



Town of Amherst
Committee of the Whole

Date: **Monday, December 14, 2020**
Time: **4:00 pm**
Location: **Zoom Virtual Meeting**

	Pages
1. Call to Order - 4:00 P.M.	
1.1. Approval of Agenda	
1.2. Approval of Consent Agenda	1 - 1
1.3. Approval of Minutes - November 16, 2020	2 - 5
2. Council Direction Requests - 4:10 P.M.	
2.1. Request to Present - Cumberland Museum Society - Jones	6 - 7
2.2. Request to Present - Cumberland Kids - Jones	8 - 9
2.3. Request to Present - Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee - Jones	10 - 11
2.4. Temporary Borrowing Resolution - Hunter	12 - 15
3. Information Items - 4:45 P.M.	
3.1. Winter Parking Ban - Pike	16 - 18
3.2. Noise Bylaw - Pike	19 - 24
4. Monthly Reports	
4.1. Corporate Services	25 - 26
4.2. Operations	27 - 28
4.3. Police Services	29 - 30
4.4. Fire Services	31 - 31
4.5. Planning & Strategic Initiatives	32 - 32
4.6. Economic Development	33 - 33

5. In Camera - 5:15 P.M.

5.1. Approval of In Camera Agenda

5.2. Approval of In Camera Minutes - November 16, 2020

5.3. MGA 22(2)(a) - acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property

5.4. MGA 22(2)(e) - contract negotiations

5.5. MGA 22(2)(a) acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property

6. Adjournment



Town of Amherst
Committee of the Whole
Monday, December 14, 2020

Consent Agenda

MOTION:

That Council approve the following items:

- 1.3. Approval of Minutes**
- 2.1. Request to Present – Cumberland Museum Society**
- 2.2. Request to Present – Cumberland Kids**
- 2.3. Request to Present - Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee**
- 4.1. Corporate Services Monthly Report**
- 4.2. Operations Monthly Report**
- 4.3. Police Services Monthly Report**
- 4.4. Fire Services Monthly Report**
- 4.5. Planning & Strategic Initiatives Monthly Report**
- 4.6. Economic Development Monthly Report**

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: November 16, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Hal Davidson
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Sheila Christie
Councillor Lisa Emery
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Leon Landry

Staff Present Greg Herrett, CAO
Jason MacDonald, Deputy CAO Operations
Mike Hunter, Chief Financial Officer
Dwayne Pike, Police Chief
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Tamara Porter, Business Development Officer
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement for physical distancing, this was a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Councillor Christie

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2 Approval of Minutes

1.2.1 September 21, 2020

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson

To approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2.2 September 22, 2020

Moved by Councillor Baker

Seconded by Councillor Emery

To approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2.3 October 14, 2020

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

To approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 Ericka Caissie

Let the minutes show that Deputy Mayor Davidson declared a conflict of interest and excused himself from participating in this portion of the meeting.

Ericka Caissie did a presentation on behalf of concerned mothers who want to support youth and/or young adults with addiction and mental health issues.

3. Council Direction Requests

3.1 Fluoride Plebiscite

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That Committee of the Whole forward to the November 23, 2020 regular meeting of Council approval of a decision to not fluoridate the municipal water supply.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Landry

That Committee of the Whole refer this issue to the Advisory Committee to Reduce Poverty to investigate options to improve the oral health of children in the community.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Proceedings of Council Policy

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Christie

That the amendment to the Proceedings of Council Policy be forwarded to Council for consideration and approval at the November 23, 2020 regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Signing Authority

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

That Committee of Whole forward to the November 23, 2020 regular meeting of Council, approval of updates to the Town of Amherst Signing Authority Policy # 03400-01 to remove Town Clerk and replace Treasurer/Deputy Clerk with Chief Financial Officer for all documents signed under the seal of the Town and for the signing officers of cheques, bank documents, etc.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Landry

That Committee of the Whole forward the designation of Councillor Christie to be one of the alternate signing authorities for signing cheques, bank documents, etc. to the November 23, 2020 regular meeting of Council for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

3.4 December Meeting Dates

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Councillor Christie

That due to the Christmas holidays, Council forward to the November 23, 2020 regular meeting of Council approval of rescheduling the December meetings to hold Committee of the Whole on December 14, 2020 at 4 p.m. and Council on December 21, 2020 at 6:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Information Items

4.1 Election Stats Report

Information item; no direction given or action required.

4.2 Library Board - Bylaw Change

Information item; no direction given or action required.

4.3 Snow Clearing Presentation

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

That staff be directed to review winter parking bans in other municipalities and report back to Committee of the Whole at the December meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Monthly Reports

5.1 Corporate Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

5.2 Operations

Information item; no direction given or action required.

5.3 Police Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

5.4 Fire Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

5.5 Planning & Strategic Initiatives

Information item; no direction given or action required.

5.6 Economic Development

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6. In Camera

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That the Committee move to an In Camera session.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Adjournment

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

FROM: Kimberlee Jones, Municipal Clerk

DATE: December 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Presentation to Council Request

Staff have been contacted by Rebecca Taylor on behalf of the Cumberland Museum requesting to give a presentation to Council. A copy of the request is attached.

In accordance with Policy 10350-24 Proceedings of Council Policy, I am seeking Council's direction on whether it may be interested in such a presentation. Should Council have an interest I will proceed to arrange for a presentation.

Natalie LeBlanc

Subject: FW: Request to present to Council

From: Rebecca Taylor <cumbmuseum@gmail.com>
Sent: November 14, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Kim Jones <KJones@amherst.ca>
Subject: Request to present to Council

Hi Kim,

The Cumberland Museum Society operates the Cumberland County Museum & Archives. We are grateful for the support we have received in the past from the Town of Amherst and we look forward to continued partnership in the future.

