



Municipality of the County of Colchester

March 2015

Volume 20 Issue 1

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**2015
Waste
Reduction
Guide
Included**

Upper Onslow Planning Initiative

In 2013, County Council embarked on a large sewer servicing project in Upper Onslow that was initiated to address some sanitary sewer serving issues along Granville Drive area as well as to respond to emerging development interests around the Onslow overpass on Highway # 102. Completion of this project in December 2014 created new development pressures that could result



in higher densities and accelerated growth. This transformation has already become evident with the construction of new roads, businesses and interest in new residential developments. Change is in many ways inevitable and the community is now faced with the rare opportunity to begin a process that can guide this change in a manageable way that meets the expectations and desires of those who must live and work within this area.

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Message from the Mayor



March 31st is the last day of the County's fiscal year for 2014-15. It has been a very busy year for Council and staff. We are pleased to have been able to complete a number of major projects again this year. Continual investment in our community is very important in making Colchester a great place to live and do business.

By the end of this fiscal year, the County will see the opening of the new state of the art Compost Facility in Kempton, which completes the three stages of the County's ambitious Waste Management Master Plan. The Onslow Sewer Project will have been commissioned as well. This project started with addressing a serious sewer problem on Granville Drive, a 70 year old subdivision in Upper Onslow. Council and staff researched various scenarios to address the problem and decided to extend the sewer line hook up with the County sewer at Mingo's Corner. This meant an investment of nearly \$4 million and has created a tremendous interest in residential and commercial development in this area; a great example of turning a difficult situation into a great opportunity.

2014-15 also saw the completion of three new sidewalks in the County: Mingo's Corner, Brookfield and East Prince Street. These projects will greatly enhance the safety of our residents in these communities as well as the appearance of these areas. The County's plans for a new sidewalk on Plain's Road in Debert in 2015, which was to be coordinated with the repaving of that road by the Province, has been cancelled due to opposition by the residents of Debert. In place of this project is a new sidewalk/ bikeway along the McClure's Brook Connector, from the present sidewalk on Truro Heights Road to the new Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC). The design for the overpass over Highway # 2 is now

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Upper Onslow Planning Initiative *(continued from page 1)*

The Municipality of Colchester has had land use planning in place throughout Central Colchester (including Upper Onslow) for nearly 20 years, however the purpose and scope was mostly designed to manage rural land use issues, heavy industrial, and development in the floodplain. The recent provision of sanitary sewer however, is beginning to attract a much wider range of land uses at higher densities than before. If development is left to occur by chance, the consequences could be both harmful and long lasting.



At the direction of the Planning Advisory Committee, Municipal staff held an Open House on October 26, 2014 and through the month of February has conducted community and stakeholder meetings to gain a better understanding of the issues and opportunities the area faces. Generally, feedback from these sessions indicated an interest in a more detailed level of planning for the area, mostly because the existing plan does not offer a great deal of protection against incompatible and disruptive land uses.

Over the next six to eight weeks, planning staff will begin to draft a new land use plan which addresses the concerns expressed to date and provide greater consistency with other sewer serviced areas like Salmon River, Hilden and Lower Truro. Additional community meetings will be held in early April to discuss the draft land use plan with residents and property owners at which time additional feedback can be reviewed and adjustments made. Residents should watch for notices in their mailboxes and on the County's website for dates and times. In the meanwhile, inquiries and concerns can be directed to: Paul J. Smith, MCIP, LPP, Senior Planner, 902-897-3170 or psmith@colchester.ca.

Message from the Mayor *(continued from page 1)*

Underway. The Province is providing 50% of the funding for this design, which is a great help. The project will provide safe passage for residents from the Truro Heights area through a presently dangerous area for pedestrians. It will give residents the opportunity to walk and/ or bike to the new RECC, hospital and shopping areas, which coincides with the County's objective to create more active lifestyles for our residents.

