



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

The 2015 Annual Report provides residents of the Greater Miramichi Region with an overview of development activity, departmental initiatives, and financial information pertaining to the functioning of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC). Though the Report is a snapshot of activity over the past year, it also highlights Commission trends over the past five years.

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Highlights

The newly revamped GMRSC website (www.greatermiramichirsc.ca) was launched on September 21, 2015. (p.8)

A staff visioning and brainstorming session was held in early November to develop a planning strategy to improve customer service. This resulted in the development of the 'Working Together: A Plan to Better Assist and Support Our Clients (2016 – 2017)' initiative. (p.8)

The new City of Miramichi Building By-law No. 95, registered February 3, 2015, addresses previous regulatory shortfalls and is more intuitive and user-friendly for clients and staff. (p.9)

The new Rural Community of Upper Miramichi – Rural Plan (By-law No. 01-2015) was registered on November 9, 2015. (p.9)

The Greater Miramichi Region experienced an 8.1% increase in total value of construction between 2014 and 2015 (\$45.13 to \$48.77 million respectively). (p.17)

The total value of construction between 2014 and 2015 in the City of Miramichi and Village of Doaktown increased by 47.4% (\$24.83 to \$36.61 million) and 28.1% (\$583 to \$747 thousand) respectively. (p.16)

The value of institutional construction in the City of Miramichi experienced a sharp rise of 370.89% between 2014 and 2015 (\$5.53 to \$26.04 million respectively). This increase is directly attributable to the new Federal Payroll Centre development. (p.16)

The value of residential construction in the unincorporated areas remained relatively consistent from 2011 to 2015 at \$8.12m. This represented almost half (46.7%) of the total value of residential construction in 2015. (p.17)

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SECTION A – GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

1 Message from the Chairperson

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I have the opportunity to present the Chairperson’s message for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC). The Board of the GMRSC is comprised of eight members who represent 19 Local Service Districts (LSDs), two Villages, one Rural Community, and one City. This diverse group of people has come together in the interest of the Greater Miramichi Region and has formed an extremely well-functioning Commission. Mutual respect and working toward a common goal is the hallmark of this Board. I would like to personally thank the members for their dedication to the Commission.

2015 marked the third full year of the Regional Service Commission (RSC). The Commission employs 12 qualified professionals in various management, planning, building inspection, and waste management roles. The Commission is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated and qualified employees.

The Commission has two permanent committees: the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee (PRAC) is comprised of eight members from the communities served by the RSC and a three person Finance and Budget Committee comprised of three GMRSC Board members. The Commission also formed an ad-hoc committee charged with looking at recycling initiatives. There were a total of seven regular meetings in 2015 with nearly 100% attendance by Board members; this is a testament to their interest and dedication. The regular meetings are held in various locations throughout the Greater Miramichi Region.

The Commission had a busy year as it undertook many initiatives; the following are some of the highlights from 2015:

Highlights

Solid Waste Services applied to the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) for ‘Residential Curbside Recycling Community Education’ and was awarded \$45,000. The project assisted to educate the public on the implementation of the Curbside Recycling Program and to raise awareness of the changes to recycling and garbage collection. (p.30)

Solid Waste Services attended seminars and tours of recycling facilities. (p.33)

The Residential Curbside Recycling Program was implemented on October 19, 2015. (p.35)

For the Greater Miramichi Region in 2015, almost half the amount of waste was diverted from the Curbside Program in three months of operation compared to nine months of the Depot Program. (p.35)

Funding was applied through the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board (MCBB); on April 13, \$902,000 was approved to purchase recycling carts for residents of the Greater Miramichi Region. (p.36)

In 2015, a total of 675kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW event. (p.37)

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2015. (p.38)

- The newly revamped GMRSC website was launched in September. All meeting agenda and minutes are available on the site.
- The first Rural Plan for the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi was prepared and adopted by Council.
- The Board approved funding request to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board for the purchase of carts for the residential curbside recycling program.
- The Board received a very informative presentation on Safer Communities and Neighbourhood (SCAN) program (Frank Kingston, Department of Public Safety).
- In June, the Board approved the following motions in relation to the Appalachian Range Authority: GMRSC agrees to serve on an advisory committee for Mount Carleton formed of multiple RSC's with the representatives from the Department of Tourism; and the GMRSC agrees to sit on a steering committee that would be responsible for elaborating the terms of reference to retain a consultant to develop an operational structure for the proposed Appalachian Range Authority.
- In September, the Board received a report on the feasibility of establishing a Municipal By-law Compliance Officer. This proposal received support in principle and will be further examined in 2016.
- The Board passed motions regarding the operations of the PRAC. All PRAC meetings, including discussions and voting, are now open to the public, except in circumstances where legal advice or instructions are being provided.
- The Board approved a motion that would allow Commission Alternate members to receive Board Meeting packages. The intent of this initiative is to ensure that all members are aware of the activities and initiatives of the GMRSC.
- In October, the GMRSC implemented a region-wide residential curbside recycling program. This was a significant undertaking that saw the delivery of over 18,000 carts to residential properties. The response to this initiative has been very positive.
- At the November meeting, the GMRSC received a very informative presentation by the Chaleur RSC regarding the five-year plan for the Red Pine Landfill Facility. A renewal of the agreement for the use of the facility by the GMRSC will be reviewed in 2016.
- Members of the Board attended the Strengthening of Regions Initiative session held in November.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2016 will present and I look forward to working with Commission members, provincial government departments and other stakeholders as we work together for the betterment of our region. With a strong and now experienced Board dedicated to improving the Greater Miramichi Region and with the help of professional staff, GMRSC will continue to be a very successful regional body.

M. A. Douglas Munn, Chairperson

2 About the Regional Service Commission

2.1 MANDATE AND HISTORY

The GMRSC is an organization that brings together representatives of communities in the Region to:

1. Strengthen cooperation;
2. Deliver cost effective services; and
3. Improve accountability and transparency.

The GMRSC is an agency that works for, and is funded by, its member communities.

2.2 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

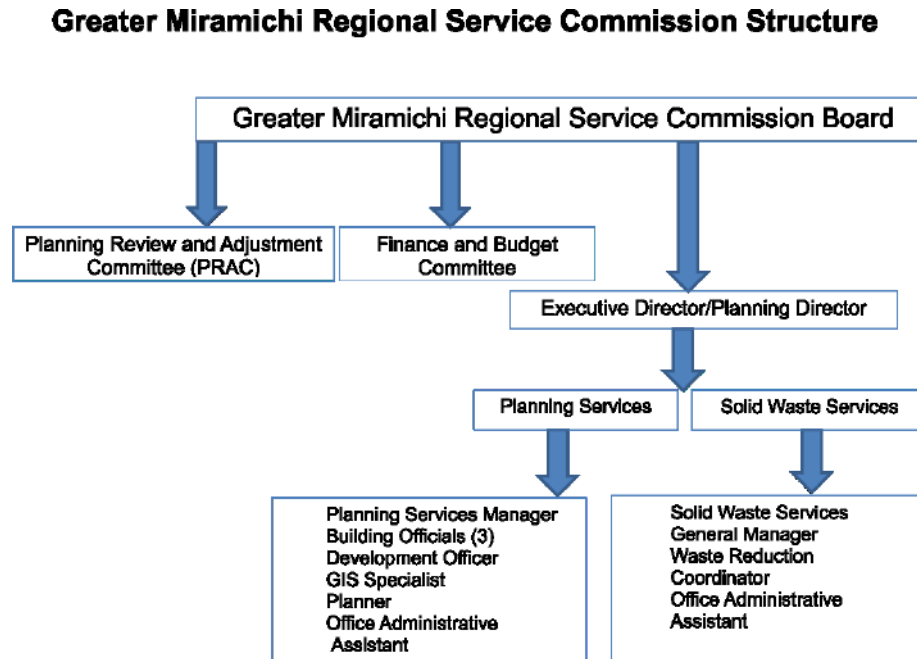
The GMRSC is governed by a board of eight members (see Figure 1). Board members are made up of mayors from member municipalities / Rural Community and representatives from LSDs within the Region. (Please see 'Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record, Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)' for 2015.)

FIGURE 1: GMRSC BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2014

Board Member	Community
M.A. Douglas Munn, Chairperson	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
M.A. Bev Gaston, Vice Chairperson	Village of Doaktown
M.A. Gerry Cormier	City of Miramichi
M.A. Andy Hawkes	Village of Blackville
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
John Goodfellow	LSD Representative
Gerald Ross	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

The Executive Director is a direct employee of the GMRSC Board. He is responsible for staffing to provide Commission services and overseeing day-to-day activities. Please refer to 'Appendix B – 2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2014-2016' for an overview of ongoing and proposed initiatives for 2015. The Workplan is based on an RSC5 (now GMRSC) Board members and senior staff visioning session held in November, 2013. The GMRSC organizational structure is outlined in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2: GMRSC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The PRAC is made up of eight members (see Figure 3). Committee members are appointed by the GMRSC Board. The role of the PRAC is to advise (i.e. provide ‘views’ to municipal and rural community councils and the Minister of the Department of Environment and Local Government) and make decisions on planning and subdivision applications as specified under the NB *Community Planning Act*. The decisions made by this Committee have a significant impact on how development occurs within the Greater Miramichi Region. (Please see ‘Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record, Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)’ for 2015.)

FIGURE 3: PRAC MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
William Treadwell, Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Joe Veriker, Vice Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Robert Hallihan	Renous
Robert McLeod	Lower Newcastle
Kurt Marks	Village of Blackville
Scott Clowater	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
Lynn Gregan	Hardwicke
Burton Cain	Derby

The Finance and Budget Committee are made up of members from the GMRSC Board (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
John Goodfellow	South Esk
Elizabeth Bowes	Derby
Robert Hallihan	Renous

3 Financial Information

3.1 GMRSC FUNDING

The GMRSC is funded by the participating municipalities and the LSDs that receive various services. The municipalities and LSDs include the cost of services they receive from the RSC in their local property tax rates. The GMRSC has no other source of funding. All planning service and permit fees are returned to the community in which it was generated. The programs and staff of Solid Waste Services are partially funded through a service charge attached to the tipping fee at the landfill site (Chaleur Regional Service Commission establishes the tipping fee for the facility).

3.2 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Figure 5 outlines the cost of planning and building inspection services for the 2015 year. In the case of the LSDs, the fees are remitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

All funding partners receive the services of the nine full-time employees of the Planning Services division, which includes inspections services as well. All funding partners also receive the services of the eight member PRAC. Please refer to 'Appendix C – GMRSC 2015 Financial Statement' for more details.

FIGURE 5: COST OF PLANNING SERVICES BY COMMUNITY FOR 2015

	Budget Amount	Revenue from Fees	Net Cost
Miramichi	\$356,548	\$312,722.95*	\$42,825.05
LSDs	\$222,176	\$67,050.99	\$155,125.01
Blackville	\$11,523	\$2,741.66	\$8,781.34
Doaktown	\$14,565	\$4,926.83	\$9,638.17
Upper Miramichi	\$28,166	\$6,237.57	\$21,928.43

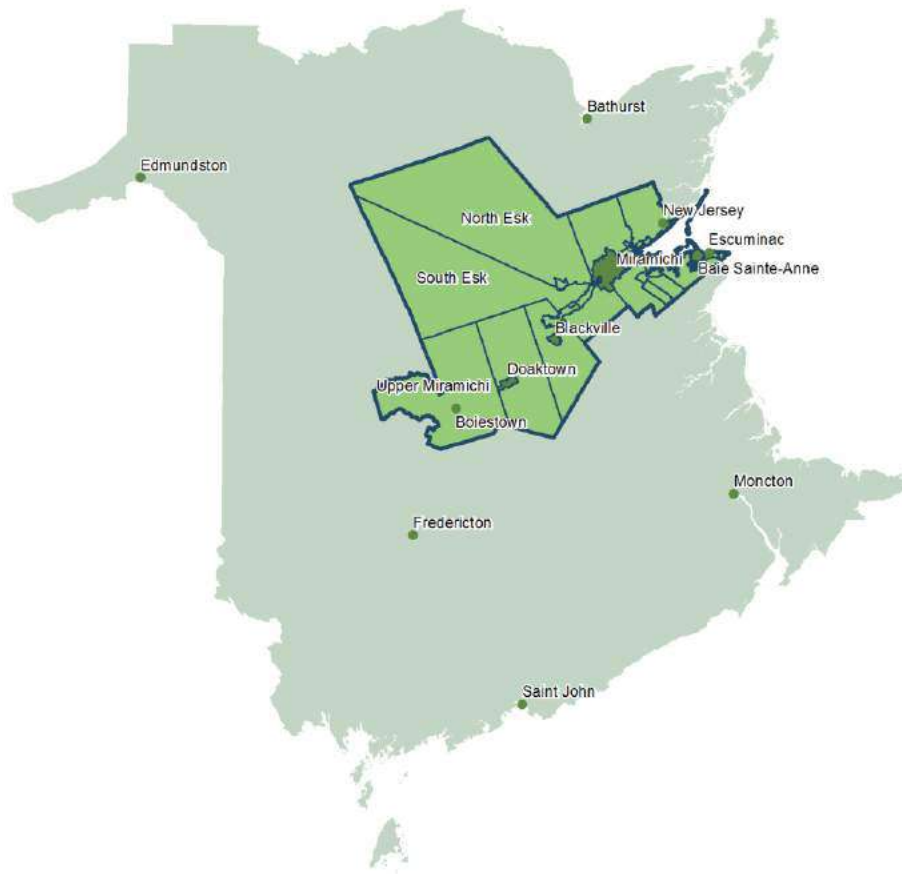
*Note: Building Permit fees of \$111,599.38 (Miramichi West School) and \$ 61,872.00 (Gretna Green School expansions) were paid and remitted to the City of Miramichi. Permits were not issued. Thus the total remitted to the city in 2015 is \$486,194.33.

4 About the Region

The Greater Miramichi Region is located in northeastern New Brunswick. The Region is tied together by the Miramichi River and serves communities located within this picturesque river valley. The City of Miramichi is the service centre of this rural Region (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: GMRSC SERVICE AREA

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION - SERVICE AREA
COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI - ZONE DE SERVICE



The economy is in transition from a heavy reliance on natural resources to professional services, retail, education, health care, and value added manufacturing. Figure 7 below gives an overview of the Region.

FIGURE 7: OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Population (2014)	40,376
Tax Base (2015)	\$2.53 Billion
Area	12,000 km ² , 17% of NB
Municipalities / Rural Communities Served	4
Local Service Districts Served (Unincorporated)	19
Local Service District Advisory Committees	9

Figure 8 outlines the 19 LSDs served by the Commission.

FIGURE 8: LSDS WITHIN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Parish of Alnwick	Lower Newcastle-Russellville
Baie-Sainte-Anne	Parish of Nelson
Black River-Hardwicke	Parish of Newcastle
Parish of Blackville	Parish of North Esk
Parish of Blissfield	Oak Point-Bartibog Bridge
Parish of Chatham	Renous-Quarryville
Parish of Derby	Parish of South Esk
Escuminac	St. Margarets
Parish of Glenelg	Sunny Corner
Parish of Hardwicke	

SECTION B – PLANNING SERVICES

5 Planning Services Annual Summary

5.1 OVERVIEW

2015 was the third full year of operation under the new RSC structure. This marked a year of change for Planning Services as reflected by numerous departmental initiatives. Guided by the long-serving chair of the former Miramichi Planning District Commission (MPDC), Chairman William Treadwell and the other seven PRAC members held seven meetings and dealt with 17 applications, including subdivisions, variances, conditional and temporary uses, and amendments to rural plans, municipal development plan, and zoning by-law.

Enhancing relationships and collaborating with the public, customers, community stakeholders, and other departments and agencies involved in the land development process are critical and ongoing endeavors for Planning Services. In 2015, we participated in and/or hosted a number of sessions with provincial agencies; Councils and Staff of the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown, Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, and the City of Miramichi; and departments of the City of Miramichi, and others.

5.2 IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Throughout 2015, Planning Services actively worked on a number of initiatives to:

- Make it more convenient for customers to access our services;
- Be more transparent about how we do business; and
- Improve clarity about the factors that influence the speed and outcomes of development applications.

For convenience of our newest customers in the Upper Miramichi, Doaktown, and Blackville area, Planning Services continues to operate a satellite office in Doaktown during the building season from the beginning of May to late September. Open on Tuesdays during the summer months, customers can drop in to speak with a Building Inspector and avoid driving all the way to the City of Miramichi for service.

Numerous initiatives for corporate services and day-to-day administration have been completed or are ongoing. First, the newly revamped GMRSC website (www.greatermiramichirsc.ca) was launched on September 21, 2015. An in-house working group worked closely with an external consultant to develop, organize and structure a website that is easy and intuitive to use by clients and members of the public. The new website brings together the Planning Services and Solid Waste Services divisions under one umbrella to convey a professional image of the GMRSC organization as a whole. Some key features, which did not exist on the previous website, include: the 'My Building / Development Project' walkthroughs, 'Quick Links' section, integration with social media (i.e. Facebook and Twitter), links to GMRSC Board and PRAC member profiles, 'Latest News' and 'Upcoming Meetings & Events' posting boards, and compatibility with mobile devices. Second, Planning Services continued to add to the 'Planning' and 'Building' information booklet series. New booklets were added to address key issues and concerns brought up by staff and clients (e.g. to address the newly adopted, January 1, 2015, provincial Barrier-Free Design Building Code Regulation, 2011-61). Third, a staff visioning and brainstorming session was held in early November to develop a planning strategy to improve customer service. This resulted in the development of the 'Working Together: A Plan to Better Assist and Support Our Clients (2016 – 2017)' initiative. The Plan documents all current departmental initiatives and outlines potential future strategies for implementation. The Plan, once adopted by the Board of Directors, will provide a framework for moving forward into 2016 – 2017.

As the mandate of the RSC is to increase regional collaboration and explore the viability of adding on regional services as stipulated under the New Brunswick *Community Planning Act*, the Executive Director attended numerous meetings with agencies and stakeholder groups across the region. First, the Executive Director met twice with municipal administrators and the local service manager to discuss various issues of regional significance. The GMRSC was able to facilitate a one-day training session for administrators on topics dealing with procurement and tendering. Second, the Executive Director prepared a feasibility report for creating a new By-law Compliance Officer position, which would be shared amongst the municipalities and Rural Community of the region; this will be further explored in 2016. Third, the GMRSC received a 'high level' presentation from the Executive Director on the development of regional in planning in New Brunswick and its applicability to the region.

Planning Services staff worked on numerous policy and regulatory projects in 2015. First, building staff worked closely with the City of Miramichi Manager and Clerk in modernizing the outdated Building By-law No. 63. By-law No. 95, registered February 3, 2015, addresses previous regulatory shortfalls and is more intuitive and user-friendly for clients and staff alike. Second, a semi-comprehensive amendment to the Village of Blackville – Rural Plan (By-law No. 57) was registered on July 7, 2015 (By-law No. 88). The amendment is a result of working extensively with the Village Council and the established Steering Committee. It focuses on the centre area of the Village, making it more open and responsive to potential future development. The project provided the foundation for moving forward with the review of the existing Rural Plan and the development of the new Rural Plan to be adopted and registered in 2016. Third, the new Rural Community of Upper Miramichi – Rural Plan (By-law No. 01-2015) was registered on November 9, 2015. This project was ongoing for a year prior and included numerous meetings with the local Steering Committee and Rural Community Council, field work, public participation, and drafting of policies and regulations. This marked the first Rural Plan for the community, which was incorporated in 2008. Further, building staff completed a first draft of the Rural

Community of Upper Miramichi – Building By-law No. 01-2016, which will be registered in early 2016 following consultation sessions with Council.

To keep skills honed and to stay up-to-date with best practices, ongoing professional development is very important. In 2015, staff members of Planning Services continued to improve their skills and abilities to serve our Region by participating in the ESRI Canada User Conference, Building Inspector accreditation courses, and Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Conference. Staff also participated in numerous teleconferences, local workshops (e.g. CMHC affordable housing workshop), and Atlantic Planners Institute (API) sessions.

6 Development Activity

6.1 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The following section highlights prominent developments in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2015. These projects, among others, are particularly significant due to their size and scale, importance to the community, and/or their contribution to realizing key objectives of the Municipal Development and Rural Plans for their respective areas.

- New construction of the Federal Payroll Centre on Victoria Avenue Extension in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 9);

FIGURE 9: NEW FEDERAL PAYROLL CENTRE, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Renovations to the existing Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram Dealership on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 10);

FIGURE 10: CHRYSLER-DODGE-JEEP-RAM DEALERSHIP, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Renovations and re-use of St. Mark's Church to Instructional Clay Working Café on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 11);

FIGURE 11: FORMER ST. MARK'S CHURCH TO INSTRUCTIONAL CLAY WORKING CAFÉ, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Renovations and re-use of former daycare to restaurant on Main Street / Route 8 in the Village of Blackville (see Figure 12);

FIGURE 12: HOOKED'N'COOKED RESTAURANT, VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE



- Renovations to accommodate a new coffee shop on Newcastle Boulevard, City of Miramichi (see Figure 13);

FIGURE 13: MILL COVE COFFEE, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Construction of the Station Wharf Marina office building, City of Miramichi (see Figure 14);

FIGURE 14: STATION WHARF MARINA OFFICE BUILDING, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Renovations to the Burger King restaurant, City of Miramichi (see Figure 15);

FIGURE 15: BURGER KING RESTAURANT, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



Other notable development projects in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2015 include:

- Foundation permit for the new Village of Doaktown Arena, Main Street / Route 8;
- Renovations to the Miramichi Folklore Park, Memory Lane, Renous.

6.2 BUILDING PERMITS ACTIVITY

Figures 16 to 20 outline the building permits activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2011 and 2015. (Please refer to Tables 16 to 20 in ‘Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) It is important to note that no data is present for the Village of Doaktown and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi between 2011 and 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at this time.

Over half (55.2%) of the total building permits issued were within the City of Miramichi; this is followed by the unincorporated areas where 33.4% of permits were issued. The majority (75.6%) of permits issued in the City of Miramichi were residential. The number of permits in all land use categories within the City (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and signs) experienced a slight decrease or remained the same between 2014 and 2015.

FIGURE 16: CITY OF MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

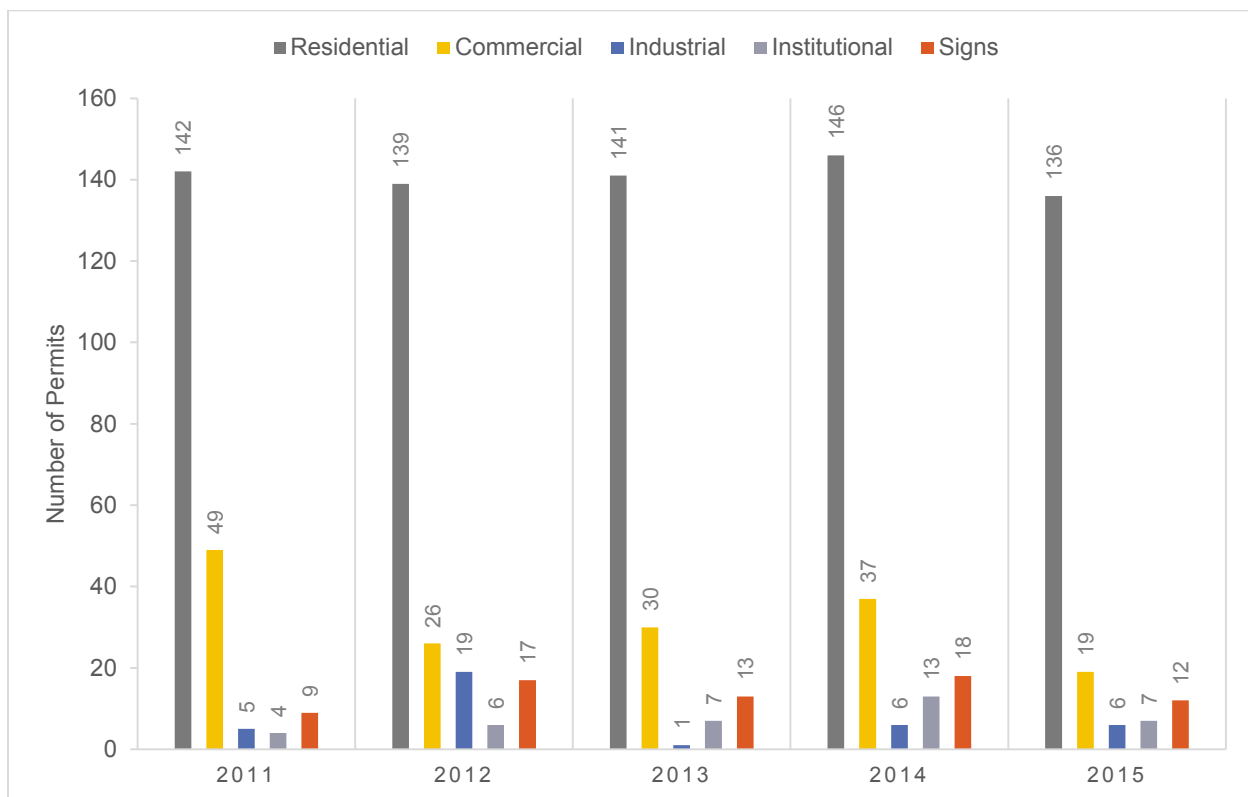


FIGURE 17: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE BUILDING PERMITS

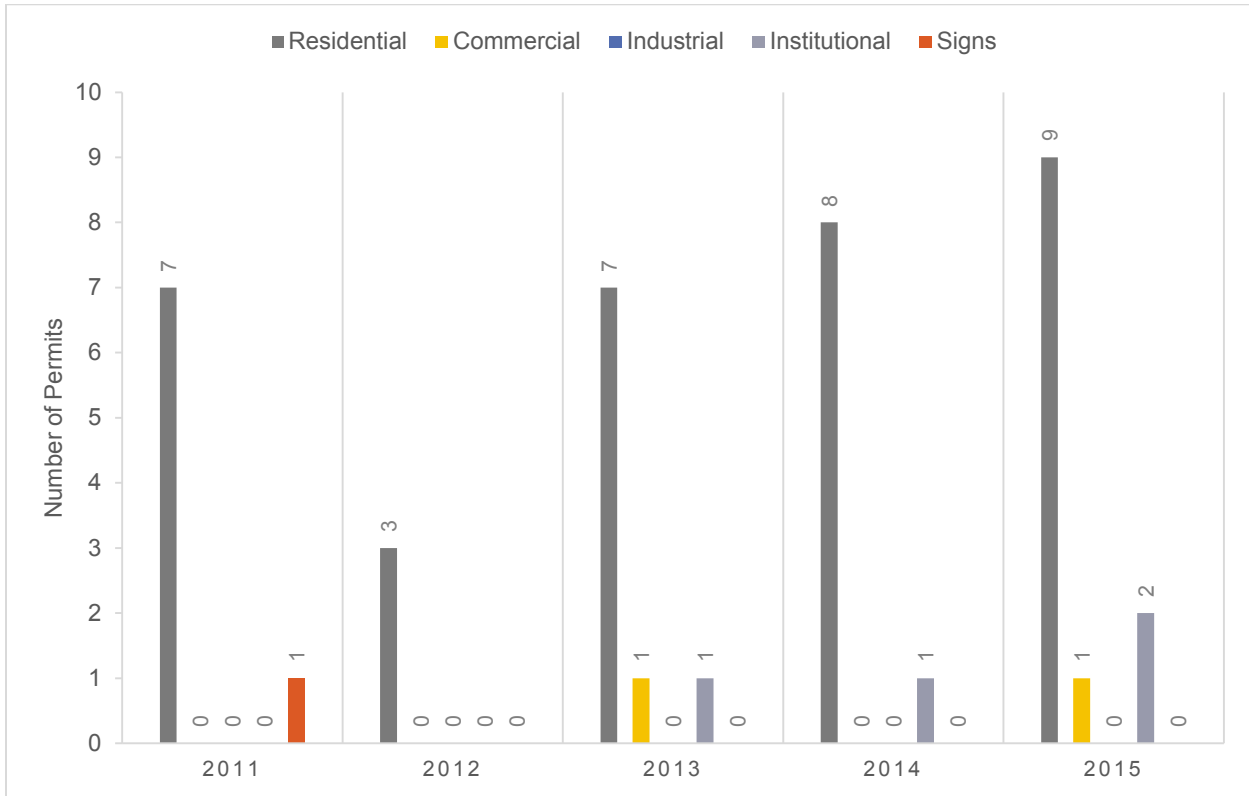


FIGURE 18: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN BUILDING PERMITS

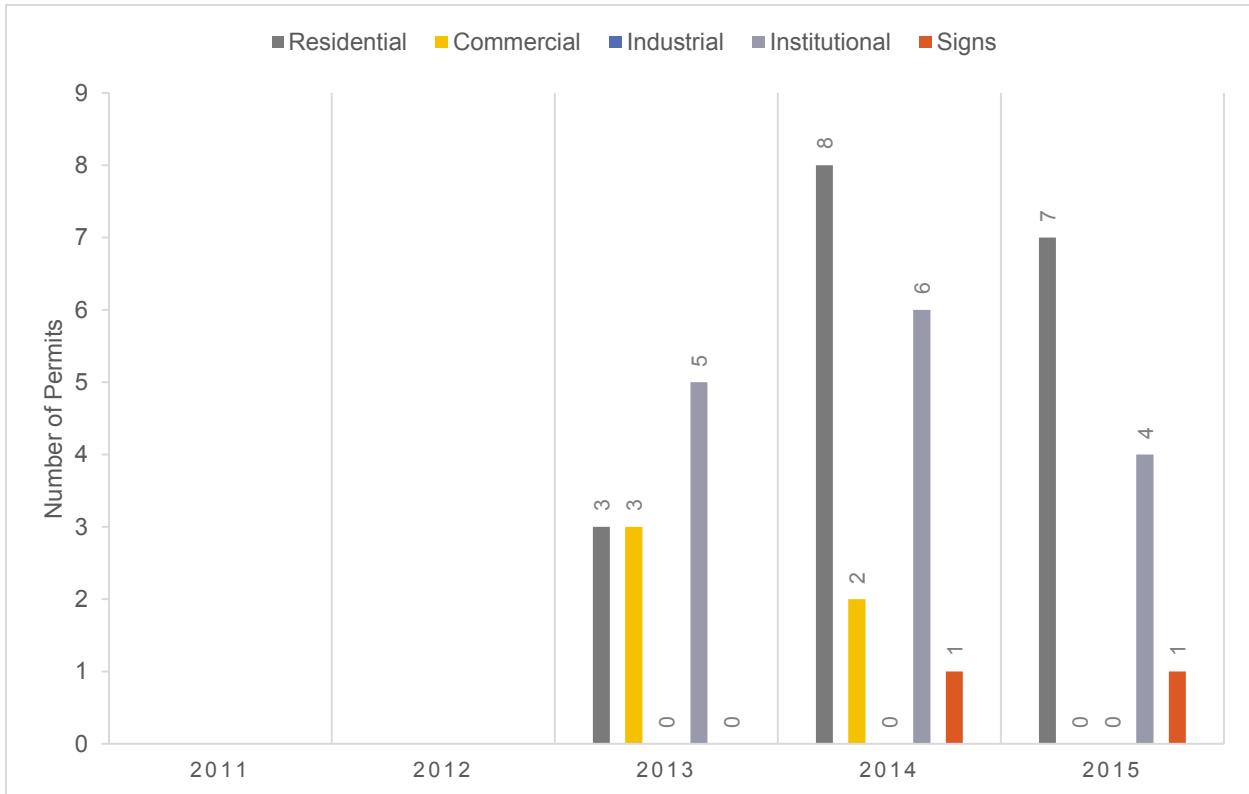


FIGURE 19: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

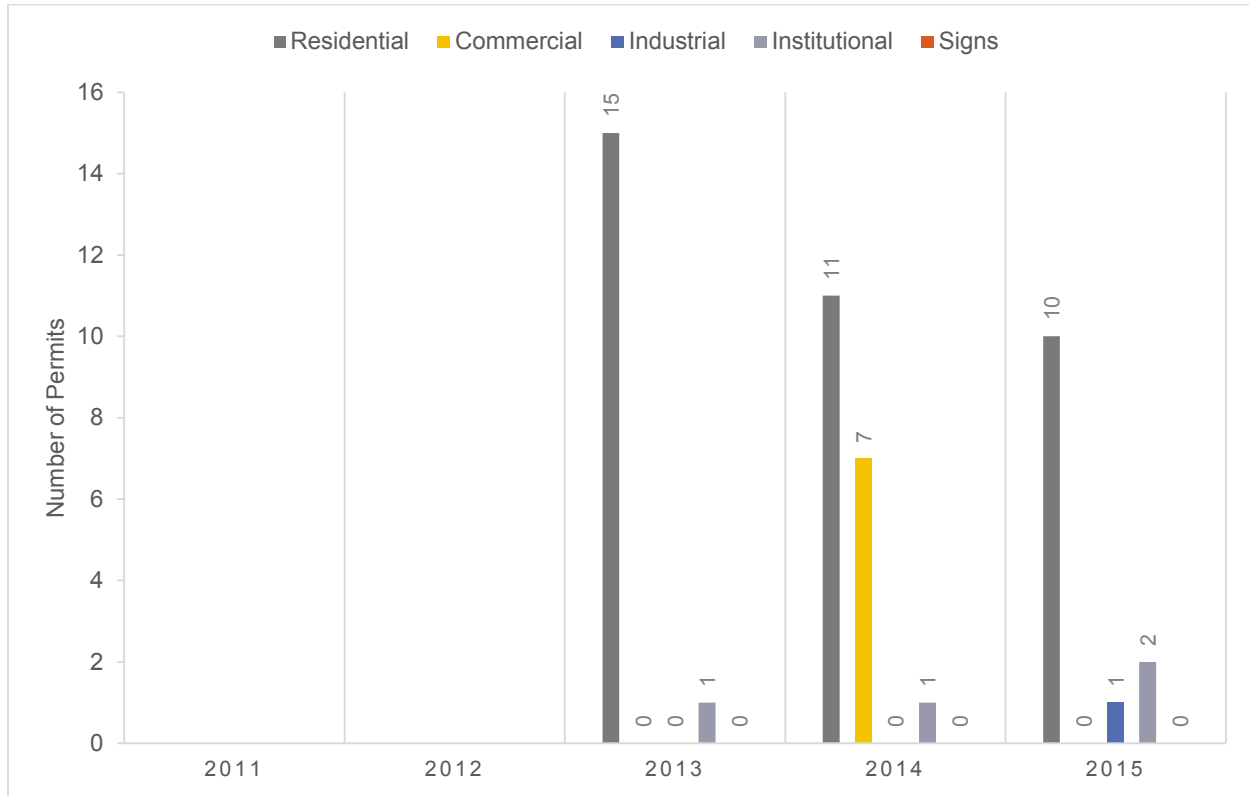


FIGURE 20: UNINCORPORATED AREAS BUILDING PERMITS

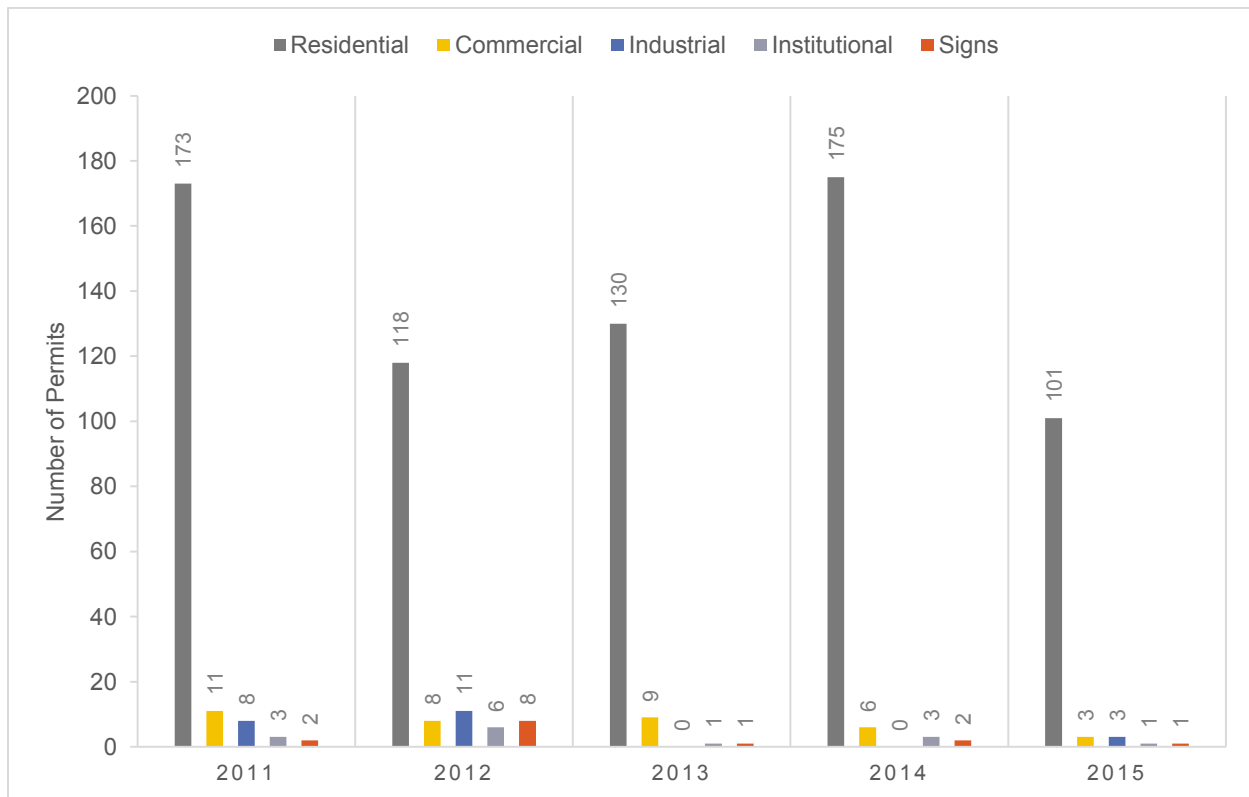


Figure 21 outlines the total value of construction by municipality and unincorporated areas for 2015. The Greater Miramichi Region experienced an 8.1% increase in total value of construction between 2014 and 2015 (\$45.13 to \$48.77 million respectively). The City of Miramichi and Village of Doaktown increased by 47.4% (\$24.83 to \$36.61 million) and 28.1% (\$583 to \$747 thousand) respectively. Three quarters (75.1%) of the total value of construction for the Region came from the City of Miramichi. This is followed by the unincorporated areas (21.6%) and the remaining municipalities / Rural Community (3.3%).

FIGURE 21: TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION, 2015

Community	Value
City of Miramichi	\$36.61 Million
Village of Blackville	\$258 Thousand
Village of Doaktown	\$747 Thousand
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi	\$618 Thousand
Unincorporated Areas	\$10.54 Million
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$48.77 Million</i>

Figures 22 to 26 outline the value of construction activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2011 and 2015. (Please refer to Tables 22 to 26 in 'Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) The value of institutional construction in the City of Miramichi experienced a sharp rise of 370.89% between 2014 and 2015 (\$5.53 to \$26.04 million respectively). This increase is directly attributable to the new Federal Payroll Centre development. This was offset by a decrease in commercial construction of 83.2% between 2014 and 2015 (\$10.98 to \$1.85 million respectively). The value of residential construction rose slightly (8.57%) between 2014 and 2015 (\$7.82 to \$8.49 million respectively). As with previous years, the value of industrial construction in the City remained low in 2015 (\$92 thousand).

Development activity remains modest in the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown, and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi. Peaks in value of construction data for these municipalities is representative of specific development projects (e.g. foundation permit for the Doaktown arena).

The value of residential construction in the unincorporated areas remained relatively consistent from 2011 to 2015 at \$8.12m. This represented almost half (46.7%) of the total value of residential construction in 2015.

FIGURE 22: CITY OF MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

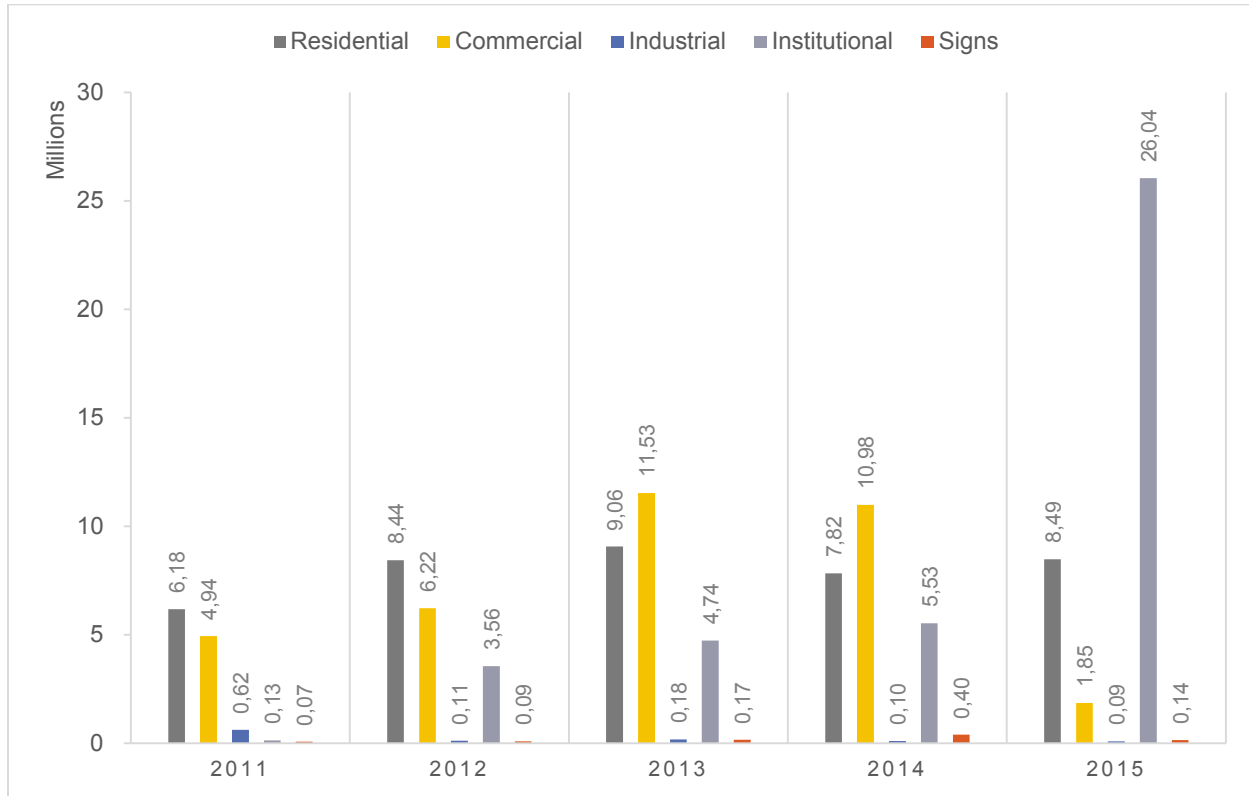


FIGURE 23: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

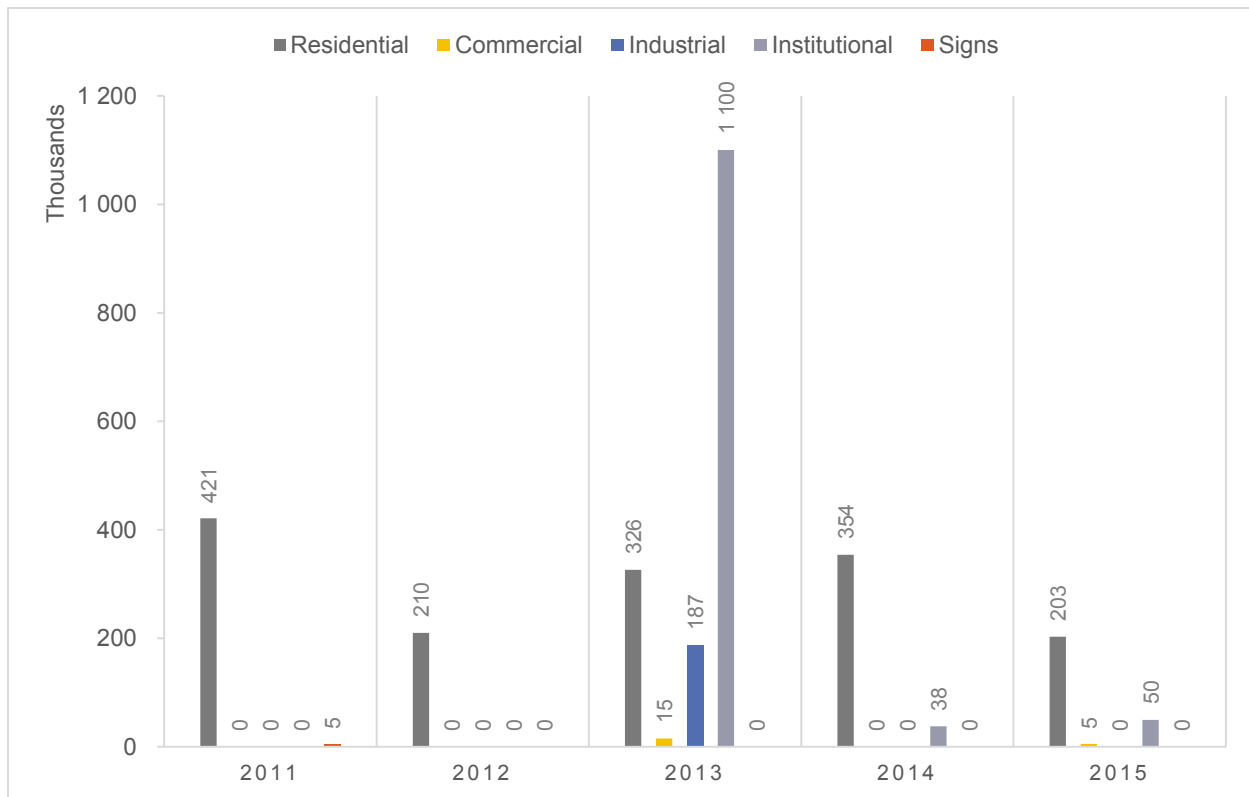


FIGURE 24: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

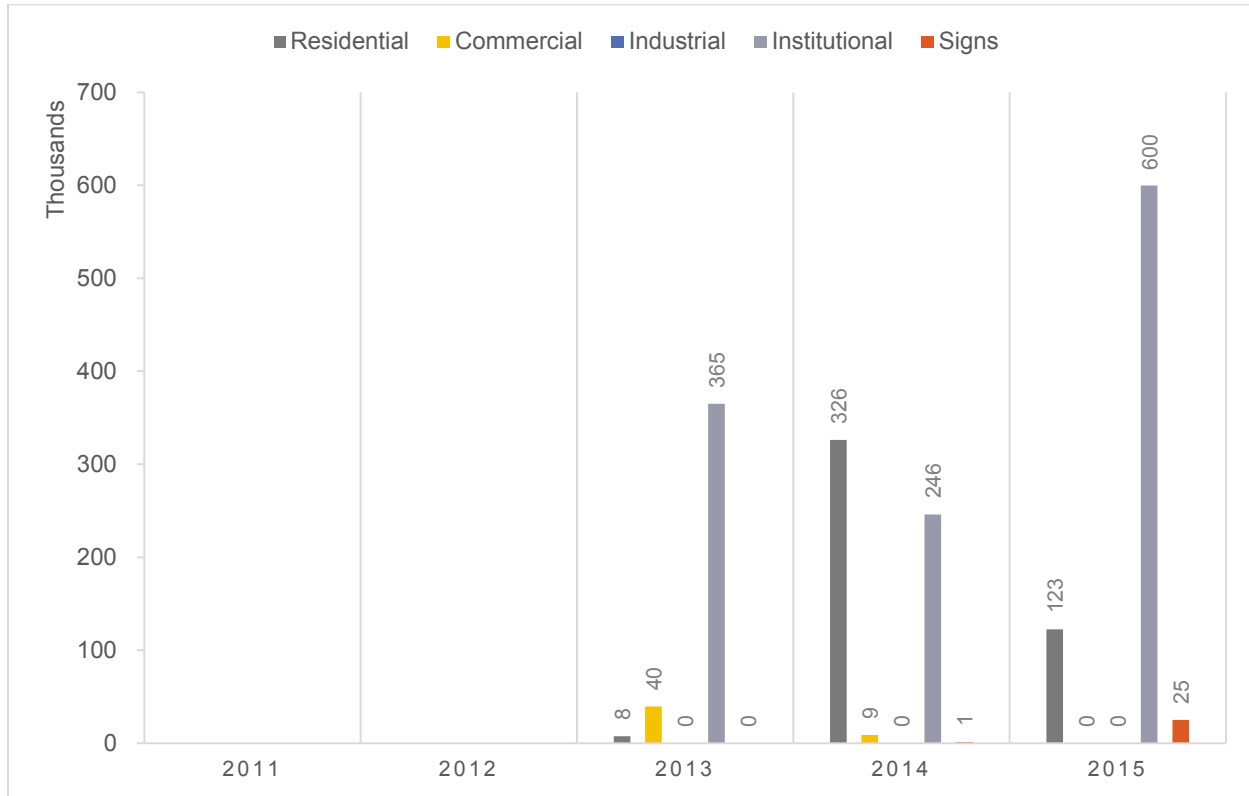


FIGURE 25: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

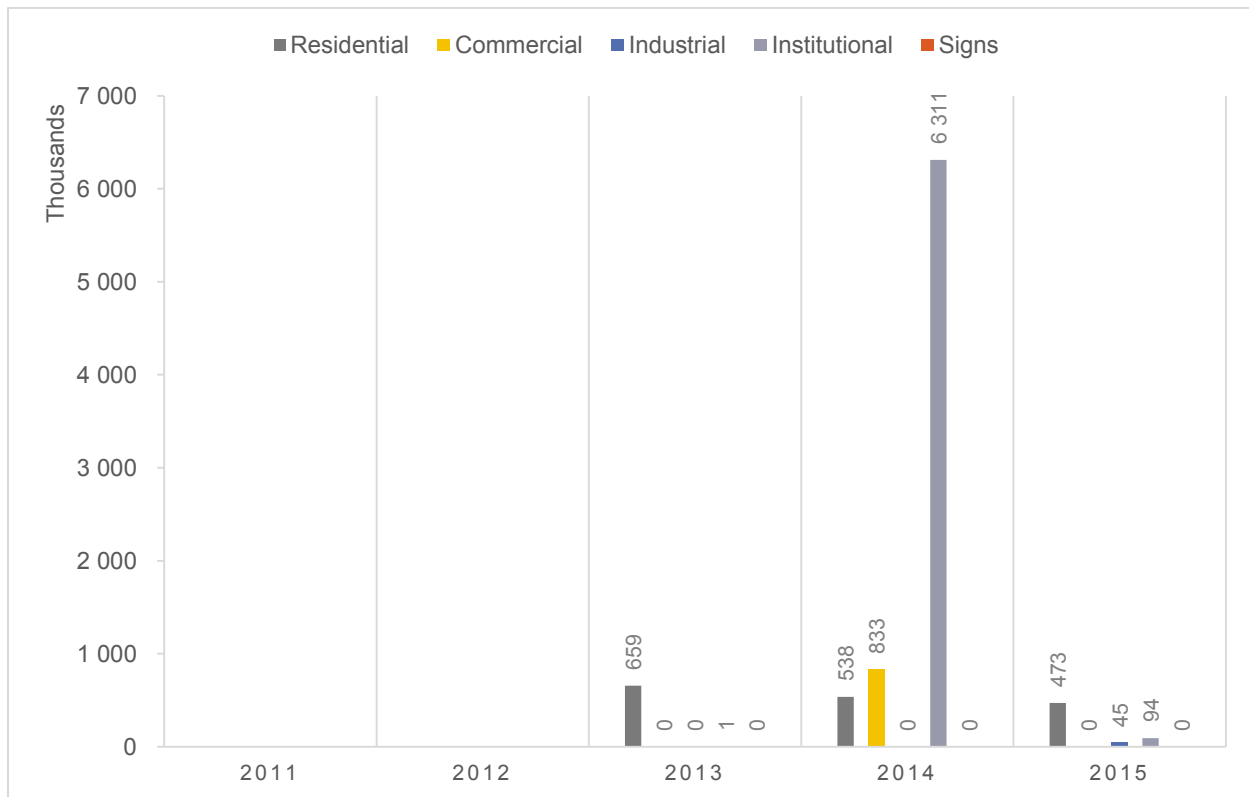
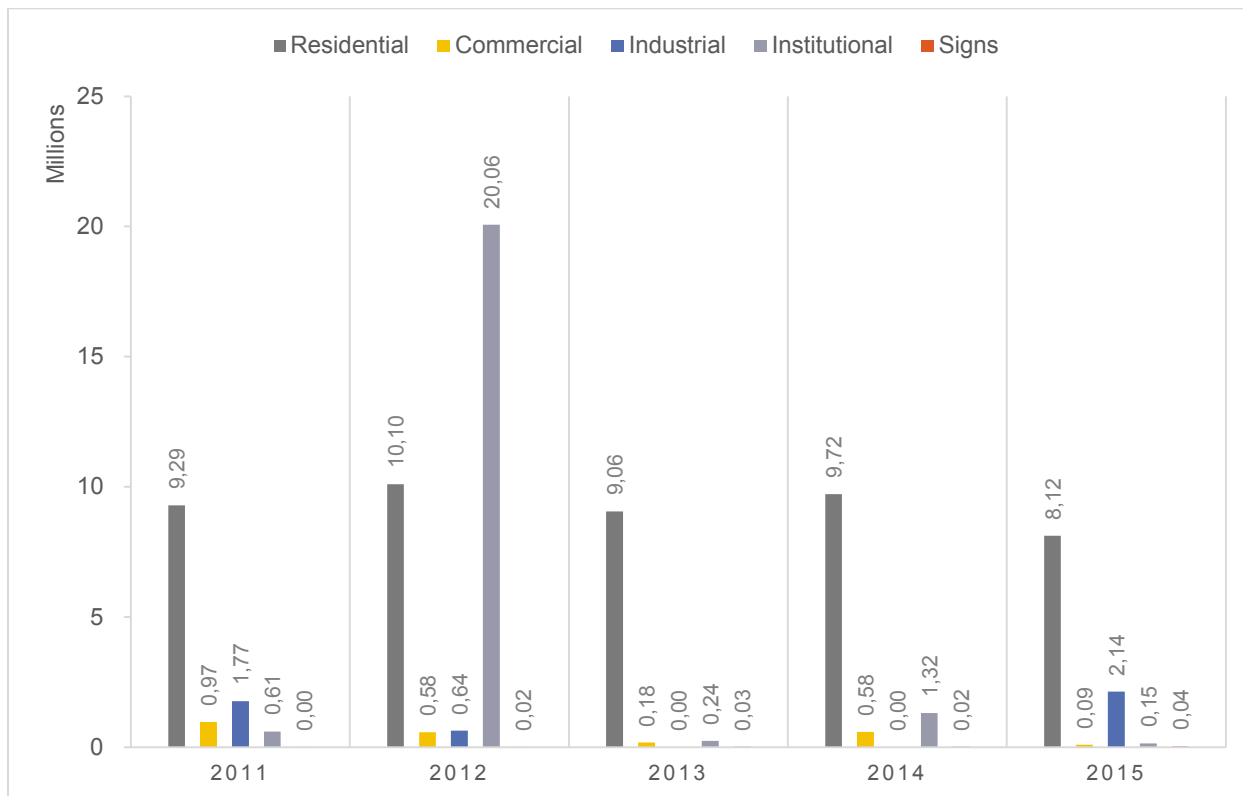


FIGURE 26: UNINCORPORATED AREAS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION



6.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Planning applications include plan amendments (e.g. Municipal Development Plan and Rural Plans), rezonings, and variances (e.g. Development Officer and PRAC). Other planning applications, such as temporary and similar and compatible uses, are included under PRAC variances. Though technically not variances as stipulated under the New Brunswick *Community Planning Act*, they are handled in a similar fashion and they must go to the PRAC for a decision.

