



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

The 2016 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

An amendment to the Village of Doaktown Rural Plan was put in place to allow development of residential care facilities. (p.9)

New interactive zoning maps have been added to our website to facilitate zoning inquiries. (p.9)

The Greater Miramichi Region experienced a 48.1% decrease in total value of construction between 2015 and 2016 (\$48.77 to \$25.33 million respectively). (p.16)

The total value of construction between 2015 and 2016 in the Village of Blackville and the Village of Doaktown increased by 138.7% (\$258 to \$615 thousand) and 528.9% (\$747 thousand to \$4.699 million) respectively. (p.16)

The value of institutional construction in the City of Miramichi experienced a drastic drop of 2709.6% between 2015 and 2016 (\$26.04 million to \$961 thousand respectively). (p.16)

The value of residential construction in the unincorporated areas remained relatively consistent from 2011 to 2016 at \$7.72 million. This represented over half (58.8%) of the total value of residential construction in 2016. (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.

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. Since its formation in 2013 the GMRSC has evolved into an effective forum for discussing issues of importance to the region.

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. There were a total of seven regular meetings in 2016 with strong 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. 2016 saw the unfortunate loss of Mayor Gerry Cormier, who passed away in June. Gerry was the first Chairperson and provided direction and guidance in the formative years of the GMRSC. Also, the membership of the Commission saw the addition of a new LSD representative, Lynn Gregan took over the position previously held by Gerald Ross and Christopher Hennessy was elected Mayor of Blackville and thus assumed the role previously

Highlights

Solid Waste Services applied to the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) for 'Organic Reduction Educational Workshops' and was awarded \$30,000. The project assisted to educate the public on options of reducing organic waste by using a composter, Green Cone Digester or a vermicomposter and to raise awareness of reducing the amount of organic waste sent to the landfill. (p.29)

Solid Waste Services attended seminars and tours of recycling facilities. (p.32)

The waste diversion rate for the Greater Miramichi Region in 2016 was 15%. (p.33)

In 2016, a total of 867 kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW events. (p.34)

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2016. (p.35)

held by Andy Hawkes. I would like to extend my thanks to Gerald and Andy for their years of service.

The Commission had a busy year as it undertook many initiatives; the following are some of the highlights from 2016:

- The GMRSC adopted “Working Together: A Plan to Better Assist and Support our Clients”. This action orientated document is meant to improve service delivery in the planning services section;
- In May, the Board entered into a 25 year agreement with the Chaleur RSC for landfill services;
- In July, the Commission committed funding to explore the feasibility of establishing an Enviro Centre facility. This facility if established, would receive HHW, e-waste and other commodities so as to divert these from the landfill. Additionally, an application for funding assistance to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund was initiated;
- The Commission had the pleasure of Host Premier Gallant in August. This session focused on the role of the regional service commission in regional development issues.
- The province of New Brunswick committed to improving the RSC model; to this end, Minister Rousselle was hosted by the Commission in October to discuss this important topic.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2017 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 2016.)

FIGURE 1: GMRSC BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2016

Board Member	Community
M.A. Douglas Munn, Chairperson	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
M.A. Beverly Gaston, Vice Chairperson	Village of Doaktown
M.A. Adam Lordon*	City of Miramichi
M.A. Christopher Hennessy**	Village of Blackville
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
John Goodfellow	LSD Representative
Lynn Gregan***	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

* The City of Miramichi has also been represented by John W. Foran and Brian King.

** The Village of Blackville has also been represented by Andy Hawkes.

*** Lynn Gregan replaced Gerald Ross during the year.

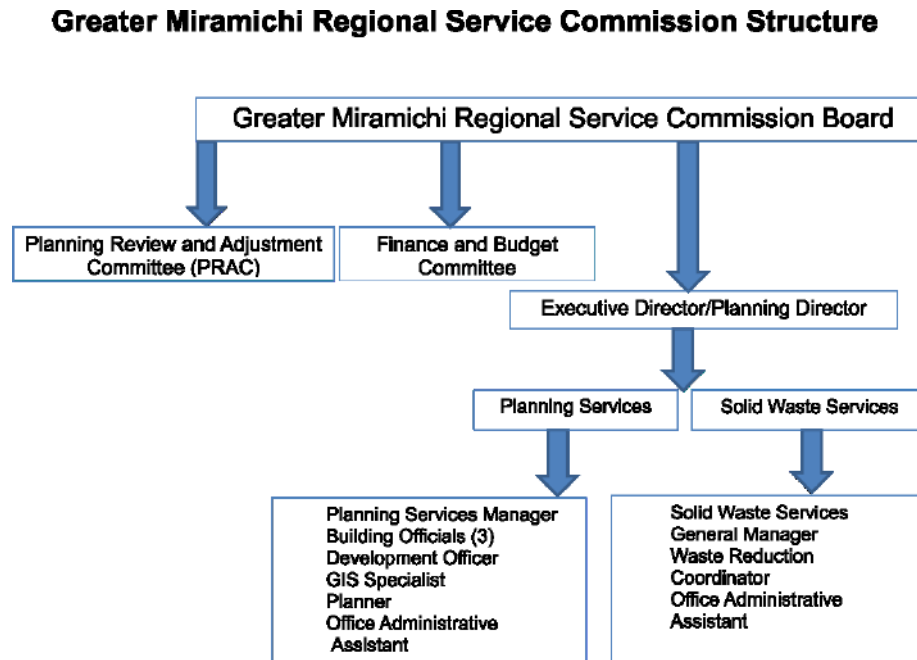
The Executive Director is a direct employee of the GMRSC Board. He is responsible for staffing to provide Commission services and overseeing day-to-day activities. Please refer to 'Appendix B – 2016 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2014-2016' for an overview of ongoing and proposed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

Numerous initiatives for Corporate Services and day-to-day administration have been completed in 2016.

- The GMRSC adopted "Working Together: A Plan to Better Assist and Support our Clients". This action orientated document is meant to improve service delivery in the planning services section
- In May, the Board entered into a 25 year agreement with the Chaleur RSC for landfill services
- In July, the Commission committed funding to explore the feasibility of establishing an Enviro Centre facility. This facility if established, would receive HHW, e-waste and other commodities so as to divert these from the landfill. Additionally, an application for funding assistance to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund was initiated
- The Commission had the pleasure of Host premier gallant in August. This session focused on the role of the regional service commission in regional development issues.
- The province of New Brunswick committed to improving the RSC model; to this end, Minister Rousselle was hosted by the Commission in October to discuss this important topic.
- The Commission received quarterly updates from the RCMP on trends and issues within the region
- members participated in Training on topics such as governance, role and responsibilities etc
- In June an election was held and Douglas Munn was elected Chairperson and Bev Gaston was elected Vice-Chairperson. These terms are for two-years.
- The City of Miramichi initiated a review of its relationship with the GMRSC.

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 2016.)

FIGURE 3: PRAC MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
William Treadwell, Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Joseph Veriker, Vice Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative
Robert McLeod	LSD Representative
Kurt Marks	Village of Blackville
Scott Clowater	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
Lynn Gregan	LSD Representative
Burton Cain	LSD Representative

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, Chairman	LSD Representative
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

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 2016 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 inspection services as well. All funding partners also receive the services of the eight member PRAC. Please refer to 'Appendix C – GMRSC 2016 Financial Statement' for more details.

FIGURE 5: COST OF PLANNING SERVICES BY COMMUNITY FOR 2016

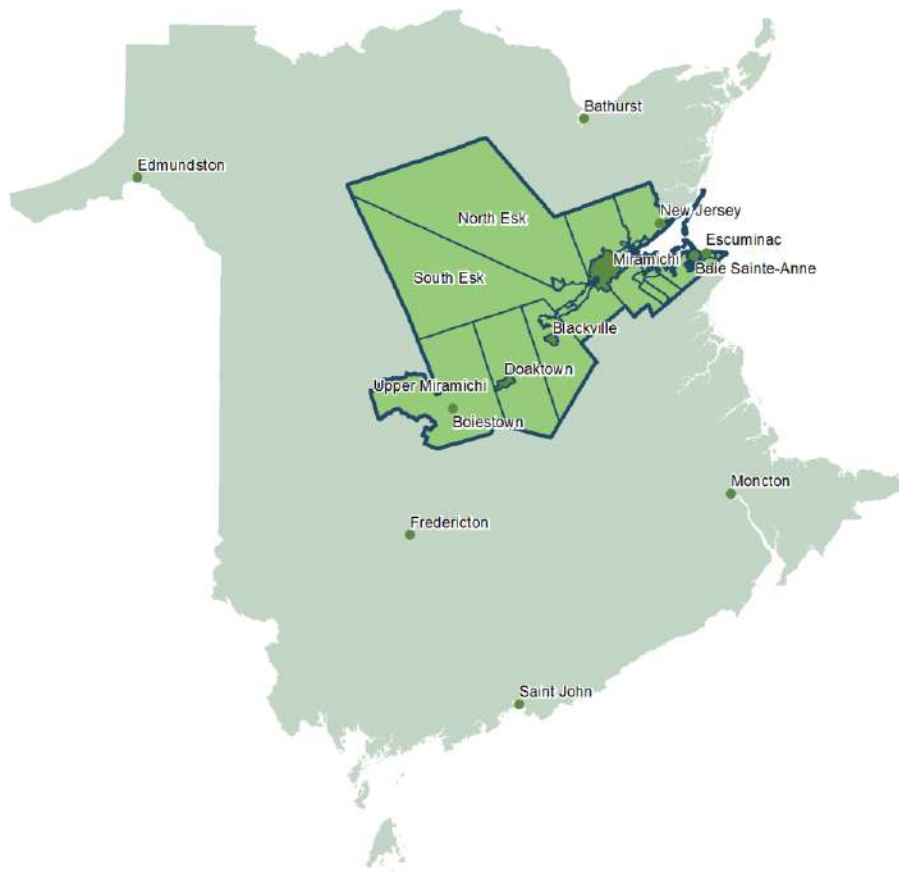
	Budget Amount	Revenue from Fees	Net Cost
Miramichi	\$404,404	\$111,530.39	\$292,873.61
Blackville	\$13,467	\$3,944.90	\$9,522.10
Doaktown	\$15,948	\$26,161.63	+\$10,213.63
Upper Miramichi	\$32,702	\$8,689.75	\$24,012.25
LSDs	\$257,092	\$75,861.91	\$181,230.09

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 (2016)	39,193
Tax Base (2016)	\$2.52 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	10

Figure 8 outlines the 19 LSDs served by the Commission.

FIGURE 8: LSDS WITHIN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

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

SECTION B – PLANNING SERVICES

5 Planning Services Annual Summary

5.1 OVERVIEW

2016 was the fourth full year of operation under the 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 eight meetings and dealt with 19 applications, including subdivisions, variances, conditional and temporary uses, and amendments to 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 2016, 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 2016, Planning Services actively worked on a number of initiatives to:

- Continue making 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 to our customers in the Upper Miramichi, Doaktown, and Blackville area, Planning Services continues to operate a satellite office in Doaktown during the building season from May to 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.

In order to allow residential care facilities to the municipality of Doaktown, By-Law No. 2016-01 was enacted in Spring. It is amending By-Law # 2005-2, the Village of Doaktown Rural Plan By-Law.

Interactive web maps were added to the GMRSC website to improve customer accessibility to zoning information. The interactive maps enable users to zoom on an area and determine the zoning of a property. Users also have access to the zoning provisions with a click of the mouse. This makes it easier than the previous way which users had to rely on a .pdf format map that was difficult to read at a certain scale. In addition, the interactive maps reflect the latest registered amended zoning by-laws.

To keep skills honed and to stay up-to-date with best practices, ongoing professional development is very important. In 2016, staff members of Planning Services continued to improve their skills and abilities to serve our Region by participating in the ESRI Canada User Conference and Building Inspector accreditation courses. One Building Inspector achieved Level 3 Qualification, another Level 2 Certification, and the other Level 2 Qualification.

Staff also participated in numerous teleconferences and local workshops. It held a meeting with clerks and administrators from the villages of Blackville and Doaktown and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi in November to keep up-to-date with possible issues regarding planning in their municipalities. This meeting was valuable to both GMPS and municipalities staff who exchanged ideas on how to deal with client inquiries in different situations.

Over time, staff recognised that there could be improvement done to better understand the building and development approval process. And so, application forms, pamphlets, and checklists have been updated to help clients with this process.

6 Development Activity

6.1 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The following section highlights prominent developments in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2016. 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 Arena on Prospect Street in the Village of Doaktown (see Figure 9);

FIGURE 9: NEW ARENA, VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN



- New construction of the Airport terminal on Airport Drive in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 10);

FIGURE 10: NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- Renovations to the Northumberland Square Mall on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 11);

FIGURE 11: NORTHUMBERLAND SQUARE MALL, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New construction of a Naturopathic Health Clinic on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 12);

FIGURE 12: NEW NATUROPATHIC HEALTH CLINIC, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New construction of the Tim Hortons on King Street in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 13);

FIGURE 13: NEW TIM HORTONS, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New construction of a multi-function building and renovating an existing building into a single unit dwelling on Route 420 in Southesk (see Figure 14);

FIGURE 14: NEW MULTI-FUNCTION BUILDING, SOUTHESK



- New construction of a salt storage facility on Kelly Road in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 15);

FIGURE 15: NEW SALT STORAGE FACILITY, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



Other notable development projects in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2016 include:

- Renovations to the grocery store on Main Street in the Village of Blackville;
- Renovations to The Officer's Quarters – Hostel on Cole Crescent in the City of Miramichi.

6.2 BUILDING PERMITS ACTIVITY

Figures 16 to 20 outline the building permits activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2012 and 2016. (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 for 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at that time.

Just over half (52.2%) of the total building permits issued were within the City of Miramichi; this is followed by the unincorporated areas where 36.7% of permits were issued. The majority (70.9%) of permits issued in the City of Miramichi were residential. The number of permits for commercial and institutional land use within the City increased between 2015 and 2016.

FIGURE 16: CITY OF MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

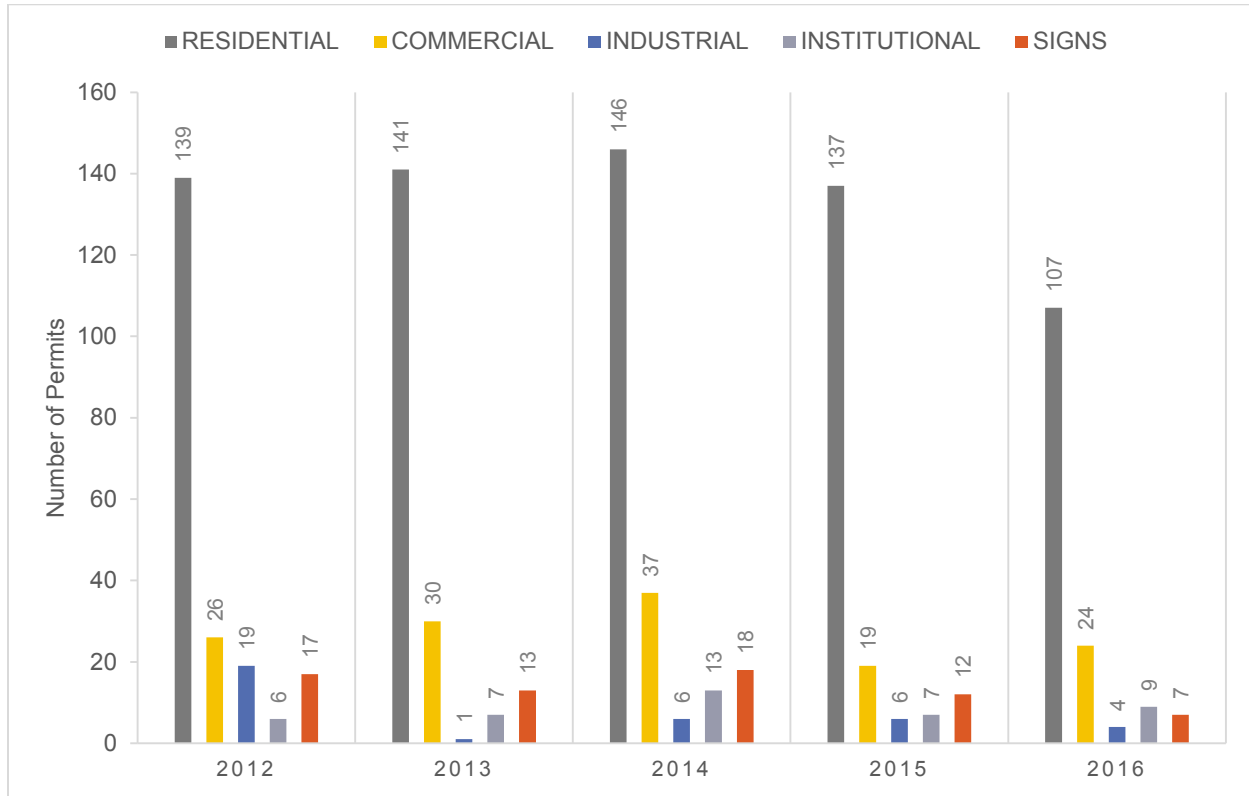


FIGURE 17: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE BUILDING PERMITS

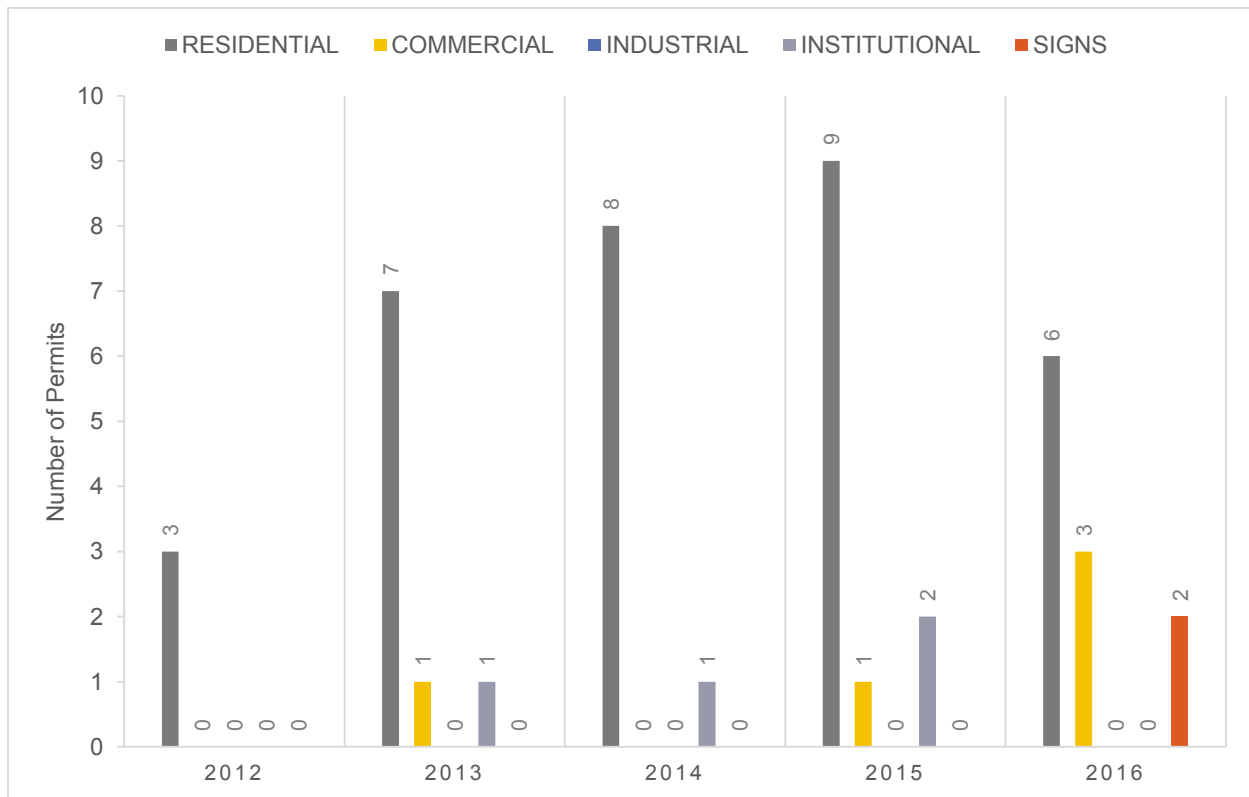


FIGURE 18: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN BUILDING PERMITS

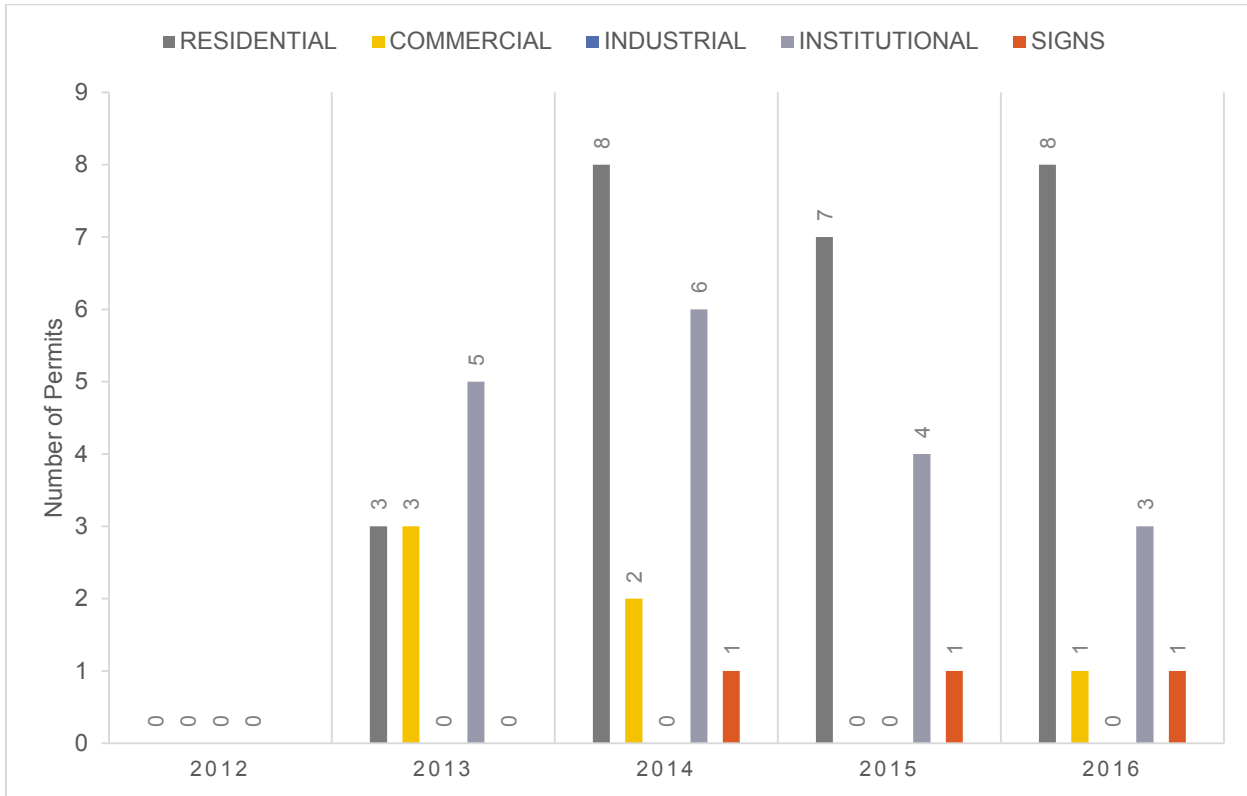


FIGURE 19: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

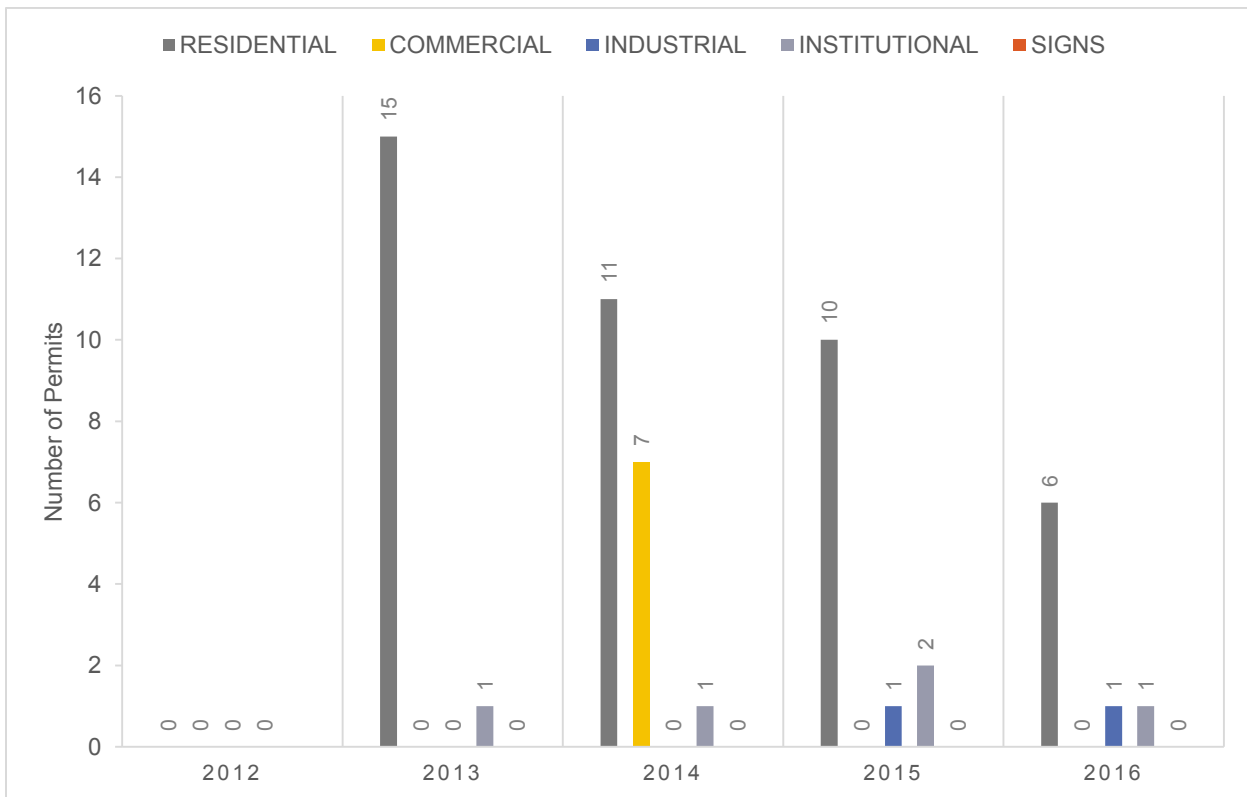


FIGURE 20: UNINCORPORATED AREAS BUILDING PERMITS

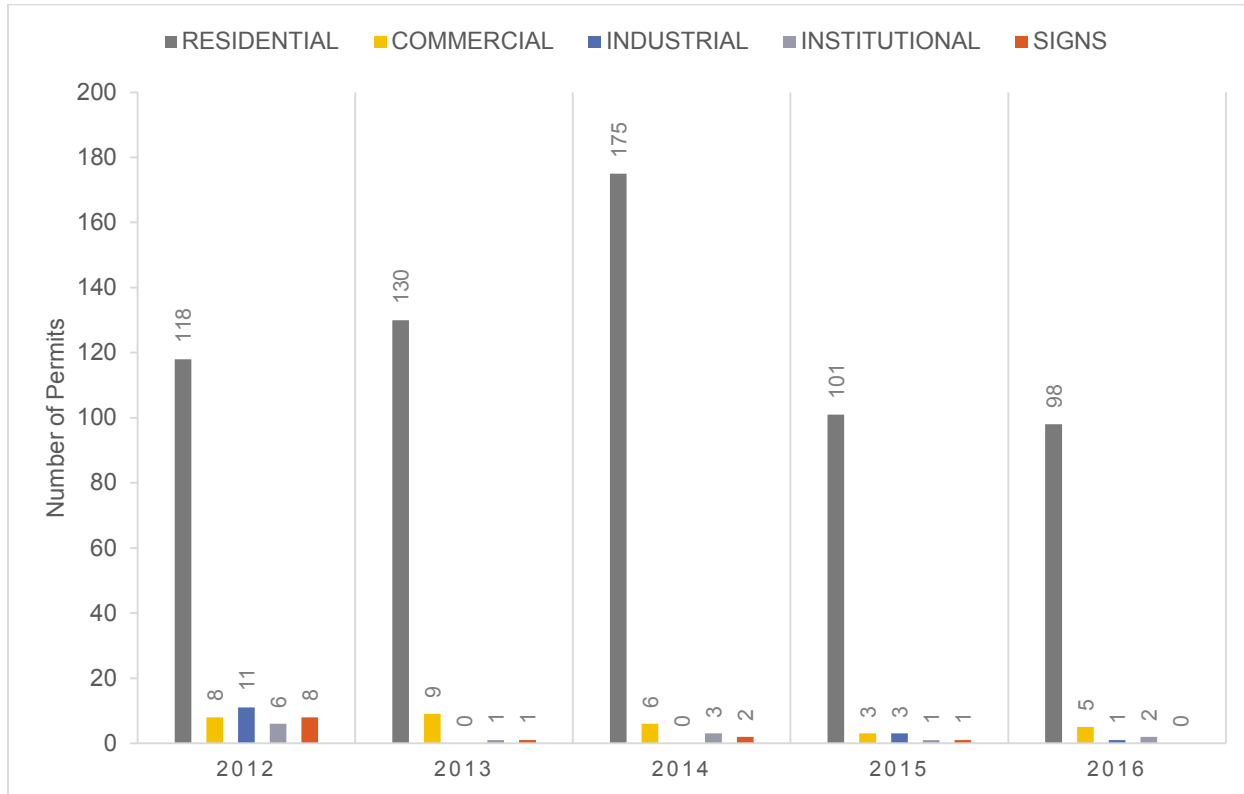


Figure 21 outlines the total value of construction by municipality and unincorporated areas for 2016. The Greater Miramichi Region experienced a 48.1% decrease in total value of construction comparatively to the previous year (\$48.77 to \$25.33 million). The Village of Blackville, the Village of Doaktown, and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi increased by 138.7% (\$257.8 to \$615.5 thousand), 528.9% (\$747.3 thousand to \$4.7 million), and 36.7% (\$611.8 to \$836.3 thousand) respectively. Forty percent (40.1%) of the total value of construction for the Region came from the City of Miramichi. This is followed by the unincorporated areas (35.6%) and the remaining municipalities / Rural Community (24.3%).

FIGURE 21: TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION, 2016

Community	Value
City of Miramichi	\$10.15 Million
Village of Blackville	\$615 Thousand
Village of Doaktown	\$4.7 Million
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi	\$836 Thousand
Unincorporated Areas	\$9.03 Million
Total	\$25.33 Million

Figures 22 to 26 outline the value of construction activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2012 and 2016. (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 drastic drop of 96.3% compared to 2015 (\$26.04 million to \$961

thousand). This decrease is directly attributable to the Federal Payroll Centre development application which took place in 2015. The value of residential construction also plunged by almost half (47.17%) from 2015 (\$8.49 to \$4.48 million). However, the values of commercial and industrial construction in the City increased by 57.6% (\$1.85 to \$2.92 million) and 1,676% (\$92 thousand to \$1.64 million) respectively. The abnormal increase for the industrial construction value is due to the new airport terminal development.

As for the other communities, development activity increased by 36.7% for the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, 138.7% for the Village of Blackville, and 528.9% for the Village of Doaktown. Peaks in value of construction data for these municipalities are representative of specific development projects (e.g. Doaktown arena).

The value of construction in the unincorporated areas continued to decrease slightly by 14.3% from 2015 at \$9.03 million. Residential construction represented 85.5% (\$7.72 million) of the total value.

FIGURE 22: CITY OF MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

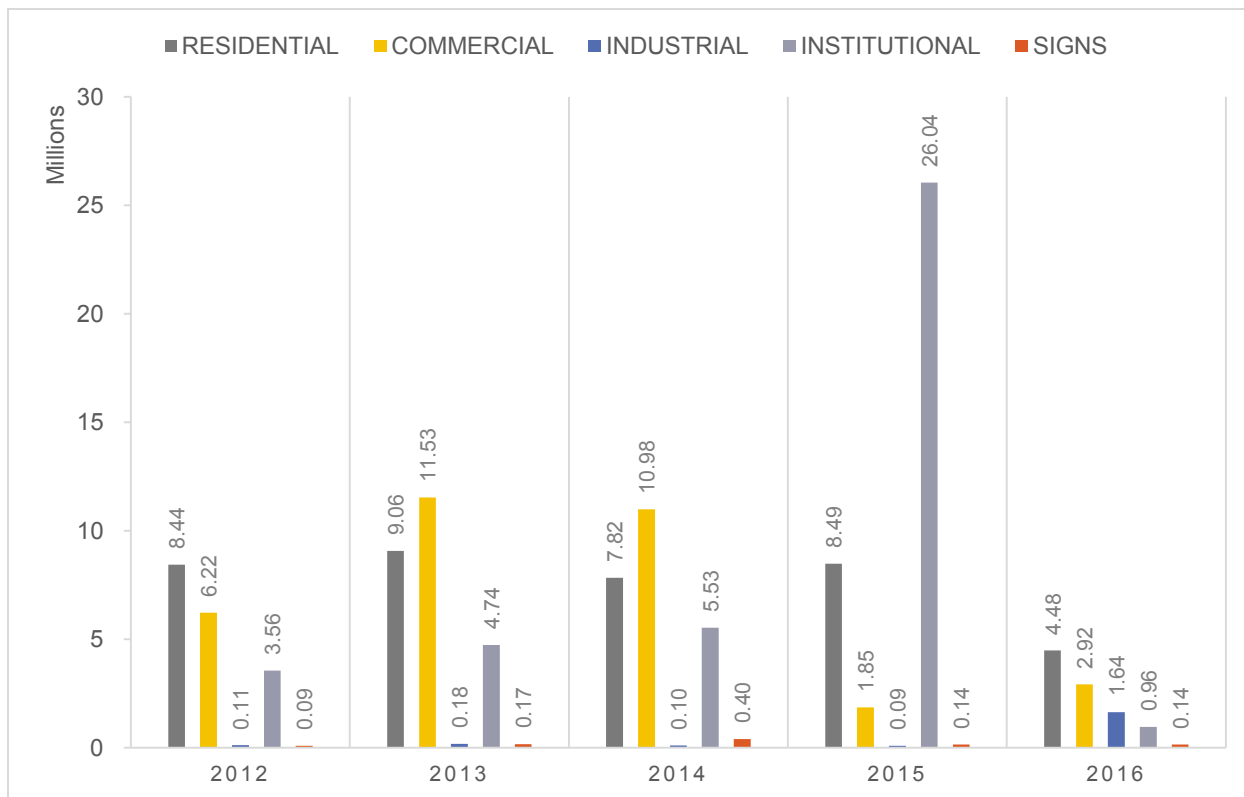


FIGURE 23: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

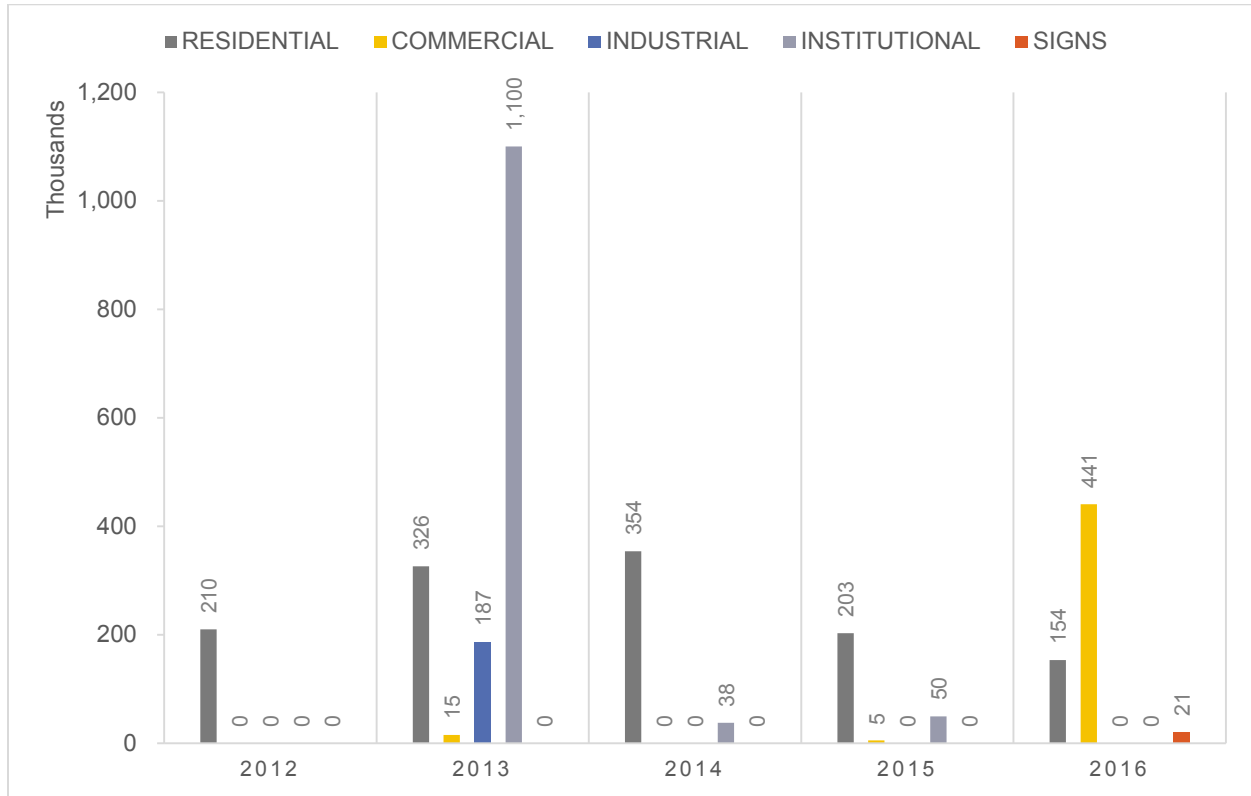


FIGURE 24: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

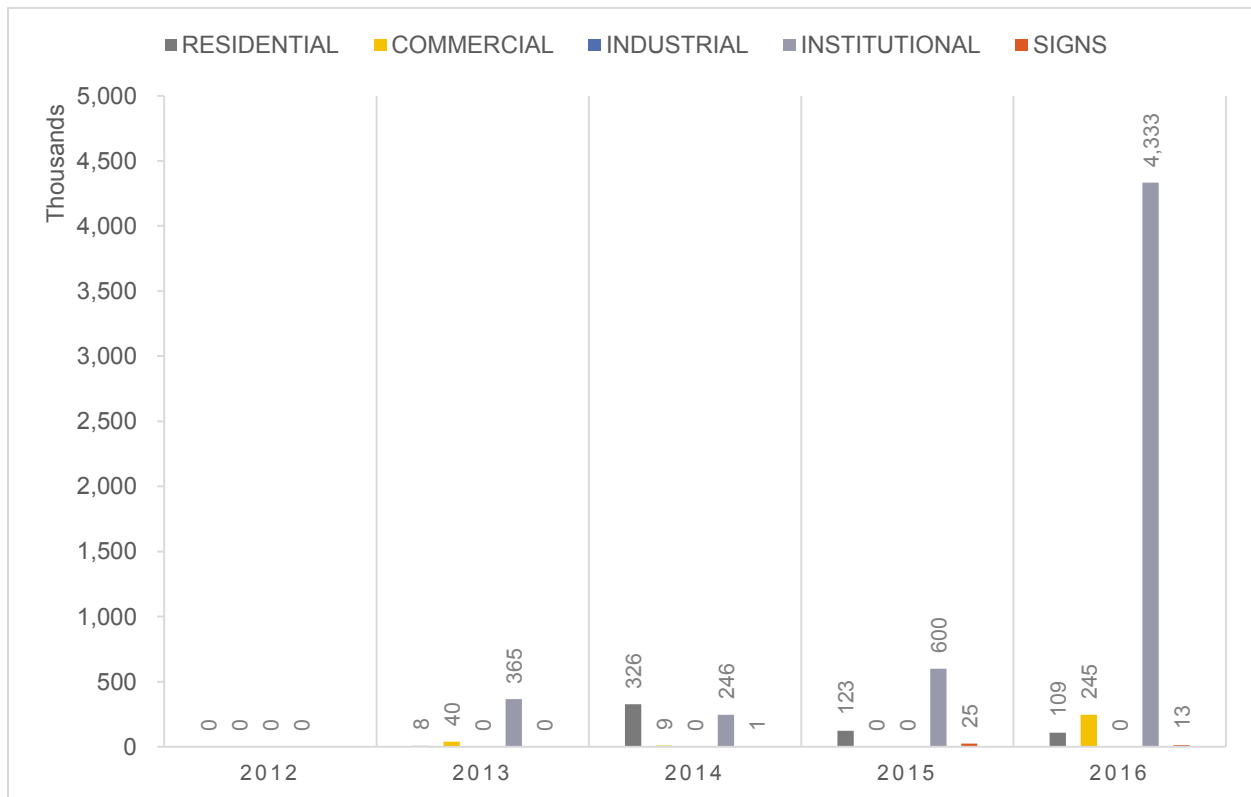


FIGURE 25: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

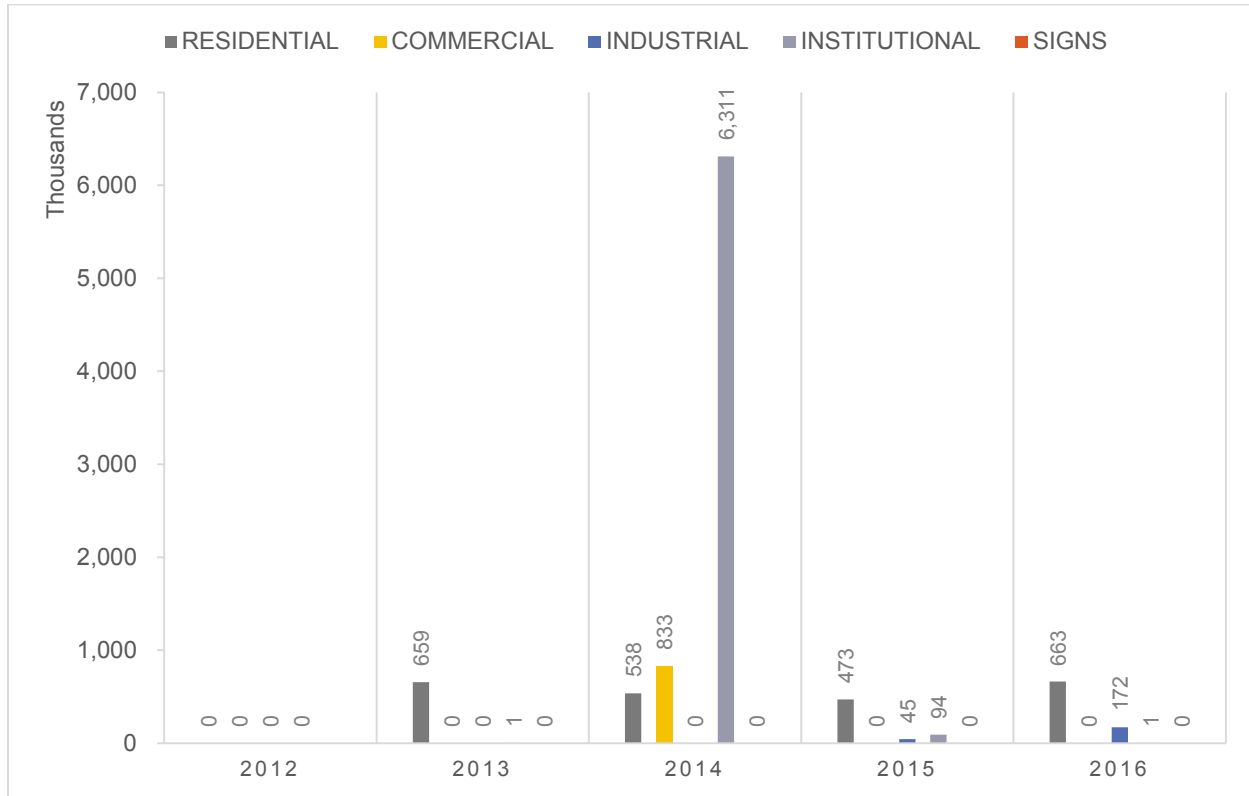
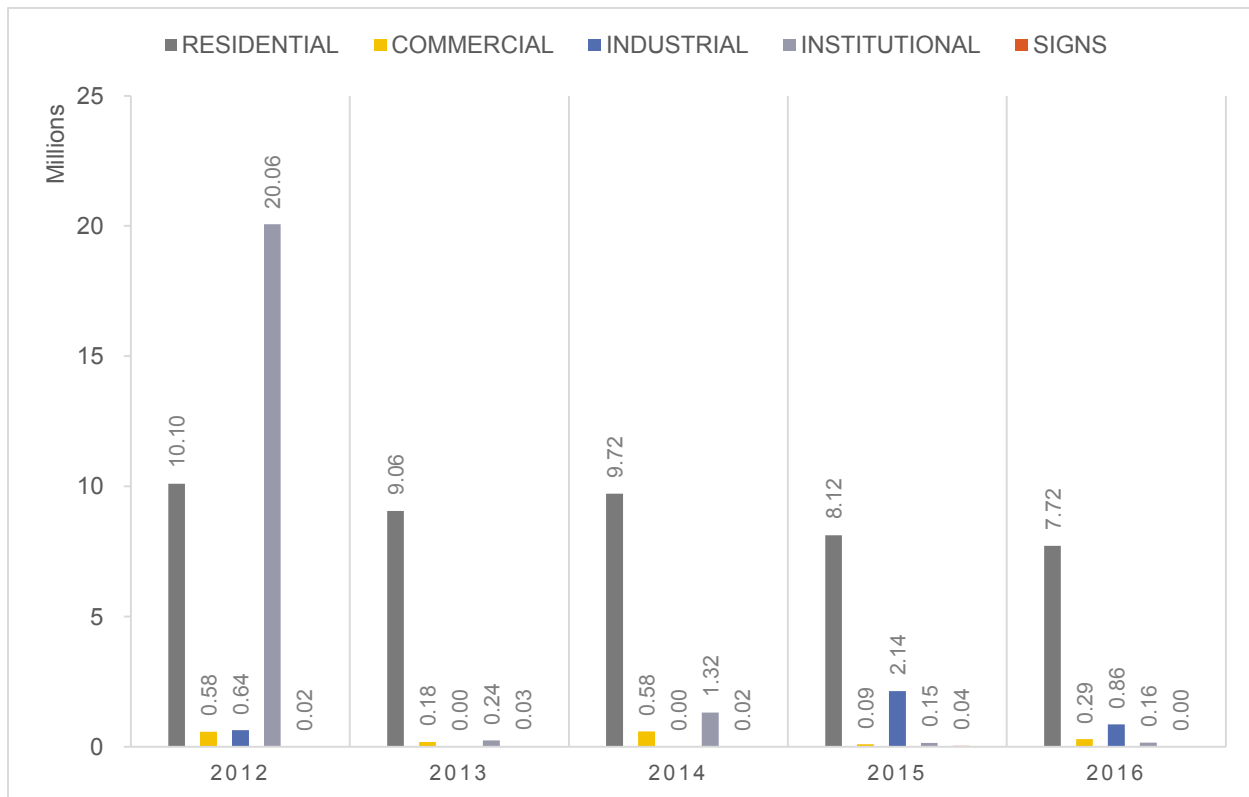


FIGURE 26: UNINCORPORATED AREAS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION



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 2012 and 2016. (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 for 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at that time.

A majority (63%) 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 (29 out of 35 total). As is typical, there were very few applications for plan amendments or rezonings in 2016.

