

# 2018

## YEAR IN REVIEW





# Mayor's Message

## A Year in Review

The New Year of 2019 is moving at the same speed of 2018, extremely fast! 2018 proved to be a year of huge change in our country. The pace of change on all fronts is difficult to keep up with and I want to highlight some of the accomplishments that we've experienced.

The Truro Fire Brigade/Service celebrated 150 years of service in the Town of Truro! Congratulations and thank you to our mutual aid partners, to our officers, to our volunteers, and all who have put the hard work and hours into training and in reaching Level One Firefighter degrees. In 1919, the Town purchased its first motorized piece of apparatus, an American Lefrance Pumper, affectionately known as "Nancy". She will be 100 this year and is still fully operational!

This past year saw some considerable work completed on our local roads. This included total rebuilds in some areas, and others being taken back to the base gravels and re-surfaced. You will see additional work completed this year. We are now also able to patch potholes faster and more efficiently, after the purchase of our new hot asphalt machine. While it is very efficient, our constant freeze-thaw cycles are extremely hard on our roads.

Our Civic Square continues to beat as the heart of Downtown Truro and many events are planned for the summer of 2019. We are proud to have been a part of the amazing events which took place in 2018, including the World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships which took place in July. Visitors from all over the world could not say enough about the beauty and hospitality of Truro and Colchester County.

Of course, I can't forget the return of Nova Scotia Music Week and the Grand Slam of Curling in November, and rounding out the year with Johnny Reid on New Year's Eve at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. Looking ahead, it was announced that Truro and Halifax will partner to host the IIHF Women's World Hockey Championships in March 2020! That announcement was made at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax last October. This is such an exciting event for Truro to be a part of and a big deal for our community!

Congratulations to the Colchester Food Bank, as they have now moved into their new home on Prince Street! You will likely also see some other major development projects taking place over the next few years as January 2019 building permit values already exceed \$7 million, following a banner year in 2018.

Demolition of the former Sky Office Building (where the former Food Bank had been temporarily located), is planned for this Spring. This will make way for a new 50 unit apartment building. Also, the old Victoria Street School will also be demolished this year to round out the overall plan for Truro's Civic Square. This will allow for increased parking and more efficient circulation within the Square, as well as enhanced emergency access for Police and Fire. We also expect construction to ramp up at the old jail site on Queen Street, and make significant progress over the next year.

Along with those developments, I'd like to make special mention of U-Haul and their vision to transform the old Hat Factory on the corner of Prince Street and Court Street. This is a major upgrade for the building and helps to enhance the overall neighbourhood.

We, along with the County of Colchester and Millbrook First Nations, continue to work together on projects that will help the overall region grow and prosper.

One example is our work through the Joint Flood Advisory Committee with the Province of Nova Scotia. Considerable work has been done on the Saltmarsh Project around the Onslow marsh. This will provide flood waters greater access to the floodplain, reducing the flood potential upstream and in Town. The aboiteau near the new Fundy Discovery Site has been refurbished to allow for better flow of water out of our system. We will continue to work on additional flood issues together!

There is so much more to share, but only limited space.

Quickly, we have also established a new Rental Standards Committee. Through this, we hope to gather input from local landlords to better oversee and regulate the Town's rental properties. This will help to ensure quality rental units for all.

We're continuing to build up our Capital Reserves, after some aggressive spending on a variety of projects over previous years. We are making progress, and I am pleased with Council and staff's efforts to be prudent with your tax dollars.

We are also in the midst of a Municipal Plan Review, as well as Strategic Planning Sessions, which will help us outline our goals for the next 5 years!

Many great things are on the horizon and 2019 is shaping up to be a great year! Keep watching for more good things ahead!

W.R. (Bill) Mills  
Mayor of Truro  
Nova Scotia

## Canadian Archery Championship Hosted in Truro

The 2018 Canadian Archery Championship was hosted in the upper area of Victoria Park and on Marshland Drive in August. The event, which ran from August 3 – 12, drew 384 participants, including many Provincial teams from across Canada.