Figures 27 to 31 outline planning applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2011 and 2015. (Please refer to Tables 27 to 31 in 'Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) It is important to note that no data is present for the Village of Doaktown and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi between 2011 and 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at this time.

A majority (70%) of the total applications handled were from the City of Miramichi. A recent change to the NB *Community Planning Act* allows Development Officers (DOs) to make decisions on dimensional variances and temporary use applications. This has increased staff resources, because variances that must go to the PRAC are work and time intensive. The majority of variance applications handled in all municipalities (City, Villages, and Rural Community) were handled in-house through the DO variance process (36 out of 43 total). As is typical, there were not many applications for plan amendments or rezonings in 2015.

FIGURE 27: CITY OF MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

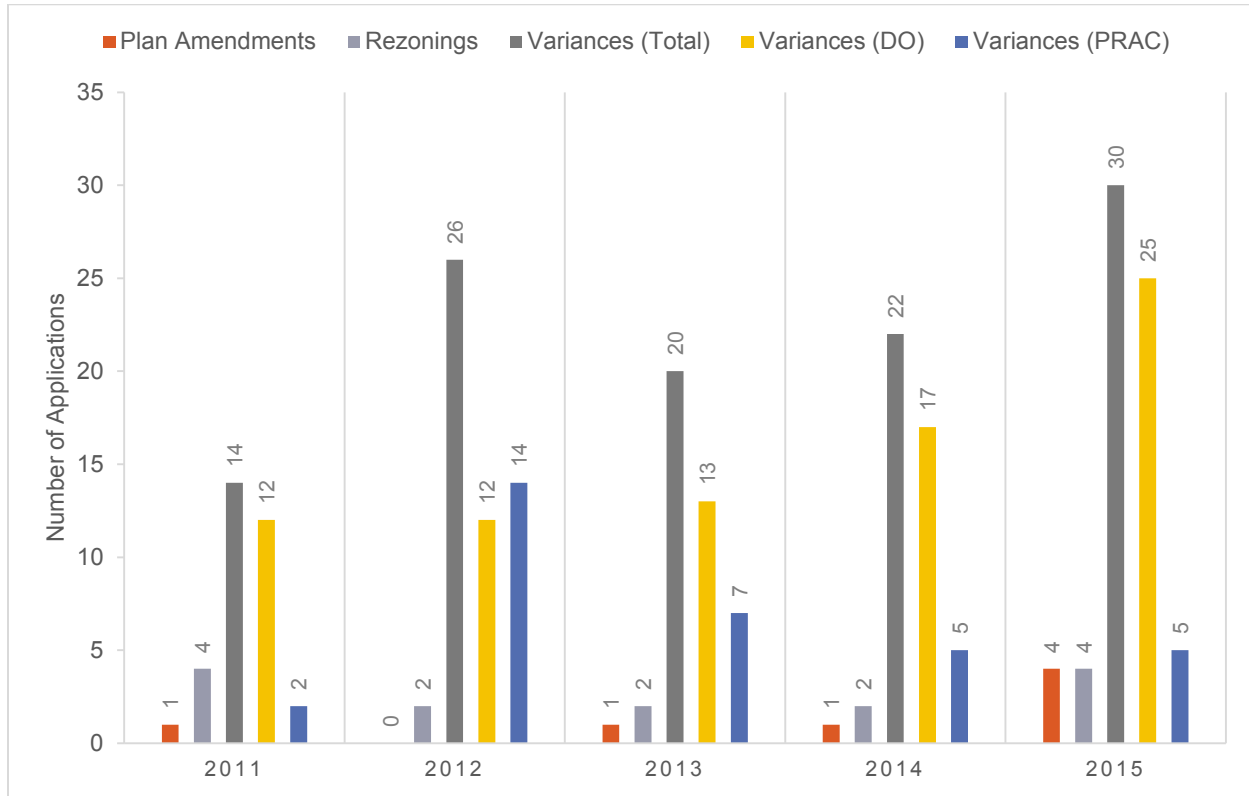


FIGURE 28: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

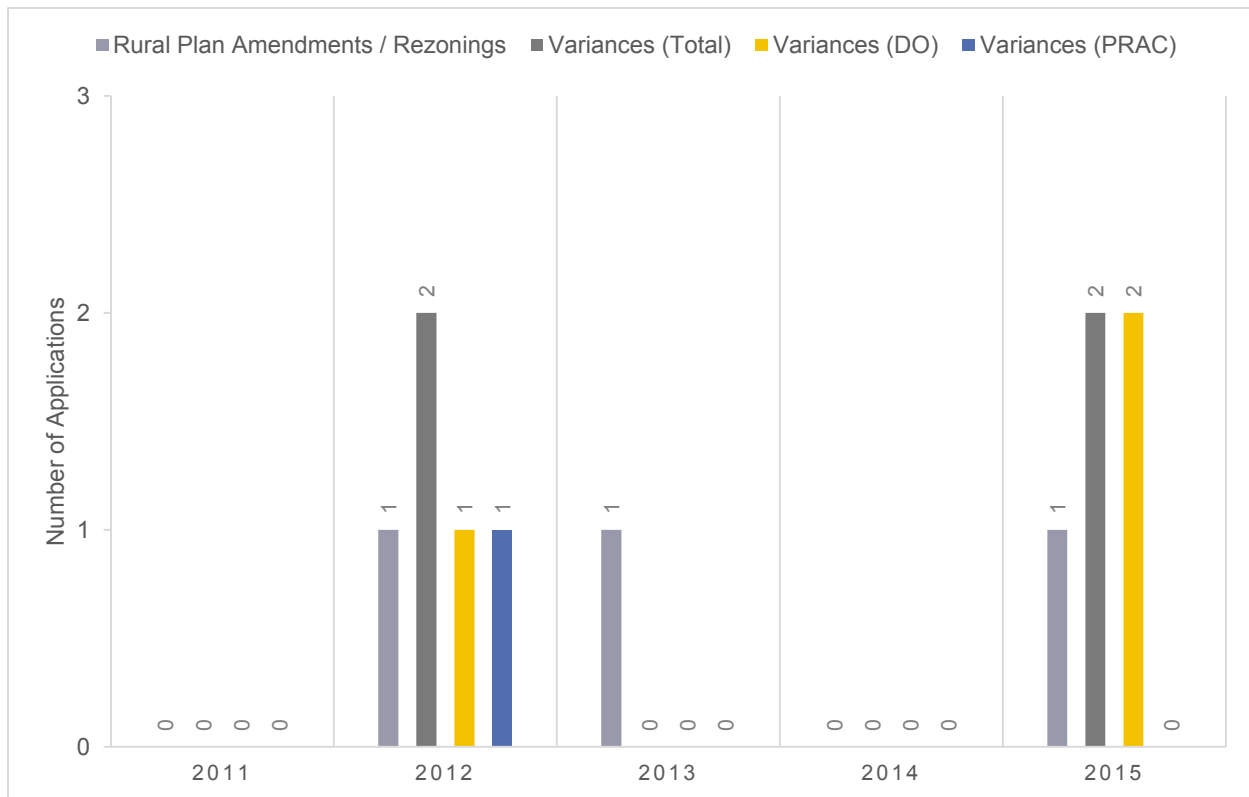


FIGURE 29: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

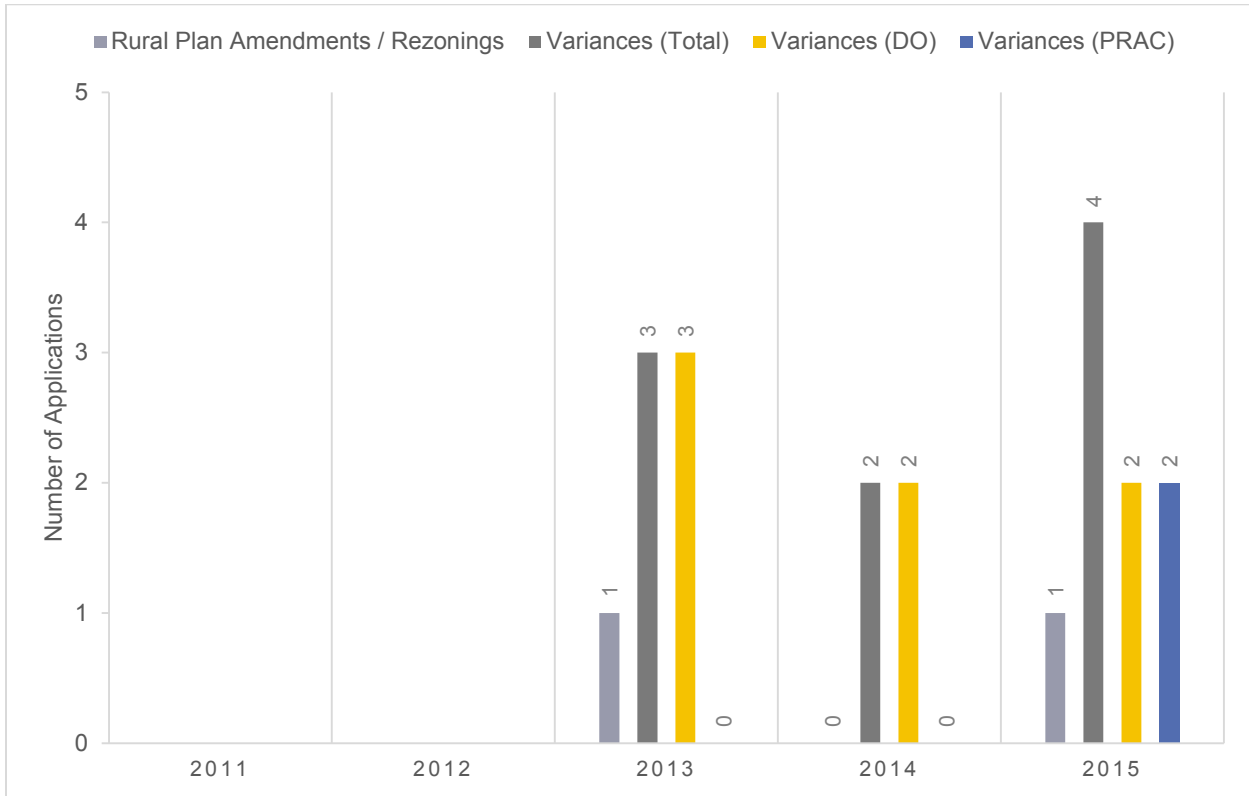


FIGURE 30: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

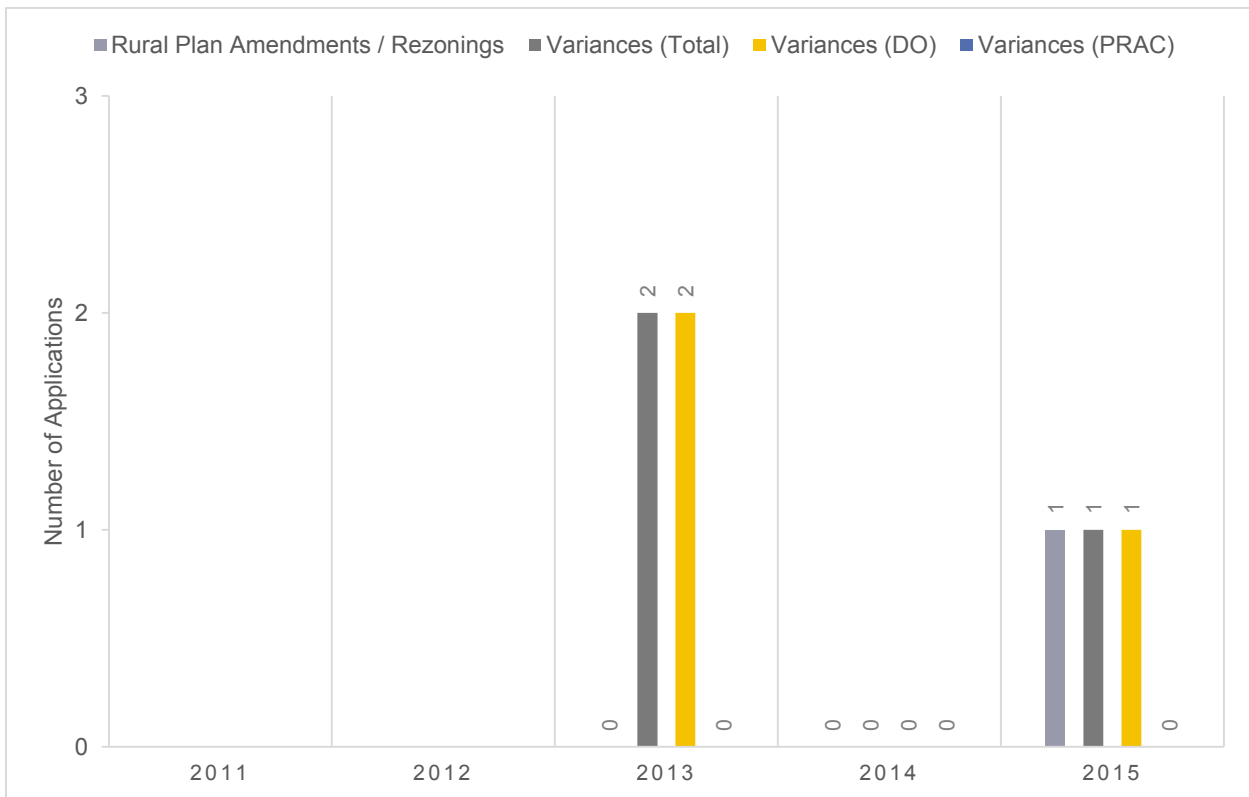
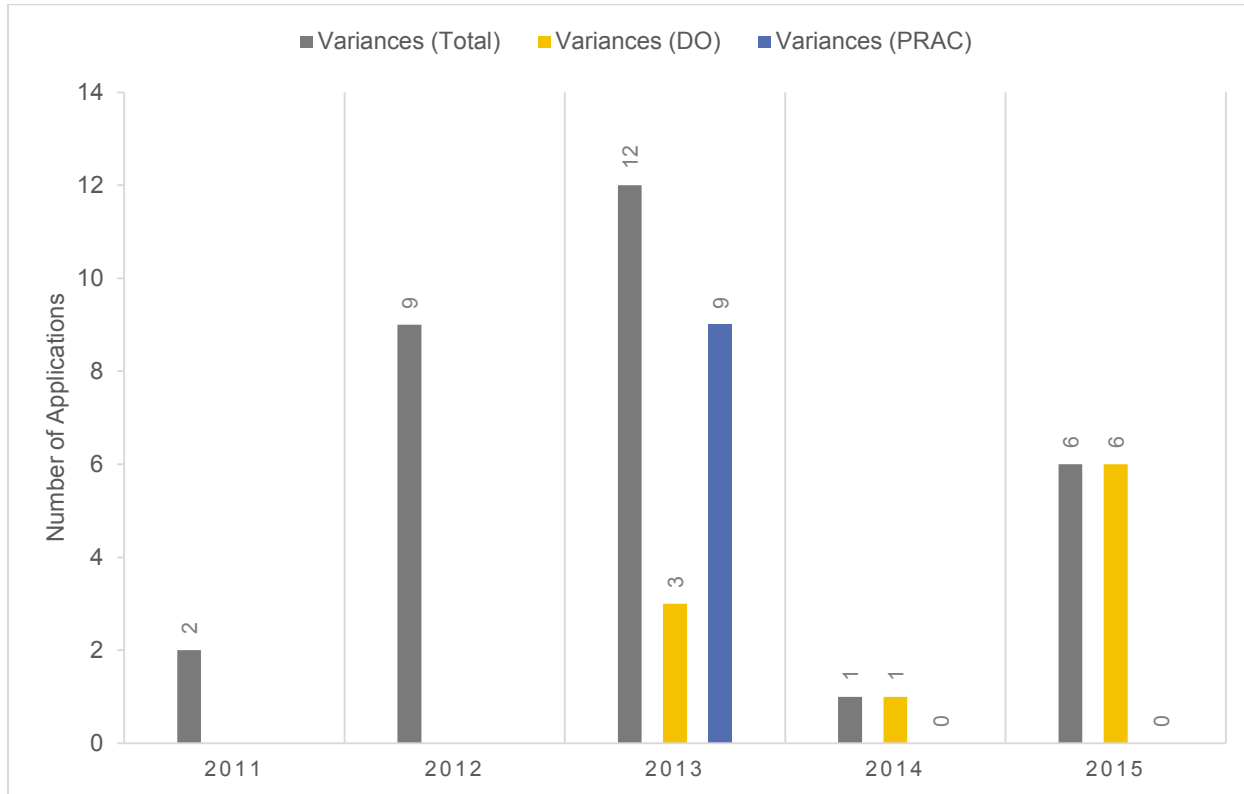


FIGURE 31: UNINCORPORATED AREAS PLANNING APPLICATIONS



6.4 ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES ACTIVITY

Administrative applications / files include confirmations of zoning, zoning compliances, site plan reviews, enforcement files, access approvals, and other documents (e.g. approving deeds for registration). These are integral to facilitating the NB *Community Planning Act* and to allow Planning Services to provide consistent and efficient customer service.

Figures 32 to 36 outline administrative applications / files activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2011 and 2015. (Please refer to Tables 32 to 36 in 'Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.)

The majority of administrative applications were handled from the City of Miramichi (44%) and the unincorporated areas (41%). Other documents remains the highest volume of administrative application / file in both the City and unincorporated areas.

FIGURE 32: CITY OF MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

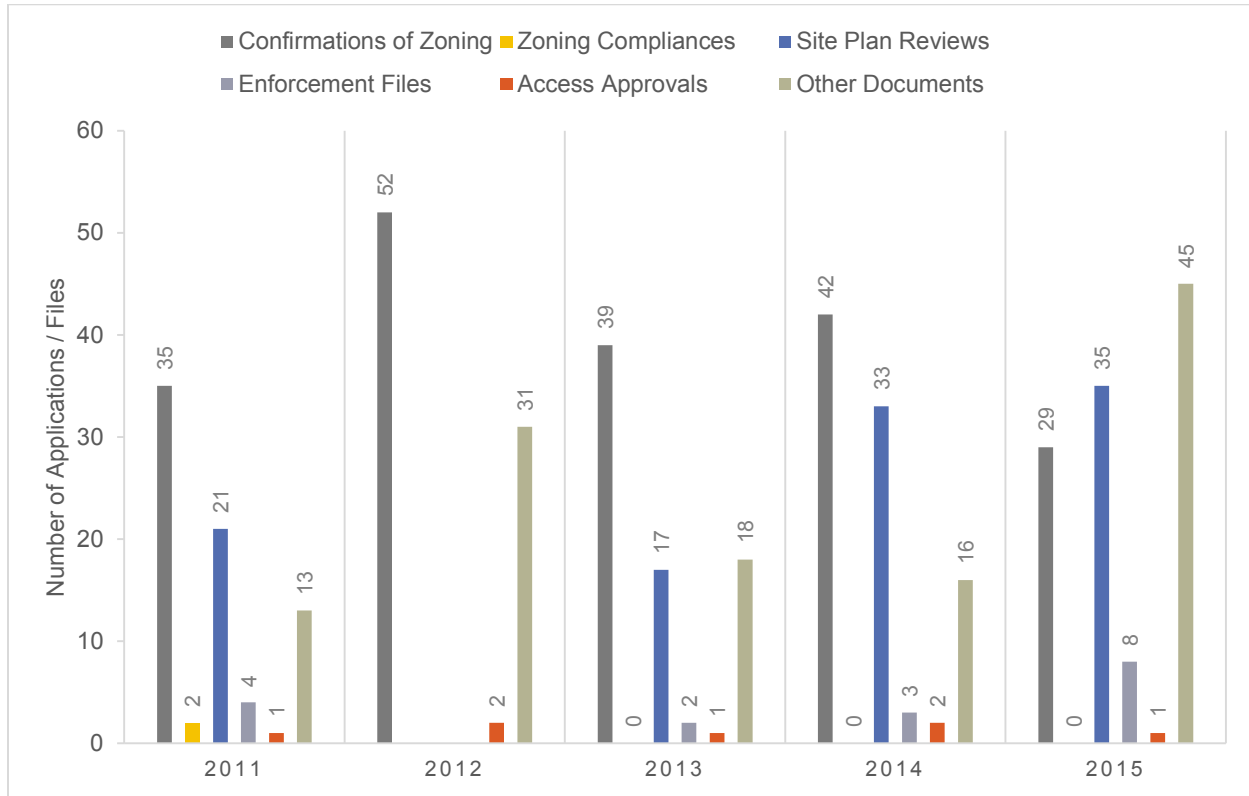


FIGURE 33: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

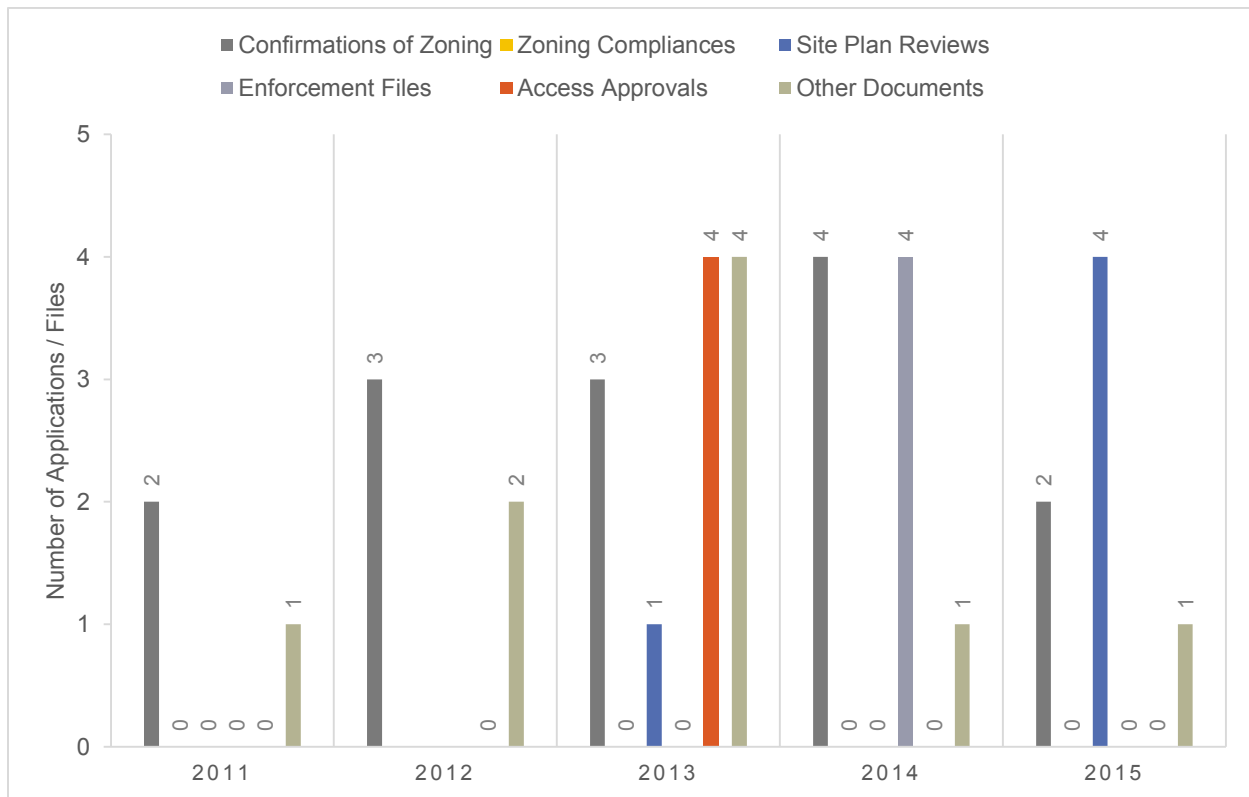


FIGURE 34: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

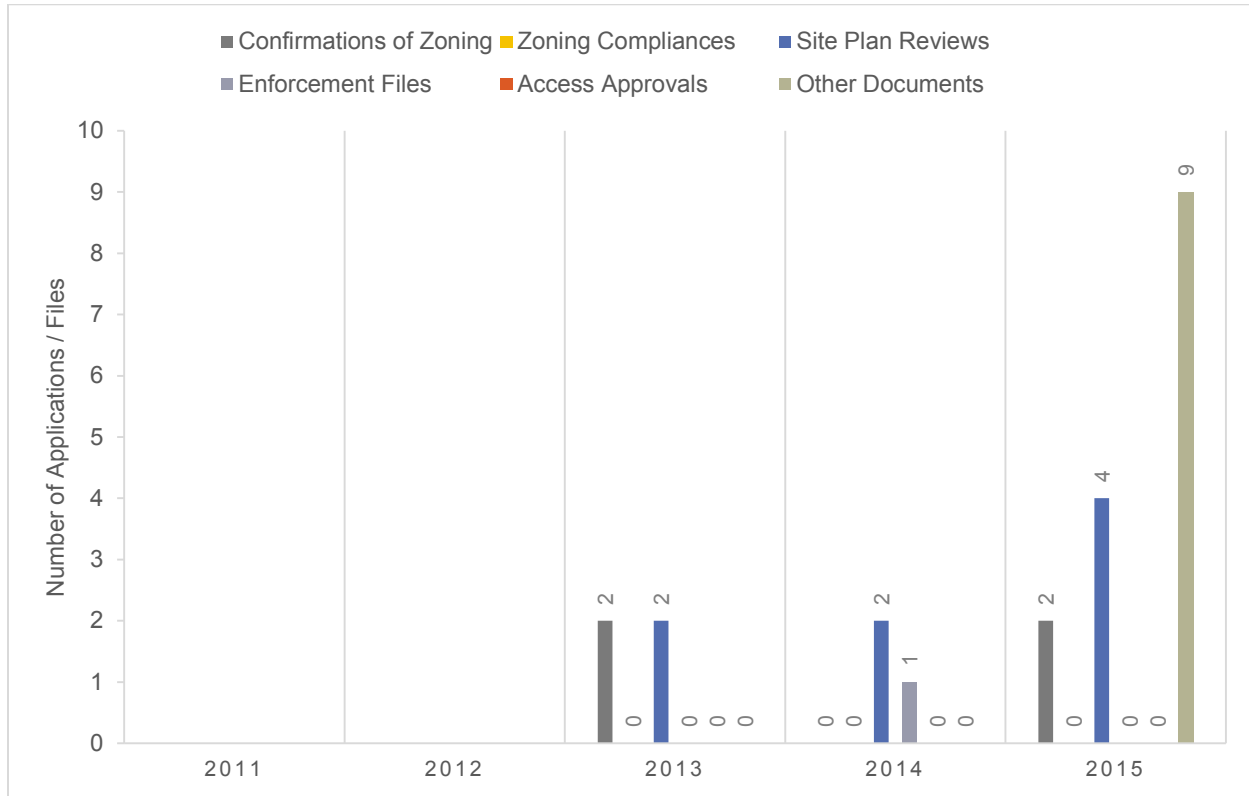


FIGURE 35: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

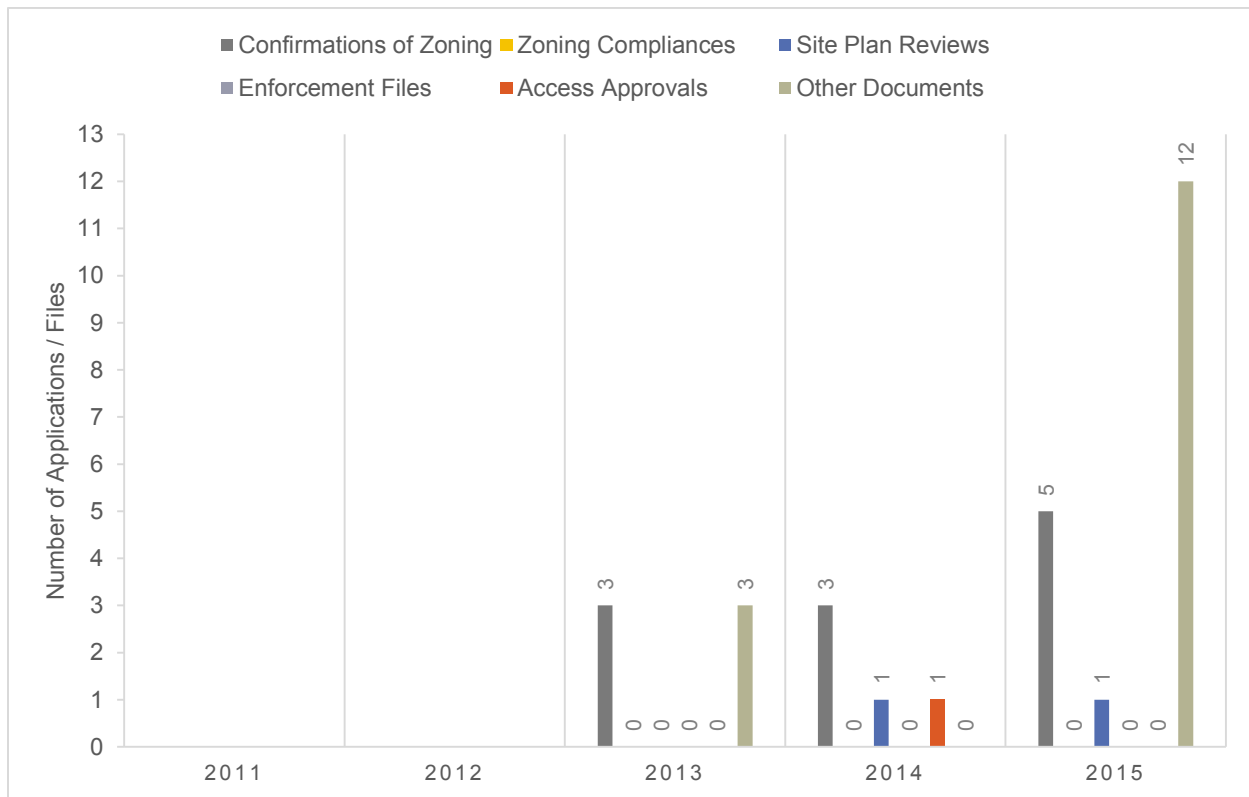
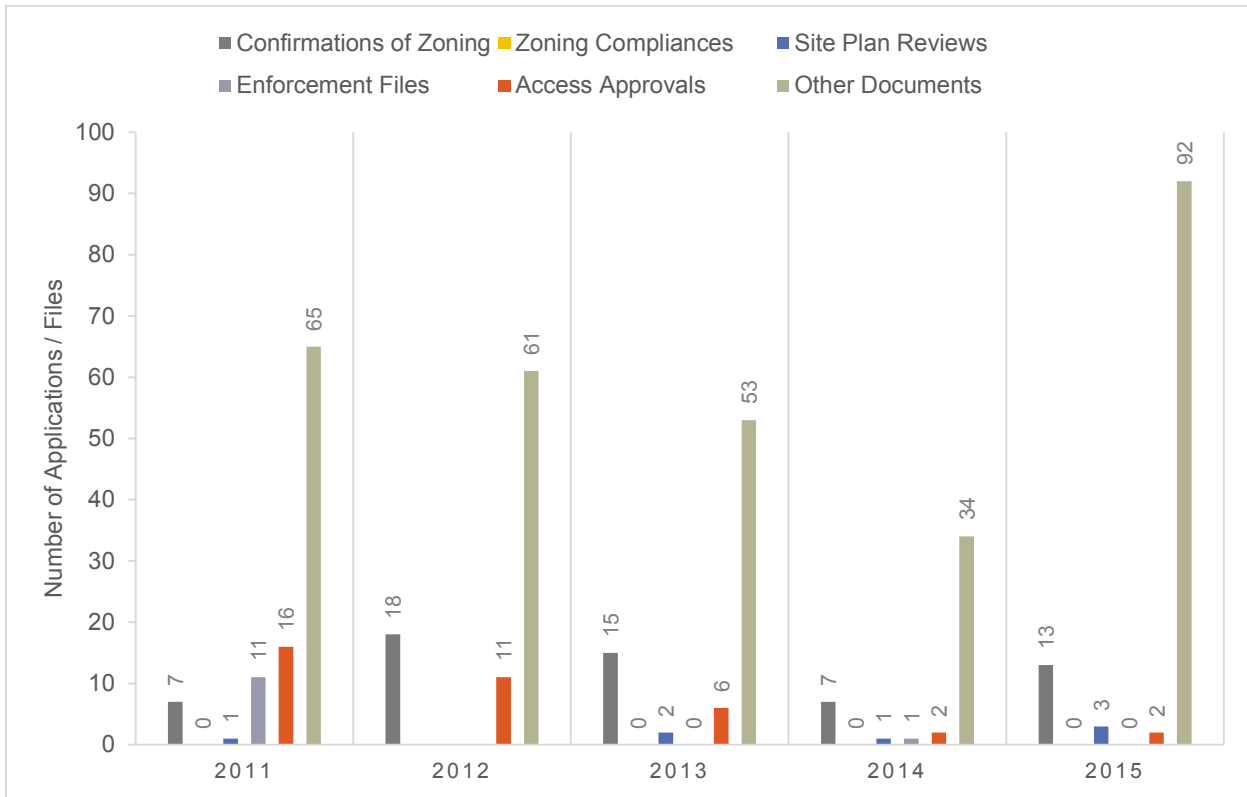


FIGURE 36: UNINCORPORATED ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES



6.5 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Figures 37 to 38 outline subdivision applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2011 and 2015. (Please refer to Tables 37 to 38 in ‘Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.)

The bulk of applications came from the unincorporated areas (42.1%) and the City of Miramichi (37%). As a result, the majority of new lots were created in these categories, 36.1% and 49.4% respectively.

FIGURE 37: SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS IN GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

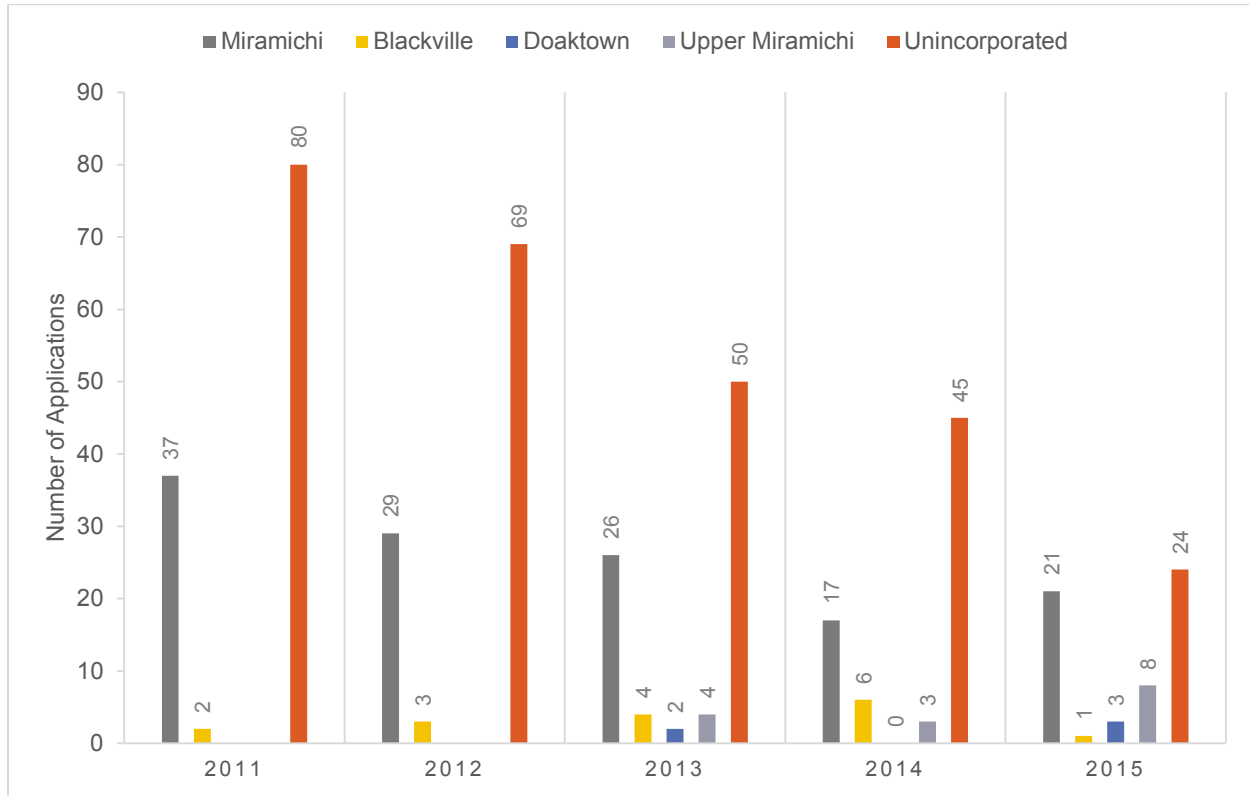
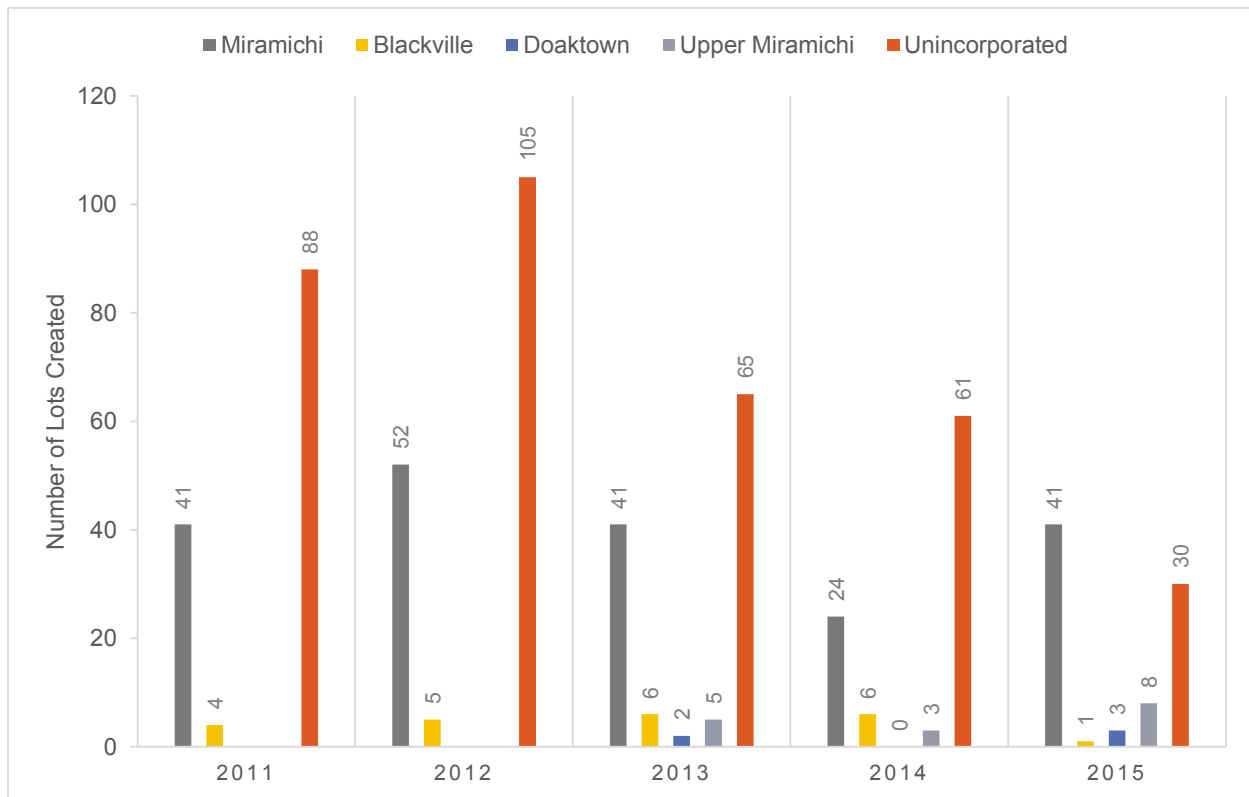


FIGURE 38: NEW LOTS CREATED IN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION



SECTION C – SOLID WASTE SERVICES

7 Tonnage Report

7.1 TIPPING FEES

As of January 2015, tipping fees at Red Pine sanitary landfill facility (Chaleur RSC3) increased to \$72.80 per Metric Tonne (MT) for regular waste and remained the same at \$31.50 per MT for Construction and Demolition (C and D) waste. Figures 39 and 40 give breakdowns of tipping fees for 2015 for regular waste and the Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial (ICI) sector.

FIGURE 39: REGULAR WASTE TIPPING FEE

Regular Waste (Residential and ICI Sector)	Breakdown of Total Tip Fee (per MT)
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tip Fee	\$48.40
RSC5 Surcharge	\$24.40
<i>Total Tip Fee</i>	<i>\$72.80</i>

FIGURE 40: C&D WASTE TIPPING FEE

C and D Waste	Breakdown of Fee (per MT)
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tip Fee	\$27.00
RSC5 Surcharge	\$4.50
<i>Total Tip Fee</i>	<i>\$31.50</i>

7.2 TONNAGE COLLECTION

In 2015, the Greater Miramichi Region produced a total of 21,950.20MT of waste that was direct-hauled to the Red Pine sanitary landfill located in Allardville, NB (see Figure 41). The total tonnage decreased from 2014 to 2015 by 2,065.56MT.

Figure 42 outlines the total waste collection by municipalities, LSDs, and First Nations (FNs). (Please refer to Table 42 in 'Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.)

FIGURE 41: TONNAGE BY SECTOR FOR 2015

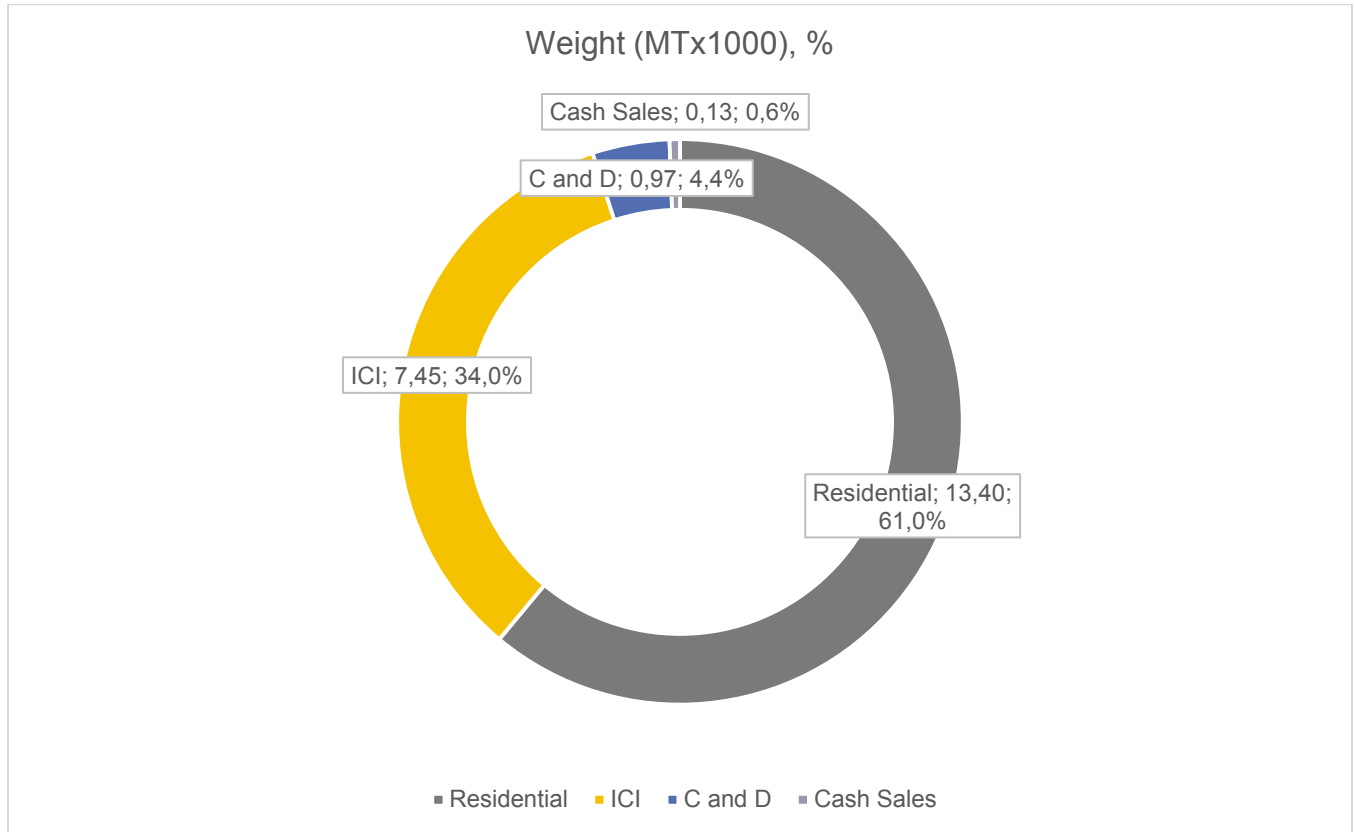
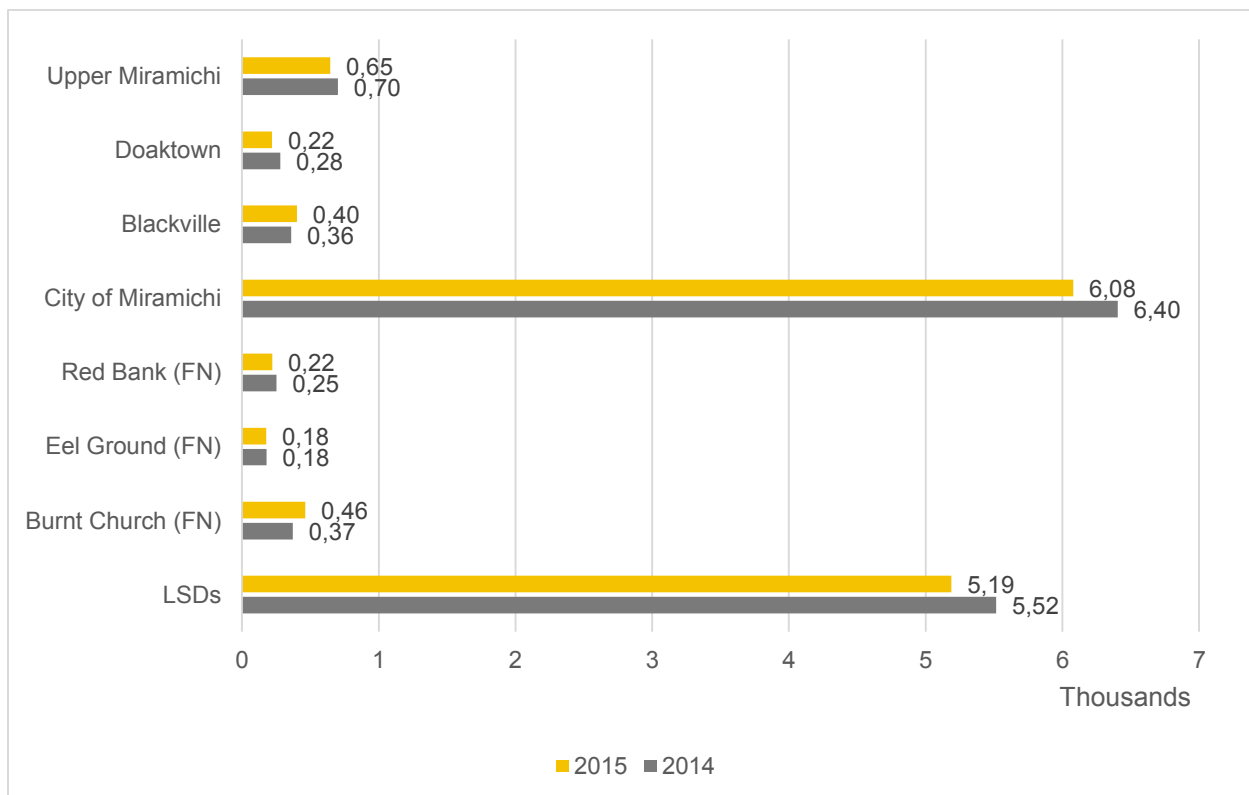


FIGURE 42: WASTE COLLECTION BY MUNICIPALITIES, LSDs, AND FIRST NATIONS (FNs) IN MTX1000



8 Solid Waste Services Annual Summary

8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

Solid Waste Services applied to the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) for 'Residential Curbside Recycling Community Education' and was awarded \$45,000. The project assisted to educate the public on the implementation of the Curbside Recycling Program and to raise awareness of the changes to recycling and garbage collection. A significant portion of the funds was used to create the information package that was inserted in each cart that was distributed to households.

8.2 SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2016 CALENDAR

The 2016 Calendar was included in the recycling information package and delivered to each household in the Greater Miramichi Region (see Figure 43). The cover highlighted Curbside Recycling and organic waste reduction containers such as the Green Cone Digester and the Earth Machine Composter. To offset the cost of printing and shipping of the calendar, various companies in the recycling and solid waste industry were contacted to sponsor a page (see Figure 44).

FIGURE 43: SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2016 CALENDAR COVER



FIGURE 44: CALENDAR SPONSORS

Sponsor	Waste Theme	Number of Pages Advertising
Recycle NB	Used tires, paint, oil and glycol	3
Fero	C and D	1
Gaudet Garbage	White Goods collection	1

8.3 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Solid Waste Services purchased promotional items to distribute during tradeshows and various appearances. These new promo items include:

- Tattoos of recycling carts
- Credit/debit card covers
- Bamboo USB sticks
- Pens made from recycled beverage containers
- Reusable shopping bags
- Stickers with environmental messages

8.4 APPEARANCES

Solid Waste Services participated at the 2015 Miramichi Home Show. The Waste Reduction Coordinator provided several public information sessions and presentations to numerous schools, local community groups, and at various events. Figures 45 and 46 summarize event- and school-based appearances on behalf of Solid Waste Services. Figure 47 is an assortment of images from these events, appearances, and information sessions.

