

District of Carleton North
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
19 Station Road, Florenceville-Bristol, NB

Council: Mayor Andrew Harvey, Deputy Mayor Hargrove, Councillor Watson, Councillor Michael Stewart, Councillor Angel Connor, Councillor Scott Oakes, Councillor Laurel Bradstreet, Student Councillor Sarah Lagarde, Student Sarah Harvey

Staff: Amy McIntosh, Clerk

REGRETS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Andrew Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councillor Oakes asked that we add food bank availability under New Business.

Deputy Mayor Hargrove asked that we add the Operating Grant Applications under New Business.

MOTION: To approve the February 13th, 2024 Town Council Agenda as presented.
Moved by Councillor Oakes, seconded by Councillor Connor.

CARRIED. #010-2024

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To ratify approval of the January 23rd Town Council Minutes.
Moved by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Bradstreet.

CARRIED. #011-2024

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Theft and Crime in District of Carleton North: Sgt. Dan Sharpe

Sgt. Dan Sharpe (Ops NCO for Hartland, Woodstock, Florenceville-Bristol), Corporal James Gallant (Co-Ops NCO for Perth, Plaster Rock, and Tobique First Nation), Corporal Andrew Whiteway (in charge of one of the teams on the road) came to Council to discuss theft and crime in the District of Carleton North. Sgt. Dan Sharpe noted that mail theft and copper wire theft has been an issue in the District and noted it's been rampant throughout the West District through the last few years. The copper wire thefts are up and down; we can go months where there aren't any thefts and then there will be months where there is an increase in the thefts. He noted that they are cutting the fiber lines between the power poles

and then are taking it to salvage yards to try and sell it for cash. In 2022 for the Western Valley there were 5 thefts of copper wire, for 2023 there were 16 and in 2024 we are at about 3 so far. In the Keswick and Stanley area, they have had about 20 thefts to date. Rural areas are being targeted as the likelihood of people driving by and seeing them is minimal. Some things to look out for is they are generally out at night; they are using a grinder which is generally taped to a long tree branch to cut the wires. Once they are cut, they use an ATV to drag the wire to a place where they can burn the rubber of the wire to expose the copper. These lines that they are cutting are causing disruption to fiber internet and is shutting down services to hospitals, debit transactions, things of that nature. The Crime Reduction Unit is working steadily on trying to identify the individuals who are responsible. There isn't one person who is responsible for these thefts: it's dozens. Theft of mail is rampant as well in this area. If there is an area that is being hit more than others, Canada Post will go and change the boxes out with ones that are more difficult to break into. These calls are difficult as they are not being reported until the next day. Most of these break-ins are happening when cheques are being sent out. Again, these thefts are not being done by one person, there are many. In 2022 for the Western Valley there were 9 reports of mail theft, for 2023 there were 14 and so far in 2024, there have been between 5 & 6. The RCMP are able to use techniques for those boxes that are hit on a regular basis to prevent it from happening again. Sgt. Sharpe also noted that file counts from November 2023 until now are as follows:

Bath – 46
Centreville – 34
Florenceville – Bristol – 177
Upper Kent – 9
Wicklow – 10
Peel – 6
Wilmont – 6
Lakeville – 4
Abdeeren – 0
Kent – 0
Simonds – 4

Sgt. Sharpe also noted that vehicle theft in our area is more of a crime of opportunity where keys are left in a vehicle. He also noted that the RCMP are on patrol 24/7. The specifics of this are not able to be shared with the public. Corporal Whiteway also noted that there are things happening in your community, it's important that these are reported so it can be looked into. He noted that a lot of the work that is completed is intel driven as well. The more information that is available, the more they can look into the issues that are happening. Sgt. Sharpe encouraged everyone to call and report anything to ensure the RCMP know where to deploy their resources. He also noted that if there is anyone in the community who would like to sit down and speak with him for any reason, to please reach out and he would be willing to do that.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

7. CORRESPONDENCE:**1. GED / CAEC Adult Literacy Program in DCN**

A letter was received from Caroline MacLaughlin about the GED / CAEC adult literacy program in the District of Carleton North. They do two things in our area; a GED program that is based out of the Bath Lions Club building and a digital literacy program. Currently the Province covers the salary and any office supplies. They are asking for some support to assist with the yearly rent of \$2000.00. They will be submitting a Community Operating Grant for this cost.

2. Upper River Valley Hospital Foundation – Laugh Rx Gala

The first ever “Laugh Rx Gala” will be held at the Ayr Motor Center on Saturday, June 8th from 5:00 PM – midnight. This event will feature the comedic talent of James Mullinger. As a Gala Sponsor, you will be contributing to the betterment of our community’s healthcare system. The following sponsorship packages are available:

The Presenting Sponsor Package (\$10,000) includes a full table at the event (8 tickets), and prominent logo placement on all event collateral. Your company will be recognized as a full partner in the event as the package comes with naming rights and industry exclusivity. We will promote your involvement across social media and provide unique opportunities to highlight your commitment and support along with a speaking opportunity at the event.

