



Municipality of the County of Colchester

Inside this issue:

By-Election Results 3

A Message From The RCMP 3

Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan 3

Public Works 4

Recreation 6

Waste Resource Management 8

Animal Control 11

Tax Office 12

November 2017

Volume 22 Issue 4



Waste Management Facilities Open House Recap

On Saturday, October 14th, we had over 250 residents visit our Waste Management Facilities in Kemptown. It was a fantastic day full of tours, games, food and fun! Thank you to each and every one of you who came out to spend

some time with us learning more about waste management in Colchester. We hope you enjoyed yourselves!



From the Mayor's Desk

Your Council has completed the first year of its four year term and I wanted to share an update with you on several projects of the Municipality. Also in this newsletter, is a general overview of our financial status. It is important to Council and County Staff that you understand how your municipal tax dollars are spent to make Colchester a better place.

Early in 2017, Council and Staff participated in a process to identify strategic priorities for the Municipality. These priorities are focusing our decision-making and allocation of resources. We followed up with a thorough service capacity review to ensure we can deliver on-going excellence of municipal services while also working on special projects. Our top strategic priorities are:



Fundy Discovery Site (former Palliser site) – Phase 1A, implementation of the site Masterplan, has begun with the development of a public washroom facility, service extensions, playground, and a trail connection along the dyke (scheduled to be completed by year end). The project's branding plan was developed through a committee and consultation process and then approved by Council. With proximity to the Bay of Fundy and the busiest highway in the province, the site's tourism potential is as great as the tides!

Debert Airport – Attention is being given to critical upgrades to this community asset. We recently installed a new weather and navigation system to further position the airport as the region's leading general aviation and flight training facility, as well as a site for niche avionics business.

Regional Enterprise Network – The first document I signed after being sworn in was a three-year agreement with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, Millbrook First Nation, and

**Financial
Update
Insert**

the Chamber of Commerce for a collaborative pilot project to attract and retain business in this region. The Province will match the \$195,000 in contributions from the group for each year of the project.



Debert Business Park – The Municipality recently completed a branding process that will guide future marketing and promotion of the Debert Business Park. The brand will soon be used in a dedicated website to attract new business to the area and be deployed on signage around the Park. Other projects in Debert include the completion of a new pumping station; construction of a new water tower; and an entrance roundabout to be completed in 2018.

Fiscal Sustainability Plan – This plan will provide a ten-year financial forecast for the Municipality and will provide future budget decisions with a long-term approach. Its anticipated completion date is the end of February in concert with the 2018/19 capital budget.

Economic Development – Colchester is involved with a variety of economic development projects including:

- *Events Truro Colchester* – A partnership of the Town and County along with area tourism stakeholders, working to attract major events to our region. Sample efforts include Nova Scotia Music Week, World Junior A Hockey Challenge, and World Down Syndrome Swimming Championship in 2018.
- *Vital Signs Project* – This collaborative project, led by the United Way of Colchester, has collected available data to give an indication of the vitality of our communities and to identify needs for improvement. The resulting report will guide decision-making with regard to future community and economic development.
- *Rural Internet Improvement Strategy* – Work is underway to identify the best role for the Municipality to support access for all residents, institutions, and businesses to fast, reliable, and affordable internet service.

Perennia Innovation Centre – Colchester has many assets in the agri-food sector. A joint feasibility study with Perennia outlines an opportunity to build an economic cluster of agri-food businesses based in Bible Hill and in other nodes within the county.

RECC Capital Reserve – Significant investment in upgrading the Rath Eastlink Community Centre's (RECC) dehumidification system has made clear to Council the importance of planning for future maintenance and upgrade costs. The Municipality has begun building a reserve for this purpose.

Waste to Energy – The Municipality is pleased to be participating in a feasibility study with Nova Waste Solutions Inc. to explore an innovative landfill alternative. The study will investigate developing a waste resource transformation facility in Colchester with fiscal and environmental dividends. The patented multi-phased plasma gasification process takes waste destined for landfills, diverts unmarketable recyclables, and turns the remaining materials into clean syngas used to generate power and heat. The study will be completed at no cost to the County.

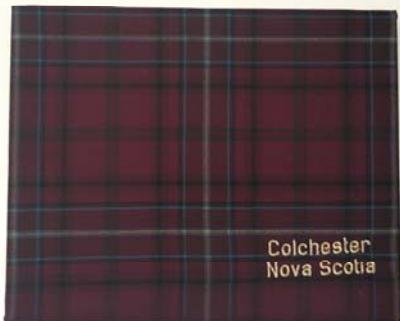
Infrastructure (Capital Plan / Asset Management) – Our Public Works Department has begun an inventory of the Municipality's physical assets, including sewer lines, waterlines, roads, and sidewalks. The condition of each asset will be assessed to inform capital spending plans for maintenance and/or replacement. The process will take 5 years to complete and then continue on an ongoing basis.

