

TRURO



TODAY

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Town of Truro

Summer 2004 (Vol.4, No.2)

Message from the Mayor

The warm weather is here, flowers are blooming, tourist sightings have been confirmed and we are off and running on another summer season. As you look around Town you will see a bee hive of activity from the new Town Hall construction gathering steam (finally) and slated for an October opening, to the new Fire Hall taking shape and aiming for occupancy around the end of August.

The 7th Annual Truro Tulip Festival was a great hit and is becoming an important and anticipated part of our community. Well done to Dawn Heintz and all the organizers.

I have it on good authority that the project at the corner of Glenwood and Young will start soon with construction finishing around September to coincide with the opening of the new Truro Junior High School. Along with Councillor Greg MacArthur and staff members from TJHS and School Board, I had a tour of the facility and it is quite impressive. Students will be well served and residents will have the benefit of a new gymnasium to use under an agreement arranged with the School Board. Definitely a win-win-win situation!

You may have read that a group from Korea is seeking permission from the Town to use the old Truro Junior High as an English, as a second language teaching facility.

Council is actively pursuing this opportunity and feels it will be a great fit for the Downtown ... possibly up to 400 students from Korea could be visiting Truro to learn English. It will also take pressure off the Town to find alternate uses for the facility.

The Colchester Community Workshop is now able to start construction on their new facility and on behalf of Council we wish the Fundraising Team and Board congratulations on a job well done! Speaking of construction, the new re-vamped Victoria Park Pool is progressing well and your invitation for the Grand Opening June 26th is on the back page of this newsletter. I hope to see you at the Pool for what is shaping up to be two great parties.

Budget for the upcoming fiscal year is set to come down June 7th and it has been a tough one. I feel that Council and staff have been responsible and many improvements will be realized as a result. As you know, prices for everything is rising (gas etc.) and revenues for the Town are not increasing as fast as we would like. We need to grow so new business and housing starts will keep pace with demands placed on Council. For example, new sewer work for the top of Young Street. That project, I believe, will open up South Young Street for a lot of new development which in turn will provide the revenue needed in the future. It's like the saying goes, "Lead, follow or get out of the way". Moving onward and upward is our choice.



Everyone enjoyed the celebration in Victoria Park during the Tulip Festival.

April & May have been extremely busy with the Grand Opening of the Agridome in Bible Hill among dozens of other conventions, fundraisers and conferences! Council was pleased to be part of the Agridome Project and I know it will contribute to the overall economy by having many more sporting events, conventions and trade shows coming to the area, and that means potential revenue for citizens. "A Great Investment!" for merchants and the Exhibition Commission!

I must send best wishes to all University, College, Community College, Junior/Senior High and Elementary students on graduations and promotions to the next stage of your academic and working careers. To the graduating students, remember Truro and Colchester have a lot to offer for business opportunities and I would urge you to consider staying in our area. With your expertise you can help us grow!

And finally, I wish you all well on your upcoming summer season. Safe journey and good health on your vacation and a warm welcome to visitors or those returning home for a visit.

On a final note, I read recently when things do not work out the way we would like, we occasionally cry over spilt milk, and sometimes our blessings are a cause of our grumbling. Considering our good fortune to live in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada, I'm going to work on being more thankful this summer.

My best regards to you all.

Engineering & Public Works

Activities in the Engineering & Public Works Department for the next few months include Spring Clean Up, street repairs and line painting.

Did you know ...

The Town's Street Sweeper is out and about cleaning up debris off the Town's streets from the winter mess. The sweeper operates for about 170 hours per month, picking up approximately 1200 tonne of debris.

The Street Department Asphalt Crew operates year round patching and repairing potholes and road obstructions. In the winter the crew uses "cold patch" to fix the trouble areas and potholes, but this is only a temporary fix, as cold patch loses its binding capability when moisture is present, i.e. snow and rain. The crew uses approximately 200 tonne of cold patch each year. Hot asphalt is not available until the end of April, when the crew can use as much as 10 - 40 tonne a day. Using hot asphalt during the cold winter months is not recommended as the asphalt cools down too quickly to be effective.

Line painting has begun now that suitable conditions are present - warm weather, dry asphalt, free of debris and salt residue. Painters are prohibited from painting on wet asphalt or during temperatures of less than 12 degrees Celsius. Intersections are always painted first, starting at the Willow and Connector Highway, working up Willow to Prince and then Queen Street. Painting takes place in the early morning hours when traffic is minimal. The majority of the intersection painting is complete. Once the intersections are complete the Centerline Painting Crew arrives and within five to seven hours, over 30 Km's of centerline is painted.

The Town encourages all property owners to have tree stumps removed as soon as possible.

CJIS 107.1 FM

Community Information Source

Tune in for all your community events & public services messages or check us out on the Town of Truro website at

www.truro.ca/about_107.1info.htm

Planning & Development

Building a Pool, Deck or Fence ??

A Development Permit is required for all decks and/or stairs. If your deck is more than 0.6 metres (2') above grade, you will also require a building permit. Decks requiring a building permit are to be supported on columns that are a minimum of 1 metre (3'-4") below grade.