We've recently reached out to museums throughout Nova Scotia to learn about how they work with their municipalities to provide cultural programming to their communities. I would like to make a 10 minute presentation to Council at your first meeting in December to share the results of this research. The presentation also includes a brief update on what our museum has done over the past year and what we hope to achieve in 2021-22.

Could you please add me to the agenda and confirm the date and time with me? I can send you our PowerPoint presentation in advance.

Thank you,
Rebecca Taylor
Museum Manager



Cumberland County Museum & Archives
Grove Cottage
150 Church St., Amherst NS B4H3C4
902-667-2561

www.cumberlandmuseumsociety.ca
www.facebook.com/CumberlandMuseumSocietyAmherstNS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

FROM: Kimberlee Jones, Municipal Clerk

DATE: December 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Presentation to Council Request

Staff have been contacted by Sarah MacMaster on behalf of Cumberland Kids requesting to give a presentation to Council. A copy of the request is attached.

In accordance with Policy 10350-24 Proceedings of Council Policy, I am seeking Council's direction on whether it may be interested in such a presentation. Should Council have an interest I will proceed to arrange for a presentation.

Natalie LeBlanc

Subject: FW: Request to Present to Council

From: Sarah MacMaster <maggies@ns.sympatico.ca>

Sent: December 7, 2020 2:37 PM

To: Kim Jones <KJones@amherst.ca>

Subject: Request to Present to Council

Hi Kim,

Please forward this request to the appropriate parties.

Trina Clark and I would like to speak to council on behalf of Cumberland Kids (a multidisciplinary committee serving children, youth and families in Cumberland County). We will be asking the town council to consider providing a designated space for youth in the community in which service providers could use during the day to meet with individual youth for appointments. In the evening the space would serve as a safe space in which youth could receive support, food and engage in activities that promote self-worth and a sense of community. Please consider our request to speak to council at the January 2021 meeting.

Sarah MacMaster

Pronouns: she/her

Executive Director

Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre (Cumberland)

P.O. Box 1149, Amherst, N.S.

B4H 4L2

Phone: (902) 667-7250

Fax: (902) 667-0585

Email: maggies@ns.sympatico.ca

Web site: www.maggiesplace.ca

Charitable Number: 14080 1184 RR0001



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

FROM: Kimberlee Jones, Municipal Clerk

DATE: December 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Presentation to Council Request

Staff have been contacted by Jeff Black on behalf of the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee requesting to give a presentation to Council. A copy of the request is attached.

In accordance with Policy 10350-24 Proceedings of Council Policy, I am seeking Council's direction on whether it may be interested in such a presentation. Should Council have an interest I will proceed to arrange for a presentation.

Natalie LeBlanc

From: Kim Jones
Sent: December 10, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Natalie LeBlanc
Subject: Request to present to Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Black <jeffcblack@icloud.com>
Sent: September 25, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Greg Herrett <GHerrett@amherst.ca>
Cc: Kim Jones <KJones@amherst.ca>
Subject: Request for a presentation meeting

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee (CFAC), I would like to request an opportunity to introduce and discuss the CFAC with the newly elected town council during a town council meeting this Fall.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience in regards to a date when town council would be interested to meet with the CFAC.

Sincerely, Jeff Black
Co-Chair CFAC

Kim Jones

Municipal Clerk
98 Victoria St
Amherst, NS B4H 4A1
Office: (902) 667-6523
Cell: (902) 664-8885
kjones@amherst.ca



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2020087

Date: December 14, 2020

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Amherst Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Michael Hunter, CPA, CA - CFO

DATE: 14 December 2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Borrowing Resolution

ORIGIN: 2020-21 Capital Budget

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Section 66 of the *Municipal Government Act* provides that the Town of Amherst, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute; Section 65 requires the Town to adopt a capital budget for the fiscal year and then can expend funds for capital purpose as identified in the Town’s capital budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council forward to the December 21, 2020 regular meeting approval of a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount not exceeding \$1,378,000 for the following items, and submit it to the Department of Municipal Affairs for Ministerial approval:

- Albion – water main replacement (water utility) \$433,000
 - Wellfield generator (water utility) 240,000
 - Monitoring wells (water utility) 40,000
 - Fire truck – pumper truck 600,000
 - Land purchase – outdoor skating rink 65,000
- \$1,378,000**

BACKGROUND: Temporary borrowing resolutions (TBRs) are used as temporary financing for capital projects. The Minister of Municipal Affairs allows municipalities to use TBRs to borrow funds on short term loans not exceeding 12 months. Once the projects are completed and the actual costs are known, the Town will enter into long term borrowing with the Municipal Finance Corporation by issuing a debenture in the fall of 2021. We require the Minister’s approval of a TBR before we can apply for a debenture. The above projects were approved by Council in the 2020/21 capital budget process with funding from long term debt.

DISCUSSION: Similar to the General Borrowing Resolution approved by Council in the Spring, this TBR will give the Town the authority to borrow, *if required*, from our financial institution, RBC, for the completion of the capital projects identified. This is not to say the Town *will* borrow the funds, and it does not commit us to long term financing. The main purpose of this TBR is to obtain Ministerial approval so that we can borrow funds in the spring or fall in the debenture issue. This TBR will only be valid for 12 months from the date the Minister approves it. Due to the 12 month expiry date of the TBR we wait until later in the fiscal year to issue it so that it does not expire before the fall debenture issuance in the following year.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no actual financial implications to approving the TBR unless we actually use it, as an overdraft or to finance the capital projects. If this occurs, the rate will be as that set out in the General Borrowing Resolution with RBC in the spring, prime minus ¼% on the amount borrowed. As stated earlier, the long term financing of these projects will come in the form of debentures issued in the fall.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: None

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: None at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: The financing of the capital projects is not expected to have any environmental implications.