This gives you an overview of some of the work of your Council and Municipal Staff. We continue to value greatly the work of our many community volunteers. Please know that your Councillors are here to work with you and assist you. We will continue to shape the future with vision, working with Councils from Truro, Stewiacke, and Millbrook First Nation, as well as our vital business community and other levels of government over the next three years of our mandate.

On behalf of our Colchester County Council and Staff, I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas (or Happy Holidays), and a healthy, happy New Year 2018.

Christine Blair, Mayor

Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan



A new Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan has been created to mark the Canada 150 celebrations and the inaugural Colchester Highland Games and Gathering. Colchester County is now the home of both the oldest registered Canadian Tartan, the Nova Scotia Tartan, and the newest registered Canadian Tartan, the Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan.

The Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan was made in "hunting tartan" colours. The dark red loamy soil of Colchester County is depicted in the background colour of our Tartan. The red is cross woven with the green of the forests and the land itself; the blue of the rivers and the Bay (the blue is for the Scots); the gold of the flower in the Colchester flag (the gold is for the Acadians); and the black to represent the Mi'kmaq, our First Nations people (taken from the medicine wheel where the colour represents the North).

The complete story of the Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan, and the tartan itself, can be viewed at the Municipal Offices, 1 Church Street, Truro.

A Message From The RCMP

With winter just around the corner, Colchester District RCMP would like to remind residents to protect their snow removal equipment from would-be thieves. Snow blowers left in the yard or in an unlocked shed can become an easy target. Companies that utilize or sell snow removal equipment are also victimized by criminals who are looking for opportunities to steal snow plows, snow blowers and salt spreaders, often selling them online. What can you do to protect yourself? "Document it, mark it and secure it.



Document it: Photograph equipment and record serial numbers.

Mark it: Engrave equipment with serial numbers in a discreet location.

Secure it: Store equipment in a well-lit, secured and locked location. Keep plows attached to trucks. Take the keys with you when you are out of the truck. Keep keys for vehicles attached to equipment in a separate location. Display signs that indicate your property is monitored by video surveillance and GPS systems. Check on property daily and report theft or suspicious activity immediately.

2017 Special By-Election Results

A Special By-Election for District 9 Councillor was held on October 21, 2017. The results and voter turnout are shown below.

Election for District 9 Councillor					
Eligible Voters	Robert (Bob) Pash	Robert (Bob) White	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes Cast	% of Voter Turnout
2,849	379	240	6	625	21.94

The contact information for Councillor Bob Pash is as follows:

Email - bpash@colchester.ca

Phone - 902-899-0271

Public Works

Winter Tips and Reminders

Winter is fast approaching. Please help us keep our roads and sidewalks clear of snow by following these simple tips:

- Refrain from parking vehicles on roadways and sidewalks before, during and after winter storms. This includes Debert Park and areas in Valley where no parking signs are installed.
- Please be sure not to place garbage, recycling or green carts on sidewalks.
- Keep your garbage boxes and mailboxes clear of snow to help prevent damage to both boxes and equipment during plowing. Brightly painted guide posts can be placed beside garbage boxes to ensure visibility for those who are plowing.
- Remember to keep snow clear from fire hydrants when plowing driveways. Buried hydrants can cause problems in emergency situations.
- Moving snow from driveways onto the street is a hazard for vehicle traffic and is prohibited by law. Where possible, please keep snow removal within private property.
- If possible, wait to clear snow from the end of your driveway until after the snowplow has passed.
- Clear snow from catch basins and driveway culverts to help prevent flooding on properties, sidewalks and streets.
- When placing stakes on lawns to protect grass from plows, please place the stakes far enough back to allow crews to keep snow well off the roads, shoulders and sidewalks. If your stakes have been damaged by the plow, they are too close to the road or sidewalk.
- Lawns extending in close proximity to the roadways and sidewalks may be subject to gravel accumulation as a result of snow plowing activities. Please note that the Municipality will not be responsible for cleanup of these areas in the Spring.



The Public Works Staff greatly appreciates your cooperation during the snowplowing season.

Not Sure Who To Call About Snow Removal?

- **Provincially Owned Roads (green signs)** - contact Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal at 1-844-696-7737 or refer to the article on page 5.
- **Municipally Owned Roads (blue signs)** - contact our Public Works Department at 902-897-3175.
- **Private Roads (usually white signs)** - contact the person or company responsible for snow removal on your road.

In some cases, County owned roads may be plowed by the Province and vice versa. If you are unsure who plows your road, please call the Municipal Public Works Office at 902-897-3175.

Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Snow Removal

When will my road get plowed?

Plowing Priorities		
1	100-Series and trunk highways, and other high traffic roads	Cleared within 8 hours after snow stops
2	Secondary routes and other medium volume roads	Cleared within 12 hours after snow stops
3	Local paved roads, most subdivisions and residential streets	Cleared within 24 hours after snow stops
4	Gravel roads	Cleared within 24 hours after snow stops

We are on the job day and night, 24/7, keeping our roads as clear and safe as possible. Road clearing and salting is scheduled according to the kind of road and traffic levels.