The Gold Sponsor Package (\$5,000) includes four (4) tickets at the event and placement of your logo on print and digital materials. We will provide industry exclusivity, and the opportunity to name a portion of the event (i.e., Silent Auction Sponsor, Music Sponsor, Wine Sponsor or Comedy Sponsor).

The Silver Sponsor Package (\$2500) includes two (2) tickets to the event and placement of your logo on print and digital materials.

Some questions have been sent to the event planner for some further information on this event.

3. New Brunswick Hall of Fame: Call for Host Communities

The New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame is seeking host communities for the 2025 and 2026 Annual Induction Galas. For more than 50 years, the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame has honoured New Brunswick’s outstanding athletes, teams, and sports builders by granting them permanent recognition in their provincial sports shrine. After discussion, Council agreed that we currently do not have the resources needed to host this event.

4. Scotts Canada 2024 – Gro for Good Grant

Scotts Canada is proud to offer another year of Gro for Good grants to support green space projects. Gardening has been shown to provide multiple benefits, such as, encouraging healthy eating habits while learning how to grow your own food along with the health and wellness benefits that come from being outdoors and interacting with nature and other members of your community. Gardens have also been a response to food insecurity in many neighborhoods across Canada.

Scotts Canada is pleased to be offering this exciting grant opportunity to Canadian communities in partnership with Communities in Bloom, Plant · Grow · Share a Row and Nutrients for Life.

Gro for Good grants are valued at \$2,500 (cash plus in-kind product donation) and will be awarded to selected projects across Canada based on community impact, youth involvement and sustainability. The applicants will need to demonstrate one or more of the following benefits to the community: addressing health and wellness needs, enhancing the environment and/or engaging with youth. Each recipient of a grant will also have the opportunity to compete for one additional grant of \$2,500 in cash that will be awarded based on a social media contest hosted by Scotts Canada. Council discussed sharing this initiative with the Muddy Boots program with Ducks Unlimited, Falls Brooks Center, Knowlesville Art & Community Center.

5. Update from UMNB: Advocacy Day and Letter to Minister Wilson

UMNB Advocacy Days will be held on March 20th & 21st in Fredericton. The 2024 Advocacy Days is a unique gathering of UMNB's membership to engage directly with MLAs, ministers, and party leaders to work collaboratively towards advancing their key priorities. Their theme is Growing together: Strong Communities for a Strong Province reflecting their commitment to be good partners in building a successful province. Mayor Harvey will be attending the event along with the Clerk and one additional council member can also attend if they choose.

Letter to Minister Wilson – from Andrew Black, President of UMNB

On behalf of our 56 member communities, I want to express our frustration and disappointment at your comments on January 16 in the Telegraph-Journal related to the property tax assessments. Your comments, beyond being inaccurate, do not reflect the level of partnership that we should expect from another order of government. Nor do they reflect the realities facing many local governments and the report released in December pointing to the fact that 1 in 3 municipalities are facing financial challenges.

Many municipalities who found themselves in a positive fiscal position, did reduce their rate, but unfortunately, that is not the reality in all communities due to the impacts of cost of living and an increasing amount of responsibilities due to local government reform. While you are correct that municipalities can set the tax rate, that is the only part of this process where we have control. All other functions are regulated or legislated by the provincial government. This includes limits on the number of tax classifications, little flexibility on the industrial multiplier, and being unable to uncouple the rate for different classifications. The current structure means that increases in our residential sector cannot be offset without also adjusting industrial and non-residential rates. These regulations from your department severely restrict a municipality's ability to respond accordingly.

Beyond the antiquated realities of our property tax system, municipalities have found themselves facing increased costs due to inflationary pressures and additional downloaded services via local

government reform. Municipalities are dependent on property taxes to fund vital municipal services such as public safety, infrastructure, recreation and more. The cost of living impacts us in the same way it does the provincial government, the difference is that municipalities are almost exclusively limited to property taxes when it comes to generating revenue.

I would urge you to consider the full scope of the assessment process before encouraging property owners to pass the blame to their respective local governments, as the assessment process underpins the challenge our residents are facing. Your statement does not further our shared goals of building increased collaboration between the orders of government, nor does it represent the complexity of a broken system. We recognize that the capable staff at the property assessment branch are doing their best to modernize the service, however, comments such as those you made on January 16, do not further our confidence in your department to build a better system for the residents who we collectively serve.

6. NBCC Presidents Reception Meet & Greet Invitation

NBCC is hosting an event on Thursday, February 15th featuring NBCC President & CEO Mary Butler. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to hear about all the exciting things happening at NBCC.

8. POLICIES & BY-LAWS:

None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update: Solar Eclipse Ballon Project / Chris Hadfield

The District of Carleton North is continuing to work on the Solar Eclipse event featuring Col. Chris Hadfield and James Mullinger taking place on Monday, April 8th starting at 5:45 PM. Ticket sales are moving along and we are very excited for this event. The balloon launch will be happening at the Amsterdam Inn and will be live streamed at the Northern Carleton Civic Center. More information regarding the agenda and schedule will be released in the coming weeks.

