

TRURO



TODAY

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Town of Truro

Spring 2003 (Vol.3, No.1)

Message from the Mayor

I am sure that by now we have all had enough snow to satisfy all our cravings for winter time activities. This has been an unusual winter with all of the snowfall and very cold temperatures. But we all must take heart and eagerly look for springs arrival. On behalf of Council and our citizens I want to pass our thanks to our Public Works crews and our Parks employees for the excellent job they have done to keep our streets and sidewalks open and our trails groomed.

As most of you are aware, Council is proceeding with the demolition of our former Civic Building. After much debate and discussion a tough decision has been made to remove the surplus building from our holdings. Council has directed that priority be given to development of our Civic Square property. SGE Acres Ltd. have been selected to design and construct our new Fire Hall. Council has charged our Fire Station Construction Committee with the responsibility of selecting a consultant to evaluate the condition of our Old Fire Station and identify some appropriate uses for this structure. Council also has requested the Heritage Advisory Committee appoint a representative to sit as a member of the Fire Station Construction Committee. Our Civic Square will be designed with walkways, benches, lighting and other amenities that will invite residents and visitors to enjoy our Pre-1912 Promenade Square area.



The first users of the outdoor rink at Victoria Square were 2 year old twins, Brett and Ryan Spencer. It was their first time on skates.

Council has recently agreed to call tenders for the renovation to our Victoria Park Pool. The Pool Fundraising Committee is gaining momentum and it looks like they are getting a very favourable response to their request to the public for financial assistance. Council has agreed to call tenders recognizing that not all funding is in place yet. The purpose in calling tenders now is to firstly allow for a more accurate cost to be identified and secondly, to keep the project on schedule. If funding is available, the current schedule would have our newly renovated pool open by July 1, 2003. On the top of page four of this newsletter we have included a pledge sheet for your consideration.

Council has been discussing with CN the proposed impact of trains traveling through our community. We have been advised by CN that the maximum length of trains traveling

through Truro will remain at 10,000 feet. Any increase in speed will require an in depth review by the railroad, local municipalities and Transport Canada. CN is reducing the number of trains passing through our town by 2 and railway traffic will consist of one eastbound and one westbound train between 4am and 8am and again between 7:30pm and 9:30pm. Trains providing service to local customers will continue on their current schedule.

Council has started the strategic planning process as part of the upcoming budget review. It has been agreed by Council that our planning process now include community input. It is hoped that a strategic planning meeting of Council and stakeholder representation will occur in early March 2003. Council intends to develop a detailed long term (3-5 years) plan by November 1, 2003 and will be asking some of our citizens to assist with this process. Thank you all in advance for your help in developing this document.

I am certain that Council will give priority in the 2003/04 budget to street and sidewalk work along with the Pre-1912 Promenade development. This year, Council has directed that staff also provide work schedules so that all our citizens will know what work is to be completed and how long it is expected to take. Council has requested this information for distribution to the public as part of the 2003/04 budget approval in April.

Before ending this update, I believe it is important to clarify Council's decision regarding the much publicized Colchester Park Development issue. Many years ago, Truro Council purchased land, installed water and sewer lines, built streets and created our Industrial Park. It has been very successful and provides a large percentage of our total commercial tax assessment. Council can understand how important it is to have an Industrial Park within our community.

Ownership of our Park has allowed Council with our Industrial Park Society to set controls and standards as to how the Industrial Park will be developed. These companies located in the Park would be contributing to our commercial tax revenues regardless of who owns the Park itself. The Colchester Park Development Society (CPDS) members have accepted a mandate to manage the assets in the best interest of all Communities affected by the closure of the former Camp Debort. By all accounts, this Society has done a commendable job and should be proud of their accomplishment over the past few years.

Continued

Mayor's Message - Continued

Information received by Truro Council does not clearly indicate that Colchester County is prepared to continue with the clear responsibility now charged to the CPDS Board. Truro Council is not concerned about who owns the assets in Debert, but Council is concerned that the current responsibilities of the CPDS Board be continued by future owners. For reasons unclear to Truro Council, the move toward regional economic development has been halted because of the CPDS ownership issue. Council agreed to replace current CPDS Board members with representation from all municipal Councils, the Chamber of Commerce and a representative from the Debert area. This structure would mean that the new board would be accountable to all municipalities in Colchester and they could discuss and

determine the future ownership of the CPDS assets.