FIGURE 45: EVENT-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	Location
January 15, 2015	Eel Ground Band Council
January 16, 2015	Agency Meeting
February 9, 2015	Red Bank Council
April 25 – 26, 2015	Miramichi Home Show
May 6, 2015	Composting Workshop – Miramichi
May 13, 2015	Composting Workshop – Barryville
May 27, 2015	Composting Workshop – Doaktown
June 3, 2015	Composting Workshop – Black River
June 19 – 21, 2015	Miramichi Heritage – The Gathering II
July 1, 2015	Canada Parade – Miramichi (<i>Awarded best costume</i>)
August 8, 2015	10 th Year Recycling Celebration
August 27, 2015	Presentation – City of Miramichi
September 9, 2015	Presentation – Newcastle Rotary
October 22, 2015	Presentation – Chatham Rotary
November 26, 2015	Night of Environmental Science – Gretna Green

FIGURE 46: SCHOOL-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	School	Topic
January 22, 2015	René Chouinard School	Recycling
February 20, 2015	Gretna Green	Recycling
March 1, 2015	St-Andrews	Recycling
April 21, 2015	Nelson Rural School	Recycling

FIGURE 47: PICTURES FROM EVENTS, APPEARANCES, AND INFORMATION SESSIONS



8.5 SEMINARS

Solid Waste Services attended seminars and tours of recycling facilities. Figure 48 summarizes the seminars and tours attended. Figure 49 is an assortment of images from these seminars and tours.

FIGURE 48: LIST OF SEMINARS AND TOURS

Date	Location
February 26 and 27, 2015	Sorting facility - Société V.I.A., Rivière-du-Loup, QC Sorting facility - Gaudreau Environnement, Rimouski, QC
March 10 & 11, 2015	Compost Matters in Atlantic Canada, Compost Council of Canada, Moncton, NB
May 28, 2015	Recycle NB – Moving Beyond Waste Forum
November 19, 2015	Hybrid Facility, Fundy Region Solid Waste, Grand Bay-Westfield, NB
November 27, 2015	Eco-Centre, Caraquet, NB Sorting facility – Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission, Tracadie-Sheila, NB

FIGURE 49: PICTURES FROM SEMINARS AND TOURS OF RECYCLING FACILITIES



made by www.ivakarphotosalary.net

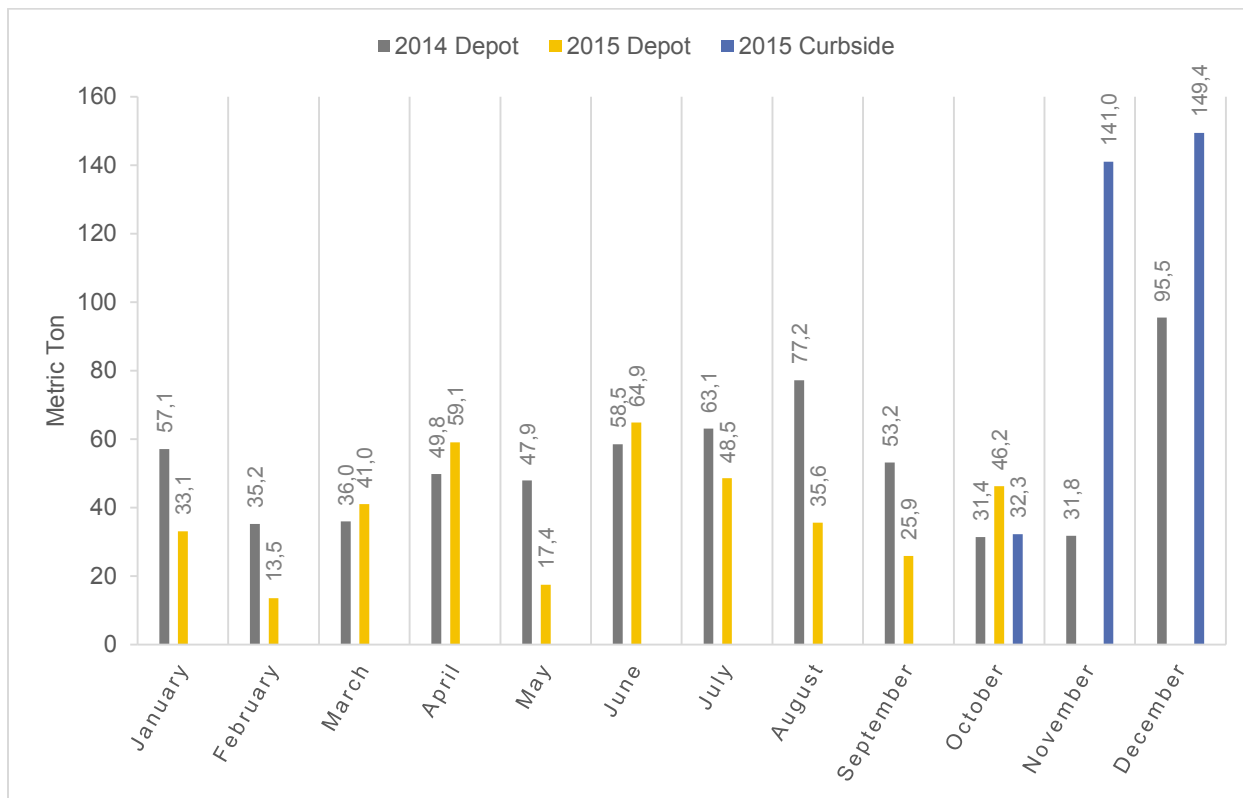
9 Waste Reduction and Diversion

9.1 DIVERSION REPORT – RECYCLING STATISTICS

Mélanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator organized the bi-annual waste diversion programs including Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-waste) Collections. Other waste reduction initiatives included composting workshops, classroom visits, and the continuous marketing and promotion of other programs.

Figure 50 outlines recycling statistics for 2014 and 2015. A total of 398.3 MT was diverted from the landfill through the Recycling Depot Program in 2015. The Residential Curbside Recycling Program was implemented on October 19, 2015. A total of 322.61 MT was diverted from the landfill through the Curbside Program. For the Greater Miramichi Region in 2015, almost half the amount of waste was diverted from the Curbside Program in three months of operation compared to nine months of the Depot Program. Waste diverted from the landfill that is recycled results in savings on tip fee charges and will prolong the use of the landfill cell. (Please refer to Table 50 in ‘Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.)

FIGURE 50: WASTE DIVERSION BY RECYCLING DEPOT AND CURBSIDE PROGRAMS



9.2 RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Residential Curbside Recycling Program was adopted by the GMRSC Board of Directors in October, 2014. Funding was applied through the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board (MCBB); on April 13, \$902,000 was approved to purchase recycling carts for residents of the Greater Miramichi Region.

Melanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator and Marie LeBlanc, General Manager, hosted 13 public information sessions to promote the upcoming changes to waste collection and recycling in the Greater Miramichi Region (see figure 51). Residents had the opportunity to obtain information on the program, ask questions, and express concerns. General comments pertained to weekly, alternating collections and potential odour issues during warm weather seasons. On the whole, public feedback on the program was positive.

FIGURE 51: LIST OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS – WINTER, 2015

Date (2015)	Location	# Participants
February 4	Blackville Municipal Office	18
February 5	Doaktown - Salmon Museum	22
February 10	Millerton School	26
February 12	Renous Rec Center	7
February 18	Upper Miramichi	15
February 19	Miramichi	18
February 24	Sunny Corner	40
March 2	Barryville	29
March 3	St-Wilfred	14
March 9	Baie Ste-Anne	3
March 12	Black River Hardwick	12
March 16	Millbank	16
March 19	Bellefond	6
	<i>Total</i>	226

The public tender to purchase the '360 litre wheeled carts' was advertised on the New Brunswick Opportunities Network (NBON) website on March 19, 2015. The contract was awarded to IPL Inc. to produce 18,450 blue carts and 255 grey carts.

On July 15, 2015, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on the NBON website and distributed to the municipalities and the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government for the delivery of the carts. Proponents had the option of bidding on one or multiple zones. Zones were divided by LSDs, First Nations, and individual municipalities. The City of Miramichi opted to utilise their staff to deliver carts within City limits. Contracts were awarded to several bidders.

Each household received an extensive information package detailing the Program. The package included an Introduction Letter, list of public information sessions, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) pamphlet, Quick Reference Guide, Collection Schedule, and 2016 Calendar.

Following the distribution of carts, the Waste Reduction Coordinator and General Manager hosted 17 Public Information Sessions (see figure 52) to inform residents of the new Residential Curbside Recycling Program.

FIGURE 52: LIST OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS – FALL, 2015

Date (2015)	Location	# Participants
October 13	Upper Miramichi Community Centre	62
October 14	Blackville Municipal Office	32
October 15	Doaktown – Salmon Museum	33
October 20	Chatham Pioneers Senior Citizens Club	45
October 21	Renous Rec Centre	12
October 22	Baie Ste-Anne School	50
October 26	Miramichi Kin Centre	71
October 27	Sunny Corner Fire Hall	25
October 28	Millerton School	20
October 29	Eel Ground Band Hall	7
November 2	St-Wilfred Golden Age Club	20
November 3	Barryville Golden Age Club	32
November 4	Black River Bridge Centennial Hall	22
November 5	Beaverbrook	10
November 9	Bartibog	30
November 10	Metepenagiag	2
November 12	Esgenoôpetitj	20
	<i>Total</i>	493

9.3 BATTERY DEPOTS

In 2015, Solid Waste Services added additional battery and cell phone drop-off sites throughout the Greater Miramichi Region. A total of 23 drop-off locations are available to residents to recycle their old cell phones and used batteries.

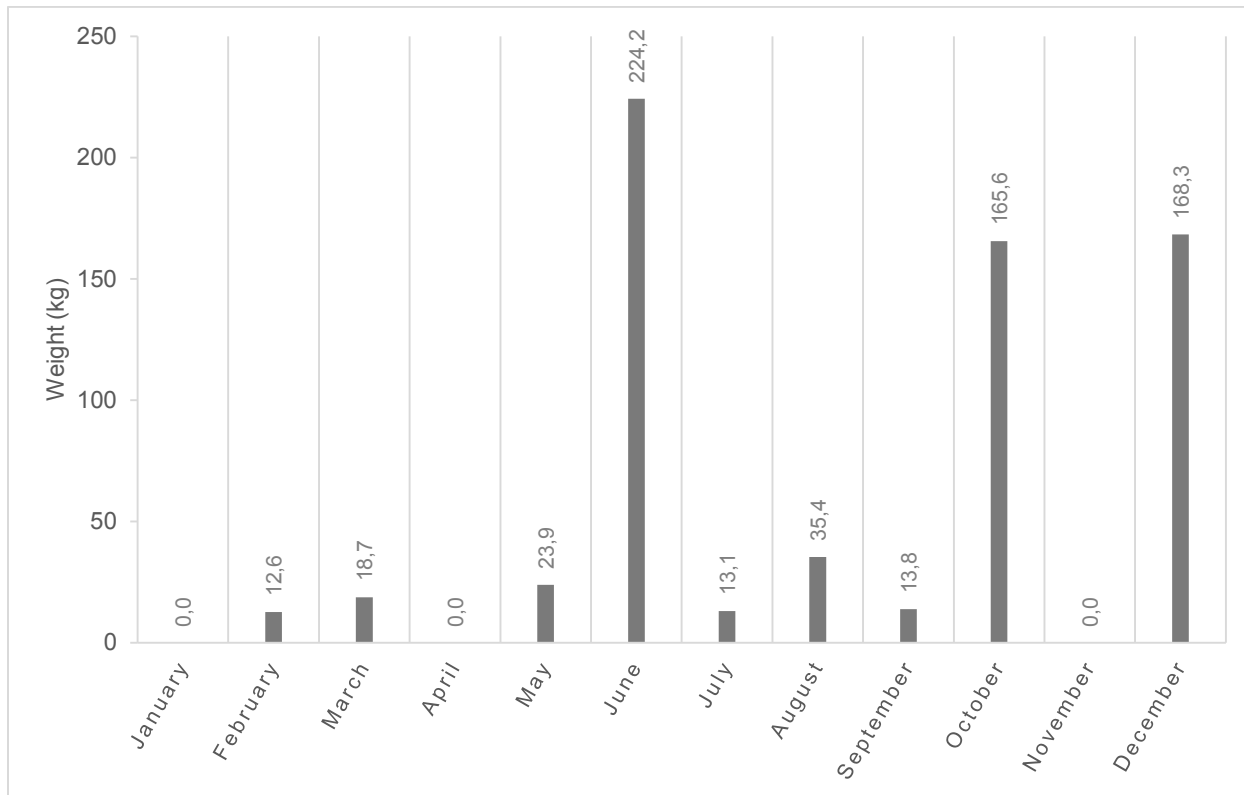
FIGURE 53: EXAMPLE OF BATTERIES AND CELL PHONES RECYCLING BOX



In 2015, a total of 675kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW events (Figure 54 summarizes diversion amounts by month). Batteries

collected at HHW and E-Waste events were segregated to be sorted and packaged properly by volunteers.

FIGURE 54: CELL PHONE AND BATTERY WASTE DIVERSION FROM DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



9.4 HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2015. The working crew included staff from the GMRSC and other volunteers.

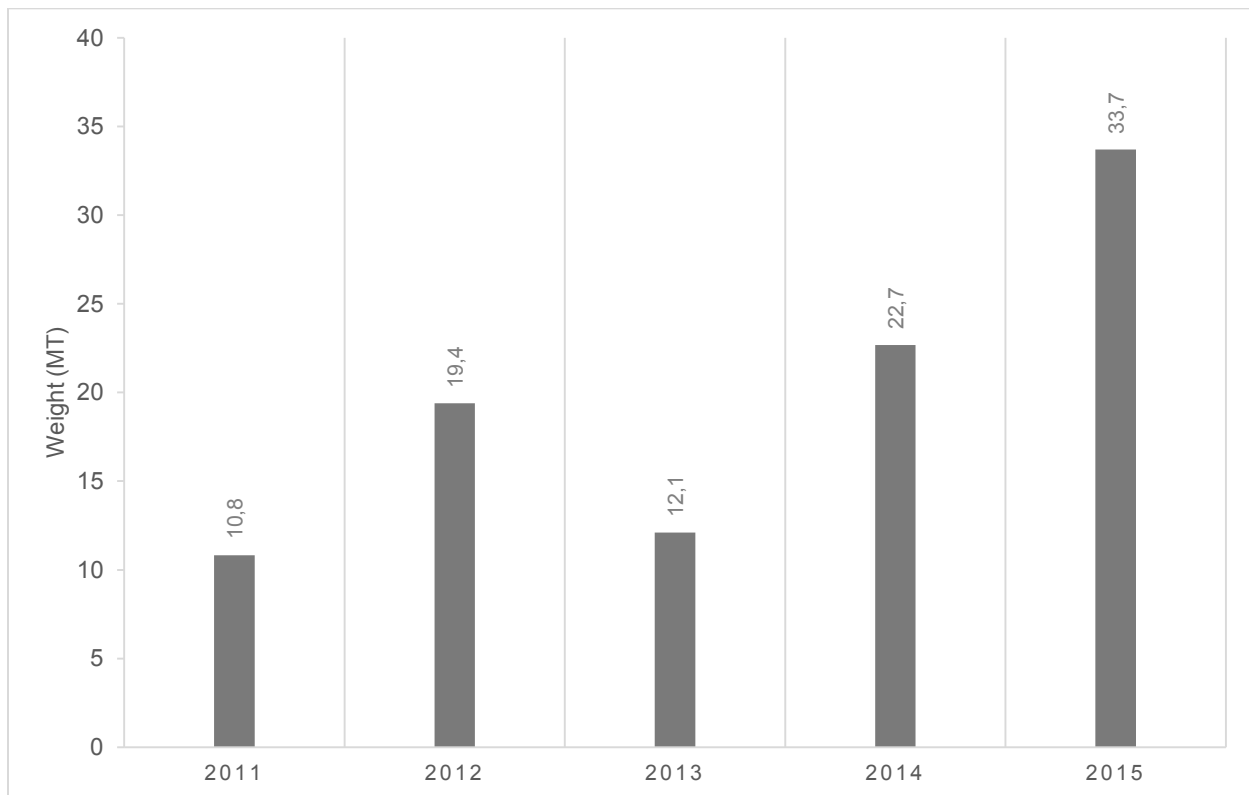
The Spring HHW and E-Waste collections took place June 6, 2015 in the City of Miramichi (Saint Mary's Church) and the Village of Doaktown (Fire Hall) (see Figure 55). Approximately 450 and 70 vehicles were served respectively. A total of 18.7MT of E-Waste was collected and recycled. The fall HHW and E-Waste collection took place on October 3, 2015 in Miramichi. A total of 455 vehicles were served and 15MT was collected and recycled at this event.

Flammables, household batteries, propane tanks, paint and oil seem to comprise the majority of hazardous materials collected. A total of 33.7MT of E-waste was diverted from the landfill and sent for recycling (see Figure 56).

FIGURE 55: SPRING HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT



FIGURE 56: E-WASTE DIVERSION FROM HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS



10 FUTURE DIRECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

- The GMRSC's Recycling Ad hoc committee will continue to explore various recycling and waste reduction initiatives
- Ongoing promotion and education of recycling and other waste reduction programs
- Pending approval of ETF applications:
 - A feasibility study to examine options for a hybrid facility
 - Organic Waste Reduction Community Education
- Explore options for recovery of compact fluorescent lights
- Examine optimized collection for the Greater Miramichi Region which will allow for restructuring waste collection zones, resulting in competitive contract negotiations
- Renewal of Solid Waste Service Agreement with Chaleur Regional Service Commission (RSC3) for disposal services at the Red Pine sanitary landfill
- Participate in the Provincial Waste Management Strategy
- Other initiatives are articulated in the 'GMRSC Operational Workplan (2014-2016)' (see Appendix B)

SECTION D – APPENDICES

**Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record,
Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)**

GMRSC Board Member Attendance

Member	Meeting Attendance
Douglas Munn- Chairman*	7/7
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	7/7
Andy Hawkes	7/7
Gerry Cormier	0/7
Gerald Ross	5/7
John Goodfellow	7/7
Robert Hallihan**	5/7
Elizabeth Bowes	7/7

*John Foran attended 5 times for G. Cormier

**Michael Marsh attended one time for R. Hallihan

PRAC Member Attendance

Member	Meeting Attendance
William Treadwell - Chairman	7/7
Joe Veriker - Vice Chairman	7/7
Kurt Marks	6/7
Scott Clowater	7/7
Robert Hallihan	5/7
Lynn Gregan	6/7
Robert McLeod	7/7
Burton Cain*	3/7

* B. Cain appointed June 2015

GMRSC Board Member Per Diem and Expenses



































Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
Douglas Munn - Chairman	\$1,000.00	\$916.41	\$1,916.41
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	\$450.00	\$270.28	\$720.28
Andy Hawkes	\$600.00	\$144.11	\$744.11
Elizabeth Bowes	\$750.00	\$202.14	\$952.14
Gerald Ross	\$675.00	\$362.52	\$1,037.52
John Goodfellow	\$750.00	\$195.91	\$945.91
Robert Hallihan	\$675.00	\$218.42	\$893.42
Michael Marsh	\$75.00	\$24.02	\$99.02
John W. Foran	\$450.00	\$118.22	\$568.22
TOTALS	\$5,425.00	\$2,452.03	\$7,877.03

PRAC Member Per Diem and Expenses







































Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
William Treadwell - Chairman	\$700.00	\$71.75	\$771.75
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	\$525.00	\$25.83	\$550.83
Kurt Marks	\$450.00	\$246.00	\$696.00
Scott Clowater	\$525.00	\$631.40	\$1,156.40
Robert Hallihan	\$375.00	\$196.80	\$571.80
Lynn Gregan	\$450.00	\$246.00	\$696.00
Robert McLeod	\$525.00	\$229.60	\$754.60
Burton Cain	\$225.00	\$73.80	\$298.80
TOTALS	\$3,775.00	\$1,721.18	\$5,496.18

**Appendix B – 2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational
Workplan (2014-2016)**






















2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

	 task or project		 continuous activity	 initial assessment					
Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project			2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
CORPORATE SERVICES	Administration & Management	1	continue corporate consolidation of MPDC & NSWC, through merging/consolidating/stream-lining administrative & financial computer systems, employee responsibilities and procedures						Completed
(CS)	(CS-1)	2	assess the cost/benefit of moving all operations and staff into one building						Discussed availability of space @ 1773 Water Street with property owner, none available, preliminary floor plan prepared for 1773 Water St., not cost projections prepared.
		3	undertake Salary Scale review for all employees, in collaboration with other RSCs						Finance Committee given mandate by Board to work with ED to develop. (October 2015)
		4	develop Human Resources/Personnel Manual, based on NSWC, MPDC & Generic policies						Completed
		5	facilitate strategic planning for updating 3-Year Operational Workplan						Completed
		6	support preparation of annual Financial Statement and Audit						Completed
		7	complete Employee Performance Evaluations						Completed
		8	prepare an annual employee training plan						BI training needs identified, GIS Specialist to take SNB property Law Course
		9	develop photo ID cards for all RSC employees						Completed
		10	maintain Records Management Strategy as per Department Guidelines						On-going
		11	respond to RTPPA requests for information & complaints						On-going
		12	on-going Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Purchasing and other financial administration						On-going
		13	on-going client reception & office administration, including inventory, records management, maintenance of buildings and equipment, supplies management & purchasing						On-going


























2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		14	participate in regular RSC Executive Directors meetings				On-going
		15	RSC5 Procedure By-law development				Preliminary review completed, issues identified.
	Member / Board Support	1	research and report on various issues initiated by Board and individual members				As directed by Board as per approved motion.
		2	logistics and administration for regular Board Meetings				On-going
	(CS - 2)	3	quarterly financial updates to Board				3rd quarter only due to transition to Simply Accounting
		4	info sessions (& tours) for Board - selected topics				On-going and as needed
	Public Relations / Communications	1	implement a public relations/communications program, including corporate branding & media releases				New Logo, letterhead and signage; media releases have been mostly related to Board activity, meetings and decisions
	(CS - 3)	2	develop and implement annual Excellence Recognition Awards for solid waste & planning/development initiative/projects by clients, organizations etc.				"Silver Shingle" Award for development projects - delayed due to staff availability
		3	assist with planning and support for outreach activities by Board & members with public, stakeholders & other agencies				On-going
		4	website improvement, including corporate consolidation activities, corporate branding for GMRSC & addition of French (translation) content				Completed. Assessing funding for Translation of content
		5	send member communities a monthly building activity report				On-going/monthly
		6	send CMHC & Statistics Canada monthly building activity report				On-going/monthly
		7	prepare & distribute Annual Report				2015 Annual Report Completed

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		8	maintain good working relations and make presentations to community & business organizations, other agencies, development/real estate industry groups, member Municipal Councils and LSD Regional Advisory Committee, regarding issues, roles & activities of GMRSC				On-going, RAC meetings, presentations to Councils, special interest groups, such as relators and inter-agency meetings; twice annual meeting with LSM and municipal administrators
	Technology / Info Systems	1	develop & implement technology/equipment upgrading and replacement plan				Implemented with assistance of IT consultant
	(CS - 4)	2	establish remote access so all RSC locations are able to connect to one, secure server				Completed, including Doaktown seasonal office
		3	examine feasibility of Building Inspectors utilizing mobile technology for on-site reporting and permitting				Tablets and Filemaker software purchased. Database partially developed.
		4	purchase Statistics Canada-2011 Census data, through PC Census ; review cost-sharing opportunities				Cost probative/no longer compatible GIS; examine other sources.
		5	Server Update & back up procedure				On-going; twice weekly back-ups
REGIONAL COLLABORATION		1	examine options for improving Police collaboration (RCMP, Miramichi Police and other enforcement agencies)				Meeting held with RCMP Staff Sargent, Board meeting with RCMP and Board information session with RCMP April 1, 2015
	(RC)	2	examine feasibility of By-law Compliance Officer for municipalities within GMRSC				Discussed with Municipal Administrators; this will be examined further after 2016 Municipal elections.
		3	determine what role GMRSC might play in regional tourism promotion				No action
		4	determine what role GMRSC might play in regional economic development				No action
		5	participation in development of Regional Emergency Measures Plan				Draft of Regional Plan completed by EMO
SOLID WASTE SERVICES	SW Collection & Disposal	1	negotiate renewal of contract with RSC3 (Chaleur) for GMRSC use of Red Pine Landfill facility				Extension in place and agreement will be further discussed and signed in early 2016.

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
(SW)	(SW - 1)	2	household hazardous waste and e-waste public "drop-off" events	 3	 2	 3	Three events held and response from public was very strong. 10,017 kg of paint, 264.2 kg of household batteries and 22.68 mt (50,000 lbs)of e-waste diverted
		3	introduce, administer & evaluate new household battery collection/ Recycling Program	 <i>intro</i>			On-going; public response has been very positive, 675 kg (1498.22 lbs) in 2015 (507.55kg/1118.96 lbs) in 2014 diverted
		4	examine feasibility of hybrid waste diversion facility for Hazardous household waste, e-waste, white goods, construction/demolition waste, tires				Visited facility in southern NB and applied to ETF for funding to conduct feasibility study
		5	participate in development of Provincial Waste Management Strategy				On-going. Subcommittee of RSCs submitted application to Environmental Trust Fund. Engaged a qualified consultant to develop provincial strategy
		6	examine "optimized" collections across the whole RSC area (common contracting process)				Will examine feasibility in late Fall 2015.
		7	examine options for new recovery program for compact fluorescent light bulbs	 <small>scope & ETF \$</small>			Planned for 2016
		8	examine option for recycling to increase diversion rates, incl curbside pick-ups. A pilot project could be introduced in some LSDs & municipalities				Board approved program in October 2014 for implementation throughout region in fall 2015. Depot program for 10.5 months = 385.27 Mt diverted, curbside program 2.5 months = 322.61 Mt diverted.
		9	examine options for Residential Recycling Program (FERO contract for collection from big blue drop-off bins expires Sept 2017)				Residential curbside recycling to be implemented in fall 2015; blue depot program ceased in October.
		10	maintenance & promotion of residential depot recycling program (big blue bins)				Continued to October 2015; shifted to promote residential curbside recycling in 2015
		11	develop and implement programs for various waste reduction strategies (e.g. composting, recycling,re-use)				On-going


































2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
	Public Relations & Education	1	collaborate with NB Dept of Environment & Local Government, building industry and Planning Services to facilitate proper disposal of construction/demolition waste, reduce use of "land reclamation sites", & discourage illegal dumping	▲	●	●	Issue has been discussed in informal manner; will press the issue in 2016
	(SW - 2)	2	redevelop Activity Workbooks for children	●			Completed
		3	develop & produce annual programs & events wall calendar	●	●	●	Completed
		4	public education - new waste reduction initiatives	≡	≡	≡	On-going
		5	public education - info booths & presentations to trade shows, schools, festivals, community organizations, institutional & commercial industries	≡	≡	≡	13 Info sessions on residential curbside in winter /spring attended by 226 people. 17 info sessions held in the Fall on residential curbside attended by 493 people. 21 general information session and events, including school presentations and interest groups.
		6	composting workshops & promotions	≡	≡	≡	4 workshops
		7	on-going media advertising of programs	≡	≡	≡	On-going
		8	examine use of social media for public relations & education	▲	●	≡	Facebook Account established
	Administration / Management / Professional Development	1	Records Management - develop & implement system & procedures & archiving protocol for hard copy and digital files/records	▲	≡	≡	On-going
		2	assist in drafting & preparation of Annual Report	●	●	●	Completed
	(SW - 3)	3	Human Resources Manual-staff committee to review & revise	●			Completed
		4	monitoring & tracking volumes of waste diverted and landfilled	≡	≡	≡	On-going

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		5	participate in quarterly meetings of Solid Waste Division managers (all RSCs)				On-going
		6	participate in semi-annual Inter-Agency meetings				On-going
		7	briefings to Board on selected solid waste and program issues & activities				On-going as needed and directed
PLANNING SERVICES	Building Permit & Inspection	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice)- National Building Code & by-laws, building permit application requirements				On-going
		2	intake and review applications for building permit				Tracking system established
(PS)	(PS - 1)	3	perform building-permit-related inspections				Approximatley 250 - 275 inspections completed
		4	develop Operational Policies for building cost valuations				Completed
		5	develop Operational Policies, forms and procedures for tracking inspections				Completed
		6	update Info sheets/pamphlets regarding building permits & inspections "FAQs"				Completed; series of seven (7) information brochures
		7	NBBOA training for 1 Inspector to achieve Levels 1 & 2 and another 2 Inspectors to achieve Level 3				Training is on-going as courses are made available, 2 have obtained level 2, one obtained level 1; pending courses to reach next level
		8	develop Building Inspectors Manual, as part of Succession Planning Initiative				Preliminary information collected
		9	Building By-law Comprehensive Review - Miramichi & Doaktown				Miramichi completed; Doaktown will coincide with Rural Plan Update
		10	Building By-law Comprehensive Review - Blackville				Will coincide with Rural Plan Update and Review
		11	develop new Building By-law - Upper Miramichi				Completed Draft and submitted to Council
							Items PS-2 1-8 will be detailed in 2015 Annual Report
	Development Support	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice) -Zoning & Development & Subdividing land				On-going

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category	Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
	(PS - 2)	2 Amendments to Rural Plans, Zoning By-law, Municipal Development Plan (Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentation to Planning Review & Adjustment Committee(PRAC), inter-agency review & process coordination, presentations to municipal Councils and handling public inquiries)				On-going
		3 Applications to Subdivide Land ((Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentations to planning Review & adjustment Committee (PRAC), inter-agency review & process coordination)				On-going
		4 Variance Applications (Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentations to Planning Review & Adjustment Committee (PRAC)				On-going
		5 Building Permit Applications- Site Plan Review (Intake & review - zoning compliance re all building permit application that are NOT a single/2-unit dwelling)				On-going
		6 Confirmations of Zoning				On-going
		7 Planner review & comment on Subdivision Applications				On-going
		8 CRINS Applications (Planner review & comment re telecommunications towers & related developments)				On-going
		9 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reviews (review & comment to Province, as needed (project specific))				On-going
		10 Updating databases re subdivisions plans approvals, documents approvals, variances, changes to zoning & Plan designations, Orders to Comply				On-going
		11 Development Agreements, assist municipalities in preparation				On-going
		12 initiate & coordinate Developer Assistance Committee (DAC) meetings				On-going

























2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		13	create maps re individual development applications (reports, public notification, presentations)				On-going
		14	Miramichi & Blackville Zoning wall maps - informal office consolidation				Completed
		15	GMRSC area wall maps, with Municipalities, LSDs, county & RSC boundaries				Completed
	Member / PRAC Support	1	logistics & administrative support for regular PRAC meetings				On-going
		2	orientation of new Planning Review & Adjustment Committee (PRAC)members (as appointment terms expire/change)				On-going
	(PS - 3)	3	prepare monthly reports on planning & development activities				On-going
		4	Info Sessions to PRAC- specific topics (e.g. new ARC GIS system)				On-going as needed.
		5	Procedure By-law & policy - updates & revisions				PRAC By-law amended by GMRSC in March; all discussions and voting held in public.
		6	Info Sessions to RSC Board- specific topics				On-going as needed.
	Long-range Planning (Policy & Projects)	1	Miramichi Zoning By-law - "housekeeping" review/amendments (incl. incorporate LIDAR & floodplain mapping into GIS mapping AND review zones and zoning regulations re flood risk assessment and climate change , AND construction & demolition waste dumpsite & open pits etc.)				Planning Staff have collected items for consideration; amendment process to commence early 2016
	(PS - 4)	2	Blackville Rural Plan-Comprehensive Review				Significant amendment completed regarding a new Mixed Use zone for majority of the Village
		3	Doaktown Rural Plan - Selected Review (e.g. fees & fishing camps)				On-going
		4	Upper Miramichi Rural Plan (First) - Research, Drafting & Public Consultation				Rural plan completed and adopted by Council September 2015

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		5	participate in provincial discussion regarding regional planning	●		▬	On going
		6	research for preparation of Regional Plan		▲	●	Commence collection of basic background information and mapping data
		7	Water Supply Assessment -policy update	●			Completed
		8	Application forms- update/reformat	●			Completed
		9	switch/Implement new GIS system (ARCGIS) (incl. data import & "cleaning", add new data streaming links, system formatting to improve user-friendliness)	●	▬	▬	Completed
		10	attend, make presentations to, coordinate Inter-Agency meetings (semi-annual)	●	●	●	On-going
		11	Miramichi & Blackville Subdivision By-law - Review	●			On-going
		12	Doaktown Subdivision By-law - Review		●	▲	
		13	develop new Subdivision By-law - Upper Miramichi		●	●	Will continue with Provincial Subdivision regulation until amendment is approved regarding the vesting of public streets and their maintenance.
	Administration/Management/Professional Development	1	train a new "back-up" Development Officer for subdivision application & documents approvals	●	●		On-going. Planner is being mentored by Assistant Development Office
	(PS - 5)	2	assess needs & outsource development of Application intake & status tracking Database	●	●		Planning Staff committee formed, information collected on various database systems
		3	Human Resources Manual-staff committee to review & revise	●			Completed
		4	assist in drafting & preparation of Annual Report	●	●	●	2014 Annual Report Completed and Approved
		5	Records Management - update/re-organize digital archiving system & procedures	●	●		On-going
		6	Records Management - annual archiving & destruction of hard copy & digital "Planning Services" records	●	●	●	On-going

2015 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2015
		7	Records Management - archiving 5-year backlog of "Planning" hard-copy records				Completed
		8	Internal Policy/Procedures Manual				Outline and issues identified
		9	Junior Planner training - CIP Ethics course, NB Property Law				Course was not made available in 2014
		10	GIS Specialist training - ESRI Canada conference (Atlantic Region)				Attended, October 2015
		11	Planning Services Manager - professional development (APA annual conference)				Attended, April 2014
		12	participate in Planning Directors meetings				4 meetings
		13	planning staff participation in NB Association of Planners & Canadian Institute of Planners Continuous Professional Learning events				On-going and as made available
		14	renew annually "Planning & Building Inspection Services Agreements" with 4 member municipalities				3 of 4 municipalities signed (City of Miramichi did not)
		15	training Office Administrator on PRAC meeting support				Completed
	Public Relations & Education	1	major revision/update to content & format of Planning Service website, including addition of portals designed for major clients groups & types of development				On-going, not completed.
	(PS - 6)	2	Monthly Media releases on selected topics, incl. use of social media				Ongoing; newspaer (local/provincial) articles on board activities.
		3	Info Pamphlets on selected topics				Brochures Series (7) on Development Completed
		4	Corporate presentations- revamp & standardization				Completed
		5	info booth at Miramichi Spring Lifestyles Show				April 2015
	Corporate Support - Solid Waste (PS - 6)	1	Mapping - solid waste collection routes, blue box locations				Blue Depots mapped

Appendix C – GMRSC 2015 Financial Statement

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2015**



Allen, Paquet & Arseneau LLP
Chartered Accountants • Comptables agréés **CA**^g

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

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To the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

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Independent Auditors' Report	2.
Statement of Operations	3.
Statement of Financial Position	4.
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	5.
Statement of Cash Flow	6.
Notes to the Financial Statements	7 - 21.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Financial Statements
Year ended December 31, 2015

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (the "Commission") are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of CPA Canada. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgement, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Commission's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The board of directors and management review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by Allen, Paquet & Arseneau LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Commission. The accompanying Independent Auditors' Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Commission's financial statements.



Wilson Bell, Executive Director



Partners / Associés
David L. Allen, C.A.
Yves Arseneau, C.A.
Tony Babio, C.A.
Alvin Bell, C.A.
Alain Pitee, C.G.A.

829-1 King George Highway
Miramichi, NB
E1V 1P9

2.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of
Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year ended December 31, 2015 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the revised consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the revised consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission as at December 31, 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles as outlined in the Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook.

Miramichi, NB

April 12, 2016

Allen, Paquet & Arseneau LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

829-1 King George Highway
Miramichi, NB
E1V 1P9

270, av. Douglas Ave
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207, rue Roseberry Street
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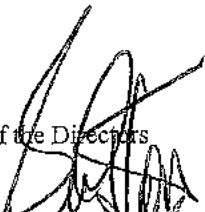
GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Operations****For the Year Ended December 31**

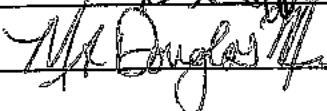
	2015	2015	2014
	(Unaudited) Budget Note 14	Actual	Actual
REVENUE			
Member Charges	\$ 1,578,404	\$ 1,603,447	\$ 1,719,440
Sales of Service	698,224	702,735	674,186
Other Revenue	20,000	48,700	15,000
Interest	-	7,180	10,233
	<hr/> 2,296,628	<hr/> 2,362,062	<hr/> 2,418,859
EXPENDITURES			
Administration	508,017	569,330	530,845
Fiscal Services	2,000	6,952	4,930
Governance	23,400	9,853	13,731
Planning and Building Inspection Services	508,186	479,799	520,403
Solid Waste Services	1,471,819	1,383,223	1,364,502
Regional Planning	2,000	-	-
Regional Policing Collaboration	1,500	-	-
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	1,250	-	-
	<hr/> 2,518,172	<hr/> 2,449,157	<hr/> 2,434,411
ANNUAL DEFICIT	\$ (221,544)	\$ (87,095)	\$ (15,552)
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, Beginning of Year		1,063,988	1,079,540
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, End of Year		\$ 976,893	\$ 1,063,988

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2015	2014
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and Short Term Investments (Note 3)	\$ 1,610,755	\$ 819,082
Receivables		
General	210,966	224,079
Due from Federal Government (Note 4)	153,616	60,949
	\$ 1,975,337	\$ 1,104,110
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 1,315,490	\$ 22,512
Due to members	111,256	37,155
Post employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits payable (Note 7)	66,513	66,513
Deferred Revenue	-	89,137
Bid bond payable	-	21,773
Long term debt (Note 8)	902,000	-
	2,395,259	237,090
NET ASSETS	(419,922)	867,020
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 9)	1,818,927	668,560
Accumulated Amortization	(437,628)	(474,709)
	1,381,299	193,851
Inventory of Supplies	9,030	-
Prepaid Expenses	6,486	3,117
	1,396,815	196,968
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 976,893	\$ 1,063,988

On Behalf of the Directors


 _____ Director


 _____ Director

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Changes in Net Assets****For the Year Ended December 31**

	2015	2014
Annual Deficit (Page 3)	\$ (87,095)	(15,552)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(1,202,367)	-
Proceeds on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	6,000	-
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	14,919	11,887
Gain on Sale of Tangible Capital Assets	(6,000)	-
	<u>(1,274,543)</u>	<u>(3,665)</u>
(Increase) Decrease of Inventory of Supplies	(9,030)	-
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	(3,369)	709
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	(1,286,942)	(2,956)
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year (Page 4)	867,020	869,976
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$ (419,922)	\$ 867,020

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Cash Flow**

For the Year Ended December 31

2015

2014

OPERATING TRANSACTIONS

Annual Deficit	\$	(87,095)	\$	(15,552)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets		14,919		11,887
Gain on sale of Tangible Capital Assets		(6,000)		-
Receivables				
General		13,113		(91,098)
Due from Federal Government		(92,667)		(21,395)
Inventory		(9,030)		-
Prepaid Expenses		(3,369)		709
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities		1,292,978		(83,695)
Change in Deferred Revenue		(89,137)		89,137
Due to Members		74,101		(110,580)
Bid Bond Payable		(21,773)		-
		1,086,040		(220,587)

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets		(1,202,367)		-
Proceeds on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets		6,000		-
		(1,196,367)		-

FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

Long Term Debt		902,000		-
----------------	--	---------	--	---

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		791,673		(220,587)
--	--	---------	--	-----------

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of Year		819,082		1,039,669
--	--	---------	--	-----------

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of Year (Note 3)	\$	1,610,755	\$	819,082
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GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is a restructured entity, created effective January 1, 2013, which is a combination of the Miramichi Planning District Commission and the Northumberland Solid Waste Commission. The Commission was established under a special act of the New Brunswick legislature with a mandate to provide or facilitate the provision of regional planning services and solid waste disposal services to all its members, and to all its members that are local service districts, a land use planning service. The commission operates as a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from taxes under the Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local governments, as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Commission are as follows:

(a) Reporting Entity

The financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenditures and changes in net assets and cash flows of the Commission .

Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

(b) Budget

The budget figures contained in these financial statements were approved by the Board on October 28, 2014.

(c) Revenue Recognition

Unrestricted revenue is recorded on an accrual basis and is recognized when collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Other revenue is recorded when it is earned.

(d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

(e) Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net replacement cost with cost being determined on the first-in, first out basis.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**(f) Financial Instruments**

The Commission's financial instruments consist of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivables, due from Federal Government and payables and accruals. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Commission is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

(g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short term deposits.

(h) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost of the tangible capital assets are amortized on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Land:	
All land owned by the Commission, including land under buildings	N/A
Buildings:	
All buildings owned by the Commission, as single assets.	40 years
Equipment:	
Includes recycling bins and other non-office equipment	5 years
Paving:	
Paving of parking lot at the Solid Waste Services office.	20 years
Leasehold Improvements	
Costs to renovate, modify or improve leases Local Planning Services' office.	Over lease term
Office Equipment:	
Includes desks, chairs, file cabinets, furniture and similar assets.	5 years
Computer Hardware and Software:	
Includes personal computers, monitors, laptops, printers, servers and similar assets.	5 years

The Commission has a capitalization threshold of \$2,500. Any item purchased under this threshold is recorded as an expense in the year the item is acquired.

All grants and other third party contributions are recorded as income in the year the expenditure for the capital asset is incurred. The full cost of the asset is capitalized during the year the asset is substantially complete and put into use.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**(i) Segmented Information**

The Commission is a diversified service unit that provides a wide range of services to its members. For management reporting purposes, the Commission's operations and activities are organized and reported by function. This presentation was created for the purpose of recording specific activities to attain certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. Commission services are provided by departments as follows:

Corporate Services

This department is responsible for the overall governance and financial administration of the Commission. This includes board functions, general and financial management, legal matters and compliance with legislation as well as member relations.

Co-operative and Regional Planning Services

This department is responsible for providing its members with a forum in order to initiate cooperative action among its members, which includes discussions with respect to regional planning, regional policing collaboration, regional emergency measures planning, regional sport, recreation and culture infrastructure planning and cost sharing, as well as any other regional services agreed upon by the members.

Local Planning Services

This department provides is responsible for providing land use planning services to all municipalities and local service districts in its territory. This function includes the development of rural plans, the administration and enforcement of the plans, the issuance of building permits, conducting building inspections and the approval of subdivisions.

Solid Waste Services

This department provides solid waste disposal services to the Municipalities, Rural Communities and Local Service Districts within the region. This includes coordination of various recycling programs, the handling of hazardous waste and the promotion of composting.

3. CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

	2015	2014
Term Deposits (Restricted)	\$ 738,488	\$ 635,363
Term Deposits (Unrestricted)	63,459	85,394
Cash (Unrestricted)	808,808	98,325
	<u>\$ 1,610,755</u>	<u>\$ 819,082</u>

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

4. DUE FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

	2015	2014
Canada Revenue Agency (HST Refund)	\$ 161,561	\$ 60,949
Canada Revenue Agency (Payroll Source Deductions)	(7,945)	-
Canada Revenue Agency	\$ 153,616	\$ 60,949

5. BID BOND PAYABLE

In 2012, the Commission awarded a contract for the operation and maintenance of recycling depots throughout Northumberland County in New Brunswick. The successful contractor had to issue a tender deposit in the amount of \$21,773, which the Commission returned upon successful completion of the contract during the year.

6. COMMITMENTSOffice and Equipment Leases

The Commission has outstanding lease commitments for the location of its local planning services premises. The lease payments for 2016 will be \$3,211 per month, increasing 3% annually, until March 31, 2019.

7. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, COMPENSATED ABSENCES AND TERMINATION BENEFITS

Employees are eligible for a one-time payment in recognition of years of services to the Commission. A permanent employee that has reached the age of 60 years or a combination of age and years of service equal to 75 years; are entitled at the time of retirement to a payment equal to one weeks wage for every year of service. The payment is calculated based on the salary for the last full year of service. Alternatively, in the event that the employee is terminated, the Commission will provide severance in the amount of two or three weeks per year of service depending on amount of years worked for the Commission up to a maximum of 6 to 18 months. The Commission provides sick leave that accumulates at 1.25 or 1.5 days per month for all employees (varies depending on employment agreement) other than contract employees. Employees can accumulate a maximum of 120 or 260 sick leave days (varies depending on employment agreement). An employee can take a leave with pay for an amount of time equal to the accumulated sick leave. There is no monetary compensation for unused sick leave when an employee ceases to be employed with the Commission.

An actuarial valuation of severance in accordance with PSA 3255 has been completed. An actuarial method was applied to determine the expected usage, and there was an attempt to perform a valuation based on assumptions about future events such as interest rates, wage and salary increases, and employee turnover or retirement. The assumptions used reflect the Commission's best estimates.

The following summarizes the significant assumptions in the valuation:

- annual salary increase is 2%;
- the discount rate used to determine the accrued benefit obligation is 3.75%;
- retirement age is 63;
- annual turnover rate is 0.8%

The estimated liability was \$66,513 on December 31, 2013.

8. LONG-TERM DEBT

	2015	2014
New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, debentures, variable interest rate from 1.05% to 2.10%, principal payable annually and interest semi annually, maturing in 2020. O.I.C. #BN-36	\$ 902,000	\$ -

Principal repayments of long term debt over the next five years are due as follows:

2016	\$ 176,000
2017	177,000
2018	180,000
2019	183,000
2020	186,000
	\$ 902,000

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

9. SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Land	Paving	Buildings	Equipment	Office Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	2015 Total	2014 Total
COST									
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 48,568	\$ 21,878	\$ 170,834	\$ 331,038	\$ 18,500	\$ 49,772	\$ 27,970	\$ 668,560	\$ 668,560
Add: Net Additions During the Year	-	-	7,102	1,180,992	-	-	14,273	1,202,367	-
Less: Disposals during the year	-	-	-	(52,000)	-	-	-	(52,000)	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	48,568	21,878	177,936	1,460,030	18,500	49,772	42,243	1,818,927	668,560
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION									
Balance, Beginning of Year	-	9,846	59,794	331,038	18,500	32,143	23,388	474,709	462,822
Add: Amortization During the Year	-	1,694	4,448	-	-	4,148	5,229	14,919	11,887
Less: Accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	-	(52,000)	-	-	-	(52,000)	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	10,940	64,242	279,038	18,500	36,291	28,617	437,628	474,709
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS									
	\$ 48,568	\$ 10,938	\$ 113,694	\$ 1,180,992	\$ -	\$ 13,481	\$ 13,626	\$ 1,381,299	\$ 193,851
Consists of:									
Solid Waste Fund Assets	\$ 48,568	\$ 10,938	\$ 113,694	\$ 1,180,992	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,521	\$ 1,366,713	\$ 173,296
Local Planning Fund Assets	-	-	-	-	-	13,481	1,105	14,586	20,555
	\$ 48,568	\$ 10,938	\$ 113,694	\$ 1,180,992	\$ -	\$ 13,481	\$ 13,626	\$ 1,381,299	\$ 193,851

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

10. SCHEDULE OF SEGMENT DISCLOSURE

	Corporate Services	Co-operative and Regional Planning	Local Planning	Solid Waste Services	Total 2015	Total 2014
REVENUES						
Member Charges	\$ -	\$ 34,890	\$ 633,018	\$ 935,539	\$ 1,603,447	\$ 1,719,440
Sales of Services	-	-	-	702,735	702,735	674,186
Other Revenue	-	-	2,700	46,000	48,700	15,000
Interest	-	-	509	6,671	7,180	10,233
		34,890	636,227	1,690,945	2,362,062	2,418,859
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries and Benefits	123,559	-	488,816	180,030	792,405	732,596
Operating Expenses	55,912	-	124,320	1,448,338	1,628,570	1,679,437
Amortization	-	-	5,970	8,949	14,919	11,887
Interest	-	-	5,555	1,397	6,952	3,981
Other	1,839	-	1,808	2,664	6,311	6,510
	181,310	-	626,469	1,641,378	2,449,157	2,434,411

SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$ (181,310)	\$ 34,890	\$ 9,758	\$ 49,567	\$ (87,095)	\$ (15,552)
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GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

11. RECONCILIATION OF ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

The Regional Service Delivery act, items 27(7) and 27(8) stipulate if a Commission has a deficit/surplus with respect to a service at the end of its fiscal year, the Commission shall cause the deficit/surplus to be debited/credited against/to the Commission's budget with respect to that service for the second next ensuing year.

	Corporate Services Operating Fund	Co-operative and Regional Planning Operating Fund	Local Planning Operating Fund	Solid Waste Operating Fund	Local Planning Capital Fund	Solid Waste Capital Fund	Amount carried to next page
2015 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (181,310)	\$ 34,890	\$ 15,727	\$ 52,192	\$ (5,970)	\$ (8,949)	\$ (93,420)
Adjustments to Annual Surplus (Deficit) for Funding Requirements							
Second Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit)	-	11,068	63,688	771,869	-	-	152,625
Allocation to Corporate Services	206,041	(41,208)	(84,320)	(80,513)	-	-	-
Transfer Elimination	(4,000)	(2,800)	(10,000)	(80,000)	-	-	(96,800)
Proceeds From Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	6,000	-	(6,000)	-
Amortization Expense	-	-	-	-	5,970	8,949	14,919
Total Adjustments to 2015 Annual Surplus (Deficit)	202,041	(32,940)	(30,632)	(76,644)	5,970	2,949	70,744
2015 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ 20,731	\$ 1,950	\$ (14,905)	\$ (24,452)	\$ -	\$ (6,000)	\$ (22,676)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

11. RECONCILIATION OF ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (Continued)

	Amount carried from last page	Corporate Services		Cooperative & Regional Planning Services		Cooperative & Regional Planning Services		Local Planning Services		Local Planning Services		Solid Waste Services		Solid Waste Services		Total 2015
		Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	
2015 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (93,420)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (87,095)
Adjustments to Annual Surplus (Deficit) for Funding Requirements:																
Second Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit) Transfer Elimination	152,625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	152,625
Amortization Expense	(96,800)	2,000	-	1,800	-	1,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	30,000	-	50,000	-	14,919
Total Adjustments to 2015 Annual Surplus (Deficit)	70,744	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,000	5,000	5,000	30,000	5,000	5,000	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	167,544
2015 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ (22,676)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 30,008	\$ 5,001	\$ 5,001	\$ 30,008	\$ 56,316	\$ 56,316	\$ 56,316	\$ 80,449	\$ 80,449

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

12. STATEMENT OF RESERVES

	Corporate Services Operating Reserve Fund	Corporate Services Capital Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Services Operating Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund	Total 2015	Total 2014
ASSETS											
Cash	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,001	\$ 30,008	\$ 691,679	\$ 738,488	\$ 738,488	\$ 635,363
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,001	\$ 30,008	\$ 691,679	\$ 738,488	\$ 738,488	\$ 635,363
REVENUE											
Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 8	\$ 6,316	\$ 6,325	\$ 6,325	\$ 9,240
Transfer from Operating Fund	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,000	5,000	5,000	30,000	50,000	96,800	96,800	-
EXPENDITURES											
Transfer to Solid Waste Operating Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-90,510
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,001	\$ 30,008	\$ 56,316	\$ 103,125	\$ 103,125	\$ (81,270)

Board of directors resolution regarding transfers to reserves:

Moved by Michael Marsh, seconded by Gerald Ross that \$2,000 be transferred from the Corporate Services Operating Fund to the Cooperative and Regional Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund.

Moved by Andy Hawkes, seconded by Elizabeth Bowes that \$1,800 be transferred from the Cooperative and Regional Planning Services Operating Fund to the Cooperative and Regional Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund.

Moved by Beverly Gaston, seconded by Elizabeth Bowes that \$5,000 be transferred from the Local Planning Services Operating Fund to the Local Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund.

Moved by Elizabeth Bowes, seconded by Gerald Ross that \$30,000 be transferred from the Solid Waste Services Operating Fund to the Solid Waste Services Operating Reserve Fund.

Moved by Andy Hawkes, seconded by John Foran that \$2,000 be transferred from the Corporate Services Operating Fund to the Cooperative Services Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by John Foran, seconded by Michael Marsh that \$1,000 be transferred from the Cooperative and Regional Planning Services Operating Fund to the Cooperative and Regional Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by John Gouffelin, seconded by Andy Hawkes that \$5,000 be transferred from the Local Planning Services Operating Fund to the Local Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by Gerald Ross, seconded by Beverly Gaston that \$50,000 be transferred from the Solid Waste Services Operating Fund to the Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund.

I hereby certify that the above is true and an exact copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 24, 2015.