FIGURE 27: CITY OF MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

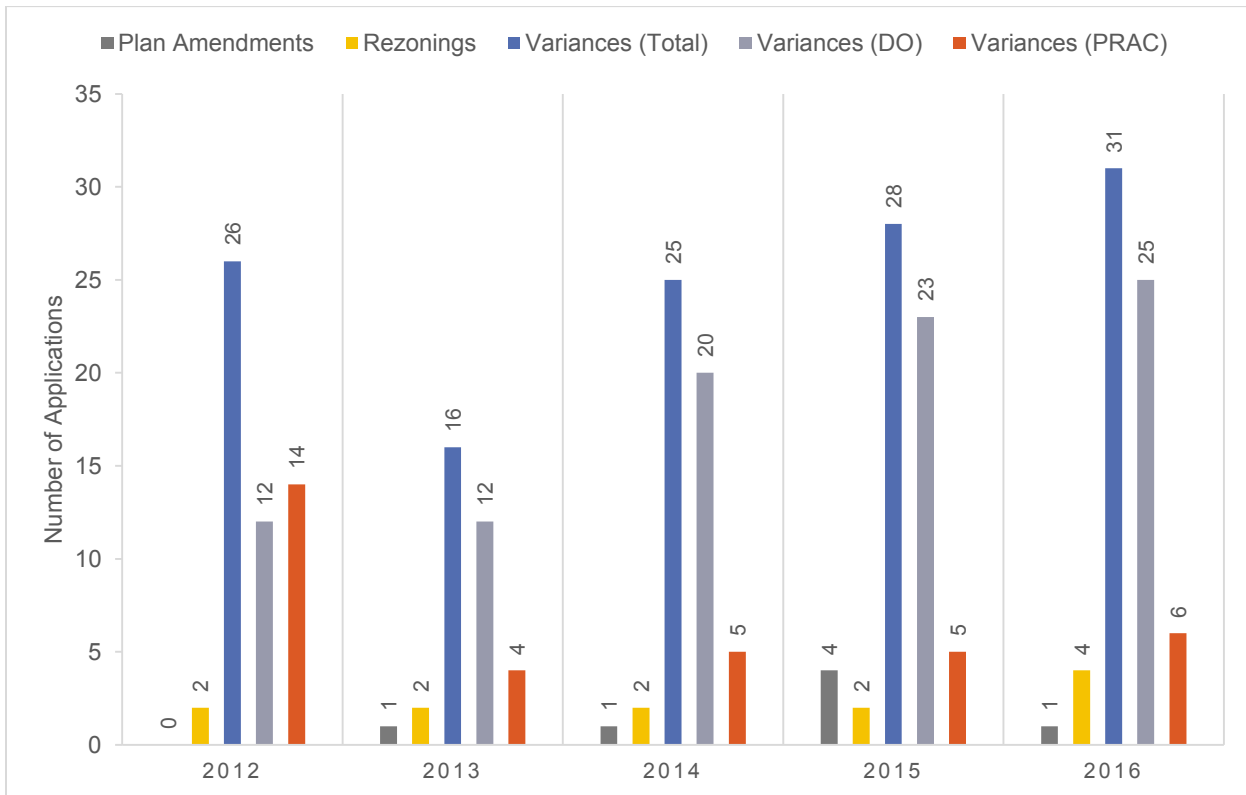


FIGURE 28: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

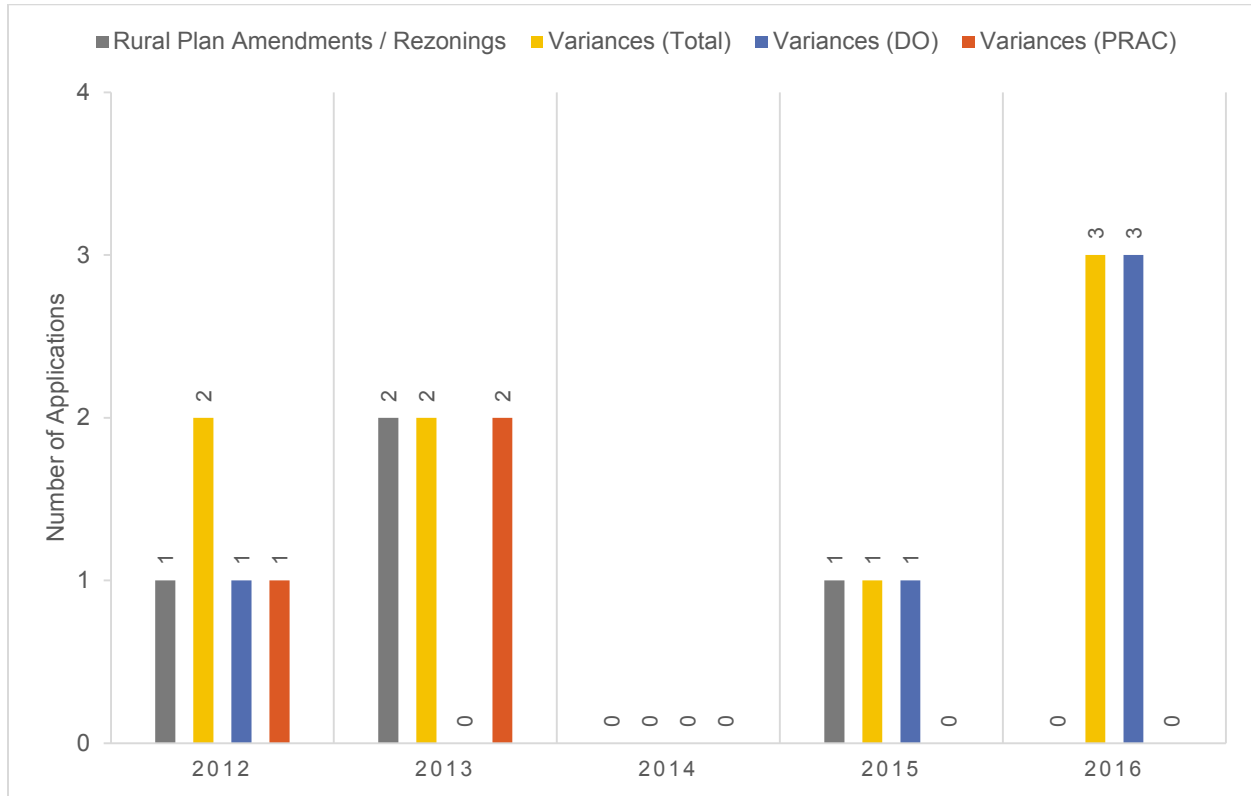


FIGURE 29: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

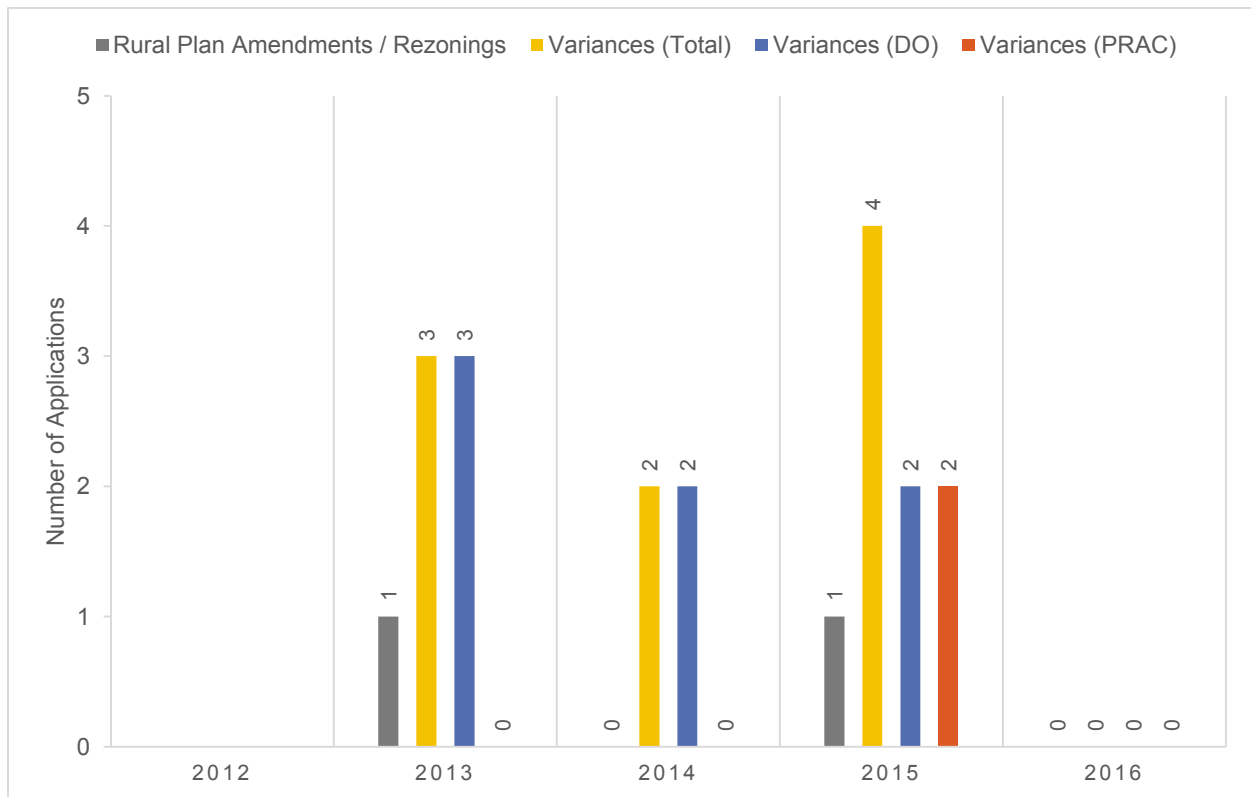


FIGURE 30: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

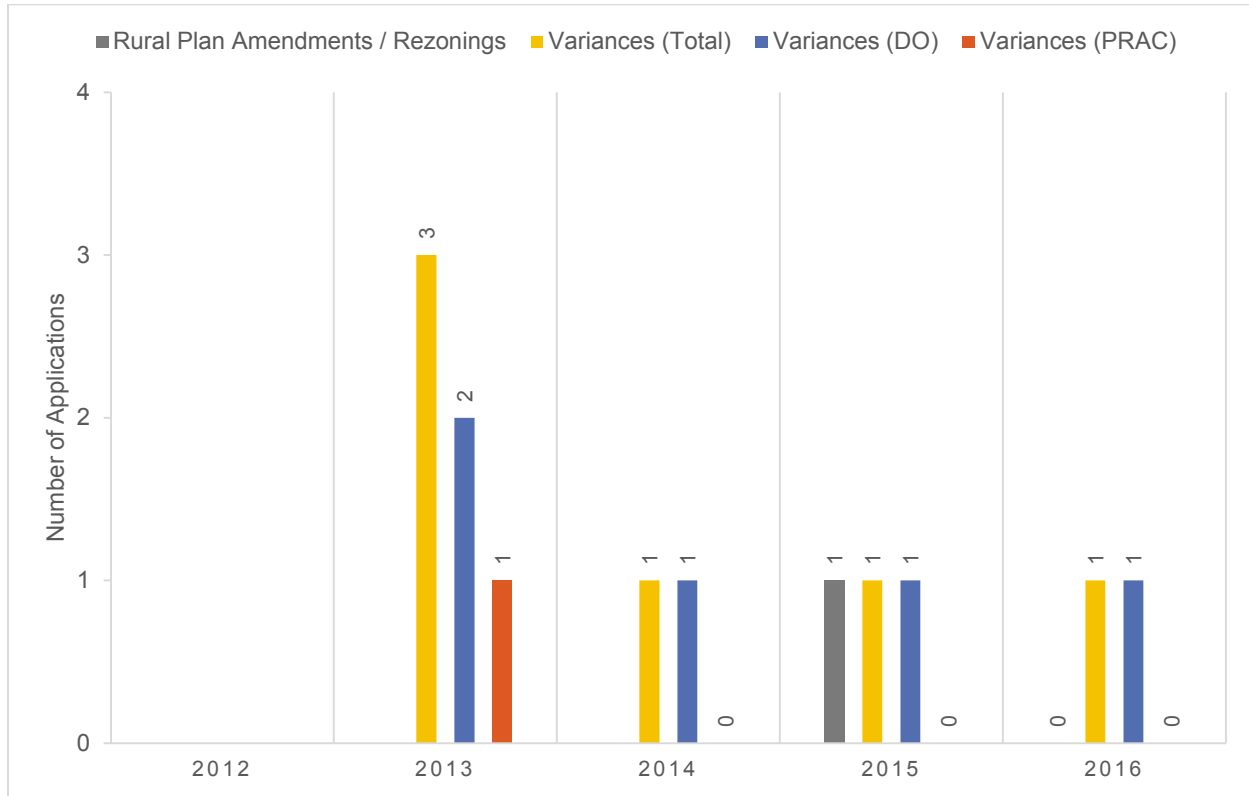
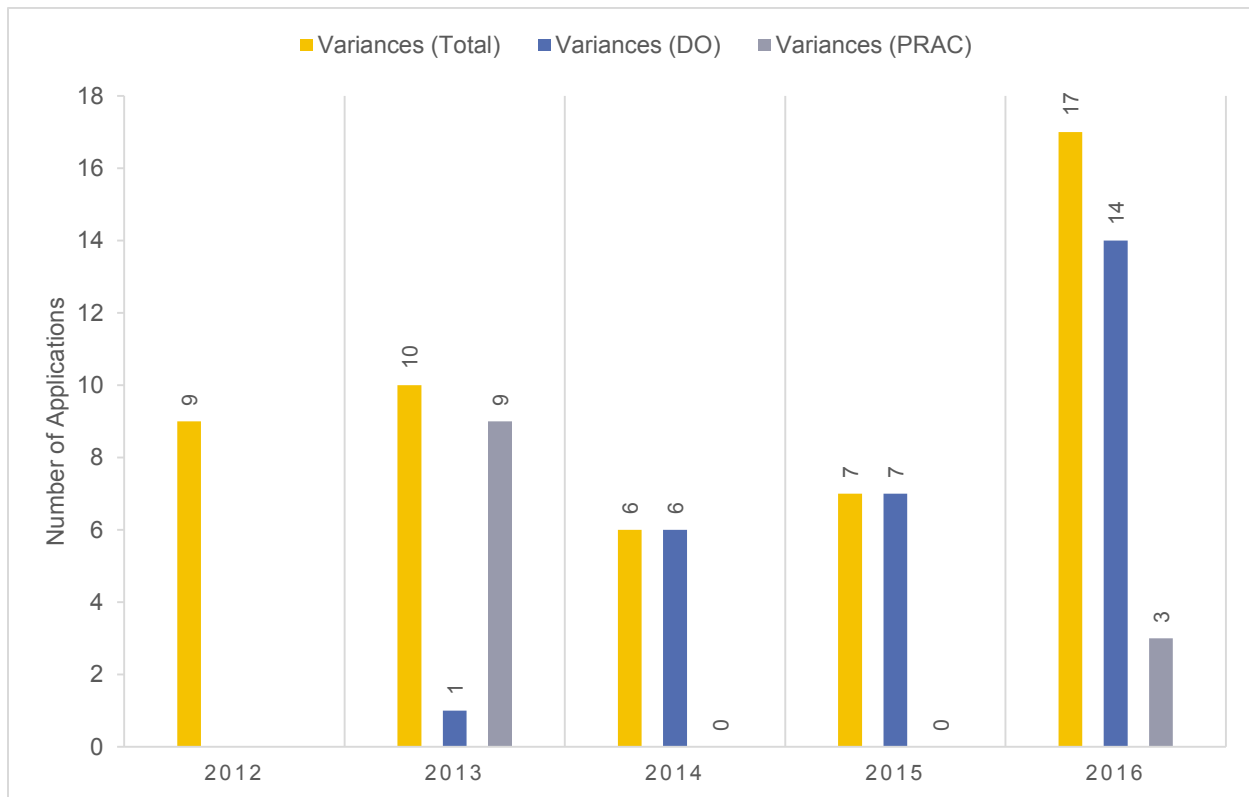


FIGURE 31: UNINCORPORATED AREAS PLANNING APPLICATIONS



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 2012 and 2016. (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 (43%) and the unincorporated areas (37%). Other documents remains the highest volume of administrative application / file in the unincorporated areas.

FIGURE 32: CITY OF MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

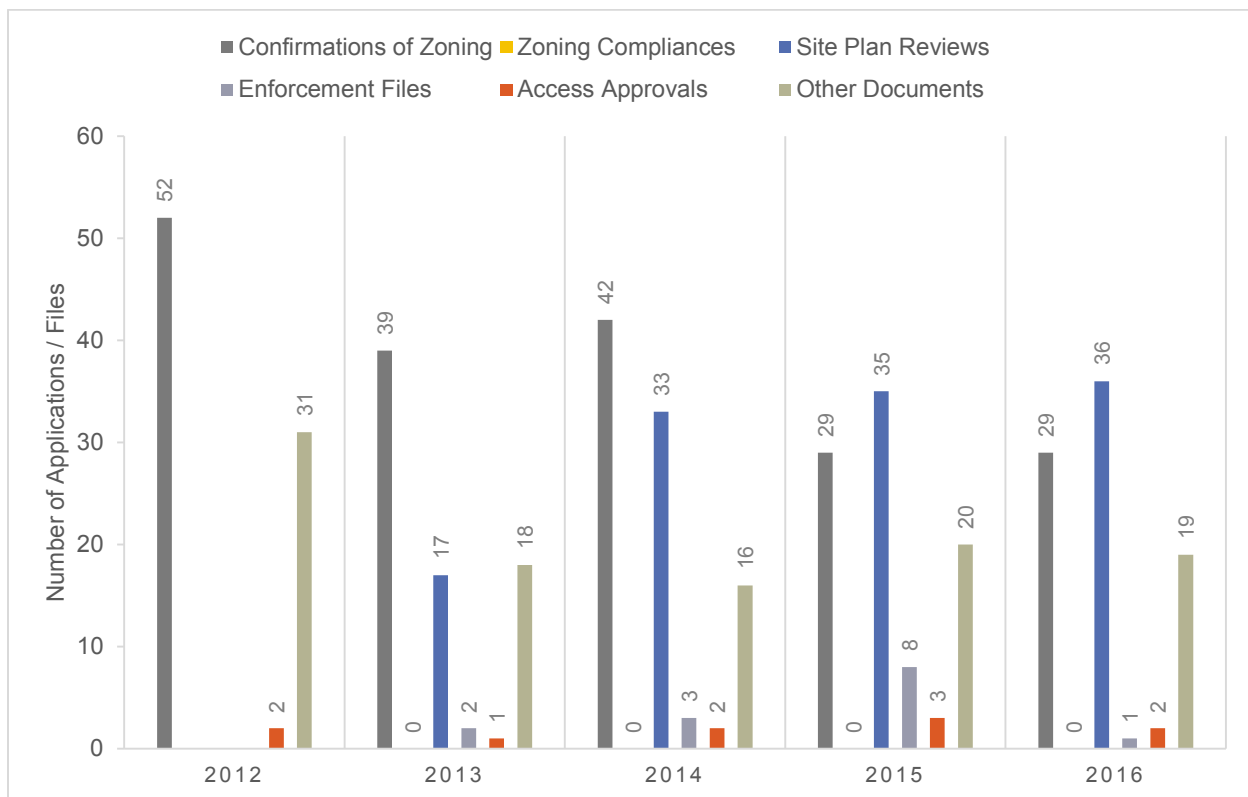


FIGURE 33: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

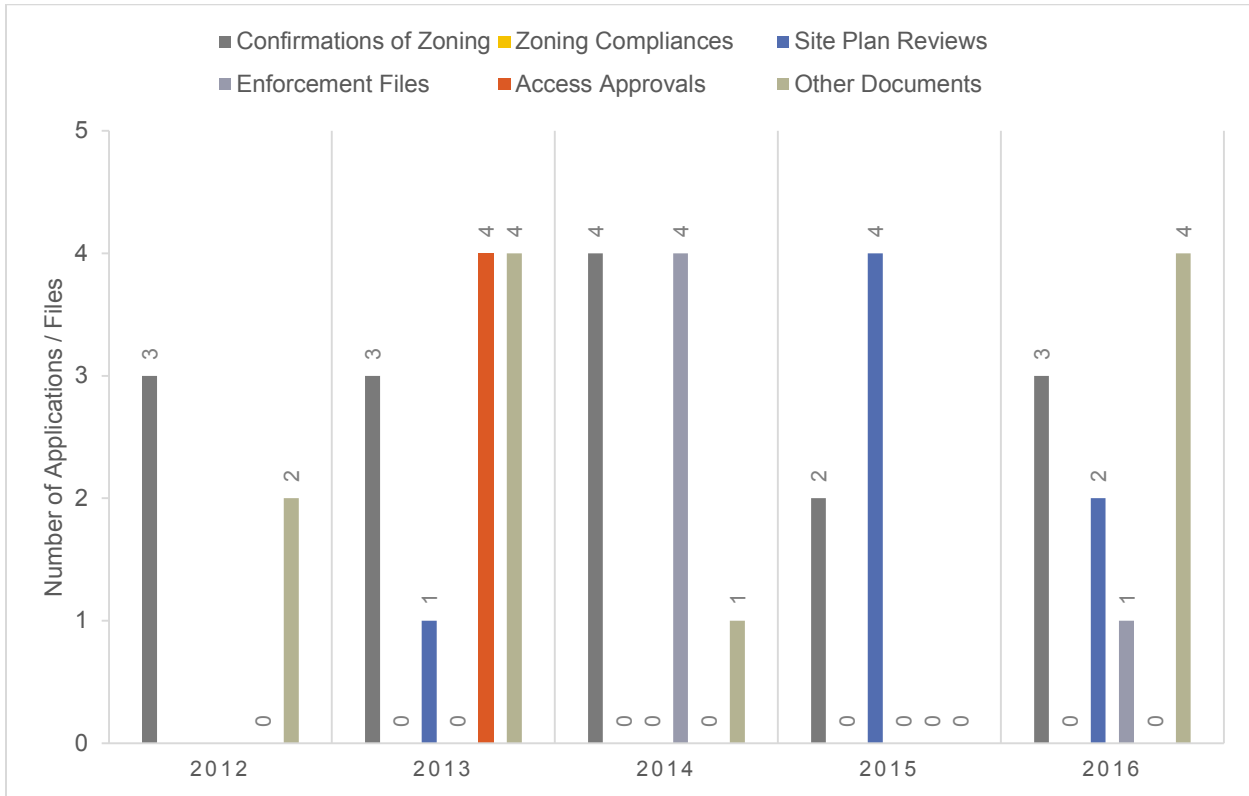


FIGURE 34: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

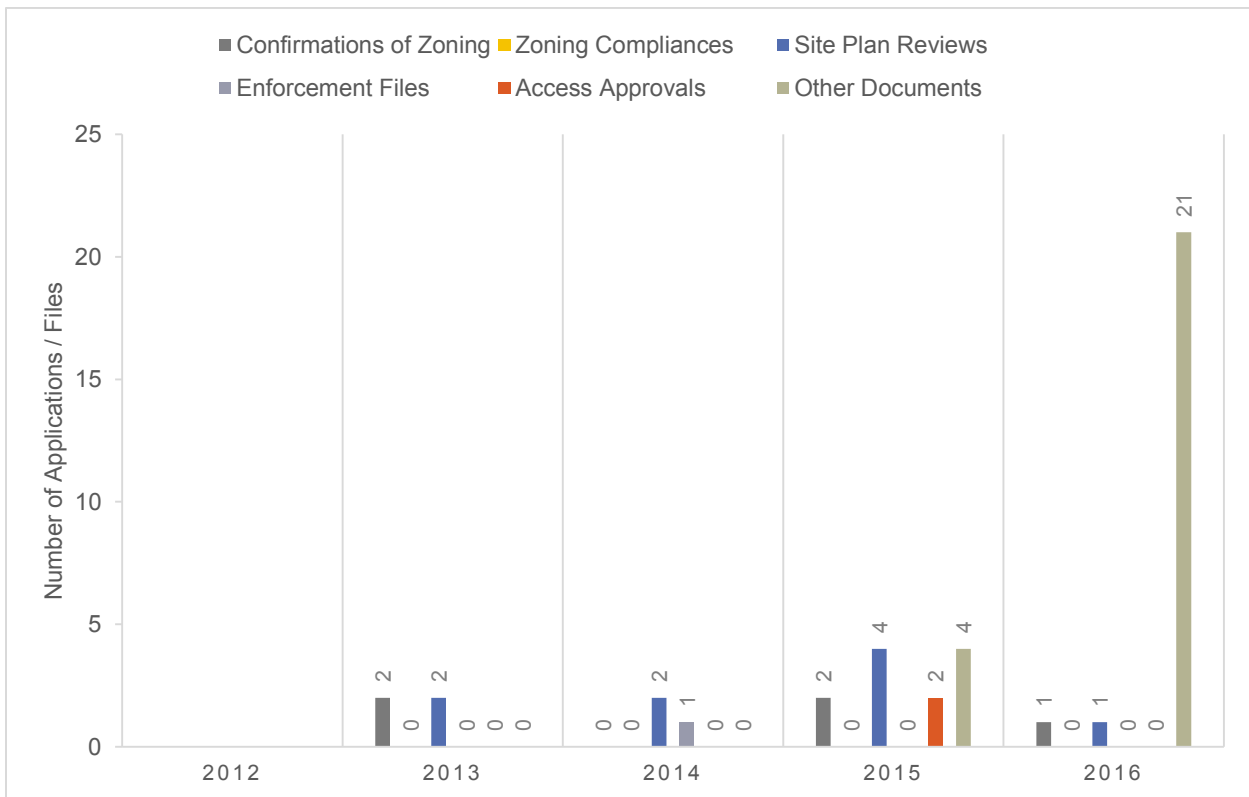


FIGURE 35: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

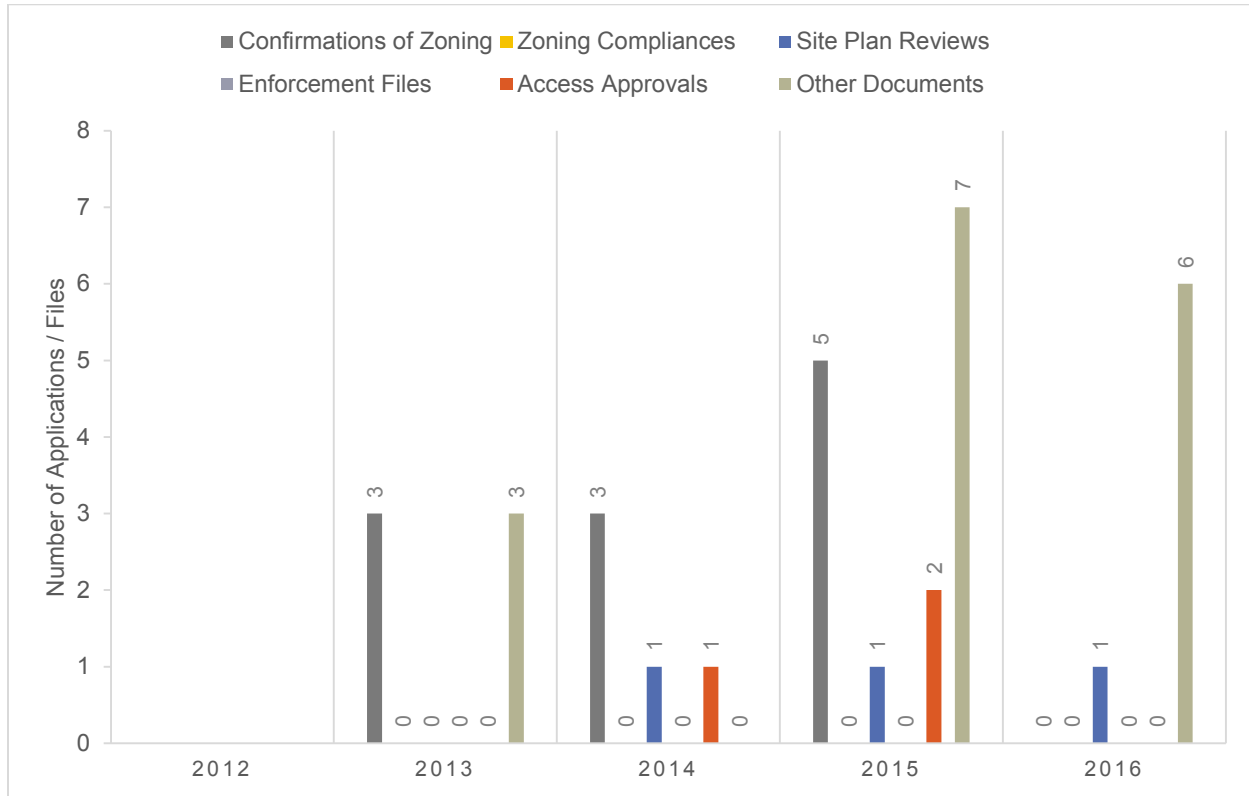
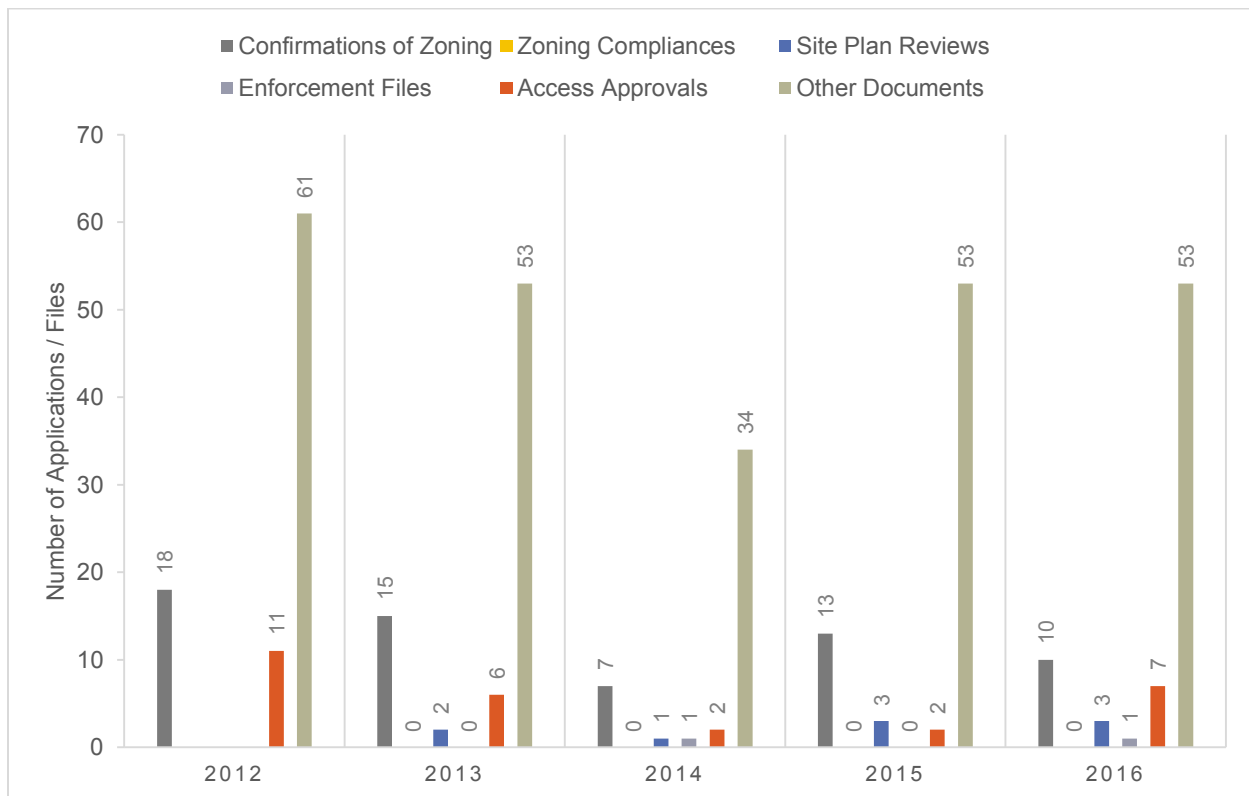


FIGURE 36: UNINCORPORATED ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES



6.5 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Figures 37 and 38 outline subdivision applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2012 and 2016. (Please refer to Tables 37 and 38 in 'Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.)

The majority of applications came from the unincorporated areas (74.1%). As a result, the majority of new lots were created in these areas (68%).

FIGURE 37: SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS IN GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

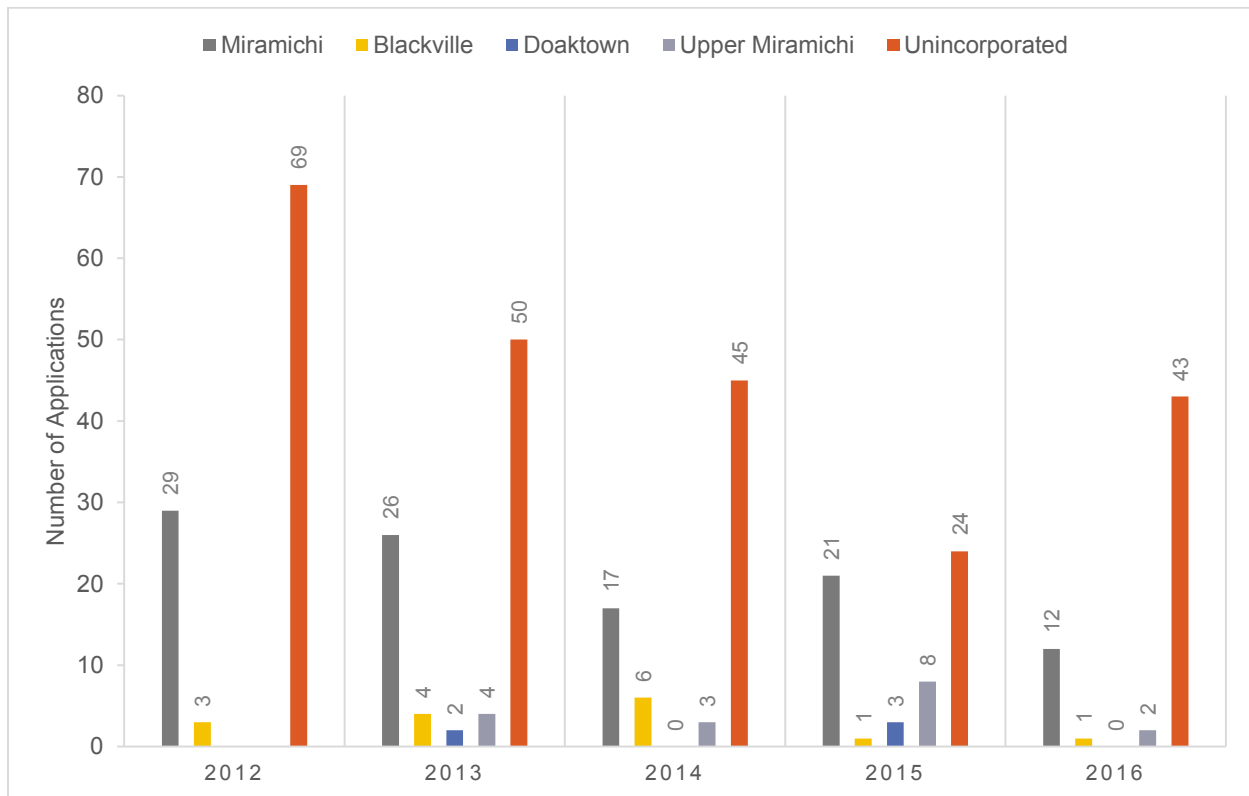
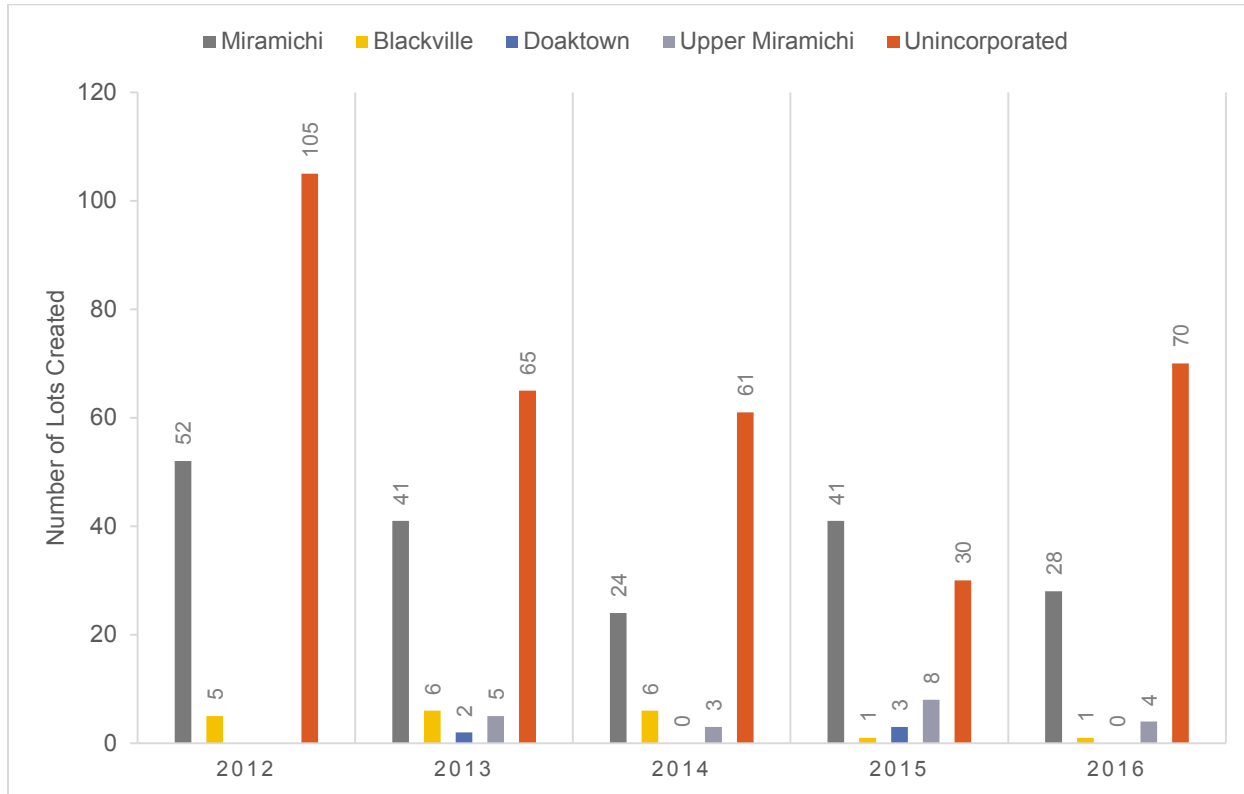


FIGURE 38: NEW LOTS CREATED IN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION



SECTION C – SOLID WASTE SERVICES

7 Tonnage Report

7.1 TIPPING FEES

As of January 2016, tipping fees at Red Pine Sanitary Landfill facility (Chaleur RSC3) increased to \$76.40 per Metric Tonne (MT) for regular waste and remained the same at \$34.50 per MT for Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste. Figures 39 and 40 give breakdowns of tipping fees for 2016 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	\$42.00
RSC5 Surcharge	\$24.40
Total Tip Fee	\$76.40

FIGURE 40: C&D WASTE TIPPING FEE

C and D Waste	Breakdown of Fee (per MT)
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tip Fee	\$30.00
RSC5 Surcharge	\$4.50
<i>Total Tip Fee</i>	<i>\$34.50</i>

7.2 TONNAGE COLLECTION

In 2016, the Greater Miramichi Region produced a total of 20,398.20 MT of waste that was direct-hauled to the Red Pine Sanitary Landfill located in Allardville, NB (see Figure 41). The total tonnage decreased from 2015 to 2016 by 1,552 MT.

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 2016

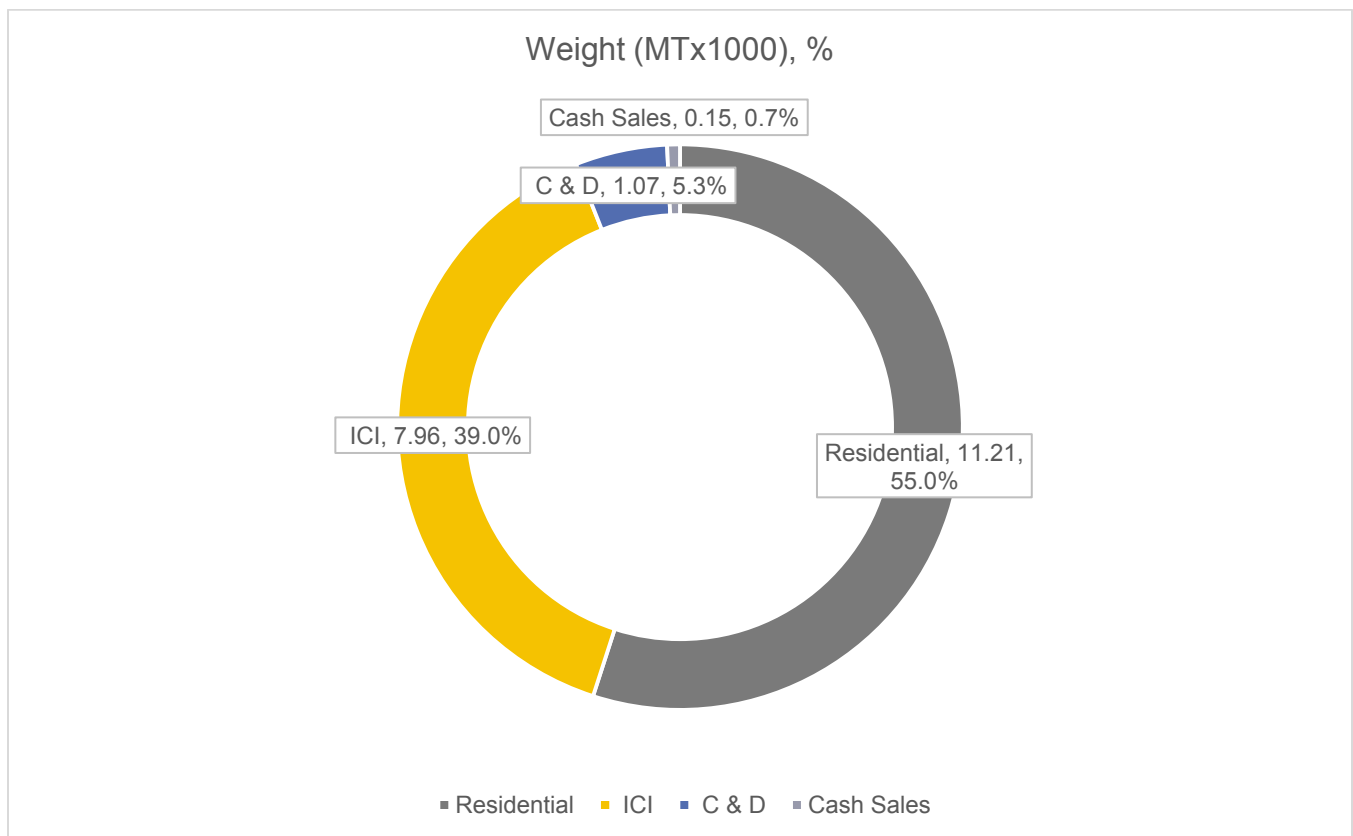
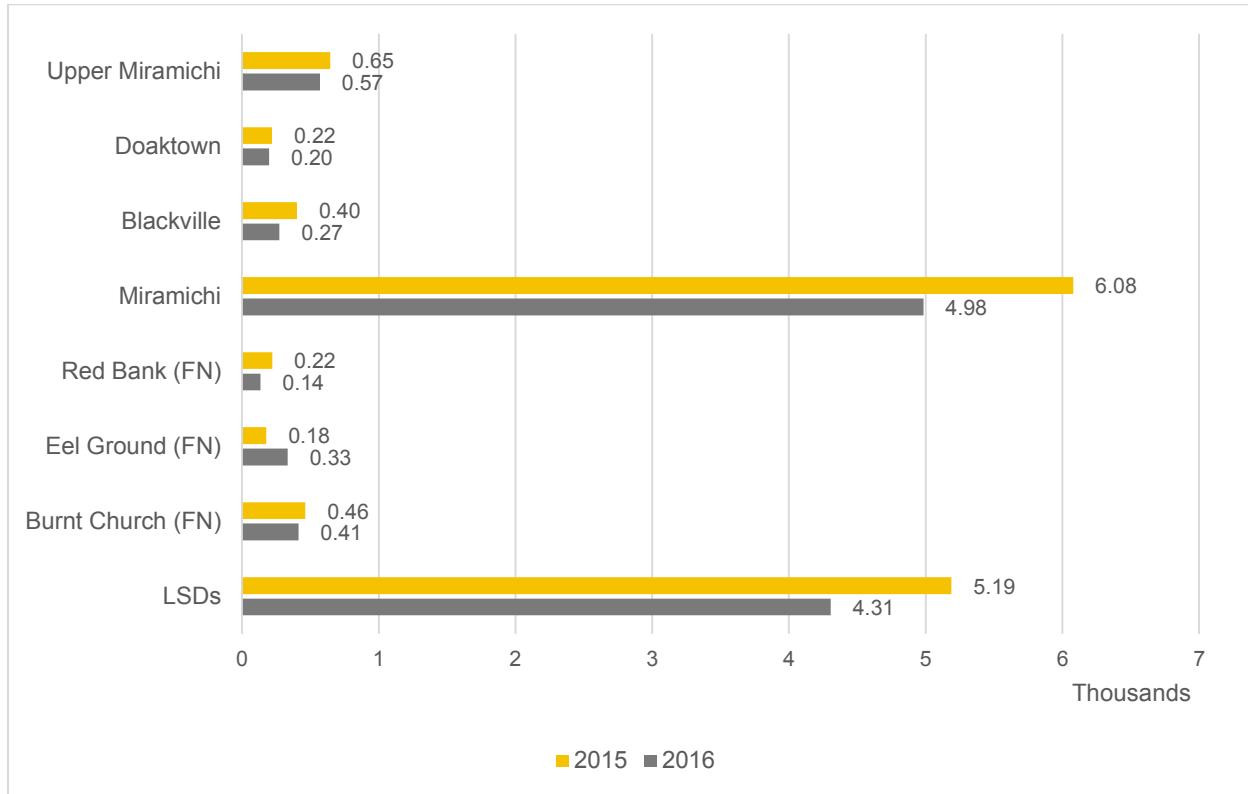


FIGURE 42: WASTE COLLECTION BY MUNICIPALITIES, LSDs, AND FIRST NATIONS (FNs) IN MTX1000



8 Solid Waste Services Annual Summary

8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

Solid Waste Services applied to the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) for 'Organic Reduction Educational Workshops' and was awarded \$30,000. The project assisted to educate the public on the alternative methods to disposing organic waste by hosting several workshops throughout the GMRSC region. A significant portion of the funds was used to create a newsletter sent to each household and advertising on local radio stations, local newspaper and municipal newsletters.

8.2 SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2016 CALENDAR

The 2017 Calendar was delivered to each household in the Greater Miramichi Region via Canada Post (see Figure 43). The cover highlighted Curbside Recycling programs results for 2016. 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	Construction and Demolition	1

8.3 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

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

- Reusable water bottles
- Magnifying rulers
- Hand sanitizers
- Pens made from recycled plastic bottles
- Pencils made from recycled newspaper

8.4 APPEARANCES

Solid Waste Services participated at the 2016 Miramichi Home Show. The Waste Reduction Coordinator provided several workshops and presentations to numerous schools, local community groups, and at various events. Figures 45 and 46 summarize events 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
April 6, 2016	Curbside Recycling - Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee
April 19, 2016	Composting Workshop – Eel Ground First Nation
April 21, 2016	Recycling (3 R's) – Brownies & Sparks, Nelson
April 30 – May 1, 2016	Miramichi Community Showcase
May 4, 2016	Recycling (3 R's) Girl Guides, Miramichi
May 5, 2016	Composting Workshop – Miramichi
May 25, 2016	Recycling (3 R's) - Sparks, Brownies & Girl Guides, Newcastle
June 28, 2016	Composting Workshop – Miramichi
June 29, 2016	Composting Workshop – Sunny Corner
July 6, 2016	Composting Workshop – Black River Bridge
July 7, 2016	Composting Workshop – Barryville
July 13, 2016	Composting Workshop – Doaktown
July 14, 2016	Composting Workshop – Upper Miramichi
July 20, 2016	Composting Workshop – Blackville
August 2, 2016	Composting Workshop – Red Bank
August 9, 2016	Composting Workshop – Esgenoopetitj
August 10, 2016	Composting Workshop – Burnt Church/New Jersey
August 11, 2016	Composting Workshop – Baie Ste-Anne
November 3, 2016	Science East – Dr. Losier Miramichi

FIGURE 46: SCHOOL-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	School	Topic
April 14, 2016	Saint Andrews Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
April 19, 2016	Nelson Rural	Recycling (3 r's)
April 21, 2016	Hartkins Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
May 4, 2016	Gretna Green	Recycling (3 r's)
May 10, 2016	North and South Esk Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
May 11, 2016	Nelson Rural	Recycling (3 r's)
May 11, 2016	Napan Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
May 12, 2016	Esgenoopetitj School	Recycling (3 r's)
May 17, 2016	Doaktown School	Recycling (3 r's)
May 19, 2016	Upper Miramichi Elementary	Composting
May 24, 2016	Ian Bailey Primary	Recycling (3 r's)
October 4, 2016	Miramichi Valley High	Composting
November 15, 2016	École René Chouinard	Battery Recycling

FIGURE 47: PICTURES FROM EVENTS



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
April 26 – 29, 2016	8th Canadian Waste Resource Symposium, Halifax NB
November 16 – 18, 2016	Project Management Skills for Solid Waste Professionals, Moncton NB

FIGURE 49: PICTURES FROM SEMINARS AND TOURS OF RECYCLING FACILITIES



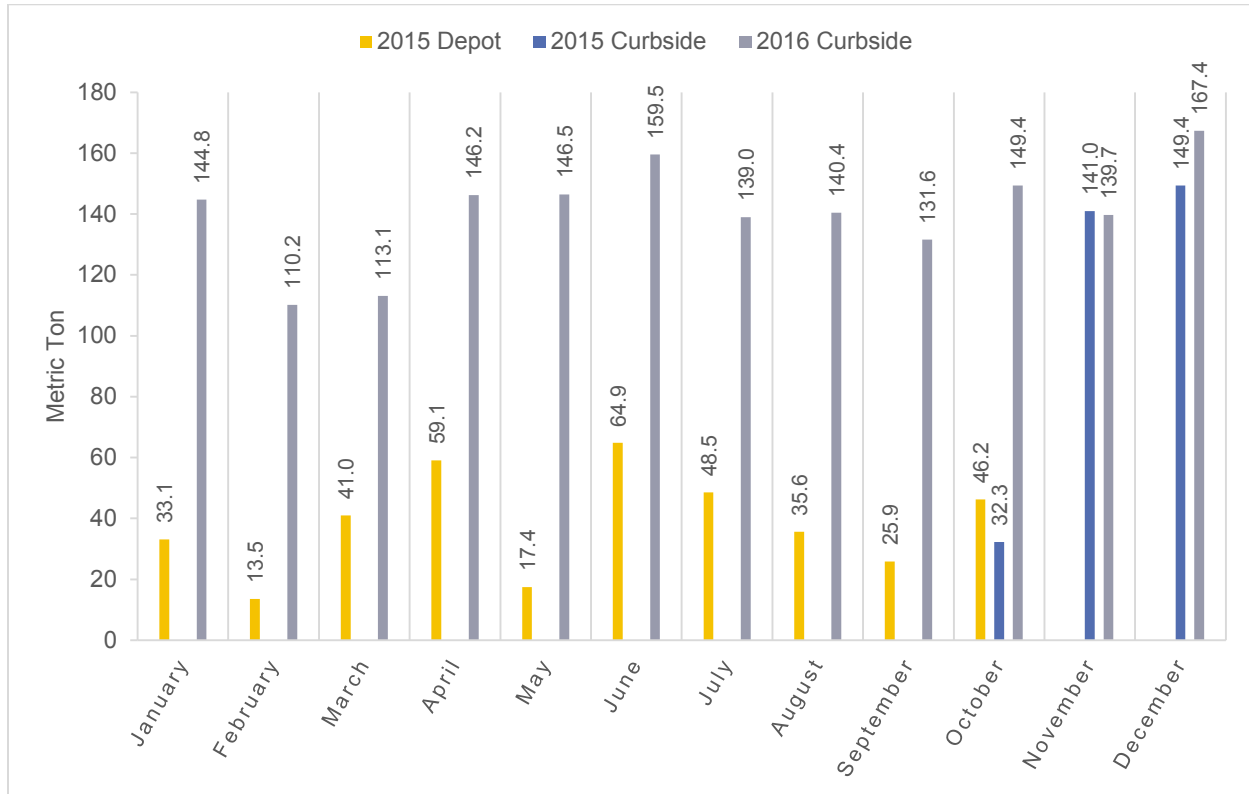
9 Waste Reduction and Diversion

9.1 DIVERSION REPORT – RECYCLING STATISTICS

Mélanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator organized 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 2015 and 2016. A total of 1,687.6 MT was diverted from the landfill through the Residential Curbside Recycling Program in 2016. 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 BATTERY DEPOTS

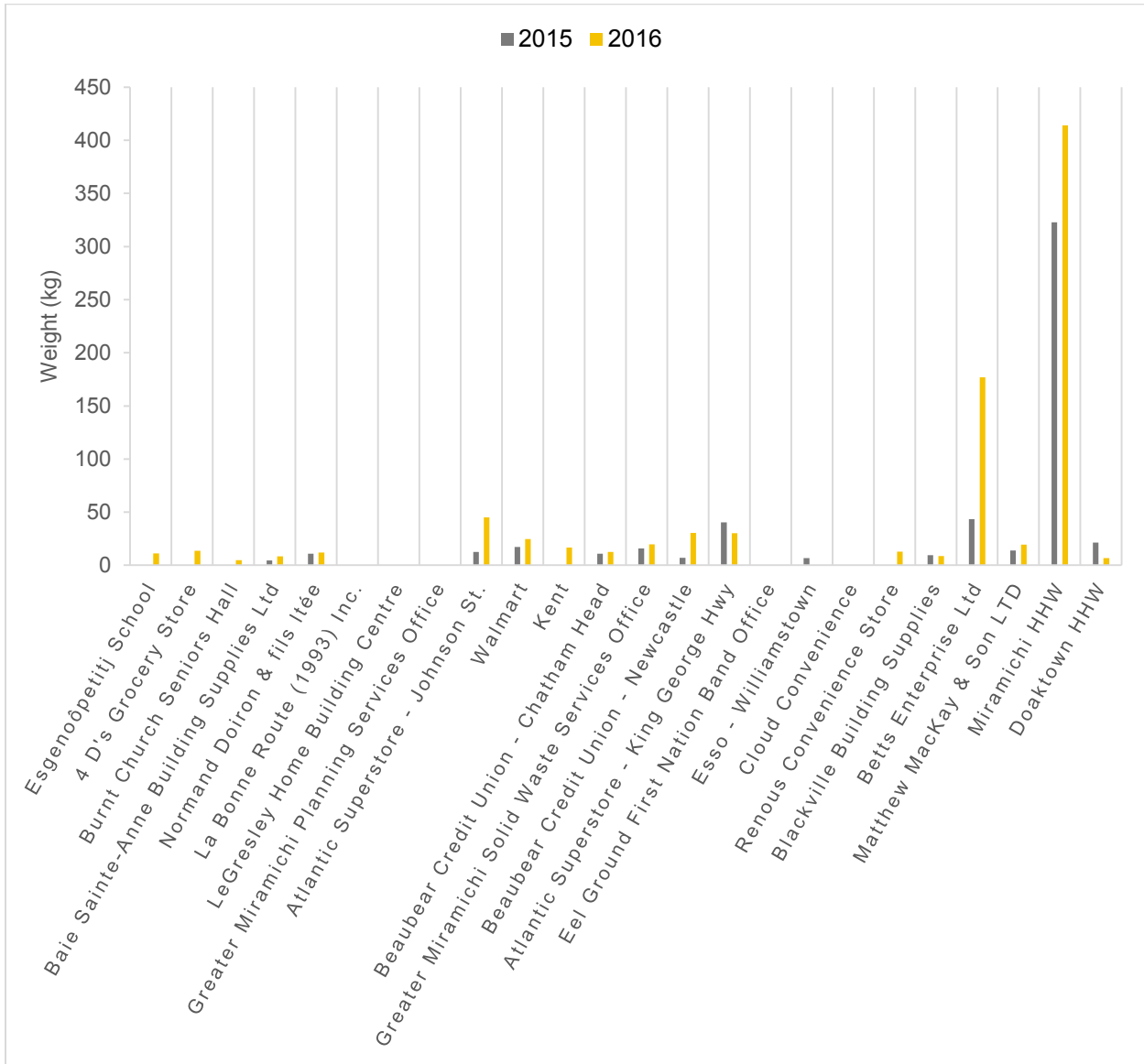
In 2016, Solid Waste Services added additional battery and cell phone drop-off sites throughout the Greater Miramichi Region. A total of 22 drop-off locations are available to residents to recycle their old cell phones and used batteries.