Salting and Sanding		
100-Series and trunk highways, and other high traffic roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salted to achieve bare pavement • Salt applied before, during and after a storm if required 	We also use sand instead of salt in environmentally sensitive areas and when temperatures are too cold for salt to work below -10° Celsius.
Secondary routes and other medium volume roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salted to achieve a bare centre line • Salt applied at beginning of storm and after a storm if required 	
Local paved roads, most subdivisions and residential streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salted to achieve a bare centre line • Salt applied only after a storm 	
Gravel roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow packed • Sanding as needed 	



Emergencies

Call 911 for medical and other emergencies. We clear roads for emergency vehicles at the request of emergency services providers.

Delays in service

We have more than 500 vehicles servicing roads throughout the province. During storms, most of our equipment is focused on keeping major highways passable. This may delay service to other roads.

www.gov.ns.ca/tran/winter

Highway conditions: 511

Local road information: 1-888-432-3233



Recreation

Volunteer Recognition 2018

**Are you looking for a way to say “Thank You” to a hard working 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 dedicated volunteers in your community for the following awards:

- Provincial Representative Volunteer Award
- Provincial Youth Volunteer Award
- Provincial Family Volunteer Award
- Colchester County Pettigrew Recreation Leadership Award
- Colchester County Community Group of the Year Award



The deadline for all nominations is **Friday, February 9, 2018 at 4:30 pm.**

For more information and nomination forms, contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185,
recreation@colchester.ca or visit www.colchester.ca/volunteer-recognition

Funding for Insurance for Non - Profit Groups

Does your non-profit recreation or community group have insurance? Are you having trouble finding the funds to properly insure your organization? The Municipality has a program to support eligible, non-profit organizations which require financial assistance for General Liability Insurance and Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance coverage. The Municipality will contribute a portion of premium costs to eligible organizations. For more information, guidelines and application forms, visit www.colchester.ca/rec-grants or contact Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3181. **The application deadline is February 23, 2018.**

Grants to Non-profit Organizations

The Municipality welcomes applications from registered non-profit organizations and charities which have a positive impact on local residents and the community as a whole. **The application deadline for 2018/2019 is January 31, 2018.**

To receive a copy of the policy and an application form, please drop by Colchester Recreation at the Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro, visit our website at www.colchester.ca/rec-grants or call 902-897-3185.

Grants for Community Trails and Community Parks

The **Community Trail Funding Program** provides grants to eligible non-profit organizations for planning, constructing, maintaining and promoting public recreational trails. **Application deadlines for 2018 are January 26th and June 1st.**

The **Community Park Funding Program** provides grants for capital improvements to public, outdoor recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and multi-purpose courts. **Application deadlines for 2018 are February 23rd and September 14th.**

For more information on these programs, visit www.colchester.ca/rec-grants or contact Hilary Paquet, Parks and Trails Coordinator, at 902-897-3180.



Municipality of Colchester Financial Update 2017

Inside this issue:

Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side?	2
Tax Rate Math 101	2
Strong Communities = Strong County	2
Grants to Non Profits 2016/17	3
Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?	4
Operating Budget Expenses	4
Did You Know?	4

Why Colchester County Residents Are So Smart

Not only have we chosen to live in a beautiful and thriving part of Nova Scotia, we pay significantly less tax than those in other parts of the Province. Our tax rate is almost 14% less than the average rate for rural municipalities in Nova Scotia – among the lowest tax rates in the entire province!

In Good \$hape

Each year, Council prepares an operating budget aimed at providing excellent core municipal services while staying within our means. Council takes very seriously its duty to be careful stewards of our collective resources. We do this by finding wise savings, responsible investments, and fair revenue sources.

All municipalities incur some level of debt to finance community improvements. The debt service ratio used by the Province to approve borrowing is 15%; the Municipality of Colchester's ratio is

9.3%. Our net debt is down considerably from last year: \$16,807,237 to \$11,550,329. It is vital to set aside funds for challenging financial

times or unexpected capital expenses. Colchester's reserves for 2017 increased to \$9,519,264 from \$8,938,989 in 2016.

The County's operating reserves ratio is 22.6% for 2017 and the five year capital contributions reserve is 8.7%.

Council approved a balanced budget for 2017/18 and is on pace for a small year end surplus.



Money Doesn't Grow on Trees

We have all heard that money doesn't grow on trees. So where does the money come from that affords our many municipal services?

Certainly the main source of municipal revenue is residential and commercial property tax. However, there are several other sources that support our Municipality. For example, "Grants in Lieu of Taxes" are essentially grants that the Municipality receives in place of taxes for Provincial and Federal Government buildings located within the County.

Colchester also earns revenue from the sale of services like recycling for other municipalities and sewage treatment for the Town of Truro.

"Revenue from own sources" is income from things like licenses, permits, tipping fees (at the balefill), and wind turbine energy.