We have now experienced the first full year of operation of our new RECC. This state of the art facility was built as a community centre and an event facility. It is certainly serving its purpose as a community centre, with more and more residents using and enjoying the facility. Use of the walking track is amazing, which not only gives all of our residents an opportunity to exercise in a great environment, but is serving as a place for people to renew old friendships and acquaintances. On the event side, there are quite a number of special events planned for 2015. One of the most exciting is the Grand Slam Curling event. These events provide a great economic spin-off to businesses in our community.

The County is very pleased with the formation of our new Business Economic Development Advisory Committee. The Committee is in a strategic planning process and will be setting priorities and direction for economic development in the County. Our Economic Development Officer (EDO) has been busy working with our present business community, new projects and new entrepreneurs. She is also working with the Town of Truro's EDO, Millbrook's Business Development Officer and the Town of Stewiacke. As with many other projects, the County is taking a regional approach to Economic Development.

County Council and staff are also interested in creating more municipal awareness by telling our story and hearing from the public. We are very proud of our accomplishments and vision. Staff, along with myself, has prepared a presentation for school classes and are very interested in taking the presentation to communities throughout the County. Contact your area Councillor if you are interested in hosting a Municipal Awareness Session in your community. Our wish is to have everyone in the community aware of County operations, be involved in your community and be proud of what we have.

Bob Taylor, Mayor

Tipping Fee Increase

The Municipality of Colchester will be increasing tipping fees for the Balefill and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), located in Kempton, effective April 1, 2015. See the charts below for a breakdown of the fees.

Balefill: County residents delivering garbage or organics will not be charged tipping fees, but tipping fees will apply to any construction materials delivered. All Town of Truro residents must pay when they deliver anything to the site directly.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>April 1, 2015</u>
Solid Waste	All household & commercial garbage, construction waste	\$95.00	\$112.00
Compost	All organics: leaf & yard waste, food scraps	\$30.00	\$51.00
Scrap/ Wood Construction & Demolition (C&D)	Clean wood/ steel loads able to go directly to the Salvage Yard	\$30.00	\$35.00
Scrap/ Wood Construction & Demolition (C&D)	Clean loads of C&D able to go directly to C&D Borrow site (for contracted haulers or with management's permission)	\$30.00	\$35.00

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): Includes all recyclable material. The increase will be \$2.50/MT, as detailed below:

<u>Recyclable Level</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>April 1, 2015</u>
Sorted	Single type of recyclable material, pre-approved by the MRF Manager prior to delivery (i.e. clean, dry cardboard)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Regular	Regular clean, dry, recyclables separated into two sorts: containers and fibre. The majority of the recyclables fall into this category.	\$ 85.00	\$ 87.50
Extra	This level is rarely used (i.e. recyclables received in extremely poor condition, which require excessive sorting)	\$ 140.00	\$ 142.50

For additional information please contact: **Balefill** – Jessica Rushton, 902-897-0450, ext 201 or email: jrushton@colchester.ca / **MRF** – Jann McFarlane, 902-897-0450, ext 101 or email: jmcfarlane@colchester.ca.

Art Acquisition

Recently the Municipality of Colchester held its 27th Annual Art Acquisition show and reception, co-hosted with the Truro Art Society. The event featured various pieces from local artists that reflect the historical development and lifestyle of Colchester County. During each show, a work of art is selected by a committee and the chosen selection is added to the permanent public collection at the Municipality's Courthouse Building.

This year's winning selection is the Great Blue Heron painting by Deborah MacDonald. Ms. MacDonald is part of a long tradition of self-taught maritime artists. Her art has been described by some as hyper-realism. Birds, elegant and beautiful, have long captured her imagination. With graphite and water colours, clean lines and close attention to detail, she work's to capture their magic. The Municipality of Colchester is honoured to add this wonderful piece of art work to our growing collection.



Artist Deborah MacDonald, left, and Councillor Christine Blair, right, proudly display the winning 2014 Art Acquisition piece, the Blue Heron.

Waste Resource Management

Waste Reduction Helpline: 902-895-4777

Website: www.colchester.ca

Follow us on Twitter! @ColchesterWRM

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

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 \$20.00 surcharge.

