

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
May 2020

PROJECT FILES:

Rural Internet / Eco-parc:

- In terms of progress to date, planning for the first 3 phases of the project is complete and has been approved by both Bell and NSPI.
- These phases include route 1 from the Cultural Hub in Comeauville to St. Bernard, all of New Edinburgh and the 340 from St. Bernard up to Hassett.
- Tree trimming is underway (Asplundh) and VistaCare is currently laying strand.
- A press release is in the works (1-2 weeks) to further update people on the progress made thus far as well as next steps.
- **To be discussed in-camera.**

Gran-Fondo:

- We continue to liaise with Events Nova Scotia regarding any changes in provincial guidelines and restrictions for large gatherings.
- As a member of the Events NS Advisory Group, our Tourism Manager will be participating in a conference call with Dr. Strang on Friday, May 22, 2020.
- This notwithstanding, our ability to safely host this year's Gran Fondo Gran Fondo is in doubt.
- PEI Gran Fondo (held in late August), has been cancelled.
- The organizing committee has tentatively started preparing a cancellation message for 2020 to share with participants (currently at 196 registrations) and the community.
- Earliest possible notice would be communicated during the week of May 25th.

Capacity Assessment – Meteghan WWTP

- Capacity assessment has been completed.
- Based on daily flow monitored in 2019, the Meteghan WWTP can process an additional 280 cubic meters of wastewater per day.
- The additional flow rate generated by the inclusion of two schools – ESDC and the elementary school is 34 cubic meters per day.
- The addition flow rate generated from the construction of a new nursing home (residents and staff) while maintaining the current Villa connected is 86 cubic meters per day.
- Conclusion: The Meteghan WWTP is capable to proceed with the new influent from these additions.
- Although not required at this time, the report does contain a series of recommended upgrades and/or modifications to improve overall performance and effluent quality. These will be explored further at a later date.

Tourism Public Spaces Development and Improvement

- Project is advancing
- Upland has submitted a 100-page background report including detailed site and swot analysis, maps, diagrams and historical and ecological descriptions for each site.
- Next steps for the consultants include:
 - Best practices analysis
 - Stakeholder consultations (once permitted)
 - Preliminary site concepts, to be shared during the stakeholder consultations
- Discussions with Rhad Architects regarding the CVC are ongoing. Four schematic design options have been submitted and are currently being reviewed by staff. Follow-up discussions expected tomorrow.

Visitor Information Centre at Rendez-vous.

- Until provincial social distancing restrictions are relaxed, Université Sainte-Anne (US-A) has indicated that we are not permitted to operate out of the Rendez-vous de la Baie.
- US-A has offered Le Phare as an alternative in the interim. In discussion with staff, we have decided not to pursue this option at this time.

Havelock Community Centre

- Work is progressing on time and on budget.
- Project completion is estimated to be end of May / early June.

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes :

- As you know, the Municipality has submitted its 3-year action plan to IRCC. IRCC has since signaled that the project would be delayed in light of COVID-19. However, all indications suggest the project will still move forward with a reduced timeframe and that approved contributions will remain unchanged.
- As part of the program, all chosen Welcoming Communities will be participating in a consultation process that will last throughout the duration of the program.
- Before signing with IRCC, we will present the broad strokes of our action plan to the consultants overseeing the consultation process for their feedback.
- We may need to tweak our general plan, so as to take into account any setbacks we may have encountered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fierté CLARE Pride

- Following the success of the Pride flag raising ceremony in May 2019, members of la Société acadienne de Clare, Université Sainte-Anne and the Municipality of Clare formed a committee to organize the first ever Pride Week in Clare.
- Réanne Titus and Amy Paradis represent the Municipality of Clare on the committee.
- The mandate of the event is to show love and support from and towards the LGBTQ2 community with a week of entertaining, informative and inclusive programming for everyone.
- Last Friday, to commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, the Fierté CLARE Pride organizing committee unveiled their programming schedule for the event, which will run from June 8 to 12 entirely from their Facebook page in order to respect social distancing measures.
- Some of the activities include a flag-raising ceremony, art workshop, round-table discussion and dance party. The Municipality will play a role in the event by hosting the flag-raising ceremony at the municipal office and by organizing an online dot-painting workshop.
- Since launching the programming schedule, it has garnered more than 2,800 views online. A promotional video launched on the same day has had more than 7,700 views online.
- By hosting a virtual event, the activities of Fierté CLARE Pride have expanded beyond the community. The group has gathered interest from key representatives of the local French and English school systems, Pride Yarmouth, Fierté Canada Pride, CBC, Radio-Canada and LGBTQ2 community members and supporters who once lived in Clare.

Derelict Boat – Comeauville Wharf

- The boat being dismantled at the Comeauville Wharf has sunk. The owners of the boat are aware of the situation.
- Nova Scotia Environment has confirmed they do not have jurisdiction over the boat.
- Have reached out to the Canadian Coast Guard and DNR. DNR is currently looking into the matter and will be in touch. Technically, the boat is on their land.

FINANCIAL:

- As of April 30, 2020, the Municipality has recorded \$7,843,328 in revenues versus \$879,443 in expenses, for a surplus of \$6,963,885.
- As of April 30, 2020, the Municipality has a balance of \$869,823 in its operating fund, \$94,674 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,631,710.
 - Operating reserve - \$855,164
 - Capital reserve - \$3,446,513
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$329,144
 - Gas tax reserve - \$1,000,889
- The influx of municipal tax payments is consistent and the Municipality's cash flow position remains strong. From April 1st to May 15th, 2020, the Municipality has received \$1,522,493 in total deposits. This puts us slightly ahead of where we were at this time last year.

COVID-19 – MUNICIPAL RESPONSE

- The Municipality of Clare continues to follow the situation very closely. Residents will be rapidly informed of any new measures that will be taken into effect. Please continue consulting the municipal Web site and Facebook page. These communications tools will be used for sharing all new information regarding COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 and Nova Scotia's response, visit <https://www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus>, and you can also read national information at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>.