Transfers from the Provincial and Federal Governments through project grants are a source of revenue, along with other income like a portion of the Federal Gas Tax.

Sources of Revenue

Taxes	\$ 24,979,767
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,102,894
Sales of Services	\$ 1,516,552
Revenue from Own Sources	\$ 5,240,145
Transfers from other Gov'ts	\$ 2,302,285
Other	\$ 1,650,426

Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side of the County?



Have you ever wondered why some neighbourhoods in Colchester County have street lights, sidewalks, paved roads, sewer, or water while others do not? Don't we all pay the same taxes? The simple answer is "No".

Colchester County has a basic residential and commercial tax rate and flat rate for garbage collection and disposal. However, residents in different communities pay additional rates for additional services such as fire

protection, sewer, active transportation, sidewalks, and streetlights.

Most rates are based per \$100 of the assessed value of your property. In some communities a flat rate may apply to streetlights.

Tax Rate Math 101

How are your municipal taxes determined? The following example demonstrates how municipal taxes are determined for the owner of a \$125,000 property in Brookfield:

Step 1

\$125,000 (assessed value of your property) / \$100 = \$1,250

Step 2

In addition to the residential rate (\$0.88), identify various rates of services that apply to your area: Fire Protection? Sewer? Street lights? Water? Active transportation/ sidewalks?

Step 3

Multiply each service rate by \$100 per assessed value of your property (i.e. the amount determined in Step 1).

For this example we will use rates that apply to Brookfield residents:

\$1,250 x \$0.88 (residential rate) =	\$ 1,100.00
\$1,250 x \$0.175 (fire protection) =	\$ 218.75
\$1,250 x \$0.185 (sidewalks) =	\$ 231.25
\$1,250 x \$0.04 (streetlights) =	\$ 50.00
\$1,250 x \$0.12 (0.4 + 0.8 sewer) =	\$ 150.00
+ Flat rate (garbage/compost) =	\$ 110.00
TOTAL TAX BILL	\$ 1,850.00

Step 4

Add the amounts together to determine your total tax for the year.

Visit: www.colchester.ca/tax-rates for a complete list of tax rates throughout Colchester County, or call 902-897-3160 .



Stronger Communities = Stronger County



The Municipality of Colchester recognizes that community groups and volunteer organizations contribute greatly to the strength and prosperity of our County. For that reason we support and invest in these not-

for-profit organizations through our Community Parks Program, Community Trails Program, Non-Profit Grants Program, Economic Development Grants, and Non-Profit Insurance Program.

We're pleased to have supported 98 groups and initiatives in 2016/17 to build a stronger Colchester County.

See the list of 2016/17 recipients on the next page.

Grants to Non-Profits 2016/17

COMMUNITY PARKS PROGRAM

Evangeline Pentecostal Camp	\$36,393.06
North Shore Recreation Centre	\$9,350.00
Upper Stewiacke Community Dev Assoc.	\$3,603.00
Winding River Consolidated School	\$3,858.00

COMMUNITY TRAILS PROGRAM

Cobequid Eco-Trails Society	\$8,885.00
Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club	\$10,000.00
North Shore Snowmobile Club	\$7,500.00
Tatamagouche Area Trails Association	\$40,762.00

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

4-H Nova Scotia	\$5,000.00
Canadian Junior Angus Association	\$1,000.00
Clifton 4-H Club Exchange	\$2,000.00
Debert Family Days Association	\$8,400.00
Event Attraction Committee	\$25,000.00
First United Church (Bell Choir)	\$1,100.00
Hike Nova Scotia	\$2,500.00
North Nova Lumberjacks Society	\$5,000.00
Nova Scotia Blind Golf Association	\$2,400.00
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition	\$2,500.00
Read By The Sea Literacy Society	\$3,500.00
TOPS Nova Scotia	\$5,000.00

NON-PROFIT GRANTS

300 Felines	\$3,000.00
Alton Recreation Centre	\$1,000.00
Bass River Community Centre Assoc.	\$3,000.00
Brule Community Centre Association	\$1,000.00
Canadian Mental Health Association	\$3,000.00
Colchester County 4-H Council	\$5,000.00
Cobequid Arts Council/Marigold Centre	\$25,000.00
Cobequid Interpretive Centre	\$2,000.00
Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park	\$1,500.00
Creamery Square Assoc. – Boat shop	\$2,500.00
Earltown Community Centre	\$1,000.00
Economy Recreation Centre	\$4,500.00
Five Islands Senior Citizen Association	\$800.00
Great Village Community Association	\$300.00
North Shore Community Development	\$2,500.00
Red Cross	\$5,000.00
Riverside Community Hall	\$4,000.00
South Branch Community Council	\$4,000.00
Stewiacke Valley Historical Society	\$2,000.00
The New Annan Meeting House Assoc.	\$1,000.00

