



Municipality of the County of Colchester

Inside this issue:

Public Works	3
Animal Control	3
Waste Resource Management	4
Community Development	8
Cobequid FireFit	9
Recreation	10
Tax Office	12
Fundy Discovery Site & Open House	12

September 2019

Volume 24 Issue 3

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

Through the Municipality's Scholarship Program, scholarships are awarded annually to high school students residing in Colchester who are planning to further their education. Scholarships are awarded to students who are enrolled in Bachelor or Trade Programs.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the following students received scholarships:

South Colchester Academy:	Mariah Hatfield Zach Geldart
Ecole Acadienne:	Nicholas Levangie
Cobequid Educational Centre:	Sophie Shepherd Theron Forbes Nicholas Munden
Tatamagouche Regional Academy:	Brady Flanagan Cameron Matheson



From the Mayor's Desk

It has been a busy summer with a lot of positive action, announcements and events in Colchester County.

Funding Announcements: The Honourable Melanie Joly, Federal Minister of Tourism, announced ACOA funding for the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) upgrades for six sky boxes, a multi-purpose room and new LED arena lighting, amounting to \$345,000. NS Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Karen Casey, added provincial funding of \$40,000, and the facility co-owners, the Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro contributed a total of \$60,000. These new additions will enhance the facility's ability to host world-class events, thus contributing more economic benefits to this whole area.

Secondly, an Infrastructure Canada Announcement took place at the Municipality of the County of Antigonish offices on July 26th. It was through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and will provide Colchester County with \$1.2 million for three sewer upgrades in Valley, Salmon River and Debert. Project components include major upgrades to existing pumping stations and the abandonment of an old Debert sewage treatment plant which will be replaced by a small diameter pressure sewer system and will divert sewage into the main sewage plant for Debert.



Representatives were MP Sean Fraser, Government of Canada, funding \$673,480; the Honourable Randy Delorey, Province of Nova Scotia, contributing \$560,757; Warden McCarron, Antigonish County, and myself, who was pleased to represent Colchester

Compost Giveaway

Page 7

County. \$449,463 has been budgeted through Colchester finances. Special thanks to our Director of Public Works, Michelle Newell, for her work to achieve this goal and for keeping informed on infrastructure funding programs from which Colchester may benefit.

Special Events: The Municipality of Colchester was a very proud sponsor of the Snowbirds in our community. It isn't every day that the RCAF 431 Air Demonstration Squadron flies over one's community. We were especially thrilled to have our own historic Debert Airport showcased as an important resource in Colchester County and to see over 4,400 people enjoy this remarkable show.

Some other events in Colchester County this summer included Canada Day celebrations; the Not Since Moses Run across the Bay of Fundy ocean floor in Five Islands; Brookfield Homecoming; the Pride Parade; Millbrook PowWow; Debert Days; Mud Hero in Debert; TataFest; and the Economy United Church celebrated 125 years, 1894-2019, on July 21st. Colchester County is a happening place!



Photo by Paul Morris

Some Important Issues

Doctors: The number one concern of citizens in Colchester County is health and our provincial health system. Council recognizes the importance of having new doctors and an efficient health system. To that end, a year ago, Councillor Bill Masters and I, along with our CAO and representatives from the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, Millbrook First Nation, the Chamber of Commerce, the Truro-Colchester Partnership for Prosperity (REN), joined a team of medical professionals to form a physician recruitment working committee. As municipal representatives, we are able to participate, assist and promote. Recently, we welcomed the first group of six medical residents here for a two-year period and in 2020, we will welcome six more. Colchester County is hoping some will choose to stay, live and work here when they graduate.

Hazardous Substances By-laws: Colchester recently updated its by-laws, making them much stricter in the handling of hazardous substances, such as asbestos, which will serve to enhance provincial environmental legislation. Kemptown has a hazardous substances disposal area currently operated through a company under contract with the County, where staff are trained to handle hazardous substances.

Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring Geopark & UNESCO Designation: *"300 million years ago in the Coal Age, the continents collided to form Pangea. 200 million years ago in the Age of Dinosaurs, it began to rip apart, and the modern world was born. We tell that story like nowhere else on earth."* The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark from Debert to Apple River is a tourism project featuring over 30 geological sites that inspire a sense of wonder along our renowned Bay of Fundy. Cliffs of Fundy is aspiring to achieve a UNESCO designation that would have it join a prestigious list of Global Geoparks from around the world. International UNESCO evaluators, Dr. Nikolaos Zouros, from Greece, and Dr. Asier Hilario Orus, from Spain, experienced that wonder in late July. The Board of Directors for the aspiring Geopark expects to receive the results of the evaluation this fall with the potential of an official UNESCO Global Geopark designation by Spring of 2020. Working together, Colchester and Cumberland Counties recognize how important this project is to our rural communities for economic development and tourism.

Rural Internet: Colchester and Cumberland Counties have been working together to acquire more complete high speed internet for our two counties. We see this as crucial to business development and the well-being of our rural communities.

Other: Congratulations to the Village of Bible Hill for the new branding slogan, "Plant Your Roots." Well done!

I also want to mention the loss of well known citizen and WWII Veteran, Herb Peppard. Sincere condolences on behalf of the Municipality to Herb's family.

Christine Blair, Mayor

Reminders from Public Works

- When contractors build sidewalks or install sewers for the County, their work is under warranty for one year. If any projects have taken place along the edge of your property, and you have any concerns about the quality of the work or the way your property was left, be sure to contact the Public Works Office before the one year period is over.
- Need a sewer lateral installed in 2019? Apply now! Sewer laterals cannot be installed once the snow sets in and the asphalt plant closes.
- Illegal Dumping in Water Supply areas - The County operates two water utilities, one in Debert and one in Tatamagouche. It is important to keep drinking water safe, not only by providing treatment, but also by protecting the environment from where the water is drawn. If you see any illegal dumping happening in the wooded areas of Debert, or in the areas surrounding the French River in Tatamagouche, be sure to call the Public Works Office to let us know!



- Flushable Wipes are NOT flushable at all! Just because a wipe will fit down your toilet, doesn't mean it should be flushed. Wipes can cause clogged sewers and get tangled in pumps and equipment. They belong in the regular garbage.

Animal Control

Dogs Running at Large



One of the most common misconceptions about Animal Control is that dogs will be removed from their owners if calls are received about them running at large. This is not the case; Animal Control is there to protect the safety and welfare of your dog and community.

How would you feel if your dog was spotted running at large and was caught in a trap or snare; hit by a car; fell through ice on a lake; or encountered other dogs or wildlife resulting in injuries or even death?

Imagine if your dog ran away from home and neither you nor the finder called Animal Control to report it. Instead of calling Animal Control to report dogs running at large, many people often resort to posting on social media sites. While social media can encompass a large group of people in a short amount of time, some people do not have access to these sites, so valuable time could be wasted.

Did you know the SPCA now handles kenneling for the Municipality? By calling Animal Control, your dog can be picked up and taken to the holding facility, where staff will use all means necessary to determine and locate the owners (which can occur very quickly if registered and wearing a County tag). This is a safer solution than ignoring the problem and letting the dog continue to run at large.

So next time you see a dog running at large, ask yourself, "what if this was my dog?"

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: www.colchester.ca

Follow us on Twitter @ColchesterWRM

Like us on Facebook - Colchester WRM

Colchester Balefill Facility

188 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Materials Recovery Facility

185 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Reminder: All visitors must report to the scale house prior to unloading materials. The scale house operator can accept cash, a personal cheque, or Interac as payment for disposal. The scale house is **not** equipped with a credit card machine. All loads must be tarped to prevent litter problems. Untarped loads will be subject to a \$20 surcharge.