While this is happening, Truro Council would encourage and unanimously support a continuation of discussion to regionalize economic development in our County. Why this regional development project has stalled is unclear to Truro Council. What is clear is that all of us are wasting valuable time and resources by delaying this project.

Finally, let me end by congratulating the Ladies Curling team from the Truro Curling Club for their well earned participation in the Scotts Tournament of Hearts. Truro Council is confident you will do us proud and will be excellent ambassadors for our communities. Council wishes you much success in this very popular tournament.

Planning & Development

Alpha Site Implementation

The Province of Nova Scotia is modernizing its 250-year-old Registry of Deeds system. The Land Registration Act (LRA) will change the name-based system to land-based which can guarantee ownership, all through the internet.

www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/property/registry/



The new land registration system will be tested in Colchester County for 4-6 months beginning March 24, 2003 before province wide introduction in mid-2004.

Converting your property from the names-based registry into the new land-based system will not be necessary unless you purchase a property, mortgage a property, or subdivide your land into three or more parcels. This will also effect changes in the subdivision approval process in the future.

New LRA Subdivision Requirements

1. Three or More Parcels - Registration will be "triggered" if the subdivider creates two or more additional parcels from their land.
2. Sale of New Parcel Triggers Transfer - even if you sell only one parcel of land, it must be converted to the new system. The developer of a subdivision will benefit from registering parcels before they are subdivided.
3. Conversion of Existing Parcels - If the subdivision is triggered into the new system, the existing parcel(s) must be converted to the new system before applying for final subdivision approval.

Once the existing parcels are under the new system, any parcels created from them are automatically in the new system.

4. Family Subdivision - If the land owner is subdividing solely for the purpose of gifting to family members, a sworn affidavit to this effect must be submitted with the application for final subdivision approval. Family subdivisions, regardless of the number of lots being created, do not have to be transferred to the new system.

What are the benefits of this new legislation and system for land owners?

- > easier information storage and access
- > guarantee of ownership for all parcels transferred to the new system
- > eliminates the need for title searches
- > when fully implemented, the new system will provide links to other land-related information, such as outstanding municipal tax balances, zoning and permits, environmental liens, etc. and will make buying, selling and mortgaging land simpler for everyone.

For further information on LRA, please contact the Town of Truro, Planning & Development office at 895-1148, 752 Prince St, or <jbigelow@town.truro.ns.ca>

Finance

The Town now has an agreement with most financial institutions, that allows payment of tax and water bills through your bank. In addition, payments can be made at the **Town Office, 752 Prince Street** behind the Library, using debit card, Visa and Master- card. We welcome post-dated cheques and encourage you to pay your tax and water accounts by our March 31, 2003 year end. Please mail cheques to **Town of Truro, P.O. Box 427, Truro, NS, B2N 5C5.**

If you have closed your business recently, please contact our office to make sure your

business occupancy account has been closed on the effective date and your account is paid in full, to avoid collection agency procedures.

As of January 1, 2003 tax and water bills will state that payment **must be received by the Town Office** by the due date to avoid applicable interest charges being added. If you are paying by mail or through your bank, please allow enough time for your payment to reach the Town Office by the due date. Interest will no longer be adjusted if payment is 'in the mail' and received after the due date.

Over the next few months staff will be working on a new budget, with Town Council expecting to approve the **2003/04 budget** early in April. Interim tax bills, estimated at half the year's taxes, will again be mailed out in April with a due date of July 2, 2003. The final bill will be mailed in July, with a due date of November 3, 2003.

Fire Service

2002 was the busiest year ever for the Truro Fire Service with 511 calls for assistance. Please visit the Town website <www.town.truro.ns.ca> to view our annual report. It contains an overview of the year's activities and includes a complete summary of our emergency responses.

Planning for a **new fire station** is well underway. The Fire Station Construction Committee interviewed a number of consultants and with Council's support the engineering firm of SGE Acres has been hired to design and oversee construction of a new fire station. In the interim, as a result of Department of Labour orders concerning the existing fire station, a temporary worksite and quarters has been created adjacent to the existing fire station for the career staff.

Fire Service (cont.)

With daylight savings time just around the corner please remember to **change the batteries in your smoke alarms** when you “spring ahead”. A fire prevention motto is “Change your clock- Change your battery”. Spring-cleaning is also a good time to give your smoke alarms a light vacuuming to remove any dust that may have collected. This will reduce the chance of false alarms and improve the effectiveness of the detection unit.

