

Community Development Report to Council

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Staffing

Mitchell Bates was hired as an Assistant Building Official in May 2022. Michell is a red seal carpenter and previously completed several courses offered through the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association (NSBOA) and will continue his studies over the next year to become certified. David Henderson received his Level 1 Qualification in June and will advance to complete his Level 2 qualification through NSBOA.

Property Information / GIS

GIS Staff have increased focus on enhancing the integration of Public Works data with the rest of our spatial database content. Solutions have been explored for managing assets and infrastructure. Prototype mapping tools are being developed, both for collection of data in the field, and for dissemination of data, for maintenance task planning and budget management.

After initial testing of the recently implemented Enterprise GIS Portal and the first generation of data layers imported to it, opportunities for refinement of the content and better formatting for consistent end user experience have been identified. Plans for applying these improvements and importing a second generation of authoritative data layers are underway; further iterations will continue as needed.

Further steps have been taken on updating existing web mapping applications, data management processes, and documentation of maintenance procedures and best practices. Custom coding and data modelling solutions are being developed to improve efficiency of data processing and map production. A new template for public-facing map products is being developed for use in future projects.

Civic Addressing and property information processing is managed on a daily basis and continues to be effective and efficient as we have moved into a busier time of year for new devel-

opments and permitting processes. Additional support is now being provided to assist with subdivision application processing as well. Similarly, many smaller-scale tasks and bespoke projects are routinely prioritized and handled by GIS staff, as requests for data updates or mapping products are received from other departments.

Recreation Services Programs

The **Multisport Program** finished in early June with a year end celebration at the Fundy Discovery Site on June 15. The Department will be launching the next round on August 1 which will have eleven sports over 10 months with the Active Start (primary to grade 1) and Fundamentals (grade 2 and 3).

All **Non-profit and annual grants** have been distributed to various organizations and each organization received a letter as well as a post grant report form, which will be returned to the Municipality once the projects have been completed. Annual Grant recipients will be making presentations to Council between September and December 2022.

Sport Hub has been operational since a soft launch on April 1st, 2022 to encourage people to join the site and build family profiles prior to adding sport group members. Work has started on the fall registration and with a number of adjustments, organizers are optimistic for a positive uptake.

Annual Art Show

On June 16th, the Municipality of Colchester County hosted the annual Art Show where two winners (unable to host for 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions) were announced. Rosalynd Coulter was selected as the 2020 winner for her moving piece of "Boots on the Ground" and the 2021 winner was Mary Ann Archibald for her piece titled "Cobequid Trail at Low Tide". Twenty-six pieces of art were on display and the program will be back again in November for the 2022 Art Show.

Parks and Trails

The tree planting program is finished with 61 large trees and 850 + seedlings in various municipal parks and trail heads. The program was initiated three years ago when several mature trees were lost over the winter in various areas of the County. Memorial benches are still being installed in 2022. The Department does charge a small fee, and a family member would provide the plaque (within our guidelines) and staff install.

Debert Memorial Park - Staff, volunteers and groups have been working on the trails, gardens, and parking lots this spring/summer. Work is progressing well. Burnside Falls Park - Staff have been working on installation of a new washroom this summer at the park.

Five Islands Lighthouse Park - Not since Moses race on August 14 will be held at the Lighthouse Park this year. Staff will also be working on an observation deck by the shoreline in front of the lighthouse. Park reservations and bookings have returned to pre-covid numbers.

Active Communities

Step into Spring was held between March 26 to May 20 this year with approximately fifty-five people registering for the program with several submitting steps to the program. About 15,312,261 steps have been recorded.

The Cobequid Trail Run is returning on Sunday August 28 as an "in-person" event for the 5km, 10km and half marathon races at the NSCC.

Colchester Bike Week also returned with several "in-person" sessions held between June 4-12. Events such as: bike challenges, coloring contests, bike rodeos, rides, picture contests which were posted on our Colchester County Recreation Facebook Page.

Fun in the Sun Day Camps are running at two locations each week from July 4 to August 18th. While the number of campers has increased, the camps are limited to select school locations that could be used over the summer.

Colchester County and the Town of Truro have been working together to celebrate volunteers in our community this fall. All nominees to date will be highlighted along with their bios on both social media platforms and at the event in the fall. The deadline for nominations was extended to August 19, 2022.

The provincial volunteer awards will be held on September 26, 2022, and Cara Carruthers-Fury is the Colchester County Nominee.

Paul Smith, Director Community Development, Municipality of County of Colchester presented the report to council committee on August 9, 2022

Leaves and Fall

(Colors)

Take a walk in the forest
Share life with one another
Go north south east or west
With your sister or your brother

Us and nature
The leaves they are changing

God bless and thank-you, Thomas A. Marshall, (Ex-Navy)

Watch your step keep it steady

The winter is so near

Us and nature

Nature has a way with us

Its beauty we behold

Weather is our friend

Even if its cold!