NON-PROFIT INSURANCE PROGRAM GRANTS

Alton Recreation Centre	\$255.00
Archway Counselling Association	\$1,000.00
Barrachois Community Hall	\$256.50
Bass River Community Centre Assoc.	\$375.00
Bible Hill Village Preschool Society	\$419.00
Brookfield Athletic Association	\$362.50
Brule Community Centre Association	\$477.50
Central Nova Horse & Pony Association	\$435.00
Central Nova Womens Resource Centre	\$675.00
Cobequid Eco-Trails Society	\$320.00
Cobequid Interpretive Centre	\$250.00
Cobequid Spartans Gymnastics	\$625.00
Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park	\$275.00
Colchester Community Support	\$410.00
Colchester Stroke Club	\$237.50
Creamery Square Heritage Society	\$537.50
Crossroads Cemetery Cooperation	\$525.00
Debert Family Days Association	\$250.00
Earltown Community Centre	\$157.00
Economy Recreation Centre	\$317.00
First Baptist Girls' Choir	\$325.00
Five Islands Athletic Association	\$375.00
Five Islands Senior Citizen Association	\$197.50
Fundy Trail Snowmobile Society	\$676.10
Great Village Community Association	\$220.00
Hilden Recreation Association	\$287.50
Lower Onslow Community Centre Soc.	\$631.59
Lower Onslow Preschool Association	\$631.50
Middle Stewiacke Recreation Centre	\$256.50
Middleton Community Hall	\$160.00
Neighbours Helping Neighbours Society	\$530.75
North Colchester River Restoration	\$350.00
North Shore ATV Club	\$155.00
Northumberland Arts Council	\$525.00
Red Bear Healing Home Society	\$594.80
Riverside Community Hall	\$162.50
Scotia Pool Society	\$1,000.00
Sunny Brae Community	\$250.00
Tatamagouche Area Trails Association	\$497.00
Tatamagouche Road Train Society	\$1,000.00
Truro Curling Club	\$993.50
Truro Farmer's Market Cooperative	\$375.00
Truro Rugby Club	\$250.00
Upper Stewiacke Community Assoc.	\$225.00
Warwick Mountain Recreation Centre	\$281.00
Winding River Art Gallery	\$250.00

ANNUAL GRANTS

Cobequid Special Olympics	\$6,000.00
Colchester Historical Society	\$10,000.00
Colchester Transportation Cooperative	\$10,000.00
Debert Military History Society	\$100.00
Maggie's Place	\$3,000.00
North Shore River Restoration	\$5,000.00
VON	\$5,000.00

ARENA FUNDING

Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex	
Insurance	\$12,418.00
Capital	\$73,200.00
North Shore Recreation Centre	
Insurance	\$13,669.00
Capital	\$63,900.00
Scotia Pool Society	\$100,000.00
West Colchester Recreation Centre	
Insurance	\$9,440.00
Capital	\$111,403.00

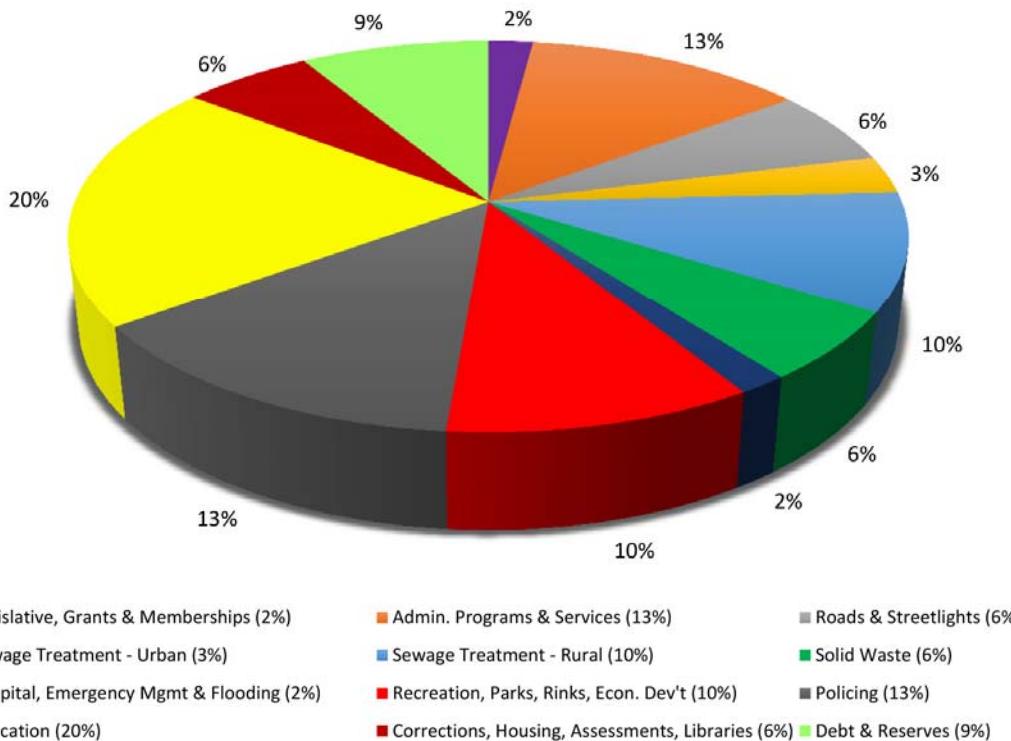
*Support for
98
groups and
initiatives in 2016/17
to build a stronger
Colchester County!*

