 1pm. There will be dancing, musical performances and demonstrations. A great way to discover and enjoy the uniqueness of cultures and heritage that strengthen our community.

40 YEARS OF TRURO'S FARMERS MARKET - SEPTEMBER 21

So much to celebrate, catch the big anniversary from 8am to 1pm at the Farmers Market located on Young Street in Truro. To catch all the action visit them on facebook.

ATLANTIC TOOL COLLECTORS COMING TO TRURO - SEPTEMBER 21

The Atlantic Tool Collectors Association is coming to the Farm Equipment Museum, located on the NSPE grounds at 73 Ryland Avenue in Bible Hill on September 21.

Tools, tools and more tools in all shapes and sizes. Many collectors from across Atlantic Canada gather up their best tools, some antiques, some vintage and some with good stories that go with the life of the tool.

It's a great place to learn about the tools that work best and why they are so valued today.

The Atlantic Tool Collectors Association formed in 1994 and has over 80 charted members across Canada and the United States. The Association was formed to promote to the public, interest in history and preservation of antiques and collectible hand tools in the Atlantic provinces.

The coffee will be on, lots of friendly volunteers and lots of expertise about tools. Be sure to drop in.

4H PRO SHOW - SEPTEMBER 27 -29

Fresh from the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition many 4H competitors will showcase their talents and skills with the best of their projects at the largest 4H show in Nova Scotia, the 4H Pro Show.

Open to competitors, their families and the public, the Pro Show is free. There is no admission but the opportunity to cheer on youth who are learning by doing.

Competitors come from all across Nova Scotia to bring their best projects and compete in competitions such as vegetable show, public speaking, wool competition and so much more.

Competitions take place at the NSPE grounds at 73 Ryland Avenue in Bible Hill.

The public speaking competition will be hosted at the Farm Equipment Museum on Friday, September 27, starting at 6:45pm. The topic is "Young Speakers for Agriculture." Check the Farm Equipment Facebook page and also the 4H Nova Scotia site for a schedule and list of competitions and times. Visit: www.4Hnovascotia.ca

ATLANTIC VITALITY EXPO SEPTEMBER 26TH - 29TH

A new show incorporating all the great events of the Seniors' Wellness Expo from last year and increasing the vendors, guest speakers and demos to promote and expand so many of the things Seniors know.

Prevention is the key to lower health care costs, shorter stays in hospitals, less accidents but more importantly living a fulfilling life filled with vitality.

The Atlantic Vitality Expo takes us on a new mission to help us discover products, people and services to further enjoyment of life for all ages.

Starting September 26 to September 29, there will be demonstrations, vendor's showcase, learn by doing sessions, and so much more. The Rath Eastlink Community Centre management and staff are so excited to present this major event that encourages Atlantic Canadians to step up to good health and a positive lifestyle. For a complete schedule visit: www.ratheastlinkcommunitycentre.com

TRURO JUNIOR A BEARCATS - HOME OPENER - SEPTEMBER 28

Catch all the action as the Bearcats take on Valley at 7pm at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. Cheer on the home team! Don't miss any games, Season passes may be purchased at the Rath Eastlink Centre, includes lots of savings, plus extras from the RECC. Visit www.trurobearcats.ca

Small Business Expo - October 16TH

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Truro Partnership are collaborating to host a fun, fall-themed Small Business Expo to showcase our awesome small business community.

The event will be held October 16 from 4-7 PM at the Best Western Glengarry. Businesses wishing to reserve booth space are asked to observe the Registration Dead-



Truro and District Chamber of Commerce

line of October 8, 2019.

Exhibitors are encouraged to incorporate a fall theme into their booth décor, displays, as well as highlight their fall services, merchandise, foods, etc. To make the event extra festive, exhibitors are

asked to bring a pre-carved jack-o-lantern as we will be hosting a contest to award the most creative design of the day.

For more information: Call the Chamber office at 902-895-6328.



The **Shoreline** Journal

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