Us and nature

Summer is all but gone

The colors they are many

Whistle a tune or a song

Us and nature

Birds and animals are all ready

As winter snow will soon be here

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

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Province Prevents Pay Increases for MLAs

Significant pay raises for MLAs, recommended by an independent review panel, will not proceed. The government introduced amendments to the House of Assembly Act on July 26, to prevent the binding recommendations from taking effect. "Now is not the time to increase compensation for MLAs," said Minister Druhan. "Nova Scotians are facing record high inflation and many people are having a hard time financially. As elected officials, our compensation needs to reflect the current state of the economy." MLAs have been receiving an annual base salary of \$89,234 since 2014. Despite the independent review panel finding that the Premier's compensation is fair and reasonable and should not be adjusted, Premier Tim Houston has chosen to voluntarily reduce his salary by \$11,246.01. This is the first time in recorded history where a sitting Premier has reduced his compensation.

Mi'kmaq Language Legislation Proclaimed

Legislation to recognize Mi'kmaq as Nova Scotia's first language was proclaimed on July 17, by the Province and affirmed by the Mi'kmaq during a ceremony in Potlotek First Nation in Richmond County. Mi'kmaq Chiefs signed a resolution to affirm and uphold the provincial legislation on behalf of their communities. The Mi'kmaq Language Act will take effect on October 1, Treaty Day, and will support efforts to protect and revitalize the language. The legislation was passed by the legislature in April.

Premier puts brakes on Art Gallery Project

Premier Tim Houston announced on July 27 the new Art Gallery of Nova Scotia build is on hold. The project was originally scheduled to break ground this year on the Halifax waterfront but the project is paused indefinitely.

The project was originally expected to cost about \$137 million but a recent independent estimate projected a cost increase of at least \$25 million, most likely significantly more, due to rising inflation and increased construction costs.

Parking Lot for Truckers

The very active Debert Business Park Committee has recognized the park does not have a parking lot to service long haul truckers. Following extensive discussion Over several months, they approved a request to Colchester Council:

"That Council direct staff to explore DBP signage improvement options and to investigate the possibility of a temporary gravel parking area in the entry of DBP, to accommodate needs of long-haul truckers." Council approved the request and will develop a plan to move forward.

Wines Receive Award for Excellence

Four wines received the 2022 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines at a ceremony at Government House on July 28. Wineries across the province submitted up to three commercially available wines made with 100-per-cent Nova Scotian grapes. An independent panel of experts participated in a blind tasting of all wines to select the top four submissions for the annual award.

They are: 2013 Blanc de Noir Extra Brut, Avondale Sky Winery, Newport Landing; Riesling Sparkling, NV, Domaine de Grand Pré, Grand Pré; 2015 Blanc de Noirs, Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards, Wolfville and 2021 Tidal Bay, Mercator Vineyards, Wolfville. The award is administered by Taste of Nova Scotia and Wine Growers Nova Scotia in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Thirty-four wines from 14 wineries were submitted this year for adjudication by a panel of 11 judges. Each winning winery is presented with a gold medal and a certificate; they may advertise that the wine is an award recipient.

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Portapique Market Monthly Update

Hello from your Friends at the Portapique Market on August 2nd.

Since our first Saturday in June, we have been so proud to see so many wonderful smiling, happy, hungry faces coming down to visit us at the Portapique Market. Through the support of donations and volunteers, we have been able to have free food on offer every single week so far and will continue to do so throughout the rest of the summer.

On top of our delicious produce, we have had the pleasure of being joined by some local community members setting up as vendors and selling their wares. We have also been so grateful for the addition of a shed to the space and now have an event tent that we will be using to ensure everyone stays dry while shopping for their weekly produce and goods. We look forward to the end of summer/fall surge of delicious local produce that we will continue to bring to you every Saturday!

Vendor Info - We still have lots of space available for anyone local to the area who wants to come join us as a vendor. There is no fee (although donations to the hall are welcome). We ask that you bring your own table.

Wild Blueberry Fest - This year we will be a part of the Wild Blueberry Fest. We would like to host a blueberry pie eating contest and are looking for community volunteers to be involved. Please contact us for more information.

Market Fundraiser - In our continued efforts to support activities during the market we are having another basket draw (one

for the kids this time). Tickets will be available at the market until the draw on Aug 6th.

Local Farmers - Are you a local grower/producer/farmer? We would love to hear from you! Our goal is to source the produce we sell as locally as we can, so if you have produce, we'd love to make it available at our market!

Women's Equality Day - In our efforts to be an inclusive community that supports equality of all shapes and sizes, we will be putting extra emphasis on recognizing Women's Equality Day! This means that on top of our usual delicious, local, fresh produce and delicious free food offering, we will also have some extra community representatives with us at the market that day. These include representatives from

ElevateHer, CMHA, and the Along the Shore Health Board. We all have wonderful women in our lives, come out and support us recognizing their equal importance to our community!

Thank you to all our community members for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to either Ashley Swan - Market Organizer, or Tessa Young - Program Manager for the Portapique Hall when you see us at the market every week and let us know your thoughts and feedback!

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