Material Recovery Facility

185 Mingo Road, Exit 18
Highway # 104 Kemptown

Hours of Operation:

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

The Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities will be **closed** on April 3rd for Good Friday, April 6th for Easter Monday and Monday, May 18th for Victoria Day.

If your regular collection day for organics and garbage or recyclables falls on a holiday, an alternate collection will take place on the **following Saturday**. Please refer to your waste collection schedule for details. Material must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.

We are changing the way we do Calendars!

In an effort to provide a better service and easier to understand collection calendars, we are excited to let residents know that they now have a choice in how they would like to receive their calendar.

With our new online service, you can print a calendar specific to your own home address, sync with your own electronic calendar, and receive weekly reminders about collection by phone, email or Twitter at www.colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling

You can also find our new Waste Wizard on the website to help you find out 'What goes where.'

Once you sign up, we can also get in touch with you if collection is postponed due to a storm.

Smart phone or tablet user? Get the free Colchester Waste App on your Android and Apple devices.

No computer? No printer? No problem! Call us at 902-895-4777.

We will be happy to mail you a customized printed copy and set this service up for you.



**Don't let this happen to you...
sign up or download today!**

Helpline 902-895-4777 www.colchester.ca  @ColchesterWRM

Top 5 Alerts from our Recycling Facility



Have you ever wondered how all of those recyclable items you place in your blue and clear bags get sorted? Our recycling facility has conveyor belts with a very dedicated staff that do a great job sorting these valuable resources to keep them out of the landfill and give them a new life.

Staff has been noticing some problem items that are arriving in recycling bags. Help keep the high quality of our recyclables by putting the following items in the right place!

- **Knives** - Any sort of knife should not be placed in your recycling bags. If you are looking to dispose of a knife, please package it safely to ensure that it will not harm your family or the collector and place them in your garbage bag.
- **Wooden Clementine Boxes** – These boxes should be placed into your regular garbage bag for disposal. We cannot recycle the wood, so please don't place these in your blue or clear bags for recycling.
- **Household Batteries** - These do not go in the curbside recycling program. There are drop off sites across the Municipality and Household Hazardous Events days where they can be brought for recycling. Please tape across the two terminals on the 9 volt square batteries for safety. Call our Helpline for the nearest drop off site near you at 902-895-4777.
- **Clothing/ Footwear** – When you clean out your closet or find a shirt with a slight imperfection, please don't place them in your blue or clear bags for recycling. There are many local charities that accept good reusable clothing. The white and red drop off community boxes can receive bedding, clothing and footwear, even those in poor condition. Always try to reuse items or find someone else who can get some use out of them before putting them in the garbage.
- **Milk Cartons** – These should always be placed in your containers recycling bag with your plastics, bottles and cans. This item is commonly mistaken for belonging in the paper recycling bag. So common in fact, that each day the staff at our recycling facility pull upwards of 250 milk cartons off the paper sorting conveyor line to make sure they get to the right place with the other containers! Placing these in your container recycling bag at home helps keep our facility more efficient.

See us in action! – All of the recyclables that arrive at our facility are sorted by hand by our dedicated employees. Check out our new video to see us in action at <http://www.colchester.ca/recycling-in-colchester> to find out 'Where does it go?' This will give you a firsthand look at why it is so important to properly sort your recyclables and ensure they are clean when they are placed into your bags! Thank you for your cooperation!



2015 Dates of Operation

April 11 th	August 8 th
May 2 nd	September 12 th
June 6 th	October 3 rd
July 4 th	November 7 th

Hazardous Waste Disposal – Dates to Remember

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

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

This service is FREE for residents of The Municipality of Colchester and the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke.

2015 Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event

When: Saturday, May 30th

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Where: Industrial Building, Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Bible Hill

For more information check out our website at www.colchester.ca or phone our Helpline at 902-895-4777.



Illegal Dumping

The Municipality of Colchester Waste Reduction staff has been working with the local residents and businesses to solve illegal dumping cases. Illegal dumping is when garbage has been left on any property not approved for disposal of those types of materials. In Colchester County, only the Municipal facilities in Kemptown and the private construction and demolition site in Brookfield have provincial permits for disposing waste materials.