Decks that are more than 1.8 metres (6') above grade shall be supported by support columns that are a minimum of 150 mm x 150 mm (6x6") in dimensions.

Decks that are 0.6m (2') to 1.8m (6') above grade shall have the top rail of guards a minimum height of 0.9m (3') in height with spacing between vertical members a maximum of 0.1m (4"). Guards are to be constructed so as not to facilitate climbing.

Decks that are more than 1.8m (6') above grade shall have the top rail of guards a minimum height of 1.07m (42") with spacing between vertical members a maximum of 0.1m (4"). Guards are to be constructed so as not to facilitate climbing.



A Development Permit and a Building Permit are required for all pools that are capable of containing at least 60 cm (24") of water.

All pools are to be fenced. The required fencing is to:

- be a minimum of 1.2m (4') in height
- completely enclose the pool
- have no openings greater than 75cm (3'')
- not facilitate climbing
- have a lockable, self closing gate

Above ground pools that are a minimum of 1.2m (4') in height do not require a fence. However, if they are attached to a deck, the deck is to be provided with guards, which meet requirements for decks and be equipped with a lockable, self-closing gate.

If a ladder/slide is used with an above ground pool and is accessible from grade level, the pool is to be fenced.

In 2003-04, The Town of Truro maintained 96 kilometers of streets and 80 kilometers of sidewalks.

Parks & Recreation

After many years of service, the Kinsmen Club has decided to no longer manage the **Victoria Park** canteen. A huge thank you for their contribution. We look forward to continuing our relationship through the Victoria Park Kinsmen Playground. The Truro Parks & Recreation Dept will take over the management of the canteen this summer.

Reconstruction of the Victoria Park Pool is in full swing with the Grand Opening scheduled for June 26th. The Pool project has been fortunate to have had excellent support from the public and from the corporate sector. A special thank you to everyone who has made a difference.

Improvements have been made to the track at the **TAAC Grounds** with the cost of improvements being covered by local track and field groups. This was coordinated by the CEC Track & Field program. Planning is ongoing for the new TAAC Clubhouse facility. It is hoped that construction of the new Clubhouse may be started as early as this fall.

The Golden K Club have announced a fund raising campaign to help purchase a new fountain for the **Kiwanis Park** Pond. If all goes well it is hoped that a new fountain will be in place for the Spring of 2005.

The Truro Parks & Recreation Department will be hiring a **Community School Coordinator** to maximize public access and new programming at the new Truro Junior High School. There should be lots of new opportunities for youth and adults.

Our 2004 Student **Litter Patrol Team** has hit the streets and have already made a huge difference. Please help the effort by remembering to use the waste receptacles around Town.

Revisions for the 2004 / 2005 edition of **Leisure Time/ Your Time** will take place this summer. If your group would like to be listed in our annual publication, or if there are changes in your groups present information, please call the Parks & Rec Office at 893-6078. To view a copy of Leisure Time/Your Time please drop by Town Hall or go to our website at www.truro.ca and click on the main page icon. Distribution for the new edition will take place in September.

Finance

The Town of Truro began tax billing in two instalments per year in 1992, in response to taxpayer concern that one tax bill per year was harder to budget for. That process is still in place and the Finance Office now sends out about **5,000 tax bills twice a year**. The interim bill for the April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005 fiscal year was sent out in April and is due July 2, 2004. The interim bill represents an estimate of half the fiscal year's taxes. The final bill will be sent in July with a due date of November 1, 2004.

The Finance Office also sends out approximately **4,000 water bills** quarterly. The Town is currently awaiting a decision from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on its application for an adjustment in the water rates, to help pay for the increasing cost of treating and delivering water and much needed infrastructure improvements.

Customers have been inquiring about **automatic monthly debit payment** option for tax and water bills, so watch for that payment option to be available over the summer months. If you are interested in that payment option please send a voided cheque to the Tax Office and we'll contact you with the details when the process is ready.

In an effort to continually **improve and update our website**, we are asking the public for their input - what would you like to have added to our website or what would you like to see improved or expanded upon. We would be pleased to receive your suggestions at comments@truro.ca

The Truro Police Service, and other community partners will be hosting the

2004 Safe Grad Party
Friday, June 25, 11:00 pm
Howard Johnson Hotel

The Safe Grad party offers an alcohol free environment, where graduating students can have an enjoyable and safe evening. The festivities go on throughout the night, until the early morning hours. The location, and most of the food and prizes are generously donated!

Truro Heritage Advisory Committee

Truro is known as having one of the finest collections of Victorian architecture of any town in the province. In keeping with its mandate to encourage the appreciation of this unique and valuable resource, the Truro Heritage Advisory Committee is seeking more owners to designate their historic homes and buildings as Municipal Heritage properties. At present 46 properties are designated, but this represents only a small number that are worthy of it. The distinct advantage of designation is the recognition that the property is a valuable asset to the owner, to the neighborhood, and to the town. It could even increase the value of the property. Restrictions that go with the designation are minor and apply only to the exterior. This protects the building from inappropriate "out-of-character" alterations such as changing the style of windows and doors, or additions that are unsuited to the style of architecture.