ALTERNATIVES: There are really no viable alternatives to applying to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for this TBR. Such approval will be required before we can apply for long term financing.

ATTACHMENTS: Temporary Borrowing Resolution - Various Purposes and Schedule "A"

Report prepared by: Michael Hunter, CPA, CA - CFO

Report and Financial approved by:

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF AMHERST
TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION**

Amount: \$ 1,378,000

Purpose: Capital Budget Projects

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Town of Amherst, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Amherst has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for capital purposes as identified in their capital budget; and

WHEREAS the specific amounts and descriptions of the projects are contained in Schedule "A" (attached);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Amherst borrow a sum or sums not exceeding One Million Three Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,378,000) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Town of Amherst to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that a sum or sums not exceeding One Million Three Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,378,000) in total be borrowed from time to time from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution read and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the Town of Amherst held on the ____ day of _____, 2020.

GIVEN under the hands of the Clerk and under the seal of the Town of Amherst this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Clerk

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF AMHERST
TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION**

Amount: \$ 1,378,000

Purpose: Capital Budget Projects

SCHEDULE "A"

		\$
Heading: Water Utility		
Item	Albion Street - Croft to Queen - water main replacement	433,000.00
Item	Wellfield generator	240,000.00
Item	Monitoring wells	40,000.00
Item		
Heading Sub Total:		713,000.00
Heading: Fire Protection		
Item	Fire Truck - pumper truck	600,000.00
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total:		600,000.00
Heading: Recreation		
Item	Land purchase - outdoor skating rink	65,000.00
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total:		65,000.00
Heading:		
Item		
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total:		0.00
TOTAL REQUEST CONTAINED WITHIN THIS RESOLUTION		1,378,000.00

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Council
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: December 14th, 2020
Subject: Winter Parking Ban – Review

BACKGROUND

During the November 16th 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council discussed the issue of the *Winter Parking Ban*. The current regulations for the town of Amherst state that between the dates of November 15th 2020 until April 15th, 2021, it is an offense to park or leave a vehicle overnight on the streets between the hours of 12:00am 7:00am. The ban also includes leaving any vehicle on the street/highway in such a way that it would interfere with snow or ice removal operations, regardless of time of day. These regulations are signed each year by the Town of Amherst Traffic Authority and are enforced by the Amherst Police. Enforcement can include written warnings and/or tickets or towing of the vehicle. The current fine amount is \$50.00. The purpose of the Winter Parking Ban is to ensure that the streets are clear to enable Town Crews to effectively remove snow without any interference or obstruction caused by vehicles left on the streets. When enforcing the Winter Parking Ban, Police Officers use their discretion based on weather, location and other variables.

Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act deals specifically with on-street parking when snow-removal operations are being conducted. Under this section, vehicles can be towed at any time during day or night if they interfere with snow-removal efforts. Section 202(1) of the Motor Vehicle Act empowers the traffic authority to make and enforce temporary regulations for emergencies or special conditions, which includes the *Winter Parking Ban Regulations* that are signed and posted each year. It is under this section that municipalities, through their local traffic authority, manage the ban on winter parking. In Nova Scotia, any municipal parking bylaws refer to parking issues relating to permits or meters, but not winter parking bans. In contrast, New Brunswick winter parking bans are enforced through local bylaws which are authorized under the New Brunswick Motor Vehicle Act. Such bylaws are not usually subject to change each year and often include numerous parking regulations, not just winter parking bans.

DISCUSSION

A review was conducted of the Winter Parking Regulations of other municipalities. This included areas with similar populations/topography as the town of Amherst as well as municipalities with larger populations and more complex topography. In Amherst during the 2019/2020 winter season, there were 75 warnings issued and 84 tickets issued for violation of the Winter Parking Ban.

Amherst: The winter parking regulations in Amherst run from November 15th until April 15th from 12:00am until 7:00am the following morning. There does not have to be a snow event for the ban to be enforced but members use discretion when taking enforcement action.

Truro: Winter Parking in Truro runs from December 15th until April 1st from 1:00am until 7:00am the following morning. As with Amherst, there is no restriction on enforcement as a result of weather issues.

New Glasgow: The winter parking ban is in effect from December 15th to April 1st and like Truro, is from 1:00am until 7:00am. There is no restriction on enforcement as a result of weather issues.

Bridgewater: Bridgewater does not have a Winter Parking Ban specific to their jurisdiction. They enforce issues related to snow-removal and vehicle under section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act meaning that any vehicle that interferes with winter maintenance (snow removal or salting) can be towed at the owner's expense. As a result, their enforcement would likely be restricted to weather events and during snow-removal operations.

Kentville: Kentville's winter parking ban is from December 1st to April 15th, from 1:00am to 7:00am the following morning. There is no restriction on enforcement as a result of weather issues.

Yarmouth: A ban on winter parking in Yarmouth exists from December 1st until March 31st from 1:00am until 7:00am. There is no restriction on enforcement as a result of weather issues. Yarmouth has a 'Parking Violations Bylaw' listed but it is not a bylaw, but rather is a copy of the winter parking ban regulations they've made under Section 202(1) MVA.