If you find or see anyone leaving waste materials on unauthorized properties, please report it to our Helpline at 902-895-4777. Your complaint will be forwarded to our Waste Management Officer. Our residents have a very low tolerance of litter or abandonment of garbage materials along the roadsides or strewn about in our beautiful communities. From April 2014 to December 2014, the Waste Management Officer has investigated 21 official illegal dumping complaints. Let's keep working together to protect our water ways and local environment.

The Table below identifies that most sites have been cleaned up by the "generator" of the materials. The term generator refers to a person who has been linked and identified through evidence found at the site.

	<u>Community</u>	<u>Cleaned Up By</u>	<u>Amount of Material</u>
1	Masstown	Property owner	2 dump trucks
2	Hilden	Municipality of Colchester	20 bags
3	Hilden	Municipality of Colchester	3 bags
4	North River	Municipality of Colchester	12 bags
5	Alton	Local generator	3 bags
6	North River/ Bible Hill	Local generator (both sites)	1/2 tonne truck load
7	Masstown	Belmont generator	1/2 tonne truck load
8	Belmont	Pictou County generator	15 bags
9	Kemptown	Truro generator	3 1/2 tonne truck loads
10	Middle Stewiacke	Family of generator	2 truck loads
11	Kemptown	Pictou County generator	5 bags
12	Brule Point	Oxford generator	2 1/2 tonne truck loads
13	Onslow Mountain	Bible Hill generator	1/2 tonne truck
14	Kemptown	Bible Hill generator	Black bags
15	Hilden	Truro generator	5 bags
16	Kemptown/ Salmon River	Truro generator	1/2 tonne truck
17	Belmont	Family of Belmont generator	20 bags
18	Brookfield	Harmony generator	10-15 bags
19	Bible Hill	Bible Hill generator	2.5 1/2 tonne truck loads
20	East Shubenacadie	Property owner	1/2 tonne truck load
21	Middle Stewiacke	Summary Offence Ticket Court Case Pending	

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Illegal Dumping (continued from page 6)



The Municipality will be profiling Illegal Dumping Cases that are reported to staff in the upcoming newsletters. During investigation of sites, we will be asking the public's assistance in identifying perpetrators, so that they become responsible for the clean up costs - not the tax payers of Colchester. Over the years, the Municipality has been very successful having the sites cleaned up by the generator or by the person that actually dumped the material. We look forward to your cooperation.

Ready, Set, Spring Cleanup!

Spring is drawing near. It will soon be time to clean out your sheds, basements and closets of unwanted items.

This special collection for all residents of Colchester County allows for the disposal of larger household items not normally picked up in the regular curbside program. All items must be placed **within 10ft/ 3m of the road by 7:00 am on the MONDAY** of your collection week. Each household, including apartment buildings of three units or less, are eligible for spring cleanup collection. The maximum weight of individual bundles cannot exceed 50 lbs or one cubic meter in size, with the exception of furniture and appliances. The total amount to be set out should not exceed 650 lbs (picture the amount that can fit into the back of a half tonne truck).



Residents are reminded that smaller clean up items **must be packaged or bundled in a CLEAR GARBAGE BAG or box for collection.** To help ensure all of your material gets picked up, please make sure these small/ loose items are placed in a clear bag or container.

PLEASE NOTE: More than one truck will pass by your house to pick up various items. If some of your items get picked up and other items are left behind (for example, metal items), please be patient. This usually means that some items will be picked up a little bit later by another vehicle.

Spring Collection will take place as follows, please refer to your collection schedule for Zone descriptions or visit our at website <http://www.colchester.ca/collection-schedules>.

PLEASE NOTE: Commercial waste is not included in spring clean-up. This includes: farms, businesses and institutions.

Zone 1 – May 25th to 29th	Zone 6 – April 27th to May 1st
Zone 2 – May 25th to 29th	Zone 7 – May 4th to 8th
Zone 3 – June 1st to 5th	Zone 8 – May 19th to 22nd
Zone 4 – June 1st to 5th	Town of Truro – April 20th to 24th
Zone 5 – April 27th to May 1st	Town of Stewiacke – May 8th

Materials such as cardboard, recyclables, organics, Christmas trees and electronic items are banned from landfill and will not be picked up at the curb as clean up items.