Over the past few years the use of candles in the home has greatly increased and so has the number of fires caused by their misuse. The Truro Fire Service would like to remind you of the following **tips for safe candle use**:

- > Make sure candles are secured in a sturdy holder and are kept well away from any combustible material.
- > Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets.
- > Unattended candles are the leading cause of candle fires so don't forget to snuff your candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- > Always remember to keep all matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.

Engineering & Public Works

2003 Spring Clean-up Schedule:

Spring Clean-up week will be from **April 28th to May 2, 2003.**

Household items only will be collected during this week. Please place all items at the curb on your regular garbage collection day. **Please check the back of your collection schedule calendar for acceptable spring clean-up items.**

With spring clean-up efforts nearing, the sidewalk and street sweepers will be out in full force cleaning up winter mess. Residents are requested to assist the sidewalk and street sweepers by keeping the green carts, recyclable and garbage bags off the sidewalk and placing them correctly in the boulevard area.

Note: Waste generated from home construction, renovation, roofing or demolition projects will be accepted at the Balefill Facility in Kemptown, (exit 18, Highway 104)

Residential Solid Waste Collection

Tender will be issued with the new contract starting July 1st 2003. Schedules and pickup notices will be issued before start-up of the new contract.

Public Works Departments: Crews will be concentrating on spring clean up efforts on our streets and sidewalks. Construction Projects will commence in late spring and will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Overnight Parking Ban: The overnight parking ban will be lifted on April 15th 2003. Your continued co-operation is appreciated.

Police Service

The Truro Police Service recently held a **recruitment competition** to fill two vacant positions. This process was a great success with applicants from all over Canada showing interest. Two Ontario Provincial Police officers, and a Cornwall Ontario police officer were among those who traveled to Truro for the competition. The successful applicants will be hired by spring.

We have recently received complaints from the public regarding **suspicious door to door solicitation**. The Truro Police Service remind citizens if it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is, and when in doubt check it out. We urge people to report any suspicious solicitors to the police service and don't be afraid to tell people you are not interested.

The Truro Police Service Community policing initiatives are in full swing. The **anti-bullying program** has been completed within all elementary schools and the **drug awareness, anti-smoking programs** have begun. The officers are busy preparing for upcoming **Bike Rodeo** and the C.E.C. **Safe Grad** program.

The Truro Police Service Traffic Services Section remind motorists to drive with care and **watch for bicyclists this spring**. We all have a responsibility in keeping our community safe. Please visit us at our website at www.police.truro.ns.ca

Did you know that the first NS born Acadian was **Mathieu Martin**, who was also the first Truro area land grantee on March 28, 1689.

Parks & Recreation

The final **Recreation Planning Process** report has been received and formally accepted by the Truro Parks & Recreation Committee. Thanks to all of you who provided valuable input. The final report clearly recognizes several new roles for the Recreation Department, while continuing to be responsible for the parks, open spaces and facilities that we have in our community. Public input has identified special events, direct programming and increased support in the cultural sector as key future priorities.

The Town of Truro and Chignecto-Central Regional School Board are working on a **joint use access agreement** to encourage community use of school facilities at the new Junior High School. The Recreation Dept. would welcome your input into opportunities that you may wish to see available when the new school opens in January 2004.

The Parks & Recreation Department is currently accepting **resumes for summer positions** including:
- Lifeguard/Instructor; Victoria Park Pool
- Litter Control Staff; part time
- Summer Student Maintenance Staff

Please forward your resume to:
Town of Truro, Parks & Rec Department
P.O. Box 427, Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5C5

Committee Volunteers Needed

Truro Town Council invites all interested citizens to volunteer for vacancies on the following Committees. Committee appointments would be effective in 2003 or during the following four year period should vacancies occur:

*Heritage Advisory Committee
Town Planning Advisory Committee
Truro Centennial Pool Management Committee
Truro Parks and Recreation Committee
Truro Tree Committee
Truro Board of Police Commissioners
Truro Industrial Development Society
Tourism Committee
Cultural Centre Development Committee
Communities in Bloom Committee*

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2003. For additional information please contact the Mayor, your Ward Councillor or the Town Clerk. Completed forms should be mailed to the attention of the Mayor, PO Box 427, Truro, NS, B2N 5C5, or dropped off at Town Office.