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be **closed** on the following holidays:

Monday, October 14th for Thanksgiving Day

Monday, November 11th for Remembrance Day

New Diversion Programs – Working Well

On April 1, 2019, two new diversion programs were introduced; clean (unpainted) drywall and asphalt shingles. If brought to the landfill site as a dedicated load and not contaminated, the tipping fees are \$35 per metric tonne. The clean drywall is being added to our organic processing at our compost facility.

Gypsum from drywall adds calcium and sulfur to the soil, and many plants use these two nutrients. To date, almost eight tonnes has been added. The asphalt shingles are going to be recycled into two products – a paper flake for fuel and a traction sand. To date 190 metric tonnes has been set aside for this project.

Diverting these materials from the second-generation landfill and construction and demolition (C&D) landfill is saving valuable space and creating useful products.



Clean Drywall



Asphalt Shingles

One Large Item Collection in Colchester County Now Available All Year Long!

In Colchester County, each household can place one large item curbside on their regular collection day for pick up. This item could include household items such as a couch, a chair, a table, a freezer, etc. These bulky items are picked up by a separate collection truck. The regular collection driver makes a note of the bulky item location and forwards the information to the bulky waste collector. If it is not collected on your allotted day, it will be picked up the following business day.

Keep your Personal Identity Safe

Recycle your Confidential Documents Securely & Responsibly!

FREE Community Paper Shredding Event!

Saturday September 21st, 9:00am—12:00pm
Rath Eastlink Community Centre Parking Lot
625 Abenaki Road, Truro



- Open to residents & small businesses in Colchester, Truro & Stewiacke
- 10 file boxes or 5 large bags of paper per person or business
- No plastic sleeves or binders



COLCHESTER
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Helpline 902-895-4777 www.colchester.ca [@ColchesterWRM](https://twitter.com/ColchesterWRM)

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal - Dates to Remember



Location: Clean Harbours, 640 MacElmon Road, Debert, Exit 13, Highway 104

2019 Dates of Operation: October 5th, November 2nd

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

This **FREE** service is for residents of the Municipality of Colchester, as well as the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke

Curbside Recycling—Quality Matters

We want to thank residents for your continued hard work and support. By placing clean and dry materials out for recycling at the curb, our sorting team at the MRF and our public are enabling the Municipality to continue to find sale for our products during this very difficult time. Recycling markets are becoming more and more selective and are purchasing only high-quality clean materials for processing.



Using blue bags for recyclables also helps our collectors pick the correct bags at the curb. This reduces the amount of garbage being picked up in error.

Safe Battery Disposal

Lithium batteries are compact, lightweight and hold considerable amount of charge. They do well under constant use and recharging. These batteries are found everywhere - in laptop computers, cameras, cell phones, tools and toys.

The contents of the battery are under pressure, so if a metal fragment punctures a partition that keeps the components separate or the battery is punctured, the lithium reacts with water in the air and can generate high heat and sometimes produce a fire.

When garbage and recyclables arrive at our site, the bags are moved around by heavy equipment, and they may go through an auger system before the materials are baled. Any of these activities could compromise a battery and cause a fire. **Please do not** put them in a bag for curbside collection.

So far this year we have had two fires that were deemed to be caused by batteries. They were fortunately caught early by operations staff and were safely extinguished before any serious damage occurred.

Battery drop off Depots are FREE and they can be found at the following locations, during regular business hours:

MacQuarries Pharmacy – Bible Hill, Brookfield & Truro
Subway Enviro Depot – Bible Hill
Masstown Market – Masstown
The Store – North River
Fundy Vet – Salmon River
Stewiacke Town Hall – Stewiacke
Home Hardware – Tatamagouche
Enviro Depot – Tatamagouche
Municipality of Colchester, Tax Office – 1 Church Street, Truro
Canadian Tire – Truro
Pettis Plumbing – Truro
Staples – Truro
Walmart – Truro

Please do your part and keep our workers, worksites and your homes safe.

Batteries DO NOT GO in the Recycling or Garbage

So please properly dispose of them at the locations identified above.