Halifax: The winter parking ban in Halifax runs from December 15th to March 31st from 1:00am to 6:00am. It is only enforced when there is a declared weather event or ongoing snow-clearing operations. Updates to when the parking ban will be enforced can be found online or through an alert that can be sent to cellular devices with a subscription or via a downloadable App. The online information can be specific to streets in regards to snow-clearing operations.

Moncton: The winter parking ban in Moncton runs from December 1st until April 15th from midnight until 7:00am. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the street during these hours. They provide a plan for 'Downtown overnight parking' that allows for parking in certain areas when there is not expected to be a weather event. The ban in Moncton is authorized via bylaw t-310, which, as a result of complex parking issues in Moncton, is a relatively long document with multiple appendices.

Saint John: The City of St. John allows street parking unless there is a parking ban announced as a result of a suspected snow or weather event. Once advertised, violators can be fined or expect their vehicles to be towed. Affected streets and time frames are often determined by weather information and announcements are done through social media, media or via email with a subscription.

Fredericton: The City of Fredericton does not allow winter parking between December 1st and March 31st from 1:00am until 7:00am. There is no restriction on enforcement as a result of weather issues.

From a quick review of the information, it appears that most jurisdictions have a similar approach to winter parking as the Town of Amherst. There are some differences such as inclusive dates or time frames. Most dates ranges appear to be within the first 2 weeks of December to the 1st of April. Of those checked, only the much bigger municipalities have winter parking bans that are announced. This is likely related to the much higher population density and the difficulty in finding parking spots that are off the streets. This is not an issue in Amherst or many of the other similar sized towns of which appear to have winter parking regulations that are enforceable regardless of weather conditions. Again, the decision to issue a ticket is often at the discretion of the officer, who very likely takes into consideration whether or not there is a concern for snow-removal operations. Our challenge is ensuring that we are consistent in our enforcement actions and the use of discretion. This often involves considering each incident on a case-by-case basis based on multiple variables which may include forecasted or current weather, status of snow-removal/salting operations, or even location.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information reviewed, I do not believe there is a need to alter the winter parking ban utilized in Amherst in regards to conducting enforcement only during 'declared weather events'. Amherst does not have the parking issues or concerns of larger municipalities such as Halifax, Moncton or Saint John. Residents in Amherst should have no issues finding suitable parking for vehicles during the nightly parking ban. In order to adopt a model that considers weather events, a mechanism for ensuring the vast majority of the community can be made aware of the 'temporary' parking ban would be required. While social media may be utilized to a certain extent, it would require resources to monitor weather expectations and post updates based on weather projections as well as snow-removal operations. This would also result in the situation where parking overnight was legal unless notice was announced and can result in problems when that notice is not always received. It is much easier to manage a constant ban on winter parking with officer discretion on how to enforce violations. Council may wish to have a discussion in regard to the inclusive dates or the times as this is easier to manage and would bring the Amherst Winter Parking Ban in line with most other municipalities our size and structure. The Motor Vehicle Act enables the local traffic authority to make decisions in relation to these kinds of details when developing the temporary regulations for their jurisdiction.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Council
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: December 14th, 2020
Subject: Noise Bylaw – Review

BACKGROUND

During the September 21st, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council requested staff conduct research into a Noise Bylaw as a result of complaints concerning loud mufflers. Traditionally, loud mufflers and similar motor vehicle complaints are addressed through the Motor Vehicle Act and through such regulations as the ‘Standards of Vehicle Equipment’ which provides guidance for inspection issues, including details concerning exhaust systems. The “Official Inspection Station Manual” specifies that motor vehicles must be equipped with a muffler that is in good working order and prevents excessive noise. Any replacement equipment must be equivalent to the manufacturer’s original equipment in regards to sound emission. This is often referred to as “OEM”. Should vehicle equipment found not to be in compliance, Police have several options which include issuing a compliance order to have the issue fixed and brought back to be re-checked, ordering the vehicle back for re-inspection, or issuing a written warning or ticket under Section 200(3) of the NS Motor Vehicle Act. Police also have the ability to address vehicle noise under section 188 of the Act in regards to ‘unnecessary noise’ which can mean squealing of tires or unnecessarily revving a motor.

DISCUSSION

The biggest issue relating to police enforcement of Vehicle Inspection issues is ensuring that equipment *isn't* OEM. This often requires the assistance of a licensed mechanic who has the training, experience and the ability to identify vehicle equipment. It is very difficult for a police officer to check the equipment underneath a vehicle while roadside, and as a result, we often utilize Compliance Mechanics to assist with roadside checks. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, this has not been an option. There is no easy way for a police officer to determine what equipment is OEM and what is not as previous tactics such as using a baton to check for baffles is no longer an option because of different muffler designs and mufflers do not always have the “*Not for highway use*” stamp that used to accompany mufflers that weren’t OEM. As a result of many of these issues, the Motor Vehicle Act has been going through a re-write, but has not been completed and its not clear how these types of issues may be addressed. There was some discussion about utilizing decibel readers, but concerns have been raised on how to ensure that ambient noise doesn’t add to the readings if tests are not conducted in a controlled environment.

Municipal Bylaws

In many jurisdictions, municipal bylaws exist to deal with issues of noise, especially in relation to disturbing neighborhoods. Such bylaws often specify times of day when certain activities are acceptable and also provide exemptions or exemptions granted by council. In many cases, noises from motor vehicles and other combustion engines are included in these bylaws. In a few cases, the bylaws allow for a 'decibel reader' to help determine what is excessive. Use of a decibel reader requires training and guidelines to ensure consistent and fair application of its use.