Wilson Bell _____ Date
 Executive Director
 Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

13. OPERATING BUDGET TO PSA BUDGET

	Corporate Services	Co-operative and Regional Planning	Local Planning Services	Solid Waste Services	Amortization	Transfers	Total
REVENUE							
Member Charges	\$ -	\$ 34,890	\$ 632,978	\$ 910,536	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,578,404
Sales of Services	-	-	-	698,224	-	-	698,224
Government Transfers	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Transfers from Own and Other Funds	206,041	-	-	-	-	(206,041)	-
Other Revenue	-	-	16,000	38,000	-	(54,000)	-
Surplus of Second Previous Year	-	11,068	63,688	77,869	-	(132,625)	-
	206,041	45,958	712,666	1,744,629	-	(412,666)	2,296,628
EXPENDITURES							
Administration	180,641	-	126,130	201,246	-	-	508,017
Allocation From Corporate Services	-	41,208	84,320	80,513	-	(206,041)	-
Other Fiscal Services	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Governance	23,400	-	-	-	-	-	23,400
Planning and Building Inspection Services	-	-	502,216	-	5,970	-	508,186
Regional Planning	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Regional Policing Collaboration	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	-	1,250	-	-	-	-	1,250
Solid Waste Services - Operations	-	-	-	1,462,870	8,949	-	1,471,819
	206,041	45,958	712,666	1,744,629	14,919	(206,041)	2,518,172
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (14,919)	\$ (206,625)	\$ (221,544)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT

	(Unaudited)		
	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2014 Actual
REVENUE			
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Member Charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 17,901	\$ 17,901	\$ 19,144
- Village of Blackville	766	766	834
- Village of Doaktown	761	761	829
- Upper Miramichi	1,852	1,852	2,020
- Local Service Districts	13,610	13,610	14,571
	\$ 34,890	\$ 34,890	\$ 37,398
<u>Corporate Services</u>			
Government Transfers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Member Charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 356,548	\$ 356,548	\$ 412,648
- Village of Blackville	11,523	11,523	13,886
- Village of Doaktown	14,565	14,565	17,453
- Upper Miramichi	28,166	28,166	34,092
- Local Service Districts	222,176	222,216	257,542
Other Operational Revenue	-	2,700	-
Interest	-	509	660
	\$ 632,978	\$ 636,227	\$ 736,281
<u>Solid Waste Services</u>			
<i>Member Tipping Fees</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 438,788	\$ 451,783	\$ 455,714
- Village of Blackville	26,223	29,734	25,630
- Village of Doaktown	20,669	17,580	19,989
- Upper Miramichi	44,434	51,649	49,890
- Local Service Districts	380,422	384,793	395,198
	910,536	935,539	946,421
<i>Revenue From Other Sources</i>			
Tipping Fees from Other Sources	698,224	669,136	664,409
Recycling	-	6,644	5,302
Other Operational Revenue	-	26,955	4,475
Government Transfers	20,000	40,000	15,000
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	6,000	-
Interest	-	6,671	9,573
	718,224	755,406	698,759
	\$ 1,628,760	\$ 1,690,945	\$ 1,645,180
	\$ 2,296,628	\$ 2,362,062	\$ 2,418,859

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2014 Actual
EXPENDITURES			
<u>Corporate Services</u>			
<i>Governance</i>			
Honorariums	\$ 8,500	\$ 5,575	\$ 8,744
Travel	6,400	2,520	2,310
Training and Development	-	211	10
Other	8,500	1,547	2,667
	23,400	9,853	13,731
<i>Administration</i>			
Salaries and Benefits	143,141	123,559	95,644
Travel	5,000	5,973	5,649
Training and Development	-	-	726
External Audit Fees	8,000	12,929	13,912
External Accounting Fees	5,000	4,850	4,050
Telephone	3,000	1,024	2,800
Other Financial Management	-	249	2,094
Liability Insurance	9,500	8,985	10,525
Professional Services	-	5,220	4,660
Office Building	-	6,374	6,543
Legal Services	2,000	1,885	-
Office Supplies	5,000	117	723
Other	-	292	1,389
	180,641	171,457	148,715
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Bank Service Charge	2,000	-	-
	\$ 206,041	\$ 181,310	\$ 162,446
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Regional Services</i>			
Regional Planning	2,000	-	-
Regional Policing	-	-	-
Collaboration	1,500	-	-
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	1,250	-	-
	\$ 4,750	\$ -	\$ -

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2014 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising	\$ 3,000	\$ 50	\$ 103
Conference and Membership	3,500	92	1,136
Electricity	-	3,272	3,516
Office Building	44,500	46,760	41,909
Office Supplies	7,200	13,149	12,932
Other	-	1,232	476
Printing and Copying	1,200	3,280	4,543
Professional Services	-	9,850	10,153
Salaries and Benefits	47,105	46,825	51,131
Telecommunications	10,000	12,868	13,611
Training and Development	3,000	437	2,838
Travel	6,625	3,300	4,693
	126,130	141,115	147,041
<i>Planning and Building Inspection Services</i>			
Amortization	5,970	5,970	5,970
Salaries and Benefits	451,041	441,991	478,715
Travel	19,875	17,223	17,089
Training and Development	8,000	7,330	11,524
Map and Reference Material	500	28	-
Geographic Information System	5,000	930	540
Planning Advisory Committee	12,800	5,751	5,903
Other	5,000	576	662
	508,186	479,799	520,403
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Bank Service Charge	-	5,555	4,882
	\$ 634,316	\$ 626,469	\$ 672,326

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2014 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
Solid Waste Services			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising, Tours, Promotional	\$ 65,400	\$ 104,945	\$ 69,688
Office Building	-	442	1,749
Office Equipment and Supplies	3,700	6,881	4,476
Other	2,000	2,664	367
Ministerial Order Communities in Former Solid Waste Commission		-	90,510
Printing and Copying	100	1,814	464
Professional Services	-	2,980	1,877
Salaries and Benefits	113,696	118,381	55,634
Telecommunications	5,000	9,693	6,691
Training and Development	1,000	550	193
Travel	10,350	8,408	3,440
	201,246	256,758	235,089
<i>Operations</i>			
Amortization	8,949	8,949	5,917
Repairs and Maintenance	6,000	3,310	9,635
Janitorial	-	1,049	1,389
Property Tax	13,000	12,678	11,366
Electricity	6,500	4,752	4,518
Compost Program	6,500	6,428	971
Salaries and Benefits	53,300	61,649	51,472
Other	-	-	-
Tipping Fees	1,162,616	1,036,264	1,045,608
Collection	-	116,381	161,126
Recycling	-	38,413	38,283
Depot Maintenance	20,000	-	1,324
Contracted Services	133,454	62,803	-
Hazardous Household Waste	61,500	30,547	32,893
	1,471,819	1,383,223	1,364,502
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Bank Service Charge	-	1,397	48
	\$ 1,673,065	\$ 1,641,378	\$ 1,599,639

Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables

Table 16: Building Permits Issued - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	31	36	33	44	45	30	23	33	47	29
Multiple Unit Dwellings	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	12	16	20	7	9	12	8	5	7	13
Other Improvements	141	107	107	139	127	100	106	101	87	95
Total	185	160	161	190	181	142	139	141	146	136
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	9	10	3	4	4	7	9	4	10	8
Renovations	31	37	37	47	29	42	17	26	27	11
Total	40	47	40	51	33	49	26	30	37	19
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	3	1	2	1	1	3	19	0	3	1
Renovations	5	4	3	10	4	2	0	1	3	5
Total	8	5	5	11	5	5	19	1	6	6
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	0	5	0	0	1	0	5	1	2	3
Renovations	12	10	5	5	4	4	1	6	11	4
Total	12	15	5	5	5	4	6	7	13	7
SIGNS	30	35	24	22	16	9	17	13	18	12
TOTALS	275	262	235	279	240	209	207	192	220	180

Table 17: Building Permits Issued - Village of Blackille

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings				3	6	2	1	2	2	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings					0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes				3	1	0	0	1	0	1
Other Improvements				5	7	5	2	4	6	8
Total	0	0	0	11	14	7	3	7	8	9
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction				0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Renovations				1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction				0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Renovations				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction				1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Renovations				0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
SIGNS				1	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	14	15	8	3	10	9	12

Table 18: Building Permits Issued - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings								0	2	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings								0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes								0	0	1
Other Improvements								3	6	6
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	7
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction								3	0	0
Renovations								0	2	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction								0	0	0
Renovations								0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction								5	0	0
Renovations								0	6	4
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	4
SIGNS										
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	17	12

Table 19: Building Permits Issued - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings								4	2	2
Multiple Unit Dwellings								0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes								1	1	0
Other Improvements								10	8	8
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	11	10
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction								0	2	0
Renovations								0	5	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction								0	0	1
Renovations								0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction								0	1	2
Renovations								1	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
SIGNS										
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	19	13

Table 20: Building Permits Issued - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	46	57	42	49	52	44	17	31	38	24
Multiple Unit Dwellings				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	26	30	25	16	25	23	10	19	34	11
Cottages	25	15	10	11	13	5	18	16	11	8
Other Improvements	111	94	93	88	122	101	73	64	92	58
Total	208	196	170	164	212	173	118	130	175	101
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	9	12	10	10	13	11	8	9	6	3
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	0	1	25	6	0	8	11	0	0	3
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	1	1	1	3	2	3	6	1	3	1
SIGNS	0	4	4	9	2	2	8	1	2	1
TOTALS	218	214	210	192	229	197	151	141	186	109

Table 22: Building Permit Values - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	4,226,000	5,748,600	6,221,200	6,684,597	7,012,989	4,433,800	3,968,460	4,902,734	5,125,210	6,208,575
Multiple Unit Dwellings	200,000	200,000	1,582,000	0	0	0	2,197,014	2,720,000	1,417,028	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	616,000	762,000	1,043,500	395,800	654,357	648,000	449,000	114,500	596,818	827,500
Other Improvements	1,048,527	1,505,460	1,401,924	1,300,690	1,247,634	1,100,309	1,821,040	1,324,454	684,047	1,449,084
Total	6,090,527	8,216,060	10,248,624	8,381,087	8,914,980	6,182,109	8,435,514	9,061,688	7,823,103	8,485,159
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	4,840,700	5,188,800	208,500	2,637,735	925,000	2,485,400	3,973,590	505,000	6,484,930	409,721
Renovations	1,368,418	8,333,686	1,854,233	3,835,644	1,879,657	2,449,810	2,247,500	11,021,357	4,493,673	1,443,914
Total	6,209,118	13,522,486	2,062,733	6,473,379	2,804,657	4,935,210	6,221,090	11,526,357	10,978,603	1,853,635
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	1,150,000	11,000	460,000	4,000,000	20,000	333,000	113,000	0	98,640	48,620
Renovations	47,100	210,000	284,000	966,785	40,000	288,000	0	179,000	6,300	43,840
Total	1,197,100	221,000	744,000	4,966,785	60,000	621,000	113,000	179,000	104,940	92,460
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	0	364,250	0	0	10,000	0	2,546,003	679,000	276,650	24,050,654
Renovations	628,450	1,076,740	758,880	573,600	1,229,000	134,700	1,014,000	4,061,238	5,254,796	1,986,280
Total	628,450	1,440,990	758,880	573,600	1,239,000	134,700	3,560,003	4,740,238	5,531,446	26,036,934
SIGNS	148,850	102,595	138,380	76,573	102,733	69,550	91,850	167,865	399,346	144,933
TOTALS	\$14,274,045	\$23,503,131	\$13,952,617	\$20,471,424	\$13,121,370	\$11,942,569	\$18,421,457	\$25,675,148	\$24,837,438	\$36,613,121

Table 23: Building Permit Values - Village of Blackville

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings				275,265	708,900	346,000	110,000	145,200	287,730	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings					0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes				178,000	22,000	0	0	72,122	0	59,202
Other Improvements				30,500	212,000	75,300	100,000	108,800	66,000	143,960
Total	0	0	0	483,765	942,900	421,300	210,000	326,122	353,730	203,162
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction				0	0	0	0	15,400	0	0
Renovations				30,000	3,400	0	0	0	0	5,056
Total	0	0	0	30,000	3,400	0	0	15,400	0	5,056
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction				0	0	0	0	187,000	0	0
Renovations				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	187,000	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction				860,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	0	48,600
Renovations				0	0	0	0	0	37,850	1,000
Total	0	0	0	860,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	37,850	49,600
SIGNS				16,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,389,765	\$946,300	\$426,300	\$210,000	\$1,628,522	\$391,580	\$257,818

Table 24: Building Permit Values - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings								0	240,480	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings								0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes								0	0	57,600
Other Improvements								7,500	85,638	65,030
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500	326,118	122,630
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction								39,612	9,104	0
Renovations								0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,612	9,104	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction								0	0	0
Renovations								0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction								365,000	0	0
Renovations								0	246,078	599,665
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365,000	246,078	599,665
SIGNS								0	1,490	25,000
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$412,112	\$582,790	\$747,295

Table 25: Building Permit Vaules - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings								404,400	358,470	351,540
Multiple Unit Dwellings								0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes								85,000	94,720	0
Other Improvements								169,300	84,924	121,415
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	658,700	538,114	472,955
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction								0	569,400	0
Renovations								0	263,686	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	833,086	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction								0	0	45,000
Renovations								0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,000
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction								0	6,311,130	93,800
Renovations								1,000	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	6,311,130	93,800
SIGNS										
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$659,700	\$7,682,330	\$611,755

Table 26: Building Permit Values - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	3,968,000	7,200,800	5,258,220	6,464,100	7,153,680	6,115,900	5,502,098	5,001,000	3,587,535	4,862,955
Multiple Unit Dwellings				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	942,200	1,186,080	981,300	528,960	1,150,500	1,311,040	1,356,200	1,405,302	3,574,113	852,520
Cottages	1,223,560	1,611,360	1,120,000	879,000	1,216,500	471,000	1,432,500	1,456,000	1,272,786	1,286,695
Other Improvements	956,210	1,476,250	1,303,153	1,488,200	1,856,500	1,388,140	1,812,550	1,193,036	1,281,908	1,122,792
Total	7,089,970	11,474,490	8,662,673	9,360,260	11,377,180	9,286,080	10,103,348	9,055,338	9,716,341	8,124,962
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	514,000	627,000	980,200	637,640	503,390	971,400	575,500	179,800	584,640	92,900
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	0	163,000	19,440,100	4,659,000	0	1,771,645	635,000	0	0	2,136,125
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	50,000	200,000	10,000	4,779,500	98,095	607,000	20,063,332	240,000	1,319,640	150,000
SIGNS	0	8,200	3,824	37,307	1,200	125	18,070	25,000	19,000	40,000
TOTALS	\$7,653,970	\$12,472,690	\$29,096,797	\$19,473,707	\$11,979,865	\$12,636,250	\$31,395,250	\$9,500,138	\$11,639,621	\$10,543,987

Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables

Table 27: Planning Applications - City of Miramichi

Applications	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Plan Amendments	5	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	4
Rezoning	7	3	0	3	1	4	2	2	2	4
Variations (Total)	17	22	31	18	15	14	26	20	22	30
Variations (DO)				8	9	12	12	13	17	25
Variations (PRAC)				10	6	2	14	7	5	5
TOTALS	29	27	31	24	17	19	28	23	25	38

Table 28: Planning Applications - Village of Blackville

Applications	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning			0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Variations (Total)			3	3	2	0	2	0	0	2
Variations (DO)				1	1	0	1	0	0	2
Variations (PRAC)				2	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	3	3	2	0	3	1	0	3

Table 29: Planning Applications - Village of Doaktown

Applications	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning								1	0	1
Variations (Total)								3	2	4
Variations (DO)								3	2	2
Variations (PRAC)								0	0	2
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	5

Table 30: Planning Applications - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Applications	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning										1
Variations (Total)								2	0	1
Variations (DO)								2	0	1
Variations (PRAC)								0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

Table 31: Planning Applications - Unincorporated

Applications	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Variations (Total)	15	14	9	23	0	2	9	12	1	6
Variations (DO)								3	1	6
Variations (PRAC)								9	0	0
TOTALS	15	14	9	23	0	2	9	12	1	6

**Table 32: Administrative Applications / Files -
City of Miramichi**

Applications	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Confirmations of Zoning	35	52	39	42	29
Zoning Compliances	2		0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	21		17	33	35
Enforcement Files	4		2	3	8
Access Approvals	1	2	1	2	3
Other Documents	13	31	18	16	20
TOTALS	76	85	77	96	95

**Table 33: Administrative Applications / Files -
Village of Blackville**

Applications	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Confirmations of Zoning	2	3	3	4	2
Zoning Compliances	0		0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	0		1	0	4
Enforcement Files	0		0	4	0
Access Approvals	0	0	4	0	0
Other Documents	1	2	4	1	0
TOTALS	3	5	12	9	6

**Table 34: Administrative Applications / Files -
Village of Doaktown**

Applications	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Confirmations of Zoning			2	0	2
Zoning Compliances			0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews			2	2	4
Enforcement Files			0	1	0
Access Approvals			0	0	2
Other Documents			0	0	4
TOTALS	0	0	4	3	12

**Table 35: Administrative Applications / Files -
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi**

Applications	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Confirmations of Zoning			3	3	5
Zoning Compliances			0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews			0	1	1
Enforcement Files			0	0	0
Access Approvals			0	1	2
Other Documents			3	0	7
TOTALS	0	0	6	5	15

**Table 36: Administrative Applications / Files -
Unincorporated**

Applications	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Confirmations of Zoning	7	18	15	7	13
Zoning Compliances	0		0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	1		2	1	3
Enforcement Files	11		0	1	0
Access Approvals	16	11	6	2	2
Other Documents	65	61	53	34	53
TOTALS	100	90	76	45	71

Table 37: Subdivision Applications - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Miramichi	31	31	38	31	45	37	29	26	17	21
Blackville		7	3	2	4	2	3	4	6	1
Doaktown								2	0	3
Upper Miramichi								4	3	8
Unincorporated	91	96	84	72	81	80	69	50	45	24
TOTALS	122	134	125	105	130	119	101	86	71	57

Table 38: New Lots Created - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Miramichi	41	50	82	37	77	41	52	41	24	41
Blackville		12	9	2	5	4	5	6	6	1
Doaktown								2	0	3
Upper Miramichi								5	3	8
Unincorporated	118	135	123	114	106	88	105	65	61	30
TOTALS	159	197	214	153	188	133	162	119	94	83

Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables

Table 42: Summary of Domestic & Commercial Waste Hauled to Red Pine

Month	Unincorporated	Burnt Church	Eel Ground	Red Bank	Miramichi	Blackville	Doaktown	Upper Miramichi	Commercial Waste	Other C & D	Cash Sales	Monthly Totals
JAN.	404.27	30.07	16.40	25.14	441.11	29.47	16.62	47.67	601.09	104.84	-	1,716.68
FEB.	317.44	24.21	11.30	19.82	353.33	18.69	16.00	37.14	475.15	130.80	0.38	1,404.26
MAR.	362.87	26.61	11.20	25.00	390.42	23.53	20.53	35.22	581.73	108.84	-	1,585.95
APR.	434.47	41.95	18.00	11.00	509.21	30.74	19.20	61.02	576.12	200.72	4.49	1,906.92
MAY	569.20	57.91	13.24	36.00	680.12	59.32	21.68	77.83	698.84	75.26	-	2,289.40
JUNE	505.62	39.45	14.40	15.51	629.76	48.04	24.95	49.60	706.39	31.47	46.02	2,111.21
JULY	493.79	51.27	18.00	20.10	592.07	30.28	13.87	78.29	687.85	53.16	10.63	2,049.31
AUG.	474.58	41.47	14.40	17.92	528.27	33.80	23.55	54.65	604.47	41.74	49.93	1,884.78
SEPT.	511.40	38.69	14.40	19.31	608.98	43.58	19.61	58.17	607.16	19.31	1.20	1,941.81
OCT.	417.62	42.39	19.10	15.61	495.34	49.65	22.83	68.93	659.42	63.71	9.30	1,863.90
NOV.	363.44	32.72	12.14	6.93	423.78	18.64	7.93	38.26	607.15	37.81	7.13	1,555.93
DEC.	334.12	36.59	15.60	8.37	425.86	17.00	13.36	38.96	648.64	100.67	0.88	1,640.05
TOTALS	5,188.82	463.33	178.18	220.71	6,078.25	402.74	220.13	645.74	7,454.01	968.33	129.96	21,950.20
monthly avg												1,829.18

LSDs	5,188.82	MT
MUNICIPAL	7,346.86	MT
FIRST NATIONS	862.22	MT
SUB-TOTAL	13,397.90	MT

Residential	13,397.90	MT
ICI (Commercial)	7,454.01	MT
C & D Debris	968.33	MT
Cash Sales	129.96	MT
Total GMRSC	21,950.20	MT

Regular Tip Fee: \$72.80
C & D Tip Fee: \$31.50

Table 45: Workshops & Presentations

Date	Location	Topic
January 15, 2015	Presentation Eel Ground Band Council	Curbside Recycling
January 16, 2015	Presentation Agency Meeting	Curbside Recycling
January 22, 2015	Presentation Renée Chouinard School	3 Rs
February 9, 2015	Presentation Red Bank Band Council	Curbside Recycling
February 20, 2015	Presentation Gretna Green	3 Rs
March 1, 2015	Presentation St-Andrews	3 Rs
March 9 & 10, 2015	Compostost Council of Canada Workshops	Composting
April 25 & 26, 2015	Miramichi Home Show	Curbside Recycling
May 6, 2015	Composting Workshop Miramichi	
May 13, 2015	Composting Workshop Barryville	
May 27, 2015	Composting Workshop Doaktown	
June 3, 2015	Composting Workshop Black River	
June 9, 2015	Waste Reduction Coordinator meeting	Waste Reduction Initiatives
June 19 to 21, 2015	Miramichi Heritage - The Gathering II	Curbside Recycling
July 1, 2015	Canada Day Parade	
August 8, 2015	10th Year Recycling Celebration	
August 27, 2015	Presentation City of Miramichi	Curbside Recycling
September 9, 2015	Presentation Newcastle Rotary	Curbside Recycling
October 22, 2015	Presentation Chatham Rotary	Curbside Recycling
November 18 & 19, 2015	Waste Reduction Coordinator meetings	Waste Reduction Initiatives
November 26, 2015	Night of Environmental Science Gretna Green	Waste Reduction Initiatives

Table 50: Recycling Tonnage per Month

	2014	2015	
Months	Depot		Curbside
January	57,12	33,08	-
February	35,24	13,54	-
March	35,95	40,97	-
April	49,82	59,09	-
May	47,92	17,42	-
June	58,51	64,88	-
July	63,09	48,54	-
August	77,19	35,62	-
September	53,19	25,89	-
October	31,38	46,24	32,27
November	31,76	-	140,95
December	95,49	-	149,39
TOTALS	636,66	385,27	322,61

Table 54: Battery Diversion per Month

Locations	Total Weight
January	0
February	12,6
March	18,7
April	0
May	23,85
June	224,2
July	13,1
August	35,4
September	13,8
October	165,55
November	0
December	168,3
TOTAL (Kg)	675,5
TOTAL (mt)	0,6755
TOTAL (lbs)	1489,22

Table 56: E-waste Tonnage

2011	*2012	2013	**2014	**2015
10,83	19,39	12,1	22,68	33,7

*2012 - Four Spring collections

**2014 & 2015 - Two Spring collections

Appendix G – Solid Waste Services Media Coverage

Opinion

Miramichi Leader

Patricia Graham, Ombudswoman, Brunswick News
 Online: telegraphjournal.com
 Email: ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 **A7**

We asked: What do you think about the move to curb-side recycling?



It's a good thing for the environment.
Tobi Gauvin, Barnaby



It's about time and it will save the environment, we are one of the last places to be recycling and that is not good.
John Walsh, Miramichi



It's going to be a pain until we get use to it.
Shirley Girouard, Oak Point



We should have had it sooner, and it will help the environment.
James Pallen, Lower Newcastle



It should be up to the person, younger people will adapt to the change easier where older people are set in their ways and some won't like change.
Sherry Munn, Blackville

Letters to the editor

The Miramichi Leader encourages readers to offer their viewpoints through its Letters To The Editor section. All letters must be signed, with writers including their name, address and phone number. Letters should not exceed 500 words. Letters may be edited for style, length, libel, taste and non-verifiable facts. Letters can be emailed to: news@miramichileader.com

Tuberculosis still affecting lives around the globe

In December 2013, ebola claimed three victims. By October 2014, that number had ballooned over a thousand-fold. People worldwide were panicking at the prospect of this killer disease ending up on their shores. Massive budget shortfalls at the World Health Organization played a critical role in the failure to stop ebola, showing the frightening consequence of short-sighted health funding. Unfortunately, the federal Conservative government is poised to repeat the world's mistake in West Africa. Five

years ago this same government, once a great supporter of tuberculosis eradication, launched TB REACH, a fund that seeks out the hardest to reach TB sufferers. TB Reach has been proven enormously successful, greatly reducing the number of infected individuals in areas where TB is difficult to detect and treat. TB has enormous impact in the developing world, and the consequence of sporadic funding and treatment is the evolution of new and deadly TB strains resistant to drug treatment. And like Ebola, TB travels worldwide. Despite the great success of TB REACH, Minister Paradis is prepared to halt funding of this successful,

cost-effective program, a fateful decision that will allow TB to spread, evolve and threaten the globe. In the face of the Ebola catastrophe, it's staggering to witness such short-sighted budgeting by the Conservatives.

Nathaniel Poole
 Victoria, B.C.

Do your fair share to battle deficit

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is asking our provincial government to continue its battle against the deficit and the debt and

to "resist any lobbying from the groups affected by the cuts." It is somewhat ridiculous to read that the CFIB is asking our government to resist lobbying groups because it is one of the most active lobbying groups on the provincial scene. It is part of every forum asking for a reduction of the minimum wage, opposing the financial contribution of its members to the new drug plan, applauding the cuts to employment insurance, lobbying for the privatization of our public services, etc. A part of the provincial deficit can be attributed to a lack of revenue. Yet, the same Federation succeeded in convincing Brian Gallant's government to reduce the taxes paid by its members

(from 4.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent). Such a reduction will cost us \$4.4 million a year for every half-point reduction. In other words, it will cost taxpayers \$18 million by 2018. According to the CFIB director, 95 per cent of its members are concerned by the deficit and the debt. If that were true, shouldn't they also be interested in doing their part in the fight to reduce the deficit and the debt by paying taxes like everybody else rather than always standing on the steps of the Provincial Legislative building holding out one's hand.

Jean-Claude Basque
 Moncton

It's time to end poverty in Canada, which is a \$30-billion cost on government yearly

ART EGGLETON
 COMMENTARY

Time to end poverty in Canada – that was the message from the Salvation Army coming across our TV screens this past holiday season. A great idea from an organization that fights poverty every day in our country – but is it realistic? Yes, it is. Poverty doesn't just cost the poor their dignity and a reasonable standard of living, it costs us all. A study guided by noted economists for the Ontario Association of Food Banks found that poverty costs the government about \$30 billion a year, much of which was healthcare expenditures because being poor frequently means poor health. Consider also the homeless. Numerous studies have found that it costs three to four times more to leave someone on the street (in and out of shelters, hospitals, jails) than to give them a home with support services. And that doesn't include the millions spent on provincial welfare systems which entrap people with thousands of bureaucratic rules, to which the late Senator David Croll once said, "We spend billions every year on a social welfare system that merely treats the symptoms of poverty but leaves the disease itself untouched." It is astounding that here, in this rich country, one in seven lives in poverty according to Statistics Canada. For these fellow citizens every day is a battle. Just struggling to get by, these families can't even dream about getting ahead. What is also disturbing is that over a million are children, even though 25 years ago the House of Commons said it was going to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. And then there is the wide gap in wealth and income levels that has come about in the last 30 years and which is now posing a threat to our social fabric. Cities once dominated by middle income neighbourhoods are giving way to greater polarization between high- and low-income communities. More and more are living pay cheque to pay cheque (if they have a job) with heavy debts. As the TD Bank states in the title of a recent report, it is time to recognize "The Case for Leaning Against Income Inequality in Canada."

Let's be clear: poverty and inequality are not obscure issues that only



Gerald Colbourne, community ministries director and his wife, Lillian Colbourne, assistant ministries director, of the Miramichi Salvation Army.
 PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

concern economists or policy wonks. It's degrading our economy, changing the nature of our cities, creating unequal health outcomes and impacting the cohesion of our society. So, what do we do about all of this? Here are three ways we can end poverty:

1. Education is a great enabler and leveller in any society. While Canada overall does fairly well in post-secondary education statistics, there are pockets of the population that need attention. For example, the aboriginal high-school dropout rate is four times higher than the national average. Improving literacy rates, early childhood

learning and skills development to reflect the ever changing job market are all good investments that will pay long term dividends. And let's make sure kids don't go to school hungry. They can't learn on an empty stomach.

2. We need to explore a basic income plan for Canadians. It would start moving people off the costly social welfare systems to an income tax managed formula. It wouldn't provide for the 'good life' but it would ensure that no one in this country goes without the basic needs of nourishing food, warm clothing and decent shelter. We put such a plan in place for senior citizens back in

the 1970s and it brought most of them out of poverty. Also, at that time, an experiment in Manitoba called 'Mincome' demonstrated a reduction in healthcare costs and higher school graduation rates. While there will be transitional costs, overall we don't need to spend more money; we need to invest smarter, more efficiently and effectively.

3. It is time to get serious about tax reform. The last major federal overhaul arose from the Carter Commission in the 1970s. Federal corporate taxes, which stood at 29 per cent in 2000, have been reduced to a current level of 15 per cent

without a discernable effect on the rate of employment. Let's improve the fairness and progressivity of our tax system, tackle tax havens and loopholes and establish a carbon tax. Yes, it is time to end poverty and reduce inequality in this rich country we are blessed to live in. It's time to improve equality of opportunity and a better sharing of our prosperity.

Art Eggleton
 is a former Toronto mayor, MP, and is currently a Canadian Senator. This commentary was syndicated by Troy Media at troymedia.com

One confirmed case of influenza in Miramichi

KATIE SMITH
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The chief medical officer for the province says flu season is here once again, and Miramichiers are urged to take preventable measures to stay healthy.

Shelley Landsburg, director of Communicable Disease Control branch of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health in New Brunswick, said on top of getting the influenza vaccination, everyone should ensure their immunizations are up to date for all vaccine-preventable diseases, such as mumps and measles.

"It is really important because it helps your body be stronger to help to fight off those diseases," she said. "Over and over again, it's been shown that a healthy lifestyle is going to really protect you the most," she said, adding that refraining from smoking is crucial.

"Especially where this is a respiratory illness, smoking could just exacerbate that and cause secondary illnesses like pneumonia."

Immunization is as much about protecting others as well as yourself, Landsburg said. "If you don't have the (influenza) virus or the bacteria, then you're not going to be able to pass it on, so you're protecting those people who are more at risk."

Those at risk of catching the influenza virus circulating around the province at the moment – the H3N2 virus – are the elderly, aged 65 and older, Landsburg said. So far, she noted there has only been one reported case of the H3N2 virus in Miramichi this season.

"Our immune systems change as we get older, and the best way to keep our immune system strong and to prevent any type of disease is a healthy lifestyle, which includes immunization," she said. "The elderly or people who have illness such as chronic health conditions or immunosuppressed conditions, or younger people, are always at higher risk of getting more severe diseases with influenza, so that's why we target them to get immunizations, to give their immune systems more of a boost."

There have been news stories circulating about the effectiveness of this year's flu vaccine, and Landsburg said this is because viruses can change.

Each year, the World Health Organization sees what flu viruses are circulating now, then take the data gathered from their analysis and recommend what to put in the flu vaccine for the season, she said, adding it depends on what viruses are floating around the world.

"We usually have a pretty good match with the vaccine, but there's always a slight variance, because what viruses do best is they can drift, and a drift means they change ever so slightly," she said. "And that (an) every so slight change as they move around the world can then make that part of your vaccination not as effective."

The flu vaccine has three strains of viruses it protects against, and one of this year's strains, including the H3N2 virus, she said.

"The H3N2 virus, it has changed slightly, so you get a decrease in your body's response to protect you from that virus."

However, the other two strains of viruses the vaccine was created to protect against will start to circulate later this season, so the vaccine will protect against those viruses, she said.

"The flu vaccine is still your best shot," she said. "Pardon the pun."

Where the stomach flu can present with symptoms with fever, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramping and suppressed appetite, the symptoms for the influenza virus are a bit different, Landsburg said. The symptoms for the influenza virus include high fever, sore throat, body aches, chills, sweating and a dry cough, and Landsburg said it can lead to secondary infections, such as pneumonia, breathing problems or sore throat where antibiotics are needed and that person could end up in the hospital.

A few other ways to stay healthy this season include eating healthily, learning stress management techniques and getting the required amount of sleep. And, of course, hand washing, she said.

In a recent news release issued by the Horizon Health Network, the public is asked to refrain from visiting patients in the hospital if they exhibit any signs of influenza or gastrointestinal virus (a stomach flu) as a proactive measure to prevent the spread of illness in hospitals and to protect the health and well-being of patients and staff.

While the restriction does not apply to patients who require assessment in the emergency department, the release said, other services such as diagnostic testing or outpatient appointments should be rescheduled if they are not urgent.

"For most viral infections, the best treatment is rest and adequate hydration," the release said.

If urgent assistance is required, the Horizon Health Network asks those people to follow infection control guidelines.

Alward ranks in middle on fiscal showing, says report

High mark for government spending puts Alward in middle ranking of premiers

CHRIS MORRIS
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

FREDERICTON • A survey of the fiscal performance of Canada's premiers up until last year ranks David Alward in the middle of the pack, his score lowered by New Brunswick's stubborn debt and deficit and by high taxes.

The analysis by the Fraser Institute, a public policy think-tank based in Vancouver, looks at the performance of 10 premiers over the past four years – five of whom are no longer in office, including Alward, who was voted out

of the premier's office in September.

"Former premier Alward's middling overall ranking (in fifth place) is mainly the result of two basic failings: managing key tax rates and deficits and debt," said Charles Lammam, the Institute's director of tax and fiscal policy.

The institute report – Measuring the Fiscal Performance of Canada's Premiers, 2015 – examines the fiscal records of 10 Canadian premiers relative to each other during their time in office up to the 2013/14 fiscal year. It was released on Thursday.

Three components were measured: government spending, taxes, and deficit and debt.

The overall top scorer in the Institute survey is former Newfoundland and Labrador premier Kathy Dunderdale, who was given high marks in all three categories. Dunderdale resigned in June after months of poor showings

in public opinion polls and amid criticism from her own Tory party that she wasn't connecting with voters.

Saskatchewan's Brad Wall ranks as one of the best, in second place, while the overall worst ranking goes to P.E.I. Premier Robert Ghiz, who recently announced his resignation and is leaving office next month.

Alward's highest score was in government spending, where the Institute gave him a mark of 77.7, enough for second place after Dunderdale. Christy Clark of British Columbia was third with a score of 64.3.

Alward's worst showing on the Institute scoreboard was in tax performance, where he finished dead last with a score of just 32.4.

It also notes that while Alward's Tory government lowered the personal tax rate (on incomes of \$50,000 and \$75,000) in 2011, it then increased all

four provincial personal income tax rates in the 2013 budget.

"David Alward ranked last because New Brunswick's personal income tax rates are generally uncompetitive and because he raised all four of the province's marginal income tax rates," the report states.

On the issue of debt and deficits, Alward was second last on the list with a mark of 32.9.

He was one of six premiers, along with Dexter, Ghiz, Manitoba's Greg Selinger, former Alberta premier Alison Redford, and Ontario's Kathleen Wynne who failed to score above 50 because all ran a deficit, on average, and increased net debt during their tenures.

"Regardless of where they ranked, all premiers, even those with high rankings, have room for improvement," the report concludes.

Dates set for public sessions on new recycling program

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Anybody curious about how the introduction of curbside recycling in the Miramichi region is going to work will have plenty of opportunity to learn more with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which is set to host a series of public information sessions in the coming weeks.

This all comes as the commission's waste management wing begins to ramp up the process of laying the groundwork for the rollout of mandatory recycling to each and every household within its boundaries sometime in the fall.

Waste reduction co-ordinator Melanie Cripps provided the service commission board of directors with an update on the recycling program during their monthly meeting in Blackville Tuesday night.

She said everything remains on track for the fall launch and added that educating the public before they receive the blue bins will be a big part of their job between now and then. People will then be required to toss their recyclables every second week.

"Once people get their carts, they're going to want to know what to do with it," Cripps said.

Information sessions will be held in 16 communities throughout the commission's coverage area beginning Monday, Feb. 2, at the Upper Miramichi Community Centre in the former village of Boiestown at 5:30 p.m.

A meeting for Miramichi is set for the Nordin Recreation Centre on Monday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m. The tour will wrap up in Bellefond at the Ascension Parish on March 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Cripps said it's highly likely a second round of information meetings will be organized closer to the start date.

The curbside program will phase out the current system of residents transporting their recyclables to one of a handful of depots set up in different locations throughout the region.

The new program will mirror the one introduced in the Chaleur region last year.

The plan, which as of right now is on track to be introduced next September, would see each household issued a large blue cart, where residents will be able to dump their loose recyclables into, a list that includes metal cans, plastic containers, paper, milk cartons and other materials.

The biggest change will see regular garbage pickups occurring just once every two weeks, with the alternate week reserved for the collection of recyclables.

In 2013, the Miramichi region produced 24,023 metric tonnes of waste that ended up buried in the Red Pine landfill, down by about 2,800 metric tonnes from 2012.

On the alternate weeks, collectors will pick up regular waste as normal.



These large blue recycling depots will soon be a thing of the past after the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission approved moving forward with the introduction of a curbside program, coming into effect in the fall.

PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

Cripps said the commission is currently exploring multiple funding programs to try and whittle down the cost of the program's startup.

The commission will have to order roughly 18,500 carts at about \$75 apiece, a major expense that will likely be made up through an adjustment within each municipal budget or, in the case of local service districts, through the provincial Department of Local Government.

As a condition of approving the program, the service commission will also transfer a total of \$550,625 from a capital reserve fund to get a head start on acquiring the carts, which is about 6,500 to start.

An application for over \$200,000 has been submitted to the Environmental Trust Fund, with the organization also seeking financial assistance through a string of different programs, including the Building Canada Fund and the municipal capital borrowing board for public awareness and marketing initiatives and some other costs, such as the development of an app people can access on their mobile devices.

Individual municipalities are expected to harness portions of their annual gas tax funding to cover most of the cost of purchasing the carts.

"We're always looking for other sources as well," Cripps said.

The commission is also set to open up a pair of request for proposals for the purchase and delivery of the carts.

While the mayors of Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi have all spoken out in favour of the program, there has been some resistance from those board members representing the region's local service districts.

Part of that concern is attached to how the rollout of the program will impact the tax rates of people who live in unincorporated rural areas.

Wilson Bell, executive director of the commission, said any tax hit to local service districts would be phased in over a five-year period, amounting to around a 1.6-cent increase over that period.

A complete list of each of the public meetings being hosted by the commission is available online at recyclenorthumberland.ca.



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Opinion

A6 Friday, January 23, 2015

Patricia Graham, Ombudswoman, Brunswick News
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Miramichi Leader

Curbside recycling is a concept whose time has come in Miramichi region

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission has begun the process of rolling out a full-court public awareness and education strategy aimed at preparing thousands of households for the introduction of curbside recycling in the fall.

This is a long overdue step, given that the Miramichi region hasn't exactly embraced the concept of recycling over the years, perhaps spoiled by the outdated convenience of bagging everything, putting it at the curb and sending it to be buried at the landfill.

Out of sight, out of mind, as it were. And for those who wanted to voluntarily recycle, the old depot system was inconvenient, costly and didn't really put a dent in diversion rates.

Forcing the issue and making it mandatory for residents to separate their recyclables each week is just the logical thing to do in this day and age. As accompanies any change in routine, there will naturally be some resistance. There is already evidence some residents who live in local service districts are less than enthusiastic about the plan.

Hopefully people will take the time to educate themselves on the issue and learn more about the program.

There will be no shortage of opportunity to do just that, with the service commission's solid waste branch set to hold two rounds of public information sessions in locations throughout the region beginning in early February.

By attending one of these meetings, it should become apparent that the introduction of recycling is not all that drastic a concept and hopefully it will be clear just how necessary this is. The rate of garbage being diverted from the landfill in the Miramichi region is barely a blip on the radar at under four per cent. It would almost be laughable if it wasn't so concerning, especially considering the modern expectation is that solid waste jurisdictions should be diverting at least 20 per cent of their trash.

As a regional population, we are sending more than 3,000 metric-tonnes of garbage to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville every year. It is then buried, with some materials breaking down over time and others simply remaining there forever.

It's an environmentally unsustainable practice, but introducing mandatory recycling should also present some fiscal benefits as well. While communities will have to absorb some initial startup costs in order to cover the purchase of carts people will be tossing their recyclables into, commission executive director Wilson Bell is projecting future savings.

In fact, by 2016, the commission is estimating the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the current depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings, if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate, while also reducing the amount being paid in tipping fees at the landfill.

For anyone worried about how convenient all of this is going to be – don't be. The only major change is that instead of one uniform collection day where everything is picked up at the curb, recyclables and regular trash will now be collected exclusively on alternating weeks.

It's as simple as dumping all of your recyclables loose into your household's blue bin one week and putting the rest of your garbage out as you normally would the next week. And if you're envisioning the somewhat confusing wet-dry program used in the Moncton area, which sees rejection stickers left at the curb if you have something organic accidentally mixed with a piece of cardboard, again – not to worry. The Miramichi plan would mirror the already successful recycling program that was introduced in the Chaleur region last year.

Cartons, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic containers, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 plastics? All accepted at the curb.

There is no reason this can't be an easy transition and, hopefully, the concept of recycling is something everyone will embrace.



An illness that requires treatment like any other



Our View Katie Smith

They say what we don't know can't hurt us, but sometimes, what we don't know is precisely what hurts us. And just because we can't see something, doesn't mean it's not there.

Bell Let's Talk Day awareness campaign is on Jan. 28, a day to talk about and to help reduce the stigma around mental health.

While this is a great campaign, it's an issue we should be openly talking about year-round.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association website, one in five Canadians will personally experience mental illness in their lifetime.

The site also stated that it is estimated that 10-20 per cent of Canadian youth are affected by a mental disorder or illness, the single most disabling group of disorders worldwide.

And sadly, only one in five children in this country who need mental health services will receive them.

So why is there still so much stigma around mental health?

When I was first diagnosed with a mental illness, I felt embarrassed, ashamed and angry.

I didn't trust doctors, I didn't believe in medication, and I was scared of what people would think of me.

I used to hear of people on antidepressant medications and think, "Suck it up, it's all in your head."

I refused to even consider that psychology and psychiatry were legitimate areas of study, for no reason other than I just didn't understand the nature of mental illness.

For more than 15 years, I lived a life where my moods would swing drastically up and down, often several times a day. Despite having friends, teachers and doctors suggest there might be something wrong, I thought I was fine, just perhaps a little more emotional than the average person.

After several failed relationships, loss of friends and growing tension in my family, I still didn't think there was anything wrong with me.

A couple of years ago, I was beginning to spiral out of control. I was trying to make sense of my life and came to the conclusion it wasn't worth living. Rather than seek help, I choose a path filled with self-destruction.

Then one day my best friend sat me down and said she was scared for my life. For some reason, her words hit home and for the first time in my life, I believed I needed help.

I went to see a counsellor and she recommended that I be put on anti-depression medication. I saw my family doctor and he concurred and put me on a drug.

For a few months, I felt a bit better, though I was nowhere near out of the woods. I stopped taking the meds and tried to battle my issues on my own through living a healthier lifestyle, cutting out indulgences, and focusing on trying to feel better.

Several more months passed and that horrible anxiety and depression was returning. This time I went to see a psychiatrist who diagnosed me with bipolar disorder, what used to be called manic depression. He prescribed a mood stabilizer and anti-anxiety medication, which I protested at first. My psychiatrist said I had no reason to feel ashamed. He put it to me in a way I could make sense of it. He said if I was diabetic, I would be put on medicine to treat the disease. Then he said that having a mental illness is no different - if I wanted to feel better, I needed to regulate my brain chemistry. I did and slowly started to feel more...well, normal.

I was coming to terms with the fact that I was sick and needed medication for a functional existence, even though I wasn't fully on board with the idea of taking pills to feel

better.

I would self-adjust my medication, albeit a terrible idea, and my moods would fluctuate. I came off one drug altogether because I decided I was fine. Then I would only sometimes take the mood stabilizer, and loved feeling euphoric, unstoppable. I barely slept for days on end, but would then crash and fall into a debilitating depression. One day, I decided I couldn't take it anymore and actually contemplated suicide.

For once, I decided to make a good decision and made an appointment with my psychiatrist, whom I'd stopped seeing months before because I thought I was OK.

The receptionist took one look at me and found one of the mental health nurses who took me to her office and talked with me, then went and got my doctor. I had a meltdown, but I was in a safe place. It was the worst I'd felt in years, but it was the best thing that could have happened to me. I realized that was my rock bottom and I had somewhat of a breakthrough.

The doctor adjusted my medications and told me I have no choice, I have to take them, which I have been doing religiously, along with regular counselling and yoga.

And after all of those years of living in a cloud of anger, sadness, loathing, confusion and extreme highs, I can finally see clearly. It's so important to seek help when you feel something isn't right in your head. We can't see mental illness, but it affects so many people. A lot of us, myself included, were scared to seek help, scared of what the doctor might tell us, and scared to take medication because we didn't know how others would react to it. For me, the key to coping was communication. Talking to my friends and loved ones about what I was dealing with, so they, in turn, knew how to deal with me.

It's been a long road, a long struggle, but I can say in good faith I'm here today, happy and healthy, because I sought help for my mental illness.

Katie Smith is a reporter with the Miramichi Leader.

Miramichi Leader

The Leader since 1906

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news

Nursing home builds bike buzz with test drives in grocery store aisles

SAMANTHA MAGEE
MIRAMICHI LEADER

It's not every day that the staff at the Sobey's in Douglastown allows customers to drive a bicycle up and down the aisles of the grocery store.

The Duet tandem wheelchair bicycle was on location from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday as part of a fundraiser hosted by Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home Foundation. They are towards raising the \$9,292 it costs to purchase one of their own for the local nursing home.

"We're a third of the way, so that's huge," said Iris Sullivan, operation administrator for the foundation.

The bike was on loan for the test drive session from the Rexton Lions Nursing Home, and those taking it out for a spin included a number of familiar local faces.

To generate some bike buzz, Sullivan invited media personalities from local radio stations and the Miramichi Leader newspaper to enjoy some three-wheeled fun. Other community figures on hand included Brett Malone, captain of the Miramichi Timberwolves junior hockey team; Paul Fiander and Brian Cummings, chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Miramichi Police Force; and Wade Hallihan, a salesman at Miramichi Mazda, to name but a few.

From the nursing home, Ron Kierstead on the board of directors was on location with Sullivan, as was Scott Murphy, a recently retired rehabilitation therapist from Mount Saint Joseph.

The bike is operated by an able-bodied person who pedals and controls the steering of the wheelchair in the front. The bike part easily detaches from the wheelchair and allows the attendant to

push the other person into any store or restaurant.

In a previous interview, Sullivan said the bike would benefit all of the residents because physical activity, being able to enjoy an afternoon outdoors in a safe and stimulating environment would be beneficial for their overall well being.

She said residents and staff had been trying the bike in the hallways of the Mount to practise, and they couldn't wait to have raised enough money to buy their own.

The Duet is equipped with standard luggage racks, head and footrests, washable seat upholstery, a wheelchair parking brake, and various adjustable pieces, allowing a customized fit for passengers of a wide range of ages and sizes.

There are even lights on the back and the front of the Duet.

"Well, maybe if you have Alzheimer's disease, and you don't sleep at night, because that's part of it. You could cruise around the courtyard at night. It's just incredible," said Sullivan.

By midday on Thursday, Sullivan estimated they had raised approximately \$3,400, having started the day with \$3,000 thanks to donations from McCain Foods and one of the local Rotary Clubs.

Joey MacDonald, manager of the Douglastown Sobey's, said the wishing well near the front entrance will be available for the next month to accept donations on the nursing home's behalf.

Around 12:30 p.m., Elliot Estey and Jessica MacDonald of Sunny Corner Enterprises presented Sullivan with a cheque for \$100 as part of the company's 50th-anniversary celebrations, with staff dedicating themselves to carrying out 50 random acts of kindness in celebration.



Miramichi Police Force Chief Paul Fiander takes deputy police chief Brian Cummings for a spin in the Duet tandem bike.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Public information session held on new curbside recycling program

MAUREEN COULTER
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Elizabeth Sutherland has been recycling and composting for the better part of 10 years, but is always eager to learn more when it comes to helping the environment.

That's why she decided to attend the public information session at the Nordin Recreation Centre last Thursday to make sure she was fully informed about the new curbside recycling program coming to Miramichi in the fall.

"I enjoy recycling and composting, and I just wanted to see if there was anything I needed learn from it or find out," said the Newcastle resident.

As for what she got out of the session, organized under the auspices of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, Sutherland said she was a little disappointed to learn that residents will no longer be able to recycle plastic bags. She said she also understands the bags would gum up the sorting machines.

"I just need to use the reusable bags for my groceries instead," she said.

Other changes include being able to recycle paper cups, No. 5 and No. 7 plastics, and wrapping and tissue paper.

As to why Sutherland has been recycling for so long, she said she is trying to preserve the environment.

"I like to reuse things. Even if I had an old television, I would go get it repaired rather than throw it in the garbage. It's just part of me, so I like to compost because things get reused."

She mixes up her compost with the soil in her flower garden and has noticed there doesn't seem to be as many weeds and the flowers grow better. Sutherland thinks it's wonderful that Miramichi is introducing this curbside program.

At the open house, there were several charts on display for residents to read at their leisure and to ask questions about the new program. There was also information to promote backyard composting. The two-hour session saw people coming and going throughout, despite the stormy



Melanie Cripps, left, waste reduction co-ordinator for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission Solid Waste Services, speaks with Elizabeth Sutherland about the new curbside recycling program during a public information session, held at the Nordin Recreation Centre on Thursday, Feb. 19. PHOTO: MAUREEN COULTER/MIRAMICHI LEADER

winter weather outside.

The curbside program will replace the blue bin system currently being used in this area.

With the new setup, people will be using special blue carts that they will place outside their homes on collection days, said Marie LeBlanc, general manager of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's solid waste services.

"We are hoping to encourage more people to participate because your garbage will only be picked up every second week so that will entice you to separate and get your recyclables out there."

Sutherland feels this will benefit people who have wanted to recycle but may not drive or have a vehicle. They will no longer have to take their recyclables to a blue bin.

"This way it's going to be right at your back door. I think it's great,"

said Sutherland.

The only investment is in the carts themselves, which cost \$75 each, and LeBlanc figures most municipalities will put it on people's tax bill.

Over five years, the cost of a cart works out to \$15 a year or four cents a day. It costs about the same to buy plastic bags over that period of time, said LeBlanc.

The carts will be delivered in late summer, and a second round of public information sessions will be held with a PowerPoint presentation, she said.

Douglastown resident Harold Cameron also attended the public information session and plans to come back for the PowerPoint presentations.

Cameron thinks the new program is heading in the right direction. He has been recycling since it was implemented in 2005 and thinks this program will cut down on a lot of the costs and the filling of landfills.

"A major contributor is the stuff we

don't recycle. If we reuse it again, it cuts down the energy costs."

Now, to pay for collection, transportation and sorting it costs about \$400 a tonne. With the new program, the cost will drop to \$54 a tonne.

When it comes to waste targets, Miramichi falls at 3.8 per cent. The industry target is 30 per cent and the provincial target is 50 per cent.

Leblanc said the waste service hopes to increase the diversion rate by at least 14 per cent within a year of the program starting.

Cameron said he was surprised to see the 3.8 per cent target for Miramichi.

"It just says to me not very many people are using it at all. That really shocked me. That is pretty low."

The next recycling information session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sunny Corner Fire Hall in Sunny Corner. For more information, visit greatermiramichirsc.ca.

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Nine more years of bridge work on way

Federal, provincial governments announce \$82.8M for more rehabilitation of 48-year-old span

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Roger Melanson is asking for patience from the motoring public after likely catching more than a few people off-guard during an announcement Monday morning.

And patience, it appears, is most certainly going to be required with the heavy-duty repairs to a major transportation link in Miramichi expected to be ongoing for the next nine years.

Costs on the massive rehabilitation of the Centennial Bridge have soared, leaving the provincial government with no choice to call on its federal counterparts to help ensure an ever-growing list of repairs to the span are seen to.

Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon and Rob Moore, the minister of state for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, joined up with Melanson and Tourism Minister Bill Fraser at the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel, where another \$82.8 million was announced to help see the project through to completion.

The breakdown will see the New Brunswick government kicking in \$44.2 million, with the federal government committing \$38.6 million under its newly replenished Building Canada Fund. "We're very pleased the federal government has partnered with us to invest in this very important infrastructure not only for the Miramichi but for the entire northern part of the province," Melanson said. "Many, many people commute on that bridge every day and it's important for the economy and it's important for residents around here."

Melanson readily acknowledged the new timeline may come as a shock to those who use the provincially-owned bridge frequently but stressed the work is essential.

The construction activity taking place over the next nine years is designed to



The federal and provincial governments are committing a combined total of \$82.8 million to carry out further repairs to the Centennial Bridge in Miramichi. The work will be spread over nine years. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

improve the bridge's structural integrity, strengthen its load capacity and upgrade the roadway to current standards.

In the more immediate future, the job this summer will concentrate on upgrades to the bridge's northern span, its main centre span, with some new paint being applied as well.

Over the course of the eight years to follow, the focus will shift to areas like the bridge's piers and the replacement of deck slabs, expansion joints and its bearing assembly.

Rehabilitation work on the nearly 50-year-old span has already been taking place the last three years.

The bridge not only carries north-south traffic across the Miramichi River between the Chatham and Douglastown neighbourhoods, but is also a vital transportation link for the province, connecting Route 11 in southern New Brunswick and Route 8 in northern New Brunswick.