FIGURE 51: EXAMPLE OF BATTERIES AND CELL PHONES RECYCLING BOX



In 2016, a total of 867 kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW events (Figure 52 compares diversion amounts from 2015-2016). Batteries collected at HHW and E-Waste events were segregated to be sorted and packaged properly by volunteers resulting in cost savings.

FIGURE 52: CELL PHONE AND BATTERY WASTE DIVERSION FROM DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



9.3 HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2016. The working crew included staff from the GMRSC and volunteers from various groups and residents.

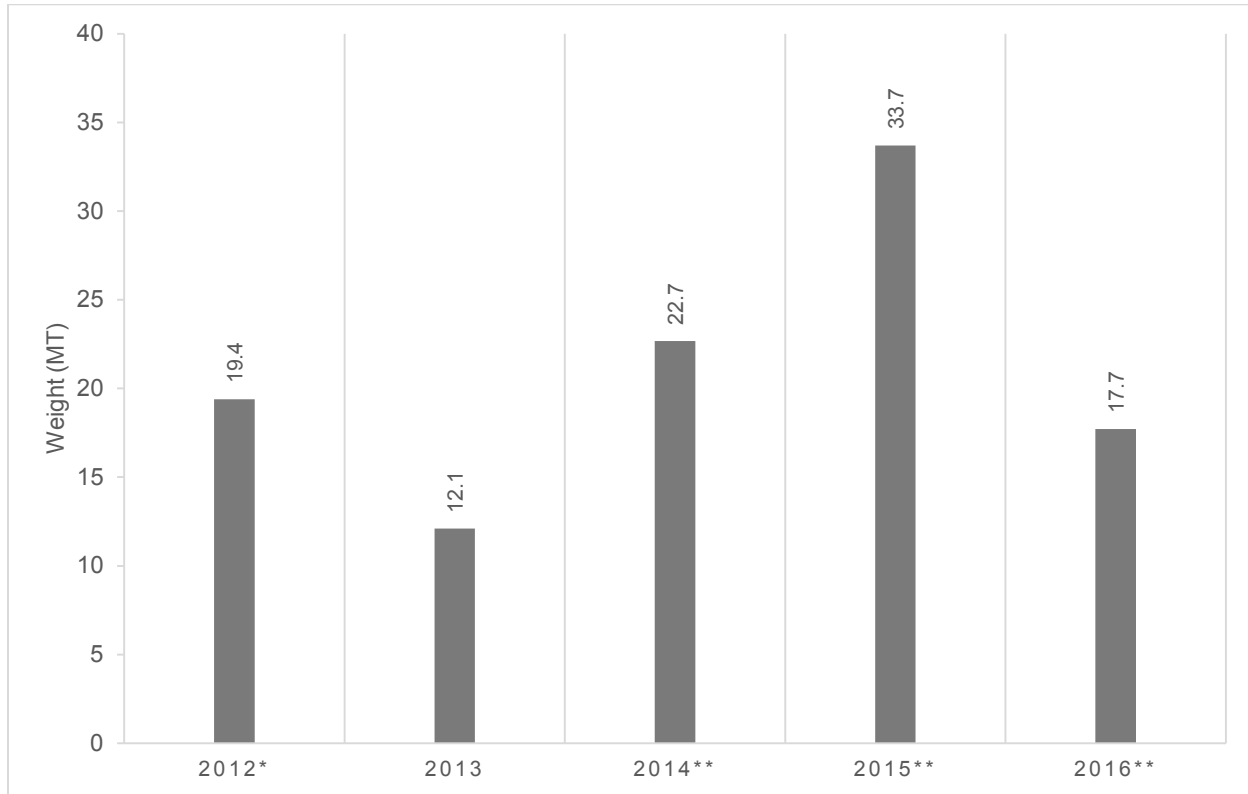
The Spring HHW and E-Waste collections took place June 4, 2016 in the City of Miramichi (Saint Mary's Church) and the Village of Doaktown (Fire Hall) (see Figure 53). Approximately 520 and 70 vehicles were served respectively. A total of 11.02 MT of E-Waste was collected and recycled. The fall HHW and E-Waste collection took place on October 1, 2016 in Miramichi. A total of 460 vehicles were served and 6.69 MT E-Waste was collected and recycled at this event.

Flammables, household batteries, propane tanks, paint and oil seem to comprise the majority of hazardous materials collected. During these events, reusable bags were distributed to participants with information packages providing information and locations to dispose of paint, oil and batteries year round. A total of 17.71 MT of E-waste was diverted from the landfill and sent for recycling (see Figure 54).

FIGURE 53: SPRING HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT



FIGURE 54: E-WASTE DIVERSION FROM HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS



* Four Spring collections

** Two Spring collections

10 FUTURE DIRECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

- Explore funding options to conduct a feasibility study to assess the sustainability of establishing an Enviro-Centre within the GMRSC boundaries
- Pending approval of ETF application – Waste Reduction Awareness Campaign
- Examine feasibility for sorting/recycling locations in Northern New Brunswick with neighbouring RSCs
- Evaluate feasibility of implementing ICI participation in recycling program
- Explore options for recovery of compact fluorescent lights
- Develop an App for notifications, alerts and education pertaining to waste and recycling collection schedules and special events
- Ongoing promotion and education of recycling and other waste reduction programs
- Explore potential interest and community partnership regarding hosting a Green Fair Tradeshow
- Examine optimized collection for the Greater Miramichi Region which will allow for restructuring waste collection zones, resulting in competitive contract negotiations
- Participate in the Provincial Waste Management Strategy
- Other initiatives are articulated in the 'GMRSC Operational Workplan (2017-2019)' (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	2/7
Christopher Hennessy	1/7
John W. Foran	2/7
Adam Lordon	1/7
Brian King	1/7
Gerald Ross	3/7
Lynn Gregan	4/7
John Goodfellow	7/7
Robert Hallihan	7/7
Elizabeth Bowes	7/7

PRAC Member Attendance

Member	Meeting Attendance
William Treadwell - Chairman	8/8
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	7/8
Kurt Marks	6/8
Scott Clowater	6/8
Robert Hallihan	6/8
Lynn Gregan	7/8
Robert McLeod	7/8
Burton Cain	5/8

GMRSC Board Member Per Diem and Expenses








































Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
Douglas Munn - Chairman	\$1,000.00	\$791.46	\$1,791.46
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	\$750.00	\$590.40	\$1,340.40
Andy Hawkes	\$300.00	\$73.80	\$373.80
Elizabeth Bowes	\$975.00	\$321.35	\$1,296.35
Gerald Ross	\$375.00	\$165.64	\$540.64
John Goodfellow	\$1,050.00	\$336.21	\$1,386.21
Robert Hallihan	\$825.00	\$372.12	\$1,197.12
John W. Foran	\$225.00	\$18.45	\$243.45
Gerry Cormier	\$75.00	\$32.80	\$107.80
Lynn Gregan	\$525.00	\$530.54	\$1,055.54
Adam Lordon	\$75.00	\$4.10	\$79.10
Christopher Hennessy	\$150.00	\$71.59	\$221.59
Brian King	\$75.00	\$4.10	\$79.10
TOTALS	\$6,400.00	\$3,312.56	\$9,712.56

PRAC Member Per Diem and Expenses

Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
William Treadwell - Chairman	\$800.00	\$175.00	\$975.00
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	\$525.00	\$22.14	\$547.14
Kurt Marks	\$450.00	\$205.00	\$655.00
Scott Clowater	\$450.00	\$541.12	\$991.12
Robert Hallihan	\$525.00	\$231.16	\$756.16
Lynn Gregan	\$525.00	\$246.00	\$771.00
Robert McLeod	\$375.00	\$336.20	\$711.20
Burton Cain	\$375.00	\$123.00	\$498.00
TOTALS	\$4,025.00	\$1,879.62	\$5,904.62

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

2016 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, 2016	
CORPORATE SERVICES (CS)	Administration & Management (CS-1)	1	continue corporate consolidation of MPDC & NSWC, through merging/consolidating/stream-lining administrative & financial computer systems, employee responsibilities and procedures					Completed	
		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., cost projections not prepared.	
		3	undertake Salary Scale review for all employees, in collaboration with other RSCs						Adopted July 13, 2016. Review in year 3, i.e., 2019
		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 RTIPPA 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
		14	participate in regular RSC Executive Directors meetings						On-going
		15	RSC5 Procedure By-law development						Preliminary review completed, issues identified



























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

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016
	Member / Board Support (CS - 2)	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
		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 (CS - 3)	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
		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				2016 Annual Report Completed
		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

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

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016
	(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	(RC)	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 sessions
		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. No further development.
		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	●		●	20 Year Agreement signed in May 2016. Monitor and meet with RSCs partners annually
(SW)	(SW - 1)	2	household hazardous waste and e-waste public "drop-off" events	●	●	●	Three events held and response from public was very strong. 24,200 litres of paint, 675 kg of household batteries and 33.7 mt (74,295 lbs)of e-waste diverted. Along with oil, solvents and other hazardous products.
				3	2	3	

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

Service Category	Workplan Category	Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016		
		3	introduce, administer & evaluate new household battery collection/ Recycling Program	 <i>intro</i>		 <i>eval</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. carried forward to further years.	
		7	examine options for new recovery program for compact fluorescent light bulbs	 <small>scope & ETF \$</small>			Planned for 2016, no further development	
		8	examine option for recycling to increase diversion rates, incl curbside pick-ups. A pilot project could be introduced in some LSDs & municipalities	 <small>scope & ETF \$</small>	 <i>impl</i>		Board approved program in October 2014 for implementation throughout region in fall 2015. Curbside program 2016 = 1,687.63 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 2016	
		11	develop and implement programs for various waste reduction strategies (e.g. composting, recycling, re-use)				On-going	
		Public Relations & Education (SW - 2)	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. Info brochures have been developed.
			2	redevelop Activity Workbooks for children				Completed

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

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016	
		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				33 Info sessions to schools presentations and interest groups.	
		6	composting workshops & promotions				13 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 (SW - 3)	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
	3		Human Resources Manual-staff committee to review & revise				Completed	
	4		monitoring & tracking volumes of waste diverted and landfilled				On-going	
	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 (PS)	Building Permit & Inspection (PS - 1)	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	
3			perform building-permit-related inspections				Approximately 250 - 275 inspections completed	
4			develop Operational Policies for building cost valuations				Completed	

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

Service Category	Workplan Category	Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016	
		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 2016 Annual Report
	Development Support (PS - 2)	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice) -Zoning & Development & Subdividing land	⋈	⋈	⋈	On-going
		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

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

Service Category	Workplan Category	Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016			
		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		
		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

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

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016	
	(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)	(PS - 4)	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
			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
			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

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

Service Category	Workplan Category	Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016	
		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	(PS - 5)	1 train a new "back-up" Development Officer for subdivision application & documents approvals				On-going. Planner is being mentored by Assistant Development Office
			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				2015 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
			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 2016
			10 GIS Specialist training - ESRI Canada conference (Atlantic Region)				Attended, October 2016
11 Planning Services Manager - professional development (APA annual conference)							
12 participate in Planning Directors meetings							

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

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31, 2016
		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 (PS - 6)	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.
		2	Monthly Media releases on selected topics, incl. use of social media				Ongoing; newspaper (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 2016
	Corporate Support - Solid Waste (PS - 6)	1	Mapping - solid waste collection routes, blue box locations				Blue Depots mapped

Appendix C – GMRSC 2016 Financial Statement

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2016**



GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Index

To the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

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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, 2016

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

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, 2016 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year ended December 31, 2016 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, 2016 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

July 4, 2017

Allen, Legault & Arsenault LLP

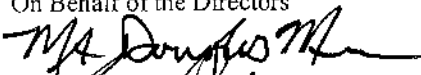
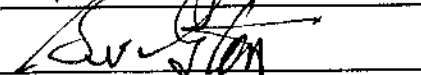
Chartered Professional Accountants

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Operations****For the Year Ended December 31**

	2016	2016	2015
	(Unaudited) Budget Note 14	Actual	Actual
REVENUE			
Member Charges	\$ 1,444,618	\$ 1,646,136	\$ 1,603,447
Sales of Service	684,458	742,616	702,735
Other Revenue	45,100	45,000	48,700
Interest	-	4,030	7,180
	<hr/> 2,174,176	<hr/> 2,437,782	<hr/> 2,362,062
EXPENDITURES			
Administration	549,713	632,332	569,330
Fiscal Services	46,100	21,325	6,952
Governance	20,900	17,895	9,853
Planning and Building Inspection Services	528,198	567,116	479,799
Solid Waste Services	1,226,019	1,282,887	1,383,223
Regional Planning	4,000	-	-
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	1,500	-	-
	<hr/> 2,376,430	<hr/> 2,521,555	<hr/> 2,449,157
ANNUAL DEFICIT	\$ (202,254)	\$ (83,773)	\$ (87,095)
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, Beginning of Year		976,893	1,063,988
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, End of Year		\$ 893,120	\$ 976,893

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2016	2015
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and Short Term Investments (Note 3)	\$ 300,076	\$ 1,610,755
Receivables		
General	298,484	210,966
Due from Federal Government (Note 4)	177,722	153,616
	\$ 776,282	\$ 1,975,337
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 72,926	\$ 1,315,490
Due to members	84,191	111,256
Post employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits payable (Note 6)	111,957	66,513
Deferred Revenue	65,126	-
Long term debt (Note 7)	726,000	902,000
	1,060,200	2,395,259
NET ASSETS	(283,918)	(419,922)
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	1,614,626	1,818,927
Accumulated Amortization	(451,277)	(437,628)
	1,163,349	1,381,299
Inventory of Supplies	10,726	9,030
Prepaid Expenses	2,963	6,486
	1,177,038	1,396,815
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 893,120	\$ 976,893

On Behalf of the Directors
 Director
 Director

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

	2016	2015
Annual Deficit (Page 3)	\$ (83,773)	(87,095)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	-	(1,202,367)
Proceeds on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	204,301	6,000
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	13,649	14,919
Gain on Sale of Tangible Capital Assets	-	(6,000)
	<u>134,177</u>	<u>(1,274,543)</u>
(Increase) Decrease of Inventory of Supplies	(1,696)	(9,030)
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	3,523	(3,369)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	136,004	(1,286,942)
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year (Page 4)	(419,922)	867,020
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$ (283,918)	\$ (419,922)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Cash Flow****For the Year Ended December 31****2016****2015**

OPERATING TRANSACTIONS

Annual Deficit	\$	(83,773)	\$	(87,095)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets		13,649		14,919
Gain on sale of Tangible Capital Assets		-		(6,000)
Receivables				
General		(87,518)		13,113
Due from Federal Government		(24,106)		(92,667)
Inventory		(1,696)		(9,030)
Prepaid Expenses		3,523		(3,369)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities		(1,242,564)		1,292,978
Change in Deferred Revenue		65,126		(89,137)
Due to Members		(27,065)		74,101
Bid Bond Payable		-		(21,773)
		<u>(1,338,980)</u>		<u>1,086,040</u>

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets		-		(1,202,367)
Proceeds on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets		204,301		6,000
		<u>204,301</u>		<u>(1,196,367)</u>

FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

Long Term Debt		<u>(176,000)</u>		<u>902,000</u>
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NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (1,310,679) 791,673**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of Year** 1,610,755 819,082**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of Year (Note 3)** \$ 300,076 \$ 1,610,755

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 CPA Canada.

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 27, 2015.

(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.

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.

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

	2016	2015
Term Deposits (Restricted)	\$ 347,973	\$ 738,488
Term Deposits (Unrestricted)	64,007	63,459
Cash (Unrestricted)	(111,904)	808,808
	\$ 300,076	\$ 1,610,755

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

4. DUE FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

	2016	2015
Canada Revenue Agency (HST Refund)	\$ 193,938	\$ 161,561
Canada Revenue Agency (Payroll Source Deductions)	(16,216)	(7,945)
Canada Revenue Agency	\$ 177,722	\$ 153,616

5. COMMITMENTSOffice and Equipment Leases

The Commission has outstanding lease commitments for the location of its local planning services premises. The lease payments for 2017 will be \$3,336 per month, increasing 3% annually, until March 31, 2019.

6. 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 \$111,957 on December 31, 2016.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

7. LONG-TERM DEBT

	2016	2015
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	\$ 726,000	\$ 902,000

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

2017	\$ 177,000
2018	180,000
2019	183,000
2020	186,000
2021	-
	\$ 726,000

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

8. SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Land	Paving	Buildings	Equipment	Office Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	2016 Total	2015 Total
COST									
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 48,568	\$ 21,878	\$ 177,936	\$ 1,460,030	\$ 18,500	\$ 49,772	\$ 42,243	\$ 1,818,927	\$ 668,560
Add: Net Additions During the Year	-	-	-	(204,301)	-	-	-	-	1,202,367
Less: Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(204,301)	(52,000)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	48,568	21,878	177,936	1,255,729	18,500	49,772	42,243	1,614,626	1,818,927
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION									
Balance, Beginning of Year	-	10,940	64,242	279,038	18,500	36,291	28,617	437,628	474,709
Add: Amortization During the Year	-	1,094	4,448	-	-	4,148	3,939	13,649	14,919
Less: Accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(52,000)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	12,034	68,690	279,038	18,500	40,439	32,576	451,277	437,628
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS									
	\$ 48,568	\$ 9,844	\$ 109,246	\$ 976,691	\$ -	\$ 9,333	\$ 9,667	\$ 1,163,349	\$ 1,381,299
Consists of:									
Solid Waste Fund Assets	\$ 48,568	\$ 9,844	\$ 109,246	\$ 976,691	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,562	\$ 1,152,911	\$ 1,366,713
Local Planning Fund Assets	-	-	-	-	-	9,333	1,105	10,438	14,586
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 48,568	\$ 9,844	\$ 109,246	\$ 976,691	\$ -	\$ 9,333	\$ 9,667	\$ 1,163,349	\$ 1,381,299

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

9. SCHEDULE OF SEGMENT DISCLOSURE

	Corporate Services	Co-operative and Regional Planning	Local Planning	Solid Waste Services	Total 2016	Total 2015
REVENUES						
Member Charges	\$ -	\$ 47,550	\$ 723,611	\$ 874,975	\$ 1,646,136	\$ 1,603,447
Sales of Services	-	-	-	742,616	742,616	702,735
Other Revenue	-	-	-	45,000	45,000	48,700
Interest	-	15	602	3,413	4,030	7,180
	-	47,565	724,213	1,666,004	2,437,781	2,362,062
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries and Benefits	181,445	-	556,211	216,912	954,568	792,405
Operating Expenses	66,001	-	152,540	1,297,258	1,515,799	1,628,570
Amortization	-	-	4,700	8,949	13,649	14,919
Interest	-	-	4,518	16,807	21,325	6,952
Other	6,388	-	2,959	6,867	16,214	6,311
	253,834	-	720,928	1,546,793	2,521,555	2,449,157
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$ (253,834)	\$ 47,565	\$ 3,285	\$ 119,211	\$ (83,773)	\$ (87,095)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

10. 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
2016 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (253,855)	\$ 47,550	\$ 7,931	\$ 124,769	\$ (4,700)	\$ (8,949)	\$ (87,254)
Adjustments to Annual Surplus (Deficit) for Funding Requirements							
Second Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit)	-	4,719	5,516	67,370	-	-	77,605
Allocation to Corporate Services	233,845	(46,769)	(98,568)	(88,508)	-	-	-
Transfer Elimination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer elimination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long Term Debt Principal Repayment	-	-	-	-	-	394,000	394,000
Proceeds From Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	(176,000)	-	176,000	-
Amortization Expense	-	-	-	204,301	-	(204,301)	-
	-	-	-	-	4,700	8,949	13,649
Total Adjustments to 2016 Annual Surplus (Deficit)	233,845	(42,050)	(93,052)	7,163	4,700	374,648	483,254
2016 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ (20,010)	\$ 5,300	\$ (85,121)	\$ 131,932	\$ -	\$ 365,699	\$ 398,000

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

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

	Amount carried from last page	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		Solid Waste Services Operating Reserve Fund		Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund		Total 2016
		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		
2016 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (87,254)	\$	11	\$	10	\$	10	\$	5	\$	27	\$	27	\$	160	\$	3,231	\$ (83,773)
Adjustments to Annual Surplus (Deficit) for Funding Requirements:																		
Second Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit)	77,605	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,605
Transfer elimination	394,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(394,000)	-
Amortization Expense	13,649	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,649
Total Adjustments to 2016 Annual Surplus (Deficit)	485,254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(394,000)	91,254
2016 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ 398,000	\$	11	\$	10	\$	10	\$	5	\$	27	\$	27	\$	160	\$	(390,769)	\$ 7,481

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

11. 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	Solid Waste Services Operating Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund	Total 2016	Total 2015
ASSETS										
Cash	\$ 2,011	\$ 2,010	\$ 1,810	\$ 1,006	\$ 5,027	\$ 5,028	\$ 30,168	\$ 300,910	\$ 347,970	\$ 738,488
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 2,011	\$ 2,010	\$ 1,810	\$ 1,006	\$ 5,027	\$ 5,028	\$ 30,168	\$ 300,910	\$ 347,970	\$ 738,488
REVENUE										
Interest	\$ 11	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 5	\$ 27	\$ 27	\$ 160	\$ 3,231	\$ 3,481	\$ 6,325
Transfer from Operating Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96,800
EXPENDITURES										
Transfer to Solid Waste Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	394,000	394,000	-
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 11	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 5	\$ 27	\$ 27	\$ 160	\$ (390,769)	\$ (390,519)	\$ 103,125

Board of directors resolution regarding transfers to reserves:

Moved by Gerald Ross, seconded by Beverly Gaston that \$394,000 be transferred from the Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund to the Solid Waste Services Capital 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 April 12, 2016.

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, 2016

12. OPERATING BUDGET TO PSA BUDGET

	Corporate Services	Co-operative and Regional Planning	Local Planning Services	Solid Waste Services	Amortization	Transfers	Total
REVENUE							
Member Charges	\$ -	\$ 47,550	\$ 723,613	\$ 673,455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,444,618
Sales of Services	-	-	-	684,458	-	-	684,458
Transfers from Own and Other Funds	233,845	-	-	-	-	(233,845)	-
Other Revenue	-	-	16,000	145,100	-	(116,000)	45,100
Surplus of Second Previous Year	-	4,719	5,516	67,370	-	(77,605)	-
	233,845	52,269	745,129	1,570,383	-	(427,450)	2,174,176
EXPENDITURES							
Administration	211,945	-	118,063	219,705	-	-	549,713
Allocation From Corporate Services	-	46,769	98,568	88,508	-	-	244,855
Other Fiscal Services	1,000	-	-	45,100	-	(233,845)	46,100
Governance	20,900	-	-	-	-	-	20,900
Planning and Building Inspection Services	-	-	523,495	-	4,700	-	528,198
Regional Planning	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Solid Waste Services - Operations	-	-	-	1,217,070	8,949	-	1,226,019
Transfer to Capital Fund	-	-	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
	233,845	52,269	745,129	1,570,383	13,649	(238,845)	2,376,430
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (13,649)	\$ (188,605)	\$ (202,254)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT

	(Unaudited)		
	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
REVENUE			
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Member Charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 24,297	\$ 24,297	\$ 17,901
- Village of Blackville	1,054	1,054	766
- Village of Doaktown	1,014	1,014	761
- Upper Miramichi	2,541	2,541	1,852
- Local Service Districts	18,644	18,644	13,610
Interest	-	15	1
	\$ 47,550	\$ 47,565	\$ 34,891
<u>Corporate Services</u>			
Government Transfers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Member Charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 404,404	\$ 404,404	\$ 356,548
- Village of Blackville	13,467	13,467	11,523
- Village of Doaktown	15,948	15,948	14,565
- Upper Miramichi	32,702	32,700	28,166
- Local Service Districts	257,092	257,092	222,216
Other Operational Revenue	-	-	2,700
Interest	-	602	509
	\$ 723,613	\$ 724,213	\$ 636,227
<u>Solid Waste Services</u>			
<i>Member Tipping Fees</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 325,144	\$ 426,241	\$ 451,783
- Village of Blackville	18,318	23,457	29,734
- Village of Doaktown	14,277	16,328	17,580
- Upper Miramichi	35,693	48,464	51,649
- Local Service Districts	280,023	360,485	384,793
	673,455	874,975	935,539
<i>Revenue From Other Sources</i>			
Tipping Fees from Other Sources	684,458	725,583	669,136
Recycling	-	7,323	6,644
Other Operational Revenue	-	9,710	26,955
Government Transfers	45,100	45,000	40,000
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	-	6,000
Interest	-	3,413	6,671
	729,558	791,029	755,406
	\$ 1,403,013	\$ 1,666,004	\$ 1,690,945
	\$ 2,174,176	\$ 2,437,782	\$ 2,362,063

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
EXPENDITURES			
<u>Corporate Services</u>			
<i>Governance</i>			
Honorariums	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,400	\$ 5,575
Travel	6,400	3,052	2,520
Training and Development	3,000	3,029	211
Other	5,500	5,414	1,547
	<u>20,900</u>	<u>17,895</u>	<u>9,853</u>
<i>Administration</i>			
Salaries and Benefits	162,945	181,445	123,559
Travel	4,000	1,682	5,973
Training and Development	-	1,799	-
External Audit Fees	10,000	13,963	12,929
External Accounting Fees	5,000	5,950	4,850
Telephone	4,000	1,040	1,024
Other Financial Management	-	268	249
Liability Insurance	13,500	18,760	15,359
Professional Services	5,000	2,925	5,220
Legal Services	2,000	2,693	1,885
Office Supplies	4,000	4,440	117
Other	1,500	974	292
	<u>211,945</u>	<u>235,939</u>	<u>171,457</u>
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Bank Service Charge	1,000	-	-
	<u>\$ 233,845</u>	<u>\$ 253,834</u>	<u>\$ 181,310</u>
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Regional Services</i>			
Regional Planning	4,000	-	-
Regional Emergency Measures Planning	1,500	-	-
	<u>\$ 5,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,282	\$ 50
Conference and Membership	3,500	1,313	92
Electricity	-	4,791	3,272
Office Building	45,700	51,782	46,760
Office Supplies	7,700	18,176	13,149
Other	-	839	1,232
Printing and Copying	1,200	4,410	3,280
Professional Services	-	8,870	9,850
Salaries and Benefits	34,588	37,786	46,825
Telecommunications	10,000	13,054	12,868
Training and Development	2,500	688	437
Travel	5,875	5,303	3,300
	118,063	149,294	141,115
<i>Planning and Building Inspection Services</i>			
Amortization	4,700	4,700	5,970
Salaries and Benefits	480,873	518,425	441,991
Travel	17,625	19,067	17,223
Training and Development	8,000	13,384	7,330
Map and Reference Material	500	-	28
Geographic Information System	4,000	3,450	930
Planning Advisory Committee	8,500	5,970	5,751
Other	4,000	2,120	576
	528,198	567,116	479,799
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Bank Service Charge	-	4,518	5,555
	\$ 646,261	\$ 720,928	\$ 626,469

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

14. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
<u>Solid Waste Services</u>			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising, Tours, Promotional	\$ 68,200	\$ 53,376	\$ 104,945
Office Building	-	491	442
Office Equipment and Supplies	3,700	7,209	6,881
Other	4,700	6,867	2,664
Printing and Copying	100	-	1,814
Professional Services	-	259	2,980
Salaries and Benefits	130,005	162,373	118,381
Telcommunications	6,000	9,042	9,693
Training and Development	1,000	1,180	550
Travel	6,000	6,302	8,408
	219,705	247,099	256,758
<i>Operations</i>			
Amortization	8,949	8,949	8,949
Repairs and Maintenance	8,000	8,318	3,310
Janitorial	-	1,040	1,049
Property Tax	12,000	13,734	12,678
Electricity	6,500	3,888	4,752
Compost Program	20,000	13,820	6,428
Salaries and Benefits	54,175	54,539	61,649
Tipping Fees	1,054,395	1,127,807	1,074,677
Collection	-	313	116,381
Recycling	5,000	-	-
Contracted Services	-	13,878	62,803
Hazardous Household Waste	57,000	36,601	30,547
	1,226,019	1,282,887	1,383,223
<i>Fiscal Services</i>			
Interest on Long Term Debt	45,100	16,807	1,397
	\$ 1,490,824	\$ 1,546,793	\$ 1,641,378

Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables

Table 16: Building Permits Issued - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	36	33	44	45	30	23	33	47	29	11
Multiple Unit Dwellings	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	16	20	7	9	12	8	5	7	13	2
Other Improvements	107	107	139	127	100	106	101	87	95	94
Total	160	161	190	181	142	139	141	146	137	107
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	10	3	4	4	7	9	4	10	8	8
Renovations	37	37	47	29	42	17	26	27	11	16
Total	47	40	51	33	49	26	30	37	19	24
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	1	2	1	1	3	19	0	3	1	2
Renovations	4	3	10	4	2	0	1	3	5	2
Total	5	5	11	5	5	19	1	6	6	4
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	5	0	0	1	0	5	1	2	3	2
Renovations	10	5	5	4	4	1	6	11	4	7
Total	15	5	5	5	4	6	7	13	7	9
SIGNS	35	24	22	16	9	17	13	18	12	7
TOTALS	262	235	279	240	209	207	192	220	181	151

Table 17: Building Permits Issued - Village of Blackille

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings			3	6	2	1	2	2	0	1
Multiple Unit Dwellings				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes			3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Other Improvements			5	7	5	2	4	6	8	5
Total	0	0	11	14	7	3	7	8	9	6
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction			0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Renovations			1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction			0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Renovations			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction			1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Renovations			0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
SIGNS			1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	0	0	14	15	8	3	10	9	12	11

Table 18: Building Permits Issued - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings							0	2	0	1
Multiple Unit Dwellings							0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes							0	0	1	0
Other Improvements							3	6	6	7
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	7	8
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction							3	0	0	0
Renovations							0	2	0	1
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction							0	0	0	0
Renovations							0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction							5	0	0	1
Renovations							0	6	4	2
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	4	3
SIGNS										
							0	1	1	1
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	17	12	13

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

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings							4	2	2	2
Multiple Unit Dwellings							0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes							1	1	0	0
Other Improvements							10	8	8	4
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	11	10	6
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction							0	2	0	0
Renovations							0	5	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction							0	0	1	1
Renovations							0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction							0	1	2	0
Renovations							1	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
SIGNS							0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	19	13	8

Table 20: Building Permits Issued - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	57	42	49	52	44	17	31	38	24	24
Multiple Unit Dwellings			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	30	25	16	25	23	10	19	34	11	14
Cottages	15	10	11	13	5	18	16	11	8	11
Other Improvements	94	93	88	122	101	73	64	92	58	49
Total	196	170	164	212	173	118	130	175	101	98
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	12	10	10	13	11	8	9	6	3	5
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	1	25	6	0	8	11	0	0	3	1
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	1	1	3	2	3	6	1	3	1	2
SIGNS	4	4	9	2	2	8	1	2	1	0
TOTALS	214	210	192	229	197	151	141	186	109	106

Table 22: Building Permit Values - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	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	2,234,156
Multiple Unit Dwellings	200,000	1,582,000	0	0	0	2,197,014	2,720,000	1,417,028	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	762,000	1,043,500	395,800	654,357	648,000	449,000	114,500	596,818	827,500	140,920
Other Improvements	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	2,107,378
Total	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	4,482,454
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	5,188,800	208,500	2,637,735	925,000	2,485,400	3,973,590	505,000	6,484,930	409,721	1,869,389
Renovations	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	1,051,975
Total	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	2,921,364
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	11,000	460,000	4,000,000	20,000	333,000	113,000	0	98,640	48,620	1,489,764
Renovations	210,000	284,000	966,785	40,000	288,000	0	179,000	6,300	43,840	152,459
Total	221,000	744,000	4,966,785	60,000	621,000	113,000	179,000	104,940	92,460	1,642,223
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	364,250	0	0	10,000	0	2,546,003	679,000	276,650	24,050,654	711,565
Renovations	1,076,740	758,880	573,600	1,229,000	134,700	1,014,000	4,061,238	5,254,796	1,986,280	249,340
Total	1,440,990	758,880	573,600	1,239,000	134,700	3,560,003	4,740,238	5,531,446	26,036,934	960,905
SIGNS	102,595	138,380	76,573	102,733	69,550	91,850	167,865	399,346	144,933	140,310
TOTALS	\$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	\$10,147,256

Table 23: Building Permit Values - Village of Blackville

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings			275,265	708,900	346,000	110,000	145,200	287,730	0	145,600
Multiple Unit Dwellings				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes			178,000	22,000	0	0	72,122	0	59,202	0
Other Improvements			30,500	212,000	75,300	100,000	108,800	66,000	143,960	7,955
Total	0	0	483,765	942,900	421,300	210,000	326,122	353,730	203,162	153,555
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction			0	0	0	0	15,400	0	0	4,400
Renovations			30,000	3,400	0	0	0	0	5,056	436,500
Total	0	0	30,000	3,400	0	0	15,400	0	5,056	440,900
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction			0	0	0	0	187,000	0	0	0
Renovations			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	187,000	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction			860,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	0	48,600	0
Renovations			0	0	0	0	0	37,850	1,000	0
Total	0	0	860,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	37,850	49,600	0
SIGNS			16,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	21,000
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$1,389,765	\$946,300	\$426,300	\$210,000	\$1,628,522	\$391,580	\$257,818	\$615,455

Table 24: Building Permit Values - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings							0	240,480	0	43,967
Multiple Unit Dwellings							0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes							0	0	57,600	0
Other Improvements							7,500	85,638	65,030	65,170
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500	326,118	122,630	109,137
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction							39,612	9,104	0	0
Renovations							0	0	0	244,759
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,612	9,104	0	244,759
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction							0	0	0	0
Renovations							0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction							365,000	0	0	4,309,300
Renovations							0	246,078	599,665	23,300
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	365,000	246,078	599,665	4,332,600
SIGNS							0	1,490	25,000	13,000
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$412,112	\$582,790	\$747,295	\$4,699,496

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

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings							404,400	358,470	351,540	486,640
Multiple Unit Dwellings							0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes							85,000	94,720	0	0
Other Improvements							169,300	84,924	121,415	176,640
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	658,700	538,114	472,955	663,280
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction							0	569,400	0	0
Renovations							0	263,686	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	833,086	0	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction							0	0	45,000	172,000
Renovations							0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,000	172,000
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction							0	6,311,130	93,800	0
Renovations							1,000	0	0	1,000
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	6,311,130	93,800	1,000
SIGNS							0	0	0	0
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$659,700	\$7,682,330	\$611,755	\$836,280

Table 26: Building Permit Values - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	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	4,958,836
Multiple Unit Dwellings			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	1,186,080	981,300	528,960	1,150,500	1,311,040	1,356,200	1,405,302	3,574,113	852,520	810,160
Cottages	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	1,392,538
Other Improvements	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	560,877
Total	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	7,722,410
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	627,000	980,200	637,640	503,390	971,400	575,500	179,800	584,640	92,900	289,632
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	163,000	19,440,100	4,659,000	0	1,771,645	635,000	0	0	2,136,125	862,450
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	200,000	10,000	4,779,500	98,095	607,000	20,063,332	240,000	1,319,640	150,000	159,880
SIGNS	8,200	3,824	37,307	1,200	125	18,070	25,000	19,000	40,000	0
TOTALS	\$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	\$9,034,372

Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables

Table 27: Planning Applications - City of Miramichi

Applications	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Plan Amendments	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	4	1
Rezoning	3	0	3	1	4	2	2	2	2	4
Variations (Total)	22	31	18	15	14	26	16	25	28	31
Variations (DO)			8	9	12	12	12	20	23	25
Variations (PRAC)			10	6	2	14	4	5	5	6
TOTALS	27	31	24	17	19	28	19	28	34	36

Table 28: Planning Applications - Village of Blackville

Applications	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
Variations (Total)		3	3	2	1	2	2	0	1	3
Variations (DO)			1	1	1	1	0	0	1	3
Variations (PRAC)			2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	3	3	2	1	3	4	0	2	3

Table 29: Planning Applications - Village of Doaktown

Applications	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning							1	0	1	0
Variations (Total)							3	2	4	0
Variations (DO)							3	2	2	0
Variations (PRAC)							0	0	2	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	5	0

Table 30: Planning Applications - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Applications	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning									1	0
Variations (Total)							3	1	1	1
Variations (DO)							2	1	1	1
Variations (PRAC)							1	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1

Table 31: Planning Applications - Unincorporated

Applications	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Variations (Total)	14	9	23	0	2	9	10	6	7	17
Variations (DO)							1	6	7	14
Variations (PRAC)							9	0	0	3
TOTALS	14	9	23	0	2	9	10	6	7	17

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

Applications	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confirmations of Zoning	52	39	42	29	29
Zoning Compliances		0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews		17	33	35	36
Enforcement Files		2	3	8	1
Access Approvals	2	1	2	3	2
Other Documents	31	18	16	20	19
TOTALS	85	77	96	95	87

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

Applications	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confirmations of Zoning		3	3	5	0
Zoning Compliances		0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews		0	1	1	1
Enforcement Files		0	0	0	0
Access Approvals		0	1	2	0
Other Documents		3	0	7	6
TOTALS	0	6	5	15	7

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

Applications	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confirmations of Zoning	3	3	4	2	3
Zoning Compliances		0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews		1	0	4	2
Enforcement Files		0	4	0	1
Access Approvals	0	4	0	0	0
Other Documents	2	4	1	0	4
TOTALS	5	12	9	6	10

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

Applications	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confirmations of Zoning	18	15	7	13	10
Zoning Compliances		0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews		2	1	3	3
Enforcement Files		0	1	0	1
Access Approvals	11	6	2	2	7
Other Documents	61	53	34	53	53
TOTALS	90	76	45	71	74

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

Applications	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confirmations of Zoning		2	0	2	1
Zoning Compliances		0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews		2	2	4	1
Enforcement Files		0	1	0	0
Access Approvals		0	0	2	0
Other Documents		0	0	4	21
TOTALS	0	4	3	12	23

Table 37: Subdivision Applications - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Miramichi	31	38	31	45	37	29	26	17	21	12
Blackville	7	3	2	4	2	3	4	6	1	1
Doaktown							2	0	3	0
Upper Miramichi							4	3	8	2
Unincorporated	96	84	72	81	80	69	50	45	24	43
TOTALS	134	125	105	130	119	101	86	71	57	58

Table 38: New Lots Created - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Miramichi	50	82	37	77	41	52	41	24	41	28
Blackville	12	9	2	5	4	5	6	6	1	1
Doaktown							2	0	3	0
Upper Miramichi							5	3	8	4
Unincorporated	135	123	114	106	88	105	65	61	30	70
TOTALS	197	214	153	188	133	162	119	94	83	103

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.	322.07	28.63	20.86	11.78	367.70	18.73	15.13	38.43	519.59	230.63	1.72	1,575.27
FEB.	268.38	24.64	21.02	8.08	357.51	16.60	19.24	33.32	528.68	97.21	-	1,374.68
MAR.	348.21	24.46	13.72	3.69	350.92	25.35	11.00	42.14	569.18	103.44	-	1,492.11
APR.	394.10	48.38	20.00	14.29	425.19	21.41	14.44	43.03	718.28	100.99	4.93	1,805.04
MAY	401.36	36.59	26.10	10.55	437.32	24.62	12.92	28.89	711.63	14.14	22.43	1,726.55
JUNE	372.15	36.12	58.11	9.52	468.10	31.32	31.12	72.17	795.74	216.51	4.68	2,095.54
JULY	340.06	36.66	24.57	12.45	441.11	20.73	16.48	51.55	685.92	88.80	6.72	1,725.05
AUG.	404.99	29.67	33.84	8.68	466.16	19.61	20.44	60.37	719.30	29.91	6.97	1,799.94
SEPT.	395.95	38.43	23.51	10.61	445.69	30.75	12.37	65.13	703.91	28.94	39.74	1,795.03
OCT.	400.13	39.29	25.80	12.51	417.97	24.71	17.65	49.60	676.24	38.71	50.29	1,752.90
NOV.	362.14	35.29	28.80	12.87	454.49	20.96	14.30	42.19	680.44	18.11	10.86	1,680.45
DEC.	295.79	35.02	38.42	20.24	350.82	19.58	13.78	42.60	651.53	107.27	0.59	1,575.64
TOTALS	4,305.33	413.18	334.75	135.27	4,982.98	274.37	198.87	569.42	7,960.44	1,074.66	148.93	20,398.20
monthly avg												1,699.85

LSDs	4,305.33	MT	Residential	11,214.17	MT	Regular Tip Fee: \$76.40 C & D Tip Fee: \$34.50
MUNICIPAL	6,025.64	MT	ICI (Commercial)	7,960.44	MT	
FIRST NATIONS	883.20	MT	C & D Debris	1,074.66	MT	
SUB-TOTAL	11,214.17	MT	Cash Sales	148.93	MT	
			Total GMRSC	20,398.20	MT	

Table 50: Waste Diversion by Recycling Depot and Curbside Programs (tonne)

Months	2015		2016
	Depot	Curbside	Curbside
January	33.08	-	144.75
February	13.54	-	110.17
March	40.97	-	113.13
April	59.09	-	146.22
May	17.42	-	146.46
June	64.88	-	159.52
July	48.54	-	138.97
August	35.62	-	140.42
September	25.89	-	131.6
October	46.24	32.27	149.36
November	-	140.95	139.65
December	-	149.39	167.38
TOTALS	385.27	322.61	1687.63

Table 54: E-waste Tonnage

2012*	2013	2014**	2015**	2016**
19.39	12.1	22.68	33.7	17.71

* Four Spring collections

** Two Spring collections

Table 52: Cell phone and Battery Waste Diversion from Drop-Off Locations

Locations	2015**	2016***
Esgenoôpetitj School		11.2
4 D's Grocery Store	0	13.7
Burnt Church Seniors Hall	0	4.75
Baie Sainte-Anne Building Supplies Ltd	4.45	8.5
Normand Doiron & fils ltée	10.95	11.9
La Bonne Route (1993) Inc.	0	0
LeGresley Home Building Centre	0	0
Greater Miramichi Planning Services Office	0	0
Atlantic Superstore - Johnson St.	12.5	45
Walmart	17.2	24.6
Kent	0	16.7
Beaubear Credit Union - Chatham Head	10.85	12.5
Greater Miramichi Solid Waste Services Office	15.9	19.6
Beaubear Credit Union - Newcastle	6.9	30.45
Atlantic Superstore - King George Hwy	40.4	30.15
Eel Ground First Nation Band Office	0	0
Esso - Williamstown	6.7	0
Cloud Convenience	0	0
Renous Convenience Store	0	12.7
Blackville Building Supplies	9.4	8.65
Betts Enterprise Ltd	43.45	176.81
Matthew MacKay & Son LTD	13.8	19.3
Miramichi HHW	322.8	413.98
Doaktown HHW	21.4	6.7
TOTAL (Kg)	536.7	867.19
TOTAL (mt)	0.5367	0.86719
Average Per Box (Kg)	13.09024	17.00373
TOTAL (lbs)	1183.22	1911.83

** 41 boxes

*** 50 boxes

Appendix G – Solid Waste Services Media Coverage

Curbside recycling catching on throughout Miramichi region

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • By now, Northumberland County residents should be familiar with the concept of mandatory curbside recycling.

It was never really rocket science – toss your loose recyclables into your government-issued blue bin and wheel it out to the curb every other week. On alternating weeks, haul the rest of your garbage out to the curb as normal.

Easy peasy.

And in providing an update to the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission during a board of directors meeting in Miramichi Tuesday night, RSC executive director Wilson Bell says the most recent numbers clearly show that people are embracing the spirit of the program.

“It’s trending the right way and the numbers are good,” Bell said. “It’s really quite encouraging what we’ve seen so far and I’d say it’s been a really well-received initiative, I think.”

The numbers also speak for themselves.

Through the first three months of the program, the region is already averaging about 80 extra tonnes of diverted material per month.

And as people get more comfortable with the concept, those diversion rates have been ticking upward steadily.

Residents topped 141 metric tonnes in November and 149.3 metric tonnes in December.



Those are significant numbers that otherwise would have ended up in a landfill or somewhere worse.

WILSON BELL

That’s a dramatic year-over-year increase, with just 31 metric tonnes diverted in November 2014 and 99 metric tonnes being recycled in December 2014.

To put it into further context, less than three months into the curbside era has already successfully diverted 322 metric tonnes compared to the 385 metric tonnes the region was able to recycle from January to October, leading up to the introduction of the new system.

The program was adopted as a way of trying to spur more Miramichi residents to take part in recycling activities and drive up the region’s negligible diversion rates.

Its setup essentially mirrors the curbside program that was rolled out on the Acadian Peninsula and in the Chaleur region a couple of years ago.

Prior to its introduction, people who wanted to recycle were forced to manually transport their goods to one of a handful of depots that were set up at different points throughout the region.

That program, according to the commission, was costly, outdated and inefficient and the depots have since been scrapped.

By the end of the year, officials estimated the venture would also save the RSC’s member communities \$51,000 by the end of the year if it is able to hit its goal of a 20 per cent diversion rate. Right now, he said it is operating at around a 13 per cent diversion rate, which is already nearly double what the region used to record under the old system.

Bell said he’s confident that with a little more time, the commission will be able to hit that number.

After some initial hiccups with the distribution of thousands of carts throughout the region, Bell said he’s confident that every household has been provided one by now.

He said the RSC does have some surplus carts in their possession in anticipation of an additional need by the time the region’s camp and cottage owners make the transition to their properties in the spring and summer.

The heightened interest and awareness in recycling throughout the region hasn’t been limited to the curbside variety alone.

Some of the other programming the RSC has offered, Bell said, has also generated an overwhelming public response.

That overall attitude, he said, can be attributed to an increase in the amount of public awareness about the benefits of recycling.

In 2015, the RSC collected 24,000 litres of used paint, 675 kilograms of household batteries and 74,000 pounds of e-waste, which includes unwanted cellphones, computers, televisions and other electronics. All of those numbers are up substantially over the previous year.

“Those are significant numbers that otherwise would have ended up in a landfill or somewhere worse,” Bell said.

He added that the commission is continuing to explore the possibility of building a central diversion centre where residents would be able to drop off their hazardous waste, e-waste and used appliances year-round.

The RSC has applied for funding to go out and hire an outside consultant to conduct a study looking into the feasibility of that type of facility.

In the meantime, he said the commission will continue to organize different collection events sporadically throughout the year.

The commission also just recently established a series of 22 authorized depot locations for people to drop off their cellphones and batteries.

In the city, depots have been set up at both Atlantic Superstore locations, both Beaubear Credit Unions, the Caring Friends Activity Centre on Princess Street, the RSC offices on Water Street and Old King George Highway, Kent Building Supplies, LeGresley Home Building Centre and Walmart.

Depots have also been established in Baie-Sainte-Anne, Blackville, Burnt Church, Doaktown, Eel Ground, Lavillette, Ludlow, Millerton, New Jersey, Red Bank and Renous.