The event was broken down into three separate Championships. The Canadian Outdoor 3D Championship, ran from August 3 – 6 in Victoria Park, the Canadian Field Championship, ran from August 6 - 8, also at Victoria Park, and the final event, the Canadian Target Championship, ran from August 8 – 12 at Marshland Golf Driving Range, on Marshland Drive.

In the end, 32 national titlists were crowned.

Overall the event was seen as a huge success. “Two years in the making and we’ve finally done it. A simple goal of providing a world-class event for our archers was all we had in mind. As the sun has set on our final day, I’m excited to say we accomplished that goal,” added Chad Harpell, chair of the organizing committee.



## Let's Connect Community Plan Under Review

In November, the Town of Truro held two public engagement sessions as part of the process in reviewing Truro's Community Plan. In total, about 55 people attended the two sessions and were asked to take part in an interactive mapping exercise to express the positive developments in Truro. Participants were also asked what areas in Truro are worth being proud of, what their vision is for Truro over the next 20 years, and also what areas of Truro need improvement.

An online survey is also currently available for residents to complete, asking similar questions. The survey is expected to be available until March 2019.

The information will be used to update the Community Plan and steer the future direction of such things as the Municipal Planning Strategy, Land Use Planning and Amendments, and Municipal Policy.



PLAN  
TRURO



4

## Town of Truro Hosts Delegates from Pailón, Bolivia

In June, as part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Partnership for Municipal Innovation in Local Economic Development program, representatives from the Town of Truro hosted a delegation from Pailón, Bolivia. The delegation included the Municipal Mayor, the President of the Municipal Council, and staff responsible for the Unit of Protected Areas and Tourism from the Municipal Government of Pailón, jointly with the National Program Coordinator for the PMI-LED Bolivia program and the Program Manager for Latin America from FCM. This meeting formally recognized the partnership between Truro and Pailón, who are jointly working on a strategy for local economic development within the Bolivian community. The partnership is an initiative implemented by FCM and funded by the Government of Canada.

The week-long visit included meetings and presentations with various local businesses and places of tourism, economic development and planning in the Truro area. The program focuses on the transfer of knowledge and exchanging experiences to build the local economy of the community.

In October, a group from Truro, comprised of municipal staff and local volunteers, travelled to Pailón for the first official visit to the municipality to finalize the definition of a demonstration project, expected to be completed in 2020.



5

## The Railyard

### Truro's Mountain Bike Park Takes Shape

During the Spring and Summer of 2018, signage was installed to help define the Railyard Mountain Bike Park in the upper portion of Victoria Park. In total, 217 signs were installed. The signage highlights approximately 42 kms of trails which are heavily used by mountain bikers. The Railyard has staffing through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department who oversee construction and maintenance of the trails.

The Railyard is also being marketed as a mountain biking destination. With this area being used heavily by skilled mountain bikers and for mountain biking events, the natural next step was to brand and define the area to be able to promote and market this area for mountain biking tourism.

With the completion of the Bike Skills Park and Short Track area in 2016, Colchester Short Track has been running a series of short track races each Spring and Fall. The weekly races draw over 100 participants each week, from pre-schoolers to adults.



## Victoria Park Celebrates 130 Years!

July 21st marked Canada's 2018 Parks Day and was celebrated in Truro by marking the 130th anniversary of Victoria Park. The 2018 celebration focused on the history of the park and its significance to the Town of Truro. Activities included guided tours, award presentations, children's activities, and live entertainment.

Also taking place that same day was the ninth annual Truro Nissan VP Challenge. This event is a chip timed 5 and 10 kilometre adventure race with challenging obstacles as well as a free kid's challenge. The event is made possible through a number of local businesses and community volunteers.



6

# Garbage & Waste Collection

## New Contract Results in Significant Savings

As of November, the Town of Truro entered into a new curbside garbage and waste collection contract with Miller Waste Disposal.