Acquiring insurance for registered heritage properties should neither be a problem nor be more expensive.

A rebate program for designated properties, paid on exterior maintenance and restoration, is offered for the provincial portion of the HST.

The criteria for designation is based on the building's history and culture, the architecture, the builder or architect, and the context or landmark and integrity.

For more information in designating properties, please contact the Heritage Advisory Committee through the Truro Planning Office at 895-1148.



All Aboard !!! Communities in Bloom Committee would like to announce its 2004 mural project - a "Welcome to Truro" Train complete with engine, box car, flat cars, passenger cars and caboose on the south side of the Truro Centre, again under the talented leadership of Holly Lennox, NSCC. Any student, individual or group interested in contributing in term of design ideas or painting, please call Holly Clifford at 895-1930. We are hoping to commence work on June 14th.

Also look for the colorful addition of flower boxes on the wooden railings over Lepper Brook by the Armoury on Willow St and later on, island planters on Brunswick St at Cumane where the road traverses the brook. We hope they will be enjoyed by both our residents and visitors this summer.

Directory

Administration/Clerks Office/Water
Billing/Tax Inquiries**895-4484**
Public Works/Engineering/Water
Departments.....**895-4243**
Tree Committee.....**893-6071**
Planning/Development**895-1148**
Building Inspection**895-4302**
Police Services**895-5351**
Fire Services**895-4437**
Recreation Services**893-6078**
Solid Waste Hotline.....**895-4777**
Fax Number**893-0501**

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Visit us at our website
www.truro.ca

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Greg MacArthur
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The Big Splash

Saturday June 26th from 1- 4 pm

You are invited to **The Big Splash** - the re-opening of the new, fully accessible Victoria Park Pool. It all starts with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00 and continues with an open swim, "Treasures of the Carribean" jumping room, fire truck display, games, cotton candy and lots more fun. Bring the whole family to the Park for a picnic and celebration.

**One
Great
Pool,
Two
Great
Parties!**

Join us on Saturday June 26th from 7-11pm for the **"Deck Party at the Pool"** to celebrate our brand new fully accessible outdoor swimming pool. Featured entertainment will be "Sons of Maxwell" as well as a landscape auction, beer and wine bar, food, dancing, summer fun and a few surprises! Tickets are \$20 each at Town Hall or MacQuarries Pharmasave - only those 19 years of age and older can attend.

Come on Truro, let's all celebrate with sponsors, donors, contractors, volunteers and everyone who made the Victoria Park Pool re-opening possible.

**Deck Party
at the Pool**



Hosted at the Colchester Legion Stadium and throughout Truro on August 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the **Acadian Festival Acadien** offers something for everyone:

Family Fun * Great Regional Cuisine * Exhibits * Music
Entertainment * Fireworks * Craft Show
Film Festival * Children's parade * ... and much more!!

Truro joins with other Nova Scotia communities in celebrating our 400 years of Acadian history in conjunction with the 2004 Congres Mondial Acadien (World Acadian Congress). For more information, contact Guy Roy at 895-7286, e-mail at guyroy@eastlink.ca, or visit our website at www.corda.ca/Acadians/

Community Cultural Centre possibility in Downtown Truro!



As a result of the renewed commitment to revitalization by the Downtown Truro Partnership, the DTP Board of Directors agreed to move forward and borrow the money to purchase the Centennial Cinema building (605 Prince Street) from the Empire Theatre Group Ltd.

The Downtown Truro Partnership is committed to this project and is nearing the completion of a business plan outlining the possible programs, performance series, after school programs and other activities which could be offered at the new facility. Community response to the idea of having a cultural centre in downtown Truro has been overwhelmingly positive. The current vision for the facility includes office space for the Downtown Truro Partnership, and the Cobequid Arts Council, the umbrella organization representing the arts community, as well as facility staff. The proposed plans includes but is not limited to, a 212-seat performing arts theatre, space for visual art and artisan exhibits, the local sport hall of fame, a large community board room, space for arts education programs including after school and summer programs.

The financing method proposed for this project will be through the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) which provides the residents of the community with the opportunity to purchase shares in the project through the utilization of a provincial tax credit incentive program. The CEDIF program was established by the provincial government to promote investment in local community projects. Once government approval IS confirmed, more information will become available to the public. It is felt that this project will act as a tremendous boost to the economic and social development of the downtown area. For more information contact the Downtown Truro Partnership, by email anne@downtowntruro.ca or by calling Anne Perigo at 895-9258.



FREE Family Entertainment

Every Sunday (2-4pm) from June 27th through September 6th at the J. Arch Fraser Bandshell in Victoria Park. Bring a sunhat, sunscreen, and lawn chair or blanket. Canteen and washroom facilities on site. For more information on the scheduled performers, check the website at www.truro.ca or call 893-6078.

See you there!