The first phase of the upgrade, made possible through a \$13.3-million contract issued by the former Progressive Conservative government back in 2012, wrapped up last fall. It was initially anticipated that three-year window was all

that would be needed to bring the bridge up to code.

When asked if anything new had come to light that forced the government to spend so heavily, and for so long, into this next phase of the project Melanson said by acting decisively now would likely save taxpayers millions in the long-run.

"We have an infrastructure here that is already built, that has served Miramichi and northern New Brunswick really well," he said.

"We're going to create some jobs in the meantime, stimulate the economy, and we will see more Miramichiers working and we will see Miramichi using a bridge that they need very much - the level of money that will be needed to rehabilitate this bridge is significant because this is a very significant project."

By the time it's finally finished nearly a decade from now, Melanson said the end result will be the extension of the bridge's lifespan by another 50 years.

The province allocated a total of \$6 million toward the Centennial Bridge in its 2015-16 capital budget, released in December.

At the time, provincial officials noted that any further work, however, would

be contingent on the federal government making a contribution.

Since that has now happened, the project will be picking up again in time for the summer tourism season. Melanson said the province would have a more specific idea regarding cost once various public tendering processes play out.

O'Neill-Gordon said she was pleased her government saw the value in contributing to the initiative using funds from its \$10-billion pool of money earmarked for provincial and territorial infrastructure projects.

She said helping secure the future Centennial Bridge, a symbol of the Miramichi and a busy gateway to the wider region, was a worthwhile use of those funds. "I understand how very important this project will be for all Miramichiers and that is why I have worked closely with Minister Moore to deliver on this priority," O'Neill-Gordon said.

Although the structural upgrades are essential to preserving the bridge's functionality and safety over the long-term, the project has been especially noteworthy for the traffic-related havoc it has caused each of the last few summers.

The Centennial Bridge was reduced

to just a single lane of traffic from May through to November of last year, often resulting in traffic queues roughly a kilometre deep on either side.

This sparked several instances of road rage, red-light running and, subsequently, many tickets being issued by Miramichi police. There were also a number of overnight closures on both lanes.

To that end, Melanson didn't sugarcoat the fact that additional lane closures and traffic delays would be forthcoming.

He said the province was committed to doing everything it can to limit those inconveniences.

"I can imagine that's a stress, (but for) Miramichiers, we will obviously want to see some patience as we do some repairs on this bridge," Melanson said, as a number of people in the room groaned about the drastically extended timeline. "Closures will only be done when necessary and only with the greatest consideration for safety and traffic patterns, but it's also important to remember that this work is being done because it's needed."

Speaking for the city, which has had to beef up its police presence near the bridge during construction season and strategically deploy other emergency personnel on either side of the river, Cormier said Miramichi would be ready.

The only alternate route across the main Miramichi River is the Miramichi Bridge, which links traffic between the Newcastle and Chatham Head areas along the Route 117-8 bypass.

The first three years of the Centennial Bridge project primarily focused on upgrades to the bridge's substructure. It also called for the application of new paint however that portion of the job was only partially completed.

A 2010 engineer's report showed that about 10 to 15 per cent of the bridge's superstructure had experienced a loss of steel due to corrosion.

Its paint had faded and chipped and concrete had started to crack from the piers, curbs, deck slabs and other components. Engineers also discovered loose pieces of concrete on a section of the bridge high above Water Street, adjacent to the riverside walking trail.

Despite all of these issues, Transportation and Infrastructure staff have maintained from the outset of the project the bridge is safe to traffic.

Expansion of recycling program in works

JAMES MALLORY
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

A successful start to the residential curbside recycling program for the region has the Chaleur Regional Service Commission 3 eyeing bigger and better things.

This year saw the full implementation of curbside recycling in the region after several years of a depot system where people dropped off their recyclable items such as paper, cans and certain plastics at strategic locations. Residents are required to have two bins - one black bin for refuse that is picked up one week and a blue bin for recyclables that is collected the following week.

Yanick Sirois, environment manager for the Chaleur Regional Service Commission/Solid Waste Management, said with the entire region on board, residents are seeing the benefits of the program.

"I get a lot of nice comments," said Sirois. "Some people are telling me, 'I was not recycling before and since I started, it's surprising how much stuff I recover now and all that stuff was going in my garbage bin.' They seem to be amazed how much they are saving by recycling."

Sirois said the momentum from the residential program is creating a good business case to bring the institutional, commercial and industrial sector (ICI) into the fold.

"We have a few ideas, a few strategies in mind but no decision was taken yet," he said. "But it's coming - we're working on this and hopefully at the beginning of 2016 we hope to have a strategy to facilitate recycling with the ICI sector."

The residential curbside recycling program is not offered to businesses, industries, institutions or apartment buildings with more than four units. These groups are not required to recycle, unlike residents who can be fined if garbage is mixed in with recyclables. If the ICI sector wishes to recycle, they must hire a private company to do so.

Sirois said some of these groups are showing a willingness to join a community recycling program, especially large apartment buildings.

"We want to facilitate that. We will not buy a truck - the commission I don't think will buy a truck for that - so it has to come from the private sector, like a collection company like for an example,



A blue bin used for curbside recycling in Bathurst. PHOTO: JAMES MALLORY/THE NORTHERN LIGHT

FERO," said Sirois.

"We just want to make sure that conditions will be met to facilitate that connection between...a collection company and the ICI sector. ...We have a few ideas now and I think some conditions could be changed to facilitate that connection."

Sirois said it would be difficult to have the same trucks that pick up residential recycling to do the same for the ICI.

"You can imagine a building with 50 apartments, for example. Is it feasible to have 50 blue carts on the curb-side? No.

"What we want to see is to use front loading containers, like the same kind of containers used now for garbage for the ICI sector. The truck comes with forks in front of the truck, picks up the bin and then empties it from the top of the truck."

Along with the environmental benefits of getting more people recycling, Sirois said having more recycling material makes for a good business case to establish a sorting centre in the Chaleur region.

Currently, recyclables from the Chaleur and Miramichi regions are shipped to Rivière-du-Loup, Que., where they are sorted. Sirois said this region isn't compensated financially for the recyclables because sorting is expensive and the market value of recyclables comes after items have been sorted, bailed and packaged.

"When we send it to Rivière-du-Loup we don't have to pay a fee for the sorting of the stuff. We send everything in

bulk all mixed up together in a 53-foot-long trailer.

"Recyclables have a value when they are sorted, bailed and ready for the market. It has to be sorted and there's a cost associated with sorting so that's why we don't get money. But for an example, if we send it to Moncton, we have to pay transportation plus \$75 a tonne to have it sorted. When we send it to Rivière-du-Loup, we still have to pay transportation, but we don't pay anything for the sorting part of it."

This is where increasing the volume of recycling material plays into the Chaleur RSC's future plan.

The idea of generating enough local recycling material is to justify building a local sorting centre. With enough recycling feed, the items can be sorted and sold with money staying in the region.

"For that, we need great volumes, great quantities," said Sirois. "This year, we plan on recovering about 1,800, 1,900 tonnes of recyclables and that's good. It's about four times what we were recovering with the voluntary (depot) collection system. We were collecting about 500 tonnes a year and now we're going almost 2,000 tonnes a year."

Sirois said the RSC 3 is still trying to determine just how much recycling material is needed on an annual basis to keep a local sorting centre running smoothly.

"It depends on who you talk to. Some people say at 5,000 tonnes it's enough to operate a sorting line. Others will tell you 10,000 tonnes and some in the private

sector will tell you 15,000 tonnes.

"We have to make sure to do our homework and make sure it's feasible at the right place."

For example, Sirois said the sorting centre in Rivière-du-Loup faces financial challenges even with 8,000 to 9,000 tonnes of recyclables per year.

"In Rivière-du-Loup, they get about 8,000 to 9,000 tonnes a year of recyclables, but they would prefer to get about 12,000 just to make their operation ... that they don't make a deficit at the end of the year. ...They are struggling right now so there are challenges."

As the Chaleur RSC looks into the ICI sector, Sirois said they are also looking to create partnerships with surrounding regions such as Miramichi and Restigouche. He said residential recyclables from Miramichi have been coming here since January.

"We get their recyclables they recover from their voluntary (depot) collection system, so their big blue bin system that they have now. They are going curbside in September with the blue cart system like us and we will get their recyclables at that time too."

"So, let's say in 2016, we expect about 4,500 - 4,700 tonnes a year of recyclables a year. So now we're pretty close to having a full sorting line if you add up the ICI sector from our region and the Miramichi region, we're pretty close to have a business case to install a full sorting line."

Sirois said the Restigouche region was a recycling program partner at one time but that fell by the wayside when the new provincial regional service commissions were established in 2013.

"I think they're still considering to join us, to have curbside collection of recyclables. I just don't know exactly when it's going to happen."

Sirois said the RSC 3 wants to build on success of the curbside recycling program but at the same time not move too fast before having their homework done.

"We want to be careful with public money. We want to do it, we want to do it the right way and want to do it progressively."

"We did make a nice step last year with the implementation of the curbside collection of recyclables throughout the whole region. For the next step, we want to do it at the right time."



Fireworks from a past Hospitality Days Festival. PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

The Road Hammers to headline festival

JENNIFER BISHOP
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Hospitality Days Festival goers can get ready for some rocking country music at this year's festival.

The Road Hammers will headline the Thursday night show on July 24 with opening act Little Rusty Band and closing act Wild Pitch.

The opening and closing acts for the evening also feature local talent. Little Rusty Band features local musicians Eddie and Diane Calnan and Wild Pitch features local musicians Curtis Hachey, Brian Kenny and Glen Ferguson.

Acts previously announced for the festival include Joel Plaskett with opening act the Backyard Devils on Wednesday, July 22, and Offenbach, Grouyan Gumbo and Tradition on Friday, July 24, and Ultimate Escape, a Journey tribute band, the Alt Rocks and Big Bad Marty Band on Saturday, July 25.

Tickets for the Hospitality Days 50/50 draw are also now on sale from people on the Hospitality Days committee.

They will also be available at the office located on Main Street when it opens in the coming weeks.

This year's Hospitality Days Festival will run from July 20 to July 26.

milestones

news

DEATH NOTICES



ARBEAU, WENDY JULIA

Wendy Julia Arbeau passed away at her late residence on February 25, 2015, at the age of 48. Born at Miramichi Hospital, Newcastle, in the year of 1966, she was the daughter of Eric Arbeau and the late Joyce Arbeau (who predeceased her on February 26, 2011).

She is survived by one brother Darren, several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Wendy graduated from Blackville High School in the year of 1984, with great honours. She was very smart in her class. She was a very good supporter of God's work. She supported the animal shelter faithfully. Wendy had a big heart, and was well loved.

Visitation was held from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 at New Zion Baptist Church, Upper Blackville. The Funeral was held March 4, 2015 at the Upper Blackville Church at 2pm with Pastor Paul Inman officiating, assisted by Rev. Cole Price. Pastor Price sang: Tears are a Language. Scripture reading by Cole Price. A musical meditation "In the Garden" by Mrs. Shirley Estey. Funeral meditation by Pastor Paul. Musical meditation by Mrs. Shirley Estey "He the Pearly Gates Will Open". Benediction by Pastor Cole. Committal will be held at the Holy Trinity Cemetery, Blackville at a later date. Arrangements were in the care of Davidsons Funeral Home 622-7464. Family owned, family operated.



DEMPSEY, JANE FLYNN

1920 - 2015
Jane Flynn Dempsey, born April 4, 1920 in St. Margarets, died March 5, 2015 in Boulder, Colorado in her 94th year. She was the beloved mother of Dr. Lawrence Dempsey, Janet Axelrod, Donna Kerrigan, Susan Nelson, Ronald Dempsey, Marie McNeely and Peter Dempsey. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Jane was predeceased by her parents James and Lucy Flynn, husband Patrick Eugene Dempsey, sister Annie Bowie, brothers Carl and Thomas Flynn, brother-in-law Holden Bowie, and sister-in-laws Mona and Geraldine Flynn.

After graduating from nursing school at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Chatham, NB, Jane married and gave her time to her faith, family, friends and neighbours. She also managed to play contract bridge at the level of a Silver Life Master. She laughed easily and lived life fully.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. John Fraser at 11:00 AM on July 16, 2015 at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church followed by burial in St. Margaret's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Margaret's Church or Cemetery Fund would be appreciated by the family.

Arrangements are under the care of Maher's Funeral Home, Miramichi, NB.

DEATH NOTICES



INNIS, MARGARET

The family of the late Margaret Innis (nee Scott), invite family and friends to a memorial mass and celebration of Margaret's life on July 18, 2015 at 11:00 am at St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, Bartibogue, NB. Reception to follow at the Father Morrissey Centre. We welcome all as we bring our Mother and Grandmother home.



VAUTOUR, CARMEL

The death of Carmel Mary Jane (Matchett) Vautour, wife of Joseph Vautour, of Williamstown and formerly of Red Bank, NB occurred at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on Saturday, July 4, 2015 at the age of 84. Born in Nelson, NB, Carmel was the daughter of the late Joseph and Melinda (MacDonald) Robichaud.

Carmel was a homemaker and her favorite hobbies were knitting and playing bingo.

Carmel is survived by eight daughters: Eileen Mutch (Karl) of Sunny Corner, NB, Linda Sherrard (Harvey) of Warwick Settlement, NB, Laura Duguay (Terry Collins) of Saint John, NB, Fern Hourie (Tony) of Calgary, AB, Kathleen Hallihan (Melvin) Warwick Settlement, NB, Elizabeth Thibodeau (Andre) of Red Bank, NB, Jennifer Morneau (Marc) of Halcomb, NB and Yvette Bouffard of Calgary, AB; four sons: Daniel Matchett (Anne) of Red Bank, NB, Douglas Matchett (Becky) of Cassilis, NB, John Matchett (Laurie) of Warwick Settlement, NB and Andrew Matchett of Calgary, AB; half-sisters: Sylvia White (Reggie) of Cassilis, NB and Laureen Kenny of Miramichi, NB; half-brothers: Clarence (Carol) of On, Roy of Calgary, AB and Edward of Renous, NB and 37 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carmel is predeceased by her parents, 1st husband: George B. Matchett; one sister Marcie; one brother: Bobby and two half-brothers: Sterling and Tommy.

Visitation was held at **Meadows Funeral Home** on Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9. Funeral Service will be held from Meadows Funeral Home Chapel, Sunny Corner on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 11 AM with Rev. Jerry Vander Veen officiating. Music was by organist: Rolla VanderVeen. Congregational Hymns: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace". Solo by André Thibodeau "Annie's Song". The eulogy was given by Laura Duguay. The Active Pallbearers were: Karl Mutch, Melvin Hallihan, Terry Collins, André Thibodeau, Mark Morneau and Gerald Robichaud. Burial followed in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Nelson Miramichi, NB.

In Carmel's memory a donation may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society of a memorial of one's choice.

Funeral arrangements were under care of Meadows Funeral Home, 150 Northwest Road, Sunny Corner, NB. Telephone: 622-3600.

DEATH NOTICES

MARTIN, DENNIS

Dennis Joseph Martin, 56, of Lobban Ave, Miramichi, passed away on Monday, June 22, 2015 at the Miramichi Regional Hospital. Born in Baie Sainte-Anne, NB the son of the late Lorneza (Sippley) and Léonce Martin.

Dennis Martin is survived by brothers and sisters; Lamond Martin (Gisele), Lucien Martin, Tim Martin (Blanche), Lynn Jardine (Kenny), Lucie McIntyre (Roger), Doretha Mullaly and Kenneth Martin (Janet), and several nieces and nephews.

Dennis Martin rested at the Salon Soeur Blandine-Martin Slumberoom in Baie Sainte-Anne on Thursday, June 25, 2015 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9, and on Friday June 26, 2015 from 9am until time of the funeral. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 11am from St Anne Roman Catholic Church with Fr Gilbert Levesque officiating. Active Pallbearers were Marc Sippley, Rick Sippley, Guy Sippley, Chris Jardine, Yvon Savoie and Kenny Jardine. Interment was in St Anne Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the care of **Maher's Funeral Home** Miramichi, NB. Telephone 773-4321.

CARDS OF THANKS



CROWELL, BARBARA ANN (MURDOCK) - The Family of the late Barbara (Murdock) Crowell would like to thank everyone who sent cards of sympathy and phone calls during our recent loss.

We would also like to thank all the doctors, nurses, LPNs, nutritionists and supervisors of the Miramichi Regional Hospital for their excellent dedication to their duties and their wonderful help in dealing with this difficult situation.

Thank you to Fr. Fowler for his sincere and kind words during the service. Also to the Readers, Pall Bearers, Honorary Pall Bearers and Honor Guard we thank you for your presence. The reception and food by the ladies of St. Mary's Church was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Northumberland Funeral Home. Your kindness and open friendliness will always be remembered.

Darrell and Tanya Crowell

KINGSTON - The family of late Margaret (Williston) Kingston would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for the love and support shown to them during their recent loss.

Thank you to Adams Funeral Home for their expert and professional service. Also to Rev. Robert Barrie for officiating the funeral service, organist Dawn Bell, and the Bay du Vin ACW for providing lunch.

To everyone who sent flowers, cards, food, and expressions of sympathy, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the nurses and staff at Howe Residence and Miramichi Senior Citizens Home for providing such wonderful care during her time there.

The family.

*Fear less,
hope more;
Whine less,
breathe more;
Talk less,
say more;
Hate less,
love more;
And all good things
are yours."*
-Swedish Proverb

CARDS OF THANKS

NOWLAN - We would like to thank all our family, friends and relatives for the love, support and compassion shown to us at the sudden loss of William's son, Andrew.

Thank you for the visits to our home and the funeral parlor, for the phone calls, the beautiful cards, with your words of comfort, the Masses, the plants and flowers, the abundance of food and donations to the Living Family Trust Fund, for Andy's children Seth and Reese.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity will forever be remembered. May God bless you abundantly. William (Dorothy), Tim (Amy), Margaret (Chris) and Kori.

Thank You

The family of the late Margaret Tozer wishes to extend a sincere thank you to all family and friends who have supported us in so many ways.

A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Vernon Tozer for making Mom's funeral service so special and personal.

Our sincere gratitude to the staff at Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home for providing Mom with such competent and loving care. Your dedication and kindness will always be remembered.

Thank you to Bell's and Meadow's Funeral Homes for your compassion and professionalism.

Hayward, Debbie and Byron and Families

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations going out to **Mary and Simon LeBouthillier** on their 60th wedding anniversary on July 11th.

Lots of Love, Happiness and Best Wishes from the girls and their families...

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."

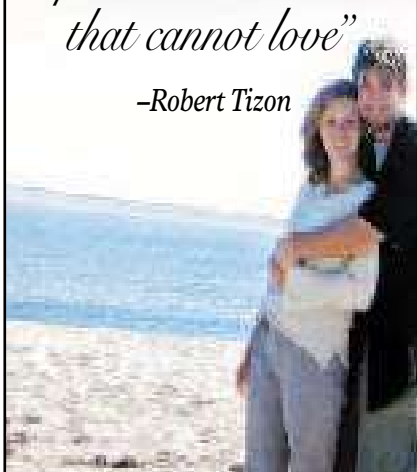
-Helen Keller

We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms--to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.
-Viktor E. Frankl



Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold.
-Zelda Fitzgerald

"I would rather have eyes that cannot see; ears that cannot hear; lips that cannot speak, than a heart that cannot love"
-Robert Tizon



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More than 18,000 recycling carts on the way for new program

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

More than 18,000 big blue carts are now on order, with members of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission recently voting to sign off on a \$1.3-million tender as the introduction of curbside recycling to the region draws near.

The commission's board of directors approved a motion to award the tender to Quebec's IPL Inc. during their monthly meeting for June, held in Barryville.

By the time all 18,705 of them arrive in the fall, the carts will form the backbone of the new Miramichi-wide recycling program that will be overseen by the RSC, the first of its kind of this region.

Carts will be provided to each and every household that falls within the commission's coverage area, which stretches from Escuminac and Burnt Church in the east all the way to Upper Miramichi in the west.

Wilson Bell, the executive director of the RSC, said the organization received two responses to the cart tender, with the IPL submission and that company's product best suiting the needs of the incoming program.

The 360-litre blue, wheeled carts have been used in other recycling programs elsewhere in New Brunswick and have garnered positive reviews, Bell said.

Bell said a funding request submitted to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board netted \$902,000 toward the purchase of the carts, with the remainder of the balance being siphoned from the commission's solid waste capital reserve fund.

A separate funding application, however, that was submitted to the federal government's Building Canada Fund was not approved.

Without that extra funding, Bell noted that means individual municipalities, and in the case of the region's local service districts, the provincial government, will be responsible for figuring out how they want to finance the use of the carts.

The structure will see the municipalities and local service districts invoiced by the service commission for the use of the carts for a five-year period, depending on the volume distributed.

In order to pay for them, Bell said municipalities are going to have to plan ahead and determine if allocating something like their federal gas tax funding to cover the balance makes sense.

Otherwise, it could simply be added as a line item in their respective budgets.

Commission chair Doug Munn, who is also the mayor of Upper Miramichi, said his community has already squirrelled away some funding for the purchase of the carts, valued at roughly \$65 apiece, and encouraged others to consider doing the same.

"As a municipality, we allocated some of our gas tax funds, that's what we've done," Munn said. "We've all had a chance to review the number of carts we need (so that makes it easier to project)."

The City of Miramichi, meanwhile, has not made any formal decisions about how it is planning to pay for its cart allocation.

Bell said he was informed by the manufacturer the carts are on track to be delivered sometime in August.

The curbside program, when it's introduced, will phase out the current system of residents transporting their recyclables to one of a handful of depots set up in different locations throughout the region.

The new program will mirror the one introduced in the Chaleur region recently.

The plan would see each household dumping their loose recyclables into their blue carts.

Items accepted at the curb will include metal cans, plastic containers, paper, milk cartons and other materials.

The biggest change for residents will see regular garbage pickups occurring just once every two weeks, with the alternate week reserved for the collection of recyclables.

Traditionally, any recyclable waste that residents didn't end up taking to any of the depot sites has ended up buried in the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, leaving the Miramichi region with some of the lowest waste diversion rates in the province.

The commission has said the introduction of the mandatory curbside program will provide a user-friendly way to bring Miramichi in line with other parts of New Brunswick.

By 2016, it is estimating the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate, while also reducing the amount being paid in tipping fees at the landfill.

Mayor says murderer has waived right to parole review

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Convicted serial killer Allan Legere has waived his right to a parole hearing that was tentatively scheduled to take place this fall, according to Miramichi Mayor Gerry Cormier.

In late May, Cormier used a televised council meeting as a means of encouraging the public to write letters of objection to the Parole Board of Canada after learning Legere had a hearing set up for October.

But Cormier, during Monday night's protective services committee meeting, informed city councillors the killer apparently backed out of that opportunity. Legere will next be eligible for a parole review in 2020, noted Cormier, who says he was able to verify the information through a credible source.

Legere is serving life sentences in connection with the slayings of five people during the mid-to-late 1980s.

The 66-year-old was already serving a life sentence at the maximum-security Atlantic Institution in Renous after murdering Black River shopkeeper John Glendenning in June 1986 and leaving the man's wife, Mary Glendenning, for dead following a brutal beating.

Nearly three years into that sentence, Legere deliberately injured himself and



Mayor Gerry Cormier said he has learned that convicted serial killer Allan Legere has waived his parole review that was set for October of this year.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

was transported to a hospital in Moncton for medical treatment. After convincing his two guards to let him use the washroom, Legere used a piece of antenna to pick the locks on his handcuffs and fled the hospital.

He forced a driver to take him to a wooded area, eventually making his way back to the Miramichi, where he would proceed to terrorize an entire region.

He committed four more murders

—killing 75-year-old Annie Flam of Chatham, sisters Linda and Donna Daughney of Newcastle, and Father James Smith of Chatham Head — before his eventual capture near South Nelson on Nov. 24, 1989.

Deputy Mayor John Foran, who was the deputy chief of the Chatham Police Force during the manhunt, expressed his relief that Legere would not be going before the parole board anytime soon.

“Obviously something has changed and obviously (people in this community) were proactive, so I just want to thank (the mayor) for bringing this forward,” Foran said.

This would have been Legere's first legislated parole review following his conviction in 1991. In Canada, even those sentenced to life in prison are still eligible for parole after 25 years of incarceration, which begins at the time of arrest.

Councillors credited the mayor and Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon for taking the lead on the issue.

O'Neill-Gordon went as far as raising it in the House of Commons back in June, which prompted a strong response from Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, who stressed the likelihood of Legere ever walking free again was extremely remote given the horrific nature of his crimes.

Councillors said it was important for the city to keep tabs on the situation.

“We have to stay proactive, he's in there five more years before his next (review) and the wheels are turning, so we just have to make sure we remain proactive in the future, that's all,” said Coun. Tony “Bucket” Walsh.

Coun. Peggy McLean, meanwhile, said that while it would be easy to accept the fact that Legere, like all other criminals, is entitled to be eligible for parole after a certain period of time and that, in all likelihood, he will never be granted his release, that doesn't mean the city should have to stay silent.

“My fear, and I'll say it publicly, is that sometimes when you just assume things and stay quiet, things slip under the radar,” she said. “So ... we have to stay on top of this.”

Legere was the first Canadian criminal to be convicted using DNA fingerprinting methods. He had been on the loose since May 3, 1989.

Up until earlier this year, he had been housed in Canada's most secure correctional facility, the Special Handling Unit located at Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Que.

Many in the community expressed outrage after it came to light in January that the killer had been transferred into the lesser maximum security Edmonton Institution in the Alberta capital.

Miramichi region mayors see dollar signs in Mount Carleton joint proposal

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

At first glance, one might not think that the Miramichi region has much of a stake in what goes on at Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

The highest point in New Brunswick at 817 metres (2,680 feet) is located quite a distance north and west of Miramichi city, surrounded by dense wilderness at the eastern edge of the ancient Appalachian Range, which stretches all the way from Georgia before terminating in New Brunswick.

By car, Mount Carleton is about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Miramichi. It's located off Route 180, commonly known as the Road to Resources, with the nearest service centre being the village of Saint-Quentin.

But when you look at Mount Carleton's positioning on the map, portions of the provincial park, including the mountain itself, actually falls within the boundaries of Northumberland County and, therefore, the Miramichi.

So after being approached by their neighbours in the Restigouche region about joining a new initiative aimed at promoting the Mount Carleton area as a more attractive tourism destination, representatives of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, the more they talked about it during a recent meeting, realized there could be some clear benefits, particularly for some of its more rural areas.

“There is a big bunch of money that goes into snowmobiling and ATVs now and I think last year it brought in about \$23 million in this province - and a lot of people go through Doaktown and



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is considering joining a new coalition aimed at further promoting Mount Carleton Provincial Park, shown, to

(Upper Miramichi) to head up that way,” said Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn, who chairs the RSC.

“So this is something we should look at, there's no doubt, it's a great partnership where we can all get along and share a resource and I think it's a positive thing for sure.”

Riders heading north can easily link up with the Mount Carleton area using Doaktown and Blackville as jumping-off points and Munn noted that, typically, those people spend money within the community before venturing out.

Although the use of motorized vehicles is limited inside the park, Munn pointed out that those who operate snowmobiles and ATVs, including himself, often ditch their vehicles nearby in order to explore the park on foot.

“I travel the area a lot and I find that most people who come into our area on ATVs or snowmobiles are very respectful of the environment,” he said. “But I think this is a very good idea because we need tourism dollars in these places and we have to find ways to get at that money.”

In terms of the joint project aimed at raising the profile of the New Brunswick

end of the Appalachian chain, the Miramichi RSC is being asked to appoint representatives to a steering committee that will help get the initiative off the ground.

The Appalachian Range Authority, as it would be known, would be overseen by representatives of the different service commissions that have a stake in the area, including the Miramichi, Restigouche and Chaleur organizations.

Munn and Wilson Bell, the executive director of the Miramichi RSC, attended a meeting on the subject in Campbellton back in June.

While both said it was a productive discussion worth considering further, not all members of the board were sold on the idea, including Blackville Mayor Andy Hawkes.

“I just can't see how getting more tourists to Mount Carleton is going to affect anybody here,” Hawkes said. “We're pretty far away from Mount Carleton.”

The steering committee is currently working with the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture and more details on the framework of the initiative should be forthcoming.

What's cooking for Sunny Corner Days?



Maddy Matchett was busy dishing out scrambled eggs at the community breakfast that was part of the annual Sunny Corner Days summer festival, held last Friday to Sunday in Sunny Corner. For more photos, see miramichileader.com.

PHOTO: GRACE TROWBRIDGE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Region sees sharp rise in demand for special recycling events

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The regional provider of solid waste collection services has apparently tapped into something when it comes to its wildly popular biannual household hazardous waste and e-waste collection events.

These special collections are held once in the spring and once in the fall, typically with a drop-off site set up in the city and one further upriver in Doaktown in order to give residents who live within the boundaries of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which oversees solid waste collection and recycling programming, a chance to attend.

And so they did, hundreds of them, in fact, according to the commission's executive director, Wilson Bell.

Deep lineups of cars and trucks hauling everything from old televisions, computers, printers and boxes of batteries joined the queue at depots positioned at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Miramichi and outside the Doaktown Fire Hall back on June 6 as staff and volunteers did their best to whip through it all.



Wilson Bell
PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Overall, tonnes upon tonnes of hazardous household waste, e-waste and batteries ended up being diverted from the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where the Miramichi region sent over 24,000 tonnes of trash to be buried last year alone.

Bell, however, noted during a recent RSC meeting in Barryville that the overwhelming success of these events is proof that Miramichiers will go to great lengths to do their part for the environment.

Due to the overwhelming success of the

last string of collections, Bell said the discussion now turns to whether or not the commission should be looking at hosting even more of them to try to meet the demand or perhaps examining something more permanent.

“The message that came out of those events was that this is very positive and, if anything, that we should be doing it more often and with longer hours,” he said. “The only thing about that is hopefully we can get some more help because four hours is a lot (given the amount of people we have) ... there was a lot of lifting and those four hours are quite busy.”

During the last collection, waste reduction co-ordinator Melanie Cripps noted that roughly 20 tonnes of electronics were gathered, which is basically double the amount of what has typically been witnessed.

Cripps said it was a long day for the people who volunteered their time to help unload cars and fill the dumpsters with all of that material, which also included over 500 pounds of batteries.

One possible solution that will be looked at in the future, Bell said, was for the commission to explore building a

standalone facility where residents could travel to drop off their household hazardous and e-waste items.

“We talked about the idea of developing a hybrid facility where people have year-round access, and I think the numbers speak for themselves because the demand is clearly out there,” he said.

“Every time we have an event, we're getting more and more material — there are a few areas around the province that have these type of year-round facilities, so we'll have a look at them but I think the time has probably come.”

A total of 406 vehicles came through the Miramichi collection site last month, while 61 turned up to the Doaktown event, including, according to Cripps, some who even drove all the way from Miramichi and points east after they were unable to attend the city collection.

In 2014 overall, the household hazardous and e-waste initiatives attracted just under 1,000 people.

Furthering its focus on recycling, meanwhile, the RSC will be rolling out the first curbside recycling program in the history of the Miramichi region sometime in the fall.

Items of special interest: Older

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opinion

Miramichi Leader

The Leader since 1906

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Awareness needed for new recycling approach

With more than 18,000 blue carts en route to Miramichi for local residents to use for their recyclables, the clock is running down on the switch to curbside recycling. This highlights the need for the accompanying public awareness campaign so that all residents are very much in the information loop with this significant environmental initiative.

With the planned changeover this fall to curbside recycling from the present depot set-up, everyone's going to have to get used to a new routine when it comes to putting out their garbage. Regular garbage collections will only be every two weeks, with the alternate week used to collect recyclables.

Just having to process one's recyclables for collection is a new way of doing things that Miramichi area residents have to be on board with, hence the need for a full-court press on getting out the message on what will be required and why for the long-term environmental benefits of the initiative.

Items that are going to be collected at the curb will include metal cans, plastic containers, paper and milk cartons.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission has a marketing campaign to avoid confusion, and to help with compliance - after all, with no compliance, this endeavour is all for naught. Not to mention that historically, Miramichi has had some of the lowest diversion rates in the province when it comes to the sheer volume of garbage residents are sending to the regional landfill at Red Pine in Allardville to be buried. And, of course, there is only so much room in landfills.

As we have said before, as a regional population, we are sending more than 3,000 metric-tonnes of garbage to the Red Pine landfill on an annual basis. Said garbage is then buried, with some materials breaking down over time and others simply remaining there forever.

One doesn't have to hold a bachelor of science degree to comprehend that this is hardly an environmentally unsustainable practice.

On the fiscal side of the equation, the change to curbside is going to save money in the big picture, too. According to the Miramichi Regional Service Commission's calculations, the savings will add up to \$80,000 annually. Right now, in terms of recyclables, everything is being trucked to Moncton. Under the new system, these recyclables will go Red Pine, which is closer, for sorting. There will be a further estimated \$50,000 in savings if a 20 per cent diversion rate can be achieved with the amount of waste that is kept out of the landfill and recycled and reduced tipping fees. (At the present time, our diversion rate is a dismal four per cent, which is unfortunate, disturbing and unnecessary.)

It's not complicated and in fact, is quite simple - not to mention residents will no longer have to drive to a blue bin site, everything will be done right outside one's door. And let's face it: this depot system is inconvenient, costly and, when everything is added up, hasn't really had much of an impact in terms of diversion rates.

Meanwhile, no need to worry about the admittedly confusing wet-dry program used in the Moncton area, which sees rejection stickers left at the curb if, heaven forbid, you have something organic accidentally mixed with a piece of cardboard. The Miramichi plan is going to mirror the already successful recycling program that was introduced in the Bathurst area and Chaleur region last year.

At the end of the day, perhaps we should all heed a maxim from yesteryear that was very popular with the environmental movement - remember, the planet you save may be your own.

What is government good at? Here's a Canadian answer

DONALD J. SAVOIE
COMMENTARY

President John F. Kennedy set a goal for the United States in 1961: land a man on the moon and bring him back safely to Earth by the end of the decade. President Barack Obama set a goal in 2008 and again in 2012 to reform the country's health-care system.

Mr. Kennedy promised the moon and delivered while Mr. Obama had to apologize in 2013 for flaws in implementing health-care reform.

It begs the question - what is government good at these days? The answer is an important ingredient to sound public policy, arguably the most important one. Yet, political debates and the literature have paid scant attention to it. Political ideology is, of course, an important guide in deciding what government should be doing, but it is of limited value in answering what government is good at.

The dominant political narrative in Anglo-American democracies over the past 30 years has been that

government is slow, inefficient and costly while the private sector is dynamic and efficient. The view is now widely held that the way to make an economy more dynamic is to get the government out of the way and let the private sector innovate and compete. Recent public-opinion surveys also reveal a sharp decline in the level of trust citizens have in their governments.

I argue that government is good at establishing the circumstances for economic success but much less so in managing economic success. One can trace all key components of the iPhone, iPod and iPad and the algorithm that led to Google's search engine to a government initiative. The same can be said about the Internet, solar cells and freeze-dried food. A government bureaucrat developed the Shepody potato, which transformed the frozen French fry industry and enabled McCain Foods to dominate the world market.

They are visionary investments and classic public goods in that the investment was designed to advance

knowledge with a long-time horizon, making it difficult to appropriate returns, thus the public-good argument. I cannot even begin to imagine that a government department could do what Apple, Google or McCain Foods have been able to accomplish in pursuing new markets, as well as producing and delivering products to consumers.

When it comes to managing operations, the Canadian government has lost ground. Contrary to the private sector and given the centralization of power around the Prime Minister, government managers have learned the art of delegating up rather than down. Too many decisions, including purely management ones, end up with the Prime Minister and his courtiers.

Government is now a big whale that can't swim, that can't keep up with the fast-changing global economy. It has too many management layers, too many oversight bodies and too many public servants generating performance reports that feed a fabricated bottom line that has no footing. The government is now also home to too many conflicting goals and has piled on too many activities on top of one another. In the process, it has lost sight of its core responsibilities, including managing effectively a regulatory regime that not only is able to set standards, but also to make sure that

they are respected, as Lac-Mégantic so clearly demonstrated. Notwithstanding high-profile program reviews, the government still relies on across-the-board cuts to control spending.

The courts now have a direct hand in not only shaping government policy, but also in deciding how they should be implemented. Judges are in the enviable position of being able to shape public policy without being concerned about cost or the finer points of program implementation. Politicians and public servants are left to deal with the more difficult and unpopular aspects of public policy: Finding the necessary funding and actually delivering programs and services in a sea of oversight bodies and constraints.

Government operations are also tied to a human-resources approach that is hopelessly past its best-by date. Public-sector unions are inhibiting change at a time when other organizations change or fall behind. Some 75 per cent of public-sector employees in Canada belong to a union compared with only 17 per cent for private-sector employees. Among other things, government managers and unions need to explain why, on average, fewer than 100 employees are dismissed for incompetence every year from a work force of about 260,000 employees in the government of Canada.

Leaving aside the Prime Minister

and a handful of advisers, no one is in charge in government. Problems that are of no interest to them or the courts simply roll on through one consultative process after another. The government is truly at a crossroads. It needs to overhaul its approach to shaping policy and delivering programs and services or run the risk of becoming increasingly irrelevant, thus losing the ability to promote visionary investments.

Unless our political and administrative institutions are able to perform at a higher level, voter turnout will continue to decline. How change can be achieved should be a matter of national debate, and a looming election campaign provides such an opportunity. More to the point, if government cannot learn to row better, it will not enjoy the support needed to steer the ship of state and create the necessary circumstances for economic success.

Donald J. Savoie holds the Canada Research Chair in Public Administration and Governance at l'Université de Moncton. He has advised both federal and provincial governments and authored more than 40 books. His latest book, *What is Government Good At? A Canadian Answer* will be published this summer by McGill Queen's University Press. This excerpt from that book first appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

SHEDDING PROBLEM

GREG PERRY



Fixing overtaxed, anti-growth New Brunswick

JOHN WILLIAMSON
COMMENTARY

Just how bad will things get in New Brunswick before the province abandons the illusion of government-led growth strategies and its associated high taxes, which at best produces only lacklustre economic results?

A better path for our province is to adopt the policy reforms successfully employed in other Canadian jurisdictions to fuel private sector job creation. And we know good paying jobs are being created elsewhere because far too many New Brunswick workers are leaving home to work in pro-growth provinces.

In June, Statistics Canada issued a report on population shifts that should trigger an overdue course correction in the provincial government. The news is downright alarming: New Brunswick's already falling population accelerated rapidly in 2015.

The country's statistical agency found that over the past three years our total population declined by 3,500 people. In contrast, Canada's population increased by a million. We all know the last three years were dire for New Brunswick's population, but the latest drop was even worse. It was our province's largest fall since 1980. We lost 941 more people in the first three months of 2015, which, as the CBC reported, "is not only the biggest decline in the country, but the worst quarter the province has recorded in 35 years." We find ourselves in a worse spot relative to all other provinces.

We have the ability to arrest and reverse our population slump with the choices we make as a province. The ongoing decline in our population and economic fortune is the result of public policy choices made by lawmakers in Fredericton. Today the New Brunswick government is making the wrong

decisions.

One reason for the sudden spike of people leaving is the highly publicized natural gas moratorium. Ordinary workers instinctively understand what this "closed for business" policy means for them and their families, which is less work and lost opportunity. Many travel across Canada to do so. They are moving to provinces that are developing resources and creating jobs while keeping taxes low and providing good social programs. We could do the same here.

As a province, we need to answer three questions regarding development. First, do we want to create natural resource jobs in New Brunswick? Second, are there sufficient amounts of natural gas in our province? And third, can it be removed safely? If the answer to these questions is yes we should take action while protecting our natural environment. It can be done for it has been done safely elsewhere in Canada.

We can, of course, reject natural gas but there are serious consequences to saying no. They include fewer high paying jobs and less economic growth in New Brunswick. It means higher overall unemployment: New Brunswick's unemployment jumped to 10.8 per cent in June, as 3,500 jobs were lost last month. Most worrisome for our future prosperity is more young people moving to find work elsewhere, which will empty families from our municipalities and rural areas. Those taxpayers that remain will pay more provincial tax and government services will be cut. This is the course Premier Brian Gallant and his MLAs have set us on.

Other contributing factors to the ongoing population decline are failed provincial policies, like a heavy bureaucracy, ever-higher taxes and bad policy choices. Consider the cavalier attitude a previous Liberal government took when it

overruled public servants and handed out tens of millions of tax dollars to Atcon. Atcon soon after declared bankruptcy and six cabinet ministers that approved the reckless loan today sit in the Gallant government. They are unapologetic to taxpayers.

Let's also not forget New Brunswick now has the highest personal income tax rate in North America. This will slow investment and hurt job creation, which means less opportunity for workers. Like the gas moratorium, it is another harmful decision made by the legislature in Fredericton.

Raising taxes again is the wrong path if the objective is growth and jobs. Raising the HST will cause more people and businesses to leave or close. Our already high levels of tax are a root cause of both our population and economic stagnation.

New Brunswick's bargain of high taxes and government meddling has delivered a province that is now overtaxed, not growing economically and has a falling population. High taxes have hollowed out the provincial economy. The result is that we live in an economy that is no longer large enough to support our population. After six years of zero job growth in New Brunswick it is time to end the drumbeat of provincial tax increases on businesses, families, seniors, and individuals.

The provincial government could restore some confidence and improve the province's outlook by publicly stating no other taxes will be increased. Lifting the natural gas moratorium and developing a responsible resource development policy would signal we're open for business and job creation.

John Williamson is the Conservative member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest.

Miramichi Leader

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MONDAY

August 31, 2015

First pickup for curbside recycling in Miramichi is Oct. 19

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Miramichi city officials are welcoming with open arms the arrival of curbside recycling this fall.

City council unanimously approved a motion during its regular monthly meeting on Thursday to confirm their participation in the new region-wide program being overseen by the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission.

In a presentation to council earlier in the evening Melanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator with the service commission's solid waste services arm, said residents throughout the Miramichi region can expect to be recycling at the curb effective Oct. 19.

"There is little doubt that, from a financial perspective, curbside recycling in Miramichi is not only viable but would, over time, be expected to generate substantial savings to the city," city manager Mike Noel noted in a management report.

"This fact, combined with the reality that in many Canadian communities, curbside recycling accepted as the norm, warranted alone by its positive impact on the environment leads (me) to have no doubt concluding that it is in the best interest of the city to adopt (the program)."

The program will phase out the current system of blue bin depot sites that have been set up at different locations throughout the area with limited success for several years.

Cripps said the new program will provide a user-friendly way to bring Miramichi in line with the routine waste management practices taking place elsewhere in New Brunswick.

She said individual households will over the next few weeks be provided with detailed information about how the program works and what they are responsible for in order to help ensure a smooth transition.

PLEASE SEE → CURBSIDE, A2

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City in talks to host 2016 air show

Atlantic Canada International Air Show drew about 10,000 people to Miramichi two years ago

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Officials with the Atlantic Canada International Air Show apparently feel they have a winner on their hands with

the city of Miramichi.

Now two years removed from the city's successful turn in hosting one of Canada's top air shows, an event that attracted close to 10,000 people to the tarmac at the Miramichi Airport, the city is being encouraged to host the event again next summer.

Miramichi City Council, during its regular monthly meeting held Thursday night, were notified that air show was interested in bringing the event back to the city in 2016 and were looking to gauge the city's interest in doing it all again.

Considering the 2013 air show generated about \$2.5 million in direct economic spinoff and contributed to what was arguably the biggest summer tourism season on record that year, very little arm-twisting was required.

Council, predictably and enthusiastically, voted in favour of entering into negotiations with air show organizers to formally begin the process of hosting the next one less than a year from now.

"Last time we hosted this it was a great success for us," said Jeff MacTavish, the city's acting director of

economic development and tourism.

"I'm very pleased to bring this recommendation forward to council for their consideration."

There really wasn't much to consider on council's end, with many noting the numbers speak for themselves.

Since taking its show to Miramichi, the Halifax-based group has organized other successful events at the Greater Moncton International Airport in Dieppe in 2014 and in Slemmon Park near Summerside, Prince Edward

PLEASE SEE → AIR, A2

Fire breaks out in St. Andrews Street home



Members of the Miramichi Fire Department battling a house fire on St. Andrews Street in the Chatham end of the city on Thursday afternoon. No one was home at the time, and firefighters prevented the flames from spreading to neighbouring residences. See inside for story and more photos. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Student gained new global perspective from Rotary trip to India

JULIA LOVETT
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A trip to a faraway country like India is an experience many people dream of but for one Miramichi Valley High School student, that dream became a reality.

Sixteen-year-old Danielle Davies just returned from a life-changing trip to India to take part in a Free the Children mission. She said that she first heard about the program through her school's Rotary Club.

"They have taken part in certain events put on by Free the Children to help raise awareness and some funds for certain global issues," said Davies, who will be going into Grade 11 this September and is the daughter of Todd and Lisa Davies.

Davies explained that she got involved in this trip, which was sponsored by Potash Corp and Free the Children, through another student who had previously taken part in a trip put on by the not for profit organization, which has its Canadian base in Toronto.

"He came back and given us some information about his trip and ... it was one of those things I just realized I had to do. It was just such an amazing opportunity for someone like me," she said.

Davies explained that she has

always felt the need to do something important with her life and this was the perfect opportunity to do so. She said in order to be considered, she had to apply online and write an essay about why she wanted to go.

"I just had to explain why I felt passionate about these issues and what I felt I could bring to the table," she said.

The issues she is referring to are poverty, exploitation and a lack of education. The charity's story is as inspiring as one might expect. In 1995, a 12-year-old boy in Thornhill, Ont., named Craig Kielburger, read a story in the Toronto Star about a boy from South Asia. According to the Free the Children website, Iqbal Masih was sold into slavery at the age of four and was forced to work a loom to make carpets and rugs. Masih died at the age of 12 after he garnered some media attention for speaking out against child-slavery.

The boy's story moved Kielburger to do something and he along with a group of his classmates decided to raise awareness about Masih's struggle and the charity has been going since. The charity, according to the website, is now a viable organization that works in 45 different countries and has locations in Toronto, Vancouver,

PLEASE SEE → TRIP, A2



Danielle Davies carries a jug on her head in India during her trip to help with the charity Free the Children. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

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Large crowds came to the Miramichi Airport for the Atlantic Canada International Air Show in August, 2013. The city has expressed interest in hosting the event again in 2016. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Municipality committed \$58,000 to secure 2013 event

AIR → A1

Island earlier this month. Air show executive director Colin Stephenson previously stated that his organization ideally wanted to see the event rotating between a New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island venue on an annual basis. But since it has been unable to lock down a viable Nova Scotia location, MacTavish said the group came knocking on Miramichi's door a year earlier than expected. The 2013 Miramichi event was the first air show, for a city that used to host them routinely, in over 20 years. Although the two-day gate total of 10,000 spectators, roughly half of whom were from outside the Miramichi area, was generally regarded as a success, the numbers still fell about 5,000 short of the initial attendance goals that were set heading into the air show. Still organizers, volunteers and attendees, despite a few parking headaches, came away from the event with rave reviews and city representatives, in particular, expressed a strong desire to land the event again a few years down the road. It looks like they will be getting that opportunity, with councillors on

Thursday saying they were confident the event would be even bigger and better the next time around. A total of 92.5 per cent of the participants in a survey conducted during the 2013 air show said they would return to another one if the city was to host it again. The event featured modern and vintage jet performances, along with aerobatic acts, standing displays and other exhibits, including the return of one of the symbols of the Miramichi from its air force days, with the Hawk One F-86 Sabre of Golden Hawks fame generating plenty of nostalgia. The nimble aircraft was the model utilized by the Royal Canadian Air Force Golden Hawks aerobatics team, with the aircraft itself becoming a symbol of Miramichi's heyday in aviation when the Sabres were garrisoned at the former Canadian Forces Base Chatham during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The municipality committed \$58,000 to help secure the 2013 event, with the federal and provincial governments combining for \$70,000. No financial commitments were made by council during the meeting. The motion that was approved simply allows the city to enter into talks with the show's organizers about what

kind of financial and legal obligations it would need to undertake in order to host it. In his report to council, MacTavish noted that Miramichi is central to thousands of air show fans who travel from all over the Maritimes to take them in. He added that hosting this event on a semi-regular basis would further develop the city's profile, and would provide greater exposure for the Miramichi Airport and what it has to offer. Most of the risk is put on the air show committee, which organizes the entire show, but typically requires in-kind services from the host community and access to a pool of volunteers. Councillor Joan Cripps said she personally thinks it's a good idea for the city to continue to stay involved with the air show moving forward. She said the event had an impact on multiple levels the last time it was here. "I contacted over 200 veterans in 2013 to make sure they got to the air show and it was a special place for them," Cripps said. "They were very, very happy and some of them had been here at the air force base before, and they had a great day at the air show and it was very well worth it."

25 teens selected for voyage

TRIP → A1

Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and London. According to Davies, she had filled out the application months ago before finding out she was selected to be a part of a group of 25 teens from across North America. "Just getting selected alone, I mean, you just feel honoured," she said. "It's one of those things where you feel like there's so many more people out there ... just have so much more qualifications," she added. Davies said knowing that people could see her passion and drive gave her the courage to know that she could make a difference. "One of the amazing things about it was whenever you went there you met so many amazing people like yourself who all shared that same passion and you realize that you're not just some exception to the rest of society," she said. Davies said when she and her group were in Kalthana, in rural India, they met Kielburger who just happened to be there with a different group. "We had a couple of opportunities to really hang out and just have a few discussions with him," she said. "Just hearing him tell his story and realizing how he was at such a young age when he was able to do all of this. It's really encouraging to us." It was during her trip, that she learned her purpose. She was educated by the local farmers who explained that they have poor crops due to water scarcity and

what they do manage to grow doesn't go to the market for sale but to their family for survival. She also learned about the education system and helped dig trenches that would be used as a foundation for a wall. The wall would be used as a border around the school and as part of a vegetable garden. Of her many memorable moments, Davies recalled a profound moment when a woman from the community taught her and some of her group to fetch water from a well by using jugs and tie them on their heads. She said she and the groups walked for about a kilometre to get the water and then struggled with walking back. "It was definitely an experience, struggling to keep this one half-filled pot of water on our heads as walked back to her house. Then there's girls half our age laughing at us because to them, this task is so second nature, they've been doing it all their lives," she said. "Just seeing the contrast between their lives and our lives was just completely humbling. I mean there's no real way to compare the two." The group, who were overseas from July 20 to Aug. 2, were made up of youth between the ages of 13 to 19 and Davies said her perspective of the world has been changed. She noted that people's happiness and joy in India does not come from how many likes their latest picture has received on social media, for example. "Over there, the happiness is just pure from laughter and smiles," she said. "Just by running around and having fun."



The 2015 India participants surround founder, Craig Kielburger, centre, for a group photo. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Recycling hotline to be set up for anyone with questions or concerns, says co-ordinator

CURBSIDE → A1

"An information package is going to be inserted inside the cart and it will contain a reusable bag, an introduction letter, a listing of public information sessions, a recycling guide, a quick reference guide and a 2016 calendar," Cripps said. "There is also going to be an extensive media campaign that will start heading into the launch and into the new year - there will be detailed information about what is accepted and what isn't accepted in the program." Effectively, it is going to work like this. Every single residence stretching from Upper Miramichi east to Escuminac and the Burnt Church area are going to receive a 360 litre blue cart that will be reserved specifically for their recyclables. The most noticeable change with the introduction of the new program will see collections for recyclables and regular waste occurring on alternating weeks. That means that people will be responsible for wheeling out their blue cart to the curb with their recyclable material loose inside one week and will send the rest of their trash out as normal every other week. The list of approved recyclables is extensive. It includes several types of plastics, including jars and containers, shampoo bottles, detergent bottles, milk jugs and yogurt containers to name a few, as well as paper products including newspaper, wrapping paper, tissue paper, magazines, flyers, envelopes and coloured paper. Cardboard and boxboard are acceptable, as are certain metal products like



Melanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, explains the new curbside recycling program to Miramichi City Council on Thursday, Aug. 27. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

food and beverage cans, pie plates, aluminum foil and small caps, tops and lids. Cripps noted that residents are responsible for ensuring anything that goes into the bin should be cleaned or rinsed and dried, and, if possible, should be crushed or flattened as well. Examples of items that will be rejected include things like plastic bags such as grocery bags, bread bags and ziplock bags, as well as styrofoam, glass, ceramic or porcelain, aerosol cans and any soiled items. For anybody with questions or concerns, she said the commission would be setting up a recycling hotline in time

for the launch. The number for that is 778-CART (2278) or toll-free 1-844-307-2278. More information can also be found online at greatermiramichirsc.ca. Earlier this summer the RSC placed an order for 18,705 carts that will be distributed throughout the region. Miramichi will receive a total of 7,117 carts at \$71.50 apiece with the service commission agreeing to subsidize the cost of 2,511 of that amount. That leaves the city on the hook for the remaining \$329,329 balance of the cost of the order, which will be paid out over the next five years. Any additional carts that may be

required will be the responsibility of the city to purchase directly from the manufacturer. No formal decisions have been made at the municipal level about how the city intends to pay for the cart distribution. Public works director Jay Shanahan said that his crews will be delivering every single cart directly to people's homes in advance of the launch. He said the distribution will likely begin the week of Sept. 14 and will likely take upwards of 25 days to complete. "We'll actually drop the blue carts at your doorstep," Shanahan said. "We want to make sure people are aware of that." Each cart will be marked with a unique identification number registered to each household for record-keeping purposes. He said the rotation in the city will see recyclables being collected on the north side of the Miramichi River one and garbage being picked up on the south side of the river one week, with that schedule alternating each week. The initial week of the program in October will begin with north side households, which stretches from Newcastle in the west to the Millbank-Lower Newcastle area in the east, putting out their blue carts while residences in an area spanning from Loggieville through to Nelson will send out their garbage as normal. By 2016, it is estimating the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate, while also reducing the amount being paid in tipping fees

at the landfill. "Cost is a big thing, and if we can get this program up and running and get a significant amount diverted through recycling, it's quite a comparison," Shanahan said. "It's \$54 a tonne (in tipping fees) for recyclables and it's \$72.80 for garbage." At present, Miramichi area households send all of their garbage indiscriminately to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville to be buried. The depot program introduced several years ago that encouraged residents to transport their recyclable material to a series of drop-off zones has barely put a dent in landfill diversion rates. Overall, 24,015 tonnes of trash was trucked to the landfill last year. Councillors, meanwhile, said they were excited to be adopting a program that was long past-due. Councillor Adam Lordon was particularly pleased to see it pass considering his late mother, former councillor Nancy Lordon, was involved with the former Northumberland Solid Waste Commission that help develop some of the initial framework behind the program. "I think the City of Miramichi is stepping up to the plate and doing our part to fight climate change," Lordon said. "I know mom, along with Marie (LeBlanc) and Melanie Cripps put in countless hours over there helping to prepare this program, fight for it and try to get it launched." The villages of Doaktown and Blackville, along with the rural community of Upper Miramichi and local service districts that fall within the bounds of the Miramichi RSC will be rolling out the program at roughly the same time.