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission’s head offices on Water Street. Officials with the RSC say that the new curbside recycling program has already delivered strong returns. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

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Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Escape, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, Crossover, Transit, F-150, F-250 to F-550 (all F-150 Raptor models excluded) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. Offer is not non-transferable. †Until February 1, 2016, lease a new 2016 F-150 Regular Cab (excl. XL 4X2 5.0L, F-150 SuperCab, F-150 SuperCrew 4X4) for up to 24 months, or a 2015 Edge and 2016 Fusion, Taurus, Edge, Flex models for up to 36 months, or a 2016 Focus, C-MAX, Escape for up to 48 months, and get 0% APR on approved credit (IAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a model with a value of \$30,000 at 0% APR for up to 36 months with an optional layout of \$13,200/\$10,200 and \$0 down or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is \$466.67/\$400.00, total lease obligation is \$16,800.12/\$19,200.00, interest cost of leasing is \$0 or 0% APR. Additional payments required for PPSA (RDRM for Quebec), registration, security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. Excess kilometre charges are 12¢ per km for Fiesta, Focus, C-MAX, Fusion and Escape; 16¢ per km for E-Series, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus-X, Edge, Flex, Explorer, F-Series, MKS, MKZ, MKT, MKT and Transit Connect; 20¢ per km for Expedition and Navigator, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometre charges subject to change. See your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. **Until February 1, 2016, lease a new 2016 Ford Escape SE / Escape Titanium for up to 60 months and get 0.99% APR on approved credit (IAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ††Until February 1, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2016 Ford Fusion SE FWD / Fusion Titanium models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (IAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: 2016 Ford Fusion SE FWD (after \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, and Manufacturer Rebates of \$750 deducted and excluding freight and air tax charges of \$1,700) purchase financed at 0% APR for 84 months, monthly payment is \$276.83 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of \$127.57), interest cost of borrowing is \$0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$23,889.92. †††Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Down payment may be requested based on approved credit from Ford Credit Canada Limited. All purchase finance offers exclude options, freight and air tax, AC tax, Green Levy (if applicable), license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, PPSA (if financed or leased), administration fees, and any other applicable environmental charges/fees and taxes. Some conditions and mileage restrictions of 80,000 km for 60 months (or 16,000 km per year) applies. Excess kilometre charges are 12¢ per km, plus applicable taxes. ††††Until February 1, 2016, receive \$500/\$750/\$1,000/\$1,500/\$2,000/\$2,500/\$3,500/\$3,750/\$4,000/\$4,250/\$4,500/\$5,000/\$5,750/\$6,000/\$7,750/\$8,750/\$10,000/\$11,500 in *Manufacturer Rebates (Delivery Allowances) with the purchase or lease of a new 2016: Edge, Explorer, Escape/2015: Focus, C-MAX, 2016: Fusion/2016: Expedition/2016: Transit Connect, E-Series, Crossover, Transit/2015: Edge/2016: F-250 Gas Engine, F-350 to F-450 (excl. Chassis Cab) Gas Engine/2015: E-Series, Crossover, Transit/2016: F-150 Regular Cab (excl. XL 4X2 5.0L) 2016: F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/2015: Taurus SE, 2016: F-150 SuperCab, F-150 SuperCrew 4X4/2016: F-250 Diesel Engine, F-350 to F-450 (excl. Chassis Cab) Diesel Engine/2015: Fiesta, Fusion, Explorer, Escape/2015: Flex, F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/2015: Transit Connect/2015: Taurus (excluding SEV 2015), Expedition/2015: F-150 Regular Cab (excl. XL 4X2 5.0L) 2015: F-150 SuperCrew 4X4/2015: F-150 SuperCab, F-250 Gas Engine, F-350 to F-450 (excl. Chassis Cab) Gas Engine – all shipped chassis, F-150 Raptor, Medium Truck, Mustang Shelby and 50th Anniversary excluded. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. *Based on IHS Automotive/Polk Canadian Total New Registration data year-end data 2009–2015. ©2016 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ©2016 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

As part of police week, cops take media out on patrol

POLICE → A1

while they are driving, but do it while they are at a stop sign or at a set of lights.

"You're supposed to pull over to the side of the road and completely stopped," Smallwood said. "Even though we're able to, I try not to talk on the phone because you try to set a good example. Sometimes you have dispatch will call me on the way to a call because there are certain things they don't want being said over the radio because of scanners or we're getting intel as we're going to the call for our safety."

It was a pretty quiet day for the most part.

We drove around Chatham through the Chatham Industrial Park for a bit before heading towards Chatham Head for one more loop of the city.

Driving by Arbec, he spotted a white Hyundai Elantra and Smallwood turned his lights on and pulled the car over for speeding.

Smallwood communicated via radio to let the communication centre know his location and the licence plate of the vehicle he's pulled over.

He went over and spoke to the driver before returning to the vehicle.



Const. Scott Smallwood of the Miramichi Police Force with k-9 unit dog, Chase, a five-year-old German Shepherd. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

The driver was lucky, Smallwood gave the driver a verbal warning.

Before leaving, Smallwood said dispatch will radio back to them a short time later to see if he was OK.

"If I didn't answer them, they would try again and if I wouldn't answer they would sent in backup with lights and siren to make sure that I am OK," Smallwood said. "It may happen because of

traffic that you don't hear dispatch calling to check on you. You know they are going to call you, so you always try to be cautious and make sure you're paying attention."

On Wednesday, May 11, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. the Chatham headquarters held an open house for the public with police vehicles and equipment displays, as well as guided facility tours.

Landfill amount reduced in 2015

KRISTOFER MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Not even a year into the introduction of residential curbside recycling to the Miramichi region, the expected reductions in the amount of waste being sent to the landfill are already coming into play.

Officials with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission released their annual report on solid waste for 2015 during a recent meeting and the measures introduced to thousands of Northumberland County households last fall have left their mark.

Melanie Cripps, the commission's waste reduction co-ordinator, confirmed that the Miramichiers sent 2,000 fewer metric tonnes to the landfill in 2015 compared to 2014.

Overall, the commission's coverage area – which stretches all the way from Upper Miramichi in the west to Burnt Church and Escuminac in the east – sent 21,950 metric tonnes of garbage to the Red Pine landfill facility in Allardville last year. That's down from 24,015 the year before.

The new numbers break up years of unsuccessful attempts at putting any kind of

noticeable dent into how much garbage is buried at the Red Pine landfill in Allardville prior to the introduction of mandatory recycling.

Cripps attributed the decline to a combination of the impact of the recycling program, along with some of the different awareness campaigns and recycling events the commission's solid waste services wing has been concentrating on over the last several months.

While only the first three months of the curbside recycling program were factored into the report, it was directly responsible for diverting 322 metric tonnes of waste.

The final year of the recycling blue-bin depot program, which was phased out with the onset of the curbside format, meanwhile, is credited with keeping 398 metric tonnes out of the landfill.

Cripps also reported that the response to the special household hazardous waste and electronic waste events it holds at different times throughout the year continues to be strong.

Nearly 1,000 individual vehicles turned out to the fall and spring events in Miramichi.

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Valued at \$65,000 each, the Currie Undergraduate Scholarships are offered to Atlantic Canadian high school students who have demonstrated determination and leadership in their academic and extracurricular achievements – and are entering a UNB degree program. The scholarships, now celebrating more than a decade and over \$2 million in funding, are provided by UNB's Chancellor Emeritus, Dr. Richard J. Currie, O.C., to support the education of future leaders.



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Bachelor of Science in Engineering
Fredericton, NB



EMMA COLLINGS
Montague Regional High School
Bachelor of Science
Montague, PE



BRITTANY LANDRY
James M. Hill Memorial High School
Bachelor of Arts
Miramichi, NB



BARRY RIORDON
Bathurst High School
Bachelor of Science in Engineering
Pokeshaw, NB



TYLER ADAMS
Saint John High School
Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
Saint John, NB

2015: Mansa Agbaku, Saint John, NB; Christopher Lomond, Debert, NS; Corinne Trotter, Parrsboro, NS; Luke Walker, Enmore, PE, **2014:** Jack Campbell, Saint John, NB; Kaley Fitzpatrick, Halifax, NS; Emma MacDonald, Vernon River, PE; Justin Thibault, Tatamagouche, NS **2013:** Katherine MacDonald, Saint John, NB; Chelsey Walker, Ellerslie, PE **2012:** Jaclynn Beckett, Saint John, NB; Megan Smith, Cornwall, PE; Jordie Taylor, Red Rapids, NB; Tyler Young, Rexton,

NB **2011:** Emma Jost, Cambridge-Narrows, NB; Jonathan Kummer, Little Shemogue, NB; Jeffrey Leblanc, Carlton, NS; Katie Lynn Wallace, O'Leary, PE **2010:** Gregory Bailey, Gander, NL; Nikki Chapman, Smithfield, NB; Justin Lawson, Cails Mills, NB; Shannon LeBlanc, Margaree Harbour, NS **2009:** Deidre Allaby, Woodstock, NB; Michelle Plante, Riverview, NB; Keillor Steeves, Moncton, NB **2008:** Desmond Connolly, Miramichi, NB; Lauren Henderson,

Saint John, NB; Bradley Poirier, Moncton, NB; Layton Reynolds, Lutes Mountain, NB; Taylor Steele, Truro, NS **2007:** Allan Kember, Summerside, PE; Zachary McNeil, Bridgetown, NS **2006:** Miles Goff, Wickham, NB; Jonathan O'Kane, Saint John, NB **2005:** Ryan Brideau, Miramichi, NB; Holly Sampson, Glace Bay, NS; Brandon Wilbur, Hampton, NB **2004:** Sean Hayman, St. Stephen, NB; Megan Hurley, Bloomfield, NB; Brendan Wood, Deer Lake, NL; Jessica Yeates, New Maryland, NB



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission will receive \$30,000 for composting workshops.
PHOTO: LUKE CARROLL/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Greater Miramichi Service Commission receives \$30,000 in funding from Grits

LUKE CARROLL
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is receiving \$30,000 from the provincial government Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) to run composting workshops.

Mélanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission said composting is extremely important because of the CO2 levels released by rotting fruit and vegetables in garbage dumps.

The workshops are run by Cripps and are designed to inform the public on the benefits of composting in about hour.

There has already been one workshop and Cripps estimates there will be one at the end of each month. She said they will also sell different compost bins and green cones at a discounted price because of the money.

"We're able to offer units at a fraction of the price," Cripps said.

On top of the discounted bins, Cripps said the money will take care of renting halls for the workshops, gas to travel to different venues and educational materials.

Cripps said she has seen a rise in composting in the area and she attributes this success to the roll out of the region's first ever curbside recycling program

last year.

"We're seeing participation pickup and it goes hand in hand with the curbside recycling," she said.

The Curbside Recycling Program was similar to the composting workshops but focused on the benefits of recycling.

The service commission generally receives money each year from the ETF. Cripps said they will have a project next year, but she doesn't know what it will be just yet.

"We're looking at a couple, we haven't really determined," she said. "When it comes closer to the date we'll have a better idea."

Miramichi man received sixty days in jail during sentencing hearing on Tuesday

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A Miramichi man will be spending his weekends in jail following a sentencing hearing in Miramichi provincial court.

On Tuesday, June 7 Deni Allen McAllister was before Judge Geri Mahoney for a sentence hearing after he'd previously pleaded guilty in February to six charges stemming from two incidents, one earlier this year and the other in 2015.

"Mr. McAllister is 24-years-old, that's what we'd refer to as a youthful offender. Which means you still have your whole life ahead of you," said Mahoney. "Understandably you've made some mistakes, and the court is to look with some leniency on youthful offenders."

The charges he pleaded guilty to are assaulting a woman and breaching a probation order by failing to keep the peace and be of good behaviour on Nov. 14, 2015 in Miramichi, and uttering threats to cause bodily harm to constables Jason Lavoie and Greg Savoie, of the Miramichi Police Force, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, and breaching an undertaking and a probation order, all having occurred on Jan. 2, 2016.

During the November incident, Crown prosecutor Bill Morrissy said police officers responded to a 911 call involving McAllister and his ex-girlfriend, who is the mother of their one-year-old daughter.

During the 2015 call Morrissy said McAllister's ex-girlfriend had informed an officer he'd fled because there had been a verbal argument between her and the accused and feared for her and their child's safety based on his actions. "She indicated that Mr. McAllister had spit in her hair while calling her a whore," said Morrissy.

As for the January incident, police received an anonymous 911 call about a domestic dispute.

It was during this incident when McAllister fled on foot from the responding officers Lavoie and Savoie.

McAllister resisted arrest but was eventually arrested by the officers.

Morrissy said courts have taken a strong stance with regards to domestic violence, something he wanted to see "continued and emphasized" with McAllister.

"It's certainly a repugnant way to assault somebody, to spit at them, and certainly no one should be treated that way. Certainly someone's domestic partner," said Morrissy.

When asked by Mahoney if McAllister heard, agreed, and understood the facts and circumstances surrounding the offences and charges, McAllister - who appeared in court wearing a blue, red and white striped shirt, Adidas sneakers and



A Miramichi man will spend his weekends in jail following a sentencing in Miramichi provincial court. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

blue jeans - said he did.

Overall, Morrissy requested a sentence based on each charge including incarceration, fines, probation and conditions to receive mental-health treatment.

McAllister is on an undertaking to have no contact with his ex-girlfriend except when a third party is required regarding access to their child.

"My desire is to never see Mr. McAllister in this court again," said Morrissy.

Defence lawyer Simon Wood said there are arrangements in place for McAllister to get his child with third party supervision with the help of his parents. Wood said his client continues to assist for both the care and finances of his child.

"My client takes it very seriously. He wants to be a dad. He's 24-years-old, he's quite young, but he knows that this relationship was a relationship that was fraught with many problems back and forth," said Wood. "My client accepts responsibility for his part of it."

Wood said McAllister had a number of relatives in the courtroom with him, including both of his parents, his sister who was in town from Fort McMurray, Alta., and a nephew.

Wood said the people who support McAllister who help make a difference in his life, one which has been plagued prior to last Christmas with personal problems.

Wood said his client has been a drug user since a young age but is now part of the methadone program, has family support and is employed where he works with his father.

Wood requested his client have a conditional sentence.

Mahoney said the most important aspect for the court to understand was what happened between McAllister and his now ex-partner, speaking to the verbal and physical confrontation.

"I agree with Mr. Wood that this didn't involve bodily harm. There was no blood, there were no stitches, no broken bones," said Mahoney. "But Mr. McAllister I have to tell you that spitting at someone, whether it lands on their hair on their person is disgusting and degrading."

Mahoney spoke about McAllister's probation during the assault, considered his previous criminal record, and the severity of domestic violence in Canadian law and McAllister's actions when resisting officers during his January arrest.

Mahoney said she had to look at what happened, overriding principles of sentencing and his personal situation.

Mahoney said mitigating factors were that he acknowledged he has a problem with his temper and is taking steps to deal with it which she said she was pleased with, along with being on the methadone program.

She said a previous domestic assault scenario, let alone twice on the same person is something the court won't entertain.

"I hope that you being on an undertaking and having this interaction with the justice system has left its mark," she said.

Mahoney sentenced him to 30 days in jail for the assault charge, which will be served concurrent to 30 days in jail for the breach of probation, plus a \$200 victim fine surcharge.

She sentenced him to another 30 days, to be served consecutive for the breach of probation, 10 days concurrent for uttering threats to the police officers and resisting. She fined him \$100 for possession of marijuana; \$30 victim surcharge for a total of \$130.

Mahoney allowed him to serve his time intermittently on weekends to McAllister can continue to work and care for his child.

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.

"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



- Zelda Fitzgerald

BLACKMORE, MARY NORMA (1946 – 2016) – Mary Norma (Barnaby) Blackmore, wife of the late Isaac (Ike) Irwin Blackmore, of Eel Ground First Nation, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 4, 2016; at the Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton, NB after a lengthy illness, at the age of 69.

Born on June 5, 1946 in Miramichi, NB; she was the daughter of the late Isaac and Bertha (Ward) Barnaby. She was a medical driver for Eel Ground First Nation before her retirement and was a member of St. Joachim's Roman Catholic Church in Eel Ground.

Norma enjoyed cooking, crafting, quilting, sewing, attending senior gatherings in Eel Ground and spending time with her granddaughter Kayleigh, family and friends.

She is survived by one daughter, Katherine A. Barnaby (Kevin Forrest) of Fredericton, NB; one son Max William Hogan of Monticello, Maine; one granddaughter, Kayleigh Alyssa Mary Colford of Fredericton, NB. Norma is also survived by her lifelong best friends Doug Wood, Leona Francis and Shirley Martha Ward as well as many nephews and nieces that will miss her dearly.

Norma was predeceased by one sister, Doreen Barnaby; two brothers, Isaac Eric Barnaby and Eldon Dedam as well as two infant sisters: Noreen and Carmel.

The family received relatives and friends from Northumberland Funeral Home, on Sunday, June 5, 2016, from 7 to 9 pm. Mass of Christian Burial took place on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 10 am, from St. Joachim's Roman Catholic Church, with Father Tom Fowler officiating. Organist Jacqueline Allain led the congregation in the singing of the hymns and the honour song was done by Emerson Francis.

Readings were done by Kayleigh Alyssa Mary Colford and Cheryl Ward. Interment took place following the service in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were James Denny Jr, Kenny Larry, Joseph Simonson, Kelvin Simonson, Raymond Ward, and Wilfred Ward. Honorary pallbearers were Leona Fancis, Mary Ginning, Carolyn Murphy, Jane Simonson, Josie Trevors, and Shirley Ward.

Contributions to honour Norma may be made to the Eel Ground Schools breakfast program and/or the hot lunch program. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Northumberland Funeral Home, 102 Pleasant Street, Miramichi, NB. Telephone (506) 622-7741.

MATCHETT, STEPHEN BRENT (1954 – 2016) – Stephen Brent Matchett, of Miramichi, passed away on Saturday, May 29, 2016, at the age of 61.

He was the son of the late Carl and Muriel (White) Matchett and worked as a labourer with Heath Steel Mines. Brent is survived by his loving companion Mary MacCallum and her daughter Terri (David McNeill); two daughters Bobbi Lee Gray and Brett Matchett-Rousselle; one son Bradley Matchett; one brother Dr. Brian Matchett; and six grandchildren Austin and Amber Rousselle, Connor and Christina Matchett, and Logan and Cole McNeill.

A private family burial will take place at a later date. As expression of sympathy, donations may be made to a memorial of one's choice. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Northumberland Funeral Home, 102 Pleasant St, telephone (506) 622-7741.

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news

Miramichi service commission explores potential of year-round recycling depot

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

There have been so many people lining up to get rid of their old televisions, computers and paint cans during the sporadic pop-up collection events held by the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission that the organization is now looking at putting something more permanent in place.

Hundreds of vehicles routinely attend sessions held in Miramichi and Doaktown whenever they take place.

Those events, however, require a lot of volunteer manpower and officials with the commission's solid waste services wing are in the process of evaluating whether there's enough demand to warrant establishing a standalone facility that would handle all of the region's e-waste and household hazardous waste drop-offs.

Wilson Bell, the regional service commission's executive director, presented the commission's board with a report updating the plans during a recent meeting.

With the approval of the board, which collectively expressed optimism there could be some merit to the idea, the regional service commission is moving



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is taking steps to explore a permanent materials handling centre for the region in a bid to further discourage illegal dumping. PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

to develop a feasibility study that will examine the matter more closely.

"It's come up a couple of times, and anybody who has ever participated in one of our events knows there is a huge demand for that service," Bell said. "But one of the common things we hear at our event is that 'this is great, but I wish there was a permanent place where I could do this'"

Discussions about establishing this kind of a facility in the Miramichi region have been taking place on and off for a number of years. If it does eventually move ahead, the new materials handling depot would handle old electronics, household hazardous waste, old appliances, scrap metal, yard waste and debris from home renovations, construction and demolition projects.

The study, which will be put together by an outside consultant, will look into details relating to location, site design, construction and operational costs and staffing levels.

Right now, the regional service commission hosts three collection events for e-waste and household hazardous goods every year.

On average, he said those events handle 450 vehicles in a four-hour span and collect around 18 metric tonnes of material, which Bell said is a tremendous response but also a little daunting for people who are donating their time to pitch in.

It typically costs the commission roughly \$15,000 to host one of its special collection events.

If it works out that the idea for a year-round depot is viable, Bell said from a waste management perspective it would be a big win for the Miramichi region.

It also fills a potential need while reducing the strain on the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where all of the region's trash is sent to be buried.

With a handling centre, those materials would instead be collected, sent for recycling if at all possible or disposed of in a proper manner.

"Our thought is if this facility was available, we'd probably have less illegal dumping and the proper disposal of those products, because many of these things are obviously very hazardous to the environment," he said. "Currently, residents do not have access to a depot site where they can bring their electronics to be recycled in the region and most will dispose of them in the landfill."

Bell noted that the regional service commission was unable to secure funding for the feasibility study after submitting an application through the Environmental Trust Fund.

That means the expense to conduct the study will cost the commission – which receives funding from the municipalities it serves – somewhere in the vicinity of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Bell noted the regional service commission will likely explore the possibility of garnering funding through the provincial government's Miramichi Regional Economic Development Fund or potentially tapping into different federal programming.

Alternatively, the funding for the study would be drawn from the regional service commission's capital reserve or embedded into the 2017 solid waste budget.



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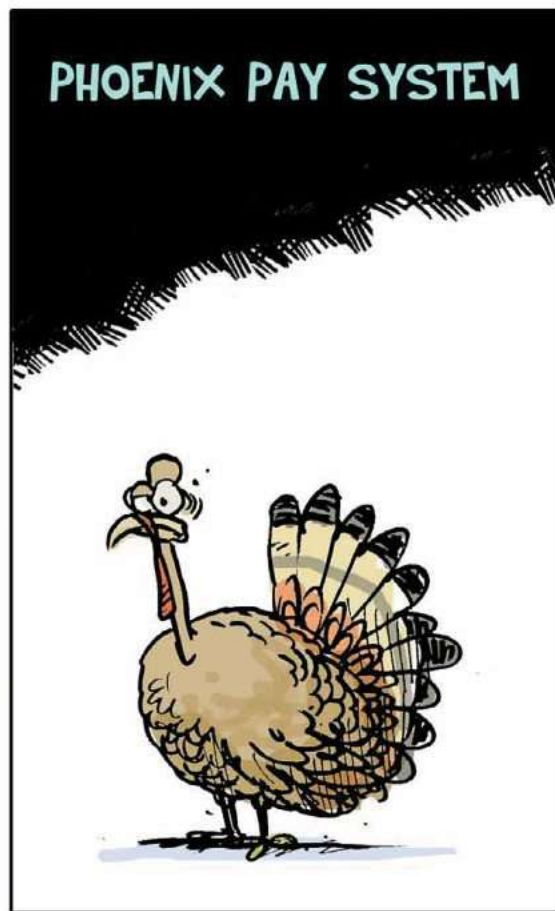
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Democratic reforms need democratic consent

JACKSON DOUGHART
COMMENTARY

Democratic reform is a hot topic these days. Parliament has drawn up a committee to study changes to Canada's voting system. Here in the Maritimes, Prince Edward Island released a study in 2015 on "democratic renewal," held public consultations, and scheduled a November plebiscite to gauge public opinion. New Brunswick has just released its own report, which includes several considerations for reform.

The central question is the viability of the electoral formula we know as "first-past-the-post." This system elects the local candidate with the most votes. Most reasonable people seem to agree that this system contain pros and cons. The same is true of its many alternatives.

Proportional representation would resolve the problem of discrepancies between a political party's share of legislative seats and its share of the popular vote. The current Liberal government, for example, holds 54 per cent of the seats in Parliament, yet won only 39 per cent of the popular vote. Likewise, the previous Conservative government held 54 per cent of the seats, but only 40 per cent of the popular vote. Under PR, seat totals and vote percentages would be roughly the same.

PR would also ensure that all votes count equally toward seat totals, and allows dissident voters in "safe" districts to more meaningfully support their chosen party. However, proportional representation would give voters less control in deciding which party

ultimately forms government. Jurisdictions that use this method frequently have intense negotiation periods after an election, in which political parties bargain to create a coalition government. Under first-past-the-post, meanwhile, the identity of the new government is almost always known on election night.

Oddly, neither the P.E.I. nor the New Brunswick study recommends PR as an option. Both include explanations of "preferential ballots" where voters would rank candidates, and counting second choices establishes a candidate with majority support, instead of a plurality. (One notes that preferential balloting would address none of the concerns from proponents of PR.) To its credit, the P.E.I. government has added PR options onto the November plebiscite, following the consultation period. It remains to be seen if New Brunswick will do the same.

The New Brunswick government is also considering other subjects of reform. One of these is e-voting, which could allow residents to vote remotely via an internet portal. The wisdom of such a change will depend on the public's confidence in government to facilitate such e-voting securely.

More controversially, New Brunswick's paper suggests lowering the voting age to 16 from 18. P.E.I. MLA Sidney MacEwen has advocated the same for P.E.I., and the province will allow 16- and 17-year olds to vote in the November plebiscite, perhaps as a "test run" for a similar reform in general elections.

Lowering the voting age is a bad idea. Voting is a constitutional right that the community affords to people on the basis of competence, maturity, and capacity to understand the stakes in casting a vote.

P.E.I. lowered its voting age from 21 to 18 in 1967, and New Brunswick followed in 1971. In making this change, our elected officials were essentially saying that 18-year-olds were comparable in the necessary qualities to 21-year-olds.

By lowering the vote again, we would be saying that 16- and 17-year-olds are like 18-year-olds. But this is demonstrably not the case. These young adults cannot serve in the military, and are minors in the eyes of the justice system and elsewhere, when it comes to providing family tax breaks and social benefits.

Wherever these discussions lead, it is vital that the outcomes be reached via legitimate means – so that those who disagree with whatever outcomes emerge can nevertheless accept them. Any voting reforms should only be enacted with the consent of all political parties represented in the legislature. Failing this agreement, our elected bodies should turn the vote over to the people directly in binding referenda. It is only under these two circumstances that reforms to our current customs can be justified.

Jackson Doughart
is a policy analyst with the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies

Await our fate or be ready for it; which do you choose?

ERIC MOURANT
COMMENTARY

According to Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate in the Campbellton/Miramichi region of New Brunswick in May 2016 was 18 per cent, third highest in Canada. Meanwhile, New Brunswick had the highest youth unemployment rate in Canada at 17.1 18 per cent and the lowest youth employment level in 40 years.

However, for the Moncton census metropolitan area or 'Metro Moncton,' Statistics Canada showed an unemployment rate of 6.4 18 per cent last May. This represents about a third of our northeastern region. Furthermore, according to the website NBjobs.ca, there are currently 714 job openings in Metro (Dieppe) (107, Moncton 589 and Riverview 18), down from 895 job openings a month ago.

While the level of unemployment reaches historical lows in some regions of the province, the opposite is jeopardizing business expansion and recruitment efforts in others. This is why workforce development has become a major

focus for us at 3+ Corporation.

Major employers tell us they having difficulty finding employees, forcing them to turn down big contracts and postpone expansion into new markets.

Considering the economic 'multiplier effect' – where the creation of specific jobs generates the creation of more jobs in our region and elsewhere – loss or postponement of new investment and export expansion results in the loss of those direct and indirect wages and in the loss of additional property, sales and income taxes revenue. Furthermore, the resources required for the delivery of unemployment benefits jeopardizes the productivity and competitiveness of our society.

More than ever before, the necessity for major corporations to be as competitive as possible on quality and cost is a crucial survival factor in today's global economy. Choosing a headquarters or production/distribution site is strategically significant to these companies. They have to select the location that is the most advantageous because if they don't... their competitors will.

Opportunities New Brunswick, for the



The Centennial Bridge.

PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

entire province, and 3+ Corporation for Metro, are tasked in ensuring that all potential investors are informed of all we have to offer.

However, when it comes to site selections, the client is king and the client has choices. Any attempt by organizations to lead investors to one region or another is greatly outweighed by the survival requirements imposed by market forces. Aside from that financial incentives (an absolute must to be competitive with other jurisdictions) and a willing, capable and available workforce are the most attractive characteristics for an investing company seeking a new location.

To put it in a nutshell, the jobs won't come to the people, the people will have to go where the opportunities will be. And the opportunities for the most

part will be where most of the population is already located and where infrastructure, academic circles and industries are well established. In this regard, an urban area such as Metro can be seen as oasis of opportunity and potential.

In order to become strong allies to potential employers seeking the best people available, our youth will need solid training and education. Those in transitioning industries are not exempt, as continuous learning and retraining may be necessary. The province has made remarkable efforts in ensuring access to all to quality post-secondary education.

The young and the young at heart should embrace this opportunity to better themselves. Companies should be vested in training and education as well. They should create a corporate culture that fosters continuous learning such as 'career management,' which helps build talent skill-sets beyond what post-secondary education can provide.

Business and recruitment agencies have to realize that labour force mobility is a challenge workers; it should not be taken lightly. Competitive wages, job security, possibility of advancement and investment in career paths are all factors that attract new recruits, who need a compelling case to move for employment. Atlantic Canadians have a history of mobilizing to Ontario and out west for advantageous jobs, but in their hearts and mind would likely

prefer to stay closer to home.

However, the recruitment of the available domestic workforce will not suffice to keep up with the expected economic development and job creation successes of 3+ Corporation and our region. Recruitment of skilled immigrants is a critical component of this talent shortage remediation. Economic success of new citizens in our region is closely tied to ours. We have made considerable progress as a region in recent years, and we must do more to fully vest ourselves into their success.

A promising move by Immigration Minister John McCallum, who has announced an increase of skilled immigration to Atlantic Canada, is an opportunity that must be seized by all of us.

Overall, the prosperity of our region and province will be greatly influenced by our willingness to adapt to the changes in this global economy. The sooner we embrace the inevitable, the better off we will be.

Atlantic Canada is in a transformation. We must decide if we want to be the architects of our future, or passively leave it up to fate. At 3+ Corporation, and with all our economic development partners, we are passionately and determinedly engaged in our future. Passivity is not an option for us.

Eric Mourant
is the president and CEO of 3+ Corporation.

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news and contain no personal attacks. We will consider opinion articles on any subject. All submissions must be original, should not have been previously published other than in a Brunswick News publication and should be between 700

and 900 words in length. We reserve the right to publish letters and commentary at our sole discretion and to edit them for clarity, length, libel, taste or non-verifiable information. We prefer submissions by email to mlnews@brunswicknews.

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need to verify authorship. Complaints or concerns about content? Contact **PATRICIA GRAHAM** at ombudsman@brunswicknews.com or 645-3344.

Waste depot would be natural fit for Miramichi

The Miramichi region has, for whatever reason, traditionally lagged behind the rest of the province in terms of its waste disposal policies and practices. Up until just last year there were little to no recycling initiatives in place to cut down on the area's historically negligible diversion rates, save for a handful of bins set up in different parts of the region that were only used sporadically. Things began to turn around considerably in 2015 with the introduction of mandatory curbside recycling throughout most of Northumberland County. While the program hasn't been perfect, especially at this time of the year, where temperatures are soaring and people have to store their organic garbage for two weeks before it can be taken off their hands, it has been a marked improvement over what was previously in place. That system, of course, would have been popular during the 1980s when major cities had garbage dumps located downtown and when the general public never really gave much consideration to where their garbage went after they put it out to the curb.

That mindset persisted for many Miramichiers, who have long since practiced the old out-of-sight, out-of-mind weekly practice of putting everything, recyclable or not, into black garbage bags and wheeling their bins curbside every week, up until just last year. That's astounding.

We have praised the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission before for making an obvious decision, but nevertheless not an easy one whenever considering that changes in public routine and major expenditures are required in order to buy every single household a new cart reserved just for recyclables.

While we are sure there are still a few detractors out there who yearn for the old system, the introduction of the curbside program and some of the ramp-up in education and outreach from solid waste officials seems to have created a shift. Take, for instance, the RSC's biannual collection events for electronic waste and household hazardous goods have proven immensely popular.

Every time commission staff holds one they're visited by hundreds of vehicles who are looking to offload their old televisions, laptops, aerosol cans and anything else that's been sitting in their garage for months and can't be taken to the curb.

That's a lot to ask a small group of volunteers to handle. So given the demand for this type of service, we're heartened to learn the commission is having a study prepared exploring the feasibility of a permanent materials handling facility that would be available year round for these type of drop-offs. Not only would it accept e-waste and household hazardous goods, but also appliances, scrap metal and materials from home renovations or construction projects.

Not only would this create a few jobs, it would also represent a continuation of the natural progression we've been seeing here lately, as more people embrace a spirit of environmental consciousness and of doing simple things that can make a big impact with everybody pulling in the same direction.

This project, as long as the numbers align, something that will bear out in the feasibility study being prepared, would also help further cut down on cases of illegal dumping, for which there is never any excuse. Ideally, this project will move ahead as it represents another way to help bring more Miramichiers out of the dark ages and embracing simple measures that help promote environmental sustainability.

Miramichi Leader

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Friday

November 4, 2016

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Miramichi voters encouraged to use weekend advance polls

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The buzz and the coffee shop talk in the buildup to the city byelection taking place Monday definitely hasn't been lacking, and officials with Elections New Brunswick are naturally hoping all of that interest translates over to plenty of votes being cast.

And being able to exercise your democratic right doesn't necessarily have to be condensed to election day either.

Elections NB spokesman Paul Harpelle says that if Miramichi voters are so inclined, they can make their choice for the vacant mayor and council position right now.

The local returning office, located on

Allan Street in Douglastown, is open during regular business hours Monday to Friday and those eligible to vote in the election can drop in and get a jump on the byelection.

Another alternative, he said, would be to take advantage of a full day of advanced polling, which will take place this Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at four different locations in

the city.

And for anybody who might not have the time to head down to their voting station on Nov. 14, Harpelle said the advanced poll is a simple solution and something he would strongly recommend people take advantage of.

"It's definitely a convenience factor

PLEASE SEE → **POLLS, A2**

Time to fall back



Vanessa McEvoy, owner of Third Eye Nutrition and yoga instructor, wants to remind readers to stretch back in time and set their clocks an hour behind when they go to bed Saturday night. Saturday is the final day of Atlantic daylight time, which officially ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Remember war dead on Nov. 11: veteran

JOCELYN TURNER
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Gary Silliker remembers a wall of fire shooting over his head before his training kicked in and he found himself battling who he called the bad guys.

"We were in a place [in the Kandahar province in the Dand district of Afghanistan in June 2009] ... and I can remember it so well, just these things that stick in your head. I was between two tents, we had a little tarp, and I had a little guitar with me there and I was working on a little tune," Silliker said in a phone interview from his home in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

Silliker, who's originally from Newcastle, said it was 7:40 p.m. when the suicide truck hit their gate and the fire ball rolled over their heads.

"You really do go into that slow motion thing that you hear about. I looked and said, 'Well shoot, that can't be very good,' then the shock wave hit me," he said.

PLEASE SEE → **VETERAN, A2**

Inside

History Sheldrake Island's tragic past the subject of Lost Stories documentary **A8**

Bowling Event will be held in support of local Canadian Council for the Blind members **B6**

News **A3** : Community **B3**
Deaths **A8** : Bulletin board **B4**
Opinion **A9** : Carroll Baker **B5**
Sport **B1** : Classifieds **B7**

Weather

Saturday High 4 / Low 0
Sunday High 6 / Low -2



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Significant announcement from government on Saturday in Miramichi

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Significant government investments will, for the second time in as many weeks, be unveiled in Miramichi this weekend.

After the province and the federal

government came together in the city last Saturday to unveil nearly \$4 million in funding for structural upgrades to Station Wharf, officials are poised to do something similar again this Saturday, Nov. 5.

PLEASE SEE → **BIG, A2**



From left, Miramichi-Grand Lake MP Pat Finnigan, Miramichi Deputy Mayor Brian King, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser, and Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Lisa Harris. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Raking in the leaves



Gerald Brideau was out enjoying the sun, raking the fallen leaves on his lawn Tuesday, Nov. 1, at his home in Miramichi. Brideau said he was happy to be out doing yard work Tuesday morning, adding that he loves winter and fall but doesn't care for the rain. PHOTO: JOCELYN TURNER/MIRAMICHI LEADER

CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Residents of the Greater Miramichi region have diverted:

Curbside Recycling Program
One year period

1676.70 metric tonnes

VS

Previous Depot Program
2014 year

594.38 metric tonnes

Thank you
for your
participation.

Well done!



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Appendix H – Planning Services Media Coverage

news



Blackville RCMP say the suspect in a case of theft and fraud involving a Blackville business will be in court in Miramichi on Monday Feb. 1.

PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Woman accused of stealing from business

MIRAMICHI LEADER

A woman accused of stealing from and defrauding a Blackville business will be in court next week to enter a plea.

Gina Mackay Munn, 46, of Astle has been charged by the Blackville detachment of the Northeast District RCMP with one count of theft over \$5,000 and one count of fraud over \$5,000, totalling more than \$100,000.

A news release from the Mounties said a complaint of theft and fraud was received on April 23, 2013, and while an arrest was made in January 2014, no charges were filed until almost two years later.

Police say their investigation continued and MacKay-Munn was charged on Dec. 7, 2015.

"The thefts are believed to have occurred over a four-year period between 2008 and 2012 from O'Donnell Line and Electric, while MacKay-Munn was an employee," said the release.

MacKay-Munn is scheduled to appear in Miramichi provincial court on Monday, Feb. 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Miramichi planners hoping new strategy will clear up role, smooth relationship with builders

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is deploying a wide sweeping strategy aimed at clarifying its role with the clients it serves and ideally improving its image in the process.

In response to recent concerns aired about the methods the commission's planning services wing uses when working with builders, details of the new plan were shared during the RSC's monthly board meeting in Miramichi Tuesday night.

Colleen Bawn, a senior planner with the organization, and Wilson Bell, the commission's executive director, both said the strategy was developed with an eye toward improving services and enhancing communication.

Bell acknowledged that the planning process can be complex at times, particularly for first-time developers.

Part of the challenge, he said, is that there isn't a "one size fits all" approach that planning staff take on a given project.

He said he's hoping the strategy helps clearly define the roles and responsibilities of planning services and the end of the bargain that developers need to uphold.

"While we're helping clients make submissions, our goal is to ultimately regulate their application and make sure that development projects comply with the bylaws that each municipality has adopted," Bell said. "So we're wearing two hats - we try to be facilitating and get people through the development approval process but at the end of the day our job is to act as a regulator, which is conflicting at times but the nature of the beast in these relatively small communities."

The plan maps out a number of different measures the RSC will be introducing in stages over the course of the next several months.

Each is designed to make the process more user-friendly and shine a light on how planners function.

In the report the RSC says that it has some glaring weaknesses that need to be improved.

Among them, the report acknowledges that its "relationship with its customers could benefit from enhancements" and that the commission is sometimes viewed as "a police entity"



Wilson Bell, executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

due to the role it plays in enforcing different laws and regulations that can sometimes hinder a given development.

Some of that rose to the surface at Miramichi city council in December after a handful of councillors expressed their dismay during a presentation from Bawn detailing a rezoning application from a local business that was looking to expand.

Although the development - an extension of the Towne Ford dealership in Douglastown that will result in the creation of a new car rental business - was ultimately approved with conditions, councillors Peggy McLean and Billy Fleiger both said that the tedious nature of the process runs the risk of discouraging new development in a city that needs it badly.

The Towne Ford application was held up because it was taking place on land located near a provincially significant wetland at Hutchinson Brook, which meant that the provincial Department of Environment became involved, and also because of an issue over a small portion of the parking lot that was technically owned by the province.

Bawn responded to some of that indirectly on Tuesday, saying that the planning office's purpose is not to

function as an agent of economic development, nor is it there to offer technical advice.

What they are there for, she said, is to help guide a developer through the process. The planning office's job is to review applications and make applicants aware of any concerns and all of the different moving parts that can be involved, depending on the level of complexity involved with the project.

Bawn noted that doesn't necessarily mean every application that comes in will eventually lead to a permit being issued.

She said she thinks a lot of these misunderstandings can be addressed by better promoting the different services that planners can provide. She noted that developers also have a responsibility to educate themselves about what needs to be done before heading in.

"All of these activities we've highlighted are related to helping support our clients better," Bawn said. "We're trying to help them and support them as they try to do their developments and not all of these are new things that have just fallen out of the sky - it's just a different way of communicating it. It's a work in-progress but we're all serving the same public."

On the commission's end, it is looking to help facilitate that by ramping up different internal and external education sessions that will be designed to better enlighten applicants about different the ins and outs.

The fact that the application process can involve several different agencies and levels of government, Bawn said, can also be quite daunting and that the commission would work to try to make that side of it more easy to digest.

Bell noted that the RSC pumped a lot of resources into revamping its website, www.greatermiramichirsc.ca, and encouraged developers to take a look at some of the online content.

The website, among other things, contains step-by-step details about the development process depending on what the applicant is looking to build.

Bell stressed again that planners take different a different approach depending on the scale of the development and sometimes that's where issues can arise.

"Some people can walk in for a permit today and walk out a half-hour later with a permit and for some others it's a little more extensive," he said. "It's not like applying for a driver's licence - if you come in and apply for a house or you come in and apply for a 100,000 square-foot shopping mall, the process is a little different."

Looking at the more rural communities the commission serves, meanwhile, where places like Blackville and Upper Miramichi are developing formal municipal plans for the first time and where places like Doaktown just recently started working with commission planners, there is also going to be a natural period of adjustment.

Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn, who chairs the RSC's board of directors, said that people have been doing things a certain way in these rural areas for generations, which can be a challenge.

But times have changed and the building code is a lot different now than what it was several decades ago. Munn, and other members of the board, seemed supportive of the plan as something that could help clear up some of the confusion.

"Builders need to be responsible for knowing what the code is," Munn said. "Our village is all rural and it's very hard when we all have different wants and needs."



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Crabbe Mountain Speed Week
Fredericton Craft Beer Tour

February 11-14 weekend:
Winterfesthiver
Fire and Ice Ball
Astronomy at UNB

FROSTival.ca/Calendar



Cultural Events



Winterfesthiver



Crabbe Mountain




Dave Gunning



Winterfesthiver



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(80 lbs)	\$10.25
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Letters to the editor

Views of seniors needed on wellness centre

The Jan. 30 and the Feb. 10 meetings on the proposed wellness centre, organized by the Miramichi city administration as information sessions, appear to be viewed by some citizens as promotional sessions for the centre.

It is not surprising there is skepticism, not to mention outright opposition to the initiative, when you consider the process the city administration has adopted in preparing the citizens for its acceptance. The first reality which has spurred this opposition was the engagement of an out of the province firm to prepare the process for having the centre built. The second reality which has aroused suspicion of the city councillors' process is that there no visible evidence that those elected have publicly made presentations, outlining his or her views on whether the centre is a good or bad for the citizens' future wellness needs.

The third reality, and possibly the most important, was that no attempt was made to include the views of senior citizens who, in many cases, will not be able to attend the promotional sessions and the planned debate sessions.

The fourth reality which could be the most divisive is where the centre will be located? The city administration seems to be ignoring the reality that our city is still a city of individual communities.

Communities which have never abandoned the culture of their

communities nor the confidence they have that their common wellbeing will always be protected by their local leaders.

Terry F. Whalen Sr,
Miramichi

Tolls could have negative impact: People's Alliance

I have no issue with paying a reasonable toll for a safe, well maintained highway. However, we are already paying tolls and have been since the day the four-lane opened.

Many were deceived by the Bernard Lord government who only hid the tolls. Also, one has to wonder where the many millions in excise fuel taxes are going.

Every time they were increased, and they have been hiked repeatedly, tax payers were assured this would be dedicated to road construction and maintenance. Well, anyone traveling the old Trans-Canada Highway or any secondary road would question how that is working.

In addition, depending on how new tolls are applied, it could have very negative results for many. Seniors and those on a fixed income who find it necessary to make frequent trips to an urban centre for medical or other reasons could find these a real hardship. How will increased tolls impact tourism?

Any additional tolls on trucking will ultimately be passed on to consumers. What about working people who commute daily? What about public safety as more and more people revert back to using secondary roads because they can not afford more tolls? How many will

die in accidents as traffic volumes escalate on roads that have consistently deteriorated for more than a decade?

Factor in a massive hike in HST, and rising food costs will be a huge burden on working families. The province needs money, no one disputes that, but it appears that this government is taking the coward's way out, just as previous governments have. Everything that would make a positive impact on the debt has been taken off the table.

Sterling Wright

Executive director
People's Alliance Party of N.B.
Woodstock

Province seeks senior goodwill ambassadors

The provincial government is looking for active individuals to serve as senior goodwill ambassadors.

As a volunteer, they will promote the importance of well-being and healthy aging by attending local events and initiatives, and by speaking with individuals and groups to support an age-friendly environment.

By promoting an intergenerational approach they will engage New Brunswick seniors, their families and friends to make healthy choices and support a culture of wellness. Becoming an ambassador is a great way to be involved and make a difference in the community and help others to age well. For those who may be interested in applying, please contact us by Thursday, Feb. 4.

Bonnie Fulton

Department of Social Development
Fredericton

Women and the province's strategic program review

VALLIE STEARNS
COMMENTARY

As beneficiaries, caregivers in their families, caregivers in the workplace, employees in predominantly female jobs, employees in any field – women have many reasons to care about public programs and services and, therefore, the Strategic Program Review and the provincial budget.

The government says that it has three priorities: jobs, families and finances. These priorities certainly seem right. The question is: does the Strategic Program Review help fulfill these three priorities? Clearly, it does not. Rather, it almost exclusively focuses on one priority: finances, i.e. the reduction of the government's deficit. So, all the options presented in the document "Choices to Move New Brunswick Forward" are about cost saving and revenue generating. Hardly any are about improving services. And none creates jobs.

A close look at the document shows that many of the options contemplated by the government involve privatization.

Some people may argue that there will be as many jobs. Maybe, but probably not. Privatization generally leads to fewer jobs. And even if there are as many jobs, would they be high-quality ones? Jobs that can really support families and fuel the economy?

Many services are currently privatized: home support, community residences, special care home services, literacy, child care, etc. All of these are heavily female-dominated employment sectors, with high client needs. That funding is channelled through for-profit or not-for-profit private agencies and it is always limited.

The result? Poor working conditions. Little job security in many cases. Understaffing, and crushing workloads. And low, stagnant wages. If all those jobs were paid at the same level as male-dominated jobs of the same value, wages would reach over \$20 an hour rather than the current level of \$13 to \$15 an hour.

One could have hoped that the Strategic Program Review would address this shocking situation.



A large number of unionized workers gather outside the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition Centre to demonstrate in advance of a government budget consultation Jan. 19. Vallie Stearns, chair of the New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity, says in a commentary that many of the cost-saving options being contemplated by the government involve privatization. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

But instead, since the focus is on reducing the deficit, many proposed options look at how to reduce jobs. That actually goes against one of the government's objective of job creation and may have a negative impact on women in the work force.

So far, the government's job creation effort seems to rely heavily on construction and road building. In order to pay for these investments, the government seems ready to disinvest from public services and programs. That is problematic. Women hold many jobs in the public sector and some of these jobs may soon be cut or privatized. Meanwhile, as mentioned earlier, female-dominated care-giving jobs in the private sector

Commission's changes will be for the better

It would have been easy for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission to dig in and brush aside some of the legitimate concerns that have been raised over their role in authorizing new development.

They could have done nothing and carried on as normal, even with the knowledge here is some confusion about the mandate of the commission and the role of its staff. That would have been the simplest route to take.

Instead, the RSC has recognized that there are issues, many of them rooted in what they say are a series of misconceptions that can be overcome through improved communication and putting in more of an effort to illustrate what they are and what they are not.

They pumped thousands of dollars into developing a strategy whose sole purpose is to help improve the relationship and the level of understanding between planners and the clients they serve.

That should be taken as a huge step in the right direction and, best-case scenario, it should also help foster a new spirit of collaboration that will ideally result in more development taking place throughout the Miramichi region, which is something we all want to see happen. But not at all costs.

Planners are the gatekeepers to new development in our communities and they play a key role in ensuring that construction is done responsibly. It isn't an easy job. They are also there to help guide developers through what can be a complex process. Being on the same page with builders is essential toward ensuring that people continue to invest in our communities, grow our tax base and create new jobs.

But as planner Colleen Bawn put it, that responsibility doesn't solely rest with the planning office. As Ms. Bawn stated, they are not an economic development agency and they are not a cheerleader.

It can be difficult to be the messenger informing a developer who has already tied up substantial resources into a particular project that there is an issue with it. Depending on the scope of the project, we understand how the process can be tedious at the best of times.

And it isn't a stretch to imagine how getting tied up in a bunch of paperwork involving different agencies over matters that may not seem important in the grand scheme would be a maddening experience.

What we like about what the commission is doing here is that this plan, if executed properly, should help arm developers with all of the information they need – and better simplify a world that even the experts admit can be difficult to fully understand. By having both sides reaching a mutual understanding, it should go a long way toward helping reduce the amount of roadblocks and red tape in the building process.

That should also help boost the number of building permits that are being issued, which will help drive up tax base assessments and generate some much-needed new revenues for municipalities. The commission realized that they have an image problem and they have taken some very real steps to address it. Sometimes people, in the face of criticism, shut down as a defence mechanism. The commission has done just the opposite here.

The launch of this plan, if nothing else, is a well-timed olive branch that will almost certainly help put more shovels in the ground.

government has set up a Child Care Task Force, a Literacy Secretariat and a Provincial Steering Committee of Human Service Practitioners and Senior Government representatives. We look forward to hearing the outcome of these efforts which seem promising. To date, the reports from these initiatives are either not completed or not published yet. We hope that the government will take steps to make improvements in these areas.

To support the goal of pay equity, the Liberals have promised to require pay equity plans from organizations with more than 50 employees doing business with the government through procurement or financing. We look forward to seeing the impact on women's jobs in the private sector. We are still waiting for the government to follow through on its other pay equity commitments, i.e., to review the pay equity methodology used in care-giving services, and to fully implement Pay Equity Act, 2009, in the public sector.

Let's hope that these initiatives will influence the Strategic Program Review and lead to improved services as well as pay equity wages for workers in female-dominated jobs whether in the private or the public sector.

Vallie Stearns

is the chair of the New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity, which is a member of New Brunswick Prosperity Not Austerity.

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Bylaws useless without proper enforcement

Despite its best intentions, the City of Miramichi has been fighting an uphill battle in being able to enforce a number of its own bylaws.

The latest example comes as the city moves to repeal a bylaw regulating taxis it really has zero ability to enforce at the moment. The lack of ability to follow through on the promises of that bylaw, drawn up in 2005 to ensure a baseline standard for taxicab operators and drivers in the city, defeats the purpose of having it.

Considering all that, the city was wise to get rid of the bylaw for the time being. But what this situation also points to, once again, is the glaring need in the city to find somebody who can ensure that all of its bylaws are properly enforced and respected on a full-time basis. That's a discussion that has been ongoing for a number of years and, so far, it hasn't been a big enough priority to warrant council's approval in spending more money to establish the new position.

There are, after all, buildings that need to be fixed, vehicles that need to be bought and roads that need to be paved, so it stands to reason that hiring somebody to ensure bylaw compliance might be viewed not as a must-have but as more of a nice-to-have. That may well end up being the case again as the city once again mulls what direction it wants to go concerning this situation.

What should be pointed out, however, is that if the city's bylaws are going to be taken seriously then it needs to have an effective means of enforcing them. The rules are there for a reason, after all, and it should go without saying that the spirit of those bylaws is to create a sense of structure within the municipality.

They are there to maintain order, to ensure that neighbours can peacefully coexist and they lay out at least a basic minimum expectation for how people in this city must act. Setting up some standards that will help prevent somebody from stepping into an unsafe taxi driven by a convicted felon is just one such example. There are many other areas of need, as well. Barking dogs, unsightly and dangerous properties, parking violations and rules pertaining development are just a few. Again, and rightfully so, this discussion will eventually boil down to the question concerning how, or even should, the city go about paying for it. There is strong potential, however, that the city wouldn't have to go it alone on this.

With that in mind, we would submit that the city continues working with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission on this. The RSC - which is funded by the municipalities and local service districts it provides service to - has already mentioned the possibility of adopting a plan that would see the commission becoming the vehicle for bylaw enforcement on a regional scale. Using funding from Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi, the enforcement officer would be tasked with ensuring compliance in those other communities as well. As the main funding contributor, by virtue of its size and tax base, Miramichi would likely receive the lion's share of those services while the villages, who would also have a stake, would be able to benefit as well. All with a reduced cost to the city and resulting enhanced service throughout the region. This definitely seems like a winning combination worth some serious consideration.