Many jurisdictions do not use their noise bylaw for Motor Vehicle Act issues. The Truro bylaw specifically states that it does not cover noise from a vehicle and refers the Motor Vehicle Act. Other bylaws may reference combustion engines, may be concerned issues related to unnecessary idling or speaks to the requirement of a 'muffling device' that sufficiently stops excessive noise, but fails to provide further clarification. As a result, many jurisdictions and agencies rely solely on the Motor Vehicle Act to deal with unnecessary noise from vehicles.

In reviewing noise bylaws from different jurisdictions, there are some common themes:

General Clause: In most noise bylaws there is a general clause that forbids any activity that generates noise that unreasonably disturbs the 'peace and tranquility' of a neighborhood. Evidence that one person is disturbed is usually enough evidence to say that the bylaw has been violated.

Fixed Exemption: Many bylaws have fixed exemptions for emergency response vehicles or for noise as a result of essential services repair. This can also include organized activities that are held in municipal or public areas during certain hours of the day.

Granted Exemptions (by Council): Council may grant an exemption for an activity that would normally not be permitted. This can include noise from industrial, commercial or even community activities.

Activity Schedules: A list of time frames that allow for certain activities. These schedules provide guidance for when certain activities can take place without violating the bylaw. These can be times during the day, or even days of the week when noise-generating activities are acceptable. In some cases, certain activities are never permitted, regardless of the time of day.

Decibel Readers: Decibel Readers are included in some of the reviewed bylaws. The bylaws provide information on allowable noise limits and in some cases how these measurements are to be captured. In many cases, there are also schedules in regards to 'allowable decibel limits' during certain times of the day. Use of a decibel reader for mufflers appears to be rare. Only in the Stellarton Bylaw was there a clause dealing with decibel levels specifically for vehicle mufflers and how measurements are to be taken.

Penalties: Penalties vary widely and range from \$100 fines to \$10,000, often listing fine amount increases for subsequent offenses. First offense fines normally run between \$100 to \$400.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information reviewed, addressing muffler noise from a vehicle with a new bylaw may be problematic. Many of the clauses used in bylaws do not adequately provide the tools to limit exhaust noise and do not address vehicle inspection regulations, which may indicate that vehicle equipment is legal, and conflict with local bylaws. Use of a decibel reader can be problematic and challenged in court if the testing is not conducted in a controlled setting. It also requires additional authority to detain drivers and conduct such tests. It is not widely used by Police for this purpose. In many jurisdictions, police continue to use the Motor Vehicle Act, even with its limitations, to address issues of excessive noise. In some cases, Police can easily address 'unnecessary noise' when it is very clear that the noise is a result of the driver clearly intending to cause a disturbance by willingly revving the engine or leaving a vehicle idling when not necessary.

A noise bylaw may be useful in addressing issues other than muffler noise such as loud parties/gatherings, idling vehicles, fireworks, noise caused by disorderly behaviour. Such activities can be controlled by granted exemptions, or allowable times through the day or week.

Council may wish to discuss considering a bylaw to deal with these other noise issues, as many other municipalities our size and structure have done, but the strongest legislation that we currently have to combat muffler noise is through the Motor Vehicle Act and working with our partners who have the resources and skills to identify issues relating to the inspection regulations.

Appendix A

Cumberland County:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the 'peace and tranquility' of a neighbourhood;
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Schedules that list activity examples and correlating time frames to allow such activities.
- Refers to combustion engines and the requirement for an effective 'muffling device'
- Fines range from \$200 to not more than \$2000

Truro:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the 'peace and tranquility' of a neighbourhood;
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Schedules that list activity examples and correlating time frames to allow such activities.
- Decibel Reader can be used to determine excessive noise levels, measured from the property where the noise is heard
 - 7:00am to 10:00pm – anything over 65dBA
 - 10:00pm to 7:00am – anything over 55dBA
- Noise can include barking dogs, fighting swearing, loud persons, sound systems;
- Explicitly states that the bylaw is not intended for unnecessary noise from a motor vehicle;
- Fines amount of \$387.50 per incident.

New Glasgow:

- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Decibel levels can be used to determine excessive noise levels, measured from the property where the noise is heard
 - 7:00am to 10:00pm – anything over 75dBA
 - 10:00pm to 6:59am – anything over 65dBA
- Noise can include barking dogs, fighting swearing, loud persons, sound systems

- Refers to combustion engines and the requirement for an effective ‘muffling device’;
- Fine amounts between \$100 and \$5000

Kentville:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the ‘peace and tranquility’ of a neighbourhood;
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Decibel levels can be used to determine excessive noise levels, measured from the property where the noise is heard
 - 7:00am to 10:00pm – anything over 90dBA
 - 10:00pm to 6:59am – anything over 55dBA
- Noise can include fighting swearing, loud persons, sound systems etc;
- Fine amounts of \$200 for 1st offense, up to \$400 for a second offense and up to \$900 for 3rd and any subsequent offenses.

Stellerton:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the ‘peace and tranquility’ of a neighbourhood
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Decibel levels can be used to determine excessive noise levels, measured 100 feet from the source of the noise:
 - Daytime (defined as 7:00am to 10:00pm) - anything greater than 75dBA
 - Nighttime (defined as any time other than daytime) - anything greater than 55dBA
- Noise can include barking dogs, fighting swearing, loud persons, sound systems
- Refers to vehicle mufflers and the requirement for an effective ‘muffling device’ that ensures that noise does not exceed:
 - 92dBA while the engine is idling
 - 100dBA when the engine is at any other speed greater than idling
 - Measured 20 inches from the exhaust outlet
- Fines of between \$100 and \$10,000 and up to 6 months in prison

Annapolis County:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the ‘peace and tranquility’ of a neighbourhood;

- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities;
- Schedules that list activity examples and correlating time frames to allow such activities.
- Does not reference vehicle mufflers, but does address unnecessary idling during certain times;
- Fines are between \$100 and not more than \$1000.