Fall Compost Giveaway – October 21st to 26th

The Fall edition of the Compost Giveaway is taking place at the Balefill Facility (188 Mingo Road, Kempton) on October 21st to 26th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on weekdays and 8:30 am to 11:30 am on Saturday. Each household is entitled to shovel 100 kgs of compost into three bags. Bags are provided but remember to bring your own shovel and wear appropriate footwear and gloves. Compost is sold for \$2.00 per bag or \$34.50 per metric tonne (HST included) throughout the year. Please phone the Helpline at 902-895-4777 for more information.

Compost is the ultimate garden fertilizer. It contains virtually all the nutrients a living plant needs and delivers them in a slow-release manner over a period of years. Compost serves primarily as a soil conditioner, whether it's spread in a layer on the soil surface or is dug in.

Benefits of Compost:

- Soil is better able to hold air,
- Soil is better able to hold water,
- Soil is better able to drain more efficiently,
- Soil contains a nutrient reserve,
- Plants will have fewer insect and disease problems,
- Encourages beneficial soil microorganisms, which control harmful microorganisms, and,
- Fosters healthy plant growth and healthy plants are better able to resist pests.



Municipal Compost being screened

Some people recommend late fall as a good time to spread compost over a garden bed, and cover it with a winter mulch, such as chopped leaves. By spring, soil organisms will have worked the compost into the soil.

An existing lawn top-dressed with a ½" layer of compost every year or two will be healthier than an unamended lawn. Fall is the best time to apply the compost, although an application in early spring is almost as effective.

A compost mulch can benefit trees and shrubs just as it does other plants. Spread a ½" to 1" layer of compost on the bare soil under the tree as far as the drip line. Then cover with a 2"-3" layer of some other kind of organic mulch, such as chopped leaves or pine needles. The mulch will hold the compost in place and keep it from drying out.

Compost is the best material available to enliven your soil no matter where you live. Farmers around the world will testify that healthier soil grows healthier plants that naturally resist disease, insects, and other environmental pressures. Adding compost to your garden is a long-term investment – it becomes a permanent part of the soil structure, helping to feed future plantings in years to come. (Source <https://compostguide.com/>)

Municipal Compost is lab tested to meet Grade A requirements prior to any marketing or Give Away Events.

Presently, compost is available all year.

Community Development

When Do I Need A Permit To Build A Shed?

- If the total square footage of the shed will be greater than 215 square feet,
- If you want to hook up power to the building (regardless of the size, Nova Scotia Power will want a Building Permit Number to hook up power to your shed), or,
- If you live in a zoned area (you will need a Development Permit regardless of the size of your shed).



What Do I Need To Get A Permit For A Shed?

- The application (filled out at the County Office or printed and completed from our website),
- Construction details,
- A plot plan (showing distances to property lines and other buildings on the property),
- The fee (the fee for a shed permit is \$0.02 per square foot with a minimum fee of \$5.00).

For more information about construction projects and permits, visit our webpage at www.colchester.ca or call the Community Development Department at 897-3170.

What Do I Need to Apply for a Building Permit to Construct a New Home?

To apply for a Building Permit in Colchester County you must visit the Building Inspection Department at 1 Church Street between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm with the following information:

- A detailed set of building plans/ construction drawings (plans should be drawn to scale),
- A detailed plot plan (showing distances to property lines),
- Department of Environment approval (if applicable),
- Department of Transportation approval (if applicable),
- Cheque, cash or debit (no credit cards) for permit fee (0.06¢ per square foot of finished floor area).



The Approval Process:

After your application is completed and all of the above required information and approvals are submitted, it will be reviewed by the appropriate staff to make sure your proposed project complies with Municipal By-laws, and the National Building Code. This section of the process may take a few days, while approvals from Provincial agencies may take a few weeks. Be sure not to wait until the last minute to apply for outside approvals.

Please note that Municipal approvals will not be granted until the appropriate Provincial documentation has been received.