Letters to the editor

Liberals out of order with judicial move

Everyone knows or should know in Canada judges are appointed by political parties when they are in power. Of course, the judges from then on are supposed to be non-political. Then again, some are not.

For the Gallant Liberal government to say Chief Justice David Smith was on vacation so they had to deal with someone else does not cut it.

In this day of worldwide phone service and the Internet, they could have easily got hold of New Brunswick Chief Justice Smith for such an important change in appointing where judges live.

Now, when the heat is on, two judges who dealt with the Liberals are talk shy and so is the very talkative cabinet minister Donald Arseneault.

This bill of having the justice minister having the power to say where judges live will have all judges looking over their shoulders when they handle cases involving the government.

This bill stinks of government potential misuse of our justice system by politicians in power. The only way to reform this bill is to scrap it and start again in an upfront manner with Chief Justice Smith.

Donald Goodspeed
Bathurst

Bilingualism costing Miramichi money

What is the true cost of bilingualism and what are the benefits?

An article in the local paper would suggest that the cost is outrageous. Fifty-thousand dollars for translation of a planning document? I would hope that number was a misprint but even if it were \$5,600 that would be extreme.

Now I see the plan is to change all signs to a bilingual format. Of course there will be no cost to that! I still cannot see the benefit. I wonder how many people can truthfully say that they do not speak English.

But I digress. Our city must be rolling in dough. Forty-five thousand dollars to view a property. Countless ignored studies that cost up to \$25,000 collecting dust on a remote shelf at city hall.

The Compass Point Survey, at over \$250,000, was being ignored until enough pressure was put on city officials that they had to act. Our city must be the Maritime joke.

Dieppe has the right idea. They declared their city French. Look at the savings.

Miramichi should take heed and do the same, declare the city English and save millions of our taxpayer dollars.

If it is so important to city officials, put it to a vote. Add a question to the next municipal election ballot. That way all city dwellers will have a vote.

Ted Ross
Miramichi

Acadian artists group's position on Arts NB

We would like to discuss the actions the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du

Nouveau-Brunswick (AAAPNB, the Acadian professional artists' association) is taking regarding the changes to the New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) announced by the Government of New Brunswick.

The principles which guarantee the Arts Board's independence are not negotiable. Since the announcement was made on Feb. 2, the AAAPNB has been pressuring the government incessantly to ensure that artsnb remain at arm's length.

Not engaging in a public battle does not mean we have not been actively involved.

These are our demands: that the Arts Board function at arm's length from the government, that it manage its own budget, that it operate within the framework of a law that ensures its independence and arm's length status, that its board of directors be autonomous, that its board of directors be responsible for hiring its executive staff, and that the above be carried out within a structure that allocates financial support to artists through a peer jury system free of political interference.

The government has made a commitment to respect these conditions.

We have received assurances that artsnb will not be abolished, that it won't be amalgamated with the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. If the government does not respect its commitments, the AAAPNB will take every opportunity to speak out.

Philippe Beaulieu, president
Carmen Gibbs, executive director
Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du N.-B.
Moncton

Commission's report makes case for shale gas moratorium

JIM EMBERGER
COMMENTARY

(Editor's Note: The following is an official response from the New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance about the report issued Feb. 26 by the New Brunswick Commission on Hydrofracturing.)

The commissioners recognized that the discussion about shale gas had to be looked at in the contexts of the immediate need to combat climate change, the lack of a coherent and forward-looking energy policy for the province, and the inadequacy of current institutions and procedures in New Brunswick to deal with either shale gas or with the new realities of a low-carbon world.

Accordingly, they laid out a series of recommendations to transition to that new world.

While these recommendations are based on the shale gas experience, they are applicable to all energy and natural resource policies.

- All policies must consider the

impacts on climate change before proceeding, and must guarantee the "long-term viability" of our water and energy resources.

- Environmental and energy policy should lead us into the new value-added and knowledge-based economy.

- The relationship between governments and First Nations must be rebuilt from the ground-up on a nation-to-nation basis.

- Discussions with First Nations, municipalities and citizens, especially those bearing the risks, must be based on the two-way flow of objective and scientifically valid information in order to do a valid risk/benefit analysis and to ask for social licence.

- A Health Impact Assessment must be included with the Environmental Impact Statement. Both must examine cumulative effects over space and time, and look beyond a particular project in isolation.

- The mapping of aquifers and baseline data, such as water quality, air quality and health conditions, must be established before any development

begins. Likewise, plans for ongoing scientific monitoring of air, water and health must be made for the life of the development.

These and other recommendations require fundamental changes and will take time, trust and work to accomplish, but the commission notes that there are no shortcuts.

The commissioners recognized that due to the dismal economic state of the gas market we have the time, as it will be a number of years before shale gas "may" become economical again. In this we disagree with the commission, as the economics of shale gas have deteriorated even further since its report went to press. Because of this - and the remarkable growth of clean energy technology - we believe that any economic case for shale gas will be eclipsed by the swift clean energy response to climate change.

As in any report of this size, there are some statements, assumptions and details with which we disagree. But, as to its conclusion that we need to leave behind a 20th century economy based on finite supplies of fossil fuels that can no longer be burned, we are in total agreement.

The government's decision to impose a moratorium was prompted in great part by an unprecedented and united grassroots movement. Events since then, including the growing urgency of addressing climate change, the collapse of



Following the recommendations would enable New Brunswick to move toward a future that will provide jobs. PHOTO: BRUNSWICK NEWS ARCHIVES

oil and gas prices, and the huge growth and decreasing costs of renewable energy, shows the decision was correct.

The commission report provides reasons to strengthen that decision further by making it permanent.

It is beyond dispute that the greatest numbers of jobs are being created in the clean energy economy.

This is where investment is booming. Meanwhile, investments in fossil fuels are declining as thousands are laid off and many companies face bankruptcy.

The New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance appreciates the thoughtful

approach the commission has taken in fulfilling its mandate. Following its recommendations would enable New Brunswick to join the rest of the world in moving toward a future that will provide jobs, while protecting the health of our environment, ourselves and our communities.

We would much prefer this road to a legal challenge over a declining industry.

Jim Emberger

is a spokesperson for the New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance.

SUBMISSIONS: Letters must bear the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number and be between 200 and 400 words in length. We prefer letters that respect the word count, are on a single subject currently in the news and

contain no personal attacks. We will consider opinion articles on any subject. All submissions must be original, should not have been previously published other than in a Brunswick News publication and should be between 700 and 900

words in length. We reserve the right to publish discretion and commentary at our sole discretion and to edit them for clarity, length, libel, taste or non-verifiable information. We prefer submissions by email to news@miramichileader.com, but

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

to verify authorship. Complaints or concerns about content? Contact **PATRICIA GRAHAM** at ombudsman@brunswicknews.com or 645-3344.

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

WEDNESDAY

March 30, 2016

It takes two



Figure skaters Laney Fallon and Bailey Cripps performed as a duo at the Miramichi Skating Club Under the Big Top showcase on Monday at the Miramichi Civic Centre. See more photos from the show at miramichileader.com.

PHOTO: K. BRYANNAH JAMES/MIRAMICHI LEADER

City not alone in planning ire says chair of commission

At council meeting Thursday, motion passed allows staff to weigh city's work with commission

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The chair of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors says some of the issues identified by Miramichi city council over the planning process for new developments aren't exclusive to the city.

Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn, who has been at the helm of the eight-member board for most of the regional service commission's existence, said in an interview on Monday that he's heard some of the same concerns about how different projects are vetted before either having a building permit issued or denied by planners.

The situation in the city has been simmering for some time. In recent months, council has openly expressed frustration over what they view as a lack of common sense in some facets of the development process.

Councillors have stated, among other things, that the tedious, time-consuming nature of the process runs the risk of discouraging new development in the city.

This all came to a head during a city council meeting last Thursday, where a motion was unanimously passed allowing city staff to weigh the pros and cons of the city's involvement with the commission.

Once that report comes back, council would then make a formal decision on whether to retain their membership or to take steps to get out from under

the organization. Munn said the issues the city highlighted are shared by other municipalities and local service districts. While it's the city's prerogative if they want to divorce themselves from the organization, he noted there may be other ways to navigate through this.

"Not everybody's happy with Miramichi planning - I understand that as a mayor and I know we have issues here and there have been rumblings in the LSDs too, so it's not just Miramichi city," Munn said. "People feel pretty strongly that there is room for improvement so it's about finding ways to make that happen."

Management of the service commission have also admitted that there is room to improve the way they provide service to their clients.

Back in January, executive director Wilson Bell and planner Colleen Bawn released details of a new strategy that was developed specifically with the goal of addressing some of these issues in mind.

It was acknowledged by commission officials that the planning process can be complex to work through, depending on the scope of a given project.

Despite those complexities, particularly for first-time developers, the commission agreed that they could be better in the way they communicate with their clients.

With that in mind, the new strategy will specifically aim to enhance the commission's relationship with its customers while better promoting how the planning office actually functions and trying to soften its image.

Bawn at the time noted that planners aren't there to function as agents of economic development or to offer technical advice.

PLEASE SEE → COMMISSION, A2

Wine, beer tasting expands to become two-evening affair

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A popular event that brings wine and beer from around the world will soon be tested by Miramichi palates.

Ross Hartlen, chairman of the annual Wine and Beer Tasting Gala being held at the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel, said for the first time in the gala's history,

it's gone from a one-night only event to a two-night event, due to the growing popularity.

The event is hosted by the Rotary Club of Chatham and the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel and takes place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23, again from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"Last year two weeks before the event was held it was sold out," Hartlen said.

Hartlen said there were 450 tickets available last year and this year there will be 400 tickets available for Friday night and 400 available for Saturday.

The growing popularity is a rewarding feeling for the chairman.

"That's the whole point is to make it a more popular, fun, event," said Hartlen.

PLEASE SEE → TASTING, A2

Inside

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Baseball Chatham Miecon Ironmen have found their man as Mark Noel named head coach **B1**

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Rogersville showcases history during 50th birthday

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A neighbouring community is digging deep into their history.

In commemoration with the Village of Rogersville's 50th anniversary and the 101th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Marcel-François Richard, residents are gathering old photos, stories and other artifacts to show the progression of the area over the years.

The project, which will be displayed online, also showcases the important role the village had during the construction of the Intercolonial Railway of Canada, which goes through the heart of the community.

"We really want people around here to feel a sense of pride," said David Babineau who oversees the website Rencontre-moi Rogersville which will contain all the historical information from

the community once it's completed.

Babineau along with Normand Gionet, another former Rogersville resident met up one day and thought it would be a good idea to share the history of the community and as luck would have it, their meeting fell closely to the aforementioned death 100 year anniversary of the death of Msgr. Richard and the 50th anniversary of Rogersville as an incorporated village.

Babineau, who was born in Rogersville, now resides in Bouctouche, still has a deep interest in the history of Rogersville and the surrounding communities.

The website is still under construction, but whatever information that has been completed is available online at rvnb.ca.

Some of the information available online include photos from the 1940s,

PLEASE SEE → BIRTHDAY, A2



The Village of Rogersville is celebrating its history by gathering photos, stories and other bits of information and placing it on a website for the community to see. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

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Marc Paimpec, of Mainbrace International, serves Allison Mazzorato during the 2015 Wine and Beer Tasting Gala. This year's event will be held on April 22 and April 23. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Annual wine and beer tasting expands to two evenings

TASTING → A1

Hartlen said he cannot confirm which wine and beer vendors will be attending this year, but did confirm that all of the vendors from 2015 will be back as well as four to six new vendors.

"We're still in the phase of getting the product lists from the vendors," said Hartlen.

The annual Wine and Beer Tasting Gala has been a partnership between the Rodd and the Chatham club for seven years. However, Hartlen said the Rodd has hosted it for about nine or 10 years.

Last year the event raised \$15,000 for the Miramichi SPCA. This year proceeds will be going to Change Miramichi.

Hartlen said Change Miramichi consists of six organizations from around the community, including the Miramichi SPCA, Miramichi Youth House, Volunteer Miramichi, Glenelg Youth Alliance-Tutoring Centre, Camp Sheldrake and the James M. Hill Alumni Association.

Hartlen said the group picks who they will be giving the proceeds to prior to doing their advertising for the event, and said Change Miramichi was chosen

because of what they do.

"They do a lot of good work," said Hartlen.

Having an event like this in Miramichi has proven a positive experience for the chairman.

"It's something I enjoy doing. It's a lot of work but it's gratifying," said Hartlen.

Tickets are \$40 for Friday night and \$50 for Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased at the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel, Tozer Insurance Ltd., both Newcastle and Chatham Scotia Bank locations, the Boulevard Pub and Town Hill Jewellery.

Desire for better planning services goes beyond city

COMMISSION → A1

The planning office's job, she said, is to review applications and make applicants aware of any concerns and all of the different moving parts that can be involved, depending on the level of complexity involved with the project.

The application process can often involve having to deal with several different agencies and levels of government before a project can be deemed shovel-ready.

Munn said he still believes in the mandate of the regional service commission as an entity that can help better streamline the delivery of services on a regional-basis rather than having individual communities working in silos.

He noted that, as mayor, he was happy with the work that commission planners had in helping put together Upper Miramichi's first ever rural development plan.

Part of the issue Munn has been hearing, however, is that the commission takes a similar approach on a project regardless of whether it's happening in the middle of Miramichi or in some rural community.

A one-size-fits-all approach in a region this diverse, he said, doesn't really work.

"I feel a lot of the problem with the planning commission is that they want a generic brand right across the board and geographically, we're all different," Munn said. "But I've talked to some of the city councillors before and I know where they're coming from, so there has to be a better setup."

As for the city's specific motion during their monthly meeting, which asked for a review of the city's membership in the commission, Munn said it's his understanding that there is no real way for the city to get out from under the commission altogether.

New Brunswick's 12 regional service commissions were legislated into existence by the provincial government to deliver planning, solid waste management and to potentially take on added responsibilities like emergency measures, regional policing and recreational infrastructure down the road.

While a total break-off might not be possible, Munn said the city could move to distance themselves from the



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's head offices on Water Street. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

organization and take control of their own planning activities while remaining connected to the commission on the solid waste side.

"I'm pretty sure that municipalities can deliver planning services themselves but I'm sure that with the RSC itself, we can't get out," he said.

When reached on Tuesday, Bell said he would prefer not to offer any comment on the situation until he received more details from the city on what, exactly, the municipality is looking at.

Bell said he hoped to be able to touch base with city manager Mike Noel in the coming days to get those details.

The Miramichi Leader was also seeking clarification from the Department of Environment and Local Government on whether or not municipalities have the ability to leave the regional service commission. A response was not provided before press time.

In the meantime, Miramichi deputy mayor John Foran, who has represented the city at most of the commission board meetings in recent months, said on Monday that the city isn't in any great hurry to move on from the commission.

He said the purpose of the motion was only to provide the municipality with better information about the

relationship and its potential options. He's hoping the city takes a cautious approach to this situation.

"We've met with the planning commission recently and went over this all again and we know they are trying to streamline this and make it easier for clients," Foran said. "I think we have to tread very carefully as we move forward to make sure we don't make it more cumbersome and hard to manage – this is all about client relations and customer service and I want to see developers in Miramichi getting the best, most expedient service they can receive."

Asked if the city's exploratory work runs the risk of jeopardizing the regional service delivery model or potentially alienating the city from some of the surrounding communities, Foran said that's all premature.

Miramichi, as the largest community within the commission's coverage area, is also by far its largest provider of funding.

"It would be very, very hard for the rest of the region to run a planning services commission without the input of the City of Miramichi but this isn't about putting up any barriers between us and the villages and local service districts," he said. "It's just to see how can we get this job done better."

Vickery throws name into election ring

Chatham Head resident runs for a seat on city council

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A Miramichi resident is following his father's words as he runs for a seat on Miramichi city council.

John Willard Vickery, 63, lives in the former community of Chatham Head and has officially put his name forward in advance of the May 9 election.

His motivation is simple, he said, stating that he wants make some changes he says will help better the community.

"My father always told me that if you're not happy with what's going on in your community, get involved," said Vickery. "And I like to be part of the process, not the problem."

Vickery works as an equipment operator at Modular Fabrication Inc., and has worked at home and away in provinces such as Alberta and Newfoundland.

As someone who has been involved in the community in the past and is a self-proclaimed sharp critic of the provincial government, he said he's looking to become more deeply involved in his community. He said prior to Miramichi becoming a city in 1995, he spent more than a decade operating the local service district in Chatham Head.

Vickery said that, 21 years later, he's still waiting for the payoff.

"When we became a city it was pushed on us," he said. "I was one of the ones that stood up about the reason why they're pushing us into what they were doing and what's happening with our communities."

Vickery said he hasn't seen many signs of progress in Miramichi since it became a city, highlighting the crippling job losses that came from the closure of a number of mills and the city's ongoing struggle to retain its youth as examples.

"I think there's progress here to be made. But I think at the same time you've got to look at the amount of



John Vickery

PHOTO: K. BRYANNAH JAMES/MIRAMICHI LEADER

people that's left in our city."

Vickery said when the city first amalgamated, there was a ward system in place for city council and it's a concept worth considering again. He said he's gone door-to-door and it's a common idea that's come up more than once.

"I will speak for the people. And I think we have to look at going back to our ward system again. Then that keeps everybody in the city and each area involved."

This system, in its early days, saw councillors elected to represent specific parts of the city. The city has since transitioned to an at-large system where councillors are mandated to represent the entire population.

Vickery said if he's elected to council, his priorities would include "working for the people," "better informing the population on city decisions," "rebuilding what the city currently has," and instituting a "no closed doors policy."

"I think our public has to have knowledge of what the city's doing. No more of this stuff behind closed doors. That doesn't make our city. That condemns our city."

Vickery said city taxes also have to be put under the microscope.

"I think we have to look at going back and getting the trust of the taxpayers in our city," he said. "And if you talk to anybody at all, our taxes in our city, there's people (who aren't) happy with what's been happening."

Rogersville showcases history

BIRTHDAY → A1

1950s and 1960s along with background information on the railway, information on the establishment of post-offices in Rogersville and surrounding areas and the establishment of the community in 1874, which was then called Forest Station. In 1876, the first post office was established On July 1 and the community changed its name to Carleton Station for another two years until July 1, 1884 when the community became Rogersville.

The project will be divided into two sections, one for the history of Rogersville and it's role with the rest of Canada while the other will the history of the people, the families, the customs from the region.

One of the most instrumental people in establishing the community, was Msgr. Richard who helped those who worked on the railway settle in the area once they finished working on the railway.

"Msgr. Richard was instrumental in the community and was instrumental in helping (Father Alfred-Édouard LeBlanc) become the first Francophone bishop in New Brunswick," said Babineau, speaking in French. "All the bishops at the time were either Scottish or Irish, so he went to Rome and pleaded his case to Pope Pius IX and Pope Pius X and was finally able to obtain permission in 1912."

The village, which was incorporated on Nov. 9, 1966, has eight local

historical sites and one provincial heritage site.

The group bringing together all the information consists of members of the community along with students at École Secondaire Assomption and members of municipal council to share stories, anecdotes and pictures.

As for the community itself, Babineau said the input from the community has been good and they have already held two meetings to hear from families and people in the region who can help with the history of the people in the community.

As luck would have it, one of Msgr. Richard's nephew's Fidèle Richard worked at the post office in Rogersville for more than 40 years and had a photo album containing numerous photos from different families in the region, the majority of the people in the photos were identified.

"That really helps, it's not rare to find old photos, but when we don't know who it is, it slows things down a bit," Babineau said. "That really helped and we also had other albums with souvenirs and children's games which covered from the mid-fifties to the late-seventies."

He's hoping that by finding, births, marriages and obituaries, it will also allow them to track down resident's family history.

"If someone was a child in 1901, and then worked in 1911 and in 1921 had their own family, then we can see how the family evolved," Babineau said.

Miramichi Leader

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DEATH NOTICES



WETMORE, DOUGLAS J. SR.
It is with great sadness that the Family of Douglas J. Wetmore Sr., beloved husband of Mary Jane Wetmore wish to announce his passing on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Saint John Regional Hospital with his loving family by his side. Born in Saint John in 1939 Douglas was a son to William and Marie Ada (Murphy) Wetmore.

He was a loving son, husband, father, and grandfather, and special cheerleader for all the activities his grandchildren participated in. Doug was the office manager of Atlantic Wholesalers from 1961-1995. In Doug's spare time he was a Cub Master, a little league coach, a pitcher in the River Valley Senior Softball league, a member of the River Valley Lion's Club, and he also served a term on the Grand Bay Village Council. Doug built his own cottage at Birney's Lake, Rollingdam, N.B., a gathering place for family and friends to relax and have a good time, but he especially delighted in having his four grandchildren come and stay at the cottage with Nanny and Grampy.

Doug was predeceased by his parents, brother William, and his wife Diane, and niece Allison.

Doug is survived by his loving wife, Mary Jane (Boudreau) Wetmore, one son, Douglas Jr. (Kim) Wetmore, of Grand Bay, one daughter Wendy (Joseph) Vautour, of Saint John, one sister Vivian Wetmore, of Saint John, two brothers, Wayne (Sandra) Wetmore, of Saint John, Rev. Brian Wetmore, of Bartibog, N.B. four grandchildren, Ashley and Lindsay Vautour, and Kaitlynn and Christopher Wetmore, and several nieces and nephews.

Castle Funeral Home, 309 Lancaster Ave. Saint John, N.B. (634 1701) are entrusted with the arrangements. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm. A Mass of Christian burial will take place on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church at 2 pm. Interment will take place in Holy Cross cemetery.

Donations to Our Lady of the Assumption Church Building Fund, or the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family.

Online condolences can be made at www.castlefh.com



MEMORIAMS

BAXTER, SIDNEY -
Memories keep you near.
DAUGHTER HEATHER



BEZEAU, THERESA - May 9th, 2012.
Mother Theresa it's been four years since you left us.
Missing you till we meet again.
All my love
PAPA JERRY

BLAKNEY/CONDON - In loving memory of my mother, Ellen T. (McKenna) Condon Blakney, who passed away May 9, 2002, and my father, Samuel C. Condon, May 19, 1964.
In memory, a daily thought,
In heart, a silent sorrow.
Forever loved,
DAUGHTER, CAROLYN McLEAN;
GRANDSONS, ROBBIE McLEAN and HIS WIFE EMMA, RICHARD McLEAN, and HIS WIFE, HAZEL

Psalm 46:1-2

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

MEMORIAMS



BOURGEAIS, NANCY - In loving memory of Nancy who passed away 3 years ago today.
Lovingly remembered,
HUSBAND GEORGE, CHILDREN KEVIN AND LEA, AND FAMILIES

COLLINS, FRANK - In loving memory of my father, Frank, who passed away May 9, 2009.
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and missed everyday.
DAUGHTER ANNE and GRAND DAUGHTERS NICOLE, VANESSA and KELLY

HACHEY, CLIFFORD - In loving memory of a Husband, Dad and Pèpère who passed away May 9, 2008.
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day.
Missing you is a heartache,
Which never goes away.
Nothing is more precious,
Than the thoughts we have of you.
Loved and sadly missed,
WIFE ELVINA and FAMILY



MAY, CONNOR DARYL - In loving memory of my son Connor Daryl May.

May 20 1996 - May 9 2013.

I gave you life and you gave me a reason to live. Forever loved and remembered.

LOVE MOM

NICE, RALPH - In loving memory of a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Ralph Nice, who passed away May 9, 2004.

One precious to our hearts has gone,
The voice we loved is stilled;
The place made vacant in our home
Can never more be filled.
Our Father in His wisdom called
The one His love had given,
And so on earth the body lies --
His soul is safe in Heaven.
FRED, FRANCES, and FAMILIES.

PAGE, JACK and JEAN - In loving memory of my dear friend, Jack, who passed away May 9, 2003 and his wife, Jean, who passed away August 12, 1996.
Never more than a thought away,
Quietly remembered everyday.
Loved, missed and always remembered,
BRIAN and FAMILY

RITCHIE, BETTY -
In loving memory of the worlds greatest Aunt.
You are in our hearts and thoughts each and every day. We miss you more than words can ever say.
LOVE, YOUR FAMILY

After Harvest

Faint is the speech of the tired heart
To the call of dreams replying,
When hope wends home across the fields
Where the rose o' the year is dying,
O weary head and heart and hands
Look up where the sun is dying -
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This billboard positioned on the former St. Mary's convent property shows designs of an incoming 96-bed specialized-care facility that will feature a number of beds reserved for people suffering from dementia. PHOTO: ALLEIRA LIVING

Plans for 96-bed care facility before planning commission

the north

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The long-awaited plans for a new specialized care facility which will be situated on a prime piece of real estate in Miramichi are finally beginning to come into focus.

And, already, the view looks pretty good.

Alleira Living, a private company that specializes in building and operating independent and assisted living facilities for seniors, is the proponent behind an incoming 96-bed facility. It will be constructed on the former St. Mary's convent property on the King George Highway in Newcastle.

Company president Marc Gallant said the building will be not only state-of-the-art but also the first of its kind in the Miramichi area by the time it's completed.

Digital renderings of the building's exterior closely resemble what one might expect from a luxury condominium development.

While the facility will be outfitted with all sorts of different amenities – including an in-house theatre and a hair salon, as well as spacious suites – this will be a place specifically designed to administer specific types of care.

Gallant, who hails from Rogersville, said that in addition to 60 assisted-living suites, designated as Level 2 care by the provincial Department of Social Development, the complex will also feature 36 “memory-care” beds for residents suffering from different forms of dementia.

Those 36 beds are known as Level 3B in provincial speak, and were opened up by the former Progressive Conservative government back in 2013.

“These are units that will have a higher ratio of staff to tend to their needs, so we're very excited about that,” said Gallant.

The Level 2 units, meanwhile, will be tailored to provide services to people who might be dealing with mobility issues or need help managing medication.

Gallant said that Alleira is excited to be in a position to be moving ahead with the project because the company believes it fills an obvious need in a place

like Miramichi, which like so many other parts of the province is dealing with the challenges of an aging population.

“We believe that seniors don't only live in Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton,” he said. “We have seniors throughout our province in cities like Miramichi and people need a place to be cared for and they shouldn't have to move two hours away to get that safe, secure environment, so that's our vision ... we want to be woven into the fabric of the community.”

Right now, he said the file remains in the hands of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's planning department, which is responsible for reviewing building applications and awarding permits.

Once Alleira gets approvals to begin construction, Gallant said that phase would likely take about 10 months to complete.

By the time it's ready to become home to dozens of local seniors, he said there will be nothing else like it in Miramichi.

Gallant said a lot of time and effort goes into design and function with its developments, and in this case he believes the Alleira team has come up with something that will provide a comfortable, safe environment that will allow residents to thrive.

The building will feature, among other things, a spacious lobby, dining hall, several common areas and sitting areas, a multipurpose activities room, and also therapeutic rooms which will be used in the delivery of memory care.

Gallant said Alleira will be reaching out to different service providers in the community with the goal of forming partnerships that would bring people into the building to organize things like musical performances, bingo, haircutting and aesthetics.

As for the exterior of the building, it will be fabricated using a combination of high-grade concrete and steel systems designed for energy efficiency and noise reduction.

“It creates a very sound, long-lasting structure, so we like that,” Gallant said.

Anybody with questions about the assisted living and memory care project can either phone 627-8080 or email info@alleira.ca

Separate from that development, meanwhile, Gallant also confirmed that the company has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a local group attempting to build a new seniors apartment building somewhere in the city.

The people behind the Green Cove

independent living facility have been working for months on their plans and are currently working toward settling a location for the building.

Officials have said they would prefer the building be situated in a natural environment, ideally somewhere close to the Miramichi River and immersed in nature but still close enough to amenities like shopping and public transit.

One of the objectives of the Green Cove plan is to provide a more eco-friendly alternative to some of the current local options for retirement living.

Gallant said that more details on Alleira's relationship with the Green Cove project would be shared in the weeks ahead but noted he believes the project aligns well with the company's vision.

“We are very pleased to be working with Green Cove to be developing a community for retirees in Miramichi where there is a true and real partnership between a community-based group and Alleira,” he said. “Our goal is to grow through being what the communities need and want and obviously Green Cove has a desire and a vision for what they want as far as accommodations - so when your values align, you can move forward on the business and the planning and the structure.”

Green Cove's initial plan called for the creation of a co-operatively owned and managed facility for residents, meaning the residents who live there will have a stake in the operation. They have envisioned a community within a community built using environmentally-sustainable practices and offering affordable rent.

It would also feature independent living units as well as assisted living units equipped with services such as 24-hour emergency call systems, along with assistance in meal preparation, personal transportation, laundry, housekeeping and scheduling of medication.

The Green Cove project has received the moral backing of city hall recently, with council voting in favour of establishing a memorandum of understanding that essentially confirms the city is generally supportive of their mission.

Alleira, meanwhile, opened its first residential development on Fredericton's north side earlier this year and is nearing completion of a new 64-unit building on the waterfront in Summerside, P.E.I.

Among the shareholders in the Prince Edward Island development is Sportsnet broadcaster and Summerside native Doug MacLean, a former National Hockey League coach and general manager.

Local company keeps Tampa Bay arena cool

ARENA → A1

Group which invests in and builds up technology companies. Mariner was started by Pond and a handful of colleagues from NB Tel, a publicly traded company, after they merged with telephone providers in the other Atlantic Provinces to form Bell Aliant in 1999.

NB Tel did a lot of internal startups “which is quite unique for a phone company,” said Pond, who was NB Tel's chief executive officer prior to the merger. One of those companies was iMagic TV, a company that created the middleware to run internet protocol television services. The company went public in 2000 raising US \$52.3 million to be sold three years later to Alcatel for US \$30 million, an amount Pond called “cash in the bank.”

“We were a little early in it,” Pond said. “We had the right idea, we just didn't have quite the right timing.”

The skills Pond and his partners learned at NB Tel – about how to start



Gerry Pond, a founder of Mariner Partners PHOTO: FIONA ANDERSON/LEGISLATURE BUREAU

and then grow a new company – they are using at Mariner.

Another branch of Mariner is East Valley Ventures. Through East Valley, Mariner Group gets individual angel investors together to help accelerate a company's growth. That's done by providing financing and often expertise

as well. East Valley currently has between 10 and 15 companies in its portfolio, including Eigen Innovations, this year's KIRA award winner for the most promising startup. Eigen's platform automatically detects and corrects defects in complex manufacturing processes.

East Venture was also involved with Radian6, a social media monitoring system, that was bought out by salesforce.com for US \$326 million in 2011 and security software developer Q1Labs, which was acquired by IBM for an undisclosed sum the same year.

New Brunswick has a lot of entrepreneurs and startups, Pond said, and that's because people want to get the economy going again.

“They can get rich in this model but they want to give back to the community, they want to help the community get ahead. It's a big driver,” Pond said.

“I know it sounds corny but people in other jurisdictions that haven't had this downturn don't understand that”

business

Markets TSX, loonie stagnant while oil prices take tumble **D2**

Toilets Sewer experts battle 'flushable wipes' industry **D3**

↓ **TSX**
-3.46 TO 14,546.54
YTD 10.7%

↓ **DOW**
-1.58 TO 18,472.17
YTD 4.9%

↑ **NASDAQ**
29.76 TO 5,139.80
YTD 1.5%

↑ **GOLD**
11.90 TO 1,346.40
YTD 26.9%

↓ **DOLLAR**
0.16 TO 75.66
YTD 5.1%

↑ **CRUDE**
0.11 TO 42.03
YTD 14.1%

↑ **NASDAQ GLOBAL**
1,529.52
16.62

↓ **S&P 500**
2,166.58
-2.60

↓ **S&P/TSX-60**
846.40
-1.05

↑ **TSX VENTURE**
781.71
10.80

↑ **NATURAL GAS**
US\$ 2.667
0.007/MMbtu

↓ **EURO**
\$1.46
US\$ 1.1057

Grand Falls axes permit fees

MARK RICKARD
THE VICTORIA STAR

GRAND FALLS • Declaring Grand Falls is "open for business," Mayor Marcel Deschenes joined economic development officials and business owners to announce construction permits in Grand Falls are now free for residential and commercial building projects in a press conference Wednesday.

"The new council decided several months ago that we wanted to take economic development from the backbench to the forefront. This morning we will announce new programs for new construction and renovations," Mayor Deschenes said. "We want to see people take advantage of the benefits of the program."

The town will no longer charge fees for construction permits. Previously the municipality charged \$25 for the permit plus a fee of \$5 per \$1,000 in construction costs.

The mayor said council hopes the move sparks an increase in renovations and new construction throughout the municipality.

"We want to bring the construction activity here to another level. If someone comes here and decides to do renovations or build a new building, they need to buy [construction] supplies, they need to get a contractor, the contractor needs employees. There will be economic spinoffs from increased construction."

The manager of a Grand Falls-area building supply store welcomed the news that Grand Falls will no longer charge fees for building permits in an effort to spark economic development in the municipality.

"I think that is great for the economy. ... For some people that will help a lot. People sometimes hesitate because of the expenses. It will definitely help the renovation and construction business," said Daniel Theriault, manager of Drummond Building Supplies.

The building supply contractor said his store has had a busy spring and summer supplying property owners and contractors with materials.

"There is room for more. All of these projects put together will help our business, that's for sure," Theriault says.

Mayor Deschenes said eliminating building permit fees will cost the community about \$35,000 in annual revenues, but he said the town's budget will be offset accordingly.

"We won't be raising property tax rates for this change ... I thought about this, I wanted to move this along and council agreed to this proposal. We do collect taxes from the people and we offer services. We are offering these services to the

PLEASE SEE → **PERMITS, D2**

LOBLAW EXPECTS GROCERY PRICE WAR

LINDA NGUYEN
THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRAMPTON, ONT. • The head of Canada's largest grocer says it's prepared to duke it out in a price war with its rivals in order to stay competitive in a low-inflation environment.

"Price wars are generally not something that we look forward to but we will certainly be ready if the marketplace heats up," said Galen G. Weston, president at Loblaw Companies Ltd., during a call with analysts Wednesday.

Weston said the company, which owns various banners including Loblaws, No

Frills, Atlantic Superstore, Real Canadian Superstore and Shoppers Drug Mart, is actively fighting back against rising food prices by going straight to their suppliers.

"After two years of over \$1 billion in cost increases from our largest suppliers and related higher retail prices across

the country, we have asked this group to support us in our initiative to lower prices for our customers," he said.

Earlier this month, Loblaw sent a letter to its suppliers notifying them it will be applying an automatic 1.45 per cent

PLEASE SEE → **LOBLAW, D2**

Miramichi's new airport terminal underway

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • The walls of the new terminal building at the Miramichi Airport are finally going up.

And to the airport's new commissioner, that kind of progress is symbolic of the direction he believes the organization is heading and what it hopes to achieve in the years ahead.

"I'm very excited about where we're going," said Derek Burchill, who was appointed to the helm of the Miramichi Airport Commission last week. "We're on a stable path and the board is quite excited about the new terminal that is being built as we speak."

The roughly \$1.5-million terminal building is expected to open sometime in the fall. Burchill said it's a project the commission has been aiming to realize for some time.

In saying goodbye to the 40-year-old modular building, Burchill said having the new infrastructure in place will provide the airport with an added layer of credibility. The new image will help the organization as it continues to try and secure new business opportunities.

PLEASE SEE → **AIRPORT, D2**



A look at the construction of the new Miramichi Airport terminal being built this week. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

U.S. spends millions to support Maine blueberry producers

PATRICK WHITTLE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, MAINE • In the face of industry pressure, the U.S. federal government is spending up to US\$4.4 million to complete a plan to help Maine's blueberry industry by buying surplus crop.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in April it would buy up to US\$13 million in wild blueberries to help with falling prices and over-supply. Wild blueberries are one of Maine's signature exports, and recent years of large harvests have left the industry with excess berries.

The USDA has bought US\$8.6 million in blueberries, the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine said.

Commission executive director Nancy McBrady said the group requested the federal agency spend the rest of the money. A USDA spokeswoman confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the agency is working to complete the purchase.

"It's immensely helpful to our industry," McBrady said. "It's sort of an oversupply situation and we also face

competition from cultivated blueberries."

Wild blueberries are different from cultivated blueberries in that they are smaller, have a more intense taste and are richer in antioxidants. Maine is by far the U.S.'s biggest producer of wild blueberries, which are also harvested in Atlantic Canada, Quebec and Ontario.

The USDA's purchase of wild blueberries could eventually impact prices to consumers, which have been lower in recent years because of the big harvests and competition from Canada, where the dollar is weaker. Frozen wild blueberries slid from 90 cents per pound in 2011 to 60 cents per pound in 2014, the blueberry commission has said.

The USDA uses its "bonus buy" program to assist food producers and provide food for charitable organizations.

Ed Flanagan, chief executive officer of wild blueberry giant Wyman's of Maine, said the USDA's \$8.4-million purchase followed a public bidding process in June. He said he hopes the agency completes the full purchase, as this year could yield another big crop. Harvesting typically happens in late July and early August.

Nintendo sinks into loss despite the global success of Pokémon Go

YURI KAGEYAMA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO • Japanese video game maker Nintendo Co. sagged into a loss of 24.53 billion yen (\$232 million) for the fiscal first quarter through June, despite the global success of the *Pokémon Go* augmented reality game.

The result Wednesday was worse than the 673 million yen (\$6.4 million) profit forecast by analysts surveyed by FactSet. The manufacturer of Super Mario games and the Wii U console had an 8.3 billion yen profit the same quarter a year ago.

PLEASE SEE → **NINTENDO, D2**



Shoppers walk under the logo of Nintendo and Super Mario characters at an electronics store in Tokyo, May 7, 2014.

PHOTO: SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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business

Loblaw expects grocery price war in bid to stay competitive

LOBLAW → D1

price deduction on all shipments it receives beginning Sept. 4.

The letter also stated that the grocer will reject any future cost increases from suppliers unless they are related to higher input costs such as fuel charges or foreign exchange.

Additionally, the letter noted that Loblaw will assume that suppliers agree to the price decrease if the shipments continue past this deadline.

A company spokesman would not comment on whether the grocery owner has received any type of response.

During the call, Weston said Loblaw will "invest" the savings back into the customer, but would not elaborate if this means customers will necessarily see lower food prices at its supermarkets.

"We think we're competitively a very potent organization. We believe that we have formats that are uniquely well-positioned in each of the core markets and that when we make investments, we'll make them in places that will deliver a sustainable advantage versus our

competitors," he said.

Last week, Statistics Canada reported that inflation for food softened to 1.3 per cent in June, after being above three per cent for 18 straight months prior to May. This was highlighted earlier this year when customers were shocked to see the price of cauliflower spike towards \$10 per head.

Loblaw said for it to continue to deliver earnings growth, it needs to increase sales volume as competition heats up among traditional grocers like Metro and Sobeys, and big-box retailers like Costco and Walmart.

On Wednesday, the company reported that its net profit dropped by nearly 15 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier, even though it had higher revenue.

Loblaw's net income was \$158 million or 39 cents per share for the period ended June 18. That's down from \$185 million or 44 cents per share a year ago. It attributed the reduced profit to higher interest expenses and financing charges.

However, its overall revenue was up



A man carts out his groceries from a Loblaw's outlet in Toronto.

PHOTO: NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$196 million or two per cent, rising to \$10.7 billion from \$10.5 billion a year earlier.

Notably, revenue grew faster at Shoppers Drug Mart owing to success from

increased food offerings in its drug-stores. The chain also continued to benefit from its health, beauty and cosmetics divisions, and from the Canadian departure of U.S. retailer Target last year.

markets
reportTSX, loonie
stagnant
while oil
prices take
a tumble

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO • Signs that there's still a chance the U.S. Federal Reserve may raise interest rates by the end of the year weren't enough to give North American stock markets any direction Wednesday.

The S&P/TSX composite index in Toronto barely moved, losing 3.46 points at 14,546.54, with gains in gold stocks offsetting losses from the energy sector.

It was a similarly tepid environment on Wall Street, as the Dow Jones industrial average dipped 1.58 points at 18,472.17, while the broader S&P 500 composite index declined 2.6 points to 2,166.58.

The Nasdaq composite gained 29.76 points to 5,139.81, boosted by shares in Apple which soared more than six per cent due to an encouraging earnings report.

The tech giant's shares have been a cause for concern this year as investors became worried about whether Apple can continue to sustain its growth. It reported lower revenue and iPhone sales in its last quarter, but still beat analysts' expectations by earning US\$10.5 billion.

In economic news, the Fed announced it was once again keeping interest rates unchanged and noted it doesn't think there are still any near-term risks to the economy.

The slightly more hawkish comments signalled to the markets that perhaps a rate hike in September may still be on the table for the U.S.



They're in a tough position.

KEVIN HEADLAND

Construction of Miramichi's new airport terminal underway

AIRPORT → D1

"The first impression people have is typically a lasting one, so it's always important to put your best foot forward," he said. "If you flew into that old terminal it was really embarrassing, and for somebody who is potentially looking to invest in the city, the better impression you can leave the first time around, I think you have a much better chance of getting people to come back."

Burchill said the average person would likely be surprised to know just how many people use the airport as a portal to the region.

He said businesspeople, government officials and some noteworthy names from the world of sports often quietly fly in and out of Miramichi whenever they have business or pleasure to tend

to in the area.

In addition, the airport is a regional hub for other forms of private landings and takeoffs, charter flights and a litany of other activities.

Considering the upgrades to the airport's 10,006-foot runway, its new landing systems, its parking area and equipment, Burchill said the terminal project is one of the final pieces to the puzzle.

The project is being funded with the support of the provincial government and the City of Miramichi, which combined to provide \$750,000 toward the initiative.

The final component will be covered by the federal government, and even though the last bit of funding hasn't been officially announced yet, officials including Miramichi-Grand Lake MP Pat Finnigan have maintained that the

money is there.

Local firm Baisley's Construction came away with the bid to build the new terminal and are now on site. The project could be completed sometime in November.

The airport has been focused on broadening its business horizons for years and has been active in attempting to seek out new contracts and relationships wherever it can find them.

The enterprise, as a whole, has remained profitable as well, bolstered by thousands of flights every year and the presence of long-term tenants like the Forest Protection Limited water bomber fleet.

While Burchill said some things were still in progress and that he wasn't at liberty to share much, he stressed that the airport group, as a collective, has a

strong feeling it's on the cusp of something big.

Burchill also said he's optimistic the facility's compliment of charter flights to destinations like Alberta will build back up if and when activities in the oil sands ramp up again.

In the meantime, the local airport continues to offer regular charter service for the region's transient workforce to other destinations, including flights to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Aside from those charters and the FPL flights, the airport also relies on corporate flights, courier service, gliders, medivac, RCMP and other clients.

The Miramichi Airport is also set to host the 2016 Atlantic Canada International Air Show for the second time in three years this August.

Nintendo sinks into loss despite global success of Pokémon Go

NINTENDO → D1

The Kyoto-based company's quarterly sales fell 31 per cent to 61.97 billion yen (\$586 million).

Nintendo has warned the *Pokémon Go* perk will be limited. The Pokémon Co., a Nintendo affiliate, will get licensing fees and other compensation for the mobile game distributed by Niantic Inc., but that won't have much impact on Nintendo income, according to a company statement last week.

In one disappointment for *Pokémon*

Go fans, Nintendo and Pokémon said Wednesday that the release of Pokémon Go Plus is being delayed by two months until September. Pokémon Go Plus is a device that can be used when playing *Pokémon Go*, which lets players know when Pokémon are around.

The *Pokémon Go* became available after the first quarter ended, anyway, and to play it basically is all free. But some investors are expecting a boost for Nintendo as the Pokémon craze encourages other types of sales, such

as games and other content of not just Pokémon but other Nintendo products.

Nintendo's shares have seen-sawed since the game's release earlier this month, as markets flip-flopped between hope and disappointment for the biggest hit in games in years. It closed at 22,305 yen, down 5.5 per cent in Tokyo.

Nintendo's earnings have suffered from lagging sales of its game consoles, including the Wii U and the 3DS handheld. The new console it has promised, codenamed NX, hasn't gone on sale yet.

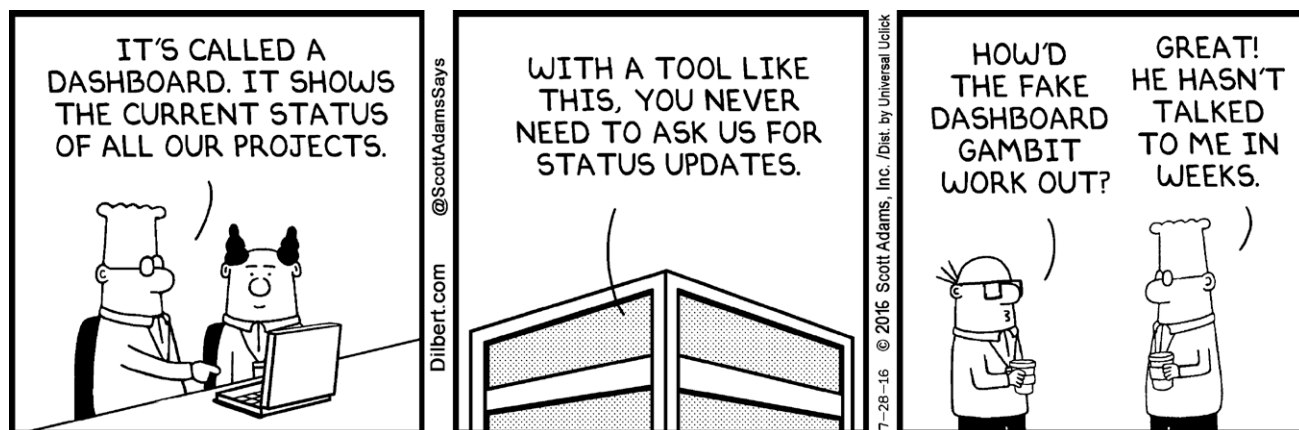
After years of scoffing at the threat from smartphones, Nintendo did an about face last year and entered that sector.

Pokémon Go is definitely the first success it has scored since that decision, and it underlines Nintendo's potential. The game, which has players looking for Pokémon creatures in their real-life wanderings, is a good match for the classic Pokémon story.

Nintendo kept its full year forecast unchanged at a 35 billion yen (\$331 million) profit.

Dilbert

by Scott Adams

Grand Falls
axes building
permit fees

PERMITS → D1

community residents."

When asked how popular the grants and free services would be, the mayor said he was pleased to see the council chambers full of local building contractors.

"I have never seen so many contractors in one room as we saw today. I think it means a lot to them as well," he stated.

Mayor Deschenes told the contractors present at the announcement it was important to have their applications in order before a shovel digs into the ground. Permits are free, but renovations and new construction still have to have a building permit.

"Permits are still required, but there will be no cost. However, if someone decided to do a project without having a permit, and our building inspector finds this out, the building permits will be doubled the previous fees. Any job that require a permit today can be provided free of charge."

Free building permits were one of the development incentives revealed Wednesday. The town also announced non-refundable grants for residential and commercial renovations, and an increase in the non-refundable grant for new construction.

central bank.

Some had forecasted the bank wouldn't make a move until December or even new year.

The Fed has been reluctant to move on rates due to some poor economic indicators from the U.S., on top of global risks such as the aftermath from Britain's recent vote to leave the European Union.

"They're in a tough position," said Kevin Headland, a senior investment strategist at Manulife Investments. "They want to normalize as soon as possible."

The risk of the Fed waiting too long to raise rates is that it leaves the bank with few options to stimulate the economy if it enters into a recession.

"The longer you wait, you're going to get to the end of the economic cycle," Headland said. "Should you get into a recession, what type of opportunity do you have at your disposal when interest rates are already so low?"

But Headland notes that the Fed also might also be dissuaded from making any moves this year due to the uncertainty surrounding the U.S. presidential election in November.

Meanwhile, in the currency market, the Canadian dollar was down 0.01 of a U.S. cent to 75.81 cents US, tracing the downward path of September crude, which fell \$1 at US\$41.92 per barrel.

In other commodities, the August gold contract rose \$5.90 to US\$1,326.70 an ounce, while September copper contracts were down four cents to US\$2.19 a pound and September natural gas was down two cents at US\$2.66 per mmbTU.

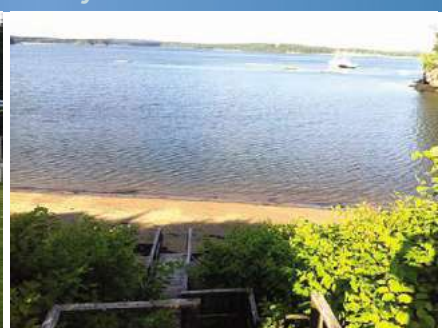
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Group wants people to share their favourite spots

ERNESTO CARRANZA
THE DAILY GLEANER

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has launched a campaign it hopes will help people spend more time outside in New Brunswick.

The not-for-profit land conservation group wants people and families to explore their favourite natural settings, take pictures of themselves there, and post the pictures to social media with a short description and the hashtag #NaturalHappyPlace.

Andrew Holland is a spokesperson with the NCC and thinks New Brunswickers should enjoy what the province has to offer in natural beauty and resources.

"New Brunswick is home to some of the country's most incredible natural settings," said Holland. "We want people to really explore and show off their favourite walking trail."

The NCC will create an interactive map of the country so Canadians will be able to pin their favourite nature spots and see others all across the country. The Nature Conservancy's goal is to crowd-source a guide to Canadians' favourite places in nature.

The NCC works to protect natural areas and the species they sustain. Since 1962, NCC and its partners protect more than 2.8 million acres (over 1.1 million hectares), in Canada. In Atlantic Canada, the NCC have conserved over 70,800 acres of habitat for wildlife and plants along with people to enjoy.

"The NCC really isn't just about conservation," said Holland.

He also said the NCC encourages people to also explore and enjoy our New Brunswick conservation sites for light recreational use, such as hiking, walking, photography, observing wildlife, bird watching, canoeing and kayaking or even playing Pokémon Go for those who wish to be outdoors and be in front of their screens.

The NCC will also take all submissions and enter them into a contest draw for a four-night luxury getaway for two people. The winner will have a choice of either the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise in Alberta or Fairmont Le Château Montebello in Montebello, Que.

How #NaturalHappyPlace Works:

Take a picture of a place in nature that inspires you.

Add it to our map one of the following ways:

Upload your photo directly to NCC's Facebook page, or on our website at natureconservancy.ca/naturalhappyplace

Share it on Twitter or Instagram, by using the Hashtag #NaturalHappyPlace and tagging both the location and @NCC_CNC. Make sure the geolocation is enabled.

Deadline for submissions is September 12, however, the map will still remain available for viewing after the contest closes.



Terry Myles, who owns this small property on Water Street, appeared before Miramichi city council on Tuesday, July 26, to state his case concerning an application to keep his trailer positioned on the land every summer. PHOTO: LUKE CARROLL/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Miramichi council mulls whether to side with planners or the PRAC on trailer application

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The owner of a small sliver of land along the Miramichi River in the heart of the city had a chance to state his case to city councillors in a bid to ensure that he can keep his travel trailer there without running afoul of municipal planning regulations.