For more information on our Non-Profit Grant programs and how to apply visit www.colchester.ca/rec-grants

or call Recreation Services at 902-897-3185

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

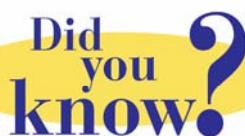
Page 4



Operating Budget Expenses

The Municipality presented a balanced budget in 2017/18 that enables the delivery of quality core services without wasteful spending. We invest responsibly in the protection of critical assets and infrastructure, in paying down debt, in establishing capital reserves for future needs, and, most importantly, we invest in our communities and people.

Transfers to Other Governments (e.g. education, policing, corrections, housing, assessments, libraries)	\$ 14,181,081
Sewage Treatment (urban and rural)	\$ 4,527,791
Departmental Operations (e.g. staffing, facilities, vehicles, equipment, supplies)	\$ 4,497,481
Other Transfers (e.g. debt payments and transfers to reserves)	\$ 3,288,731
Recreation (e.g. parks, rinks, and pool)	\$ 3,050,289
Transportation Services (e.g. municipal roads, street lights)	\$ 2,206,731
Solid Waste (e.g. garbage, recycling, compost collection/disposal)	\$ 1,798,714
Government (e.g. Council honorariums and expenses, grant programs, memberships, elections)	\$ 721,778
Enviro Development Services (e.g. planning studies, economic dev., Palliser Project, Debert Business Park)	\$ 573,272
Protective Services (e.g. fire, emergency management, dispatch services)	\$ 509,240
Public Health Services (e.g. debt Interest relating to hospital)	\$ 65,238
TOTAL	\$ 35,420,347



Did you know that almost half of our Municipality's budget is collected for and transferred to other levels of government (Provincial/Federal)? These funds contribute to services like education, policing, corrections, housing, assessment services, and libraries.

In 2017/18 the cost of these services increased by \$248,000 over the previous year – a direct increase to the Municipality's budget outside of our control. To offset the increase, Council increased the residential and commercial tax rates by \$0.01.

Walking (or snowshoeing, or skiing) in a Winter Wonderland

The Municipality's Recreation Department has adult and children's snowshoes available for community groups and individuals to borrow over the snowy winter months. New this winter is a satellite snowshoe lending site in Debert (details are still being confirmed at time of print; please call 902-897-3155 or visit our website at www.colchester.ca/snowshoe-lending-program for more information). Be sure to reserve snowshoes in advance. A deposit of \$25.00 is required and returned when the snowshoes are brought back in good condition.

The best way to get through winter is to embrace it and be active! Why not make it a habit to get outside this winter and enjoy activities with family and friends? Walking, snowshoeing, skiing, tobogganing, skating, making snowmen. Dust off those winter boots and winter toys. Plan to visit a favourite outdoor place this winter! For more information, or to reserve snowshoes, contact Colchester Recreation by phone at 902-897-3185 or by email at recreation@colchester.ca.

Municipal Parks and Trails in Colchester County including the Cobequid Trail, Five Islands Lighthouse Park, Stewiacke River Park and Nelson Memorial Park, are available for walking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing during the winter months. Visit www.colchester.ca/trails and www.colchester.ca/parks for details. *Please note there is no regular maintenance during the winter months.*

4th Annual Family Snowshoe & Hike Stewiacke River Park February 10, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Join Colchester Recreation for snowshoeing fun on the trails (and hot chocolate and cookies afterward!). Bring your own snowshoes if possible, and ski or walking poles if you wish. Dress warmly. We will meet at the park entrance at 528 Stewiacke River Park Road. Visit www.colchester.ca/parks for directions. If there is not enough snow, we will walk. Need more information? Call 902-897-3180. If you would like to participate, but do not have snowshoes, please call Colchester Recreation's snowshoe lending program at 902-897-3185 to reserve a pair for this event. Snowshoes are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so reserve early! If you are borrowing snowshoes from Colchester Recreation for this event, please arrive at least 15 minutes early.



Enjoying hot chocolate and cookies in a wintery wonderland at Stewiacke River Park. Join us for the 4th Annual Family Snowshoe/Hike Event on February 10, 2018!

2017 Annual Colchester Art Acquisition

Each year the Municipality is proud to host an Art Acquisition Show to feature various pieces from local artists. During each show a work of art is selected by a committee to be purchased by the Municipality to expand the County's collection. The chosen selection is added to the permanent public display on the main floor of the Municipal Courthouse and the artists' biography is added to a scrapbook which displays the history of the program.

Congratulations to Judy Arsenault on her winning piece, "Night Woods". Incredible work, Judy!