Annapolis Royal:

- Bylaw deals with more than noise and is call the “orderly and peaceful conduct’ bylaw; deals with noise issues, as well as begging, loitering, littering, damage to property, unruly behaviour and other types of behaviour that would be considered ‘disorderly’
- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the ‘peace and tranquility’ of a neighbourhood;
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities
- Schedules that list activity examples and correlating time frames to allow such activities.
- Refers to combustion engines and the requirement for an effective ‘muffling device’
- Fines between \$100 and \$1000 and up to 90 days in prison.

Cape Breton Regional:

- General clause that bans any activity that disrupts the ‘peace and tranquility’ of a neighbourhood;
- Fixed exemptions that include noises as a result of emergency response or repair of essential services;
- Council can grant exemptions for certain activities;
- Schedules that list activity examples and correlating time frames to allow such activities.
- Refers to combustion engines and the requirement for an effective ‘muffling device’;
- Includes a section on unnecessary engine idling for over 5 minutes;
- Fines between \$100 and \$5000 and in default of payment, up to 60 days imprisonment.

Monthly Report

Corporate Services

December 2020

CORPORATE SERVICES

During Christmas Holidays and into the first two weeks of January Corporate Staff will participate in a Voluntary Work from Home Program from December 16 – December 31 and a Mandatory Circuit Breaker – working from Home from January 1-15. This will minimise the risk of transmission of covid and/or any other common cold or flu types resulting from family members being home over the Christmas Holidays. Town Hall will still be open for business to the public over this time frame.

Retro pays were completed by the end of November, thanks to Megan and Krista for their extra work in getting these out.

Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for January 7 for 2nd quarter results.

FINANCIAL

Staff have been working on the operating and capital budgets for year ended March 31, 2022. Departments have submitted their capital budgets for year 1 – 10 and they are being reviewed by the finance department.

The participant in the COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Program with the resource property has paid their account in full. This leaves 3 accounts remaining in the program; 1 residential account and 2 commercial accounts.

2020 ASSESSMENT APPEALS

As of December 1, 2020, there were 77 accounts who have appealed their assessment, 63 (Nov – 57) of these are complete, 11 (Nov – 10) have withdrawn and 3 (Nov – 10) are outstanding.

	# of Accounts Appealing	Total Assessment Value Being Appealed	Appeal Completed as of Dec 1/20	Pending as of Dec 1/20	Withdrawn as of Dec 1/20	Outstanding Appeals as of Dec 1/20	Appeals Successful as of Dec 1/20	Loss of Assessment Value	Amount of Revenue Reduction	Nova Scotia Assessment Appeal Tribunal Status
Residential/Resource	52	\$11,464,800	48	0	2	2	22	\$ 758,300	\$ 12,550	7
Commercial	25	\$27,012,600	15	0	9	1	10	\$ 406,400	\$ 18,105	0
TOTAL	77	\$38,477,400	63	0	11	3	32	\$1,164,700	\$ 30,655	7

2020/21 TAX REDUCTION POLICY

Tax Reduction Policy 03800-02 grants a \$450 credit for a household income of less than \$28,000. The deadline to accept applications was September 30, 2020. There were 116 applications received and all applicants received the low-income reduction. This is an increase of 24 applications from 2019/20. There were 92 applicants who received the reduction in 2019/20.

COLLECTIONS – TAXES & WATER/SEWER

There were 163 water/sewer notices sent to those with prior to current bill outstanding in early November. In the month of November, there were 39 tax certificates issued.

WATER / SEWER BILLING

The second quarter water/sewer bills were due on November 30. There were 12 real estate sales that required final water/sewer bills in November. Four new water installations were completed in November.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRACKING – E11

There was a total of 78 opened cases in November and 63 cases closed. The categories with the most opened/closed cases in November were related to compost bin repairs/replacement and applications for development/building permits.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The competition for Active Living Coordinator was concluded. Allison Watson was the successful applicant. Allison will begin her new role on December 14. A competition is in progress for a part-time casual police officer with the Police Department. The selection process is anticipated to take place in the latter part of December.

PROCUREMENT

Staff continues with preparing procurement documents for both capital projects and operational requirements needed. Procurement is reviewing scopes and working with the departments to have procurements readied for release.

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Capital													
Anticipated Procurement from Capital Budget: 26													
Scopes for capital received in the month	2	2	2	5	0	1	4	4	7	0	3	5	2
All procurement:													
Total new scopes of work received in month	6	8	6	8	11	9	6	10	14	0	7	19	3
Released to the public in the month	6	7	4	5	10	8	6	8	16	2	10	23	4
Closed during the month	7	7	3	5	10	9	6	7	16	2	7	21	9
Awarded by par/council during the month	9	6	1	6	9	8	7	9	7	9	7	15	8
Open at the end of month (released month a, closed month b)	4	5	4	5	1	4	5	1	1	3	2	6	5

Monthly Report

Operations

December-2020

HORTICULTURE

- Usual fall / pre-winter maintenance of flower beds has been completed, including planting of bulbs for spring flowers.
- Fall pruning of park trees has been completed.
- Installed new holiday lighting including
 - New, pole mounted Decorative Lighting for downtown
 - New illuminated garland for poles along Victoria St.
 - Solar decorative lights for trees along Victoria St.
- Installation of usual decorative lighting has been completed.