Terry Myles, who has been working through the process of getting the city to tweak one of its bylaws to change the designation of the land, located just west of the Centennial Bridge on Water Street, to allow his family to continue to enjoy their summers from their waterfront perch, addressed the city during a public hearing Tuesday night. Myles' property is currently classified under the designation of a conservation area, which restricts most types of development.

In his application, Myles is hoping that council will sign off on an adjustment under the Community Planning Act that would allow the trailer to be set up there while being subjected to a series of specific guidelines.

Those would include provisions such as ensuring the trailer was only on the land from May to September and that it not be authorized for water and sewer hookup.

Professional planners with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission have recommended against Myles' proposal because of concerns they have over the stability of the land, which is showing signs of being impacted by coastal erosion.

The views of planners, who help guide a developer through these types of processes while offering opinions and drawing up reports, are at odds with another RSC body known as the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee, who are supportive of the application.

The PRAC, as they're known, are a small group of citizens who meet regularly to review different development applications while also providing a formal opinion for municipalities to take into consideration when these situations arise.

For his part, Myles implored council to carefully consider the views of the PRAC. He said any concerns about safety and erosion put forth by planners is overblown and that having his trailer there wasn't hurting anybody.

"I am not making light of the [planning] report, but there were some very misleading statements and suggestions that do not hold up to close examination," Myles said.

Among them, he said that one of the photos used in the report penned by

planners to illustrate the riverbank erosion was taken by him previously as a way of illustrating the impact a drainage pipe that ran through the property was having.

Myles said he later repaired the damage repaired at his own expense.

"[The damage] was not caused by climate change or river water," he said. "This drainage pipe was removed in 2005 by the city but the damage was not repaired – so after numerous requests [to the city], I had this job completed and paid the cost."

Addressing another concern cited in the report, which noted there was potential for the bank to give way due to the weight of the 3,200 pound trailer, Myles said he would direct their attention to the heavy truck traffic just steps away on Water Street that travel to the Arbec OSB mill every day.

"Cars and trucks, tonnes and tonnes each day – this property and riverbank hasn't changed in 50 years due to weather or weight," he said. "The PRAC didn't accept all of the statements and facts that were in this report – if it was true, the city should close Water Street to all heavy traffic."

The city has, in the last few years, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on shoreline protection measures for different sections of the Miramichi

River along Water Street, which is prone to the impacts of erosion.

Planner Justin Forbes, who put together the report on behalf of the RSC, provided council with a final, brief overview of the proposal Monday night and fielded a handful of questions.

Forbes noted that while Myles would not, under the regulations, be able to have access to water or sewer, on questioning from Coun. Tara Ross-Robinson, he said that they would indeed be able to connect to the NB Power grid.

Coun. Billy Fleiger, meanwhile, sought more details about how Myles, and apparently dozens of other properties, came to be redesignated as conservation areas.

City clerk Cathy Goguen, at that point, notified the meeting's chairperson, Coun. Tony "Bucket" Walsh, that Fleiger's question didn't relate specifically to the application being considered by council and therefore couldn't be answered in this type of forum.

Myles, meanwhile, said this situation has been ongoing for years and all his family was looking for now was a speedy resolution that will allow them to enjoy their property hassle-free.

Council will make a final determination on the matter at a later date.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

TO: **JOSEPH NORMAN GRAY**, of Miramichi, Mortgagor, and to all others to whom it may in any way concern.

Pursuant to the Property Act and a Power of Sale in a Mortgage between Joseph Norman Gray, Mortgagor, and Scotia Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, registered in the Northumberland County Land Titles Office on June 8, 2012 as Number 31570907, there will be for the purpose of satisfying the money secured by the said mortgage, default having been made in the payment thereof, sold at public auction at or near the main entrance to the Court House, 673 King George Highway, Miramichi, on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. the lands and premises described as follows: PID: 40272411 and being property located at 10 Forrest Street, Miramichi. TOGETHER WITH all the buildings and improvements thereon.

DATED August 5, 2016. W. Hugh Murphy, Murphy & Mollins, Authorized Agent for the Mortgagee, 89 Church Street, Moncton, (506) 852-7534.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

TO: **THE ESTATE OF JOHN CLARK WILSON**, Mortgagor

AND TO: **ALL OTHERS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

NOTICE is given under the Power of Sale in a Mortgage registered in the Northumberland County Land Titles Office on July 18, 2012 as Number 31722904 between the Late John Clark Wilson of McNamee, County of Northumberland, New Brunswick, Mortgagor, and Toronto-Dominion Bank, Mortgagee.

The property known as 265 McNamee Road, McNamee, County of Northumberland, New Brunswick, and known as Parcel Identifier Number (PID) 40086555 is to be sold at public auction, at the Miramichi Court House, 673 King George Hwy, Miramichi, New Brunswick on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 11:00a.m.

If a sufficient offer of purchase is not received, the property will be withdrawn and will be sold by private contract.

DATED this 2nd day of August, 2016.

TORONTO-DOMINION BANK
 By: LAWSON CREAMER
 Per: VERONICA L. FORD
 Solicitors for TORONTO-DOMINION BANK
 (TD Canada Trust)

EMPLOYMENT



The City of Miramichi is currently seeking applications for casual positions as **Pool Supervisors**.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to apply.

Flexible hours and training opportunities are available for applicants with a strong swimming capability.

Criminal record check for vulnerable sector is required.

To apply please submit a resume to humanresources@miramichi.org or by mail to the following address by **4:00 p.m., Friday August 26, 2016**:

Human Resources Department
 City of Miramichi
 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5

EMPLOYMENT

La Ville de Miramichi accepte actuellement des candidatures afin de combler des postes occasionnels de **superviseur piscine**.

Les postulants doivent être âgés de 18 ans ou plus.

Heures de travail variables et possibilités de formation disponibles pour les postulants avec de fortes capacités en natation.

Une vérification judiciaire du secteur vulnérable est nécessaire.

Les personnes intéressées sont priées de soumettre leur curriculum vitae par courriel à l'adresse humanresources@miramichi.org ou par la poste à l'adresse suivante avant **16h, vendredi le 26 août 2016**:

Service des ressources humaines
 Ville de Miramichi
 141, rue Henry, Miramichi (N.-B.) E1V 2N5



TEMPORARY 911 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION OFFICER

The City of Miramichi is seeking temporary Public Safety Communication Operator for the E911 Operation.

Candidate must possess a High School Diploma and be capable of operating a computer for data entry and retrieval purposes at an average speed of 35 w.p.m. Post secondary education would be an asset. Candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Bilingual capacity Provincial Level Intermediate Plus (2+) is required. The successful candidate must be highly motivated and possess the ability to handle stressful situations.

Successful candidate must pass a medical examination, as well as security clearance/background check. Candidate will also be subject to a series of evaluations/tests and training period.

Interested candidates may forward a detailed resume with references no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, August 26, 2016**.

City of Miramichi
 Human Resources Department
 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5
humanresources@miramichi.org

AGENT DE COMMUNICATION DE LA SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE 911 TEMPORAIRE

La Ville de Miramichi est à la recherche d'Opérateur des communications de sécurité publique temporaires pour l'opération de l'urgence 911.

Le candidat doit posséder un diplôme d'études secondaires et être capable d'utiliser un ordinateur pour l'entrée de données et fonctions de recherche à une vitesse de 35 mots à la minute. Une éducation post-secondaire serait un atout. Le postulant doit avoir d'excellentes habiletés de communication écrite et verbale. Compétence bilingue de niveau provincial intermédiaire plus (2+). Le candidat choisi doit être très motivé et posséder la capacité de gérer des situations stressantes.

Le candidat choisi doit subir un examen médical, ainsi qu'une vérification de sécurité et des antécédents. Le candidat sera aussi soumis à une batterie d'évaluations et de tests ainsi qu'une période de formation.

Les candidats intéressés peuvent faire parvenir un curriculum vitae détaillé accompagné de références, au plus tard à **16h, vendredi le 26 août 2016** à :

City of Miramichi
 Human Resources Department
 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5
humanresources@miramichi.org

Temporary Tourism Administrator



Administrateur du tourisme - temporaire

The City of Miramichi is currently seeking applications for the position of Temporary Tourism Administrator.

Required Qualifications : Bachelor's degree with a concentration in tourism, marketing or equivalent degree with a minimum of two (2) years experience in tourism or certificate in marketing with a minimum of four (4) years experience in tourism.

Bilingualism would be considered as asset.

Responsibilities:

- Develops implements and evaluates strategies for City tourism activity.
- Prepares, develops ad copy and designs layout for advertising
- Responsible for City website/social media overall maintenance and update.
- Co-ordinates and/or assists with special projects and promotions.
- Communicates with various community organizations, provincial departments, numerous tourism agencies and public.
- Develops partnerships with various organizations to promote tourism.
- Prepares various reports, correspondence and editorial content.
- Attends meetings and tradeshows as required.
- Assists in preparation of annual department budget including preparing trade show portion of promotion budget.

Wages and benefits in accordance with CUPE Local 3863 Collective Agreement.

Please submit a detailed resume clearly marked "Temporary Tourism Administrator" to the following address by **4:00 p.m., Friday, August 26, 2016**:

Human Resources Department
 City of Miramichi
 141 Henry Street Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5
humanresources@miramichi.org

La Ville de Miramichi accepte actuellement des candidatures au poste temporaire d'administrateur du tourisme.

Exigences requises : Baccalauréat avec une concentration en tourisme, en marketing ou un diplôme équivalent avec un minimum de deux (2) années d'expérience en tourisme ou un certificat en marketing avec un minimum de quatre (4) années d'expérience en tourisme.

Le bilinguisme serait un atout.

Responsabilités :

- Mettre au point, mettre en place et évaluer des stratégies en faveur de l'activité touristique de la Ville.
- Préparer et développer des textes publicitaires; concevoir les mises en page pour les publicités.
- Responsable du maintien global et de la mise à jour du site Web et des médias sociaux de la Ville.
- Assurer la coordination et/ou apporter un appui au niveau des projets spéciaux et des promotions.
- Communiquer avec divers organismes communautaires, services provinciaux, agences touristiques et le grand public.
- Développer des partenariats avec divers organismes afin de promouvoir le tourisme.
- Préparer différents rapports, correspondances et contenus rédactionnels.
- Participer à des réunions et à des salons commerciaux au besoin.
- Contribuer à la préparation du budget annuel du service, y compris la préparation de la composante « salon commercial » du budget de promotion.

Salaires et avantages sociaux conformément à la convention collective du SCFP local 3863.

Veuillez faire parvenir un curriculum vitae détaillé dans un enveloppe qui porte clairement la mention « Administrateur du tourisme - temporaire » à l'adresse suivante avant le **16 h, vendredi le 26 août, 2016**.

Service des ressources humaines
 Ville de Miramichi
 141, rue Henry, Miramichi (N.-B.) E1V 2N5
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TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MIRAMICHI



The City of Miramichi intends to consider an amendment to By-Law No. 91 entitled "City of Miramichi Zoning By-Law".

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to rezone property described as PID 40223141 (located on the south side of Devin Street at Rennie Road), from "Single and Two-Unit Dwelling Zone" (R-2) to "Mini/Mobile Home Park Zone" (RP) to allow expansion of the existing MacTavish Mini-Home Park to add four (4) new mini-home sites.

Interested parties may inspect the proposed by-law at the Office of the Clerk in City Hall, 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days.

Objections to the proposed by-law, which are presented in writing, shall be considered at a public hearing to be held at City Hall, 141 Henry Street, on August 23rd, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to support or oppose those objections may do so at that time and place.

All written objections shall be addressed to Cathy Goguen, City Clerk, 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5.

Cathy Goguen
 City Clerk

AVIS AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE VILLE DE MIRAMICHI

La Ville de Miramichi envisage de modifier l'Arrêté no 91 intitulé « Arrêté de zonage de la Ville de Miramichi ».

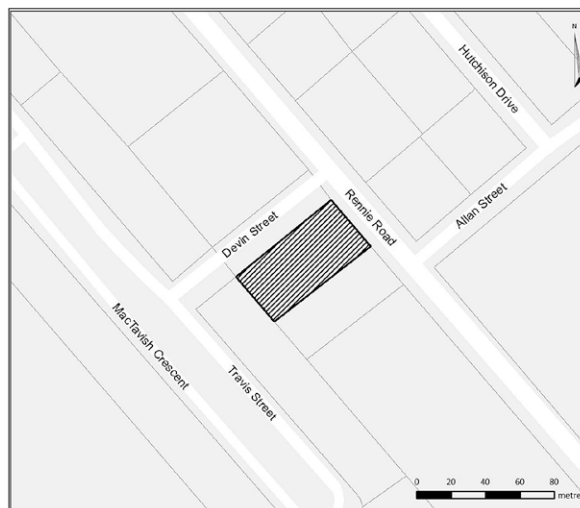
L'objet de la modification proposée est de rezoner la propriété décrite sous le NID 40223141 (située du côté sud de la rue Devin au chemin Rennie), « Habitation unifamiliale ou bifamiliale » (R-2) à « Parc de mini maisons ou maisons mobiles » (RP) afin de permettre l'agrandissement du parc de mini maisons MacTavish actuel pour y ajouter quatre (4) nouveaux terrains pour aménager des mini maisons.

Les parties intéressées peuvent étudier les arrêtés proposés au bureau du secrétaire municipal, à l'hôtel de ville, au 141, rue Henry, Miramichi NB, de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, durant les heures d'ouverture.

Les objections à l'arrêté proposé doivent être présentées par écrit et seront prises en considération lors d'une audience publique à l'hôtel de ville, au 141, rue Henry, le 23 août 2016, à 18 h. Quiconque souhaitant offrir son soutien ou désirant s'opposer à ces objections pourront le faire à ce moment et à cet endroit.

Toutes les objections écrites peuvent être envoyées à l'intention de Cathy Goguen, secrétaire municipale, 141, rue Henry, Miramichi, N.-B. E1V 2N5

Cathy Goguen
 Secrétaire municipale



NOTICE PUBLIC PRESENTATION CITY OF MIRAMICHI



The City of Miramichi intends to consider amendments to its Municipal Development Plan, being By-Law No. 90 entitled "City of Miramichi Municipal Development Plan By-Law".

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to permit a change in land use designation from "Residential" to "Commercial" for a portion of the property described as PID# 40261364 (adjacent to 564 Water Street, PID 40263139).

The Council will proceed with a Public Presentation of the proposed amendment on August 30th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber at 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB.

The proposed By-Law is available for inspection by the general public at City Hall during regular operating hours.

Objections to the proposed by-law may be presented in writing to the Council by forwarding them to the Office of the City Clerk, 141 Henry Street, Miramichi, NB E1V2N5, within thirty (30) days of the date of public presentation.

Cathy Goguen
 City Clerk

AVIS PRÉSENTATION PUBLIQUE VILLE DE MIRAMICHI

La Ville de Miramichi a l'intention de prendre en considération des modifications à son Plan d'aménagement municipal, étant l'Arrêté n° 90 intitulé « Arrêté du Plan d'aménagement municipal de la Ville de Miramichi ».

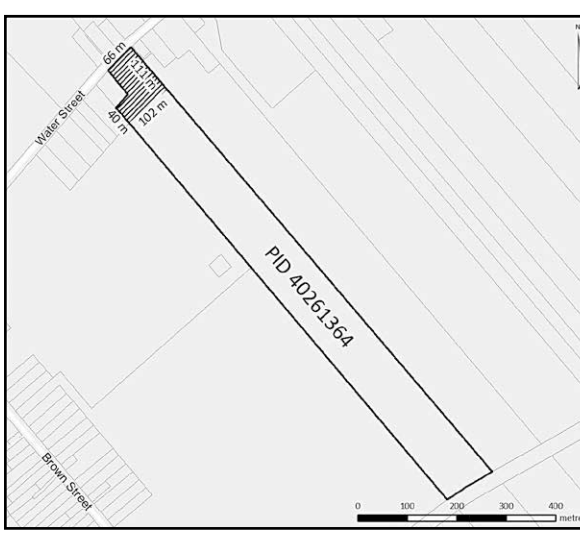
L'objet de la modification proposée est de permettre d'apporter un changement à la désignation de l'utilisation des terres de « zone résidentielle » à « zone commerciale » d'une partie de la propriété identifiées comme NID n° 40261364 (adjacent au 564, rue Water, NID n° 40263139).

Le Conseil présentera publiquement la modification proposée le 30 août 2016 à 18 h dans la salle du conseil située au 141, rue Henry, à Miramichi, au N.-B.

L'arrêté proposé est accessible au public pour étude à l'hôtel de ville durant les heures ordinaires d'ouverture.

Les objections à l'arrêté proposé peuvent être présentées par écrit au Conseil en les faisant parvenir au Bureau du secrétaire municipale, 141, rue Henry, Miramichi, N.-B. E1V 2N5, dans les trente (30) jours de la date de la présentation publique.

Cathy Goguen
 Secrétaire municipale



TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

TENDER/GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE

The Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi invites applications for the following awards:

- 1) John Crosbie Memorial Scholarship - Value \$3,000**
- 2) Len Robertson Memorial Scholarship - Value \$3,000**
...to a son or daughter of a member in good standing of the Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi. This will be awarded to a student entering first year studies at a Canadian University.
- 3) Education Grants - Valued at \$2,000 each**
... to relatives of members in good standing of the Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi. The student must be planning to attend an institution providing post-secondary education.

Application forms are available from the undersigned and must be returned by the deadline of **September 15, 2016**.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
P.O. Box 303, Miramichi, NB E1N 3A6



PUBLIC NOTICE
BY-LAW ENACTED AND REGISTERED

The City of Miramichi has enacted the following by-law:

By-Law No. 91-9, A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 91, City of Miramichi Zoning By-Law, was approved by the Municipal Council of the City of Miramichi on August 9, 2016 and was filed in the Northumberland County Registry Office on August 10, 2016 as No. 36209667.

Cathy Goguen
City Clerk

AVIS PUBLIC
ARRÊTÉ ÉDICTÉ ET ENREGISTRÉ

La Ville de Miramichi a édicté l'arrêté suivant :

L'arrêté n° 91-9, un arrêté portant modification de l'arrêté n° 91, l'arrêté de zonage de la Ville de Miramichi, a été approuvé par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Miramichi le 9 août 2016 et a été enregistré au bureau d'enregistrement du comté de Northumberland le 10 août 2016 sous le numéro 36209667.

Cathy Goguen
Secrétaire municipale

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community

Cow patty bingo donation



Pat Finnigan, member of parliament of Miramichi-Grand Lake won the Schizophrenia Society of New Brunswick's Miramichi Chapter's annual Cow Patty Bingo, held at MacDonald's Historic Farm on Sunday, Aug. 7. Finnigan donated the \$500 prize, which was donated by LJ Patterson, back to the schizophrenia society. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Why terminal cancer patients will suffer to protect the lives of those addicted to drugs



The Doctor Game Dr. Gifford Jones

How history repeats itself! Today, politicians are once again ignoring the pain of terminal cancer patients. At the same time, they are shooting themselves in the foot by making illogical remarks about pain. This human folly takes me back 37 years.

In January 1979, I wrote a New Year's resolution in this column to petition the government to legalize medical heroin to ease the agony of terminal cancer patients. I knew that heroin had been used in English hospitals for 90 years, so why not have this painkiller available in North America? But rather than being applauded for my compassion, all hell broke loose.

One well-known cancer specialist labelled me "a misinformed headline-seeking journalist". The Cancer Society argued that morphine was as good as heroin "in most cases". It provided no alternative if you were not one of the "most cases". Besides, it's a physiological fact that heroin is more potent than morphine. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and The Journal of Hospital Pharmacy worried about security. And doctors who damned the use of heroin had to admit they had never used it. So much for scientific curiosity!

The volume of negativity around heroin was so intense I decided to visit England and Scotland to get a first-hand look at how heroin was used in these countries.

One of the most heartrending moments was when I visited the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London where children were dying of cancer. I asked why heroin was prescribed? The nurses replied, "They prefer heroin as it eases their pain and gives them a fuzzy feeling". Surely, I thought that was the least that could be done for them.

In London, I interviewed Scotland Yard detectives who told me there was no problem with security. They and the Drug Officials in Edinburgh said they had more important problems to worry about.

I discovered that heroin was the first medication emergency doctors administered to heart attack victims, to relieve their pain and anxiety. Doctors were also prescribing heroin to women with difficult childbirth, and patients with severe burns. And family physicians told me they always carried heroin in their bags in case they encountered an accident where it was needed. In other words, all I had heard from the medical establishment in Canada was untrue.

So what happened? On my return I wrote more columns about the medical need of heroin. Finally readers who had lost a loved one and witnessed their final agony, sent me letters and money to promote this

cause. Eventually I delivered 40,000 stamped letters (not e-mails) to the Federal Minister of Health in Ottawa all demanding that politicians legalize heroin for terminal cancer patients.

On Dec. 20 1984, the Minister of Health announced the government's intention to legalize heroin as a painkiller. \$500,000 from readers' donations then established the Gifford-Jones Professorship in Pain Control and Palliative Care at the University of Toronto Medical School.

The volume of negativity around heroin was so intense I decided to visit England and Scotland to get a first-hand look at how heroin was used in these countries.

So 37 years later? Now the Minister of Health of Ontario has announced that doctors will no longer be able to prescribe high dose opioids to either addicts or cancer patients. It's an asinine ruling that must be questioned.

Everyone must ask this question, "Why should a loved one in final agony be denied high doses of opioids just because addicts want to get high?"

The lack of good sense remains the same. For example, an official associated with this study remarked, "It is reassuring that the vast majority of palliative care patients will not be impacted by this policy." Why would anyone make such a foolish statement? Isn't there any empathy for others who will be impacted?

Families of the dying should vigorously protest when loved ones suffer from inadequate painkillers. English specialists told me patients in severe pain do not become addicted to painkillers and can be weaned off huge doses quickly if remission of malignancy occurs.

It's hard to believe that cancer patients with a few days to live are denied sufficient painkillers for fear of addiction. Today common sense has become an uncommon commodity.

Dr. W. Gifford-Jones
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Columnist, published author and long-time family physician. His web site is www.docgiff.com

A look into the history of Miramichi's residential and land inhabitants



Remembering Loggieville Don Ross

(c) The first indication that the James Murdoch rent was a duplex was that Frank P. Flaherty's daughter Susan and her husband Wilbur Murdoch were moving into their rent - on the other side of the "divider."

Wilbur Murdoch (1891-1983), son of Long George and Janet (McKinnon) Murdoch of the next lot on East Point Road and Susan/Susie Flaherty (1911-1985) would call this home for the first eight years of their life together - They married on Feb. 2 1935.

Wilbur and Susie had a family of nine, with the first six being born while at Manderson Beach; namely, Francis/Cod (1936-1999), Eleanor (April 1937 to September 1937), Edith (b.1938), Isabel (b.1939), Marie (b.1940) and John (b.1944) - Pauline (b.1947), Anna (b.1949) and Caroline (b.1954) after they left East Point Road.

Wilbur and Susie moved to the Charlie Blizzard abode in 1943 for a nine year stretch. Pauline and Anna arrived to increase the family number to eight.

As Jean MacKenzie moved out of the Gibson cottage in 1952, Wilbur and family moved in for a six year stay. Their youngest child, Caroline rounded out the family in 1954 (see Byron Dealy article).

By 1958 the family was dispersing as they matured and the remainder moved to an apartment in Chatham.

Wilbur came to his demise at Mount Saint Joseph in 1983 and Susie died

two years later at the Tweedie Manor on 71 King St. (see Wilbur with the Long George Murdoch articles).

(d) The last rent to this James Murdoch house was James and Catherine (O'Brien) Kelly, both native to this village, offspring of David and Ethel (Burke) Kelly and Ned and Lil (Cameron) O'Brien respectively.

First married James and Catherine lived the first two blissful years in this home - 1947 to 1948. Their first born, Paul Kelly was born during this tenure. They moved from here to the Zena Walls rent on Water Street on the north side of the street opposite the Robert Johnston house; the Peter and Joanne McLean home of today.

James and Catherine Kelly would eventually have a family of five; namely, Paul (b.1947), Donna (b.1949), David (1951-2007), Jimmy (b.1954) and Joan (b.1962).

In 1931 Will Manderson of Loggieville's High Field Street via the Manderson/Wilson land grants below the Wilson Hill running into today's Taintville, bought the James Murdoch estate on the East Point Road.

Will Manderson and wife Katie Loggie had two children; Parker (1911-1997) and Roberta (b.1919).

The Manderson's never lived in the James Murdoch house as a residence for they had built their own home on Highfield Street in 1907, but after they discontinued the renting practice they did use the said house as a summer cottage while they built their recreational beach area.

Will Manderson, one of the premiere carpenters of this community built three cottages on the shore front in 1933 and two more in 1934. The business was growing and then the 1935 Loggieville forest fire materialized - they lost the five cottages!

I insert here: prior to the 5 Manderson cottages going up in smoke; the neighbour on the east side lost their home and barn (Billy Angus Murdoch); while then leaving the Manderson cottages the fire levelled some cottages on the west side (Washburn Beach).

Will Manderson would persevere for he built ten new cottages in 1936-1937. He would thereafter guide the beach-campground business into the future, for it still operates today (2015).

Will Manderson's son Parker Manderson inherited the turf and business. Parker married Loggieville's Vera Russell, daughter of Willie and Jean (McDermaid) Russell. Parker and Vera had two sons; John (b.1943) and Peter (1945-2011).

Both sons worked the "Beach Operation" but Peter Manderson followed his father Parker as owner and operator of the business.

Peter Manderson married Debbie Taylor, daughter of William and Anne (Sinclair) Taylor of Halcomb. Peter and Debbie had four children; namely, Ashley (1971-2012), Marsha (b.1975), Trenda (b.1978) and Lynette (b.1985).

Today Peter's widow Debbie Manderson handles the affairs of the campground.

To close on Lot #2 is to address the James Murdoch house! In 1982 Parker Manderson sold the "summer home" to Mike and Mary (Ross) Mott for \$1. He didn't want to demolish the 142 year old heritage type house.

Mike and Mary Mott had the Lot #2 original homestead hauled to the adjacent Lot #3 turf, but they did cross the highway.

After major renovations and additions the Mott's still maintain the house as their home (2015), \$1 you say! Well it did cost \$4,000 to have it moved across the street (see Mike and Mary Mott article).

A third generation Murdoch at East Point, George Murdoch Jr., son of George Murdoch Sr. and wife Bell Gilchrist, married Anne Taylor and then moved to the Blackville area, more specifically Howards. There he operated a farm as well as an Inn. The Inn-keeper George's establishment could be termed a Tavern.

Don Ross

is a former principal and life-long resident of Loggieville. His column focuses on the history of that community

business

Plywood mill sale hinges on restart: owner

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • The owner of the city's plywood mill says that after pumping millions of dollars into the facility and still falling short of his objective of reviving it, he's hoping for all hands on deck in a final bid to push it across the finish line.

Jean-Yves Cardinal further clarified his plans for the dormant Riverstone Plywood mill after confirming earlier this month that he was looking to sell and has been for months.

Cardinal, who bought the former Atcon property out of receivership proceedings for an undisclosed amount back in 2013, said in a detailed statement that he firmly believes the mill can still be a profitable venture and serve as a catalyst to help re-ignite Miramichi's forestry sector.

The only catch at this point, he said, is that a handful of potential suitors who have expressed formal interest in the property are only willing to come on after the mill is back online and in production.

In the meantime, Cardinal said he was actively seeking help from investors to keep the project afloat and get it to the point where it's active and, therefore, desirable to the proponents Riverstone has identified.

"Of the potential buyers of the mill, we have identified three established plywood mill producers that have an interest to operate it after a restart is completed since their shareholders are not prepared to participate in a startup of the mill," he said.

"Since they are public companies, the scenario is similar in that they are telling us 'come see us after a few months of production.'"

A reopening of the mill, he said, would create 425 direct and indirect jobs and provide a steady local market for large-diameter timber cuts, something the region's private woodlot owners have been looking for since the closure of the Miramichi Lumber mill a few years ago.

Cardinal said he wants to see the plywood mill, one of only a handful in Canada, become viable but came to the realization there were too many hurdles left to clear to make that a realistic proposition.

Shedding some light on what's been hindering the process, he noted that while his own company has invested heavily in the mill, Riverstone has been having some difficulty securing financing



The Riverstone Plywood Mill in Nelson, which Quebec entrepreneur Jean-Yves Cardinal has purchased and is now working toward selling. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

from different lenders.

He also suggested that if the property is to ever spring back to life and reach its economic potential, that government may have to take on a bigger role.

"Several potential buyers have visited the mill and they all said it is one of the most efficient mills they have ever seen, that the equipment is well-located and potentially profitable," Cardinal said.

"[But] potential buyers are all small and need help from all levels of government – banks and private funds are worried to lend due to the fact the mill hasn't operated in several years."

The Quebec businessman, who has worked in different capacities in the forestry sector for many years, including most recently as the vice-president of sales for Montreal's Sitka group, also provided for the first time a rundown of how much Riverstone has invested into the mill since the court approved its bid three years ago.

He noted the company is paying \$150,000 per year just to insure the facility, on top of \$110,000 in annual property taxes, \$50,000 in power bills and \$10,000 for land maintenance.

The site is also staffed by a skeleton crew of four workers, who are collectively paid salaries totalling \$250,000, he said.

As for the next stages of this process, he said it's important that any buyer who comes in to take this on is committed to making it work in Miramichi.

"Local investors are welcome to help us to start that mill, create these jobs and increase the wealth of the Miramichi Valley."

JEAN-YVES CARDINAL

He said the short list of three potential investors identified this year match that description.

With that in mind, he urged anybody

who wants to see the mill succeed to reach out.

"Local investors are welcome to help us to start that mill, create these jobs and increase the wealth of the Miramichi Valley and give hope to the population," Cardinal said.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser, whose riding is Miramichi, is well-acquainted with the plywood file.

He was in government when Atcon shut it down in 2008 and was in opposition when different proponents were vying for the rights to take it over.

Fraser, who is also responsible for the Miramichi regional economic development stimulus fund, said he still hopes the mill will eventually find a way to get back into production and said the provincial government has been active in trying to pair Riverstone with potential investors.

"Opportunities New Brunswick has been involved, as well as DNR, and as recently as two weeks ago I met with a potential [buyer] who was looking to purchase and operate the mill and I made sure they had an audience," he said.

"At the end of the day, anything we do has to make financial sense and it has to be something that is sustainable for the long-term, because the last thing I want to see is the taxpayers of the province investing a significant amount of money and have the place shut down after a year or two and have people out of work again."

Fraser also offered praise to Cardinal for sticking with the process for this long and showing commitment to the Miramichi, despite the apparent challenges he's had in realizing his plans.

He said Riverstone are entitled to do whatever they want with the property, including selling off the equipment piece-by-piece and trying to recoup some of their investment.

But they haven't, and Fraser said that speaks volumes.

"I think Mr. Cardinal had great intentions when he purchased the site but he said it himself, he's getting up in age and he needs to have the process move along," he said. "And we understand that, so at the same time we're encouraged he's still actively out there trying to pursue interests in the mill."

Construction begins on new Tim Hortons coming to Miramichi

Construction is expected to last 14 to 16 weeks, having broke ground on Tuesday, Aug. 2

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

There's a new Tim Hortons coming to town.

Construction crews have been busy on the King Street extension along Route 11 working on the new store after breaking ground Aug. 2.

The project, expected to last about 14 to 16 weeks, will likely see the new store open sometime in November or December.

The new King Street coffee shop will be situated next to where the current store is located, closer to the Pro Nature outdoor specialty shop. The existing store will eventually be demolished once construction on the new one wraps up.

Heather Shaddick, the general manager for Miramichi, said the new location will have a bigger parking lot and will be equipped with a double drive-through.

"We decided to do a new building because it has a lot of advantages being over there," said Shaddick. "We're going to be able to have a longer drive-through section, more parking. Those are two of the big advantages."

The double drive-through will also be the first one constructed in Miramichi, which features five Tim Hortons



Construction work has begun on a new Tim Hortons in Miramichi, which will be adjacent to the current restaurant. PHOTO: LUKE CARROLL/MIRAMICHI LEADER



Workers can be seen on site at the new Tim Hortons location on King Street/Route 11. PHOTO: LUKE CARROLL/MIRAMICHI LEADER

locations. There are seven within the Miramichi region, with the other two in Doaktown and Neguac.

It's a common sight at the corner of King and Maher streets, particularly during the morning and afternoon rush, to see cars lined-up at the drive through backed out onto the highway as customers wait to place their order.

Shaddick said with the newer, longer drive through and parking lot at the new shop, it should eliminate that

problem entirely.

Fencing is sectioning off the construction site from the existing location right now, with the concrete foundation already poured.

The 3,600 square-foot facility will be able to seat upwards of 66 people.

Shaddick said staff are excited to have a new store.

"They're going to have all of the newest state-of-the-art equipment that is available to Tim Hortons," she said. "It's

going to be a huge benefit to have more parking, easier to get in and out of."

The King Street location maintains 30 part and full time employees but with the new store opening this winter, Shaddick said the plan is to hire an additional 12 to 15 employees on top of that complement. Shaddick said the hiring process will begin next month, followed by the necessary training they will need in preparation for the new store.

"There's going to be jobs in both

production and store front positions, full-time and part-time."

Shaddick said it's common practice for restaurants to undergo renovations. In the case of the local Tim Hortons, the most recent example was a partial renovation in 2015 at the location across from Queen Elizabeth Park. The newest Tim Hortons constructed in the Miramichi area was the one in Doaktown, which also underwent a full renovation almost two years ago.

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Hearings for Bathurst officers charged in shooting begin

JENNIFER BISHOP
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

BATHURST • The first day of the preliminary hearing for two Bathurst Police Force officers facing manslaughter charges following the death of a Tracadie man has wrapped up.

Const. Patrick Bulger, 38, of Beresford and Const. Mathieu Boudreau, 26, of Dunlop were present in Bathurst provincial court Tuesday, Aug. 23, for day one of the hearing.

Bulger and Boudreau, officers with the Bathurst Police Force, are each charged with manslaughter with a weapon, two counts of assault with a weapon and two counts of unlawfully pointing a firearm in relation to the death of Michel Vienneau, 51, who was shot outside the Bathurst train station on Jan. 12, 2015.

Members of Vienneau's family were present in court.

Bulger is being represented by Saint John-based defence lawyer Brian Munro, and Boudreau is being represented by Fredericton-based defence lawyer T.J. Burke.

The Tuesday morning court session began with Boudreau's preliminary hearing and Bulger's hearing will follow.

Judge Anne Dugas-Horsman, of Moncton, is the judge presiding over the preliminary hearings. She agreed to separate preliminary hearings for each officer and that testimony and evidence relevant for both cases can be heard and submitted only once to save time.

Representing the Crown are Karen Lee, who is based in Fredericton, and Stephen Holt, who is based in Moncton. Both prosecutors were present for the day-long hearing.

The charges the officers are facing are indictable, meaning more serious than summary offences. Accused persons are given the opportunity to elect which court their matter will be heard in. In this case, Bulger and Boudreau elected the Court of Queen's Bench by judge and jury, which is the higher court. The other options are the Court of Queen's Bench by judge alone, or provincial court, which is the lowest court and is always with judge alone.

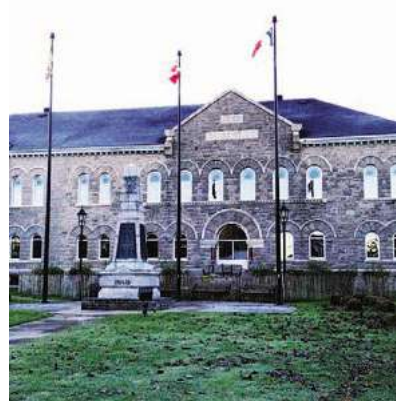
Matters set for the Court of Queen's Bench can have a preliminary inquiry held to determine if there's enough evidence to commit them to trial on the offences.

During a court appearance Feb. 3, the officers elected to be tried in the Court of Queen's Bench by judge and jury. They have yet to enter a plea.

As with all preliminary inquiries, any evidence or testimony presented is subject to a publication ban. The dates set aside for the continuation of the preliminary hearings are Aug. 23 to Aug. 26, Sept. 6 to Sept. 9, and Oct. 4 to Oct. 7. When the dates were initially set by Judge Ronald LeBlanc, he expected the hearings would each take about seven days.

Proceedings for both officers will be held in English.

Both officers are suspended with pay pending the outcome of the case.



Bathurst provincial court
PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

Tensions high as Douglstown residents argue against mini home application

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • A former city police chief and a senior ranking official with the Horizon Health Network are among the residents of a Douglstown neighbourhood who spoke out against a rezoning application that would extend the reach of a mini home park closer to a busy residential street.

Tensions were high as a crowd of close to 30 people crammed into the council chambers at Miramichi City Hall Tuesday night to take in a mandatory public hearing on the application submitted by developer Devin MacTavish.

The younger MacTavish, whose family has operated the MacTavish Trailer Park for decades, is looking to rezone a piece of land on the south side of Devin Street, which leads into the main park and intersects with the Rennie Road, in order to make way for four new mini home lots.

Planners with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission and members of the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee are both recommending to the city that the application be allowed to move ahead.

Planner Colleen Bawn noted that the city's own municipal development plan encourages this type of development to take place as a means of promoting affordable housing.

Although the rezoning from residential to a mini home designation, in this case, would require variances related to property depth, which fall just short of what the current bylaw allows, Bawn said the view of the commission is that the project is a sound one.

"This proposal is consistent with your policies – very consistent," Bawn said.

People who live nearby, however, say they're worried about the impact having four new mobile homes positioned so close to the road instead of tucked further back in the main trailer park will have on their property values.

Both sides had ample opportunity to clarify their stance to council, who will vote on whether or not to approve the rezoning at a later meeting. Only the five councillors who attended Tuesday's hearing will be able to vote on the matter when it comes back likely in a few weeks time.

Earl Campbell, the former chief of the Miramichi Police Force, has been a resident of the Rennie Road since 1980 and told council that he and his wife "strongly object" to the proposal.

Campbell said he believes the application effectively amounts to the creation of a new trailer park despite being located steps away from the existing MacTavish park.

He also said he didn't buy the argument that the developer was restricted to placing the mini homes on this



Neighbours who live near this piece of land located on Devin Street at Rennie Road, which leads into the main MacTavish Trailer Park, are worried about a plan to rezone the land in order to establish four new mini home lots.

PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

particular piece of land rather than expanding the existing park further north and, thus, further back from the Rennie Road.

MacTavish and Jay Shanahan, the city's director of public works, both noted that a northward expansion likely wasn't possible due to the presence of a protected wellfield area nearby and a tightening of provincial environmental regulations a few years back.

"The suggestion that it cannot be expanded north, quite frankly I don't understand because currently they are already on city water and sewer in the trailer park and the last trailer is still, I would say, 1,000 metres or more from the wellhead," Campbell said.

Shanahan clarified that while the park is hooked up to the municipal water supply and that theoretically the pipes could be extended north, the rules are quite stringent around development of any sort taking place in a protected wellfield zone.

The retired chief shot back, saying he knows of some new homes that have been recently built further up the Rennie Road, which he says are likely closer to the wellhead than it would be if the MacTavish was to place the four new lots inside the park proper.

"In speaking to some people from [the Department of Environment] that council must get that answered," Campbell said. "If the wellfield can't be extended north then fine and dandy, but I think you'll find different."

Devin MacTavish, meanwhile, reiterated that the business has been in operation for over 40 years and that

the organization prides itself on the image of its park and places an emphasis on maintenance and upkeep.

He said any suggestion from neighbouring residents that the value of their properties will be impacted by this project are unfounded, adding that park residents are taxpayers as well, with roughly 40 per cent of them retirees.

MacTavish said there is also a lack of balance in the local housing market, particularly for those who might not have the means or desire to own a conventional home or to rent an apartment.

"I'm trying to provide a necessary service to this city in a high-demand sector," MacTavish said. "There are nearly 11,765 private households available in this city and only 845 of which are mobile homes – this broad comparison shows the obvious need for my development ... and mini homes today are built to the same specifications or better than most new homes."

He added that his company only allows homes in the park that were manufactured in 2012 or later, pointing out that the models that will be placed on the Devin Street site, pending the rezoning approval, will be brand new.

MacTavish also appeared to question the authenticity of the apparent level of opposition to his application in the area.

"Out of the seven total objection letters, three complaints appear to be written by one individual and this is based on the appearance of the letter, the font used and the whiteout,"

he said. "It appears as though this concern does not truly exist among all that have written or they would have taken the time to personally prepare a statement."

A petition bearing the names of 120 residents of the Rennie Road area was presented to city clerk Cathy Goguen during the hearing, with the letters of opposition also filed in advance of the meeting.

MacTavish, meanwhile, took the time to read a pair of support letters he received from a pair of local businesses whose services he harnessed in helping prepare the site for development.

Gary Foley, another Rennie Road resident and the current vice-president of professional services for Horizon, spoke on behalf of the delegation of neighbours.

He said that the concern about property values and of the deviation from the city's bylaws regarding lot depth were most definitely genuine.

"Each signatory of the petition welcomed the visit and were very agreeable to submit their names," Foley said. "We respectfully ask council to support our objection."

This is the second time within the last few years that residents of the neighbourhood have opposed a new development.

In 2012, a number of people who live a couple of streets over on Hutchison Drive rallied unsuccessfully against an application to build a 24-unit apartment building near the bottom of the street close to the rear of the Northumberland Square mall.

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news

Community marks grand opening of nursing home

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Although the Central New Brunswick Nursing Home in Upper Miramichi has been up and running for nearly a year now, the community was just recently able to come together with government officials to mark the completion of the \$9 million project.

Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Lisa Harris joined municipal officials, along with staff and residents of the 30-bed nursing home last week to celebrate an official grand opening.

Upper Miramichi Mayor Douglas Munn said the new nursing home has been a significant addition to the community in that it was new infrastructure that was badly needed.

"We had our grand opening and it's a state-of-the-art building that is also the largest employer in our community right now," Munn said. "It's a pretty big deal, and while we still rely on forestry here, that home employs more people than anywhere else."

Funding for the new home was secured under the former Progressive Conservative government as part of its 2011 plan for long-term care.

The facility is located in the former village of Boiestown on a piece of land that once housed the former Upper Miramichi Regional High School.

The high school was demolished a few years back with the opening of the Central New Brunswick Academy located just up Route 8 about midway between Boiestown and Doaktown.

It replaces the former Central New Brunswick Nursing home, which



Lisa Harris, minister of seniors and long-term care, was on hand for the official opening of the Central New Brunswick Nursing Home in Boiestown on Friday, Aug. 26. Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left, Central New Brunswick Nursing Home board chair Roxanne Stewart, Michael Keating executive director of the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes, Harris, Upper Miramichi Mayor Douglas Munn and nursing home administrator Manley Black. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

residents moved out of last November.

Like most of the rest of the Miramichi region, Upper Miramichi is an aging community with limited options for long-term care.

In opening up the new nursing home, Munn said that seniors in his community now have access to the kind of safe, modern environment as people in other parts of the province.

"There's a lot of issues happening in the province and the aging population is one of the main ones," Munn said. "So

this is a great thing for us."

The Upper Miramichi project is just one of a few major seniors care projects taking place in different parts of the Miramichi.

Harris confirmed last week that the opening of the long-awaited Complex Rendez-Vous in Neguac is likely to take place at some point this fall.

The roughly \$9 million facility will include 23 single rooms, three double rooms, one specialty room, two bathrooms, a shower room, a dining room,

two salons, a multipurpose room and office space.

Construction has been well underway since August 2014 but the project has been hampered by delays.

In Miramichi city, meanwhile, the government has said it hopes to have a developer of a new 240-bed nursing home identified by early 2017 after opening up a tendering process earlier this year.

The building will be built, operated and maintained using a private-public

partnership, also known as a P3.

Construction would likely begin sometime next spring, however a location for the new building has not been determined yet.

When it does eventually open, it will be the largest capacity nursing home in New Brunswick.

Currently, each of the three P3 nursing homes in the province are all owned by the Shannex corporation.

Another private seniors development is also set to pick up on the former St. Mary's convent property in Newcastle.

When it does eventually open, it will be the largest capacity nursing home.

Alleira Living, a private company that specializes in building and operating independent and assisted living facilities for seniors, is moving ahead with a 96-bed facility.

Once completed, it will feature 60 assisted-living suites, designated as Level 2 care by the provincial Department of Social Development, the complex will also feature 36 "memory-care" beds for residents suffering from different forms of dementia.

It will be the first of its kind in the Miramichi, with construction expected to take about 10 months.

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Court

The following are court briefs from Miramichi provincial court on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Judge Geri Mahoney was presiding while defence lawyer Simon Wood was acting as duty counsel and Charlotte Bourque represented the Crown.

Break, enter and theft

Thomas Jeremy Martin, 33, of Miramichi, appeared and pleaded guilty theft from a Feb. 16, 2016, incident. Bourque said on the night in question, Martin crept onto his parent's property and broke into their house. Bourque said a woman, renting one of the rooms in the home, saw Martin as he crept around the house.

Bourque said he stole a pre-paid credit card, the keys to his father's trailer, and his father's hammer-drill. Mahoney asked Martin if he agreed with the facts, as presented by Bourque, and Martin said he did, adding he didn't think anyone was home at the time he broke in.

Martin also pleaded not guilty to operating a motor vehicle while impaired alleged to have also occurred on the same date.

Sentencing for the break, enter and theft, was adjourned to Oct. 19, at 1:30 p.m. for the preparation of victim-impact statements and the trial for his alleged impaired driving will take place Dec. 6 at 9 a.m.

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Friday

September 9, 2016

Leadership hopefuls share vision for province

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

It took a while for what one Progressive Conservative leadership candidate was describing as "the elephant in the room" to rear its head in Miramichi Tuesday night.

But with the luxury of home-field advantage during the fourth in a series of six discussions among the Tory leadership hopefuls at the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition Centre, Jake Stewart took a late opportunity to raise the issue of the lack of a satellite poll on the Miramichi for next month's leadership convention.

Stewart, the MLA for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin, drew applause from the couple hundred party faithful who attended, saying that it was illogical for a party struggling to make inroads in the north to have just a single poll positioned between the Miramichi and Campbellton.

"The elephant in the room is that if rural New Brunswick was important, there would be a satellite voting station in Northumberland County," Stewart said. "We don't have a seat between Newcastle and the bridge in Campbellton and there is no satellite voting station on the Miramichi, in Restigouche County or the Acadian Peninsula."

Stewart and other party members in the Miramichi region have called out the Tory executive for overlooking the region in setting up the format for the Oct. 22 convention, which will take place in Fredericton.

Satellite polls will be set up in Moncton, Saint John, Bathurst and Saint-Leonard, leaving a 90-minute to two-hour drive each way for somebody living in Blackville or Doaktown, for instance.

Stewart also said he didn't

understand why the party wouldn't be amenable to allowing a mail-in ballot or online voting for people who might not be able to make it to the convention but still want to take part in the leadership selection process.

He also said he felt that Tories on the Miramichi were being "marginalized" and suggested the reason the party was not granting the area a voting station is due to the leadership feeling in some way threatened by Stewart's candidacy.

"If you want to know the reason why there is no voting station on the Miramichi, you're looking at him," he said.

Thirty-three of the party's 49 riding executives have said they were unsatisfied with the convention rules, which also include a \$50 fee to take part in the event itself.

Blaine Higgs, the MLA for Quispamsis, said that the vast majority of the candidates were in favour of making the convention more user-friendly and also expressed concern about the resistance to changing up the format.

"There are five of us who have said we think a [voting station] should be here, we think it should be more open," Higgs said. "We have to set the example - we look at ourselves in the mirror and, you know what, we can be the ones that reform politics in New Brunswick."

The six candidates on stage - former MP and MLA Jean Dubé did not take part - also offered their thoughts on issues like health care, education, growing the economy and maximizing the province's tourism potential.

On health care and education, in particular, there was consensus among the candidates that government should be deferring to the experts, in this case

PLEASE SEE → **TORY, A2**



Ellen 'Nellie' Harris is celebrating her 110th birthday on Sept. 14. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Ellen 'Nellie' Harris celebrating 110 years this coming Sept. 14

Nursing home staff hoping Atlantic Canada's oldest resident will Skype with Justin Trudeau

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

TABUSINTAC • It's not every day you cross paths with someone who has lived through both World Wars, was alive during the sinking of the Titanic and saw the first car in Tabusintac.

Meet Ellen "Nellie" Harris, who turns 110 years old on Sept. 14 and will celebrate with a party at the Tabusintac Nursing Home, where she resides, at 1p.m.

Harris is the oldest living person in Atlantic Canada. She was born in 1906.

What's the secret to living longer than a century?

"I don't know," she laughed. "I have no secrets."

Harris said she was never a drinker, but did smoke when she was young

before deciding to quit one day, never smoking since.

"After I grew older I just didn't smoke, I just got tired of it I guess," Harris said.

She also had cancer three times and beat it on every occasion. She had throat cancer once and stomach cancer twice.

When she was 15 or 16 years old, she went to work in Massachusetts as a nanny. She had a sister who was about two or three years older who lived there.

She worked as a licensed practical nurse for 51 years in various nursing homes and hospitals until retiring at the age of 63. She married twice - first to Kenneth Guyle, who died, and then to John Harris, who moved back to Tabusintac with her after she retired in the 1970s.

Amy Hill, activities director at the Tabusintac Nursing Home, said Harris lived on her own until she was 101 years old.

"She used to write a column for the Miramichi Leader and it was a good way for people who were from away to know what was going on," Hill said.

"It was called the 'Newsy Notes,'" Harris said. "I had that for quite a long time. I would talk about stories from here and

things that would interest people from Tabusintac. A lot of people would like that."

The very first car she saw was a Ford Model T the belonged to her uncle.

"That was a long time ago," Harris said. "I remember the first TV, but I can't remember the first TV show because I've watched so many. I remember both World Wars and I knew people who served in the First World War and I knew people from Tabusintac who served in the Second World War."

Harris looks forward to visits from her daughter, Lorraine Wishart, 84, and her husband, Myles Wishart, 89, who visit her almost every day in the afternoon. Harris' sister Margaret is 99 years old and lives just down the road from her as well.

When the nursing home opened in 1986, Lorraine Wishart was the first administrator of the home.

"I feel right at home," Harris said. "Especially with Amy [Hill]."

Hill jokes with Harris as she tries to figure out how she has been able to live to be 109.

PLEASE SEE → **HARRIS, A2**

Inside

Crime Two Miramichi men in kidnapping case make court appearance **A5**

Column Quebec fighters are some Miramichi boxing fans might want to keep an eye on **B2**

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A former travel agent had her court date tentatively set for April after appearing in court on Tuesday. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Travel agent has trial date set

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A former Miramichi travel agent accused of defrauding three people and a local church had her trial dates set.

Lorelei Sturgeon-Bell, 46, formerly of Miramichi, but now currently living in Shediac, was in the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday, Sept 6, before Justice Fred Ferguson.

Sturgeon-Bell is charged with defrauding Laura Hare, Paul Henry Murdoch and Robert Currie, of less than \$5,000 each and defrauding the Boom Road Pentecostal Church of more than \$5,000. The offences are alleged to have taken place in Miramichi between January and April 2015.