2. Food Bank

Councillor Oakes noted that in the last 3-4 months he has seen an increase in people asking where the local food bank is located in our district. He reached out to the Director of the local food bank and provided some stats that were sobering. The number of individuals who have used these services has doubled from 2022 to 2023. The closest food bank location is in Woodstock; however, they do have Operation Outreach which is a food bank delivery service with drop off locations in Hartland, Florenceville-Bristol, Bath, and Centreville. Delivery is on the third Thursday of every month. The pickup locations in our area are the Northern Carleton Civic Center, the Ultramar in Bath and behind Grama's Bake Shop in Centreville. You can arrange these pickups by calling the food bank in Woodstock. You are also able to stop by the food bank in Woodstock at any point in time if needed. Councillor Oakes noted that if you are able to donate, please do. Student Councillor Sarah Lagarde also noted that food drives at school tend to bring in lots of items so it's something else we can look into.

3. Community Investment Operating Grant

The Community Investment Operating Grant (for non-profits) is now open for applications and the application form can be found on our website. The applications must be received by February 25th.

10. COUNCIL STATEMENTS / INQUIRIES

Councillor Michael Stewart:

Councillor Stewart attended a strategic planning session and also a Nursing Home Without Walls meeting.

Councillor Scott Oakes:

Councillor Oakes participated in Curl for Cancer along with Mayor Harvey and his two sons Garrett and Landon. A total of 31k was raised. He attended a Bath Lions meeting, a Manor Without Walls meeting at the Upper Kent Rec Center, attended a presentation at Carleton Victoria Wood Producers to hear his thoughts on developing eco-tourism in the area. He played cards at the Knights of Columbus Hall, attended a Strategic Planning Session, attended a Valentines Supper at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bath and volunteered at the Bath Community School in the outdoor learning classroom teaching fire building, cooking and making hot chocolate.

Councillor Angel Connor:

Councillor Connor attended two strategic planning sessions, attended a Valentines Supper at the Juniper Community Center, she is working with the PSSC group and delivering cheer to all the teachers this week, started chase the ace in Juniper. She also wanted to remind everyone of the Family Day activities taking place in Juniper on Monday, February 19th; sliding, bonfire, hot dog roast, and snacks.

Councillor Laurel Bradstreet:

Councillor Bradstreet wanted to bring up the issue of flashing school zone speed signs. The two prime locations; Bristol Elementary School and the Florenceville Middle School, with FMS being the location with the most traffic. Councillor Bradstreet attended two fire committee meetings and basketball games at Carleton North and the U15 Carleton Minor Hockey Association team won their home tournament this past weekend. Councillor Bradstreet also noted that on the 24th of February there is a Heritage Dinner at the Kin Club starting at noon for all seniors.

Councillor Chala Watson

Councillor Watson attended strategic planning sessions. She also noted that the CNHS Boys hockey team will have their final home game on February 14th in which we will be celebrating our senior boys.

Deputy Mayor Karen Hargrove

Deputy Mayor Hargrove was busy with her children's sports. She attended two CNHS Cheerleading competitions in Moncton and provincials on Saturday, attended some hockey and basketball games, shoutout to all the River Valley 4h volunteers who helped organize the public speaking event and thanked the Carleton North High School for letting them use the gymnasium for this event. The 4H Public Speaking districts will be held on March 16th at the Multiplex in Centreville. Deputy Mayor Hargrove also noted that this weekend, the District of Carleton North will

be holding their Snow Blast events. All information for these events can be found on our website. Events are taking place in Bath on the 17th, on the 18th they will be in Centreville and on the 19th they will be in Florenceville-Bristol.

Student Councillor Sarah Harvey

Student Councillor Harvey noted that the River Valley 4H held their public speaking event last weekend, she participated in a hockey tournament, the CNHS Stars Girls hockey team has their last home game on Friday, February 16th at 8:00 PM. This week is also Teacher Appreciation Week and Tuesday, February 13th was Canadian Agriculture Day.

Student Councillor Sarah Lagarde

Student Councillor Lagarde noted that she just came out of exam week, she also attended a concert by the Elm City String Quartet who are based out of Fredericton, which was a wonderful event, the grad committee is setting up a photo booth at our Snow Blast event this coming weekend. She also noted that she has been working with Student Councillor Harvey and Dr. Stuart Lockhart to reach out to one or two local health professionals to come and give a brief presentation at the High School to pique interest in careers in medicine. She also auditioned and was accepted to Mount Allison University department for music and science and will be starting in the fall taking double degrees.

Mayor Andrew Harvey:

Mayor Harvey had a couple meetings with the RSC in Centreville, had a Grand Opening meeting of the NCRC, attended Strategic Planning sessions, attended Nursing Home Without Walls meeting, attended Curl for Cancer with team Garrett's Gang, attended internal finance meetings, attended a Regional Service Commission meeting, attended the Valentines Supper at the Knights of Columbus hall, attended tourism meetings, attended a the first fire committee meeting, attended a Sports Wall of Recognition meeting, attended a housing meeting, attended Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.
Moved by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Connor.

CARRIED. #012-2024

MAYOR

CLERK