PARKS

- Parks remain open - all washrooms are closed for the season except for the washrooms at Dickey Park which remain open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.
- All parks have been winterized for the season
- Dog park remains open but the water has been shut off.
- Preparations have started for the downtown outdoor skating surface.

AMHERST STADIUM

- The stadium is open for ice rental but not open to the general public.
- The Amherst Jr. Ramblers are going to sell single game tickets for last four home games before Christmas and evaluate if this practice will continue.
- We have expanded our walking track hours. Tuesday and Thursday walking times will remain in place and now groups from 5-20 people are allowed to rent the walking track (free of charge), subject to scheduling availability.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

- Allison Watson has been hired as the new Active Living Coordinator for a 6-month term.
- Community engagement with non-profit organizations is ongoing.
- Attended workshops on accessibility, poverty reduction and inclusion.
- Attended community group meetings, such as Tourism Advisory, Cumberland Kids

CULTURE MARKETING AND EVENTS

- Coordinated Remembrance Day Ceremony, including production of 2 videos
- Planned Santa Claus event – created maps, liaised with APD, AFD and car dealership.
- Liaised with local business owners to coordinate, support and execute TOA Holiday Events including Cookie Crawl and Holiday Passport.

ACTIVE LIVING

- Learn 2 Lead hosted a Home Alone with First Aid at CCUBIC for youth ages 9-11.
- Friday Night Fun hosted a total of 88 youth ages 5-8 with an average of 22 each night. There were 95 youth ages 9-14 with an average of 23 each night.
- 6 new pairs of snow shoes and 2 new pickleball nets were added to Equipment Lending program.

WATER

- Winterizing of fire hydrants was completed. During this work we found several hydrants in need of repair, deficient hydrants were replaced or repaired.
- Replaced failed motor on wellfield pump.
- Repaired leaking water valve on Clinton Street.
- The water crew replaced one lead water service lateral on Chamberlain Street. The property owner replaced the lead line from their home to the standpipe.

SEWER

- The sewer main flushing program and the cleaning of lift stations have been completed
- Completed Mallard Drive storm sewer installation.
- Replaced 2 failed VFD (Variable frequency Drives) at the Eddy St. lift station
- Several sewer lateral video inspections were completed for residents

STREETS

- Christmas tree, decorative lighting, and holiday banners were installed
- The salt truck was out on 1 occasion to salt streets
- Sections of sidewalk on Havelock Street and Dickey Street were replaced
- Fabrication and installation of Public Works garage security gates is 50% complete.
- Took delivery of the new asphalt hot box and infrared heater

Monthly Report

Police Department

December-2020

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

Phased Interview Training (November 23-27): As a result of Covid-19 issues, much of the training scheduled for 2020 was either postponed or cancelled. APD had scheduled “Phased Interview” training for 20 candidates which included 6 APD members and 14 candidates from other agencies. The course instructors are members of RCMP Truth Verification Services. By hosting the training, and providing seats to other agencies, we are able to provide training opportunities for our members at a fraction of the normal cost. As a result of increasing Covid-19 infections, a tightening of restrictions and some of the concerns of the participants, this course was postponed until a later date.

PROS Course (November 2-6): Tara Terris, our newest part-time dispatcher attended the PROS course in Halifax. This course is required by all staff and allows the candidates access to the Police database that is used for our file management system. As a dispatcher, Tara is now able to access PROS, generate and score occurrences, add and edit information and assign files to members. The PROS course is only offered a limited number of times per year

PERSONNEL

On November 13th, 2020, Constable Destiny Merriam, who was hired as a part time police officer in July 2020, advised us that she was leaving APD to accept a term position with the New Glasgow Regional Police. As a part-time officer, Constable Merriam often filled shifts for extra duties or to cover shortages due to illnesses which keeps overtime at a minimum. With her departure, we will start another part-time competition. We wish her all the best in her new position with New Glasgow.

OPERATIONAL

SCEU Drug Seizure/Arrest: On the evening of November 26th, the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Cumberland RCMP stopped a vehicle on the 104 Highway resulting in a seizure of a large quantity of methamphetamine tablets, crystal methamphetamine and hydromorphone as well as cash and drug paraphernalia was seized. Both were arrested without incident. Both are from Springhill and are facing numerous charges relating to possession and trafficking of controlled substances.

Break and Enter – On November 25th, a 43-year-old Amherst male was arrested after a complaint of a break and enter into a residence on the east side of Town was received. Police located and arrested the accused and recovered numerous items from totes that the accused allegedly used to collect stolen items. The accused was also found to be in possession of cocaine. As a result of the arrest, the accused is facing numerous charges which include break and enter, damage to property, possession of stolen property, trespassing at night and possession of a controlled substance.

Used Needles/CDSA: The Police have noted a significant increase in reports of ‘used needles’ in various areas around town. The needles are often discarded after use and have been located in alleyways, parking lots and other areas. Police are often called to dispose of these due to the danger they pose in regards to the contents and infectious disease.

SCEU Drug Seizure/Arrest: On November 9th, the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of members of the Amherst Police executed a search warrant at a residence on Crescent Ave. During the search police seized a large amount of methamphetamine tablets, crack cocaine, crystal methamphetamine and a small amount of hydromorphone and heroin. A 47-year-old Amherst male was arrested and is facing numerous charges which includes charges related to possession for the purposes of trafficking, possession of a controlled substance and breaches of his undertaking.