Miramichi Leader

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

FRIDAY

September 18, 2015

Napan parents make one last plea before school decision

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

NAPAN • More than 130 people crammed into the Napan Elementary School auditorium to plead their case for keeping the school open on Tuesday evening in front of members of the district education council.

One by one, former students and parents went up to the microphone and spoke highly of the school and what kind of an impact Napan Elementary School not only had on them, but on the community itself.

"I think the presentations spoke volumes of our community and I'm overwhelmed with the support of those who showed up," said Melanie Gilliss-Buckley, who chairs the parent school support committee. "The DEC members seemed to really appreciate and were into the presentations and concerned as much as we are."

The decision will be announced on Monday, Sept. 21, at the regular Anglophone North School District education council meeting, which is set to take place at Janeville Elementary School, just outside of Bathurst. There will be a webcast set up and the meeting will be streamed at the Napan school, located at 225 South Napan Rd.

"We were promised that they would be completely unbiased when they came into the meeting on Tuesday," Gilliss-Buckley said. "We have to trust that that's the truth and we have to do the best thing for our community and keep our school."

Those in attendance at Tuesday's meeting spoke of the small classes enabling children to learn better by having more time with the teachers, how community events at the school like Christmas plays, Remembrance Day Ceremonies and other events brought the people of Napan together and how the rural surroundings of the area gives them a sense of pride and identity.

The options are to keep the school open or the close the school down once the new K-5 school opens in 2017, and bus the kids from Napan and

surrounding areas there instead.

Gilliss-Buckley wasn't surprised to see so many people there and actually felt overjoyed.

"I knew the support was there and if people were able to get off work or to have a babysitter, they would be there," she said.

Mary Lou Barry, who was head of the parent school support committee, when the school was under review in 2011, gave an argument to keep the school open.

Since 2002, enrolment at Napan Elementary School has remained consistent, ranging between 68 and 59 students during that period.

The trigger for a school closure was less than 100 students or less than 30 per cent enrolment.

Napan met the trigger with 57 students enrolled in 2014-2015 and have 59 students enrolled for the 2015-2016 school year. The school has the capacity to hold 120 students and opened in 1962.

Thirty-eight students from St. Margaret's and other areas along Route 11 are bused into Ian Baillie Primary School and St. Andrew's Elementary School, instead of going to the school in Napan.

"Any enhancement to the catchment area for Napan Elementary would be a benefit to our community and a benefit to the district and the province," Gilliss-Buckley said.

Gilliss-Buckley said none of the 151 improvements under the outstanding capital improvement project set by the district are not classified as priority or outstanding for Napan.

The highest ranked improvement project the school has is and upgrade to the septic system and ranked 37 on the list, the instalment of a new ventilation system is 47, installing new electrical panels and upgrades is 57, upgrade to interior lighting is 63, exterior ramp is 65, instillation of a lift is 117, replacing all combustible material with fire rated material is 89 and upgrades to the

PLEASE SEE → PLEA, A2

Dawn of a new era of recycling



Thousands of blue bins will soon be delivered throughout Miramichi in advance of the introduction of mandatory curbside recycling. The program, which is delivered by the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, is expected to get underway Oct. 19.

PHOTO: BRIAN RICHARD

Chamber set to organize Q-and-A sessions with federal candidates in advance of election

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

With the federal election campaign hovering around the midway point and signs the general public are beginning to get engaged, officials with the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce are set to facilitate some pre-election discourse over the next few weeks.

Chamber president Jason Harris confirmed on Wednesday that his organization has lined up individual luncheons and question-and-answer sessions with three of the four candidates taking part in the race for Miramichi-Grand Lake.

Conservative incumbent Tilly O'Neill-Gordon is first up, slotted in for Tuesday, Sept. 29, with Liberal candidate Pat Finnigan taking part on Monday, Oct. 5 and NDP candidate Patrick Colford rounding things out on Friday, Oct. 9.

Each of the luncheons will take place at the Goodie Shop Restaurant from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. with a lunch buffet included.

The cost to attend is \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

"The chamber always wants to make



Miramichi Chamber of Commerce president Jason Harris, shown, confirmed the organization will be hosting question and answer sessions with three of the four federal candidates in Miramichi-Grand Lake beginning next week. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

sure the business community gets their questions answered," Harris said. "This year in Miramichi, we're seeing a lot of economic development in this area, things are booming across the city, people are working, so we want to make sure our business community gets to ask our

candidates about what their plans are to ensure that continues."

The chamber has typically been heavily involved in the political process over the last few years.

It has brought in lunch guests ranging from premiers to business leaders and just last fall it went out of its way to take the lead in organizing a massive candidates' debate in advance of the 2014 provincial election.

That event attracted hundreds of spectators and although Harris said there was some consideration given to the idea of doing something similar with the current campaign, he said the membership wanted to keep things a little more low-key this time around.

The previous debate, though well attended, posed some challenges for the moderators as hecklers in the crowd a times drowned out the responses of some of the candidates who took part.

"We found that during the provincial debate we didn't really control it properly, there were a lot of questions coming from

PLEASE SEE → CHAMBER, A2

Solid list of speakers in place for Saturday town hall, organizers say



Unionized workers from Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home and the Miramichi Senior Citizens Home and their families joined in on a protest march and town hall rally on Aug. 8. Another meeting is set for Saturday.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Organizers of this weekend's public town hall meeting on job creation and government accountability are optimistic the event will add more fuel to their efforts to draw attention to some of the economic hardships being felt in the Miramichi region right now.

Members of the Miramichi River in Crisis committee say they are all set for the 1 p.m. session taking place at the French Fort Cove Eco-Centre on Saturday.

This event will piggyback off a similar town hall-style forum held back on Aug. 8 that saw hundreds of people

turn out to listen to the experiences of Miramichiers who are either already out of work or whose jobs are currently being threatened.

The River in Crisis group has directly blamed the provincial government, in particular, for its role in local files such as the ongoing Miramichi Lumber Products situation and the issues taking place at Hebert's Recycling.

Much of the previous event saw presenters, which included Opposition MLAs, representatives of the New Brunswick NDP, Green party and People's Alliance, representatives of Miramichi Lumber, Hebert's Recycling

PLEASE SEE → MEETING, A2

Inside

Election Green party candidate Matthew Clark running in riding of Miramichi-Grand Lake **A7**

Hockey One of city's high school hockey teams has a new coach, but he's a familiar face **B1**

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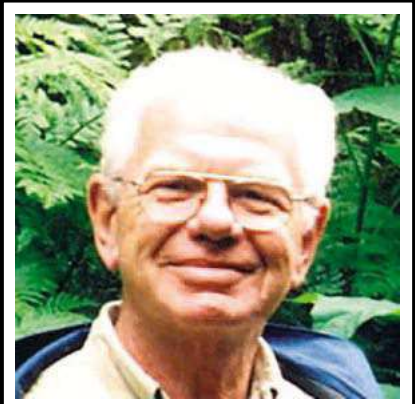
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milestones

DEATH NOTICES



BOSTON, JOHN
June 9, 1935 - August 19, 2015
John passed away in North Vancouver after a long, interesting life and two-year struggle with cancer. Born in England, he immigrated to Canada for its natural splendor and social openness.

John loved great classical music and average homemade wine. He swung hammers and rackets, drove slow moving cattle and high speed drills. John served the Canadian Armed Forces, First Nations villages, Community Health and Corrections as a dentist. John and his family enjoyed their time in the Miramichi and John contributed to the community in the areas that he loved, namely the arts, music, skiing and sailing. Family and friends will miss his curiosity, kindness, optimism and witticism.

He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife Marilyn, his sons Adrian (Flora) and Alex (Denise), and his grandchildren, Kenson, Mia and Aiden. He is survived by his brother David (Catharine) in England.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, October 17, 2 PM, Boal Memorial Chapel, 1505 Lillooet Rd, North Vancouver.

In lieu of flowers, you may like to donate to John's favorite international charity, Doctors Without Borders, or the Lions Gate Foundation - Home and Community Care - Palliative Education.

NUGENT, ANNE T.
Anne T. Nugent born in Millbank, New Brunswick on October 1st, 1928 to the late William and Christie Nugent. It is with great sadness that her family announces her passing on Thursday, September 17th, 2015.

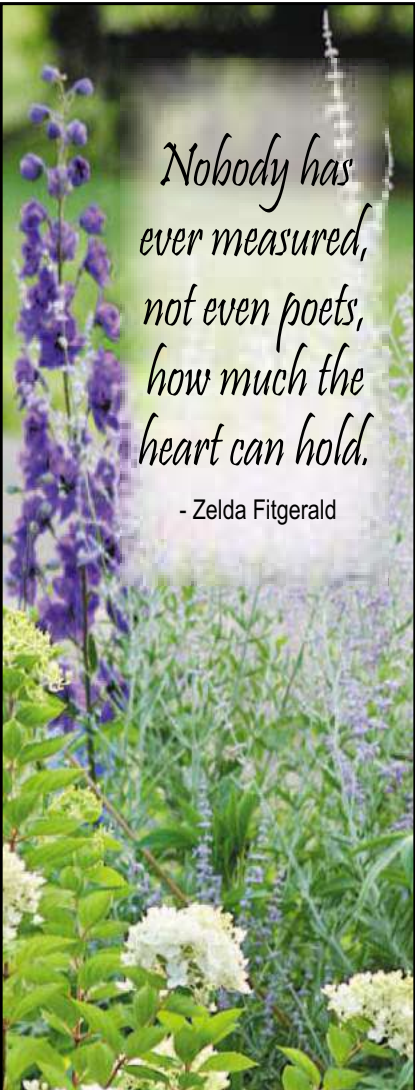
Anne spent her career as a secretary for the University of New Brunswick, St. Patrick's University as well as Carleton University.

Dear sister of the late Katherine, Jack, Mary and Reverend William. Loving aunt to John Nugent and to Sharon Holmes and her husband Bruce. Beloved great-aunt to Jordan and his son Aidan.

Funeral to be held at All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Millbank, NB on Saturday, September 26 at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Shepherds of Good Hope, The Ottawa Hospital Foundation or a charity of choice are appreciated.

Condolences and sharing memories at www.kellyfh.ca.



CARDS OF THANKS

TAYLOR - A very Special Lady "Ruby Taylor" would have been overwhelmed by all the love and support given towards her family at the time of her passing. We would like to show our most appreciation thanks to those who showed this love and support by tendency to Ruby's wishes with donations to the I.W.K, Pine Grove Cemetery, and others made by individuals of their choice.

Thanks to those who brought food to our homes, made phone calls and just simple drop in to say Hi. To those who took part in her funeral service, those who drove from out of town to be with us and helped celebrate a life well lived. To the Miramichi Senior Home Administration and Staff. The many residents who became Ruby's home away from home. Thank you for the love and support given to Ruby and to us as a family was Excellent. To Carmel Church Congregational Members and U.C.W who prepared and delivered the food to Ruby's home for the reception following the Funeral, we thank you.

Ruby's death was celebrated on that evening just as her life would have been with music, singing and dancing which was a regular occurrence at the Taylor Household. Special Thanks to Adam's Funeral Home for their dedication and professionalism shown to us as a family. To all who visited the funeral home and the funeral service, we thank you. To the pallbearers both active and honorary, a note of thanks. Our final thoughts of Ruby, " God has her in his keeping, But we have her in our heart "

The Taylor Family

MEMORIAMS



ADAMS - Eric Adams, who passed away September 24, 2003 at the age of 25.

Fondly loved and deeply mourned, Heart of my heart, I miss you so; Often my darling the tears will flow; Dimming your picture where'er I go; 'Tis sad but true, I will abide Until some day we'll be side by side.

Love Mom



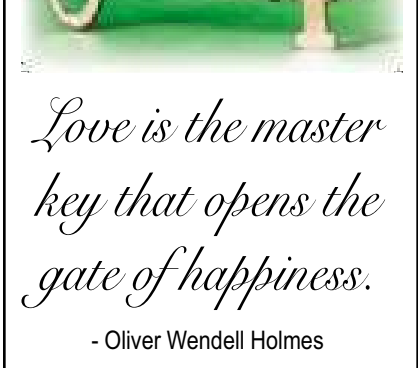
Keith Keating
In loving memory of Keith Keating who passed away September 25, 2010.

Treasured memories keep you near As time unfolds another year No need for words except to say Still loved, still missed everyday, Always loved and sadly missed by Mom, Carola, Terry, Jackie and Kevin

KEVIN MACKENZIE
A tribute of love and remembrance for our son and brother Kevin, who died tragically September 25, 1997.
Alton, Judy & Tricia

LYNCH, LOUIS
September 24, 2014
One year has passed without you, You're thought of every day. We love you and we miss you, That you're at peace, we pray

Forever in our hearts...
Love Doris and Family



MEMORIAMS

SCOTT, CLAYTON BERNARD:
Sept. 24, 1932 -Sept. 27, 2014.
God Took Him To His Loving Home. God saw him getting tired, a cure was not to be. He wrapped him in his loving arms and whispered "Come with me". He suffered much in silence, his spirit did not bend. He faced his pain with courage, until the very end. He tried so hard to stay with us but his fight was not in vain. God took him to His Loving Home and freed him from the pain.
Beryl & Rick, Debbie & Brian, and Families.

CELEBRATIONS

Our ANNIVERSARY
Carmel & Eddie MacDonald
50th Wedding Anniversary for Carmel and Eddie MacDonald at Black River Hall, Saturday October 3rd, Meet and Greet from 7:00pm - 9:00pm and Dance from 9 to 12 Stop in and say Hello.

HAPPY ADS FOR TODAY

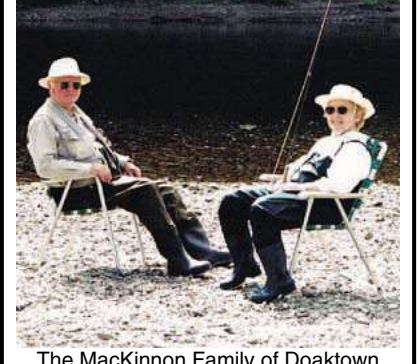
Happy Birthday



Happy 100th Birthday.

Happy Birthday to Wilma (Burke) Moar on her 100th Birthday. Open house at F.P Loggie Hall. 4410 Water St. Loggieville on Saturday September 26, from 2pm to 5pm
Best Wishes Only. Please.

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY!



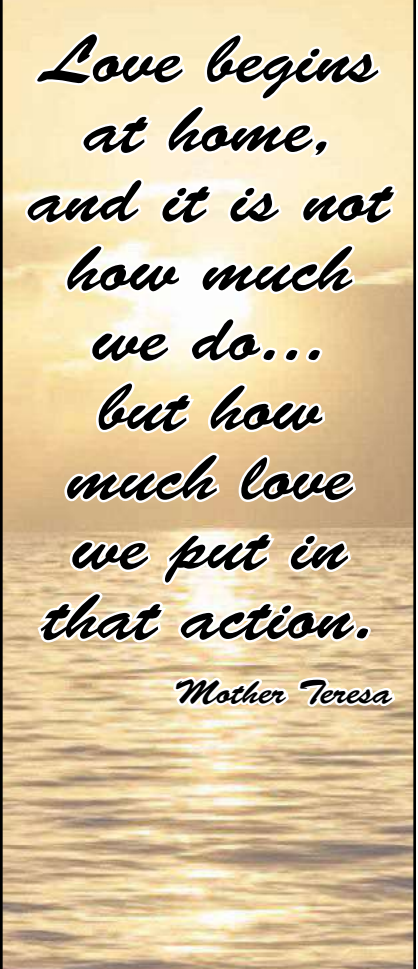
The MacKinnon Family of Doaktown invites you to join us in celebrating the 90th birthdays of **Bill (26 October)** and **Audrey (30 October)** at the Atlantic Salmon Museum (River Room) on Sunday, October 4, 2015 from 2-4 PM.
Best Wishes Only!
(donations to the Atlantic Salmon Museum are always appreciated)

APPRECIATIONS

The entire learning community of Greta Green would like to thank Miramichi Big Brothers Big Sisters for their support of our school breakfast program. Your generosity is appreciated by many!

PRAYERS

Thank you to Saint Jude for favours received. K.D.



news

Miramichi goes blue



From left are Greg Richard and Jimmy Jenkins, staff with the Miramichi public works department, as they unload a recycling bin for residents in the Loggieville area on Wednesday morning. The mandatory curbside recycling program, which is being delivered by the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, is expected to get underway Oct. 19. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Six-time drunk driver nets eight-month jail term

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A Fredericton man now with six impaired driving convictions was sentenced to eight months in jail for being behind the wheel at a time when he was described as being grossly impaired and belligerently drunk.

Reginald Arthur McCoy, 67, was in Miramichi provincial court on Wednesday before Judge Geri Mahoney for sentencing for operating a motor vehicle while his ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway in a manner dangerous to the public on May 28 in Miramichi.

At his first appearance for on the charges, on Sept. 14, McCoy pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while his ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol, operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway in a manner dangerous to the public and refusing to provide a breath sample to determine his blood alcohol content. With the guilty pleas, Crown prosecutor Jean-Guy Savoie withdrew the charge of refusing the breathalyzer and proceeded with telling the facts of the case to the courts.

For the impaired driving, Mahoney sentenced McCoy to eight months in jail, consecutive to any other sentence. For the dangerous driving, she sentenced him to eight months in jail, concurrent to the first sentence. She also fined him a \$100 victim surcharge on each conviction and banned him for driving for four years.

Mahoney told McCoy it was pure luck he didn't kill someone, or himself.

"Or cause an accident whereby people were seriously injured," she said. She said this kind of behaviour is not to be tolerated, and when people do it, they can expect to be treated harshly by the courts because of the possible outcomes.

"I don't know if you have children, or grandchildren, but if any of those people were involved in a car accident and either injured or killed by a drunk driver, you'd be pretty upset," she said. "As I said, it was only through good luck that you didn't harm someone."

Mahoney said with five previous convictions, of which three have taken place since 2000, and the other two took place in the 1980s, there needed to be a deterrent sentence.

"It would appear that the message is not getting through to you," she said. "You've done time in jail, in the 1980s, as well as in the 2000s, you did five months in 2011."

On May 28 at 3:43 p.m., members of the Miramichi Police Force responded to University Avenue, near Chatham Tire, after receiving a complaint of an accident.

"The complainant advised that a light green Kia (sport utility vehicle) struck the guard rail and continued, west along Highway 117," Savoie said.

Just a few minutes later, Savoie said Const. Tim Mercier located the vehicle matching that description on Route 117 and activated his emergency equipment while in pursuit.

"When observing the Kia, Const. Mercier noted it crossing into the opposing lane twice, such as vehicles coming head on, had to move to the side of the road to avoid the Kia," he said. "The Kia slowed when Const. Mercier was behind him, however it did not stop or pull over."

Savoie said it continued at a low rate of speed until Const. Ed Goodfellow, driving from the opposite direction, positioned his vehicle ahead of the Kia.

"He positioned himself, more or less, to force the vehicle to stop," Savoie said. "Essentially the two police vehicles boxed in the vehicle so he had nowhere

to go and had to stop." Savoie said when it did come to a stop, the Kia was not pulled over, instead it was stopped in the lane of traffic.

"Before having a chance to approach the Kia, Mr. McCoy exited the vehicle, Const. Mercier instructed him to return to his vehicle, however Mr. McCoy only complied after several repetitions by Const. Mercier instructing him to get back in the vehicle."

Savoie said while this took place, Mercier noted McCoy exhibiting signs of impairment.

"Mr. McCoy was using the open door of his Kia for balance, he was stumbling when he went back to get in the driver's seat," he said.

After approaching the vehicle, Mercier noted an open box of Busch Beer on the front passenger side floor.

"He had also noted that Mr. McCoy had urinated himself," Savoie said, adding McCoy had great difficulty finding his driver's licence, registration and proof of insurance. "He couldn't find any of his documentation that was required."

While searching for his paperwork, Savoie said McCoy inadvertently placed his foot on the gas pedal of his vehicle.

"The engine was revving and he was not very aware of this, as Const. Mercier had to remove his foot from the gas pedal and also the keys from the ignition," Savoie said. "Other signs of rather gross impairment were noted."

McCoy exhibited slurred speech, a red face, bloodshot, glossy eyes and a strong smell of alcohol. Savoie said McCoy seemed to be confused, he had poor motor skills and the fact that he had urinated himself, allowed Mercier to deduct that McCoy was impaired by alcohol.

"When placed under arrest, the accused would not exit the vehicle, he had to be physically removed by Const. Mercier and Const. Goodfellow," he said. "He became belligerent, was cursing at the officers, when eventually removed from the vehicle, handcuffed, stumbled slowly towards the police car and continued cursing."

Savoie said the officers found McCoy's registration and insurance documents in the glove compartment of the vehicle and noted they were in no way difficult to find.

Once at the police station, Savoie said McCoy accused Mercier of stealing his wallet, even though it was still in his pocket.

"When faced with blowing into the breath test machine, Mr. McCoy was unco-operative," said Savoie. "He was blowing saliva into the machine, not making a seal around the apparatus to provide a proper sample."

Savoie said while the charge of refusing the breathalyzer was withdrawn, he included those details to help describe the overall level of impairment McCoy was displaying.

McCoy told the court he didn't agree with all the facts. Mahoney questioned him on details, and he said he didn't remember much, but that he said he was never in any way unco-operative with police.

"I never gave them a hard time, let's put it that way," McCoy said.

Savoie said for the benefit of McCoy, the incident was recorded. "It is on tape, both video and audio, the extraction from the vehicle," Savoie said.

Because of that, the sentencing was postponed to Sept. 23, at which time, Mahoney reviewed the evidence herself, where she agreed with the Crown that McCoy did not co-operate with police. "That afternoon, Mr. McCoy was grossly intoxicated, extremely impaired," she said. "When they had to get Mr. McCoy out of the vehicle, they basically had to remove him. He was belligerent, unco-operative and resistant to the officers."

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Miramichi-area curbside recycling program starts Monday

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • Ready or not, the introduction of curbside recycling to the Miramichi region is now just days away.

The mandatory program will roll out in certain areas beginning Monday, Oct. 19, and by now, thousands of blue carts have been delivered to households throughout the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's coverage area.

And if you haven't received yours just yet, don't panic - it should be arriving soon, according to Melanie Cripps, the waste reduction co-ordinator with the commission's Solid Waste Services wing.

"They're still working on the distribution since there will be some areas starting the week of the 26th and others starting the week of the 19th but, for the most part, those who are starting next week should have their bins," Cripps said on Wednesday. "Most of the south side of the city is done if not completed in the last day or so."

That large, plastic blue cart forms the basis of the program and every household must have one in order to participate in the program.

It will serve as the *de facto* receptacle for residents to place all of their loose recyclables into and will be wheeled out to the curb on alternating weeks for collection, which recyclable materials being picked up one week and regular trash being collected the following week.

Cripps agreed that for the average person, adjusting to the new schedule will likely represent the biggest challenge, but once people get into a rhythm she thinks the procedures will become second nature.

Residents who live within Miramichi city limits, for instance, will be on the front lines of the program, with the first pickup set for this coming Monday.

For those who live on the south side of the Miramichi River, including the Chatham, Loggieville, Bushville, Chatham Head and Nelson areas, you will be expected to have your blue bin at the curb



Melanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, explains the new curbside recycling program to Miramichi City Council in August. The program will be rolled out in the city and other parts of the region starting Monday, Oct. 19. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

and your regular garbage cans left aside.

Those on the north side of the river, including the Newcastle, Nordin, Douglastown and Millbank areas, will put out their regular bagged garbage as normal.

People who have received their carts and have questions about the program may first want to take a look inside. At the bottom of each one is an information packet that includes a detailed calendar, collection schedules and details about will and will not be accepted at the curb.

Cripps said officials with the commission wanted to make the transition process as smooth as possible and ensure that people were prepared.

With that in mind they have hosted numerous public information sessions throughout the service area, with a series of 17 more planned for the early stages of the program. Dates for each session are also included inside the blue bin's

information packet.

In addition, the organization has also set up a special hotline dedicated to answering any questions people may have. It can be reached by calling 778-CART (2278) or toll-free 1-844-307-2278.

Hopefully, assuming everybody has taken the time to go over the details of the program, Cripps said all of those efforts should amount to a relatively painless rollout by the time the first bins arrived at the curb next week.

"There are still a few minor things to work out but we're working them out," she said. "I believe people are ready - this is happening in other areas, like the Chaleur region and on the Acadian Peninsula and it has worked really well ... and for the most part, the comments we have received have been very positive."

The whole idea behind introducing this type of program in the first place was

in order to boost what have always been paltry landfill diversion rates recorded in the Miramichi region.

At present, Miramichi area households send all of their garbage indiscriminately to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville to be buried.

The outgoing depot program introduced several years ago that encouraged residents to transport their recyclable material to a series of drop-off zones has barely put a dent in landfill diversion rates. Overall, 24,015 tonnes of trash was trucked to the landfill last year.

By the end of 2016, it is expected the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate. It will also likely drastically reduce the amount being paid in tipping fees at the landfill.

In terms of what people absolutely need to know by the time that first collection rolls around, being aware of what can go into your blue bin would be a start.

Items can be placed into the bin loose, meaning they should not be bundled or sorted in any way.

All recyclables need to be inside the cart in order to be collected, so anything resting next to the cart will be left behind.

Materials generally need to be clean to qualify, so rinsing out and flattening or crushing an item is strongly encouraged. Lids, caps and labels do not need to be removed.

In terms of plastics, No. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are all acceptable under the program. Anybody wondering about whether or not a certain plastic container qualifies needs to look for an icon on the item featuring the recycling symbol and the corresponding identification number.

If that symbol cannot be located, then chances are the item doesn't qualify anyway.

Plastic containers that will be accepted include those used for water bottles, soft drinks, peanut butter, mouthwash, salad dressing containers, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, milk cartons, most disposable coffee cups, yogurt containers, margarine containers, vitamin bottles, and most food containers and household cleaner containers as well.

In addition to plastics, metal food cans, cardboard and paper, including magazines, wrapping paper and newspaper, should all be going in the blue bin.

Cardboard boxes, in particular, should be flattened as a means of saving space inside the bin.

As for what will be excluded on recycling day, glass is a no-no - so is styrofoam and plastic bags.

Even though many plastic bags will show a No. 4 label, Cripps stressed that they will not be accepted since it was determined that their value on the recycling market is negligible. Many grocery stores in the area recycle plastic bags.

Names of officers in Bathurst shooting going public

JENNIFER BISHOP
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

BATHURST • A decision has been made by the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick to make the names of the police officers involved in the Bathurst shooting of Tracadie man Michel Vienneau public after a request by his common-law partner.

On Oct. 13 a video conference was held with the court and Charles L. LeBlanc. LeBlanc is the lawyer of Annick Basque, who is Vienneau's common-law partner. Basque and LeBlanc went to the Court of Appeal to appeal an earlier decision by the Court of Queen's Bench to not release the names of the officers involved in the incident.

LeBlanc said a decision was made a number of months ago to disclose the names but he said the information was "too narrow."

In the original request, LeBlanc said he was looking to "interrogate" Eugène Poitras, chief of the Bathurst Police Force, to get the names of the officers involved in the shooting. He then learned the names through other means which meant this part of the decision was "theoretical" as the interrogation of the chief was no longer necessary.

The judge's decision meant if Basque were to file a suit against the officers, she would have had to use pseudonyms to identify them as opposed to using their names because the officers would be in danger if their names were disclosed.

LeBlanc said he did not believe the officers would be in any danger if their identities were disclosed.

After the hearing by the Court of Queen's Bench, in negotiations with the City of Bathurst, LeBlanc said both parties agreed that anonymous sources were not credible, to which the court agreed, which means the names can be released.



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FRIDAY

October 16, 2015

Curbside recycling program rolls out Monday

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

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part, those who are starting next week should have their bins," Cripps said on Wednesday. "Most of the south side of the city is done if not completed in the last day or so."

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Cripps agreed that for the average person, adjusting to the new schedule will likely represent the biggest challenge but once people get into a rhythm she believes the procedures will become

second nature.

Residents who live within Miramichi city limits, for instance, will be on the front lines of the program, with the first pickup set for this coming Monday.

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Hopefully, assuming everybody has taken the time to go over the details of the program, Cripps said all of those efforts should amount to a relatively

painless rollout by the time the first bins arrived at the curb next week.

"There are still a few minor things to work out but we're working them out as we come across them," she said. "I believe people are ready – this is happening in other areas, like the Chaleur region and on the Acadian Peninsula and it has worked really well ... and for the most part, the comments we have received have been very positive and people are excited this is coming."

The whole idea behind introducing this type of program in the first place was in order to boost what have always been paltry landfill diversion rates recorded in the Miramichi region.

At present, Miramichi area households send all of their garbage indiscriminately

PLEASE SEE → **RECYCLING, A10**

Region in 'desperate need of jobs,' town hall told

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Michael (Tanker) Malley says anyone who is confused about why there is even such a thing as a Miramichi River in Crisis committee in this day and age needs to realize that the local economic situation has been on a slow burn for some time.

While the recent string of town hall sessions, the most recent of which was held Wednesday night, have been focusing on more recent issues like the job losses at Miramichi Lumber and Hebert's Recycling, the former city councillor said the situation goes much deeper.

Malley, who is also a former Progressive Conservative MLA, said the region

PLEASE SEE → **MEETING, A2**

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Advance poll Middle school holds mock vote ahead of Monday's federal election **A3**

Junior Sunny Corner Thunder get ready for their home opener this weekend **B1**

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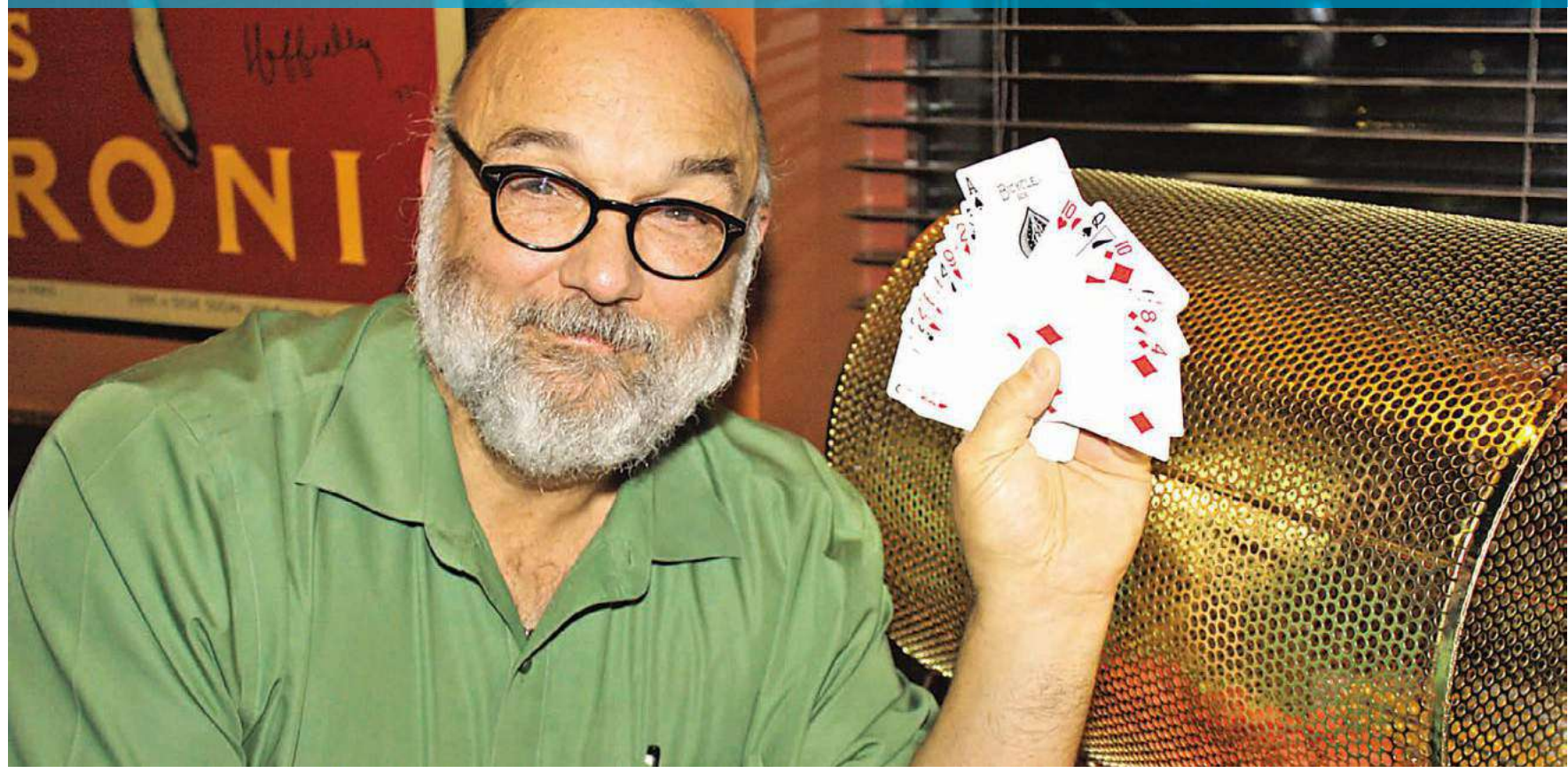
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Nothing up his sleeve



Paul McGraw, Hospice Miramichi board member, takes a break from shuffling the deck of cards to show the ace of spades is in the deck at the first night of Chase the Ace, hosted by Hospice Miramichi at Boston Pizza on Wednesday, Oct. 14. PHOTO: SHANNON MACLEOD/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Chase the Ace fundraiser brought to city by Hospice Miramichi

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The executive director of the local hospice is hoping their latest fundraiser will help them get to where they want to be: accessible.

Connie Doucet, executive director of Hospice Miramichi, said their newest and what she says is the most exciting fundraiser to date, Chase the Ace, could bring upwards of \$1 million to one lucky ticket buyer.

"After seeing what happened in Newfoundland, in August, I applied for the licence the next day, then we saw what happened in Cape Breton," Doucet said.

In Lourdes, N.L., Sheldon Greene took home more than \$300,000 in a jackpot grand prize in a Chase the Ace fundraiser that lasted 44 weeks. Then most recently, Donelda MacAskill, won a \$1.7-million jackpot grand prize in Inverness, N.S., in one that lasted 48 weeks.

The way it works is the public will be able to purchase tickets each Wednesday at Boston Pizza between 6 and 7:45 p.m. and the draw will take place every Wednesday at Boston Pizza at 8 p.m.

In order to win, the ticket holder must be present, or someone be present on

their behalf. The winning ticket number will be called a minimum of three times during a 15-minute time frame. If the winner does not come forward, another ticket is drawn.

Once the winning ticket is drawn, the ticket holder will then cut a deck of regular playing cards or draw a card from the deck.

If the ace of spades is not drawn, a percentage of ticket sales carries forward to the next draw, and the winning ticket holder will receive 20 per cent of the ticket sales for that evening.

The breakdown of ticket sales is as such: 20 per cent will be awarded to the winning ticket holder, 30 per cent will be added to the prize pool and 50 per cent of ticket sales will go to Hospice Miramichi. It costs \$2 per ticket, three tickets for \$5 or 10 tickets for \$10.

When the ace of spades is drawn, the winner receives the amount in the prize pool, which in the beginning is a \$2,000 prize guarantee.

"We had that donated to us, so if someone draws the ace before the pool reaches \$2,000, they'll take that home," she said. "Once we get that amount in the jackpot, that \$2,000 just builds each week with the potential for someone

to win big, since there are 52 cards in a deck."

Following the draw, the remaining cards in the deck will be flipped over to reveal that the ace of spades is still in the deck and the drawn card will be destroyed.

"So next week, we'll do it with 51 cards, then 50 cards, until the ace of spades is revealed," she said. "Even if they didn't pull the ace of spades, the winning ticket holder is still going to get 20 per cent of what we brought in that week. So they walk away a winner whatever way."

Each week, following the draw, the deck will be secured, locked up in a safe until the following week and tickets purchased that evening will also be destroyed, while the jackpot carries over to the following weeks.

"Once the ace of spades card is revealed, the game is concluded," Doucet said.

The first night of Hospice Miramichi's Chase the Ace took place Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Boston Pizza, located at 98 Douglastown Blvd., and will continue each Wednesday until the jackpot is won. Suzanne Gorman's ticket was drawn, and she won \$85.80, which was 20 per cent of the ticket sales. On her behalf, her mother Colleen Gorman

cut the deck, and selected the eight of hearts, meaning the 30 per cent of ticket sales will carry over to next week's draw, same time and same place, until the ace of spades is found.

The 50 per cent of ticket sales for that day will go to Hospice Miramichi and the elevator project.

"We're working on accessibility and the elevator could cost upwards of \$300,000," Doucet said. "All of the renovations we're doing now will be put to use when we're a full-residential hospice."

Currently, the hospice, located in the former bishop's palace at 14 Howard St., has an elevette, which is similar to an elevator, but smaller without a shaft.

"We decided rather than renovating the elevette to be up to code, we might as well have a full-service elevator, which we're going to need eventually. Why do it twice?" Doucet said.

Doucet said they also need to have their accessibility addressed on the outside of the building as well.

"We can't build a ramp because it would be about 150 feet of ramp to get the clients inside," she said. "So we have to one entrance that's accessible, to get

PLEASE SEE → **ACE, A7**

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Miramichi Leader

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FRIDAY

October 30, 2015

Public works budget could make big jump

Increase deemed necessary due to wages and benefits as well as preventive maintenance

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A substantial chunk of the roughly \$32 million the city budgets for operations ends up getting tied up in the many tentacles of its public works department

each year. Things like snow removal, summer maintenance, vehicle repairs and building maintenance all fall under the public works budget and director Jay Shanahan, making his annual presentation to city councillors during budget deliberations Monday night, filled them in on the financial hit projected for 2016.

All told, the public works budget will rise by just under \$245,000 due to rising wages and benefits for 34 department staff and a new pool of \$100,000. Shanahan is requesting council set aside in order to create efficiencies and

undertake preventive maintenance on city-owned buildings.

Those requested additions and others would see the department's budget rise from \$5.91 million in 2015 to \$6.16 million next year.

The discussion lasted over an hour as councillors tried to come to grips with everything that was being presented.

The proposed increases for building maintenance, Shanahan said, is designed to save the municipality money in the long run.

"Any money to be spent, we want to make sure that we're receiving something

on the other end in terms of efficiencies, whether it's a five-year return or a three-year return but we're going to try and offset some of those numbers," Shanahan said. "But there are a lot of deficiencies with these buildings."

Shanahan pointed to the city's sprawling Miratech complex as a prime example.

The building was purchased by the city approximately five years ago and it currently houses the offices of the Miramichi Fire Department, the Department of Community Wellness and Recreation, public works and others.

That facility has posed operational challenges since day 1, with the cost to heat and maintain the building getting higher over time.

Shanahan said that harnessing some extra funding to address some of these deficiencies will help eliminate some of those financial headaches in the future.

For 2016, the city is likely going to spend upwards of \$266,000 on the Miratech building alone, roughly an 11,000 increase over last year.

"It's an expensive building and it's a big

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Two witches and a cat with a timely reminder



The Fitzpatrick girls, daughters of John and Erica Fitzpatrick, want to remind everyone to set their clocks an hour behind when they go to bed Saturday night, after a night of trick or treating. From left, ready for Halloween, which happens to be the final day of Atlantic daylight time, which officially ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, are five-year old Mya, who's dressed as a witch, seven-year old Lexi, who's dressed as a cat, and eight-year-old Ella, who's also dressed as a witch.

PHOTO: SHANNON MACLEOD/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Motorists be on the lookout for goblins and ghouls on city streets

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A sergeant with the city's police force said it takes the whole community to have a safe and fun Halloween night – something that wasn't the case in his

earlier years of policing in Miramichi.

Sgt. Bob Bruce, of the Miramichi Police Force, said there is no set curfew for Saturday, Oct. 31, which happens to be Halloween night in Miramichi, trick or treating will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. within city limits. As

for communities neighbouring the Miramichi, there's an 8 p.m. curfew in Blackville and Doaktown, a 7 p.m. curfew Baie-Sainte-Anne, while Rogersville has trick or treating from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Neguac has no curfew or trick treating hours.

"The trick or treating hours are set in place to allow ample time for children to go door-to-door in their costumes," Bruce said. "The cut off time of 8 p.m. is set in place so that after this time,

PLEASE SEE → **CAUTION, A6**

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Sport Sisters a winning combo for James M. Hill soccer **B1**

Community Black Tie Bingo was fun evening out to benefit Mount Saint Joseph **B3**

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Miramichi SPCA receives microchip scanner

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Miramichi SPCA has received some help from their senior friends at Retirement Miramichi Inc.

The Hermitage Social Committee with Retirement Miramichi has donated a microchip scanner that will help identify animals with microchip that end up at the SPCA to help get these strays back to their rightful owners.

The seniors were able to donate the scanner, which was presented Tuesday morning and costs somewhere in the range of \$300, thanks to a generous anonymous donation from a resident at Retirement Miramichi.

Miramichi SPCA animal attendant Kelsey Finnigan said she can't express how happy everyone at the SPCA is to

PLEASE SEE → **SCANNER, A2**



From left: Brian Gerling, André Holtved, Kelsey Finnigan, and Antonio LeBlanc.

PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Curbside recycling off to a strong start in region

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Although there are still some wrinkles to iron out as the Miramichi region adjusts to curbside recycling, the executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission says the new program is already hitting its targets.

Even with a contractor backing out at the last minute from an agreement to deliver blue bins to the western portions


PLEASE SEE → **RECYCLING, A2**

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Cost for regional services has decreased noticeably, director says

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors signed off on a \$2.36 million operating budget for 2016 without much issue Tuesday night.

The budget, which essentially covers the cost of delivering planning and solid waste services to the roughly 40,000 people who reside within the commission's coverage area, passed unanimously during a board meeting at the Millerston School.

This is the fourth budget the commission has passed since its formation back in late 2012, when the provincial government established 12 separate commissions in order to adopt a more regional approach to things like planning and solid waste programming.

Bell acknowledged that, looking back, there was definitely some apprehension among the member municipalities and local service districts at that time about whether this exercise would be worth it.

A few years removed from those early days, he pointed out that municipal governments are starting to realize that the financial commitment is likely far less than initially feared.

Collectively, the city of Miramichi, the villages of Doaktown and Blackville, the rural community of Upper Miramichi and more than a dozen local service

districts have seen a steady decrease in their service costs.

Looking at the city, for instance, which has the highest tax base in the coverage area and therefore pays the most among the member communities, Miramichi has seen its membership costs drop by roughly 20 per cent, or about \$186,000 since 2013.

Doaktown and Blackville, meanwhile, are paying nearly 30 per cent less than they did during that first budget year.

"We're saving money and we're providing good services," Bell said. "It's a trend I think we're happy with - how far it goes before we bottom out, I don't know ... maybe next year those numbers will increase but the reality is that for the first three years we've achieved, collectively, what we wanted to achieve."

As an added bonus, municipalities are also remitted whatever revenue the commission generates through the sale of building permits.

Miramichi was the big winner this year thanks to yet another brisk year of construction, getting back a total of \$451,126 in planning fees.

"If you have a really good year, basically, you get a lot of money back," Bell added.

The RSC operates with a staff of just 12 and with no new positions being added in 2016, the budget will be holding steady for next year.

The only noteworthy increase, in



Wilson Bell, executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, goes over details of the organization's 2016 budget during the commission's Tuesday Oct. 27 meeting. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

terms of capital work, is a \$5,000 minor renovation of the planning services office on Water Street in Chatham.

Another pool of funding, Bell noted, was being added to its planning wing in order to facilitate a series of public

information sessions that local contractors can attend to get a sense of how the planning process works.

There has been some concern expressed in the past from developers about some of the challenges of getting

their projects off the ground and Bell said he's hopeful this new initiative will help make those waters easier to navigate.

The planning department is responsible for issuing building permits, providing building inspection services, developing municipal and rural plans, overseeing applications for rezoning and subdivision development and more.

"This would be to help them through the development approval process," he said. "That's something we feel we need to do and will be doing in 2016."

Its planning services branch also maintains an eight-member Planning Review and Adjustment Committee, which is responsible for considering things like zoning applications and making a recommendation to staff.

Individual municipal councils will be responsible for approving their financial contributions to the RSC through their own budget approval process.

In the case of local service districts, that falls to the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

To cover the provision of planning and solid waste services, the City of Miramichi will be responsible for providing \$753,845, down from \$813,237 a year ago.

The LSDs (\$555,759), Upper Miramichi (\$70,936), Blackville (\$32,839), and Doaktown (\$31,239) round out the list.

Woman accused of stealing from local pawn shop will return to plea

STAFF
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The following briefs are from the Oct. 26 session at Miramichi provincial court. Judge Geri Mahoney was presiding with prosecutor Robert Greenough representing the Crown and defence lawyer Simon Wood acting as duty counsel.

Pawn shop theft

Candy Ann Carlson, 24, of Bathurst asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of theft of merchandise from King George Pawn Shop and breaching an undertaking by failing to keep the peace and be of good behaviour, both alleged to have occurred May 25 in Miramichi. Carlson said she wanted time to speak to a lawyer or apply for Legal Aid. Mahoney adjourned the matter to Nov. 9.

Convenience store theft

Matthew Kenneth Foran, 26, of Miramichi asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of theft of merchandise from N and K Convenience, alleged to have occurred July 27 in Miramichi. Mahoney adjourned the matter to Nov. 9 to give Foran a chance to apply for Legal Aid.

Possession of stolen property

Michael David Richard, 50, of Miramichi asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of being in possession of a stolen pressure washer, alleged to have occurred on July 14 in Miramichi. Richard will return to court to plea on Nov. 9.

Fraud trial

Shania Marie Rousselle-Colford, 19, of Derby Junction pleaded not guilty to defrauding the Royal Bank, alleged to have occurred March 14 in Miramichi. Mahoney set the trial for Dec. 16.

Released from custody

Chad Imhoff, 23, of Miramichi appeared in custody and asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge alleging he stole merchandise from Sobeys on Oct. 23. He'll return to plea on Nov. 9 and until then, Mahoney released him on a judge's undertaking with the conditions he abide by house arrest. The conditions of the house arrest are that he keep the peace and be of good behaviour and remain in his Miramichi residence 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Exceptions to the house arrest are to attend court as required, to allow for him to meet with his lawyer, or attend the Legal Aid office. He may leave for medical emergencies for himself or his immediate family. Imhoff will be allowed out Fridays between 2 and 5 p.m. to attend to personal business, otherwise, anytime he must attend to the door for officers to verify compliance with the house arrest.



New Brunswick's deer population is down 15 to 20 per cent this hunting season, which started Oct. 26 and goes to Nov. 21.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Deer decline could affect this year's hunting season in New Brunswick

ELIZABETH FRASER
THE DAILY GLEANER

Last winter's heavy snow has created a decrease in New Brunswick's deer population, which could pose a problem for deer hunters across the province.

New Brunswick's deer population is down 15 to 20 per cent this hunting season, which started Monday and will go until Nov. 21.

"This is going to affect deer hunting season and we're expecting harvest to be down," said Joe Kennedy, a deer biologist with the province's Department of Natural Resources.

Kennedy said the cause of this year's decline is due to last year's harsh winter, causing deer to transport themselves through heavy amounts of snow, losing both fat and energy.

"Deer don't have a tremendous amount of food in winter and then combine that with deep snow that they have to move through, zapping a lot of energy from them to the point that we've seen a lot of deer starving," he said.

Kennedy says several residents have contacted the Department of Natural Resources over the past few months, discovering dead deer carcasses in the forest.

Often times deer hit and killed on highways throughout the province hardly had any fat left. Even the fat in their bone marrow was depleted.

Out of the 20 per cent decrease, Kennedy says 30 to 40 per cent of those are fawns because of their small bodies.

"On a small-bodied animal, it's very difficult for them to travel through snow," he said. "They also didn't have a lot of time to put on a lot of body fat."

The majority of the decrease is in parts of southern New Brunswick as opposed to the northern regions of the province because of the increase of heavy snow throughout the winter months.

"There's no way to prevent it, aside from doing something with global climate change," he said. "We are subject to severe winters in New Brunswick."

Not all deer are affected by the cold weather. Kennedy says deer in areas like Fredericton and the Kennebecasis Valley are more likely to survive.

"They're walking along paved sidewalks and they don't have to extend as much energy to move around," he said.

Kennedy said there's also more food supply and less predators in urban areas. And not everyone has been affected by the lack of deer.

Tyler Gilks got his deer Tuesday morning, while his wife got hers when the season opened on Monday morning.

"You're always happy when you get a deer," said the avid hunter, who scouted out his hunting area during the month of October. "The adrenaline is always fun."

Gilks, who has been hunting deer for over 30 years, said he's lucky because he has a special spot where he hunts near the Fredericton area. Gilks says he usually gets a deer every year.

But over time, Gilks says clear-cutting has caused a depletion in deer population, making it more difficult for hunters across the province to find a good hunting spot.

"20 years ago there was plenty of deer and winters were much worse than we have now," he said.

Today, Gilks said you could spend hours driving through the forest looking for a deer and not see one.

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Larry Crandall,
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Time has come for cabinet gender equality

CAROLLE DE STE-CROIX
COMMENTARY

In case anyone was thinking Prime Minister designate Justin Trudeau's announcement that his cabinet will have an equal number of men and women means Canada is now leading the world in revolutionizing the electoral system, a simple Google search clearly shows that we, and Western and European countries generally, lag far behind most countries in having voluntary or legislated quotas for female representation in legislative bodies.

Rwanda, for example, has a lot to teach us on this subject, in passing forward-looking and progressive legislation with respect to female participation in government and women's rights.

There are pros and cons to having guaranteed seats for women in elected bodies or in a cabinet, but for me it comes down to this: women's experiences are needed at the cabinet table, just like those of the aboriginal community and minority groups. Prime ministers have traditionally ensured geographical representation in cabinet. It is now time to expand this by not only having a cabinet from across Canada, but a cabinet that looks like Canada.

To those who see Mr. Trudeau's announcement as unfair and believe that it goes against the principle of equal opportunity for all, well, I agree it will take some getting used to, but it is unlikely this precedent will be reversed by future prime ministers. It will become the new normal.

I don't mean to be dismissive when

I say Canadians will get used to a cabinet that guarantees an equal number of men and women. From experience I know how quickly the unusual can become commonplace. Almost 20 years ago, I was a novelty in the New Brunswick legislature: a young female MLA who was going to have a baby.

With only Sheila Copps and Pauline Marois as precedent, no one quite knew what to do with me. The Legislative Assembly Committee (LAC) certainly did not. Back then, backbench MLAs did not have administrative assistants in their riding offices. My request to LAC for an administrative assistant for six months to allow me to work a reduced workload was denied. And by reduced workload, I mean 40 hours a week instead of 65 or 70.

There were no provisions for such a scenario and so they did nothing. Luckily for me and my baby, the then minister of finance, Edmond Blanchard, thought the situation unfair and decided something had to be done. He was kind and generous enough to let one of his riding staff work out of my office in Charlo, freeing me to concentrate on important riding issues and not worry too much about answering the phone and filing.

There was also huge national media interest at the time. One intrepid reporter even showed up in my hospital room the day I gave birth to be the first to get a photo of the baby. How things have changed. Today a female politician having a baby does not even get a mention in the news.

Things change, we get used to it, and it becomes the new normal.

Something else I hope will change will be premiers and the prime minister choosing the very best and brightest elected women and men for their cabinets, regardless of their party affiliation.