Sturgeon-Bell was present, but her Sackville-based lawyer Wanda Severns

was not. The court heard she was on leave for about a month's time.

A temporary judge and jury trial date was set for April 5 to 19, to be presided over by Justice Jack Walsh and will be confirmed at the next Court of Queen's Bench motions day, which will be Monday, Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m.

As well, the pre-trial conference was set for Dec. 19, while the voir dire is set for Jan. 9.

Walsh is the presiding judge because Ferguson has a conflict of interest in the case.

In April 2015, the Miramichi Police Force received complaints from residents who claimed they purchased trips from the Miramichi agency Holiday Experts, but those trips were never booked. The agency was operated by Sturgeon-Bell.

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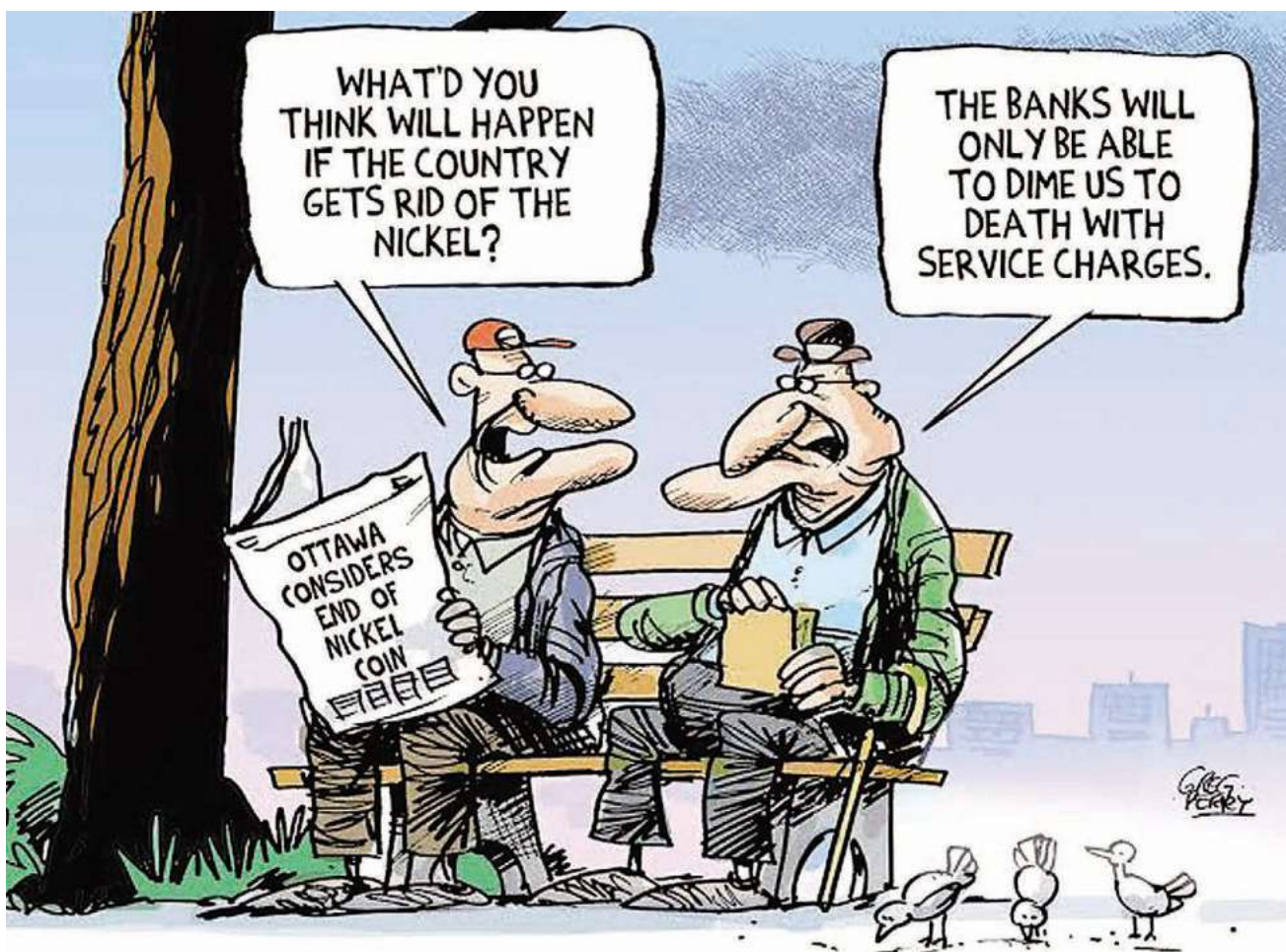
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Chamber engages with government on behalf of city

JASON HARRIS
COMMENTARY

The Miramichi Chamber of Commerce prides itself on being involved and staying informed on issues that are of great importance to the Miramichi region. Based on member feedback and consultations, the chamber annually identifies key priority areas to support in its advocacy efforts.

The chamber has identified transportation, senior care, and labour supply and retention as being of high importance for the Miramichi business community and city as a whole. Improvements to existing Miramichi infrastructure is required, with improved travel options needed to efficiently and safely move people and goods in and out, as well as within the Miramichi region. This will lead to the stimulation of economic growth and will improve our quality of life. The chamber's transportation priorities have been identified as the Anderson Bridge upgrade, Northern Bypass (King George Highway bypass), Southern Bypass (Route 11), the necessity of a CN Rail loading/offloading site, and the requirement of a new terminal for the Miramichi airport. The chamber would like to take this opportunity to applaud the New Brunswick government for the work that has been done to Route 108, and

we hope to see further upgrades continue in the future.

With the excitement and anticipation that surrounded the announcement of the 240 bed nursing home for our city, the chamber has kept engaged with our Provincial government to ensure that this important investment becomes a reality for our city. The chamber also publicly supported the hope that government strive to employ as many of the staff as possible from the two existing nursing homes, thus ensuring the continuity of care, a consistency of climate and culture and respect for these dedicated staff!

The Chamber of Commerce has identified transportation, senior care, and labour supply and retention as being of high importance for the Miramichi business community and city as a whole

JASON HARRIS



Jason Harris PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The chamber believes Miramichi's future economic growth will be influenced by employers' ability to access and retain workers with the necessary skills to strengthen the workforce. The chamber supports initiatives that help employers find and retain workers with the right skills and qualifications, thereby attracting investment, driving economic growth, and spurring innovation. The Miramichi Chamber of Commerce is committed to economic development and actively promotes Miramichi as an optimum place to live, visit and do business. By listening to and working with our chamber members and the entire Miramichi community, we can keep moving our great city forward.

Jason Harris
is the president - Miramichi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Winning will take more than being right

JOHN WILLIAMSON
COMMENTARY

Blaine Higgs is the newly elected leader of New Brunswick's Progressive Conservative Party. The former finance minister handily won Saturday's provinciewide leadership race after besting six other candidates over three ballots.

Back in March, Mr. Higgs was not considered a frontrunner. His caucus support was thin partly because as minister of finance in the Alward government he had developed a reputation for saying "no" to his colleagues. It was also thought Mr. Higgs wouldn't be able to build a volunteer team needed to win the leadership contest. And he is a unilingual anglophone in a province where a third of the population speaks French.

Yet, Mr. Higgs has turned out to be more gifted than many expected. He campaigned as an anti-politician. His straight talk about the problems facing New Brunswick underscored what many people feel. He successfully and subtly emphasized his occasional disagreements in government with former

Premier David Alward by telling PC voters he is running to be premier because he couldn't fix the province's problems as the finance minister. It made its slogan "province first, politics second" authentic.

But now the hard work begins. The province's new Opposition Leader must turn his attention to uniting the PC party and holding the Liberal government accountable for its lacklustre performance while preparing for the 2018 provincial election. Winning the province will be more difficult than persuading PC loyalists. So what must Mr. Higgs do?

Mr. Higgs has placed considerable emphasis on his personal work experience. But surprise awaits Mr. Higgs if he thinks voters will elect him premier because of his past work in business and government. Just ask Stephen Harper. Experience, voters opted for change over last year. Experience counts in politics, but so do people and policies.

Let's start with people. An important task for the 62 year-old Mr. Higgs is to inspire young candidates to run in the next election. A priority should be reaching out to the other leadership candidates

who aren't MLAs.

Mr. Higgs had Mike Allen's support on the third ballot, which guaranteed his win. The two men understand the economic challenges facing the province. Mr. Allen, the former MP for Tobique-Mactaquac, speaks French and can help on the campaign trail and in government. He's not young, but is a new face to provincial politics.

Equally important are Monica Barley and Mel Norton. Mr. Norton finished second and was supported by Ms. Barley on the final vote. Both represent generational change and come from urban areas. As Saint John mayor, Mr. Norton made a city that is difficult to govern a better place for taxpayers. Ms. Barley meanwhile is new to politics and a successful lawyer from Moncton. She has two attributes Mr. Higgs lacks: youth and bilingualism. Both candidates should be given important roles.

The other leadership candidates also add to the strength of a future PC government: MLAs Jake Stewart and Brian MacDonald along with former MLA and MP Jean Dubé, who should be encouraged to run for a seat.

What might be toughest for Mr. Higgs - who at heart is a policy wonk - to understand is winning the policy argument doesn't necessarily means he will win government. Again, Stephen Harper offers lessons.

Prior to the last federal election the Trudeau Liberals abandoned their old

Urban renewal making a huge difference in city

Miramichi, despite its natural beauty, has had a big problem with eyesore properties over the years but all of that is changing rapidly with a newfound focus on urban renewal.

Best of all, this has mostly all been through private sector investment - people who have a business case, to be sure, but who are also at the same time extremely community-minded and providing a vital service.

One company in particular has nearly single-handedly revived a significant portion of the downtown core in the former Newcastle by investing millions into different projects.

From the historic Castle Manor at the corner of Pleasant Street and Newcastle Boulevard, to the high-end multi-unit complex that was once the old Rock Bottom property on the King George Highway, plus a handful of others, the area looks far better than it did just a few years before.

Similar revivals are happening in different parts of the city as well, where some older, rundown properties are getting a new lease on life.

We also have a local minister in the former town of Chatham who has quietly flipped an entire block, including the Vogue theatre and the former bank across the street, which now houses a new coffee shop and creative space.

And after the city's beloved Irish pub was reduced to a shell of its former self under previous ownership, the historic building on Water Street has been lovingly restored, upgraded and the community is better for it.

We could go on: the overhaul of the Rodd Miramichi River Hotel, the transformation of the former Beaver Lumber property in Chatham Head into a fitness centre, the conversion of a vacant church in Douglastown into a new arts and crafts business and the expansion of the naturopathic clinic just down the street have all played a part in giving this city a much-needed facelift.

The closure this week of the long-running Chatham construction company operated for over 70 years by the Kerr family should also be acknowledged.

Kerr's were the original urban renewers, in a sense, carrying out a number of well-known projects during their heyday back in the fifties and sixties.

It can be difficult to admit, but it's also true that the way a community looks can say a lot about that community.

Rundown, vacant and overgrown properties don't necessarily send the right kind of message - to the public or to visitors - and given the limitations of provincial unsightly premises legislation, it's a difficult thing to tackle.

It isn't as simple as sending out a piece of heavy equipment with a wrecking ball attached to it.

There is the law to consider, after all, and the city typically can't act unless the building in question is determined to be dangerous to the public.

But the other side of this is that the public deserves better than to have wide swaths of barren, empty land scattered around the city.

There is something to be said for preserving some of the historically significant buildings that we have and given all of the activity we have been seeing here recently, others are of that mindset as well.

As much as aesthetics can say a lot about a city, so too does investor confidence. And given the recent trend and all that's been accomplished, all of this renewal hopefully indicates that Miramichi is on the right track.



Blaine Higgs and his grandson during the announcement of his campaign.
PHOTO: COLIN MCPHAIL/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

daycare plan, which targeted help only to parents with young children in institutional daycare. The old Liberal policy was popular with professional daycare advocates and media commentators but less so with parents. Justin Trudeau jettisoned it and instead embraced and expanded the Conservative's childcare policy, which supports families with kids with a monthly cash allowance. Mr. Harper won the daycare vs. childcare debate but Mr. Trudeau is now Canada's prime minister.

And since the last election, the Liberals have adopted Mr. Harper's middle-of-the-road targets to lessen carbon emissions as well as his proposal to

reduce the growth rate of federal health transfers to the provinces from six per cent to three per cent. Mr. Trudeau criticized both policies when campaigning for votes. Prime Minister Trudeau could undo any of these policies but he has not. Mr. Harper won these big policy arguments yet still lost the federal election.

Mr. Higgs would be wise to remember that elections are referendums on the future. The Higgs platform will need to offer voters more than a promise to fix the province's finances, which seems to be the new PC leader's primary preoccupation. It is important to control spending. But so too are jobs, taxes and good public services.

An early opportunity for Mr. Higgs on taxes is the sudden Liberal flip-flop on cutting provincial taxes to offset a soon-to-be-paid carbon tax, which will hurt the New Brunswick economy by driving up energy prices and the cost of food. The Gallant Liberals will spend the carbon cash. Mr. Higgs can take the opposite position by promising to cut taxes to help working families.

Far too often Conservatives win the economic arguments but fail to explain how policies will help ordinary people. Above all, Mr. Higgs must avoid this pitfall.

John Williamson
is a former member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest.

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THANK YOU

MALLET – The family of the late Wilma Mallett wish to express their deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support, food, flowers and messages of sympathy in our bereavement.

We especially wish to thank the nursing staff of the ICU at Miramichi Regional Hospital, Maher's Funeral Home and Fr. Charles Broderick.

Jonathan, Jill and Family

MEMORIALS

In loving memory of a dear husband and father **Stephen MacDougald**
Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent are the tears that fall,
Living without you is
the hardest part of all.

You did so many things for us
Your heart was so kind and true,
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return
When we are together,
But with the love in our hearts,
You walk with us for ever.
Sadly missed and forever loved wife
Queenie, Donna, Darlene & Daryl

*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



In loving memory of
Cecil P. Preston who passed
away one year ago
November 14, 2015

Dad

They say that there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will ever change the way we feel.
We want to tell you something Dad,
So there will never be any doubt,
You're wonderful to think of,
But so hard to live without

Missed & loved forever
Your family ❤️

TAYLOR, In Loving Memory Of Allen Taylor Who Passed Away 25 Years Ago, November 13, 1991.

Although You Are Gone
We Are Not Alone,
For The Memories And Time
We Shared Together,
Will Remain In Our Hearts
Today And Forever.

Always Loved And Remembered,
Wife – Joyce, Peggy (Richard),
Connie (Brian), Bliss,
Eric (Brenda) And Family

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FOOT PRINTS

I wa: 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 wa: 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

news



All 11 candidates offering for the Nov. 14 byelection shown on the stage during a Meet the Candidates night at the Beaverbrook Kin Centre Monday, Nov. 7. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Planning, development concerns rise during candidates event

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Even though much of the public focus on city hall over the last several months has dealt with whether the municipality should commit to building new recreational infrastructure, a different subject ended up dominating the tone of discussion during Monday night's Meet the Candidates event.

Nearly all of the eight candidates who have declared for the vacant position on Miramichi city council in the Nov. 14 byelection spent some time discussing how the city should approach its relationship with the regional planning commission.

City council, after saying they've been hearing concerns from developers in the community that they're plans have been hindered by the planning process, earlier this year committed to exploring its options on the planning front.

Specifically, the city agreed to look at “the benefits and detractions” of its involvement with the Greater Miramichi Service Commission's planning wing with the goal of having some sort of recommendation in place this year.

Planning services are provided by RSC staff throughout its vast coverage area. Commission management, including executive director Wilson Bell, have maintained that planners are bound by a series of regulations that must be followed whenever they consider issuing a permit.

In the city's case, they are bound by whatever bylaws are in place, as well as the contents of the city's municipal development plan.

While the RSC has committed to looking at ways of improving client service and enhancing its level of communication, the organization has maintained that if council isn't happy with its own policies, then it's up to council to change them.

The viewpoints of the different candidates varied widely on this issue, with some saying the city should divorce themselves from the RSC completely while others are arguing for a more patient approach.

“I have had too many people since I left council in the last six months telling me they've been having issues with the planning commission,” said John Foran. “On the King George Highway, over in the industrial parks and I can look in the downtowns, there's not a person who's building who doesn't have some issue with the planning commission.”

Foran was a part of the council that made the motion for the city to explore alternatives to the current setup.

He said whether or not it's determined the issues developers are having are the city's fault or the commission's fault, there needs to be a resolution sooner rather than later.

Aaron Furlong said he has a unique window into this situation since he's worked on multiple development projects that have taken place in the city over the last few years, including three

large apartment complexes.

Through his role as a project manager, Furlong has interacted with planners many times and notes they have an important job to do.

While he said it's important there are no unnecessary roadblocks to construction and investment in the city, he said he thinks the vitriol toward planners is, in this case, somewhat misguided.

“I think this comes from a place of not understanding what development is like in other parts of the province - we have somehow gotten ourselves to a standoff situation with the planning commission and we're throwing blame their way instead of taking some of it ourselves,” Furlong said.

“If we want pro-development, then we need to put pro-development people in place to do this - the planning commission is following rules and by-laws, from what I understand, bylaws that haven't been changed since we amalgamated ... I have insight into this world.”

Candidate Tony Russell took a different approach, meanwhile, saying he would encourage the city to look at more extreme measures.

“My plan is to get rid of the planning commission,” Russell said. “Just get rid of them, seriously - people [are trying to build] and we're having problems? Get rid of them; get rid of the planning commission ... that's it.”

Connor Anthony, meanwhile, was also presented with a query about the planning commission and about whether or not their should be a formal complaint process at city hall for developers to use if they disagree with the recommendations of professional planners.

Anthony admitted he didn't have much expertise in the field but agreed there should be mechanisms in place to ensure the process is as fair and balanced as possible.

First-time candidate Katherine Martin entertained the same question a little later on and said most people are aware this issue has touched a nerve with the business community.

As somebody who owned their own business for a number of years, Martin says it's important for the city to be as business-friendly as possible.

“But I don't know the reason - I think if the council could fix it, I'm sure that they would have by now,” she said. “Maybe there's more to be done, but of course there should always be an avenue for complaint, it doesn't matter what it is.”

Only three of the eight candidates managed to get through their allotted time during the meeting without having to address the planning situation.

Each of them did, however, provide a window into their views on the importance of spurring new development in the city as a means of creating jobs, adding to the tax base and promoting an environment that encourages private sector investment.

Ryan Somers, for instance, said he's seen some positives that Miramichi is

a city on the rise and he wants to see council making decisions that help that trend continue.

“For a while, we were in trouble, but the arrival of the pay centre gave us the boost that we really needed and I feel that's turned the morale in our city around in a tremendous way,” he said.

“As a result of the pay centre arriving in Miramichi, we've seen several small businesses that have started to develop - I prefer to see things in a positive manner and I have seen a lot of great businesses that have come to the Miramichi in recent years.”

The city is coming off a series of strong years in terms of development, including a 10-year high of \$25.8 million worth of permits in 2013.

Miramichi has witnessed some notable gains in its retail sector with companies like Winners and Giant Tiger building new stores and the owners of the Northumberland Square mall investing heavily in some sort of redevelopment of that property.

Former city councillor Rene Smith, meanwhile, instead focused much of his time on city spending and a need to ensure fiscal prudence at city hall.

Smith said that any financial decisions that are made reflect the economic and demographic realities of the city, for which he said seniors still form the backbone.

He also said he wanted to see decisions made by council done with the next five-to-10 years in mind rather than simply focusing in the here and now.

“As a councillor, my agenda is simple - we as a city must look at the future with one goal: self-sufficiency,” Smith said. “And our people are our greatest asset.”

Former councillor and MLA Michael “Tanker” Malley, meanwhile, took a page from former Conservative MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon's “jobs, jobs and more jobs” playbook.

When pressed about how he would secure job creation for the city, Malley said he would pursue any opportunity relentlessly and noted that Miramichi already has a strong industrial base on which to build.

He said this city has a major asset in its skilled workforce and noted the city should be working to promote that more than it is.

“We have companies here - Superior [Industries], we have Modular Fabrication, Castle Machine Works, Sunny Corner [Enterprises] - there's no reason we can't bid on the jobs and bring the work back here,” Malley said.

“We can do it here in Miramichi - we talk about being a centre for northern New Brunswick, well guess what? We can ship all over the world. We have an airport here. We can ship it out west. We can ship it by boat, we can ship it by rail.”

The Meet the Candidates night was hosted by the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Miramichi and Rogers Television's Have a Chat.

The event can be viewed in its entirety on the Have a Chat Facebook page.

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Logic must prevail in city planning review

With a management report expected to come back to Miramichi city council within the next few weeks that will likely determine whether the city will continue receiving planning services from the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, we hope that logic and fact-based decision making will take over from the emotion we have seen on this subject.

The alleged issues that developers have been having with commission planners has been a popular topic of discussion in town for several months. Nearly every candidate that took part in a recent public question-and-answer session was asked about it, and did their best to provide answers to a situation that remains somewhat unclear.

It remains unclear because, in short, it is difficult to determine where all of this apparent animosity toward the professionals tasked with ensuring responsible development takes place in our city has come from.

The case against the planning office seems to be coming from unnamed builders who have apparently, at one point or another, relayed various issues they've experienced to city councillors.

Earlier this year, some of those councillors made those concerns public and, eventually, that turned into a motion calling on the city manager to prepare a report effectively weighing the pros and cons of the city's ongoing relationship with RSC planners.

On the surface, there's nothing wrong with council seeking out information on these sorts of matters if there is any confusion or concern. Council is interested, after all, in ensuring that anybody who wants to spend money in the city is able to do it without any hassle.

That's fair enough. But here's what council, and we should note it was the previous council that brought this motion forward, has been missing: although the planning process might seem cumbersome and confusing, it's actually fairly straightforward.

But there seems to have been, somewhere along the way, a breakdown in the understanding of the planning office's role in the development process.

Planners are bound by a very specific set of rules and regulations, among them the Building Code of Canada and, here's the rub, the city's own bylaws and, in the case a variance is required, its own municipal development plan.

The planning commission is very much a regulator, one that provides a certain amount of service and guidance to clients, but it is also not a cheerleader. While it is easy for council to say that anybody who wants to build should be able to, it's also important to ensure that any development that takes place in the city is done the right way.

And on more complicated files, where different pieces of legislation come into play, the process can create headaches. To the commission's credit, it seems to realize that it can tighten some things up on its end, and it's aware of the way it's being perceived. They have developed a strategy aimed at making the process easier to understand, and hopefully that makes a difference.

But it's hard to swallow the argument that things aren't getting built, because all one has to do is look around. There are major and not-so major construction projects taking place all over this city right now, and that's something to be celebrated. But if the city feels that more can be done, it might be prudent to first make sure its own house is in order.

Time for classification of water is now, not later

MARGO SHEPPARD & BILL AYER
COMMENTARY

There has been much written on New Brunswick's surface water. We should protect it. We should sell it. We should use it for fracking, tourism, or just simply leave it be for its own sake.

Everyone has an opinion. One thing, though – people in general do not have a handle on the state of our province's water. Is it clean, cold and supporting fish? Is it degraded and needing help? Some say you cannot manage what you cannot measure. When it comes to water there is some logic to this maxim.

But wait, we did measure. When the province passed laws and regulations in 2002 to study and protect surface waters it was ahead of the curve with its comprehensive water classification program. Nineteen watershed groups, volunteers with a love of the nature, rivers and streams in their communities embraced rigorous sampling and documented the (almost universally high) quality of these assets. They asked government to adopt their findings as baseline.

Why? Because the quality of our waterways is a direct reflection of how we manage the surrounding land. If we mismanage land, water quality deteriorates. Without baseline data, how can we tell if particular land use will help or harm a river or stream? That is what classification is all about: assigning a 'class' or quality to each stream, and then striving – through co-operative

community oversight – to maintain that quality over time.

Today, fourteen years after the law and regulation were passed, there is still no official program to classify surface waters in New Brunswick. In 2014 the Ombudsman chastised government for wasting people's (volunteer watershed groups') time and effort. A total of five ministers of environment over

Everyone has an opinion. One thing, though - people in general do not have a handle on the state of our province's water.

close to thirty years have now waffled and sputtered about the program without implementing a single classification order, a critical step in the process.

Last summer, under a Right to Information request, the department released a legal brief claiming the water classification laws were vague, unenforceable and unlawful. Having this in hand enabled us to examine the government's reasons for stalling on water classification – reasons even the Ombudsman hadn't been able to extract during his 2014 study.

The newly formed Friends of Water

Classification and allied groups immediately sought another legal viewpoint. Julie Abouchar, a leading environmental lawyer, experienced in classification in both Canada and the United States, studiously addressed each of the government's arguments. The minister has the power, her opinion said, the minister has the authority, the program is not "unlawful." The program could benefit from some additional guidelines, but the backbone of an effective water protection system is already there waiting – no, begging – to be put into motion.

In short, it made clear that New Brunswick could immediately, and legally, begin to work with community groups who have classified their watersheds as well as those who have not, yet are poised to be water stewards in partnership with the province.

Since 2002 when the program was initiated, things have changed. The need to act is more urgent as New Brunswick faces severe threats from accelerating climate change. Flood damage at the mouths of coastal watersheds paired with property destruction such as occurred in the upper St. John River and in Charlotte County in recent years will be more commonplace in future.

We need to act now to deploy water classification, a necessary planning and prevention tool, and to nurture the multi-stakeholder watershed groups who will do it in the volunteer service, and best interests, of their communities.

Bill Ayer

has a master's degree in zoology from the University of Maine.

Margo Sheppard

holds a degree in environmental studies from the University of Waterloo.

'Progressive' left partly to blame for Trump presidency

CHARLES MOORE
COMMENTARY

I awoke on Nov. 9 from a horrible nightmare in which Donald Trump had won the U.S. presidential election and was president of United States. Then as consciousness took hold, the hideous reality sank in of an eyes-open nightmare from which there'll be no waking for at least four, conceivably eight years. Surrealistic it is, but Donald Trump actually did win the election, and will on Jan. 20, 2017, become the 45th United States president.

Not the outcome I and just about everybody else had expected. Pre-election polls showed Hillary Clinton holding a slim but workable majority in so-called 'battleground states.' Obviously, the polls were wrong.

How could this happen? This whole black comedy of a presidential election campaign was a marathon exercise in suspension of belief. I was astounded when Trump won the Republican primary race and became the party's presidential candidate, shocked that his

support held up even as much as the polls had indicated. What was wrong with people?

In hindsight, the U.K. Brexit vote in June was proverbial writing on the wall – another jaw-dropper, in which large numbers of Britons, many of whom, based on Google search volumes, may not have known what the European Union is, voted to take the U.K. out of the 28 nation alliance. Then there was the Pirate Party's alarmingly strong performance in Iceland's general election earlier this month. Predatory populism is busting out all over, it seems.

There's plenty of blame to go around. High on the list is failure of voters to properly educate themselves about political and economic reality. Mainstream media are culpable for providing Donald Trump with literally billions of dollars worth of free publicity by hanging on his every word. To say nothing of the social media disinformation echo-chamber.

His upset win was also partly a

triumph of nostalgia for a labour-intensive industrial era technology killed that is never coming back no matter how many trade agreements Donald Trump tears up.

However, the Democratic Party must shoulder much of the blame. Party establishment support of a virtual Clinton entitlement to the 2016 candidacy was seemingly oblivious to the fact that experienced and accomplished though she is, Clinton has the charisma of a turnip, and a failed presidential bid behind her in 2008.

Another factor was the Democrat "progressive" left's tunnel-vision certitude of the unassailable righteousness of their various causes and obsessions, e.g. abortion, a militant brand of feminism, same-sex marriage, and the tyranny of political correctness bullies who through control of media and universities seek to marginalize and ridicule the large proportion of the population that opposes their social engineering agenda.

That latest tranche of emails posted by WikiLeaks revealed Hillary Clinton's campaign communications director joking about Catholics and evangelicals in emails sent to campaign chairman John Podesta, calling for a "Catholic Spring" in which Catholics demand the end of a "middle ages dictatorship."

The Trump victory was to a degree driven by push-back from pro-life,

pro-traditional-morality Christians – es-

In hindsight, the U.K. Brexit vote in June was proverbial writing on the wall.

pecially southern evangelicals but also devout Catholics – sick of having their principled convictions disrespected and scorned as ignorance or worse by self-proclaimed progressives who reflexively default to contemptuous name-calling rather than engaging in respectful debate of the issues.

Oppose abortion or express misgivings about Hillary Clinton and they'll call you sexist or misogynistic; disagree with President Obama's policies and you're a racist bigot; raise any concern regarding immigration and you're a xenophobe; Can't in good conscience support same-sex marriage and you're intolerant and hateful; Bypassed the university indoctrination machine? You're an ignorant hick. Many people

fed up with disrespectful stigmatization unwisely but explicable voted Trump.

The Democrats and Mrs. Clinton also failed on the economic front with essentially a continuation of Barack Obama's left-centre policies. That provided an opening for Mr. Trump to channel the working class frustration with the status quo, and desire for something completely different, opting for change from the pro-business right rather than the radical socialism advocated by Mrs. Clinton's erstwhile primary rival Bernie Sanders.

That said, making Trump president of the United States is recklessly dangerous, and has the makings of a global catastrophe – economic, diplomatic, and possibly (Heaven forbid) militarily. I'm no fan of Hillary Clinton or her political policies, but the spectacular unfitness of Donald Trump to hold the most powerful (or any) political office on the planet should've compelled anyone with a grain of sense to hold their nose and vote for her. That too few did bespeaks a massive shortfall of reason and pragmatism (attributable in no small measure to "progressive" political correctness hijacking of educational policies and curricula) in American society.

Charles Moore

is a Nova Scotia writer.

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Appendix I – Regional Collaboration Media Coverage

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

WEDNESDAY

March 9, 2016



Pallbearers at the funeral of Peter Casey on Monday. More than 1,200 people attended his wake on Sunday while hundreds attended the funeral Monday afternoon. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Search and rescue members form honour guard for one of their own

SHANNON MACLEOD & JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The life of a Miramichier described as a dedicated family man and tireless volunteer was celebrated Monday afternoon.

Peter James Casey, 34, of Miramichi died on Thursday, March 3, in a motor-vehicle accident on Route 8, just north of Miramichi. His funeral took place at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Newcastle Boulevard and was officiated by Father Tom Fowler.

The service included an honour guard made up of members of the Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue, as Casey had volunteered with the non-profit organization since June 2012.

Flora Ross, president of the Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue, said Casey was a good man who was well liked.

"He was always willing to help out, he'd do anything for anyone,"

Ross said.

Ross said she and Casey joined the ground search and rescue at the same time, and she'd been on a few searches with him.

"He was always willing to help, he was a trained searcher, he was a driver for our command post and trailer," she said. "He was always willing to help, with searches or whatever we needed to do."

Casey's childhood friend, Jason Dunnett, said Casey will truly be missed and was someone who was both well liked and well respected in the community.

"We were friends since we were 10 years old," Dunnett said outside St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. "He knew quite a few people and always tried to help everyone out whenever he could."

Dunnett said losing someone so close and who was so young is difficult and rough on a lot of people.

"We used to hang out in town all the time, we had some long nights

together and it's going to affect a lot of his friends quite a bit. It's pretty tough," Dunnett said. "He's going to be well-missed."

Casey, who worked as a courier driver, was also a member of the St. Mary's Church congregation.

As per information from his obituary notice on the Northumberland Funeral Home Inc. website, he leaves behind his wife Charline (LeBlanc) Casey and two sons, Tyler and Kyle, as well as other family members. A native of Miramichi, he was the son of Gerald and Lourdes (Nolais) Casey.

Donations in memory of Casey can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association, or to the Miramichi Ground Search and Rescue.

The Northeast District RCMP said last week that Casey died as a result of his injuries in a collision between a cube van he was driving and a tractor-trailer. The crash occurred near Bartibog, about 21 kilometres north of Miramichi, just after 6 a.m. on March 3.

Feds continue to weigh options for 2016 salmon season, says MP

Pat Finnigan says he would be surprised if catch-and-release implemented across board again this year

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

With the spring run of wild Atlantic salmon now just weeks away, there are some signs that the federal government might consider loosening the unprecedented blanket restrictions imposed on the recreational fishery last year.

Although Fisheries and Oceans Canada has yet to reveal its plans for the 2016 salmon fishing season in the Gulf Region, which includes the Miramichi River watershed, the Liberal MP for Miramichi-Grand Lake says that department officials are still weighing their options.

Pat Finnigan, who serves on the government standing committees for fisheries and agriculture, said that based on the talks he's been privy to, he would be surprised if the wall-to-wall catch-and-release regulations introduced last summer in response to record low fish counts ended up back in place this season.

Finnigan said he had an opportunity to question Fisheries and Oceans staffers about the salmon file during committee meetings a couple of weeks back. He said the answers he received at that time point to the department taking a more targeted approach to any limitations on the fishery this season.

"I know this is a very important issue on the river and the approach they had before was sort of a one-size-fits-all but I think they are going to approach this a little more of an area management, and I'm hoping that's going to go through," Finnigan said in an interview.

"It's going to be DFO's decision but I'm keeping in touch with the local people and also what's happening with DFO, so I'm hoping we can come up with a solution that's good for the salmon but also good for the industry."

The situation has been a divisive one, particularly in those Miramichi River communities that rely heavily on the economic activity salmon fishing has provided for generations.

In the Miramichi region alone, the salmon fishery is worth around \$20 million and supports hundreds of jobs.

There is also a strong cultural connection to the river in this part of the province, where anglers from all over the world have long travelled. When they're here, they rent cabins, hire guides, buy supplies and frequent local businesses.

Groups like the Atlantic Wildlife Federation, outfitters and politicians, including Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin MLA Jake Stewart, have spoken out against the decision by the federal government to suspend the use of tags last season. They are also encouraging the department to loosen those restrictions heading into the upcoming season.

The catch-and-release rules seemed to result in less activity on the water despite reports of good fishing last summer. Last year, the number of salmon licences sold by the province dropped by nearly half, to 12,535 from more than 20,000 in 2014.

"I think the fishermen are disgusted for the most part because they feel they have been the target of conservation groups - the anglers buy licences, waders, rods, lines, flies and now all of the tackle stores around here are going to have to do something with years of inventory for barbed hooks," Stewart said in a previous interview.

"Anglers in particular don't feel like they have a voice - you can't deprive people of all the basic things they've

PLEASE SEE → SALMON, A2

Inside

News Meeting on new wellness centre has been rescheduled to March 15 **A3**

Sport Competitive golfer ready to hit links again following car accident in 2014 **B1**

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Report hints at direction province may take for amalgamations

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Over a month after the provincial government revealed it would be dispatching its 12 regional service commissions to head out in search of "viable" municipal amalgamations, the scope of the exercise remains unclear.

The Gallant Liberals, in releasing their budget on Feb. 2, noted that the service commissions have been tapped as the agent that will identify and propose possible mergers within their own regions using the 2008 report penned by Jean-Guy Finn as a point of reference.

The Finn report proposed that New Brunswick restructure more than 350 municipalities and local service districts into just 53 functioning municipalities.

The main baseline for amalgamation, as spelled out in the report, would be a minimum population of 4,000 and a tax

base of \$200 million.

Commenting on the situation last week, Environment and Local Government Minister Brian Kenny said in an emailed statement that any amalgamations that take place moving forward need to align with the findings of the Finn report.

He stopped short, however, of saying that any community mergers or annexations would be forced by the government.

Instead, Kenny noted that the government would "encourage", where appropriate, municipalities and local service districts to consider taking that course of action. He added that the government would be supporting these new communities by harnessing provincial infrastructure funding programs.

For now, however, it appears the government will wait and see what the

PLEASE SEE → REPORT, A2



According to the Finn report's recommendations, Blackville could take in the Derby, Quarryville and Renous areas. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE



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Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home in Miramichi would be affected by a Social Development proposal to cut professional staffers across the province like every other nursing home within New Brunswick. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Report hints at direction for amalgamations

REPORT → A1

regional service commissions come back with before taking a firm stance on this.

“A strong local governance structure can be a key contributor to improving the provincial fiscal situation and supporting economic and population growth while offering a high quality of life for residents,” Kenny said. “I look forward to working with stakeholders on these initiatives in the coming months.”

In the case of the Miramichi region, the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission will be tasked with carrying out the fact-finding mission on behalf of the province.

The service commissions, which were founded three years ago with the goal of better streamlining the provision of services between municipalities and the rural local service districts, were themselves born out of the Finn report.

Wilson Bell is the executive director of the Miramichi service commission which covers an area stretching from Upper Miramichi in the west, all the way to Escominac and Burnt Church in the east. He recently told the Miramichi Leader he's still awaiting directive from the province.

When it was published eight years ago, the Finn report pointed out that the recommendations for municipal reform in the Miramichi area were slightly less drastic than other areas of the province. Finn said this was due in large part to the extensive series of amalgamations the region went through back in 1995, which resulted in the formation of the City of Miramichi.

Still, a number of recommendations for realignment for the area were presented and, over the next several months, the Miramichi Regional Service Commission as well as its neighbouring commissions, will likely be dusting them off and taking a closer look.

As it stands today there is one city, five villages, 22 local service districts and one rural community that makes up the landscape in Northumberland County.

The Finn report wanted to see that reduced all the way down to just five “municipal entities” that would see all of the local service districts either annexed into the closest municipality or lumped into a brand new municipal entity.

No part of the Miramichi region would be exempt. In the city, for instance, the report indicated that Miramichi could extend its reach as far south as the St. Margarets area, as far west as Sunny Corner and as far east as Lower Newcastle while absorbing all points between.

Blackville, meanwhile, would end up taking in the Derby, Quarryville and Renous areas, while an Alnwick-area amalgamation could bring together everything from Tabusintac to Bartibog Bridge.

To the south, a new entity, centred on Rogersville, would link Colette all the way to Saint-Louis-de-Kent.

Upriver, a proposed amalgamation would unite everything from Stanley to Blissfield, including the village of Doaktown within the existing boundaries of the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi.

Upper Miramichi was the product of a voluntary amalgamation back in 2008.

The Neguac and Rogersville areas fall under the auspices of RSC 4 on the Acadian Peninsula and RSC 6, which covers most of Kent County, respectively.

The reaction at the city level to the idea has traditionally been lukewarm. City officials have pointed out in the past that taking on all that new territory wouldn't yield all that much in terms of population and property tax revenues.

Deputy Mayor John Foran, who served as a Liberal cabinet minister when the Finn report was released, said in a recent interview that looking at the city's situation, he didn't see any obvious solutions.

“We've already amalgamated all of the heavily populated areas,” he said last month.

The next meeting of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is slated for Tuesday, April 12, at Miramichi City Hall, beginning at 6 p.m.

Nursing home association critical of province's plans regarding food funding, staffing numbers

Provincial Liberals are proposing a decrease in RNs, LPNs because of new software to monitor residents

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Two initiatives by New Brunswick's Department of Social Development will directly affect nursing homes across the province including Miramichi if they go through, says a spokesperson for the province's nursing home association.

Social Development wants to make a decrease in food-funding allotments and is also looking at reducing the number of professional staffers.

Michael Keating, executive director and association counsel for the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes, said both moves don't bode well for residents in nursing homes across the province.

The provincial government is proposing a decrease in registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, known as professional staffers, because of a new software package called Longterm Care Facility.

“It's a computer program consists of a whole host of different algorithms that dictate what residents' needs are,” said Keating, noting Miramichi will be the “most acutely affected” in

New Brunswick.

Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home and Miramichi Senior Citizens Home fall under the associations umbrella, as well as nursing homes in communities such as Neguac and Rogersville.

Between Miramichi's two homes there are 210 beds, which breaks down to 80 at Miramichi Senior Citizens and 130 at the Mount.

The Miramichi Leader was directed to Keating to answer questions on the issue after calls were put in to both of Miramichi's nursing home facilities.

Should the proposal go through, Miramichi will face changes like other homes around the province.

“So what'd you see in both of those nursing homes is a reduction in the number of registered nurses and a bigger reduction in the number of licensed practical nurses,” said Keating who is based in Fredericton.

This means the numbers of resident attendants would increase within each facility, outnumbering RNs and LPNs.

“We've made a proposal that would allow for some reductions but it's really based on an investment for the resident attendants to be better educated and to understand better,” said Keating. “And that was a key component.”

Social Development Minister Cathy Rogers told The Daily Gleaner the changes are necessary due to a higher ratio of professional staff in this province's nursing homes than any other province.

“We're not going to be making any decisions quickly,” she said. “We're going to

be making our decisions based on data.”

As reported in The Daily Gleaner, the way nursing homes are staffed in New Brunswick today is as follows: a minimum of 20 per cent registered nurses, 40 per cent licensed practical nurses and 40 per cent resident attendants. Social Development could drop those figures to at least 15 per cent registered nurses, 20 per cent licensed practical nurses and 65 per cent resident attendants.

“All of our nursing homes are doing the best they can under trying circumstances.”

MICHAEL KEATING

The second issue facing nursing homes within the province, including the two in Miramichi, is a decrease in the food-allotment budget.

“It would be exactly the same in the Miramichi as it would be anywhere else in the province,” said Keating, noting there are 65 nursing homes which fall under their association.

Keating said the budget for all nursing home dietary needs decreased by two per cent in 2016 but there is a 5.81 per cent rise in food costs. He said in the last three years, budget costs have decreased

while projected food costs have risen.

He said in 2013-14, the budgets for nursing homes were increased by two per cent with a three per cent projected food cost; 2014-15, no budget increase but food cost increase of 4.17 per cent and last year the budget was cut by two per cent and a projected food cost of 5.18 per cent.

“If you take that three years together, there's no increase in food and at 12 per cent rise in food. So that's significant when you put it all together,” said Keating.

Keating explained the food allotment budget nursing homes operate on breakdown to about \$7.75 for each resident every day, which means \$2.58 per meal.

“All of our nursing homes are doing the best they can under trying circumstances to make sure our residents are nourished. However, the problem now is ... that this just increases that challenge to be able to provide food in light of what the realities are,” said Keating.

Minister Cathy Rogers told The Daily Gleaner the decrease in food-funding allotments goes hand-in-hand with a new buying program in bulk-purchasing, and while there'll be reduced costs, there's no reduction in delivery.

“I just want to make sure the message is clear: there's no change in food service, there's no change in food quality, there's no change in the amount of food being brought to residents,” said Rogers.

— With files from Adam Bowie of The Daily Gleaner

Feds continue to weigh options for 2016 salmon season, says MP

SALMON → A1

survived on, because at some point, these people are going to have their say on this.”

Organizations including the Atlantic Salmon Federation and other conservationists say they would prefer the government to take a more cautious route and determine the root cause of the species' sharp decline before allowing anglers to keep a grilse.

Last year was the first time in history that fishermen on the Miramichi River and its tributaries were barred from keeping a salmon.

Those measures were established in response to record-low counts from the summer of 2014, during which only 12,000 fish were recorded.

There was more optimism last summer, however, as monitoring stations recorded higher salmon counts than they had seen in the last three years. Those numbers were more in line with the middle-to-higher end returns counted over the last 16 years.

A special advisory committee struck by former Conservative fisheries



A worker with the Miramichi Salmon Association surveying for Atlantic salmon on the Miramichi River. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVES

minister Gail Shea came back with a series of recommendations last summer as part of the development of an action plan for the salmon fishery in eastern Canada.

Aside from requesting the government increase funding for research, habitat renewal and studies into predation, they also suggested that the salmon retention limit for a given river

system be determined on a case-by-case basis.

“Obviously, the committee put its report out last year and I asked specifically if they were going to follow all of the recommendations in there,” Finnigan said. “They said they would be using as a guide for them to follow.”

Fisheries and Oceans, meanwhile, is in the process of gathering feedback from the public after launching an online survey the department says will help shape a management strategy for the 2016 season.

A statement put out by the Miramichi Salmon Association last week, meanwhile, cemented that organization's call to keep the catch-and-release measures in place for another season.

“In order to preserve the Atlantic salmon for the future, we believe the catch and release angling only policy satisfies that requirement and possibly will be continued on Miramichi waters in 2016, however the lodges and clubs are open and excitedly awaiting anglers for the 2016 season,” the statement reads. “We hope 2016 brings lots of fish and fishermen to the beautiful Miramichi River.”

Miramichi Leader

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milestones

DEATH NOTICES



NEEDHAM, RITA

Rita Needham was born on 2 November 1934 in Birmingham, England and lived in a typical working class environment. At the age of 6 when WWII began, she was learning much about living in bomb shelters every night, facing food shortages and making do with used clothing.

At the age of 15 she left school and found employment in the offices of Joseph Lucas, the automotive parts manufacturer. She remained here until she moved with her new husband, William Needham, to Victoria, Canada in 1956.

In Victoria, she worked at the Vancouver Island Coach lines until 1958, when she had their first son, Martin, and two years later their son Ross, who is with us today. They lived in Victoria for five years until husband William began training for the Vancouver Police in January 1953.

William began part-time studies university studies and in 1978 he received a scholarship to the University of Toronto and they moved there in 1981.

Rita soon began working in Consumer Services at the Globe and Mail and remained with the newspaper until they saw a promotional movie on Retirement Miramichi and they decided to move there in order to be close to son Ross, who was now at the Armored School at Base Gagetown.

At Rita's request there will be no visitation at the funeral home. Funeral service was held on Friday March 18, 2016 at 1pm from St Mary's Anglican Church with The Rev. Gordon Thompson officiating, Deacon: the Rev. Deacon Teddy Quann. Lay Readers were Emerson Kaiser and Phil Rody. Organist Mrs. Charlotte Loggie and St Mary's Choir. Hymns were What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Take My Life, Amazing Grace, I Will Sing Unto The Lord, Because of You & How Great Thou Art.

Interment will be in St Paul's Cemetery in the Spring.

As an expression of sympathy a donation to the memorial of one's choice would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements were under the care of **Maher's Funeral Home Miramichi, NB.** Telephone 773-4321 or www.mahersfh.com

MEMORIALS

Cody Gillespie

October 09, 1981 - March 24, 2002

Memories are like threads of gold,
They never tarnish or grow old.
Your memories are as dear today
As in the hour you passed away.

Love and Miss You,
Dad and Ica

GILLESPIE: In loving memory of Cody Gillespie who passed away on March 24, 2002.

We mention your name,
And speak of you often,
God bless you dear Cody,
You are not forgotten.

Always loved and remembered by
Gram Gillespie & Family



John Donald Preston

In loving memory of John. D. Preston who passed away 2 years ago today. Loving husband, proud dad, greatest grampie, best brother and brother in law.

A smile we'll always remember,
a voice we'll always hear,
a presence we'll always feel,
memories we'll never forget.
God only takes the best,
and that was you.
Lovingly remembered by
Kay & Family

*God gave us
memories that we
might have roses
in December.*

-John M. Barrie

CELEBRATIONS

*Happy
Birthday*



**Happy 4th Birthday March 23rd
Jack Jardine (Angel Baby)**

Love, Nanny & Poppy Curtis
Love you lots xxxxx

80th

*Happy
Birthday*



**Come Celebrate with
Helen Mahoney - Stewart**

Open House March 26, 2016, 2 - 5 pm
Sunny Corner Fire hall
Best wishes only!
Love, all your Family

*"Life without
love is like
a tree without
blossoms
or fruit."*

-Kahlil Gibran

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.

"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**

news



More than 40 people showed up to a meeting on Saturday at the Rodd Miramichi River to discuss what the youth in Miramichi would like to see happen in the region. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Younger residents share views on how Miramichi can be improved

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Miramichers between the ages of 18 to 40 voiced their opinions regarding what they would like to see the city become within the next 14 years.

More than 40 people attended a meeting Saturday called Miramichi 2030: Visioning for the Future. The forum was organized a means of bringing some of the city's younger residents together to discuss their vision of what the city could become.

"It was really dreaming big and how we can make this place truly amazing for everyone by the year 2030," said Coun. Adam Lordon, who is also a member of the Miramichi Young Professionals and Involved Entrepreneurs board, better known as MYPIE. "We were really happy with that and we also opened up the conversation on our Facebook page and we had about a dozen people or so on their chiming in online."

Lordon said he was happy to see so many people providing input into what he says is an important discussion and hopefully help the city become an even better place to live.

The meeting featured a round table discussion broken into two parts that featured residents, other councillors, MYPIE members, entrepreneurs, students and many other residents.

The first discussion focused on community living while the second was on the economy and what businesses or services they would like to see in the community.

People were divided into six groups, where they jotted down their ideas and brought it back to Lordon and the rest of the MYPIE members for further discussion among the entire group.

The community living discussion was hooked around the question "What

does a vibrant Miramichi look like in the year 2030?"

That one, he said, generated a strong response with some common themes emerging from the discussion.

"Everyone envisioned a Miramichi with vibrant downtowns and a focus on river living, which was anywhere from riverfront development, riverfront walking trails, also interesting to note is everyone envisioned that we'd have a wellness centre, by the year 2030," Lordon said.

Andrew Booker, Zane Shaw and Adam Hamilton are all in their first year police foundation at NBCC Miramichi and hail from the Hartland area. They also took part in the meeting and pitched the idea of a specially-developed app that would be able to show people what to do in the city.

"I just want to see the area improve and we thought if we'd have a young person from out of town, that covers a lot," Shaw said. "I figured we would be good additions to the meeting."

Shaw said that all those at the meeting thought it would be a good idea to have an App to facilitate what people can do when they are in Miramichi, whether it's nightlife or even just getting together for a game of basketball.

"We wanted to see the accessibility and the purpose of the meeting was keeping people here and developing the city," Shaw said. "People say there's nothing to do ... there are things to do, you just gotta know where to find them and I got a feeling that was very well addressed."

Meanwhile, Lordon said food was a hot-button topic, and not just in terms of restaurants.

"One of the other broader themes was more diverse food options, buying local and a more regular farmers market where you would get vendors on the

side of the street to all get together in one place, instead of spread out across the city," he said. "They also mentioned a desire for a wider variety of restaurant food, like sushi or thai food, options that are just a little bit more outside of the box."

As for the economy, Lordon said people were looking for a more diverse restaurant assortment and people were looking for more nightlife, like a wine bar or a sports bar and even a bookstore cafe.

"On the industry side of things, people were talking about innovation and technology and taking advantage of those sectors," he said. "Local agriculture came back as a theme and manufacturing as well."

As for what's next for the group, Lordon said he plans on bringing MYP-IE together, preparing a plan and later bringing their ideas to council along with the provincial and federal levels of government.

"We want to make sure that all the levels of government understand what young people in Miramichi would like to see the community become," Lordon said.

He hopes to have the report completed and presented to council sometime in April.

"We'll plan on passing it on to the other leaders in April, as well," Lordon said.

As for another meeting for Miramichi 2030, Lordon said he's open to the idea, but they have yet to set a date.

"I'd like to see us do this again and everyone was really open to the idea and everyone enjoyed it," Lordon said. "Maybe in a few months it would be a great chance to sit down and have this discussion again and look at maybe how we as a group or young people can chose some of these initiatives to more actively make happen."