16th Annual Mayor's Challenge Curling Event

Fun for the whole family
No experience needed
Draw to the button challenge

Saturday, February 3, 2018 starting at 9:00 am

Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, Brookfield

Teams of 4 for \$40.00

You must pre-register by contacting Colchester Recreation at
902-897-3185 or recreation@colchester.ca.

Upcoming KidSport Deadlines

January 2 & March 1, 2018



For more information on KidSport,
contact Craig Burgess at 902-897-3181
or recreation@colchester.ca.

KidSport applications can now be filed
online by visiting
www.kidsportcanada.ca/nova-scotia/.



Colchester Recreation is delighted to officially launch a new website – www.colchesterrfa.ca! As part of the Colchester Recreation Facilities Association (CRFA), formerly the Colchester Arenas Association, we have joined forces with other recreation facilities within our region, and together, have taken significant time during this process to think through not only how we do business, but perhaps more importantly, why we do what we do, and how. Our goal is to provide you, our community members, with accurate information, as well as ease of access, including **online booking!**

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 Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas and Boxing Day holidays and Monday, January 1st for the New Year's Day holiday.

2017 Community Paper Shredding Event

On Saturday, September 23rd, we hosted a community paper shredding event in the parking lot of the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. 177 residents arrived throughout the three hour event with boxes and bags of confidential documents they wanted recycled responsibly and securely. In total, we recycled 3,147 kilograms or 3.14 metric tonnes or 6,940 pounds of paper! Thanks to everyone who came out!



Winter Green Cart and Garbage Tips

- Collection trucks may be passing your homes at different times because of winter road conditions. To ensure your material is not missed you MUST have all material at the curb by 7:00 am on your collection day.
- Please remember that plastic and bio-degradable plastic bags are NOT permitted in the green cart. Paper bags are welcomed.
- To keep your organics from freezing to the inside of your compost bin, wrap moist organics in newspaper or boxboard (ie: cereal boxes), or try lining the bottom of your cart with a pizza box, newspapers or leftover fall leaves.
- With the increase of snow in driveways and roadsides, please use caution when placing garbage and recycling bags curbside for pick up. Uneven snow piles may cause the bags to fall onto the road and cause traffic hazards. Also ensure that garbage bins, bags and green carts are not buried in snow on your collection day.
- Please remember that all bags and bins must be ten feet or less from the road and in a safe location.



Christmas Tree Collection

To ensure your Christmas tree gets collected, it must be free of any decorations, lights, stands and bags. **Please place your tree curbside by 7:00 am on the Monday of your collection week.** Collection will take place as follows:

Zone 1: January 2-5, 2018	Zone 6: January 8-12, 2018
Zone 2: January 2-5, 2018	Town of Truro: January 8-12, 2018
Zone 3: January 2-5, 2018	Zone 7: January 15-19, 2018
Zone 4: January 8-12, 2018	Zone 8: January 15-19, 2018
Zone 5: January 8-12, 2018	Town of Stewiacke: January 19, 2018

Please consult your collection calendar, visit our website to receive a customized calendar or phone the Helpline at 902-895-4777 if you require further information regarding Christmas Tree Collection.

Holiday Collection Changes

Please note the following changes to waste collection due to the holidays:

If your regular collection day is scheduled to be **Monday, December 25th**, this collection will take place the **PREVIOUS SATURDAY – December 23rd**.

If your regular collection day is scheduled to be **Tuesday, December 26th**, this collection will take place the **FOLLOWING SATURDAY – December 30th**.

If your regular collection day is scheduled to be **Monday, January 1st**, this collection will take place the **FOLLOWING SATURDAY – January 6th**.

As always, material must be placed at the curb by 7:00 am on your collection day.



Christmas Reminders

- **Wrapping paper is NOT recyclable** due to its heavy dye content and high level of contamination (tape, bows, foil, etc.) and **should be placed in CLEAR BAGS for regular garbage disposal**.
- Throughout the Christmas party season, remember to recycle and compost. Compost all soiled paper napkins and any leftover food that cannot be consumed.
- Plastic food, beverage and cleaning product containers that have the recycling symbol and the numbers 1 through 7 on them, as well as metal and glass containers, are recyclable.
- Think green this Christmas. Try giving gifts in reusable bags or wrapping presents with fabric ribbons and bows; give gift cards from a favourite store; and always try to keep from purchasing over packaged items.
- During and after the season of giving, remember those that are less fortunate. Instead of throwing things in the garbage that still have value or use, keep in mind that donations are gratefully received by many local charities.

Safety Alert!

With shorter hours of daylight upon us, we would like to take this time to remind motorists to use extreme caution when passing garbage and recycling trucks along their collection routes. Ensure that you have a clear line of vision and are able to check for oncoming traffic prior to pulling out and passing these trucks at their stops. For the safety of yourself, other motorists and collection workers, please pass these vehicles with extreme care at all times.