A good start to this would be for Mr. Trudeau to ask Elizabeth May to serve as his minister of the environment. There is no other person more qualified for this position. Ms. May would be the one briefing the civil servants and not the other way around. I know this would cause much anxiety within both the Liberal and Green parties, but they will get used to it.

The wellbeing of our country should be the primary job concern of all members of Parliament and loyalty to their party should be a distant second. This is why I respectfully suggest that our new prime minister offer this cabinet position to Ms. May. Her intellect and knowledge are completely wasted offering commentary on evening news programs. She could remain leader of the Green Party and the Liberal majority is large enough that she could vote with her conscience on pieces of legislation. There is no reason I know of why this arrangement could not work.

In 20 years' time, we will no doubt look back and wonder why this was even a debate. Things change. We get used to them, maybe even become proud of them, and they become our new normal.

Carolle de Ste-Croix

is the director of alumni relations at Mount Allison University. She was elected as a Liberal for Dalhousie-Restigouche East in 1995.

Making the case for keeping N.B. services in public hands

SUSIE PROULX-DAIGLE
COMMENTARY

In the past few months, the provincial government has held a public forum and a health-care summit as part of its Strategic Program Review. The goal is to find ways to save between \$500 million and \$600 million and improve service delivery for New Brunswickers.

During both meetings, a keynote speaker addressed the crowd and, in both cases, the message was the same — the benefits of privatization. At the public forum, Jon Bethel, a former British Columbia civil servant, spoke of the positives of alternate service delivery (i.e. privatization) implemented by the B.C. government. In the more recent health-care summit, Dr. Guus Banneberg spoke of how the Netherlands incorporates the private sector into its health-care system.

It appears the New Brunswick government is looking in this direction, despite numerous alternate suggestions for raising revenue and saving money from its citizens. The reasoning often

associated with privatization is savings. In both instances, Health Minister Victor Boudreau made mention of this line of thinking.

At the public forum, he was quoted as saying, "There may be some areas when the private sector can deliver a program or a service more efficiently and still provide satisfactory levels of service. We need to look at that."

During the health summit he's quoted as stating, "Their point of view is that if the private sector can deliver it more effectively and efficiently than government can, than why not?"

In both instances, people were advocating for privatization based on the claims that it would be more efficient and effective than the current publicly-owned mode of delivery. In both cases, only the perceived benefits of privatization were presented. There was no mention of why it is beneficial for these services to remain in public hands, though there are many reasons:

Environmental
In her book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate*,

author Naomi Klein writes there is, "a clear and compelling relationship between public ownership and the ability to get communities off dirty energy. Many of the countries with the highest commitments to renewable energy are ones that have managed to keep large parts of their electricity sectors in public (and often local) hands."

The argument is since private companies are governed by profits, they're ill-suited to incorporate environmental sustainability and conservation. On the other side, Crown corporations are not solely confined to the same needs as private firms and are in a better position to make changes to try and combat climate change, which has become one of the defining issues of this generation.

Equality
Public-owned services allow all Canadians access to essential services regardless of their ability to pay. It's part of how we define our identity as Canadians. Colin Leys — in his work *Market-Driven Politics: Neoliberal Democracy and the Public Interest* — sees public services as a requirement for democracy. He cites education, objective information, universally accessible media, public libraries, public health and universal health-care as needing to be delivered through the public, as the private sector either cannot or will not be able to provide them in an equal manner.

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Curbside recycling was clearly wanted in region

The Miramichi region only implemented mandatory curbside recycling in October and already we are seeing why this was brought in in the first place. In a single week, 27.8 metric tonnes of garbage that would have otherwise been destined for the landfill at Red Pine Station in the Allardville area has been diverted.

For context, our region barely diverted that much all of September, prior to the program coming in. Not only is this a logical move from a waste-reduction standpoint, but from a financial standpoint, the amount communities will save on tipping fees at the landfill will also be substantial.

The Miramichi Regional Service Commission's calculations say the savings will add up to \$80,000 annually. In addition to these huge savings, we're also saving the environment a little bit more at a time when our planet is seeing considerable challenges on many fronts. (Global warming, anyone?) And that aspect of the curbside recycling initiative is something you can't put a price on.

Under the new system, these recyclables go to Red Pine, which is closer, for sorting — cutting down on our carbon footprint by less time spent on the road, in a diesel truck.

There will be a further estimated \$50,000 in savings if a 20 per cent diversion rate can be achieved with the amount of waste that is kept out of the landfill and recycled and reduced tipping fees.

With the changeover to curbside recycling from the previous depot set-up, everyone's been getting used to a new routine when it comes to putting out their garbage. So far, so good. The reaction to all this has been largely positive.

Although change can be difficult, and sometimes resistance, it seems the recycling program has been met with open arms by the citizens of the region which is great news since this is such a win-win situation for the environment and the taxpayer.

Seeing how busy everyone is in these hectic times, it's understandable that people may be worried about keeping track about what can and cannot be recycled, at least until they get in the habit. While information packages were provided when the bins were provided, people may still have questions about what can and can't go into the blue bins, but those are issues that can be easily sorted out — pardon the pun. The service commission has wisely set up a hotline for people to call with questions and it's 778-CART (2278) or toll-free 1-844-307-2278. More information can also be found online at greatermiramichirc.ca.

For the record, the most confusing part is which plastics can go in. And so our readers are aware, it's No. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7. Just look for an icon on the item featuring the recycling symbol and the corresponding identification number. If that symbol cannot be located, then chances are the item doesn't qualify anyway and the commission has said, when in doubt, throw it out.

Other cities instituted recycling into the day-to-day lives of residents many years ago and it's regrettable it took the Miramichi this long to catch up. The main thing is it's here now — and the community is getting engaged with the process.

This early news of a 27.8 metric tonnes of garbage being recycled rather than thrown in a landfill just reaffirms that transitioning to curbside recycling was a step in the right direction — and one that people were waiting for.



Susie Proulx-Daigle, president of the New Brunswick Union, speaking at a recent workshop.

PHOTO: TELEGRAPH JOURNAL ARCHIVE

Appendix H – Planning Services Media Coverage

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

WEDNESDAY

April 8, 2015

'The announcement we've been waiting for'

Confirmation of pay centre's construction will spur development, local officials say

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

In terms of dollars and cents, the impact the development of a permanent office building for the city's Public Service Pay Centre operation is expected to go well beyond the facility's \$85.3 million price tag.

Construction on the three-storey structure is expected to get underway in June with an estimated 2½ year timeline.

Quebec-based Broccolini Construction Ltd. won the government contract, and

by the time the project is completed, it is expected to transform the landscape in the neighbourhood commonly known as the former town of Chatham, with ripple effects throughout the entire city and the wider region.

"It's the announcement we've been waiting for," said Jason Harris, the new president of the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce, following Prime Minister Stephen Harper's announcement on April 2.

"And this isn't just going to benefit Miramichi East, it's going to benefit all of the Miramichi, which we need - we need jobs here, there's economic growth (with this) ... we're excited about this, it's going to grow Miramichi and the whole region, which is a bonus."

The location of the future pay centre building is central to a number of local

businesses, located within walking distance of the Historic Chatham Business District and a short drive away from the bustling commercial corridor along the King Street extension.

By the time it's up and running a total of 550 federal workers will be based there at least five days a week.

So for businesses located in close proximity, Harris said all of that extra foot traffic over the lunch break and during the morning and evening commutes will certainly be a welcome sight.

"It's going to be huge for the downtown centre," he said. "I hope people will come up with new ideas to put businesses in around the new payroll centre, I think they will, but this is going to help grow the economy."

The city has been reaping the benefits of the pay centre's presence ever since it

was announced back in 2010.

After Public Works and Government Services Canada, the government body overseeing the project, slowly built up its workforce over the course of multiple phases of hiring, the venture finally reached its target of 550 people in December.

Although the majority of staff are from New Brunswick, including a substantial number from the Miramichi region, many pay centre workers have relocated into the city from other parts of Canada.

The pay centre has already brought tens of millions of dollars in new salaries and economic activity to the city, confirmed by Miramichi's Department of Economic Development and Tourism late last year.

The city has witnessed growth in housing starts, particularly when it comes to

new multi-unit housing developments, a segment that had lagged behind the rest of the province in terms of growth prior to arrival of the pay centre, according to previous comments by Jeff MacTavish, the department's acting director.

National retail chains like Winners and Giant Tiger have shown enough confidence in the local market to invest heavily in building new stores in the city.

Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon, meanwhile, confirmed last week that more businesses would likely be opening as the new office building, which will be located at the southern end of the Miramichi exhibition grounds, nears completion.

Brian Geneau, president of the Historic Chatham Business District and owner

PLEASE SEE → MILLIONS, A2

Tartan Day celebrated on the river



A Tartan Day dinner and concert was held on Monday evening at the Beaverbrook Kin Centre, organized as a fundraiser for the 58th Miramichi Folksong Festival. Among those on hand to enjoy the evening were, from left, Nycci Aston, wearing the ancient MacInnes tartan, Steve Aston, wearing the Gordon tartan, and Coun. Shelly Williams, wearing the Brown tartan. PHOTO: SYDNEY CLAY/MIRAMICHI LEADER

First Nations flood prevention initiative from federal gov't was also economic stimulus

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

First Nations throughout the region have had a helping hand from the federal government in the hopes of nipping spring flooding in the bud.

On March 27, Bernard Valcourt, the federal minister of aboriginal affairs and northern development, announced a \$1.7-million investment in a proactive emergency response to potential risk of spring flooding on eight susceptible New Brunswick First Nations.

Tyler Patles, technical services manager for the North Shore MicMac District Council, said for Eel Ground First Nation, the work is now complete.

"For many communities, the work took place in March and is now over," he said. "(In Eel Ground), snow was removed from drainage ditches, around public buildings and any areas that may pose a threat to homes and/or buildings."

In addition to flood prevention, this work acted as a little stimulus to small municipalities, Patles said.

"Many First Nation communities don't have the equipment to perform this work on their own, so the majority of this work was contracted out to contractors outside of the communities."

Patles said the winter months are

generally slow for many construction companies, so this came as a good boost to the construction companies and the local economies.

"Also, the contractors were very welcoming to hire labourers and operators from the First Nation communities when possible," he said.

Chief George Ginnish of Eel Ground First Nation, near Miramichi, said his community has issues with spring melt and the runoff more so than flooding, but he's happy to know Ottawa is taking a proactive approach.

"We have clay in the soil, which causes basements to flood during the spring thaw, which can cause damage and lead to air quality issues, i.e. mould," he said.

In addition to Eel Ground, removal is taking place in Esgenôpétitj (near Neguac) and Metepenagiag (Red Bank), also near Miramichi, as well as Elsipogtog (near Richibucto), Bouctouche, Indian Island (near Richibucto), Eel River Bar (near Dalhousie), Pabineau (near Bathurst) and Tobique (outside Perth Andover).

"The best possible use of tax dollars is to prevent emergencies from occurring in the first place. I'm happy to see First Nations and the Government of Canada working together to ensure the safety of

PLEASE SEE → PREVENT, A3

Inside

Education Paramedics teach Dr. Losier Middle School students how to use CPR **A4**

Support Local quilters work together to produce quilts that benefit cancer patients **B4**

News **A3** : Business **B3**
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War veteran wants to warn Miramichi residents of scam

SAMANTHA MAGEE
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Fraud Prevention Month just ended, but a local senior still wants to remind Miramichi residents that they should be cautious all year long when it comes to being on the lookout for scams.

Allison Furlotte, a Korean war veteran, has been getting yellow, postcard-sized notices in his mailbox telling him to claim cash rewards by calling a toll-free number.

He said he has gotten four of the cards, which all say "Final Notice" in bold font, within the span of the last six months. The war vet said all have his full name, address, a Canada Post stamp and a

claim number on the bottom.

He said he didn't have to call the number to know it was a fake and reported it to police.

"I know that at my age you don't get nothing for nothing, doesn't matter what it is," he said.

For example, one card stated that Furlotte can claim \$100 in gas savings from Exxon Mobil, Shell, Sunoco and other gas companies; another tells him to claim a \$500 reward from stores like Walmart and Target.

Each card also includes their business hours as well as a warning that failing to call "will result in an automatic forfeiture of this award."

Furlotte went to the Miramichi Police

Force to report the scam and said he was told to call a toll-free number for the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

The Miramichi Police Force what the protocol is when a scam is suspected. However, their response was not available by press time.

Furlotte was discouraged that city police don't investigate such complaints on their own: "What's the use (of reporting it)? It can be discouraging."

He said he just hopes others don't fall for it, especially seniors, who tend to be the target demographic for the majority of scammers.

PLEASE SEE → SCAM, A3



Allison Furlotte wants to warn Miramichi residents of a scam where cards are mailed out, urging people to call and collect unclaimed cash prizes. PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER



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Miramichi Leader The Leader since 1906

Geneau expects to see noticeable level of private sector development

MILLIONS → A1

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of the Water Street Pizza Delight location within the business improvement area, said although nobody will be able to measure the impact of the building until it's actually open, the membership expects it to be game changing.

"It's definitely going to have a huge impact on the growth of our BIA, our downtown, it's probably going to spawn some new businesses. Hopefully we'll see some new development start happening and it's definitely going to instill confidence in our BIA," he said in an interview Monday.

"Just speaking for my own business, I know we're definitely getting ready for renovations and doing some stuff to our building in order to be able to accommodate the influx of guests that are hopefully going to be in our backyard here, so it's an excellent opportunity for any business owner in our BIA and the rest of Miramichi as well."

Geneau said that this project is something the business district's membership has been anticipating for some time. He said there was some uncertainty expressed after the government tendering process needed to be reset last year after no qualified bidders were identified,



A view of Water Street in the Historic Chatham Business District, where a number of small businesses are expected to benefit from the presence of the new federal pay centre office building once construction is completed.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

delaying the timeline by over a year.

But by the time shovels are in the ground in June and everything becomes real, Geneau said he's confident it will spur a noticeable amount of private sector investment.

"Everybody was kind of like, 'OK, is this going to happen' but with the announcement last week and the sod turning in June, once we see heavy equipment digging holes in there it's definitely going to install some positive flow, I would

imagine, and bring everything to the next level," Geneau said.

"Hopefully, we'll also be able to lease some of the rental space in our BIA and fill some of the buildings and hopefully spark some confidence from developers."

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Miramichi Leader

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WEDNESDAY

June 17, 2015

Dedam alleged to have breached no-contact order

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A former First Nation chief charged last year with sex crimes is in custody after police arrested him for allegedly breaching a no-contact order.

Wilbur Dedam, 62, of Esgenoôpetitj First Nation appeared in custody on Monday on a charge that he breached a condition of his undertaking, which specifies he is to have absolutely no contact directly or indirectly with his three alleged victims or their families.

The RCMP allege the breach took place June 10 in Esgenoôpetitj.

Following three intermittent days of preliminary inquiry earlier this year, Dedam was committed to trial on six charges.

A publication ban is in effect to protect the identity of the three alleged victims.

Defence lawyer Gilles Lemieux arrived in the courtroom Monday morning, followed shortly thereafter by Dedam's wife, Irene, and eight other

women, in support of Dedam.

Crown prosecutor Melanie MacAulay said she was waiting for an RCMP officer from the Neguac detachment to arrive in court with the information to be approved by the Crown, then have the information sworn in before Judge Geri Mahoney.

Therefore, Mahoney recessed the morning court session and said the matter would be dealt with after lunch.

However, after the media filed out of the courtroom for the lunch break, the matter was brought back in to be dealt with.

The Miramichi Leader obtained a copy of the information laid in court. In it, Mahoney notes Crown prosecutor Melanie MacAulay was opposed to Dedam's release from custody and a bail hearing was set for Thursday at 1:30 p.m., which is when he is scheduled to enter a plea to the breach charge as well.

The sex crime charges against

PLEASE SEE → COURT, A2

Cruising to the prom



From left: Blake Young, Courtney Krygsveld, Becca Richard, Jared Nolan, Erin Martin and Mitchell Flaherty arrived to James M. Hill's Friday night prom on a boat.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Gretna Green rejoices at news detailing the school's expansion

SAMANTHA MAGEE
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The official announcement regarding the major expansion at Gretna Green Elementary was made on Monday afternoon at the school by MLA Bill Fraser and other dignitaries, surrounded by children and teachers.

The 35-year-old school requires various upgrades and an addition to transition from a kindergarten to Grade 5 school to a K-8. Work is expected to begin this week and will be completed in 2017.

The project is slated to cost \$9.97 million.

Addressing dozens of students and teachers on the colourfully decorated front lawn of the school, principal Keith Comeau said the longer students could

stay in their community school, the better.

"I associate this school with a true sense of pride, spirit and a sense of belonging. Well, that sense of belonging and community will now extend another three years so we can make the transition from a K-5 to a K-8 this year," said Comeau. "If I had a loonie for every time a Grade 5 parent said, 'I wish my children could stay longer.' Well, guess what? Now they can," he said as students, parents and teachers cheered.

While the work will take three years to complete, Comeau was referring to one year because most of the work will take place this summer before the school opens in September for the 2015-16 school year.

PLEASE SEE → SCHOOL, A2

No access to Crown land latest blow to troubled Miramichi mill

More woes for troubled Miramichi company

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Their sawmill hasn't been operational in more than six months and any hope of it getting running anytime soon took a hit after the provincial government exercised its right to lay claim to nearly \$1 million in insurance money the owners had hoped to use to repair the damage caused by a fire earlier in the year.

As if that already wasn't enough of a burden, Miramichi Lumber Products

Inc. is also now barred from taking part in any activities on Crown land.

Hal Raper, the company's chief financial officer, said Miramichi Lumber received an email from the Department of Natural Resources on May 25 indicating that given the mill's dormant state it would no longer be able to access its Crown allocation.

Even though the mill's main line is currently disabled after the January blaze damaged many of the facility's sophisticated electrical components and computer systems, Raper said the Jane Street sawmill does have a fallback plan in the form of its carriage line that it could potentially use in the meantime.

Raper said the company is disputing

the province's decision and hoping to have it resolved in short order. He said there are still logging roads that need repairs from the winter and the sooner Miramichi Lumber can get back on their allocation the quicker the turnaround will be when the time comes to ramp back into production.

But, for now, he said there are no clear answers.

"I don't know what the province is going to do," Raper told the Miramichi Leader. "I talked to the licensee (Forebu Lumber) and they don't understand why we haven't been allowed on (the Crown land) to do the cleanup

PLEASE SEE → MILL, A2

Canoe that belonged to Boston Red Sox great Ted Williams being restored



Billy Gilks, left, and Norm Betts pose with the canoe they are restoring that once belonged to baseball great Ted Williams. PHOTO: KATIE SMITH/MIRAMICHI LEADER

KATIE SMITH
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Some people restore old homes, some old cars. But in a workshop just off Route 8 near Doaktown, a man breathes life back into something else - canoes.

Norm Betts of Miramichi Canoe, located in Blissfield near Doaktown, has been restoring canoes for more than a decade, and has been around the leisure craft all his life.

Earlier this winter, he received a call from a man in Texas who bought a camp in Grey Rapids and on the property, found an old canoe.

Since the camp once belonged to baseball great Ted Williams, he assumed

the canoe was as well.

"I told him, once the spring comes to bring it over," Betts said in an interview with the Miramichi Leader at his shop on June 11. "Here it is."

Betts said when the canoe arrived, the canvass it was encased in was rotten and needed to be replaced, as did some of the cedar wood on both ends, which were damaged as a result of laying face down on the ground for so many years.

"Here's how I know it belonged to Ted Williams," he said, pointing to a carving inside the boat near the front which read "TW."

Theodore Samuel "Ted" Williams, also

PLEASE SEE → CANOE, A3

Inside

Ottawa MP will table private member's bill to create national registry of violent offenders **A3**

Music Whelan's Barn ready to kick-start summer with original tunes on Thursday **B6**

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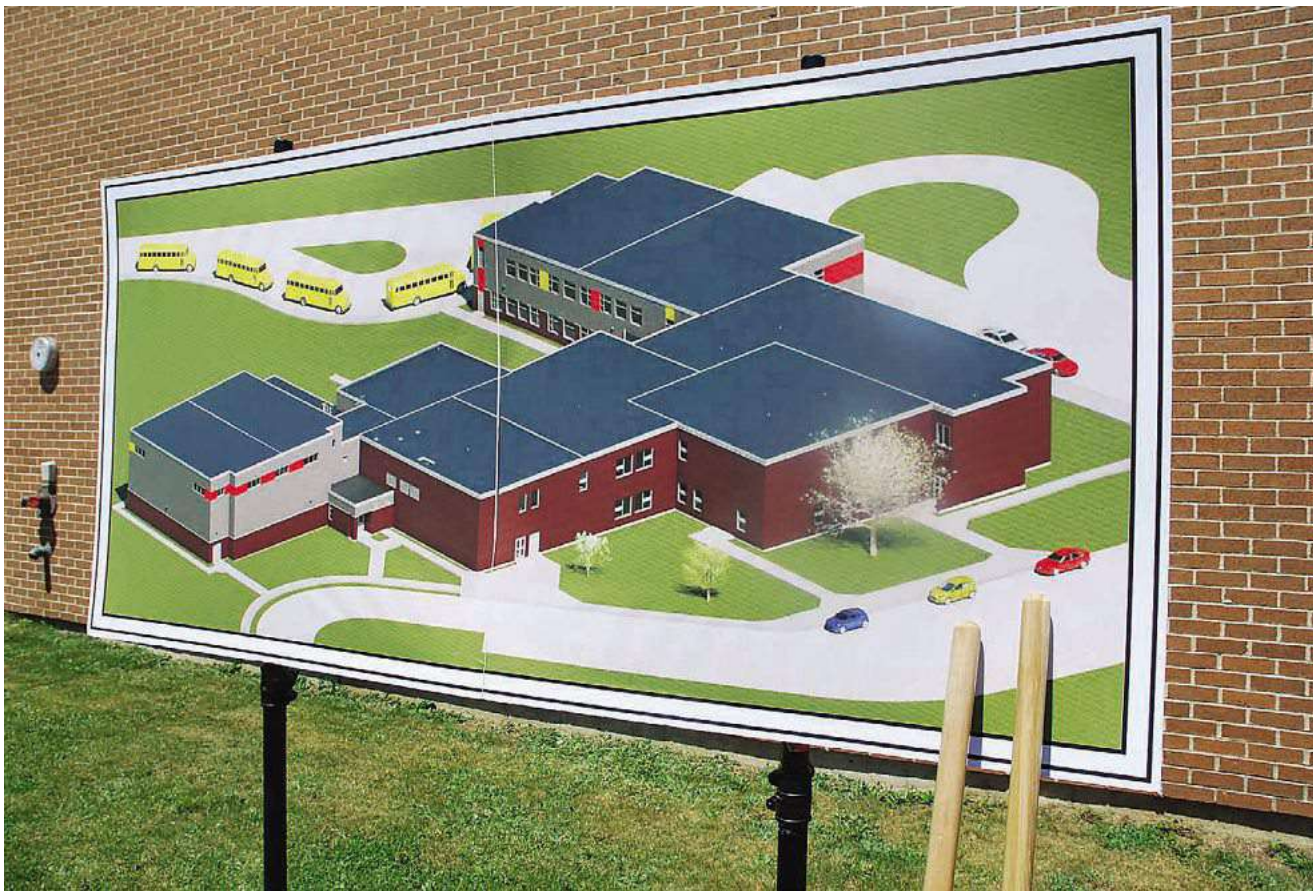


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An illustration of the final expansion of Gretna Green Elementary, which will transition to a K-8 school. PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Work began just minutes after official announcement

SCHOOL → A1

Between 2015 and 2016, approximately \$6.8 million is expected to be spent, which is about two thirds of the overall construction monies being allocated for the project and most of the work.

“It will provide a modern, safe and healthy environment for students and transform the school into a place where educators and staff will have everything they need to provide young students with a quality education,” said Fraser, Liberal MLA for Miramichi and the minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. “This project will assure you will have a strong foundation for your lifelong journey of learning.”

In addition to principal Comeau, Fraser was joined by Mayor Gerry Cormier; district education council chair Michael Mortlock; Mike Coster, the district education council representative for Gretna Green’s area; Charlotte Casey, director of schools, who also acted as the emcee and MLA Lisa Harris, who attended the event on behalf of Serge Rouselle,

minister for Education and Early Childhood Development.

Harris explained that the renovations and the new addition would provide the school with a new gymnasium complete with a stage, new teaching spaces, new administration areas and a new technology classroom. The project will also see the existing gym turned into a cafeteria, make sure the building is up to code, upgrade the existing play field significantly and improve the bus and parent drop-off areas to maximize safety.

Comeau said currently, there are approximately 205 students at the school, and after the expansion the student body would likely grow to about 340.

“The only real change in the student population is that the students who typically left in Grade 5 to go to Grade 6 at Harkins, now stay.”

Mortlock also thanked John Schenkels and the team of parents for successfully lobbying to get a new K-8 school built in Newcastle, which will take in students from Croft Elementary, Harkins Elementary School and Harkins

Middle School and will be located on the southern edge of the Croft property. Work began there just minutes after the official announcement was made on Monday, June 8.

“I truly believe that a school is the heart of the community and this new addition will become a shining example of a real community school,” he said, referring to Gretna Green.

In addition to the major expansion and Newcastle’s new school, construction on a brand new K-5 school in the Chatham area will get going in 2016 and will take in students from St. Andrews Elementary School and Ian Baillie Primary School, both of which will be decommissioned once the new building welcomes students in 2017.

Fraser said the work was definitely scheduled to start this week, and some of the equipment was already on-site near the back of the school on Monday.

“It’s going to start right away, the equipment is here so hopefully they can turn it on and get started today,” added Harris.

Mill about \$4M in debt to province

MILL → A1

from last year.”

This latest development comes just as the company learned the province had swooped in to take possession of an \$814,000 insurance cheque Miramichi Lumber was counting on to undertake repairs at the mill.

The New Brunswick government is listed as a secured creditor stemming from \$3 million in loan guarantees that were provided to the company in 2010 to allow it to modernize.

Currently, Miramichi Lumber is indebted to the province to the tune of around \$4 million and because of that the government has a right to claim any new money that comes to light in order to pay down the balance.

Raper said he and mill president Danny Anderson are trying to convince the province the mill is a more valuable asset if it is operational and providing jobs, roughly \$3 million in salaries this year alone.

He said he’s hopeful the government will opt to release the insurance proceedings back to Miramichi Lumber so that it can carry out those repairs and get things moving again in the mill yard.

But even without the money, Raper said the mill isn’t entirely down and out. Its carriage line, a more old-school but still effective way of processing saw logs, is set to accommodate saw logs that are 12 inches in diameter and over, but Raper noted the line is capable of handling cuts as small as nine inches in diameter.

Raper said it wouldn’t take much for the mill to fire up the carriage line and at least get back into limited production if it meant being able to legally be able to get back onto its Crown allocation.

“It saws a lot of the bigger wood, so basically we would take anything nine inches and up and put it through the carriage line – usually we would take everything 11 inches and up and put it

through the carriage line because the other (main line) can handle up to that amount,” Raper said.

“It’s just a big rotary saw going back and forth – it’s still intact, the parts are still good, so that line will run as soon as we put an electrical switch in.”

For now, however, Miramichi Lumber’s hands appear to be tied.

According to Department of Natural Resources information relating to the Miramichi Lumber file back in the summer of 2013, the mill’s total Crown allocation stands at 126,488 cubic metres of saw material on Crown licence No. 3.

Saw material is softwood of suitable diameter that can be used for the production of various lumber products, although Miramichi Lumber’s sawmill designs limit it to processing only saw logs and not lesser cuts such as studwood, for instance.

While its allocation is classified by the government as a permanent one, the company can only harvest its wood annually provided it is operating.

Miramichi Lumber has maintained that it has been unable to use the majority of the wood on its allocation and that only a small percentage of it is made up of the saw logs it needs to fuel its operation and sustain employment.

As a result, the mill has been in a continuous cycle of restarts and shutdowns since it only has enough material at its disposal to run sporadically.

The perceived shortage of wood forms the basis for a lawsuit Miramichi Lumber filed against the province last summer.

The provincial government promptly counter-sued, seeking to reclaim hundreds of thousands of dollars in outstanding Crown royalty payments the company still owes.

Because of the impending legal action, the province has declined to comment about anything related to the Miramichi Lumber file.

Many people on no-contact list

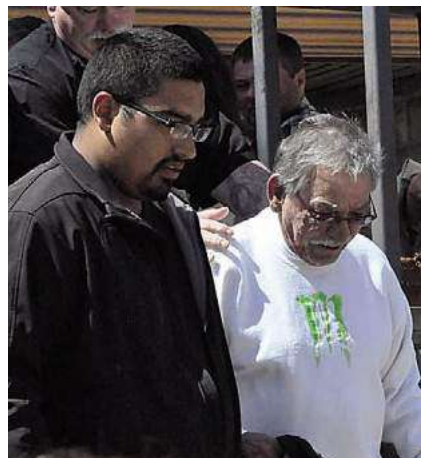
COURT → A1

Dedam are as follows: the first four counts involve one victim and allege that between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 22, 1978, Dedam had sexual intercourse with a female who was not his wife without her consent; that between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 22, 1978, he had sexual intercourse with a female, not his wife and who was under the age of 14 years; that between June 28, 1978, and June 27, 1980, he had sexual intercourse with a female person who was not his wife and of a previously chaste character under the age of 16 and over the age of 14; and that between Feb. 1, 1981, and June 27, 1982, he had illicit sexual intercourse with a female.

The fifth charge involves a second victim and alleges that he committed sexual assault on a female between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1983, in Esgenoôpetitj First Nation.

The sixth and final charge involves a third victim and alleges he committed sexual assault on a female person between Jan. 1, 1984, and Dec. 31, 1984, in Esgenoôpetitj First Nation.

On the sex crimes, Dedam was arrested by the Neguac RCMP on May 7, 2014, and was released from custody on bail on May 16, 2014, with conditions that included a \$10,000 bond; that he have no contact with the alleged victims or their families; must abide by a curfew; cannot be in the company of any women under the age of 18 and must abstain from drugs and alcohol, a condition which also



Former Esgenoôpetitj First Nation chief Wilbur Dedam, shown in the white turtleneck after a court appearance in May 2014. He will appear on Thursday for a bail hearing on a charge alleging he breached his undertaking by having contact with his alleged victims or their families. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

prohibits him from visiting any establishment that sells liquor.

The undertaking lists a total of 25 people that Dedam is not to have contact with, directly or indirectly.

His next scheduled court appearance on the sex crimes has been set for Aug. 7 in the Court of Queen’s Bench for a pre-trial conference.

The Aug. 7 date is also when the tentative trial date will be confirmed. Justice Fred Ferguson tentatively set the trial for Feb. 22 to March 4, 2016.

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Letters to the editor

Successful D-Day Commemoration

The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, The North Shore Veterans Association, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #18 and the Bathurst Ladies Auxiliary held their annual D-Day Commemoration Parade for the general public on Saturday June 6th at the Coronation Park, Bathurst.

On Sunday, June 7, a similar event was held at the Queen Elizabeth Park in Miramichi involving the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #3, #10 and #90 and the Canadian Peace Keeping Association. Both events were well attended by various cadets' corps and more than 75 guests and visitors in attendance at both locations.

D-Day has a very special significance for the North Shore (NB) Regiment. This year marks the 71st D-Day landing anniversary in Normandy. The greatest amphibious operations in modern history occurred on June 6th, 1944. Canadians played a significant role during this operation being assigned the objective of capturing Juno Beach, one of five Allied landing objectives in Normandy, France. Canada deployed approximately 15,000 troops supported by 10,000 sailors as well as Royal Canadian Air Force personnel flying Spitfires fighters and Lancaster bombers. Canadian units were originating from across Canada ranging from the Nova Scotia Highlanders in the east to the Canadian Scottish Regiment in Victoria on the west coast. D-Day bombing started at 0600 hrs in the morning with landing craft departing towards the beach at 0700hrs. At approximately 0800hrs, the German positions were overrun and Canada had established its beachhead.

At the end of the first day after landing, Canadian units were the only one having achieved their objective on D-Day being five kms inland from the Juno Beach shore. However the victory came at great cost with Canada suffering over 1000 casualties of which 359 were fatal. The North Shore Regiment suffered 120 casualties of which 33 were fatal.

Mr. Danny Roy, Deputy Mayor for the City of Bathurst, and His Worship Gerry Cormier, Miramichi City Mayor, were Reviewing Officers at each respective parade sites. Held on a nice cool and sunny weekend, the reviewing officers warmly welcomed guests and spectators to the Parades in their respective address and emphasized the historical importance of D-Day, not only for the Regiment, but also for our region being an integral part of our historical fabric.

Both reviewing officers highly praised the contribution of the North Shore (NB) Regiment veterans that partook in this operation. In particular, they highlighted the huge sacrifices they made during these dark times as well as their families and paid particular tribute to the fallen.

In summary, The D-Day landing was one of the most significant events in Canadian Military History. On both Parades held in Bathurst and Miramichi this year, guests and spectators in attendance showed their appreciation to all the brave Canadian soldiers from the North Shore (NB) Regiment who left their homeland to fight for justice and our freedom in a faraway land and who left a proud legacy for all Canadians.

As the Regimental Honorary Colonel Ian Oliver clearly pointed out: "The world would not be what it is today without the heroic contribution of our D-Day veterans."

Major Renald Dufour
Pont-Lafrance

MS Walk support greatly appreciated

The Medavie blue cross walk was held on May 24 and once again the people of Miramichi supported us as only miramichers can—generously.

On behalf of the ms society Atlantic division, I would like to express a very sincere thank you.

Thank you to all who donated pledges, to all businesses who gave donations to our basket, to the volunteers who helped on walk day and to the girls from Scotia bank who handled our money.

On behalf of my daughter Jessica and myself we would also like to thank Ian Donovan, the balloon man for entertaining the kids, to Erica Cook-Fitzpatrick for her Zumba warm up, to Donnie Richard for photographs, to Jeremy Lahey for paramedic services and last but not least my son in law Gerry Richard for all the help he gives us.

We couldn't do it without you.

Although the registered numbers were down this year, through hard work our fundraising kept the monetary value still on par.

The overall total including online donations was around \$10,000.

That \$10,000 is outstanding and will help so many people suffering through this disease.

Again we are ever so grateful to everyone who contributed one way or another.

The winner of the basket we sold tickets on was Shannon Daley of Chatham.

I would just like to add one more big thank you to Cathy Astle of subway who fed our walkers and volunteers. She showed such generosity and professionalism and that added up to one awesome person. Thank you everyone.

Joan Dewland McDougall
co-ordinator MS Walk Miramichi Site

Emotions should not be part of zoning decisions

It is natural for people to be resistant to change, especially when that change is literally taking place in your own backyard.

It remains to be seen what the level of opposition from the neighbourhood surrounding the Miramichi Naturopathic Health Clinic in Douglstown will be in light of the clinic approaching the City of Miramichi with a rezoning application that would allow the business to carry out a major expansion. All of that will become clear during a forthcoming public hearing that is required to take place anytime these types of applications come forward. But the fact that several people turned out to take in a recent city council meeting where details of the project were shared suggests there is some level of concern here.

The municipal rezoning process provides an outlet for residents to express those concerns in a formal capacity. They can write letters of opposition or choose to speak openly during the public hearing.

People deserve to have a say on matters that are going to impact their neighbourhoods and, as admitted by planners and the developers of this particular initiative, there is going to be an impact here, mainly just through the physical changes that will occur. The owner of the clinic, Dr. Crystal Charest, is looking to build a two-storey addition to her practice south of where the current office is situated at the corner of King George Highway and Kearney Street.

Part of that expansion also calls for increased parking and, in order to do it, the clinic is asking for the demolition of two vacant homes in the immediate area, one on Kearney Street and one on nearby Hayden Street, in order to free up space. On the surface, the plans being proposed by the naturopathic clinic appear reasonable. It will result in even more new infrastructure in a part of the city that, despite the presence residential housing on both sides of the King George Highway, is, in actuality, one of the city's busiest commercial corridors. It will also create new jobs, since Dr. Charest said the expansion would allow new doctors to come on board while helping provide services to a growing list of patients from all over northern New Brunswick right here in our city. Traffic, of course, is a major issue in this part of town where, depending on the time of day, simply being able to turn out onto the main road can take several minutes. Residents would be rightly concerned that a higher volume of patients may result in a higher volume of traffic and, ideally, there will be provisions in place to help ensure the impact is minimal, such as the installation of a set of traffic lights nearby.

But if there is any opposition to this project we hope it doesn't come in the form of the outdated not-in-my-backyard mindset we have seen so many times before in this city.

Miramichi is not in a position to spurn new development and private investment. Quite the opposite, actually. To the city's credit, we have been seeing near-record construction, particularly on the commercial side, taking place for the past couple of years. But we also saw residents of the Hutchison Drive area nearly derail a major apartment development that has since proven to be a nice addition to the city's housing landscape while residents of Henderson Street were able, a couple of years ago, to convince council that a new commercial daycare would impact their "quiet" neighbourhood despite the presence of three schools, the district education office, sports fields, a gym and a swimming pool. Common sense should always prevail on these issues and emotions should never get in the way. Because, in a cash-strapped city looking to stimulate growth and strengthen its tax base, responsible, safe development that adds something to the city should always be encouraged.

An ethical and economic revolution we are facing



Green Ideas Carl Duivenvoorden

Like most New Brunswickers, I'm struggling with the challenging choices facing this province. Our aging population and perilous finances threaten the sustainability of health care, education, road maintenance and more.

So it's no wonder that the economic benefits promised by an oil pipeline, hydraulic fracturing and a large mining prospect are so alluring.

But as I strive to process all the pros and cons of these economic mega projects, one nagging line has come to resonate loudly in my thoughts and refuses

to go away.

It's this: "What profit will a person have if he gains the whole world, but destroys himself?"

You may recognize it. It's from the Bible, spoken by Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

In the context of the choices we face in New Brunswick, it could be paraphrased this way: what does it profit us if we gain short-term prosperity but destroy our air, water and climate in the process?

To be sure, all three projects above offer the temptation of economic wealth. But they also have consequences which extend vastly beyond the timeline of their benefits.

Take the Energy East pipeline. The great majority of jobs it will create are in construction, and will last less than three years. On the other hand, the greenhouse gases generated by the million barrels of bitumen it will carry every day will persist for generations.

The Sisson Mine project promises hundreds of jobs over its expected 27 years of production. That's wonderful, but when it closes, it will leave a tailings pond and pumping facility that will need to be

managed, in the company's own words, 'in perpetuity'. In other words, forever.

Finally, there's fracking. Amid the uncertainties of estimated reserves, projected recoveries and unknown unknowns, there is one certainty: natural gas is still a fossil fuel (albeit the least dirty) so emissions from its use, like those from coal and oil, will contribute to global warming for a very long time.

In fairness, the difficult choice between short-term prosperity and long-term environmental stability is not unique to New Brunswick. It's everywhere, because economic systems around the world ignore the environment and put no price on its fouling.

Within Canada, surely nowhere can the choice between economy and the environment be more challenging than in Alberta.

Perhaps all of this underlines the need for an economic and ethical revolution – a need to reset the goalposts that define success and prosperity. That's why last week's intervention by one of the world's most revered spiritual figures is so important.

In a speech last year, Pope Francis suggested that an economic system "centred on the god of money" is unsustainable, even suicidal, because it encourages ever more consumption, which in turn requires ever more plundering of nature.

And in last Thursday's much-anticipated encyclical on the environment, he went further. He called for an



A sunset at Loggieville casts a brilliant blend of orange, red and pink over the rippling Miramichi River. Environmental columnist Carl Duivenvoorden says the choice between economy and the environment can be challenging.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

ethical revolution to correct a "structurally perverse" economic system that is turning our wonderful planet into an "immense pile of filth." He urged all humanity, not only Catholics, to awaken to the immorality of a system based on environmental plundering. He challenged us to redefine what progress Pope Francis is not alone; many faith communities are appealing for a moral reset and a renewed focus on stewardship, sustainability and human-centred values. Notably, in April, the Church of England permanently pulled its investments out of coal and oil sands.

Increasingly, socially-responsible corporate CEOs are speaking up too.

Thank goodness for such voices; may we heed them here in NB and everywhere as we struggle to reconcile economics and the environment. After all, what does it profit us if we gain short-term economic prosperity but destroy our long-term future?

Carl Duivenvoorden
changeyourcorner.com;
@CDuivenv
Speaker, writer and sustainability consultant who lives in Kingclear, near Fredericton

milestones

news

DEATH NOTICES



MATHESON, BARBARA

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Barbara Jean (Fletcher) Matheson, wife of A. George F Matheson, at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on June 20, 2015. Born in Newcastle NB, she was the youngest daughter of the late Raymond and Josephine (Paulin) Fletcher.

Upon graduation from Harkins High school in 1967, Barbara was employed with the Province of NB as a court stenographer till marriage took her to Bathurst where she became employed with the law firm of Edward G Byrne. After having her children, Barbara dedicated her life to being a mother.

Barb is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, George, children Jennifer Hindle (Edward), their children James, Michael and Emily, of Quispamsis, Tanya of Miramichi and Colin (Stephanie), their children Aiden and Austen, of Woodstock. Her sisters Norine Hogan (late William), Pauline Mullin (Bernard), brother-in-law James Matheson (Joyce), all of Miramichi, and several nieces and nephews.

Barbara was predeceased by her parents, brother-in-law William Hogan, brother and sister-in-law Edward and Helen (Matheson) Perkins.

The family received visitors at **Bell's Funeral Home** on Tuesday from 2 to 4 PM and 7 to 9 PM. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated from the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, Chatham Head on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 1 PM with Father Paul LeBlanc officiating. Music was by organist/soloist Jacqueline Allain: Solos were: "Hail Mary, Gentle Women", "Ava Maria", "Amazing Grace" and "Songs of the Angels". The recessional was: "Christmas in Killarney" with a solo by Beth Donovan: "Here I am Lord". The readers were: Mary Fletcher and Stella Ward with the Prayers of the Faithful read by Donna Perkins. The eulogy was given by Bill Hogan. Honorary Pallbearers were: Bill and Janet Cobb, Francis and Nancy Stack, Dave and Barb Field, Francis and Mary Grant, Paul and Julia Connell, James MacDonald, Michael Fletcher, Michael Carroll, Sean Hogan and Patrick Hogan. Burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, in Barb's memory, donations may be made to the Extra Mural Program, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Building fund, the Bell Aliant Pioneers or to a memorial of the donor's choice.

Funeral arrangements were under the care of Bell's Funeral Home, 651 King George Highway, Miramichi, NB. Telephone: 506-622-3600.

DEATH NOTICES



REDMOND, WILLIAM "BILL" ARTHUR JR.

The death of Bill Redmond Jr., husband of Maureen (O'Donnell) occurred at his residence on Saturday, June 20 at the age of 60. Born in Chatham NB, Bill was the son of the late Bill Sr. and Anne (Daley) Redmond of Chatham.

He worked as a custodian with Anglophone North School District, and had recently retired from 24 years of service. He was a member of St. Michael's Basilica. He loved softball and played from a young age with the Nelson Belvederes. After years as a player, Bill went on to coach softball and share his talent with others. As a father, Bill enjoyed every moment with his two daughters and wife, never missing a special occasion. He was an avid golfer and had a true love for the game, something he planned to pursue more of in his retirement. He was a husband, a father, a brother, and a friend. He was loved by all who knew him.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, Kelsey (Nick LaRoche) of North Battleford, Saskatchewan and Jenna (Tyson McKay) of Miramichi, two sisters, Nora Ann Roberts (Tom MacMillan) and Valerie Fowler (Paul Doucette) and one brother Daniel Redmond, all of Miramichi, sister-in-laws Darlene O'Donnell and Elaine (John) Sullivan, brother-in-laws Greg O'Donnell and Danny McDonnell, mother and father-in-law, Buddy and Norma O'Donnell and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Marie McDonnell, brother-in-law Wayne Roberts, and sister-in-law Betty Ann Redmond.

William Redmond rested at **Maher's Funeral Home** Miramichi, NB, on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 11am from St. Michael's Basilica with Fr John Fraser officiating. Active pallbearers were Tim Dunn, Tim Taylor, Tim Fowler, Greg O'Donnell, Jeff McDonnell, Tom MacMillan. Honorary pallbearers were (Bill's nieces and nephew), Tracy Endersby, Kari Basom, Shelly Platts, Natalie Donahue, Angela Flaherty, Debb McDonnell and Andrew Redmond. Readers were: Jeff McDonnell and Angela Flaherty, Intercessions: Debb McDonnell, Eulogy by Tracy Endersby. Hymns were: Seek Ye First, Here I am, Lord, Prayer of St Francis, On Eagles Wings, and Into Your Hands by St Michael's Senior Choir and Organist David Bunnell. Interment was in St Michael's Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were under the care of Maher's Funeral Home Miramichi, NB. Telephone 773-4321 or www.mahersfh.com

DEATH NOTICES

McKAY, DAVID

Mr. David Alfred McKay husband of Laura (Curtis) McKay of Route 425 Hwy, Strathadam NB, passed away Thursday evening June 18, 2015 at Miramichi Regional Hospital, at the age of 87.

Born in Strathadam, NB, he was the son of the late Herman and Lucy (Goodfellow) McKay. He was a retired School Bus driver and a farmer. He was a member of the United Church.

Besides his wife Laura, he is survived by three daughters; Hazel MacTavish of Strathadam, Margaret Jardine (Guy) of Williamstown and Jessie Gillespie (Kevin) of Millerton, three sons; David (Corine) of Bellefond, Gordon (Dee Gillespie) of Strathadam and Willis of Strathadam, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents.

Mr. David Alfred McKay rested at **Davidson's Funeral Home**, 597 Old King George Hwy, with visitation on Monday June 22, 2015 from 1 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 3 p.m. with Reverend John Fraser officiating. Organist was Shirley Estey. Hymns were "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross". Burial followed in St. Philip's United Cemetery, Whitney NB.

Active Pallbearers were: Ralph Nowlan, Lynnwood Coughlan, Marc McKay, Todd McKay, Arien Jardine and Leslie Allen.

Arrangements were in care of Davidson's Funeral Home (622-7464) or online at www.davidsonsfh.com your family owned - family operated funeral home.

CARDS OF THANKS

IN APPRECIATION



MCBRIARTY - The family of the late Ann McBriarty would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our family, relatives and friends and Ann's friends and extended family from Vancouver, BC, for their love and support during the recent loss of our sister.

Your expressions of sympathy by being there for us as well as your prayers, kind words, mass cards, sympathy cards, flowers, memorial donations, food, phone calls and e-mails will never be forgotten.

A special thank you to Doctors Eve St. Hilaire, Camille Haddad, Amos Kpogo, John Henderson and the nurses and staff at the Horizon Region 7 Hospital. We would like to extend our very special gratitude to 2 west, and Palliative Care Unit Nursing Staff for their care and compassion towards our sister and our family.

Thank you to Monsignor Joseph Woods and Rev. Vincent Donovan for the funeral mass. To Susan Brophy, organist, and Michelle Jardine, soloist for the beautiful music. We commend you for sharing your talents with us.

Thank you to the honorary Pallbearers, the Renous, Blackville and Millerton Seniors as well as the Blackville card groups. Thank you to the Pallbearers, Stephen and Raymond Pyne, Bill and Peter Casey, Ann's Nephews and Danny Underhill, nieces, husband's and Danny Donovan her very good friend and hockey comrade. Thank you to the readers, Maria Dunn, Sharon Ann Furlong and Dorothy Colepaugh for the intentions, you are all held a special place in Ann's heart. We want to say thank you to St. Bridget's CWL for the lovely reception following the funeral.

Our gratitude goes out to Jennifer Underhill; Ann's Niece who wrote and delivered the eulogy which was a wonderful celebration of our sister's, Aunt and amazing friend's life.

Thank you to Lorne Jay, Amy and Corey of the Northumberland Funeral Home who took care of the funeral arrangements. Thank you for exhibiting professional care, kindness and compassion to everyone.

Rest in Peace, Ann - We will never forget you,

Judy, Paula and Mike, Lourdes and Gerald, Adrian, Cathy and families

MEMORIAMS



Butler - In loving memory of our parents Leonard June 29th 2000 and Theresa February 13th 2006.

There aren't any tomorrows For us to share But yesterday's memories Will always be there Loved forever - Butler Family

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up. - PABLO PICASSO

MEMORIAMS



June Esther West-McEvoy June 15, 1954 - June 27, 2014

To us you were so special, What more is there to say. Except we wish with all our hearts, That you were here today.

Lovingly remembered and never forgotten. Love The McEvoy Family

Minnie Hare

In Memory of our Mother, Minnie Hare, who passed away suddenly on June 29, 1986.

Ever since you went away The days go slowly by, And the hardest thing to cope with Is never knowing why....

Since we don't understand And maybe never will, Questions left unanswered Now your voice is still.

To lose you was unbearable And time and time again, We've tried to look for reasons That no one can explain.

Life and death hold mysteries But one thing is for sure, We loved you then, We love you now And will forever more....

Greatly missed and loved always by your children, **Lisa, Brett and Nikki xo**

Raymond Ronan

In loving memory of a dear Husband, Father and Grandfather who passed away June 25, 2010 Lovingly remembered Mary and Family

BIRTHS

Miramichi Regional Hospital

MARSH

Owen Donald Edgar Marsh, parents Tara Sutherland and Eddie Marsh, in Miramichi, NB. Born on June 10th, 2015, 6lbs 11oz, brother to Brooke, Payton, Emmitt, Crystal, Tyler, and Tyson.



FOOT PRINTS

I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints.

I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I needed You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you."

Margaret Fishback Powers

New special care home in Miramichi will be open this summer

SAMANTHA MAGEE MIRAMICHI LEADER

A new 20-bed special care home is under construction in Miramichi and is expected to be open to receive clients before summer's end.

"We're hoping to be open by the end of July, first of August, that's our goal," said Theo Craig, who helps his wife, Cheryl Craig, who is the owner-operator, with the business.

"It's great to be able to meet such a big need in our community," said Craig, who is also a pastor at the Family Worship Centre.

The Craigs own two other care homes as well, one in Nelson (10 beds) and one in Chatham (eight beds), with plans for building another 20-bed home in Doaktown.

Craig said construction is expected to start later this year on the Doaktown facility.

All of the homes provide Level 1 and 2 care, which refers to a provincial model that dictates the needs of patients and the corresponding care they require.

Long-term care in New Brunswick is categorized in four different levels, with Level 3 and 4 meaning that patients require 24-hour supervision, according to the Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Resident's Rights, which explained the levels of care in a report entitled A Vision for Change: Aging in Place.

"In New Brunswick, special care homes are private and licensed by the province to care for Level 1 and 2 residents, who are generally mobile and require some assistance with supervision and personal care activities of daily living."

Craig said his staff, personal support workers, are all trained to meet the provincial guidelines and added that there was also a registered nurse on staff.

He said they are always accepting new applications as their client base fluctuates frequently, and urged family members to call on behalf of their aging loved ones who may be considering moving to such a facility.

"It can be overwhelming sometimes (for family members). To know your loved one is in a safe environment with good food and good staff is (comforting)," said Craig.

Nursing homes are certainly high on Miramichi's wish list, given how too few beds means seniors in need of nursing home beds must be cared for at Miramichi Regional Hospital. On the government-funded side of things, a new 240-bed nursing home for the city was just announced, which will be the largest in New Brunswick, and a new 36-bed special care home in Newcastle is pending also.

While Craig notes a privately owned special care home is obviously a smart business decision, especially in Miramichi where the population older than 65 is close to 20 per cent, according to a 2011 Statistics Canada report, he said he and his wife would not have gotten into the business if they didn't genuinely care about the people who are their clients.

"It's kind of like our retirement project and we love the Miramichi and the people here. ... We're in this because we love people and we want to meet a need."

Twelve years from now, more than 25 per cent of the population of New Brunswick will be 65 or older, according to the coalition's report.

Craig praised his staff for their dedication and empathetic care.

"They do this because they love working with elderly people. They have a real passion to give back to the community. It's definitely not for the money because in New Brunswick there isn't a lot of money going around. They are passionate about being compassionate," he said. "We have been blessed with a great staff, and it makes all the difference in the world."

The Craigs have been building these special care facilities for the past three years.

He said his wife bought their first special care home three years ago in Chatham. The facility was already functioning and after some renovations, it opened under their management in 2012.

"We have been really blessed."

Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action.

Mother Teresa



Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold.

- Zelda Fitzgerald

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Letters to the editor

Supreme Court should not be making our laws

Congratulations to Roy Hobson for his item in the Aug. 25 Telegraph-Journal regarding the Canadian Constitution and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's "legacy."

I recall thinking when this act was acclaimed that the only Canadians who will benefit are lawyers and criminals. By and large, I think the passage of time has borne this out.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau didn't do us any favour with this bill. At the time, I felt that if there was a country in this world that didn't need more "freedoms, rights and privileges" it was Canada. Nothing has happened in the interim to make me change this opinion. I didn't plan of breaking any law, ergo I had no need of any additional rights and privileges.

Things have evolved to a point where the Supreme Court of Canada is now making law, rather than our elected representatives. After all, isn't that the main reason we elected them?, to enact laws in the best interests of all Canadians?