SSA Bus lanes: In September of 2020, while on patrol at Spring Street Academy, Sergeant Galloway noted that school buses were using the front of the school for dropping off students, but other vehicles were also using this lane resulting in a dangerous situation with the buses ‘double-parked’ beside vehicular traffic and students running between vehicles to get to the school. Recognizing this problem, Sgt Galloway contacted the school and engaged several staff and stakeholders to discuss a solution. He came to the Chief and advised of his observations and his concerns and provided solutions that could easily mitigate the dangers. As a result of Sgt Galloway’s initiative, signage was changed and the bus drop off lanes were switched to a safer location that prohibited other vehicles between specified times, ensuring that children could exit/enter the buses from the curb. This was completed in November with Sgt Galloway and the patrol section are continuing to monitor the area to ensure the safety of children attending school.

CRIME PREVENTION/SCHOOL RESOURCE

Both Cst Wood and Cst Harrison continue to work a modified schedule as a result of Covid-19 protocols. Instead of working 8 hour shifts 5 days a week, both continue to work four (4) twelve (12) hour days supporting the platoon during dayshifts. Constable Wood works dayshifts with A and B Platoon while Cst Harrison works dayshifts with C and D platoon. As school/youth liaison, Cst Harrison has been advised that her role within the school will be very limited as a result of Covid-19 issue and school plans. Many community projects and initiatives continue to be on hold as a result of efforts to flatten the Covid-19 curve.

OPERATIONAL STATS – November 2020

Occurrences:	441	Criminal Code Charges:	85
Impaired by Alcohol:	3	CDSA:	3
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	15	PPA:	0
HPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	11
Vehicle Checks:	62	LCA:	2
Foot Patrol Hours:	6h 26m	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

Monthly Report

Fire Department

December-2020

RESPONSE #'s (November)

Town of Amherst – 15 events

- 1 Motor vehicle accident
- 2 Smell of smoke / Air quality check
- 8 Monitored alarm activations
- 2 Smoke alarm activation
- 1 Open burning
- 1 Vehicle fire

Contract area (District 2) – 4 events

- 3 Motor vehicle accidents
- 1 Smoke alarm activation

FIRE PREVENTION

7 fire inspections were completed during this period. Based on Covid-19 restrictions the department was unable to participate with in-person fire prevention activities this year, including fire drills and evacuation exercises throughout the community.

WEEKLY TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The department continues to focus its training on leadership and operational development. In addition, the department continues to adjust to the pandemic environment and adapt our operational objectives to meet the changing needs during this pandemic. This includes adjusting the services we provide, to ensure that we respect the physical distancing requirements and provisions of the provincial state of emergency order.

RECRUITMENT

The fire department is starting our annual recruitment program and is looking for new members to join our team. For more information on becoming a member of the Amherst fire department, please visit the Amherst Fire Station, speak to any Amherst fire fighter or go to www.amherst.ca/volunteer-firefighter.

Monthly Report

Planning and Strategic Initiatives

December-2020

Development and Building Permits, as well as Property Complaint forms, can now be completed and submitted on the Town of Amherst website. As noted in previous reports, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, development has been strong in 2020 with the number of permits and the estimated value of investment to-date in 2020 up significantly over 2019 levels. In particular, staff issued a permit in November to construct a veterinary hospital on Lord Amherst Drive. Construction commenced in November and is anticipated to be complete in spring 2021.

Applications have been received for development agreements to allow a garden suite at 17 Victor Avenue and to allow an additional dwelling unit at 15 Clinton Street. Staff have now received the necessary supporting documentation, and Public Participation Sessions will be scheduled over the coming month. Staff have also been working with another developer on a multi-unit residential development that should be ready to begin the development agreement process in the new year.

Land clearing for the 2 MW solar farm to be located in the Industrial Park is scheduled to begin in December. NSPI is also preparing a marketing program to offer the public a way to participate in the solar farm, which will feature Amherst throughout.

The annual Strategic Priority Areas planning day is scheduled for December 16th.

Planning staff continue to provide planning and development services for the Town of Oxford.

Monthly Report

Economic Development

December 2020

Business Supports

The Business Development Officer visited businesses delivering the Amherst Loves You Back window decal, taking photos and promoting on the Facebook page.

The BDO supported the promotion of the 2020 business holiday events. 27 businesses participated in the Holiday Passport. Businesses were emailed a post event survey to express feedback and suggestions. Businesses used this opportunity to offer instore promotions to create more upsell and promoted through social media. It was suggested to increase the length of the event to cover more of the holiday shopping period. 25 businesses participated in the sold-out Cookie Crawl event. Most businesses felt the event definitely brought foot traffic to their location. Although cookie crawlers weren't shopping at the time it got people into their store, creating awareness. Some commented participants came back to shop the next day.

The Town of Amherst is partnering with the Cumberland Business Connector, Amherst & Area Chamber of Commerce, and CBDC to provide the Mind Your Business Workshop series. This is a series of workshops designed to give business owners and professionals an opportunity to expand their knowledge on a number of topics that will help them improve their business and accelerate growth, offered free of charge. The November workshop topic was "Shifting Gears: How to Adapt and Transition your Business".

The New Business Welcome Recognition certificate was presented to Carved in Oak Boutique, a new women's retail shop and to Cumberland Perfect Sleep Company who is now selling retail out of Dayle's Grand Market.

Vibrancy and Investment

There are approx. 12 commercial buildings currently listed for sale in Amherst. The "Dream big, grow here" features a different commercial building each week and promotes its features on social media targeting audiences across Canada.

Business Development Opportunities

The business development officer followed up with two leads from outside of Amherst regarding land and building opportunities and provided information as requested.