Car parts, construction and demolition debris can be brought to the Balefill Facility and dropped off for the appropriate tipping fee as they are not eligible for Spring Clean Up collection.

Further questions can be directed to the Colchester Helpline at 902-895-4777 or visit www.colchester.ca.

Recreation



Spring is in the air! Get ready to step into spring with Colchester Recreation's eight week walking program. It's an easy and fun way to improve your current activity level.

What is Step into Spring? The Step into Spring walking program involves wearing a pedometer, recording your daily step counts and submitting your weekly total to Colchester Recreation by email or phone. A \$10 program registration fee gets you a Stepscount pedometer, reusable bag, and other great incentives to keep you motivated throughout the program! Tons of prizes to be won each week.

The Challenge begins March 28th and runs until May 22nd, registration opens March 23rd in the Recreation offices at the Municipality of Colchester, Town of Truro, Village of Bible Hill, and Town of Stewiacke.

For more information contact Recreation Services at 902-897-3185 or visit our website at www.colchester.ca/spring.

Step into Spring on a Trail!



Sandy Cope Trail, Gully Lake Wilderness Area

Springtime adventures await you on our terrific trails in Colchester County! With more than 150 km of walking and hiking trails to explore, Colchester County has something for everyone.

Walk to your heart's content along the seacoast. Hike to waterfalls in the hills. Run like the wind through the park. Stroll beside wonderful wetlands. Bike beside the beautiful Bay. This spring, make trails part of your active, healthy lifestyle!



Cobequid Trail, Old Bams

To plan your next trail adventure, visit www.colchester.ca/trails.

Volunteer Recognition

Are you are looking for a way to say "Thank You" to a hard working volunteer or community group? During the week of April 12th to April 18th communities all across Canada will celebrate National Volunteer Week. The primary purpose of this specially designated week is to thank and honour people who donate their time to help others by supporting the cause in which they believe.



The County 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. The County of Colchester and the Town of Truro will be hosting the Volunteer Award Ceremony on **Monday, April 13th** at the Holiday Inn Truro.

Nominations are being accepted for the following Colchester/ Town of Truro categories:

- Individual Volunteer Award
- Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Volunteer Family Award
- Colchester County Pettigrew Recreation Leadership Award

Deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 31, 2015. For more information or to obtain a nomination form contact Recreation Services at 902-897-3185, email: recreation@colchester.ca or visit our website: www.colchester.ca/volunteer-recognition.

Colchester Bike Week

Cycling season will soon be here! As winter ends, and you hang up your sleds, skis and snowshoes for the season, plan to tune up your bicycle, so you'll be ready to ride this spring!

The 10th annual Colchester Bike Week will be held from **June 5th to 14th** with free activities to promote and celebrate cycling. Bike Week details will be available mid-May at www.colchester.ca/bike-week and in local media. If you have an event idea or would like to volunteer, please contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185.

Cobequid Trail Expansion

The Municipality of Colchester and Village of Bible Hill are pleased to announce that a new section of the Cobequid Trail will open soon. Over the past several years we have been working to acquire access to land, plan and construct the trail, and we are happy that the trail is very near completion! Here is a sneak peek of the trail, under construction. Stay tuned for details of an upcoming Grand Opening Celebration.



Municipal Regional Parks Open May 9th

The Municipality of Colchester's three regional parks open for the season on May 9th, but until then visitors can explore these day use parks on foot even when park gates are closed. Please note that these parks, including the trails in the parks, are not maintained during the winter and usual park services are not available until early May.

If you enjoy family walks, plan to explore the trails at Stewiacke River Park. Enjoy views of the river, spring wildflowers, birds and other wildlife. Bring a picnic to share together at one of the several shelters beside the river. This park features wheelchair accessible paths and washrooms. Located just 14 km south of Brookfield, this quiet park is a gem for nature lovers.