Province seeks municipal co-operation

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Although there isn't a "one size fits all" formula for how the provincial Liberals will approach any municipal realignment during their mandate, Local Government Minister Brian Kenny said the government is looking to expand the conversation in the coming months.

Kenny shed some light on the government's move to send out its 12 regional service commissions on an apparent fact-finding mission. The intent is to have them return with new proposals for amalgamations or mergers among municipalities and rural local service districts.

Kenny, who also handles the provincial environment portfolio and serves as the MLA for Bathurst West-Beresford, wouldn't speculate on what might come out of that exploratory work.

He did say, however, that the province was nonetheless committed to seeing what comes out of it.

"We inherited the program that's in place now and we're looking at different ways where we can have a collaboration within our rural communities and our municipalities," he said in a recent interview. "There's no one size fits all because the geography and the demographics in New Brunswick is very different no matter where you go in the province ... but this has worked well in different parts of the province."

The formation of new municipal entities or any expansion of existing ones through amalgamation would need to be in line with the 2008 report prepared for the government by Jean-Guy Finn.

The Finn report called for a drastic reduction in the number of municipalities and for residents of New Brunswick's rural local service districts to receive municipal representation and a fairer share of services while providing municipal governments with more tax base to draw on.

In the largely rural Miramichi region, Finn's suggestions included – among other things – broadening the reach of the City of Miramichi to take on population further out on all sides, and for residents in the local service districts of Renous and Quarryville to join forces with the Village of Blackville.

Given that the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board has representation from each of the region's municipalities and a number of local service districts, Kenny said it made sense for those organizations to help steer the process at the local level.

The province has hinted that it would provide infrastructure incentives for any communities that do decide to amalgamate or merge, however no further clarification has been given on what that might look like.

Any discussions about amalgamation or encouraging communities to collaborate more closely with one another, he said, is directly tied into the government's wider plan to modernize the Municipalities Act and the Community Planning Act.

In rolling out its latest budget last month, the government also committed to taking steps to try and strengthen the powers of individual municipalities to undertake efforts related to economic development while also rolling new mechanisms to help municipalities cope with rising labour costs.

Kenny said the role of the RSCs is also going to fall under the microscope as part of this as well.

The service commissions were established in 2013 with an initial mandate of providing solid waste and planning services to the areas they serve.

In the case of the Miramichi area, the majority of Northumberland County falls within the boundaries of the Greater Miramichi RSC.

There has been discussion about eventually extending the scope of the commissions to include areas like policing,

emergency measures and infrastructure sharing but that hasn't happened yet.

Still, Kenny said the government believes there might be a bigger role for the RSCs to play.

"With the regional service commissions, we're going to look at ways we can find improvements but I can't really comment on that right now," he said. "But there are a lot of different projects that regional service commissions want to take on and as government, we're getting a lot of input from stakeholders who are saying, 'maybe this can be changed.'"

Even though there is still much to play out in terms of any changes to municipal legislation, Kenny said he is sensing that municipalities realize that many of them share some common issues.

He said he also believes there is a growing realization that some of those challenges can be overcome by working with one another instead of in silos.

"I think it's a moving target but I see that there is some collaboration happening with the municipalities and I think that people in New Brunswick have in their mind, because of the tough economic times that we have, that there are also some opportunities out there," he said. "So we're trying to find efficiencies and we're trying to find ways for local communities to work together and touring around the province, I've seen some of the challenges and some of the opportunities."

Although there is no firm timetable on any of these issues, Kenny said that he hoped to have something back to present in the legislature "as soon as possible."

The executive directors from each of the service commissions are expected to meet with Kenny at some point in the coming weeks to receive more details on the process.

The next meeting of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission will take place at Miramichi City Hall on April 12.

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

WEDNESDAY

April 6, 2016

Local service district residents urged to educate themselves on amalgamation

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A member of an advocacy group representing the province's local service districts says that rural New Brunswickers have no interest in being strong-armed into amalgamation.

John Goodfellow, who represents the local service district of South Esk on the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission and serves as the vice-chair of the Local Service District Association of Rural New Brunswick, acknowledged there is a certain amount of concern among rural residents over the province's plans to take an extended look at municipal reform.

Any amalgamations or mergers that end up taking place, according to the Department of Environment and Local Government, would need to be in line with the 2008 report of Jean-Guy Finn.

Finn's report called for a drastic restructuring of the municipal landscape which aimed to reduce New Brunswick's 350 local administrative units into 53 functioning municipalities.

While the province has stopped short of saying that any ensuing realignment would be forced, instead commissioning its 12 regional service commissions to lead the exercise and expand the conversation, Goodfellow said what local service districts want most of all is a right to control their own fate.

Goodfellow said there is no one-size-fits-all solution on amalgamation and that's where the Finn report, he noted, falls short.

Essentially, Goodfellow said that if rural residents collectively decide that a voluntary amalgamation or merger is something that would work best for their community, then the decision should be left up to them and them alone.

For those that are fundamentally opposed to joining up with a municipality, however, Goodfellow said their rights as rural property owners should be respected.

"As a landowner and a member of a small community, we feel those people

PLEASE SEE → **MERGERS, A2**

Hockey game raised \$1,449 for Neguac food bank



Susie St-Coeur singing the national anthem before a charity hockey game at the Neguac Arena on Sunday evening. An RCMP team defeated G & G Brothers 6-5 in the match-up which saw \$1,449 raised for the Unique Family Centre. Inc. food bank in the village. For more photos, see inside and miramichileader.com. PHOTO: GRACE TROWBRIDGE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Mistrial declared by judge in Dedam case

SHANNON MACLEOD
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A mistrial has been declared for a former First Nations chief accused of committing sex crimes against young girls.

Jury selection for the Court of Queen's Bench trial of Wilbur Dedam, 62, of Esogenoôpetitj First Nation was set to begin Monday, April 4, at 9:30 a.m.

However, Justice Fred Ferguson said he was excusing himself of the matters involving Dedam and declared a mistrial.

The reasons for a mistrial are subject to a publication ban, which also protects the identities of Dedam's alleged victims. Ferguson said by way of a written decision the reasons will be made public by April 15.

Ferguson excused himself from the trial, aside from the task of finding a new trial judge for the May 2 motions day in the Court of Queen's Bench. That's when new dates for the trial will be selected to accommodate Crown prosecutor Melanie MacAulay, defence lawyers T.J. Burke and Gilles Lemieux and the judge who will preside over the trial.

Dedam, who's represented by Saint Antoine-based Lemieux, and Fredericton-based Burke, is facing six sex-related

PLEASE SEE → **TRIAL, A4**



Former Esogenoôpetitj First Nation chief Wilbur Dedam
PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Inside

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A stage for Miramichi youth to showcase creativity

Annual Miramichi Regional Music Festival announced for April 18 to 30

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Musicians and vocalists are practising hard in preparation for this year's Miramichi Regional Music Festival.

The Miramichi Regional Music Festival has been officially announced for April 18 to 30 for music students and schools in Miramichi and

PLEASE SEE → **FESTIVAL, A2**



The St. Andrews Elementary School Choir performing in the 2014 Miramichi Regional Music Festival. This year's festival runs from April 18 to 30. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE



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Service district residents urged to educate themselves on amalgamation

MERGERS → A1

should be the ones making the decision because we don't like something being imposed," Goodfellow said. "There has been a fair amount of making people aware of what could be done and there's nothing wrong with that – but these people shouldn't be made to feel like somebody is dictating to them."

Goodfellow said the local service district association will be mobilizing further as the government process plays out. In the meantime, he's encouraging rural residents to brush up on the subject.

The association has already published a list of 10 bullet point issues it is asking citizens to be mindful of if and when the discussion eventually opens up.

Among them, the group says that country dwellers need to scrutinize any hard sales pitches, the promise of incentives in exchange for amalgamation and also to look into their rights as property owners.

He pointed out that already, the province has put out the vague promise of "infrastructure incentives" for any communities that do decide to amalgamate without any further context regarding actual benefit.

Goodfellow said the narrative around rural New Brunswick has also been subjected to a handful of myths.

One of them is the notion that the rural landscape is somehow less vibrant that it used to be and that it is suffering from rapid depopulation. He said that many rural communities are doing just fine economically while retaining stable populations, while arguing that the province's rural character should be looked to as a strength rather than a liability.

Typically, he said, people who live in the country live there for a reason.



A look at the fairgrounds in Napan, one of several local service districts that dot the landscape in Northumberland County. The provincial local service district association is encouraging residents to brush up on the issue of amalgamation as the province looks at the issue in the coming months. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

They enjoy the lifestyle and being out from under the control of a city, town or village.

One of the big fears of a city, for instance, extending its reach out deeper

into rural territory is that there would be, Goodfellow said, absolutely no gain to rural residents in a lot of cases.

"People who are annexed against their will, most of them are sitting out

there with double to triple the taxes they paid before with no essential change in services - they've essentially been parasitised," he said.

"We appreciate our freedom, we

Correction

MIRAMICHI LEADER

A story entitled "Trial date set for man accused of assaulting police sergeant," on page A6 of the Monday, April 4, Miramichi Leader identified lawyer Craig Silliker as being disbarred.

In fact, he's only been suspended by the Law Society of New Brunswick. We regret the error.

want to live our own existence, we want to live a rural lifestyle and we appreciate our ownership rights as private property owners ... so I think we're properly nervous right now."

Recent comments from Environment and Local Government Minister Brian Kenny, however, seems to indicate that the provincial government agrees that a delicate approach to the subject is needed.

Kenny earlier in March confirmed that although the province was committed to engaging communities in dialogue, using the regional service commissions as the proponent that will steer it, it was committed to letting the process breathe a bit.

"We inherited the program that's in place now and we're looking at different ways where we can have a collaboration within our rural communities and our municipalities," he said in a recent interview. "There's no one size fits all because the geography and the demographics in New Brunswick is very different no matter where you go in the province ... but this has worked well in different parts of the province."

The government currently hasn't released any firm timetable on the exercise. Regional service commission directors were supposed to be briefed on the process before the end of March.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The real properties listed hereunder: will be sold at public auction on April 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at the Service New Brunswick centre located at 360 Pleasant Street, in the City of Miramichi, in the County of Northumberland and Province of New Brunswick:

Assessed Owner **Jocelyne Arseneau**; Property Location **297 Principale Street, Village of Neguac**; Property Description **House and Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02577655**; P.I.D. **40209025**.

Assessed Owner **Burnt Church New Jersey Recreation Council Inc.**; Property Location **Route 11, New Jersey, L.S.D. of Alnwick**; Property Description **Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02589610**; P.I.D. **40018442, 40299901**.

Assessed Owner **Pierre LeBlanc or Joseph Pierre LeBlanc**; Property Location **Route 445, Fair Isle, L.S.D. of Fair Isle**; Property Description **Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02595506**; P.I.D. **40291320**.

Assessed Owner **Calvin Aaron Donovan**; Property Location **3160 Route 108, Renous, Renous-Quarryville**; Property Description **Residence and Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02611514**; P.I.D. **40240590**.

Assessed Owner **Timothy Furlong or Timothy James Furlong**; Property Location **11321 Route 8, L.S.D. of Blackville**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02619928**; P.I.D. **40023897**.

Assessed Owner **Giovanni Mancini or John Mancini**; Property Location **Howard Road, L.S.D. of Blackville**; Property Description **House and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02626666**; P.I.D. **40030777**.

Assessed Owner **Jennie Hollier Kenny Estate**; Property Location **Main Street North, Blackville, Village of Blackville**; Property Description **Residential Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02630186**; P.I.D. **40033607**.

Assessed Owner **Kirby Porter**; Property Location **409 Route 123, L.S.D. of Blissfield**; Property Description **Residential Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02633176**; P.I.D. **40044521, 40365256**.

Assessed Owner **Paul Amyotte and Paula Matchett**; Property Location **312 Brown Road, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02650071**; P.I.D. **402606507**.

Assessed Owner **Paul Roger Comeau or Roger Paul Comeau, and Brenda Lee Comeau**; Property Location **118 Bridge Road, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Residence and Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02652154**; P.I.D. **40259574**.

Assessed Owner **Charles T. Duffy Estate**; Property Location **Route 8, Boiestown, Upper Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02697934**; P.I.D. **40088759**.

Assessed Owner **David W.G. Hinchinson Estate**; Property Location **Route 118, Chelmsford, L.S.D. of Nelson**; Property Description **Residential Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02715960**; P.I.D. **40098964**.

Assessed Owner **Edith Hachey**; Property Location **Beaverbrook Road, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Back Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02735627**; P.I.D. **40102964**.

Assessed Owner **Marshall Blackett and Korissa Ann Maguire**; Property Location **1712 Route 425, L.S.D. of Sunny Corner**; Property Description **Residence and Land**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02751843**; P.I.D. **40274060**.

Assessed Owner **Winsora Babe Betts**; Property Location **12171 Route 430, Chaplin Island Road, L.S.D. of North Esk**; Property Description **Vacant Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02765096**; P.I.D. **40131971**.

Assessed Owner **Linda June Hare**; Property Location **501 Route 415 Highway, L.S.D. of South Esk**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02770994**; P.I.D. **40337503**.

Assessed Owner **Lorraine Arseneault, Edgar Arseneault and Emile Arseneault**; Property Location **5674 Des Erables Street, Village of Rogersville**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02793015**; P.I.D. **40158453**.

Assessed Owner **Harvey McCrindle Estate**; Property Location **321 Duke Street Extension, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **02829523**; P.I.D. **40200131**.

Assessed Owner **Francis Joseph Sipple Jr.**; Property Location **Manuels Road, Baie-Sainte-Anne**; Property Description **Residence and Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **03880263**; P.I.D. **40353799, 40379794**.

Assessed Owner **Bramlea Realty Ltd.**; Property Location **Walls Street, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot #20**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04507397**; P.I.D. **40319782**.

Assessed Owner **Bramlea Realty Ltd.**; Property Location **Walls Street, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot #21**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04507402**; P.I.D. **40319691**.

Assessed Owner **Bramlea Realty Ltd.**; Property Location **Walls Street, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot #22**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04507410**; P.I.D. **40319790**.

Assessed Owner **Bramlea Realty Ltd.**; Property Location **Walls Street, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot #23**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04507428**; P.I.D. **40319741**.

Assessed Owner **Bramlea Realty Ltd.**; Property Location **Walls Street, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Lot #24**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04507436**; P.I.D. **40319808**.

Assessed Owner **Norris Curtis Sr.**; Property Location **Route 118, Blackville, L.S.D. of Nelson**; Property Description **Woodland**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **04892815**; P.I.D. **40027575**.

Assessed Owner **Southwest Miramichi Holdings Inc.**; Property Location **Route 8, Smiths Crossing, L.S.D. of Blackville**; Property Description **Building and Lot #99-72**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **05125392**; P.I.D. **40448672**.

Assessed Owner **William Wickholm Estate**; Property Location **Route 430 Chaplin Island Road, L.S.D. of North Esk**; Property Description **Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **05285388**; P.I.D. **40132920**.

Assessed Owner **Pierre LeBlanc**; Property Location **Route 445, Fair Isle, L.S.D. of Fair Isle**; Property Description **Lot**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **05537604**; P.I.D. **40475519**.

Assessed Owner **Grace Manderson Estate**; Property Location **Off Wellington, City of Miramichi**; Property Description **Timberland**; Assessment and Tax Roll Information Year **2016**; Property Account Number **05927833**; P.I.D. **40495137**.

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The prospective purchaser should make all inspections and investigations they consider necessary including a search of title.

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The highest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Dated at Fredericton the 22nd day of March 2016.

Dany Couillard
Provincial Tax Commissioner



Miramichi youth showcase creativity

FESTIVAL → A1

Anglophone School District North.

"Miramichi has a long, rich history of offering a competitive music festival for its young people," said Veronique Arseneault, festival spokesperson and former chair.

She noted the annual event, which sees participants competing for awards and prizes, has gone through some changes on the organizational front over the years. "In the early years, it was a school district initiative; later it was organized by the Rotary Clubs of Chatham and Newcastle. After a break of several years, it returned two years ago (and) we are pleased to be having it once again in 2016," said Arseneault. She said being able to host the regional musical festival for the third year in a row is nothing short of exciting.

"It gives young people another outlet for their creativity and the community and the schools have really embraces it. And we've seen a rise each year in the number of registrations," she said. "So I love the fact that kids can be creative and learn new skills and showcase them to the community and to their peers."

Arseneault said last year there were around 140 participants and Rhéal Fournier is the festival director.

The event is compromised of schools from around Anglophone School District North.

The syllabus for the festival has now been distributed to schools in the Miramichi area along with private music teachers, and can also be found online at http://www.nbfm.org/html/music_festival_initiative.html

Arseneault said schools from the francophone school district as well as First Nations communities are invited to attend the more than week-long festival.

"It's quite amazing to see each one of the kids being able to do something that they love to do," she said.

Competition will be in different levels, from beginner to advanced, in the disciplines of voice, piano, strings, guitar, woodwind, brass, percussion,

chamber ensemble, musical theatre, speech arts, choral, band, orchestra and dance.

"Each performance will be adjudicated and receive instruction from a specialist in the discipline," said Arseneault.

Local schools are encouraged to participate in the non-competitive classroom singing, choral speech, rhythm band, and dance classes, said a news release. Also offered are classes for school, church and community choirs and bands with a choice of competitive or non-competitive participation.

There's a sense of community pride being able to host this kind of festival for youth, said Arseneault.

"So many of the parents come and see all of the performances and that's quite amazing," she said, noting a final performance on the last night features different participants from different categories.

It's the look on parents' proud faces that Arseneault loves the most.

"Because they're so filled with pride when they see their kids performing in front of group like that."

Arseneault said some contestants are recommended to go on to the provincial music festival.

"That's amazing coming from a small region like ours," she said. "To be able to go and compete against students from all over the province."

Arseneault said Miramichi has a tradition of being a sporting community but performing arts is on the rise on the river as well.

"The more that we give kids the opportunity to perform in their chosen field, whether it be sports or academics or theatre arts or music. The better they are later in life," she said.

"So for a community like ours in a region like ours-because they really do come from the region, it's an opportunity to showcase how fabulous we are."

Added Arseneault: "And that's something that's amazing and it's a wonderful boost to not only the community pride but also, more importantly, the children's pride."

Miramichi Leader

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milestones

DEATH NOTICES

MERSEREAU, TRENT

The death of Mr. Trent Bradley Mersereau, of Blackville, NB, occurred at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the age of 44. Born in Newcastle, NB, he is the son of Burton "Junior" and Vera (Murray) Mersereau.

Trent was a Chemical Technologist who worked throughout New Brunswick and Alberta before returning home to Blackville. He enjoyed outdoor activities including camping, fishing and running the river. No stranger to the kitchen, he frequently shared his passion for the culinary arts with family and friends. He was a very giving person who loved life.

Besides his parents, Trent is survived by: three sisters: Carla Fraser (Robert) of Holden, Mass; Twila Sturgeon (Bentley) of Gray Rapids, NB; Krista Mersereau Cornish (Brad) of Buckeye, AZ; one brother: Troy (Colleen) of Blackville, NB; nieces and nephews: Marissa and Daniel Fraser; Kayla and Alex Sturgeon; Michala, Jared and Kaelyn Mersereau; paternal aunt: Jean MacPhail (Lanny); maternal aunts: Iva Arbeau, Jean Bragdon (Richard), Edna McCarthy, Ramona MacDonald and many cousins.

Trent is predeceased by: paternal aunts and uncles, Jesse, Isabel, Victor, Glorna, Grace and Bill and maternal aunts and uncles: Eldon, Aubrey, Dora and Alvin.

The family received visitors at the Miramichi Fellowship Centre, Main Street, Blackville on Monday, March 28, 2016 from 7 to 9 PM and Tuesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 PM. The Funeral service was held at the Miramichi Fellowship Centre on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 2 PM with Pastor John Stewart officiating. Music was provided by: Rev. Ronald (Ron) Ecker. Hymns were: "Amazing Grace" and "Jesus Paid it All" and Video Music: "The River." Active Pallbearers were: Shawn Munn, Rodney Ross, Errol Curtis, Jeff Keenan, Wade Hallihan and Dana Croft. Burial will take place in the Upper Blackville Baptist Cemetery later in the spring.

In Trent's memory, donations may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of **Bell's Funeral Home**, 651 King George Highway, Miramichi, NB. E1V 1N9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY!



Happy 80th Birthday Bunny Davis, April 12. Open House, April 9th at 458 Ironmen Rd. Apt #207 From 2 to 4pm

Love, Family

PRAYERS

Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week as well as appeared to His disciples on the first day of the week. In Acts 2 we read of the outpouring of the holy spirit, which as well took place on the first day of the week. In this way Christ, being Lord of the Sabbath, transferred the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. www.cida.ca



MOTHER TERESA - Say 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days. Ask for 3 wishes, first for business, second and third for the impossible. Publish this article on the 9th day. Your wishes will come true even though you may not believe it. Amazing, but true! P.P.



MEMORIAMS



Joy Bell (Brown)

In memory of Joy who passed away 11 years ago on April 6, 2005

Beautiful memories
Silently kept,
Of a beautiful daughter
We will never forget.

Loved and sadly missed
by Mom & Dad



WARREN, HERBERT: In loving memory of my Dad, Herbert Warren, who passed away April 7, 2004.

Beside your grave, I often stand
With heart both crushed and sore.
Silent till the sweet words come
"Not lost, but gone Before".
God knows how much I miss you
He counts the tears I have shed,
And whispers "He only sleeps,
Your loved one is not dead".
So I'll be brave, dear father,
And pray to God each day.
And when He calls me home to you
Your smile will guide the way.

Lovingly remembered and forever missed
by Wayne and Loretta.



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.

"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

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news

Province says city can do planning, but must stay in service commission

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

No matter how badly Miramichi councillors may want to, a full and complete divorce from the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission isn't something that's possible.

That's according to the Department of Environment and Local Government, the provincial body that provides oversight to New Brunswick's 12 regional service providers.

But even though municipalities that fall under the commissions might not be eligible for a total split, they do have the option of at least distancing themselves to take back a certain amount of control over the delivery of certain services.

"Under the Regional Service Delivery Act, a municipality cannot withdraw from a regional service commission entirely," said department spokeswoman Jennifer Graham. "It can, however, withdraw from planning services provided they give two full calendar years notice."

Right now, the service commissions, which were legislated into existence by the former Progressive Conservative government in 2013, are limited to the provision of planning services and solid waste management to the regions they serve.

The spirit of their creation was to help reduce overlap in service delivery while encouraging a closer relationship between municipalities and the surrounding local service districts.

The vast majority of Northumberland County, including the city, sees those services provided by the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission.

The service commission features representation on its board of directors from the city, the villages of Doaktown and Blackville, the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi and a handful of local service districts.

During their regular monthly meeting

March 24, Miramichi council passed a motion formally authorizing city staff to prepare a report regarding "the benefits and detriments of the City of Miramichi being a member of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission."

Coun. Billy Fleiger presented the motion for council's consideration that night and clarified that the motivation was to determine what the city's options were.

"What I want to know is if this is good for us," Fleiger said during the meeting. "Because the cost for us right now is over \$400,000 a year and I think the eight people and the mayor that city around this chambers, we should be responsible for the movement and the growth of the city and not a group of people that are anywhere from Boiestown to Baie-Sainte-Anne to Neguac."

Fleiger said he expected the development of the report to take at least a few months to prepare, which means that it will be the council elected after May 9 that will decide which direction the city goes.

What is clear is that most of the municipality's apparent issues with the service commission are focused on the planning side.

Council has in the recent past expressed concerns about the level of detail in the process that developers need to go through in working with planners before having a building permit issued.

Fleiger, along with Coun. Peggy McLean, have both said that there is room for improvement in the way the planning office works with its clients. Each of them also said they were worried about the impact the process could have on potentially discouraging people to invest in the city.

"I think it's extremely important that we continue to build relationships with our neighbours and I understand the regional service commission and the long-term goal they have in being able to support our outlying communities,"

McLean said during last week's meeting. "But I do think it's prudent for us who sit here, who are responsible for taxpayers money, to make sure that we are getting the best bang for the buck."

Management with the regional service commission have recognized that there is room for improvement on their end. That was the motivation behind the organization developing a new strategy aimed at increasing the level of communication and service to their clients, with an eye toward better promoting how the planning office actually functions.

The commission's executive director, Wilson Bell, is reserving comment on the current situation until he has a chance to sit down with city manager Mike Noel. However, he has previously stated that planners are bound by different bylaws, provincial and federal legislation and the terms of the Building Code of Canada in their decision-making process.

Despite council's concerns, Miramichi is coming off a string of strong construction years, with a total of \$24.8 million worth of building permits issued in the city in 2014 following \$25.8 million in 2013, which was a 10-year high.

Figures for 2015, however, have yet to be released.

If the city decides to opt out of the planning side of the service commission's mandate, it wouldn't be an unprecedented move.

Edmundston, in late 2014, signalled its desire to take control of the way planning services are delivered, saying that the city wanted to protect its interests and focus on economic development. Grand Falls, meanwhile, also expressed interest at that time in a withdrawal.

Both municipalities are still in that mandatory two-year time period before requests become official. If Miramichi decides to moved ahead with an exit strategy in the coming months, it wouldn't be able to opt out of planning until late 2018.

Crossbow hunting a positive: local outfitter

K. BRYANNAH JAMES
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A local outfitting store doesn't foresee any downside should the provincial government implement a change to New Brunswick's crossbow hunting laws.

Stéphane Richard, partner and manager of the Miramichi Pronature at 202 King St., said he thinks being able to use a crossbow during bow season to hunt during deer season can only be positive.

That's just one of two proposed changes by the province's Department of Natural Resources, allowing hunters to use their crossbows during bow and deer season.

Richard said because crossbow hunting wasn't allowed during archery season – known as bow season – not a lot of hunters had been purchasing the weapon.

However, with different legislation that situation could well change.

"The proposed changes ... would definitely boost up crossbow sales, that's for sure," said Richard.

He said this boost in sales, should the change be made to the New Brunswick Fish and Wildlife Act, would mean more hunters trying the bow practice of hunting.

"Or hunt during archery season with the crossbow, because the thing is if you're going to hunt with a bow, you need a lot of practice," he said. "You need to be very involved in shooting your bow. Versus a crossbow, is very user friendly. Anybody ... who can shoot a gun can shoot a crossbow."

The Miramichi region is known for its hunting and fishing outfitters and camps. Richard said he's had customers who've come in to his store who said they would like to crossbow hunt or who are excited about the proposed change.

"It would definitely, definitely be a positive change, yes," he said.

Another proposed change under the Fish and Wildlife Act would be pushing the deer hunting season back by a week.

Richard said delaying deer season, which takes every fall, would make for a better hunting season because of cooler temperatures and the deer will be in their rutting season.

"You can work the game a lot more effectively with different calls and different scents," said Richard.

According to the province' Department of Natural Resources Fish and



The New Brunswick government is proposing that crossbow hunting will be allowed, and that the annual deer hunting season be pushed back a week.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Wildlife Branch, there are a number of rules and regulation crossbow hunters must follow for crossbow hunting within the province.

Some of the rules and regulations include:

- it's illegal to discharge a bow within 100 metres of specific facilities including but not limited to dwellings, playgrounds and schools
- it's illegal to carry a loaded and cocked bow on any form of motor vehicle
- florescent hunter orange hat, vest and/or jacket are mandatory from the beginning of September until Dec. 1.
- there's a 150-pound minimum draw weight if used on bigger game such as bear, moose and deer
- anyone 18 and younger would not be allowed to have a crossbow
- crossbows fall under federal Firearms Act, meaning an individual does not need one of either a firearms license or registration certificate in order to have one
- if using the crossbow for hunting purposes it has to have a safety on it

Paul Leahey, president of the New Brunswick Professional Outfitter Guides Association, said there are Miramichi outfitters that fall within the association.

When asked what he's been hearing regarding crossbow hunting, should the proposed changes come into effect, Leahey said he believes some hunters would like to use the weapon because they haven't been able to for some time.

He said it could also be beneficial to rural communities and outfitters who have clients coming in from out of province, who may have been told in the past they couldn't use the weapon in New Brunswick.

"If this is introduced, and I think we have every indication that it will be, whether it's this year or next year," he said. "That this will be a positive step for bringing more clients in and obviously giving employment in rule areas which is very important."

Leahey said in his opinion he can't speak to if crossbow hunting will become popular among New Brunswick hunters, but out-of-province clients for various outfitters would like the increase in accuracy the crossbow provides.

"It's an evolution. You have to first have the bow hunting course. That is the compound bow hunting course before you can use the crossbow, for New Brunswick people."

Leahey said in order to use a crossbow in the pursuit of game a hunter has to have a bow hunting course and the crossbow verification that comes with the aforementioned course.

He said for older hunter,s using the crossbow might become an option because of the convenient nature of the weapon, compared to a compound bow, when it comes to hunting larger game such as deer or game.

– With files from Elizabeth Fraser of The Daily Gleaner

Director hopes city will conduct 'fair' review

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission said he is prepared to wait and see what the city comes back with after councillors ordered staff to weigh the pros and cons of the relationship.

In his first comments since city councillors late last month took the first steps toward – at most – a partial split from the service commission, director Wilson Bell said the ball is very firmly in the city's court.

"I did meet with the city manager [Mike Noel] and I'm confident they will conduct a thorough and fair review," Bell said during Tuesday's commission board meeting in Miramichi. "His report is due back to his city council at some point in late May, so at this time we will just wait and see how that plays out and we'll go from there."

New Brunswick's 12 service commissions were legislated into existence by the province three years ago to help steer regional collaboration through the provision of different services.

As it stands right now, the regional service commissions oversee the delivery of solid waste management and planning services to the regions they serve.

The issues expressed by city councillors are almost exclusively related to the planning side of the organization.

Any building applications and permits that come through the system in the Miramichi region are ultimately under the purview of the regional service commission.

Commission planners are also responsible for providing oversight to ensure that any developments are in line with municipal bylaws, different pieces of provincial and federal legislation as well as the Building Code of Canada.

Councillors – most notably Coun. Peggy McLean and Coun.

Billy Fleiger – have been vocal about their belief that the planning process under the direction of the service commission is overly detailed, lacking common sense and has sparked

frustration among developers who have had difficulties getting their proposals shovel-ready.

They have argued that the nature of the planning procedures takes control out of the hands of the municipality and puts it into the hands of planners and a citizens' group known as the planning review and adjustment committee tasked with reviewing different applications.

At worst, they say it could hinder investor confidence in the city and push developments elsewhere.

The report being prepared by Noel at the request of council is intended to determine whether or not the city would benefit more from remaining with the regional service commission as the city's planning services provider or to strike out on their own and handle the building process in-house or through some other means.

The Department of Environment and Local Government confirmed earlier this month that individual municipalities can opt out of the planning side of the service commission, albeit only after they provide two year's notice.

Communities like Edmundston and Grand Falls are already in the middle of their two-year waiting period after formulating their own exit strategies from the commissions they belong to.

As easily the largest municipality within the boundaries of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, the city is also the commission's largest funding provider.

For planning costs alone, the city budgeted \$356,000 in 2015, although it was remitted back a little over \$312,000 to drastically pare down its net cost.

A total of 19 local service districts are also fall under the Miramichi commission, which operates on an annual budget of roughly \$2.5 million.

Whatever the city chooses to do is their own prerogative, Bell said.

Having said that, Bell also noted that the commission is committed to improving the service it provides to clients and enhancing the way it communicates.



Wilson Bell, the executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, said he is prepared to wait and see what the City of Miramichi comes back with in their review of their arrangement with the commission on the delivery of planning services. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

That was the spirit behind the development of a new strategy the service commission rolled out in January and Bell said he's optimistic that roadmap may address a lot of the issues that have come up.

Other than that, he noted that planners also have a job to do and are bound by the rules.

"We're being proactive and the planning assistance plan that we developed was done in recognition of, I guess, that there could be some improvements from our end so that was articulated, presented, approved and now being implemented," he said. "So at this point, it's unfortunately just a wait-and-see."

According to construction figures released by the RSC Tuesday, meanwhile, things are getting built in the city with a total of \$36.61 million

worth of permits being issued by the planning office in 2015.

That's up from \$24.8 million in 2014, although the number of permits issued in the city last year fell by 10 from 146 to 136.

While the ongoing construction of the federal pay centre office building has helped prop up those numbers, Bell also highlighted key city projects like major renovations to the Douglastown Burger King location, the development of the new Miramichi Chrysler Dodge Jeep dealership, the new Mill Cove coffee shop on the town square and the transformation of the former St. Mark's church into the new Clay Cafe art workshop as big wins.

Overall, the value of construction throughout the Miramichi region registered in at \$48.77 million for the year, including \$10.54 million in the



This is something that, maybe, we should sit down and discuss once the dust settles here in a few weeks.

DOUG MUNN

region's unincorporated areas.

Still, commission chair Doug Munn, the mayor of Upper Miramichi, has expressed his own concerns about what he says is a one-size-fits-all nature of planning and said he hopes the issue will be picked up again following the May 9 election.

"This is something that, maybe, we should sit down and discuss once the dust settles here in a few weeks," Munn said. "There are a lot of things at play, we've got elections going on, and there could be some changes on their city council, on all of our councils, and there could be a whole new ballgame here very quickly."

Nevertheless, RSC board member John Goodfellow, who represents the South Esk local service district, said that the situation with the city warrants concern and that he hears about it often.

"I'm still getting very strong vibes on this from within the community and I'm not looking for them – but I'm getting them," said Goodfellow. "But this is a potentially dangerous situation, maybe everything's been taken care of, but it's concerning."

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LOONIE RISES

Giles Perry



Water protection or water politics?

INKA MILEWSKI
COMMENTARY

How many people remember what the weather was like two years ago? Who was the environment minister five years ago? Or what they had for lunch yesterday; I certainly can't and, likely, many others can't as well. In fact, the Department of Environment and Local Government is counting on our collective poor memory to talk about their new water protection strategy.

In 1989, the province established the Clean Water Act. Since then a long list of key regulations have been added to protect water courses, wetlands, ground water and drinking water including the Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Regulation (1990), the Potable Water Regulation (1993), Watershed Protected Areas Designation Order (2001), Water Classification Regulation (2002), and the Water Well Regulation (2002).

These regulations have been achieved with the input of tens of thousands of citizen volunteer hours. Millions of dollars have been spent on scientific studies and on data collection by community and watershed groups.

So, what's wrong with the existing water protection strategy?

As it turns out, the government considers enforcement a key problem. More specifically, Environment and Local Government Minister Brian Kenny has stated that standards in the

Water Classification Regulation are not enforceable.

It's difficult to believe that in the course of developing those regulations more than 14 years ago that the environment department would not have done its research, considered regulatory models in other jurisdictions and had the justice department review the regulations and their constitutionality before enacting the regulations. In reality, when the legis-

Under this system there are no prohibited actives per se

INKA MILEWSKI

lation was introduced, it was considered state-of-the-art and remains so to this day. Today, many other jurisdictions have similar legislation.

What the government seems to now want from a water protection strategy is less about enforcing rules and more about watching and monitoring. Under this system, there are no prohibited actives per se. The public is never asked for their permission to allow activities that could potentially degrade their community water. It is all controlled by the regulator. Monitoring occurs after the development takes place. If the industry

is polluting, the government will try to figure out what to do about it. In other words, management will adapt to the situation rather than proactively prevent pollution from happening.

Classification on the other hand establishes the current state of the water compared to an unpolluted state and then places constraints on what activities will be permitted. If an industry wants to operate an activity prohibited for the class of the watershed at the point of operation, the proponent must request, and demonstrate public support for, reclassification of a portion of the watershed to accommodate the industry; a sort of democracy at the watershed level.

One has to ask, if the government is truly interested in what an informed public has to contribute, why hasn't the government provided the public with a clear and coherent analysis of their perception of the problems with the current water protection legislation? What will the current consultation achieve that has not already been accomplished by the current legislation?

Without a legal test of the existing classification system, the province has no evidence that the Water Classification Regulation is unenforceable. Rather than waste more of New Brunswickers' time and money, the best and most expeditious strategy for the province is to simply get on with the business of water protection by clearing-up the backlog of classifications. Then we will see if there is some fatal weakness in the regulations.

Inka Milewski

is science advisor for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Employment Insurance changes undo much-needed reforms

The Trudeau government made a series of changes to Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program in last month's federal budget. Unemployed workers in provinces hit hardest by the energy sector downturn have received the most attention.

Few will argue with extending regular EI benefits by five weeks to out-of-work recipients living in areas where unemployment has increased by more than two percentage points. This includes northern Canada, much of Alberta and Saskatchewan as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. It is equally reasonable to provide an additional 20 weeks of coverage to long-tenured workers who have paid into EI and previously collected few if any benefits. The targeted and temporary nature of these additions mean people will return to work as the energy sector rebounds and the economy adjusts. And these added EI expenditures will drop accordingly.

In Atlantic Canada, the changes have mostly been considered through the lens of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's campaign commitment to loosen EI rules by repealing the reforms made by

the Conservative government. And the new government is moving quickly on this.

Mr. Trudeau's government is eliminating Conservative requirements on frequent and repeat EI claimants to accept work at slightly less pay and to consider marginally longer commutes to work. These changes were put in place to reverse a growing shortage of workers in areas of the country with high unemployment rates. Rescinding them will result in some unemployed workers overlooking certain job openings in favour of more time on EI.

But unexpectedly, the Trudeau government is also undoing important changes made by the last Liberal government by loosening national EI eligibility requirements for workers entering or re-entering the labour market. These rules were set by the Chrétien government, not Stephen Harper. Weakening them will work against Atlantic Canada's already struggling economy.

Here's why: starting in July 2016, the number of hours a young person entering the workforce and those re-entering the workforce required to qualify

for EI will drop significantly from 910 hours – that's approximately 24 weeks or nearly six months of work. Instead, new lower qualifying periods, which varies across the country, will range from 420 to 700 hours. (The threshold to qualify in Atlantic Canada will range from 420 to 665 hours.) The result is young workers in many parts of rural Atlantic Canada will soon be able to qualify for six months of EI benefits after working only 10 or 11 weeks of work.

Is this really what we need in Atlantic Canada?

JOHN WILLIAMSON

That's less than half the time currently required by Ottawa to qualify for benefits.

It is difficult to understand why the federal government would do this when Canada has gone down this road before. By relaxing eligibility requirements Ottawa is repeating mistakes made in the 1970s and 1980s that saw some workers get stuck in the EI trap. A trap that is enriched in Atlantic Canada since the number of weeks EI benefits can be collected is higher compared to the rest

Clarity, direction needed on amalgamation talks

Municipalities and local service districts throughout New Brunswick are thinking about amalgamations, mergers and the 2008 report that provided the blueprint for municipal reform, penned by Jean-Guy Finn.

They are think about it only because the provincial government has given them cause to. The government in February reserved a few lines in its budget speech to fire a warning shot that the Finn report would be dusted off and re-opened for discussion. In the few months since, only a few slivers of information have been presented explaining how this all might work.

We know that the government wants the 12 regional service commissions to steer the conversation on a regional level. The line of thinking there would seem to be that since the RSC boards feature both municipal and rural representation, that might make the commissions a good place to start putting feelers out to test the waters and the appetite for realignment. We also know that any amalgamations that are eventually proposed will have to be in line with the findings of the Finn report. We know the discussions will pick up likely sometime this year. Or maybe not.

We're also pretty sure that the government will not be forcing any communities to join forces, although there have been some vague promises of infrastructure spending being dangled as a potential pot-sweetener. Other than those details, nobody seems to have any clear indication of where this is all going. The executive directors of the RSCs - who are supposed to be heading up this process - are still awaiting on a directive from the province.

The director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission peeled away one more layer of the mystery after confirming during a board meeting earlier this week that he has been told that each RSC will be able to determine the level of engagement they have in the amalgamation talks.

In other words, there will be no strong-arming coming from the government's end of things.

While this is a delicate subject for many New Brunswickers, particularly the ones who live in rural areas and might feel threatened by the concept of being shuffled into the nearest municipality, it is still a conversation worth having.

It's important, however, that the conversation unfolds in a way that is non-threatening, thoughtful and will help stir some useful feedback. While the RSCs might be the vehicle to get everybody at the table, we hope that the provincial government will be at the table and visible throughout. There is already some speculation from some RSC board members that the government is, in essence, using the commissions as a type of human shield that would deflect away any criticism from the province while leaving the RSCs - and by extension the municipalities and LSDs - left to answer any questions if things go south.

This is an initiative of the provincial government, after all, and even though the service commissions should be one of the voices involved in this discussion, the government has the resources, both financial and human, to take a leading role in guiding the process. In any event, the province can't afford to go half-in on an issue this divisive. If it wants to have this talk, it needs to be genuine and it has to provide structure. If this is all for optics, then best to scrap this now. Whatever its intentions, the government can't be sitting on the fence.

of the country. In contrast, workers in southern Manitoba need approximately 18 weeks of work to qualify and benefits are paid for three and a half months.

Reducing the work requirement to qualify for EI from 24 weeks of work to as few as 10 weeks could again entice young Atlantic Canadians away from school and the workforce. We can predict this with great certainty because that is what occurred when the program was called Unemployment Insurance (UI). The economic harm done by lax qualifying rules prompted the federal government to rename and tighten the program in the 1990s.

"Studies show that people who become reliant on UI early in their working lives quickly begin to factor it into their annual work pattern. It can lead to a cycle of regular income supplementation," concluded a Government of Canada report in 1995. "The incentive to mix spells of work with UI has been powerful enough to encourage some young people to quit school before they have acquired the basic skills needed to achieve more stable employment in today's world of work."

This problem was corrected by Jean Chrétien's Liberal government. New entrants and re-entrants required at least 30 per cent more hours of work to qualify for benefits. These Liberal reforms were the most significant changes made to EI since the program's dramatic expansion in 1971.

By repealing the sensible changes made by Mr. Chrétien's Liberals to keep young workers from getting hooked on EI, the Trudeau government is making it easier and more rewarding to go without a job for a longer period of time. Is this really what we need in Atlantic Canada?

We have great opportunities in our region, but it is difficult to take advantage of that opportunity when Ottawa's EI program – with shorter qualifying requirements and longer benefit weeks – risks enticing young people away from regular work.

The vast majority of New Brunswick workers get up every morning, go to work and pay into EI like other Canadians. Most will rarely, if ever, need to collect it. But incentives matter. If Ottawa is willing to make it easier and more rewarding to forgo work by collecting EI benefits some – regardless of where they live in Canada – will willingly accept that bargain.

Atlantic Canada cannot succeed and prosper if Ottawa thinks a 52-week economy can be run on 10 or 11 weeks of work that pay EI benefits for six months. We need policies to grow our economy and change the way we've done things in the past.

John Williamson

is vice president of research at the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) www.aims.ca

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contain no personal attacks. We will consider opinion articles on any subject. All submissions must be original, should not have been previously published other than in a Brunswick News publication and should be between 700 and 900

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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

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Miramichi Leader

The Leader since 1906

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Letters
to the editorCity council needs to
be fiscally responsible

It would seem that the City of Miramichi is under the illusion that money grows on trees.

For a young city that is in debt there seems to be no limit to their extravagant plans.

What about fiscal responsibility? If the city paid off its debt I am certain that all citizens would support any plans for Multiplexes, arenas, walking tracks and other health related projects planned or envisioned.

But, as a debt-ridden city, with streets and infrastructure in need of immediate remedial action I question the Mayor and Council who would consider plunging this city into deep financial obligations that will be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

This is unconscionable. For those who consider this a positive step, I question your motives.

Ted Ross
Miramichi

World Tai Chi Day to be
celebrated in Miramichi

World Tai Chi and Qi Gong Day will be with us once again on April 30

That Saturday at 9:30 a.m., until about 11 a.m., at Ritchie Wharf our club will be giving another public demonstration of this amazing Oriental art that is being referred to as moving medicine. A recent review in the

Canadian Medical Association Journal aims to provide an "Easy to use - How to Guide" for health professionals to prescribe exercise for specific chronic diseases.

Tai Chi and Qi Gong will be one of the main exercises that can be recommended for many of today's ailments, as so many studies are being undertaken around the World today, proving that the practice of Tai Chi and Qi Gong is indeed Moving Medicine.

Many of these studies can be seen on the Science Daily web site, and a library of medical study information can be found on the World Tai Chi Day web site.

Tai Chi's therapeutic value could help with COPD, heart health, balance, reducing the chance of a fall, meditation, reducing stress, Parkinson's, arthritis, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), to name but a few.

We are also supported by the World Health Organization. Part of our movement is taking Tai Chi and Qi Gong into hospitals therapy departments, and other medical departments, and also looking to get a prescription to help take classes. Another side is taking it to corporate offices as it is so adaptable it can fit nicely into the office.

If we could get this practice into the main stream it would be possible to save the health system billions, and with our provincial health care looking for ways to save money, maybe they should be paying attention to the benefits afforded by this ancient art.

So, if this article has sparked your interest and you would like to take a look, we will be at Ritchie Wharf on Saturday April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to around 11 a.m. for our 15th year public demonstration.

Oriental Arts Tai Chi and Qi Gong

can be found at the Golden Hawk Rec Centre, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, as well.

Dave Bucklow
Miramichi

Service commission
has value in Miramichi

As a project manager operating all across the province, I would like to offer a comment on the recent reporting re: Miramichi Regional Service Commission and specifically planning services.

I have had personal experience obtaining building permits from planning commissions in Grand Falls, Woodstock, Fredericton, and Miramichi over the past several years for projects ranging in cost from a few thousand to over a million dollars. In no case have I had any difficulty in securing the required permit within a very reasonable time period.

It is only necessary to provide the appropriate documents with the application. If an applicant is unsure of the procedure or the documents necessary, a visit to the planning office and brief meeting with a planner will provide this information. I have found the planners most helpful.

In brief, proper plans and cost estimates relative to the complexity of the project are required and sufficient time for the planning office to review them and ensure they meet all requirements and codes. After that the process is smooth.

Bruce Rendell
BDR Consulting
Millbank

Private colleges should not be
forgotten when it comes to tuition

DAVID RITCHIE
COMMENTARY

The recent announcement for lower-income families to receive free tuition may sound like a good idea on the surface, but some members of the public are outraged because the policy is not well researched and is discriminatory to the majority of New Brunswickers.

I believe that helping students participate in post-secondary education is a good idea. Eliminating more than 4,000 students who study in private, non-subsidized institutions from eligibility, in an effort to prop up public university enrolment, is a bad idea. Eliminating the tax deduction for students who find meaningful work or who transfer the credit to their parents, who have helped pay, is the wrong approach.

In the Moncton area, for instance, more than 2,000 students study in high-quality private regulated colleges and universities. The policy has overlooked these students enrolled in 18 private colleges and the only English university. And in the province, there are 55 smaller private colleges and two

other faith-based private universities that serve specialized needs in smaller communities, and often lower-income families, who need to start working to support themselves.

These colleges offer relevant skills-based training, which allows students to develop quickly at a lower overall cost to them and enter the workforce with meaningful jobs. They are not subsidized and succeed by offering students an affordable pathway to their career of choice.

To encourage students to leave one area of the province and live in Fredericton or Saint John to attend a public university is just wrong, particularly when there is currently no cost to the province for a private institution, and the public institutions are already heavily subsidized, with many programs that are not meeting current employers' demands for skilled workers.

If the universities want to increase enrolment, they must be accountable and relevant to those that they serve, namely their students and employers. Another way to increase enrolment is to give credit to students for what they know. Prior Learning Assessment and

contain no personal attacks. We will consider opinion articles on any subject. All submissions must be original, should not have been previously published other than in a Brunswick News publication and should be between 700 and 900



Oulton's College on Moncton's Flanders Court. PHOTO: TIMES & TRANSCRIPT ARCHIVE

Recognition (PLAR) is ineffective and complicated and students must fight for minimal credit for studies at other institutions and experiential learning they've obtained on the job.

Automatic credit and articulation agreements with private colleges would give universities access to a large number of graduates from shorter

words in length. We reserve the right to publish letters and commentary at our sole discretion and to edit them for clarity, length, libel, taste or non-verifiable information. We prefer submissions by email to news@miramichileader.com, but

City bus service small,
but deserving of help

The city is wise to be getting an early start on forming a funding application for the federal government as it looks to get a slice of the Trudeau government's massive \$3.4 billion spending plan for transit upgrades.

As reported in the Miramichi Leader, city councillors were overwhelmingly in favour of reaching out to the operators of Miramichi Transit and get a sense of their capital needs prior to submitting an application to the federal Liberals for consideration.

Communities from coast-to-coast will almost certainly be looking to file their own proposals as well. And considering that Canada's largest metropolitan centres will naturally be first in line to lay claim to the lion's share of the funding pool. That's only fair considering the extensive capital needs of the transit systems in places like Toronto and Montreal.

That will likely leave many of the smaller and medium-sized cities scattered across the rest of the country fighting it out for the leftovers.

Miramichi is one of just four New Brunswick cities that provides a dedicated public transit system to its residents.

That is no small thing, considering how much time and energy it took to introduce the municipal bus service back in 2009.

For those who haven't ever had any reason or motivation to access the system themselves, it can be easy to ignore just how essential a service it is for so many of our residents.

It's almost unfair to compare what we have in Miramichi with what exists in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton. Those cities have several times our population and the services provided in each one reflects the needs of those communities. By comparison, Miramichi Transit is still relatively new and definitely small-scale. The service operates on a shoestring budget, is managed by only a handful of staff and maintains a small-but-relatively-efficient fleet. It is not a money-making venture and may never end up being one, but sometimes, for the sake of community building and for doing what's right, that's OK. Miramichi, let's remember, is a huge city in terms of physical size and it has suffered from connectivity issues in the past.

It can be difficult and expensive to try to travel to a doctor's appointment in Newcastle if you happen to reside in Chatham, for instance. While the service isn't perfect, it is affordable and generally reliable. It will get you from Point A to Point B and, oftentimes, that's all you need.

For students and seniors or anybody on a fixed income, we feel safe in saying that the arrival of Miramichi Transit has brought about a positive change in our community.

While the service isn't perfect, it certainly warrants long-term protection and anything the city, through working collaboratively with the transit commission and the other levels of government, can do to ensure that happens is a good thing.

Hammering out the details of what the organization's future and immediate needs right now instead of putting it off might be the difference between getting an approval or a denial back from the government.

All of that government money is going to go somewhere, after all, and Miramichi has just as much of a claim to make as any other community.

university students are often taught by part-time instructors or graduate students with little investment in student success, in large classes, while later-year and grad students are taught by tenured professors with six-figure incomes, with research and publishing agendas, that bring in additional revenue to the university. Many professors are gifted academics and well qualified to teach, but many resist any accountability to the administration or the students they are supposed to serve.

In addition to all this, the research validates that there is no correlation between low tuition and lower-income families participating in post-secondary education. A recent study by the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies (AIMS) shows that in Quebec and Newfoundland, where tuitions are the lowest, participation by lower-income families is also the lowest. In higher tuition rate provinces like Ontario and Nova Scotia, there is no difference between participation rates of higher and lower-income families, than there is in the rest of the country.

Fund the student, and they'll make choices that are best for their situation.

Dale Ritchie
is the president of the N.B. Association of Career Colleges, is co-chair of the N.B. Industry Education Council, and owns McKenzie College in Moncton.

to verify authorship.

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