2019 Eastern Atlantic Regional FireFit Championships



The Cobequid District Fire Brigade recently hosted the 2019 Eastern Atlantic Regional Firefit Championships. This event saw 70 firefighters from across Canada test their skills and endurance in, what is often referred to as the ‘toughest 2 minutes in sports’. The competition was held at the Truro Mall on August 10th and 11th and had close to 400 people in attendance on the first day.

This was the first time that the FireFit Championships have ever been hosted locally and the organizing committee, that was led by David Osborne, of Cobequid Fire Brigade, ensured that everyone involved enjoyed the experience.

Firefighters from across the Atlantic region and as far away as British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, tested their fitness through a course of simulated firefighting tasks that consisted of:

- Climbing a 40ft tower (6 flights of stairs totalling 60 steps) while carrying a 4ft bundle of fire hose weighing 42lb on their shoulders, having to touch every stair on the way down,
- Hoisting a 45lb roll of hose 40ft,
- Striking a 200lb chopping simulator with a 9lb maul,
- Running 140ft around hydrants,
- Dragging 75ft of fire hose and hitting a small target with a stream of water, and
- Ending with the dragging of a 165lb mannequin a 100ft

All while wearing over 40lb of their protective equipment.



The FireFit event is a very demanding challenge and it showcased some of the best competitors in Canada. The fastest time was posted by Jonathan Betts of CFB Gagetown who successfully completed the course in 88 seconds and another five firefighters broke the 90 second threshold.



Two local fire brigades had firefighters participate during the event. They were Deputy Chief Guy Gallant of the North River District Fire Brigade and Courtney Mills of the Cobequid District Fire Brigade.

It was Firefighter Mills first FireFit event while Deputy Chief Gallant is a veteran, having participated in several FireFit competitions and qualifying for the 2019 Canadian National Firefit Championships in Oshawa, Ontario this September in both the over 50 Category and the Chief Category.

Work has already begun to attempt to bring back the event in 2022 and showcase the best firefighters challenging themselves.



Recreation

Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Upcoming application deadlines:

Funding for Insurance for Non-Profit Groups -
October 25, 2019

Community Trail Funding Program - January 31, 2020

Grants to Non-Profit Organizations - January 31, 2020

Community Park Funding Program - February 28,
2020

Please visit www.colchester.ca/rec-grants for program details and application forms.

Volunteer Recognition

Are you looking for a way to say Thank You to a volunteer or community group? Why not nominate them for the recognition they deserve?

The Municipality of Colchester promotes volunteerism by encouraging communities to nominate volunteers, groups, youth, families and businesses and by emphasizing the recognition of all volunteers. Please consider nominating volunteers in your area. Contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 for more details

Hey Ladies! Have You Ever Wanted to Learn to Play Hockey?



Here's your chance! Babes on Blades is back for another year. This "learn to" hockey program is designed to teach the basics of hockey to women with little or no experience. The program reviews skating skills, basic rules, shooting, passing, and game fundamentals.

For more details contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited!

Colchester 4 on 4

Colchester County hosts Women's 4 on 4 hockey games for the more experienced players. Starting October 13th, games take place every Sunday at Deuille's Rink in Salmon River. If you would like more information, please contact Ellie Shipley-Landry at elliesshipley74@gmail.com

Calling all Artists! Art Acquisition and Show in November

Local artists are invited to participate in the Municipality's Annual Art Acquisition Program this fall. Artists must apply to participate and can submit up to three pieces of work. The various works of art will be featured in an art show, proudly hosted each year by the Municipality of Colchester. Time and location to be announced. During the show a work of art is selected by a committee and added to the permanent public display on the main floor of the Municipal Building at 1 Church Street, Truro. The selection is based on quality of the art, the historic development and lifestyle of Colchester County, and the medium used. For more information about the Art Acquisition Program, go to www.colchester.ca/art-acquisition or contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.



Sit and enjoy nature and fall colours at Stewiacke River Park

Municipal Regional Parks

This fall, why not plan to visit one of our Municipal Regional Parks? They feature picnic facilities, walking paths, playgrounds, and river or ocean views. Sail away on the ship playground at Five Islands Lighthouse Park, bicycle on the Butter Trail through Nelson Memorial Park as you enjoy views of Tatamagouche Bay, or enjoy the fall colors while picnicking or walking along the trails in Stewiacke River Park.

