

PART 1:

Colchester Community Workshops Presentation to Council

By Maurice Rees

(Holly Kennedy's presentation to Colchester Council on August 6th was very lengthy but likewise very important. We have divided the presentation into various parts. Part 1 is published in this issue. Part 2 and other parts will resume publication in October 2019 issue, which will fully explain the rationale behind the \$4.5-Million initiative.)

During an August 6th presentation to council, the Colchester Community Workshops (CCW) was described by Holly Kennedy, as: Self esteem and life purpose builder; Educator; Community enhancer; Springboard for employers and Green role model.

Among the variety of services provided, approximately 280 orders for ribbons and 87,500 buttons produced each year in addition to on-going contracts for businesses including "Mail outs".

CCW also Supports and train clients for success as they move into community workforce. A very successful "New to You Store" offers many household products including clothing. Some clothing is sent to other non-profits. Non-usable clothing is converted into rags which are sold to the public and business community. 7.5 tons of fabric is diverted from the landfill as is 68.63 tons of metal and 62.88 tons of books are diverted from the landfill.

In her presentation Holly Kennedy stated CCW provides life enrichment outings including: Group social gatherings; Trips out of town; Special Activities and volunteers for other organizations including: United Way Heartland Bike Tour, Cobequid Trail Run, Choirs for Comfort, Big Red Bike (Heart and Stroke) and Rally Against Racism.

CCW also connects with the community by: Fostering independence, Promotes self advocacy, Reducing isolation, Supports health and wellness, helps drive the economy and supporting other not for profits.

The CCW Operational Budget shows 62% raised through sales and fundraisers, 38% from government and has an annual fundraising budget to \$75,000.00. The Thrift Store supports community fundraisers. Examples of contracts include: 8,700 remotes tested, cleaned, pkgd and sealed for Eastlink, last year; bagged 35,870 units of violet seeds for Peace By Chocolate.

There is an employment component as well. CCW currently pays 11 clients for approximately 150 hours in real wages; 35 individuals received a real wage for community employment last year and 3 clients left CCW last year having secured almost full-time hours in community.

The CCW is facing some real issues, which need immediate attention. Rotary House is well past capacity; its wait-list growing is growing and there is a need to expand current programs. Contracts have been turned away due to lack of space and present working conditions crowded and stressful.

The CCW is planning to expand its footprint with the acquisition of the Halliday Centre, which will permit: expansion of successful New To You; Will allow all programs to grow; will permit acceptance of more clients and will enhance the down town.

The numbers tell the story, Incurred to date \$1,000,000 approx. (real estate and removal of hazard); Renos and readiness \$3,500,000 for a total of \$4,500,000. The monies will be sourced from: CCW Foundation \$2,200,000 and a public campaign providing \$2,300,000.

Kennedy's presentation listed Campaign Champions as: Stu Rath, Gus MacLellan, Wayne Talbot, Om Khana, Angie Sodhi (client), Adam McClelland (client), Chief Gloade, Eric Jennings, Richard Bowness, Judy Nicholson, Lloyd and Anna Gibbs, Joy Laking, Lori Gunn, Hattie Dyke, Sobey's Andrew, Allan and Keltie Bruce, Jimmie Lefrenze, Judy and Harry MacKenzie, Glenn and Karen Casey and Truro Rotary Club.

The CCW is asking for help; They need advice; need verbal support and are asking Colchester Council for a 5 year donation of \$20,000 a year.

(October 2019 Issue: Part 2, starting to build the case for a \$4.5-Million program expansion.

TAXES PAID...

But No Service Delivered

By Maurice Rees

At Colchester Council's committee meeting on August 8th when Councillor Masters learned the county had been collecting area sewer rate taxes for decades for a property at 21 Trenholm Lake Road in Brookfield without any hope of delivering the service he almost blew a cork.

The matter arose when the new owner applied to have sewer line taxes in the amount of \$157.48 for the current year rescinded and the property be delisted from the area rate. A staff report stated the sewer on Upper Brookfield Road was installed in 1975, however, there is no sewer line extend-

ing up Trenholm Lake Road. Therefore this property does not have frontage on a public sewer and should not be paying the sewer service rate.

Master's stated, in his opinion, taxes should be refunded for the entire period in which they were applied, since the onus for the mistake is responsibility of the county. Staff will investigate the duration of the matter and report back to council. Staff investigation may reveal the property owner could be entitled to a refund spanning 44 years.

Council approved deleting the property from the area rate and will await the staff report.

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