The new tender was issued as a single joint tender which included curbside collection of residential waste for the Town of Truro, the Town of Stewiacke and the Municipality of the County of Colchester. The new rate for the Town of Truro is \$292,980 per year, for a total contract value of \$1.46 million over five years. The new rate results in savings for the Town of Truro of nearly \$23,000 per year.

Residents should only notice small changes in service.

While the spring clean-up collection has been maintained, a notable change is that the fall clean-up has been eliminated and replaced with allowing residents one large or bulky item at each pick-up.

The Town of Truro also switched to a Tuesday to Friday pickup schedule from the previous 5-day schedule. That change helps to eliminate collection issues when a holiday falls on a Monday and allows an extra weekday for substitute when the landfill facility is closed.

The new contract also better coordinates the Town and County services, so that each area is offering the same services and there is less confusion in communications.



# Deer Management

## Trial Bow Hunt in Watershed Lands

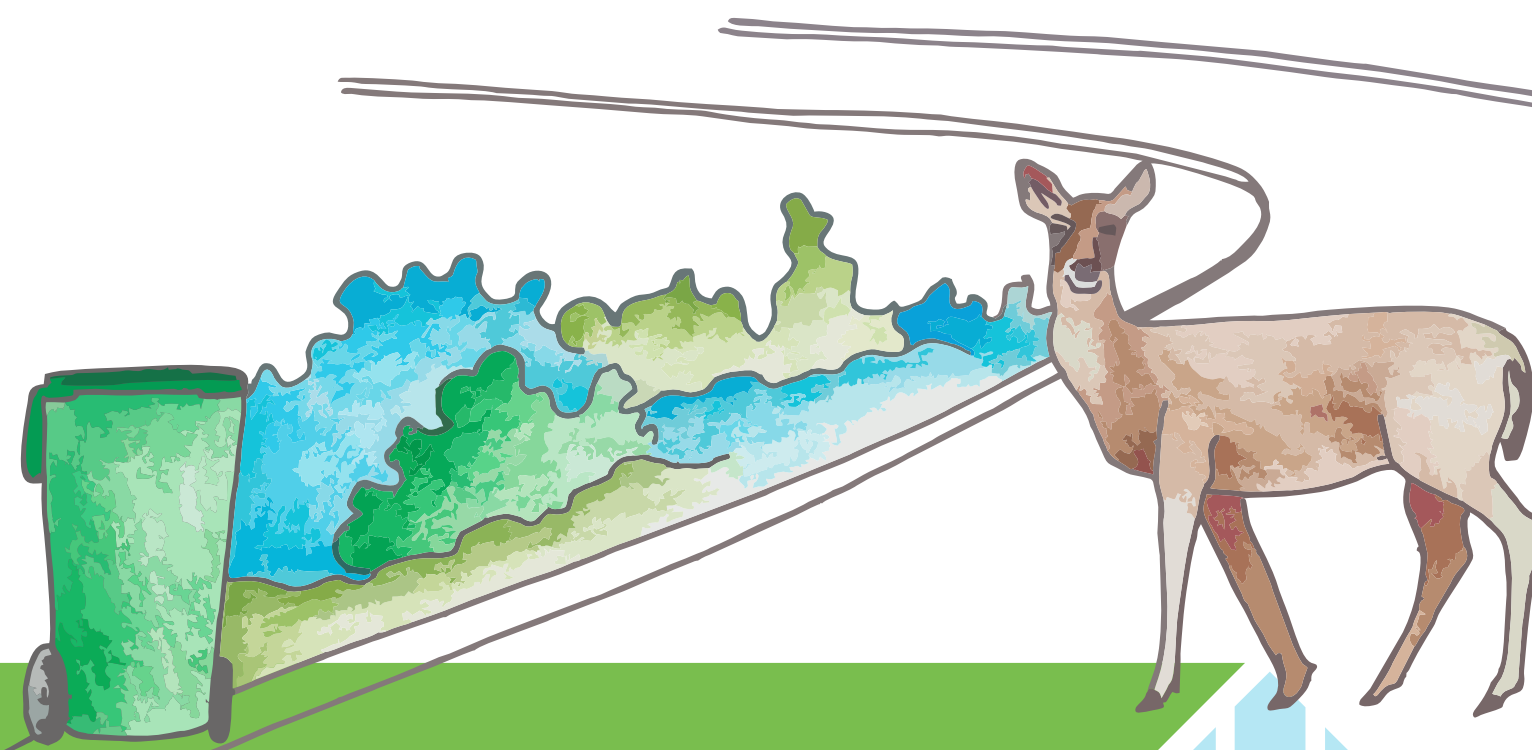
In October, the Town of Truro authorized non-motorized archery and crossbow hunting in a portion of the Town's Watershed lands. The non-firearm hunt was conducted to determine if it could have an impact on reducing the local urban deer population.