The role of the judiciary is to ensure that these laws, properly enacted by our elected reps, are applied fairly and that any punitive action is just. The judiciary should not be formulating law, but this is now what the SCOC is in fact doing. As Mr. Hobson said, the SCOC is unelected and unaccountable.

Justice McLaughlin has been in a snit since the PM had the temerity to ask her a question or two about some ruling, and ever since then, every SCOC ruling involving the federal government has gone against the government.

It is indeed unfortunate that federal

judges are not firmly apolitical. If they were, most of the constitutional issues probably wouldn't arise.

I'm beginning to wonder if we should elect all federal judges, and make them accountable to the will of the electorate. I sincerely believe that if this was the case, we'd have far fewer questionable decisions handed down. Further, I believe that down the road, we're going to see some serious consideration given to constitutional change.

I don't think it's working the way it was intended.

I encourage everyone to read Mr. Hobson's article in the Aug 25 Telegraph.

Ken Simpson
Miramichi

Financial burden forced on government workers

It's been a year into the new government's mandate, so let's summarize what they have accomplished so far. Let's go over their platform promises:

- 1) Create 10,000 jobs, 5,000 the first year
 - 2) Grow the economy
- Mr. Gallant said on the campaign trail that he would rebuild trust with civil servants; the moral is at an all time low. Trust has to be restored. It's quite obvious that he has not created 5,000 jobs; unless he's counting the ones he has cut as well (and shifted to private contractors).

Whose economy is this government growing? Nova Scotia? Quebec? Ontario? etc. It certainly is not the New Brunswick economy!

You don't grow the economy by giving away work to companies from outside New Brunswick.

How does this government boost morale?

The Minister of Transportation and

Infrastructure sits down with the Road Builders Association and gives them 21 pipe installations that his government workers were scheduled to do. He lets the construction association imply that his employees are not above board when giving work out.

He contracts out the work of his employees even though it cost 1 1/2 times to 2 times more to do this, information supplied by his deputy minister.

His department lays off casuals early. Seasonal and regular employees have their divisions closed, so they now have to drive 100 kilometres or more to and from work every day.

This is coming from a department that brags it is a performance-based organization. What organization takes work away from their own employees and gives to other companies, some from out of the province? That's good for the economy, isn't it?

This government, in a few short months, has forced a financial burden on government employees that they didn't sign for. Because of this, skilled workers are leaving the departments and province.

So, in closing, I ask: if it cost 1 1/2 to two times more to contract out, why would you do it? Is it because these are the people who are known as the "coffers" who fund campaigns and are owed something when governments are elected?

Maybe all government employees should contribute to these campaigns and maybe the government of the day might leave their jobs alone and let them go to work and do their jobs.

That's all what workers want in this province: to go to work and provide the public services that taxpayers deserve in this province – and not for a profit, I might add.

Andrew Hardy
Provincial President
CUPE Local 1190
Fredericton

Patience by drivers can save lives in construction zones

The recent court case of a motorist accused in the death of a New Brunswick flag person on a Saskatchewan highway highlights again the need for motorists to slow down through construction zones.

Ashley Dawn Richards, 18, was thrown about the width of a football field when she was struck and killed by an SUV in a highway construction zone during her first day on the job in August, 2012. Earlier this month, the Saskatchewan courtroom heard testimony from a RCMP accident reconstructionist, who estimated the vehicle was travelling between 82 and 99 km/h when it struck Richards. The posted speed limit was 60 km/h.

While this tragedy happened in Saskatchewan, it hit close to home. Richards had just moved from Lakeside, N.B., outside Saint John, to the western province.

It also reminded us of another tragedy that happened on a New Brunswick highway in 2007.

A highway maintenance worker was killed and two others were injured when a transport truck ran into them while they were working on the Trans-Canada

Highway in Moncton. They were placing orange traffic cones along the centreline when they were struck by the truck.

That prompted the New Brunswick government to double the fines for speeding in construction zones. The minimum fine now for speeding in a construction zone is \$480.

Yet, according to the province, about a quarter of New Brunswickers admit to speeding through them.

In the Saskatchewan case, the driver pleaded not guilty earlier this month to charges of criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving causing death. The judge has reserved his decision until October. But New Brunswickers shouldn't wait to learn a lesson from this tragedy.

Each day from spring through fall, in about 150 locations across the province, hundreds of men and women on road construction crews are working to make our highways safer for you. They are someone's husband or wife, father or mother, son or daughter. They go to work and hope, like you, to return safely home at the end of the day.

While we all must deal with the temporary inconvenience of road repairs, we can't neglect the role we all play in making the road construction zone a safer place.

Employers are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of their workers. That includes calling police when they notice motorists speeding through their work zones.

WorkSafeNB regularly inspects road construction zones and issues stop-work orders when the safety of road construction workers is at risk. Our goal is to keep these workers safe.

Police agencies also visit road construction sites.

For the month of August, the West District RCMP has announced it will be patrolling these sites from Edmundston to St. Stephen, looking for speeding motorists and strictly enforcing traffic laws.

Meanwhile, the Department of Transportation requires its contractors to use a manual it developed in 2009, called the Work Area Traffic Control Manual, which sets out a uniform set of traffic control guidelines for all work done on provincial roads.

As a motorist, you also play a role. Plan your route ahead. You can keep up-to-date on road construction by:

Checking traffic advisories on the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure website (http://www.gnb.ca/0113/en/traffic_advisories/index-e.asp).



"Construction crews are working to make the highways safer for you. When you slow down, you make the workplace safer for them," says Gerard Adams, president and CEO of WorkSafe New Brunswick. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVES

Calling 511 (or 1 800 561-4063 if calling outside the province) for the New Brunswick Travel Information Service, which is updated daily Monday to Friday.

Checking municipal websites, which often provide information on construction projects within their boundaries.

Give yourself extra time to reach your destination if you know there will be traffic disruptions.

Follow the posted speed limits and slow down. In New Brunswick, highways with speed limits of 110 km/h are typically reduced to 90 km/h. In some cases, orange pylons are the only thing separating moving traffic from road workers.

Pay attention to the flag people working at the site and avoid changing radio stations or using a cellular phone while driving through a work zone. Watch out for workers and their equipment.

And above all, be patient. Construction crews are working to make the highways safer for you. When you slow down, you make the workplace safer for them.

Road construction is a fact of life in New Brunswick. Let's work together to make sure it doesn't take another life.

Gerard Adams
President and CEO of WorkSafe New Brunswick.

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

WEDNESDAY

December 9, 2015



'And I want a new leash, too!'

Fenway, a Shetland sheepdog, was at Saltwater Sounds on Saturday for Pets with Santa, an annual fundraiser for the Miramichi SPCA in which pet owners bring in their animals for a photo with Santa. Fenway belongs to Lana and Chris Kidney of Miramichi.

PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS / MIRAMICHI LEADER

Ballfield review will include community, says city manager

Exercise being carried out to see if all fields are being used enough to warrant the costs

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

They are a throwback to the old pre-amalgamation days, a reminder of the autonomy different parts of the city once had and of the sporting legacies that have been forged over the decades.

But despite the sentimental attachment, there has long been a feeling at city hall that there are too many baseball fields to take care of given their level of usage, or lack thereof.

So by the time the season starts up next summer, the expectation is that staff from the city's department of community wellness and recreation will be keeping close tabs on the activity playing out on ball fields and other pieces of outdoor recreational stock in every corner of the city.

It's all a part of a thorough review that the city is poised to get started on next year with the goal of figuring out, once and for all, what the right number is for a city this size based on the current demand.

"This community has traditionally tended to resist any change to the idea that there should be one team that has their own field and that the public should pay to line it and take care of it," city manager Mike Noel said. "We believe that with the numbers using the fields, there has to be some sort of rationalization and we expect there to be some rationalization on all playing fields."

Noel said he's confident that adjusting the number of fields the city is responsible for maintaining can be done without affecting the needs of the community.

For years, he said resistance to any kind of change or evaluation of neighbourhood facilities have typically been rooted in emotion, which he said is understandable.

But for a municipality trying to get its costs under control after watching expenditures rise by over \$7 million in the last five years alone, Noel said it's a conversation people need to be open to having.

On that note, Noel stressed that open dialogue and consultation with the community will play an essential role in the process.

"It is a sensitive issue and I don't want anybody to get the idea that we're going to internally gather as a group and people are going to get letters that they're going to be moved here or there," he said. "So our review of field use will involve consultation with everybody that's using our fields."

Noel said he expects the process will ramp up in the spring when the city receives its list of potential users for each of its fields.

He said those users will then be notified that their field usage is going to be evaluated over the course of the summer and that the city would be likely making a final decision on what stays and what goes sometime in the fall."

There are a few lines in the city's tentative capital budget list for 2016 calling for different upgrades to a number of different ballfields.

They include new fencing for Heath Steele Field, running water and sewer lines into Memorial Field, repairing the outfield fence at Cardinal Park, dugout replacements at the Gretna Green Fields and, most notably, \$120,000 worth of repairs to the James M. Hill Memorial High School Field.

None of this has been approved by city council. It is expected that council will be in a position to vote on the capital budget, its general operating budget and its utility operating budget on Dec. 14.

There has also been substantial spending on the city's two largest ballparks – Ironmen Field and Waldo Henderson Field – which saw upgrades carried out earlier this year in advance of the 2015 Canadian Senior Baseball Championships thanks to funding from all three levels of government.

PLEASE SEE → FIELD, A2

Dealership expansion recommended, but planner grilled on process

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

City councillors generally sit patiently through presentations on rezoning applications prior to rendering a decision, but things were noticeably tense on Monday night as a Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission planner outlined the details of a proposed commercial expansion in Douglstown.

And while Colleen Bawn noted the commission was recommending that Towne Ford Sales and Service Ltd., be authorized to proceed with their expansion immediately east and west of the current dealership on King George Highway, some councillors still expressed dismay with how the planning system functions.

But after being challenged on a number of points by council, Bawn defended the practices of the commission's planning services wing as being essential toward ensuring responsible development.

It is a detailed process that takes some

time to work through and while the decisions and recommendations that come out of the planning phase aren't always popular and are sometimes complex, she said the framework is in place for a reason.

"We do what we do so that the applicant can understand what might be ahead in the next steps, so that they can anticipate some of these things that might crop up," Bawn said. "So what we're suggesting here today is not a roadblock to development ... it's just a cautionary tale."

A major component of Towne Ford's expansion, being overseen by the dealership's owner, well-known Miramichi businessman Hal Somers, is centred on a piece of property the business acquired from the city last year.

That site, assuming council approves the rezoning application during a regular meeting this Thursday, will be the home of a new car rental agency that is expected to create a handful of new jobs.

The work will result in an existing

building previously owned by the city being renovated for use as office space for the rental business with room for an automotive detailing shop.

The new business will also require enhanced parking for its clientele and the developer is seeking to pave over the current gravel parking area as a component of the plan.

There are some issues, however, that arose during the development of the application that appeared to slow the process.

Complicating the proposal is the fact that the site in question is perched next to Hutchinson Brook, which is a provincially significant wetland area. Because of that, Bawn noted that no development, under this application, can take place within 30 metres of the wetland.

The provincial environment department also noted that if water runoff from the paved parking area was to head toward the brook it could put the company at risk of contravening the

PLEASE SEE → PROCESS, A2

Inside

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Film Cinephile Doug Dickinson says Creed has fresh style and emotion for Rocky series **B5**

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High Valley says to expect 'intimate vibe' at sold-out concert

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Country music duo High Valley is coming to Miramichi.

The band, which features brothers Brad and Curtis Rempel, will play at the Point Church on Friday, Dec. 11. The show is billed as A High Valley Acoustic Christmas, with Eric Samuel Timm and Greg Sykes as the opening acts.

"We're really excited about the opportunity on the East Coast. We've always loved the chance to come to Eastern Canada and now we get to do that and play some Christmas music," Curtis Rempel said in a phone interview.

The concert gets underway at 7 p.m.

with the doors opening at 6 p.m.

The band won the Canadian Country Music Association awards for group/duo of the year in 2013, as well as interactive artist of the year. They were nominated for a Juno award for best album of the year in 2012 for their self-titled debut, and have won 10 Gospel Music Association of Canada awards. Their hit singles include "Love You For A Long Time," "Rescue You," "Make You Mine" and "She's With Me."

In October, the band inked a deal with Atlantic Records/Warner Music Nashville Records and will be releasing *Make You Mine* in the United States in February.

PLEASE SEE → DUO, A2



The country music act High Valley, featuring brothers Brad and Curtis Rempel, will be at The Point church in Miramichi on Dec. 11. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

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High Valley says to expect 'intimate vibe' at sold-out show

DUO → A1

Rempel expects this to be a major opportunity to expand their fan base south of the border.

"It's a major record deal and we've never had an opportunity like this before," he said. "It's pretty mind blowing to have a well-known music company showing interest to sign a deal with us and try to take this thing to the next level."

Rempel said High Valley actually played in Miramichi about eight or nine years ago, although he was unsure of the venue, and is looking forward to coming back this way.

Rempel said the Dec. 11 show is going to have an "intimate vibe," as per the acoustic label for the tour. They will play not only their radio hits but some classic Christmas songs as well.

"We're going to try and make it feel like we're hanging out with the crowd. We just happen to be on a stage with guitars in our hand it's going to be fun and casual and a nice and relaxing Christmas show," said Rempel, who is now based in Nashville, Tenn.

The Miramichi show was sold out as of Nov. 22.

"It's crazy, this world is crazy," he laughed. "We grew up in small-town Alberta (Blumenort) on a farm and we're selling out shows across the country. New Brunswick is the opposite end of Canada and it's neat to think that thousands of miles away people are buying tickets to see us, it's something that's hard to get used. It's pretty flattering honestly."

Rempel said it's a blast to travel to different places and see people caring about their music and knowing all the words to their songs.

"It's crazy to think that takes place in different parts of Canada and we can go all

the way to New Brunswick and sell out a show, it kind of blows our minds," Rempel said.

Jeremy MacDonald, an associate pastor with the Point Church, said they were happy for the chance to book a band of High Valley's calibre and are excited to have the show sold out.

"It's been wild," MacDonald said. "They're a phenomenal group and they've got quite the following."

MacDonald said bringing in an act like High Valley ties in with how the people at the Point Church are optimistic about their community's future.

"We just want to be a place that can build people up and we love to do that with all our events," MacDonald said.

The Point Church gig could actually be one of the final times where the band will play in smaller venues in Canada.

Rempel said it all depends how the fan base grows and if the fans love the music.

"If people love the music a lot, maybe we'll be playing in large arenas across Canada in the next while, but we love playing the small venues. It's a neat opportunity to interact with the fans and the front row is literally in front of you and the back row is sort of right in front of you too. It's something we want to hold onto, we're small town boys and we want to hold on to that small town feel," Rempel said.

High Valley will play back-to-back nights at the Sussex Wesleyan Church on Wednesday Dec. 9 and Thursday Dec. 10.

They finish up their Christmas tour on Dec. 12 at the New Minas Baptist Church in Nova Scotia.

The Dec. 11 concert at Point Church by High Valley marks the second time this fall that a top Canadian country music act has come to Miramichi. Brett Kissel played at the Riverside Entertainment Centre in October.



The property shown to the left of the Towne Ford dealership in Douglastown is subject to a rezoning application as the dealership looks to establish a car rental business next door. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Dealership expansion recommended

PROCESS → A1

Clean Water Act, meaning that measures need to be taken to prevent that from happening.

Another issue that also came to light during the process concerned a sliver of the land intended to be used for parking but is actually still owned by the provincial government.

With no present agreement for usage struck between the company and the province, it's a matter that still needs to be resolved.

Coun. Billy Fleiger pressed Bawn on whether that was an issue that could be overcome with a gentleman's agreement between Somers and the province, which would allow the developer to get started on the project without getting bogged down in more permitting.

After Bawn began to explain the process in more detail, Fleiger, who has expressed frustration about the detailed nature of the planning process in the past, interjected.

"Answer my question first!" he said. "Can he go to DTI (the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure) and get permission to use that property and if he wants to pave it next week, he can pave it (without) having to go back to the planning commission to get permission to pave it?"

Bawn pointed out that if Somers reaches out to DTI and gets permission to do the work on that section of the property, while remaining in accordance with the site plan, there should be no further issue.

"If he has that all done before he gets his building permit, he wouldn't have to come back to us again," Bawn said. "That's all I'm getting at."

This isn't the first time Fleiger has gone on the offensive in expressing concern over planning procedures and their impact on development.

Roughly a year ago, during a presentation from Wilson Bell, executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, Fleiger said he wanted to have access to more details about any building applications that have been denied and the reasons behind them.

Bell, at the time, noted that those decisions are private but said that cases of applications being shot down are extremely rare.

He pointed out that the commission is in the business of working alongside developers to ensure their proposals are viable and to the point where they're ready to be issued a building permit.

The city is coming off back-to-back years of strong construction, with \$24.8 million in permits being issued in 2014 following \$25.8 million in 2013, which was a 10-year high.

Coun. Peggy McLean, meanwhile, then questioned Bawn about the role of the planning review and adjustment committee in these types of situations.

The planning review and adjustment committee is a collection of eight people who have been appointed to the role by the regional service commission's board of directors. They are responsible for making recommendations regarding different applications that come through in accordance with the Community Planning Act.

McLean said she hoped that the people serving on the planning review and adjustment committee would at least have some experience in

engineering, but Bawn explained that the only consideration given to their appointment is ensuring there is geographical representation that reflects the commission's boundaries.

"What all their backgrounds are and how the board goes about choosing who they appoint is something that I am certainly not privy to," she said.

The planning review and adjustment committee is currently chaired by former Miramichi councillor Bill Treadwell. Former Upper Miramichi mayor Scott Clowater, Blackville village clerk Kurt Marks and commission board member Robert Hallihan also serve on the committee.

Somers, who attended Monday night's meeting, was given an opportunity to speak on the matter.

After hesitating at first, he later came to the microphone to say that he was excited about getting started on his development. He chose not to delve into any of the issues he might have experienced during the planning phase.

"We bought the building basically to expand and add some more employees and we already have a deal approved with a rental car agency to go in there, so we're just waiting for the building permits and all this stuff to get approved so we can go in and do that," Somers said.

Somers noted that the company bought up a neighbouring home adjacent to the eastern side of the dealership property that will be razed in order to provide secondary driveway access to the business.

"I do have another building that I would like to put there - our long-term strategy is to put the Mazda dealership down there if everything works out the way it should."

Duke of Edinburgh Awards presented



Two youth from the Miramichi region received their silver certificates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in a ceremony on Nov. 14 at the New Brunswick legislature in Fredericton. From left: Lt.-Gov. Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau, who made the presentations; recipients Laura Doyle and Patrick Godin and Moe Morrison of the 679 Blackville Air Cadets. In order to achieve this award, Doyle and Godin had to complete requirements in the categories of community service, physical recreation, skill development and adventurous journey. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

FIELD → A1

The city last decommissioned a pair of ballfields in 2010 after identifying the Benny Vautour Field on the McKinnon Road and the lower ball field in Loggieville for closure.

There was some concern expressed by the council of the day about the lack of consultation with user groups and neighbourhood residents before the decision was made.

The subject crept up again in October when the city identified the upper field in Loggieville, the iconic Dust Bowl that was once home to the Loggieville Bisons softball dynasty, as being considered for possible closure.

Coun. Billy Fleiger cautioned that no

decisions regarding the Loggieville field have been made and that it will likely fall under the scope of the upcoming review.

That review will also leave room in the conversation to explore alternative uses for any fields that end up being flagged for decommissioning.

Coun. Adam Lordon, speaking last week, pointed out that this exercise is about community enhancement and making the most of the city's resources.

So even if a certain field's life cycle as a venue for baseball comes to an end and the bleachers are ripped out and the backstop and fencing are removed, the green space will remain.

"We need to develop a strategy with our ballfields because we know we have

more of them per-capita than almost all communities our size, so I think it's time for us to proceed with a strategic review and assess how many ballfield hours does this community use and how many ballfields are needed to service the demand," Lordon said.

"So we have to think strategically and make sure that no community is left without the service of a field but, that being said ... determining exactly what it is we need."

It is no secret that the city, also embedded in its capital list, is exploring the possibility of establishing Miramichi's first ever dog park.

A repurposed baseball field could theoretically serve as a logical choice to house that type of facility.

Ballfield review will include community

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Appendix I – Regional Collaboration Media Coverage

Mayor says murderer has waived right to parole review

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Convicted serial killer Allan Legere has waived his right to a parole hearing that was tentatively scheduled to take place this fall, according to Miramichi Mayor Gerry Cormier.

In late May, Cormier used a televised council meeting as a means of encouraging the public to write letters of objection to the Parole Board of Canada after learning Legere had a hearing set up for October.

But Cormier, during Monday night's protective services committee meeting, informed city councillors the killer apparently backed out of that opportunity.

Legere will next be eligible for a parole review in 2020, noted Cormier, who says he was able to verify the information through a credible source.

Legere is serving life sentences in connection with the slayings of five people during the mid-to-late 1980s.

The 66-year-old was already serving a life sentence at the maximum-security Atlantic Institution in Renous after murdering Black River shopkeeper John Glendenning in June 1986 and leaving the man's wife, Mary Glendenning, for dead following a brutal beating.

Nearly three years into that sentence, Legere deliberately injured himself and



Mayor Gerry Cormier said he has learned that convicted serial killer Allan Legere has waived his parole review that was set for October of this year.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

was transported to a hospital in Moncton for medical treatment. After convincing his two guards to let him use the washroom, Legere used a piece of antenna to pick the locks on his handcuffs and fled the hospital.

He forced a driver to take him to a wooded area, eventually making his way back to the Miramichi, where he would proceed to terrorize an entire region.

He committed four more murders

– killing 75-year-old Annie Flam of Chatham, sisters Linda and Donna Daughney of Newcastle, and Father James Smith of Chatham Head – before his eventual capture near South Nelson on Nov. 24, 1989.

Deputy Mayor John Foran, who was the deputy chief of the Chatham Police Force during the manhunt, expressed his relief that Legere would not be going before the parole board anytime soon.

“Obviously something has changed and obviously (people in this community) were proactive, so I just want to thank (the mayor) for bringing this forward,” Foran said.

This would have been Legere's first legislated parole review following his conviction in 1991. In Canada, even those sentenced to life in prison are still eligible for parole after 25 years of incarceration, which begins at the time of arrest.

Councillors credited the mayor and Miramichi MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon for taking the lead on the issue.

O'Neill-Gordon went as far as raising it in the House of Commons back in June, which prompted a strong response from Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, who stressed the likelihood of Legere ever walking free again was extremely remote given the horrific nature of his crimes.

Councillors said it was important for the city to keep tabs on the situation.

“We have to stay proactive, he's in there five more years before his next (review) and the wheels are turning, so we just have to make sure we remain proactive in the future, that's all,” said Coun. Tony “Bucket” Walsh.

Coun. Peggy McLean, meanwhile, said that while it would be easy to accept the fact that Legere, like all other criminals, is entitled to be eligible for parole after a certain period of time and that, in all likelihood, he will never be granted his release, that doesn't mean the city should have to stay silent.

“My fear, and I'll say it publicly, is that sometimes when you just assume things and stay quiet, things slip under the radar,” she said. “So ... we have to stay on top of this.”

Legere was the first Canadian criminal to be convicted using DNA fingerprinting methods. He had been on the loose since May 3, 1989.

Up until earlier this year, he had been housed in Canada's most secure correctional facility, the Special Handling Unit located at Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Que.

Many in the community expressed outrage after it came to light in January that the killer had been transferred into the lesser maximum security Edmonton Institution in the Alberta capital.

Miramichi region mayors see dollar signs in Mount Carleton joint proposal

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

At first glance, one might not think that the Miramichi region has much of a stake in what goes on at Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

The highest point in New Brunswick at 817 metres (2,680 feet) is located quite a distance north and west of Miramichi city, surrounded by dense wilderness at the eastern edge of the ancient Appalachian Range, which stretches all the way from Georgia before terminating in New Brunswick.

By car, Mount Carleton is about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Miramichi. It's located off Route 180, commonly known as the Road to Resources, with the nearest service centre being the village of Saint-Quentin.

But when you look at Mount Carleton's positioning on the map, portions of the provincial park, including the mountain itself, actually falls within the boundaries of Northumberland County and, therefore, the Miramichi.

So after being approached by their neighbours in the Restigouche region about joining a new initiative aimed at promoting the Mount Carleton area as a more attractive tourism destination, representatives of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, the more they talked about it during a recent meeting, realized there could be some clear benefits, particularly for some of its more rural areas.

“There is a big bunch of money that goes into snowmobiling and ATVs now and I think last year it brought in about \$23 million in this province - and a lot of people go through Doaktown and



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is considering joining a new coalition aimed at further promoting Mount Carleton Provincial Park, shown, to

(Upper Miramichi) to head up that way,” said Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn, who chairs the RSC.

“So this is something we should look at, there's no doubt, it's a great partnership where we can all get along and share a resource and I think it's a positive thing for sure.”

Riders heading north can easily link up with the Mount Carleton area using Doaktown and Blackville as jumping-off points and Munn noted that, typically, those people spend money within the community before venturing out.

Although the use of motorized vehicles is limited inside the park, Munn pointed out that those who operate snowmobiles and ATVs, including himself, often ditch their vehicles nearby in order to explore the park on foot.

“I travel the area a lot and I find that most people who come into our area on ATVs or snowmobiles are very respectful of the environment,” he said. “But I think this is a very good idea because we need tourism dollars in these places and we have to find ways to get at that money.”

In terms of the joint project aimed at raising the profile of the New Brunswick

end of the Appalachian chain, the Miramichi RSC is being asked to appoint representatives to a steering committee that will help get the initiative off the ground.

The Appalachian Range Authority, as it would be known, would be overseen by representatives of the different service commissions that have a stake in the area, including the Miramichi, Restigouche and Chaleur organizations.

Munn and Wilson Bell, the executive director of the Miramichi RSC, attended a meeting on the subject in Campbellton back in June.

While both said it was a productive discussion worth considering further, not all members of the board were sold on the idea, including Blackville Mayor Andy Hawkes.

“I just can't see how getting more tourists to Mount Carleton is going to affect anybody here,” Hawkes said. “We're pretty far away from Mount Carleton.”

The steering committee is currently working with the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture and more details on the framework of the initiative should be forthcoming.

What's cooking for Sunny Corner Days?



Maddy Matchett was busy dishing out scrambled eggs at the community breakfast that was part of the annual Sunny Corner Days summer festival, held last Friday to Sunday in Sunny Corner. For more photos, see miramichileader.com.

PHOTO: GRACE TROWBRIDGE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Region sees sharp rise in demand for special recycling events

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The regional provider of solid waste collection services has apparently tapped into something when it comes to its wildly popular biannual household hazardous waste and e-waste collection events.

These special collections are held once in the spring and once in the fall, typically with a drop-off site set up in the city and one further upriver in Doaktown in order to give residents who live within the boundaries of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which oversees solid waste collection and recycling programming, a chance to attend.

And so they did, hundreds of them, in fact, according to the commission's executive director, Wilson Bell.

Deep lineups of cars and trucks hauling everything from old televisions, computers, printers and boxes of batteries joined the queue at depots positioned at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Miramichi and outside the Doaktown Fire Hall back on June 6 as staff and volunteers did their best to whip through it all.



Wilson Bell
PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Overall, tonnes upon tonnes of hazardous household waste, e-waste and batteries ended up being diverted from the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where the Miramichi region sent over 24,000 tonnes of trash to be buried last year alone.

Bell, however, noted during a recent RSC meeting in Barryville that the overwhelming success of these events is proof that Miramichiers will go to great lengths to do their part for the environment.

Due to the overwhelming success of the

last string of collections, Bell said the discussion now turns to whether or not the commission should be looking at hosting even more of them to try to meet the demand or perhaps examining something more permanent.

“The message that came out of those events was that this is very positive and, if anything, that we should be doing it more often and with longer hours,” he said. “The only thing about that is hopefully we can get some more help because four hours is a lot (given the amount of people we have) ... there was a lot of lifting and those four hours are quite busy.”

During the last collection, waste reduction co-ordinator Melanie Cripps noted that roughly 20 tonnes of electronics were gathered, which is basically double the amount of what has typically been witnessed.

Cripps said it was a long day for the people who volunteered their time to help unload cars and fill the dumpsters with all of that material, which also included over 500 pounds of batteries.

One possible solution that will be looked at in the future, Bell said, was for the commission to explore building a

standalone facility where residents could travel to drop off their household hazardous and e-waste items.

“We talked about the idea of developing a hybrid facility where people have year-round access, and I think the numbers speak for themselves because the demand is clearly out there,” he said.

“Every time we have an event, we're getting more and more material – there are a few areas around the province that have these type of year-round facilities, so we'll have a look at them but I think the time has probably come.”

A total of 406 vehicles came through the Miramichi collection site last month, while 61 turned up to the Doaktown event, including, according to Cripps, some who even drove all the way from Miramichi and points east after they were unable to attend the city collection.

In 2014 overall, the household hazardous and e-waste initiatives attracted just under 1,000 people.

Furthering its focus on recycling, meanwhile, the RSC will be rolling out the first curbside recycling program in the history of the Miramichi region sometime in the fall.

Items of special interest: Older Toys • especially wind ups and dolls • Figurines • Oil Lamps • Old Handmade • quilts

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Cost for regional services has decreased noticeably, director says

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors signed off on a \$2.36 million operating budget for 2016 without much issue Tuesday night.

The budget, which essentially covers the cost of delivering planning and solid waste services to the roughly 40,000 people who reside within the commission's coverage area, passed unanimously during a board meeting at the Miller-ton School.

This is the fourth budget the commission has passed since its formation back in late 2012, when the provincial government established 12 separate commissions in order to adopt a more regional approach to things like planning and solid waste programming.

Bell acknowledged that, looking back, there was definitely some apprehension among the member municipalities and local service districts at that time about whether this exercise would be worth it.

A few years removed from those early days, he pointed out that municipal governments are starting to realize that the financial commitment is likely far less than initially feared.

Collectively, the city of Miramichi, the villages of Doaktown and Blackville, the rural community of Upper Miramichi and more than a dozen local service

districts have seen a steady decrease in their service costs.

Looking at the city, for instance, which has the highest tax base in the coverage area and therefore pays the most among the member communities, Miramichi has seen its membership costs drop by roughly 20 per cent, or about \$186,000 since 2013.

Doaktown and Blackville, meanwhile, are paying nearly 30 per cent less than they did during that first budget year.

"We're saving money and we're providing good services," Bell said. "It's a trend I think we're happy with - how far it goes before we bottom out, I don't know ... maybe next year those numbers will increase but the reality is that for the first three years we've achieved, collectively, what we wanted to achieve."

As an added bonus, municipalities are also remitted whatever revenue the commission generates through the sale of building permits.

Miramichi was the big winner this year thanks to yet another brisk year of construction, getting back a total of \$451,126 in planning fees.

"If you have a really good year, basically, you get a lot of money back," Bell added.

The RSC operates with a staff of just 12 and with no new positions being added in 2016, the budget will be holding steady for next year.

The only noteworthy increase, in



Wilson Bell, executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, goes over details of the organization's 2016 budget during the commission's Tuesday Oct. 27 meeting. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

terms of capital work, is a \$5,000 minor renovation of the planning services office on Water Street in Chatham.

Another pool of funding, Bell noted, was being added to its planning wing in order to facilitate a series of public

information sessions that local contractors can attend to get a sense of how the planning process works.

There has been some concern expressed in the past from developers about some of the challenges of getting

their projects off the ground and Bell said he's hopeful this new initiative will help make those waters easier to navigate.

The planning department is responsible for issuing building permits, providing building inspection services, developing municipal and rural plans, overseeing applications for rezoning and subdivision development and more.

"This would be to help them through the development approval process," he said. "That's something we feel we need to do and will be doing in 2016."

Its planning services branch also maintains an eight-member Planning Review and Adjustment Committee, which is responsible for considering things like zoning applications and making a recommendation to staff.

Individual municipal councils will be responsible for approving their financial contributions to the RSC through their own budget approval process.

In the case of local service districts, that falls to the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

To cover the provision of planning and solid waste services, the City of Miramichi will be responsible for providing \$753,845, down from \$813,237 a year ago.

The LSDs (\$555,759), Upper Miramichi (\$70,936), Blackville (\$32,839), and Doaktown (\$31,239) round out the list.

Woman accused of stealing from local pawn shop will return to plea

STAFF
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The following briefs are from the Oct. 26 session at Miramichi provincial court. Judge Geri Mahoney was presiding with prosecutor Robert Greenough representing the Crown and defence lawyer Simon Wood acting as duty counsel.

Pawn shop theft

Candy Ann Carlson, 24, of Bathurst asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of theft of merchandise from King George Pawn Shop and breaching an undertaking by failing to keep the peace and be of good behaviour, both alleged to have occurred May 25 in Miramichi. Carlson said she wanted time to speak to a lawyer or apply for Legal Aid. Mahoney adjourned the matter to Nov. 9.

Convenience store theft

Matthew Kenneth Foran, 26, of Miramichi asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of theft of merchandise from N and K Convenience, alleged to have occurred July 27 in Miramichi. Mahoney adjourned the matter to Nov. 9 to give Foran a chance to apply for Legal Aid.

Possession of stolen property

Michael David Richard, 50, of Miramichi asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge of being in possession of a stolen pressure washer, alleged to have occurred on July 14 in Miramichi. Richard will return to court to plea on Nov. 9.

Fraud trial

Shania Marie Rousselle-Colford, 19, of Derby Junction pleaded not guilty to defrauding the Royal Bank, alleged to have occurred March 14 in Miramichi. Mahoney set the trial for Dec. 16.

Released from custody

Chad Imhoff, 23, of Miramichi appeared in custody and asked for an adjournment before pleading to a charge alleging he stole merchandise from Sobeys on Oct. 23. He'll return to plea on Nov. 9 and until then, Mahoney released him on a judge's undertaking with the conditions he abide by house arrest. The conditions of the house arrest are that he keep the peace and be of good behaviour and remain in his Miramichi residence 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Exceptions to the house arrest are to attend court as required, to allow for him to meet with his lawyer, or attend the Legal Aid office. He may leave for medical emergencies for himself or his immediate family. Imhoff will be allowed out Fridays between 2 and 5 p.m. to attend to personal business, otherwise, anytime he must attend to the door for officers to verify compliance with the house arrest.



New Brunswick's deer population is down 15 to 20 per cent this hunting season, which started Oct. 26 and goes to Nov. 21.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Deer decline could affect this year's hunting season in New Brunswick

ELIZABETH FRASER
THE DAILY GLEANER

Last winter's heavy snow has created a decrease in New Brunswick's deer population, which could pose a problem for deer hunters across the province.

New Brunswick's deer population is down 15 to 20 per cent this hunting season, which started Monday and will go until Nov. 21.

"This is going to affect deer hunting season and we're expecting harvest to be down," said Joe Kennedy, a deer biologist with the province's Department of Natural Resources.

Kennedy said the cause of this year's decline is due to last year's harsh winter, causing deer to transport themselves through heavy amounts of snow, losing both fat and energy.

"Deer don't have a tremendous amount of food in winter and then combine that with deep snow that they have to move through, zapping a lot of energy from them to the point that we've seen a lot of deer starving," he said.

Kennedy says several residents have contacted the Department of Natural Resources over the past few months, discovering dead deer carcasses in the forest.

Oftentimes deer hit and killed on highways throughout the province hardly had any fat left. Even the fat in their bone marrow was depleted.

Out of the 20 per cent decrease, Kennedy says 30 to 40 per cent of those are fawns because of their small bodies.

"On a small-bodied animal, it's very difficult for them to travel through snow," he said. "They also didn't have a lot of time to put on a lot of body fat."

The majority of the decrease is in parts of southern New Brunswick as opposed to the northern regions of the province because of the increase of heavy snow throughout the winter months.

"There's no way to prevent it, aside from doing something with global climate change," he said. "We are subject to severe winters in New Brunswick."

Not all deer are affected by the cold weather. Kennedy says deer in areas like Fredericton and the Kennebecas Valley are more likely to survive.

"They're walking along paved sidewalks and they don't have to extend as much energy to move around," he said.

Kennedy said there's also more food supply and less predators in urban areas. And not everyone has been affected by the lack of deer.

Tyler Gilks got his deer Tuesday morning, while his wife got hers when the season opened on Monday morning.

"You're always happy when you get a deer," said the avid hunter, who scouted out his hunting area during the month of October. "The adrenaline is always fun."

Gilks, who has been hunting deer for over 30 years, said he's lucky because he has a special spot where he hunts near the Fredericton area. Gilks says he usually gets a deer every year.

But over time, Gilks says clear-cutting has caused a depletion in deer population, making it more difficult for hunters across the province to find a good hunting spot.

"20 years ago there was plenty of deer and winters were much worse than we have now," he said.

Today, Gilks said you could spend hours driving through the forest looking for a deer and not see one.

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Municipalities mull sharing a regional bylaw enforcement officer

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The province's 12 regional service commissions were formed, in part, to help spur regional collaboration and trim overlap in carrying out different services.

So far, that mandate has been limited to the delivery of planning and solid waste programming, but the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors are kicking the tires on another way to fill a mutual need. The possibility of hiring a full-time bylaw enforcement officer has been batted around among Miramichi city councillors in the past. However, at Tuesday night's monthly meeting of the commission, it was discussed about trying to find a way, through the RSC, for Miramichi to partner with the villages of Doaktown and Blackville, as well as the rural community of Upper Miramichi, to have someone dedicated to tackling bylaw compliance. While no decisions were made during the meeting, it was agreed the subject of a shared enforcement officer might be worth looking more closely at moving forward.

"I do think this is something that might have some merit to it, and there may be some way we could accommodate each other," said John Foran, the deputy mayor of Miramichi. "Because

I know the city has talked about bringing in a municipal bylaw officer sometimes, so maybe there is some way we could split (the cost) somehow."

Looking at the situation in the city, the responsibility for investigating bylaw complaints under matters such as unsightly premises, for instance, has typically fallen to the city clerk's department, which already maintains a backlog of complaints, many of which it simply doesn't have the time or resources to get to.

In the past, the City of Miramichi has said that it would cost in the neighbourhood of \$66,000 to add a bylaw officer as a full-time employee.

While council and staff have agreed that strengthening its ability to ensure bylaw compliance is important, to date, they have been unwilling to pay for it.

It was scratched as a line item in the budget in 2013 and hasn't been a major topic of discussion since.

Apparently, this is something that has been quietly discussed at the commission level for the last little while.

The lack of an ability to effectively enforce municipal bylaws is a problem that is shared by each of the member municipalities and, according to executive director Wilson Bell, there may be room for some collaboration in order to reach a cost-effective solution that will benefit everyone.

"Quite a bit of effort goes into



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is working with the region's municipalities about the possibility of providing funding for a shared bylaw enforcement officer. Shown are the commission's headquarters on Water Street in Chatham. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

enforcement and doing in a consistent and positive manner is an issue for some of the municipalities, probably all of them," Bell said. "The direction we had going forward was to continue to explore the issue ... and talk about the feasibility of this."

Bell said that dialogue involves meeting with the managers and administrators of each municipality to get a feel for the appetite for this kind of

measure.

He said after initial conversations have already taken place and the wheels, at least in this very early stage, are in motion.

"It was very positive and they all see the need of having a centralized person doing bylaw compliance throughout the (region)," he said. "This will take some time to go over, though – the thought among the administrators was

that they very much support it in principle and I think it would remove some of their workload."

Bell said the best case scenario would see the matter settled in time for the RSC to prepare its 2017 budget.

He said the feeling among municipal staff was to wait until the next round of municipal elections plays out in May and let the incoming councils decide whether or not this is something they wish to pursue.

"Those who want the service, basically, would pay and those who don't want to wouldn't pay and this wouldn't impact the local service districts because they're not part of that would be provided," Bell said. "So the idea would be to wait and see what the level of interest is next spring and then, if there is interest, pursue it."

Speaking for his own community, Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn said the concept was warmly received by his council.

And in the spirit of promoting a closer working relationship between the different communities throughout the Miramichi region, something like this makes a lot of sense, he added.

"I don't know about everybody else but we're all interested (in Upper Miramichi)," Munn said. "It's something everybody needs and it's something all of the municipalities could share."

Man sentenced to jail time for breaching undertaking, failing to show up in court

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A Moncton area man learned the hard way what happens when you don't show up for scheduled court dates.

Joseph Serge Poirier, 47, of Notre Dame, which is about 30 kilometres north-east of Moncton, appeared in Miramichi provincial court on Oct. 26 before Judge Geri Mahoney. He pleaded guilty to failing to attend court on June 29 and breaching a judge's undertaking by failing to appear in court on the same date.

Crown prosecutor Robert Greenough said on June 12, Poirier was released from custody on a judge's undertaking with one of the conditions be that he attend court as required, with a return date of June 29.

"On June 29, Mr. Poirier did not attend Miramichi provincial court as directed and a warrant was issued for his arrest," Greenough said.

Greenough submitted Poirier's prior criminal record to the court, and defence lawyer Simon Wood, acting as duty counsel, noted Poirier's only prior criminal matters were those from which the undertaking stemmed.

As for a sentence, Greenough said the Crown's position was a fine or a short period of incarceration be imposed. Wood said his record consisted of a drug possession charge, which resulted in a \$1,500 fine, and a \$500 fine for failing to attend court, plus the applicable surcharges on each of those fines.

"He's taking these matters very seriously and this is a very timely guilty plea, Your Honour," Wood said. "He does know the importance now of coming to court"

Mahoney said while Poirier now seems to take his court appearances seriously, that perhaps was not always the case.

"Mr. Wood says that you're taking this seriously. It appears to me that you weren't taking this very seriously on June 29," the judge said.

Reading from the file, Mahoney said it was she who released him on the undertaking on June 12, with the condition that he attend court on June 29.

"Generally when I release someone on an undertaking, I tell them if you breach this undertaking you can expect to go to jail," she said. "This is a judge's undertaking, this is a court order."

Mahoney said because Poirier had a previous conviction for failing to attend court, and he was fined, she now sees that was not sufficient to get the message across.

"In any case your previous criminal record, aside from the drug charges and failing to attend court, consists of Motor Vehicle (Act) offences," Mahoney said. "The bottom line is you're not coming to court as a first offender and you breached a judge's undertaking and failing to attend court when you were supposed to."

Considering the circumstances, Mahoney said she felt a period in custody was warranted. For failing to appear in court on June 29, Mahoney sentenced him to 20 days in jail consecutive to any other sentence and for breaching the undertaking by failing to appear in court, she sentenced him to 10 days in jail to be served concurrently.

As well, on each charge, she fined him a \$100 victim surcharge, and Poirier has until Jan. 25 to pay the total of \$200 in fines.

Wellington Street accident sends three to hospital

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Minor injuries were reported after a two-vehicle collision at noon hour Friday in the Chatham end of the city.

The accident occurred at the corner of University Avenue and Wellington Street around 12:30 p.m. and involved a sport utility vehicle and a car.

The collision occurred when one vehicle pulled away after making a stop on University and was subsequently struck by an oncoming vehicle on Wellington headed in the direction of Loggieville, said Sgt. Les Saunders of the Miramichi Police Force.

"The person who phoned in (the accident) called from Kingston's Petro Canada and said she heard a loud bang... the occupants of the vehicle could not get out," Saunders said, referring to the



The Miramichi Police Force responded to a two-vehicle accident at the corner of University Avenue and Wellington Street on Friday, Oct. 30, around 12:30 p.m.

PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

driver and passenger in the car.

Personnel from the Miramichi Fire Department arrived and managed to open the doors and free the two

occupants. Along with the driver of the SUV, they were transported to the Miramichi Regional Hospital by ambulance and treated for minor injuries.

Quiet Halloween night in city: police

STAFF
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A sergeant with the city's police force said he's pleased to report that Halloween 2015 was an uneventful night within city limits.

Sgt. Bob Bruce, of the Miramichi Police Force, said it was business as usual and a pretty quiet night.

"Of course, officers had to deal with regular Saturday night calls which included driving complaints, alcohol-induced disturbances, domestic disputes and minor theft complaints, but Halloween attributed calls were almost nonexistent," Bruce said in a news release.

Bruce said Halloween related calls consisted of three requests for extra patrols,



The Miramichi Police Force is reporting a quiet Halloween. PHOTO: ARCHIVE

three reports of suspicious persons, and one mischief call.

"Miramichi Police Force officers would like to thank the citizens of our community for making Halloween 2015 a fun night for the youthful trick and treaters and a night that was notably 'quiet'."

Police

A man wanted in connection with a theft from a department store in the Douglastown part of the city was arrested in Campbellton.

The 39-year-old suspect was picked up by the RCMP, acting on information from the Miramichi Police Force.

The local force said in a news release that a Miramichi officer travelled to Campbellton on Monday to bring the suspect back to the city to face charges.

The suspect, who was held in custody for court, is believed to be responsible for a Sept. 16 theft of more than \$300 from Walmart.

In other police news, Miramichi Police Force officers arrested a 24-year-old man on Monday at 5:19 p.m. for uttering threats and for harassment. This man was released after agreeing to sign an undertaking with conditions.

I have a
history here.
And a future.

Michelle Boyer
Project Engineer
Irving Paper

I grew up here, and I love New Brunswick life. I have always made the most of what our province has to offer – hiking, camping, ice climbing and paddle boarding. And I am always up for a challenge.

When I was six, I found a book of house plans and was fascinated. I took my curiosity to the next level and started building models of these homes with my dad. They were tricky, but I'm not one to give up and the process intrigued me. That experience stuck, though by the time I started at UNB, I knew I was more of an engineer than an architect.

Now, I work at the mill where my dad worked for 30 years. But I've already had a lot of different roles in the company. There are so many opportunities – you can really choose your own path. Moving around from site to site helped me understand the bigger picture, so I can do my part to help the Forest Products business grow – and bring in new people who also want to live in New Brunswick, and enjoy a career like mine.



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Regional collaboration an encouraging sign

At its basest level, this is just a discussion about hiring somebody to enforce bylaws.

But when you examine the discussion taking place at the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission right now a little closer, there are signs that, perhaps, the member municipalities are becoming more open to regional collaboration. That was a big part of the motivation for setting up New Brunswick's network of 12 service commissions a few years back after the provincial government merged its various regional solid waste and planning commissions into a single entity.

Part of the thinking was that if you can get communities out of their silos and working together on things like planning policy and garbage collection, you could theoretically get them to co-operate on something like, say, cost-sharing for new recreational infrastructure.

Particularly upriver, where small communities like Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi, where all three municipalities share so much in common, an increased level of collaboration would seem to make a lot of sense. Take the recent idea of the commission looking at the possibility of creating the position of a bylaw enforcement officer that would be funded in part by each of the member municipalities, including the city of Miramichi. The board, which is made up of the mayors of each of each city, village or rural municipality, agreed that there was an appetite in each one to have somebody on hand capable of dealing with bylaw compliance.

But it is also safe to say that neither municipality is exactly swimming in financial resources right now, making the idea of hiring something like a bylaw officer a far-fetched one as long as they're going it alone. The existence of the commission, however, makes it possible.

And Wilson Bell, the executive director of the RSC, said that he's encouraged by how receptive all parties have been to the idea so far.

"(They) see the need of having a centralized person doing bylaw compliance throughout the (region)," Mr. Bell said. "This will take some time to go over, though - the thought among the administrators was that they very much support it in principle and I think it would remove some of their workload."

Not only would it reduce the workload on, for example, the clerk's office to go out and investigate something like unsightly premises complaints, sharing the cost four-ways also makes this realistic from a financial standpoint.

While it is important for individual councils to work on behalf of people who pay taxes in those communities, it is also critical to think beyond your borders.

Looking regionally, Miramichi, Doaktown, Blackville and Upper Miramichi are all facing similar challenges. Decreasing populations and, because of that, ultra-tight finances at the municipal level are a reality simply isn't going away any time soon.

By presenting a united front on issues of mutual interest and by operating with a regional mindset, there is no telling what the Miramichi might be able to accomplish on a number of fronts. City officials have been criticized in the past by some upriver for thinking the Miramichi ends at the Anderson Bridge. Hopefully, through the forum the RSC provides, a new era of region-wide co-operation will be forthcoming.

E-waste program will help protect environment

BRIAN KENNY
CONTRIBUTED

Every year about 3,500 tonnes of electronic waste such as old televisions, computers, tablets and cell phones ends up in New Brunswick's landfills. This waste contains hazardous materials like lead, mercury, metals and plastics which needs to be disposed of properly and recycled. The constant demand for the latest and best technology is creating environmental challenges and New Brunswick must respond.

That's why our government is moving ahead with establishing an electronic waste management program. This program is the right thing to do and is one more thing that we can do to help protect our environment. We anticipate that starting in the fall of 2016, New Brunswickers will be able to dispose of their old electronic products by bringing them to locations around the province, including various retail outlets, where they will be sent for recycling.

This will be an extended producer responsibility program, similar to what we already have in place for paint and used oil and glycol products. That means it will put the responsibility on industry to manage their product from the moment it hits the retailers' shelves to the end of its life. Not only will this program not cost any money to government it will also create employment for New Brunswickers since approximately seven recycling jobs are created for every 1,000 tonnes of materials recycled.

The electronics industry recognizes the important role it plays in ensuring



Brian Kenny PHOTO: SUBMITTED

that its products are properly managed when they reach the end of their life and is already participating in similar programs across Canada. The program will be managed by brand owners and overseen by Recycle New Brunswick which also oversees the province's paint and used oil and glycol programs. Brand owners will determine recycling costs per product. If they choose to recover these costs through charging an environmental fee as they do in other provinces, that fee must be integrated into the full price of an item. While the price must include the fee, brand owners are free to communicate these costs to consumers.

The goal is to protect New Brunswickers from unexpected costs when they go to pay for an item. Consumers expect to pay the advertised price for a product plus tax at the point of sale and we don't want any surprises at the cash register.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment has voiced its support for the integrated fee pricing model.

Without a program, most New Brunswickers are paying tipping fees at the landfill and disposing of their electronics there, which we know is not good for the environment. Others are collecting these items in their basements and garages, not sure what to do with them. This program will provide everyone with the opportunity to recycle their electronics in an environment-friendly way.

I'm looking forward to working with New Brunswickers and industry as we roll out this positive initiative which is overdue and in place throughout the rest of the country.

Brian Kenny
is the minister of environment and local government

Nurses: private health-care isn't the answer

MARILYN QUINN
COMMENTARY

The New Brunswick government recently announced their intention to give the private sector a larger role in the province's health-care system.

Specifically, they have spoken publicly about plans to build new nursing homes using a public-private-partnership (P3) model. They have already started negotiations with a private firm to deliver some food and housekeeping services in the two health authorities. The provincial government has also expressed optimism about increasing the scope of private involvement in New Brunswick's public health-care system.

Since the time of Tommy Douglas, public health care has become a bedrock principle that makes Canadians proud. In fact, the Canada Health Act requires every province to have a public health system which must be administered and operated on a non-profit basis by a public authority.

Another principle that Canadians are proud of is our ability to make difficult decisions when times are tough.

Our health-care system requires fixing and registered nurses know that difficult decisions must be made. However, we will not stand by as silent observers if the government decides to defer the fixing of our health-care system to for-profit companies. The government claims that P3s offer quick access to capital and the promise to offload financial risks from the public to the private sector. Other parts of Canada who have experimented with P3s tell a different story. Jim McCarter, the Ontario auditor general, criticized the government in his 2008 report for the P3 cost overruns at the Brampton hospital.

The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) in Montreal was estimated in April 2006 to cost \$1.5 billion but the cost increased by 50 per cent to \$2.2 billion in the next two years, according to Québec's auditor general. In 2006, the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) was projected to cost \$1.4 billion but that increased 81 per cent to \$2.5 billion two years later. These examples demonstrate how P3 facilities actually added to the fiscal problem they were intended to fix.

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Marilyn Quinn, president of the New Brunswick Nurses Union, argues that more private sector involvement in the province's health-care sector is not a solution to better care. PHOTO: TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

New Brunswick's Health Minister, Victor Boudreau, has stated that the private sector could be used to minimize wait times. Registered nurses disagree. Our population is not large enough to support two separate health authorities and a "for-profit" sector of health-care. Utilizing a private company, whose primary concern is profit, will lead to poaching the best health-care workers and the least sick patients from the public system. This

will accept them by regular mail to The Miramichi Leader, 2428 King George Hwy, Miramichi, N.B., E1V 6V9. We will contact you if we plan to publish your commentary/opinion article. We will not contact you about letters, unless we need

It is estimated that if 10 per cent of specialist capacity in hip and knee surgery was diverted to the private sphere, average wait times for both procedures would increase by at least 20 days in the public system.

This occurs because for-profit care providers avoid complicated cases and focus on patients in good overall health, who are also well-insured. When complications arise, patients are offloaded onto the public system which is forced to absorb these difficult cases and expensive procedures.

Not only does privatization in health care fail to deliver on financial promises and threaten to erode the efficiency of our public health-care system, but most alarmingly, it poses a threat to patient, resident and client safety. Knowing the facts outlined above, New Brunswick registered nurses are strongly opposed to adding private for-profit companies to the public health care system. We agree that the current system needs fixing, but privatizing health-care is not the solution. We ask government to engage registered nurses and other health care providers to develop a comprehensive health-care plan that meets the needs of New Brunswickers today and into the future.

Marilyn Quinn
is president of the New Brunswick Nurses Union

to verify authorship.

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