

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

PROJECT FILES:

Rural Internet / Eco-parc:

- The first 3 phases are advancing as per schedule.
- As a reminder, 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.
- A second application has been submitted for funding consideration to both the CRTC and DNS. This a smaller application in scope and focuses uniquely on extending the proposed fibre network the entire length of highway 340, from Hassett to the Yarmouth County border (including some side roads).
- Community interest for the project remains strong. We have seen an increase in the amount of inquiries over the past two weeks.

Gran-Fondo:

- In light of the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and for the safety of all those involved, the Gran-Fondo has been cancelled for this year.
- Participants have been fully refunded (roughly \$19,000)
- Planning for 2020-21 will commence in the Fall with the intention of coming back stronger than ever.

Tourism Public Spaces Development and Improvement

- Consultants are reviewing best practices from other locations
- Public consultations originally scheduled for mid-April have been postponed until later this summer (date to be determined)
- Consultants are drafting preliminary concepts/sketches of proposed recommendations for each site. These will be ready by the end of next week and will include a written list of the recommendations that they are considering, as well as some flow diagrams of the sites. These concepts will be used for discussion purposes during the stakeholder meetings.
- Best practices in park interpretation and municipal signage from other locations are also being explored. Possible interpretive themes include regional history, geology, flora, fauna, shipbuilding, fishing, and rum running.
- Discussions with Rhad Architects regarding the CVC are ongoing. The proposed design is being refined and costed out.

Havelock Community Centre

- The project is complete except for two doors (awaiting delivery).
- Project is on-time and budget
- Whereas we do have funds left over under the New Horizons, we are looking at a few additional items including the field in back of the centre as well as outstanding fire code requirements.

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.
- RIFNÉ (FANE) have effectively removed themselves from the management of this project. In our discussion, I suggested the Municipality take ownership of this project (with Council's permission of course). The SAC will remain as a project partner. All parties agreed.
- The revised project management structure will ensure this project is managed locally, by the community, for the community.
- Over the next two weeks, we will make the necessary revisions to the action plan, to reflect the new management structure and budget, in hopes of signing with IRCC by the end of the month.
- To date, only 2 of the 14 chosen communities nationwide have signed.

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 represented the Municipality of Clare on this committee.
- The Municipality of Clare held a Pride flag raising ceremony at the Clare community flagpole on the evening of June 8 to kick off Pride Week. It issued a press release after the fact, which was widely shared on social media.
- By hosting a virtual event, the activities of Fierté CLARE Pride have expanded beyond the community.
- Leading up to and during the event, Fierté CLARE Pride was featured on Eastlink's In Focus television program, CBC Radio, Radio-Canada (radio and television), Radio CIFA and Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse.
- The event also garnered significant attention online. To date, close to 500 people are following Fierté CLARE Pride's Facebook page, including key members of the community, school representatives, journalists, activists, and people of all ages in Clare and beyond. Other LGBTQ2 groups from across the country, both rural and urban, have also shown key interest in the week's activities.

Breakwater – Belliveau Cove

- Discussions are underway with DFO, DNR and Transport Canada regarding the necessary permits.
- Total project cost of \$431,584 (not including lighthouse, benches, and damage to the southern wharf).
- Of this amount, insurance is covering \$325,776.
- Funding application in the amount of \$52,904 has been submitted to the Nova Scotia Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP). As per the program criteria, the Municipality must match the contribution (\$52,904).
- The insurance will also be covering 100% of the cost to repair the lighthouse and the southern wharf, as well as replace the benches.

Provision of French-language Services:

- The application for funding assistance has been submitted to the OOAF, under the Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services.
- The total amount of the application is \$139,704 of which 50% or \$69,852 is being requested from the OOAF.
- Expense items focus on communications, simultaneous translation, translation of documents, advertising/marketing, and signage.
- The Municipality has received \$40,000 per year over the past 2 years.

FINANCIAL:

- As of May 31, 2020, the Municipality has recorded \$7,971,265 in revenues versus \$1,675,793 in expenses, for a surplus of \$6,295,472.
- As of May 31, 2020, the Municipality has a balance of \$1,406,002 in its operating fund, \$53,869 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,748,924.
 - Operating reserve - \$856,253
 - Capital reserve - \$3,450,904
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$329,563
 - Gas tax reserve - \$1,112,204
- From April 1 to June 15, 2020, the Municipality has collected \$2,754,968 in revenue. Of this amount, \$2,161,327 is in the form of municipal tax payments. At this same time last year, the Municipality has collected \$2,834,305 in tax payments.
- Tipping fees as of June 15, 2020 were recorded at \$43,408. At this same time last year, tipping fees totalled \$49,243.

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>.