Summer is coming so why not help fill the pool. You can add your drop to Victoria Park Pool by completing this form and dropping off your **Victoria Park Pool Replacement Project** donation at Town Hall.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Pledge for two years: _____ One Time Donation: _____

Tax Receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10. Make Cheques payable to "Town of Truro".



Every Drop Counts!

Victoria Park Pool Renovation

Submitted by Kerry Munro, Cmte. Chair

Already, wonderful support has been given from Tim Horton's franchisees Martin Trainor, Chris MacDougall and John MacKenzie (\$25,000 total), Pye Chev Olds (\$4,000), Stanfields (\$10,000) and the Truro Area Community Health Board (\$1,235). The Valentine's Draw, sponsored by Gold 'n Watch, John Stanfield Inn and Suckling & Chase resulted in \$3,780 and the Alice St. School Penny Parade netted \$150.00. Many thanks to all our generous participants.



Submitted by Holly Clifford, CiB Cmte.

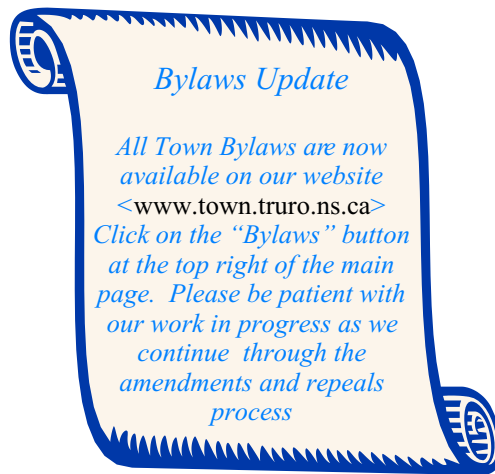
After an encouraging first year, Truro's CiB Committee is making plans for our 2003 municipal competition. There will be nine categories - residential, apartment building, commercial property, institutional, industrial, heritage property, neighbourhood streetscapes, community project and other. Judging will be based on tidiness, appearance, floral display, turf/groundcover, trees and shrubs and special features. More details will be provided in the brochure to be mailed out in late May. Judging will take place in late July. The Committee urges all citizens to participate.

As a result of our provincial participation last year, Truro accepted an invitation to register at the national level this year - a friendly competition with other towns of 10,000 - 20,000 population.

For more information or to volunteer, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 893-6078.

Cultivate your ideas !!

By working together as a community, we can greatly enhance the beauty of our Park, the health of our youth and the health of our Town. Please get involved by contacting Phyllis Mills at 895-3598 or myself, Kerry Munro, at 895-3993 or by e-mailing <kerry.munro@ns.sympatico.ca>.



Directory

Administration/Clerks Office/Water Billing/Tax Inquiries895-4484
 Public Works/Engineering/Water Departments.....895-4243
 Tree Committee.....893-6071
 Planning/Development895-1148
 Building Inspection895-4302
 Police Services895-5351
 Fire Services895-4437
 Recreation Services893-6078
 Solid Waste Hotline.....895-4777
 Fax Number893-0501

Temporary Office Location:
 752 Prince Street
 Old Normal College Building
 P.O. Box 427
 Truro, Nova Scotia
 B2N 5C5
 Visit us at our website
www.town.truro.ns.ca



Acadian Festival acadien

In August, 2004 Nova Scotia will be hosting an international homecoming of Acadian people (CMA - Congres mondial acadien) and more than 100,000 visitors are expected. The Truro community has formed an **Acadian Festival acadien** Committee which will be organizing a local event during this time. If you would like to become a part of the planning or if you have suggestions, please contact Robert Boudreau, Committee Chair, at 896-4500.

It's going to be a great party!

Mayor W. R. Mills
 895-3598(R) 893-2438 (B)
wmills@town.truro.ns.ca

Ward I Charles MacQuarrie
 893-0201 (R) 893-0202 (B)
cmacquarrie@town.truro.ns.ca

Diane Bennett-Cook, Deputy Mayor
 895-6547 (R)
dbennettcook@town.truro.ns.ca

Ward II Charles Cox
 893-2399 (R)
ccox@town.truro.ns.ca

Brian Kinsman
 895-9762 (R)
bkinsman@town.truro.ns.ca

Ward III Rob Sandeson
 897-1010 (R) 897-5859 (C)
rsandeson@town.truro.ns.ca

Sharron Byers
 895-4951 (R) 897-5166(C)
sbyers@town.truro.ns.ca