A magnificent panoramic view of the Minas Basin awaits you at Five Islands Lighthouse Park. Located 70 km west of Truro and directly across from the Five Islands, the Lighthouse Park has a finely-crafted picnic shelter, paths and a beach for walking, and the largest ship playground in the county! During July and August, the 102 year-old lighthouse is open to visitors.

Nelson Memorial Park is situated beside Tatamagouche Bay and just 2 km west of Tatamagouche. With a playground, picnic areas and a beautiful view of the Bay, this park is a great place to spend an afternoon. Bring your bicycle and pedal on the Butter Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail) to the Creamery Square or the Train Station Inn.

For directions to these parks and more information, visit www.colchester.ca/parks.

Community Development

Applying for a New Home Permit?



To apply for a building permit in Colchester County you must visit the Community Development Department at 1 Church Street between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm 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;
 - Nova Scotia Environment approval, if applicable; and
 - Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal approval, if applicable
- At the time of application, you must pay a permit fee of 0.06¢/ ft² of finished floor area.

The Approval Process: After your application is completed and all of the required information and approvals are submitted, the application will be reviewed by staff to ensure that your proposed project complies with land use regulations 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 these approvals. For more information contact Community Development at 902-897-3170 or visit our website at www.colchester.ca/building-permits.

National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings

On January 31, 2015 the Province of Nova Scotia amended the Provincial Building Code regulations to adopt the National Energy Code (NEC) for buildings to be used in conjunction with the National Building Code. The goal of the NEC is to reduce harm to the environment by excessive energy use. The NEC contains provisions for the design and construction of the building envelope, mechanical systems including:

- Heating;
- Ventilation;
- Air conditioning systems;
- Service water heating;
- Lighting; and
- Electrical power systems and motors.



The NEC applies to all buildings **except**:

- Residential buildings that are not more than three stories in building height and not more than 6,458 ft² in area (footprint);
- Buildings containing business and personal services, mercantile or low hazard industrial occupancies which are not more than 3,230 ft² in area (footprint).

The buildings listed above are governed by Section 9.36 of the National Building Code.

Cleaning Up After Your Dog

While on a walk, cleaning up after your dog is something that is not only sanitary, but responsible and respectful to others. Dogs can surprisingly create a lot of waste and with close to 12,000 dogs in Colchester County, it is the responsibility of every dog owner to help keep public areas, such as sidewalks, parks and trails, clean.

Picking up after your dog also includes proper disposal. After cleaning up after your dog, used bags should be placed in garbage cans; **not** in compost bins or left on the sidewalk or trail.



Congratulations to Holly Weatherby...this year's winner of the Early Bird Dog Tag draw for registering her dog by the January 10, 2015 deadline.

Lost Dog?

Whether a dog is new to your home or a seasoned veteran to your property lines, there is always a possibility that they could wander off and get lost. Traps and snares are baited this time of year which can lure dogs away from familiar territory. Over the winter months many dogs have gone missing from their homes; some have been found while others have not been so lucky.



Please be sure that your dog is wearing a municipal dog tag. In the event he/ she goes missing, this will help to reunite dog and owner. In Colchester County it is the law to tag your dog. Speak to your veterinarian about micro-chipping as an option. Micro-chipping can also be useful for hunting dogs. Remember if a dog is not tagged or micro-chipped, we cannot trace him/ her back to the owner.

If your dog goes missing, it is important to know what to do:

- Call the Animal Control Officer at 902-897-3170. If you live close to a municipal boundary it is a good idea to contact the Animal Control Officer of any neighbouring municipalities as well;
- Contact the local radio station – lost and found pets are announced throughout the day;
- Contact the Nova Scotia Lost Dog Network to post a notice at www.lostdognetwork.com. It is also recommended to post a notice on other social media such as facebook, twitter, and kijiji;
- Put up flyers or posters with a description and photo of your pet in areas around your community such as bulletin boards or stores.

Public Works

Are You Connected to the Public Sewer System?