The Regional Parks are serviced until October 14, 2019, although the public is welcome to use the parks for walking and snowshoeing during the late fall and winter. For more information and directions, please visit www.colchester.ca/parks or phone 902-897-3180.

Picnic shelters at the Regional Parks may be reserved, free of charge, for family or group events from mid-May through mid-October. For reservation inquiries, please contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3180, or use the on-line reservation form: <http://www.colchester.ca/park-reservation-form>

Autumn Trail Adventures

Fall is a wonderful time of year to get outside and explore the trails in Colchester County. Enjoy the vibrant forest colors! Visit www.colchester.ca/trails to plan your next trail adventure in Colchester County.



Cobequid Trail, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus



Like **Colchester County Recreation** on Facebook and follow **@MunColRec** on Twitter for more information about our upcoming programs!





Municipality of the County of Colchester

1 Church Street
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 3Z5

www.colchester.ca

Toll Free Number
1-866-728-5144

Reception - 897-3160, 897-3150,
897-3175
Administration
Tax Office
Public Works

Community Development - 897-3170
Building Inspection
Development Officer
Animal Control
Planning

Property Information - 897-3178
Colchester Recreation - 897-3185
recreation@colchester.ca
Materials Recovery Facility and
Regional Balefill Facility - 897-0450
Waste & Recycling Helpline - 895-4777
helpline@colchester.ca

Fax Numbers

Courthouse Building

Administration - 843-4066
Community Development - 843-4061
Finance / Tax Office - 843-4067
Human Resources - 843-4063
Information Services - 843-4068
Property Information - 843-4062
Engineering / Public Works - 843-4064
Recreation Services - 843-4065

External Locations

Regional Sewage
Treatment Plant - 897-0335
Public Works Building - 895-5251
Water Utilities - 641-3102
Materials Recovery Facility/
Waste Reduction - 897-0453
Regional Balefill Facility - 895-2307

Municipality of the County of Colchester

Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2019/20 property tax bills were due on August 30, 2019 and any outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.25% monthly.

There are many options for you to pay your property taxes. Payments can be made at the Tax Office (cash, cheque and debit only) at 1 Church Street, Truro, at most financial institutions, as well as by telebanking or online banking. If you are making your payment by telebanking or online banking, please make sure you use the **assessment account number** as your account number.

If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact our office to verify your mailing address.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill or need to set up a re-payment plan for your outstanding property taxes, please contact Suzanne Graham at 902-897-3162 or via email at sgraham@colchester.ca.

Tax Sale

The next tax sale is scheduled for November 19, 2019. The list of properties will be made available on October 17, 2019. Check local papers and our website at www.colchester.ca/tax-sales for the list and updated information as it becomes available.

Project Update: Fundy Discovery Site



In May of 2019, Colchester Council approved an interim capital budget that would enable the continuation of improvements at the Fundy Discovery Site, formerly known as the Palliser Restaurant and Hotel site. The Municipality has also been fortunate to secure additional funding totaling nearly \$100,000 through a variety of Provincial programs and the TransCanada Trail Foundation.

Despite a late start due to a wet and cold spring, much of the work scheduled for the 2019 construction season concentrated on completing the initial phase of the project. A new outdoor amphitheater, landscaping and site amenities, a dyke trail, installation of a security system and the second phase of the natural playground will be finished early this fall. Council also approved funding for future project planning and arrangements to complete a pedestrian bridge design and a detailed interpretive plan that will guide the remainder of site development. Design work on both components is scheduled to begin in the fall of this year.

Open House and Phase 1 Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Saturday, September 21st

Join us at the Fundy Discovery Site!!

Entertainment to begin at 3:30pm,

Ribbon Cutting 4:15pm,

Food and Refreshments to follow,

Tidal Bore at 5:55pm.

(Rain date September 22nd)