Clear Garbage Bag Reminders

Remember, for each garbage collection day, there is a limit of six garbage bags per household. You are allowed only one coloured or non-see through bag, and up to five non-coloured, transparent bags. **Please do not use blue bags for garbage.** They will be left at the curb for the contents to be properly re-bagged.

Please deliver any extra clear bags to the Balefill Facility within the appropriate hours or store them until the next garbage collection day. **Please note: black bags are NOT accepted at the Balefill Facility.** For a family of four, practicing proper waste reduction techniques can result in half a bag of garbage per week. Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost!



Important Notice Regarding Green Carts

Did you know that green carts belong to the property and not the homeowner? When you are buying a home, ensure the green cart is on the property before you sign the deal with the realtor. If a cart is not present, a new green cart can be purchased at the Municipality of Colchester Tax Office, 1 Church Street, Truro. There are two sizes of green carts available for purchase. A 240 litre cart is \$64.00 and an 80 litre cart is \$44.40. A mini bin for under your kitchen sink can be purchased here as well for \$4.00, or at many local retailers.

If you are building a home, please call the Waste Reduction Helpline at 902-895-4777 to have a green cart and mini bin delivered to your door with helpful education material.

Snow Days



Winter weather is unpredictable. If collection is missed on your road due to icy or snowy conditions, hold on to your material until your next collection day. The drivers will collect up to twice the allowable amount. An alternate collection day will be scheduled only if collection is cancelled across the entire County due to inclement weather. If an alternate collection day is necessary, residents will be informed by public service announcements placed on the local radio stations and our website. Residents will also receive reminders by email and telephone if they have signed up for service alert messages of collection service interruptions.

Want To Know The Moment Winter Weather Affects Collection In Your Area?

Sign up for a service alert message at www.colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling or download our 'Colchester Waste' app and you will be notified by phone, email or Twitter the moment decisions affecting collection are made!

Animal Control

Tags are available again this year at the Municipal Offices in the Community Development Department. Tags are \$12 and are valid from January 1 to December 31 of each year, NOT 12 months from the date of purchase.

Tags can also be purchased at the following locations:

- Truro Vet (165 Arthur Street, Truro)
- Central Nova Vet (29 Main Street, Bible Hill)
- Fundy Vet (6 Greenfield Rd, Murray Siding)
- Fundy Vet (21089 Highway 2, Shubenacadie)
- All My Pets (1205 Salmon River Road, Salmon River)
- Stay and Play (214 Crossley Avenue, Truro)
- Nova Scotia Works Centre (229 Main Street, Tatamagouche)

Why do we need so much information for tags?

The information we collect is very important and ensures we are able to make every effort possible to get your dog home quickly and avoid pound fees. Emergency contacts should be someone outside your home that we can contact in the event of an emergency. Civic addresses as well as mailing addresses are important. We have not found a way to deliver a dog to a post office box yet. Some are just too large!



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

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 - 897-0882
Recycling Operations - 897-0453
Regional Balefill Facility - 895-2307

Municipality of the County of Colchester

Assessment = Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester would like to provide a quick overview as to how your municipal tax bill is generated as well as steps that can be taken to ensure both your property assessment and the amount of your municipal tax bill is accurate.

How are my municipal property taxes actually calculated?

Municipal taxes are calculated based on the assessments received from Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC). The Municipality sets tax rates on an annual basis that are then applied to your property assessment amount. This in turn calculates how much property tax is owed.

When do I appeal?

Your final annual assessment notice from PVSC is mailed in January. If you decide to appeal your assessment, you MUST appeal to PVSC within 31 days (the date specified on your assessment notice).

What if I don't agree with the assessed value on my notice from PVSC?

We encourage you to contact PVSC with any questions or comments you have about your assessment notice before you make the decision to appeal.

What are my steps to appeal?

- 1) **Review Notice** – Is the information on the assessment notice correct?
- 2) **Contact** – Contact PVSC via website, phone or in person. They will review your assessment with you.
- 3) **Complete Appeal Form** – Complete your appeal form found on your assessment notice by the date indicated.
- 4) **Send to PVSC** – Once completed, fax, mail or drop off your form to your local PVSC office.

Mail: 15 Arlington Place

Suite # 6

Truro, NS

B2N 0G9

Phone: 1-800-380-7775

Fax: 1-888-339-4555

Website: www.pvsc.ca

If my appeal is successful, will my tax bill be automatically adjusted?

Yes. The Municipality will receive notification of the appeal decision and will adjust your tax bill to reflect the correct amount. You are responsible for paying your tax bill by the due date, even if your appeal is still under review. Once the appeal decision is made, and an overpayment was determined, the overpayment will be refunded.

Correct Assessment = Correct Taxes!

2018 Preliminary Assessments Are Now Available!

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the organization responsible for assessing all property in Nova Scotia, has released 2018 preliminary assessments to the public on their website, www.pvsc.ca.

Property owners are encouraged to review their preliminary assessment and contact PVSC if they have additional property information, questions, or wish to further discuss their property.

PVSC is available at 1-800-380-7775, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.