If you are a homeowner or business owner, and are connected to the public sewer, please keep in mind that anything you flush down the toilet or put down the drain impacts our sewer system. Items such as cloth-like wipes and grease can cause major blockages not only in your private sewer lines, but also in our public sewers.

In order to help minimize blockages in any part of the sewer system, the following items should be placed in your regular garbage, and **NOT** in our sewer system:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Diapers | • Napkins (paper or cloth) or paper towel |
| • Facial tissues | • Feminine hygiene products or prophylactics |
| • Cotton balls, cotton swabs or cotton pads | • Wash cloths, towels and rags |
| • Cleaning wipes of ANY kind | • Dental floss |
| • Toilet bowl scrub pads | • Hair |

Did you know that most public sewer lines only have an opening size of 8 inches, which is about the length of a fork?

The Sewer By-Law and Sewer Use Policy outline what types of materials can be flushed into the public sewer. For more information visit our website at www.colchester.ca.



**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 902-897-3160,
902-897-3150, 902-897-3175

Administration
Tax Office
Public Works

Community Development 902-897-3170
Building Inspection
Development Officer
Animal Control

Property Information 902-897-3178
Colchester Recreation 902-897-3185
recreation@colchester.ca

Materials Recovery Facility and
Regional Balefill Facility 902-897-0450
Waste & Recycling Helpline
902-895-4777
helpline@colchester.ca

Fax Numbers

Courthouse Building

Administration 902-843-4066
Community Development 902-843-4061
Finance / Tax Office 902-843-4067
Human Resources 902-843-4063
Information Services 902-843-4068
Property Information 902-843-4062
Engineering/Public Works 902-843-4064
Recreation Services 902-843-4065

External Locations

- Regional Sewage Treatment Plant 902-897-0335
- Public Works Building 902-895-5251
 - Water Utilities 902-641-3102
 - Materials Recovery Facility & Waste Reduction 902-897-0453
- Recycling Operations 902-897-0453
- Regional Balefill Facility 902-895-2307

Low Income Exemption

As in past years, the Municipality will once again be offering a property tax exemption. **If you qualified for the exemption last year, you will be sent an application form automatically.** These will be in the mail by mid-March. If you do not receive your application form by the end of March, contact the Tax Office at 902-897-3162.

Approved household income levels and exemption amounts are:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Household Income</u>	<u>Exemption Amount</u>
Single	Less than \$24,392	\$184.26
Family of 2	Less than \$32,217	\$245.67
Family of 3 or more	Less than \$38,659	\$307.09

"Income" means a person's total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality excluding: any allowances paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act* (Canada), the Child Tax Benefit or the GST rebate. It includes the income of all other members of the same family, except those attending school on a full-time basis, residing in the same household.

The deadline for this year's exemption must be filed with the Tax Office, 1 Church Street, Truro, Nova Scotia, by May 8, 2015.

For income verification purposes, please bring a copy of your completed 2014 Income Tax Return (NOT the NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT FROM REVENUE CANADA).

Staffing

Retirement: On behalf of Council and staff, the Municipality would like to wish Allan Hayman, Plant Maintenance Worker; Rose Dill, Payables & Payroll Clerk; and Sheila Wilson, Scale House Operator, a healthy and happy retirement.



New Hires: The Municipality would like to welcome the following new staff members: Heather Maddigan, Finance Officer; Wade George, Wastewater Collection Worker; Suzanne Graham, Receptionist/ Administrative Clerk; and Jenifer Robar, Administrative Support Clerk for Solid Waste.

Service Recognition: The Municipality's Service Recognition Policy acknowledges employees reaching service milestones. Employees recognized for years of service to the end of 2014 were:

5 yrs: Sherry White, Bev McCabe, Ashley A'Court, Doug Carter, Kelly Gratto-McCarthy, Michael MacKinnon, Richard Haight, Tamara Dorey; **10 yrs:** Elsie Robinson-Debay, Hilary Paquet, Corey Reid, Terri Robblee, Mark MacCallum, Clay Drummond, Alan Cox; **15 yrs:** Darlyne Proctor, Pam Macintosh, Herb Corbett; **20 yrs:** Mannie Withrow.