Significant restrictions were put into place and hunters were required to register through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

Hunters were asked to report their results in order to help the Town and the Department of Natural Resources gather data on the urban deer population. In the end, of the 54 hunters who registered, 37 provided feedback through a survey. Only two hunters reported that they were successful in hunting a deer.

The Town will continue to consult with the Department of Natural Resources to determine whether a Watershed hunt will continue in future years, and on other measures that can be taken to help control the urban deer population.

In addition, the Town continues to educate the public about not feeding the deer. In November, the Town also undertook a comprehensive Roadside Deer Count Survey. The survey will again be conducted in May and November 2019 to determine trends in the deer population. The plan is to monitor the deer over the next 3 to 5 years and put strategies in place to bring the urban deer population within the limits of the population within Zone 107. Currently, the urban deer population within Truro is at least double that of Zone 107, which includes areas in South Colchester and East Hants.





## Events Truro Colchester Oversees a Number of Major Events!

A number of great events were hosted in Truro and area in 2018. Events Truro Colchester, a working group supported by the Town of Truro and the Municipality of the County of Colchester, along with a number of community organizations, volunteers and the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, partnered to set the stage for a number of major events.

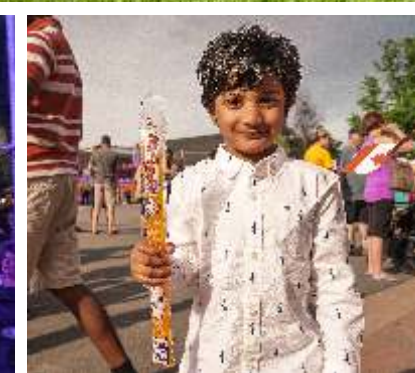
The three largest events in the region in 2018 included the Down Syndrome World Swimming Championships, the Canadian Beef Grand Slam of Curling Masters, and Nova Scotia Music Week.

The Rath Eastlink Community Centre played host to the Down Syndrome World Swimming Championships from July 20 – 26. The event featured over 200 swimmers, representing 27 countries. Opening ceremonies took place at Truro's Civic Square.

The RECC also welcomed back the Canadian Beef Grand Slam of Curling Masters in October. The region first hosted the event in 2015. At that time the event resulted in \$1.25 million economic impact for the local region. The event sees the top 15 men's and women's curling teams in the world compete for the title.

In November, Truro and Colchester hosted Nova Scotia Music Week for the fourth time. The event brings over 90 musical acts to the region and offers people the chance to discover local Nova Scotian talent. The event returns to Truro in 2019, running from November 7– 10.

The Town of Truro was also excited to participate in the announcement of the 2020 IIHF Women's World Hockey Championships in October 2018. Partnering with Halifax on this event, the weeklong tournament will run from late March into early April in 2020, with games being played at Halifax's Scotiabank Centre and Truro's Rath Eastlink Community Centre.



## Truro's Civic Square Plays Host to a Number of Summer Events

There was no shortage of summer events in Downtown Truro for 2018.

Summer kicked off over the Canada Day weekend when Truro welcomed the 2018 Hemmings Motor News Great Race. This event saw 120 vintage automobiles roll through Truro, as just one stop along the race. The event, which started in Buffalo, NY and concluded in Halifax, NS results in \$150,000 in prize money. Race announcer, Brian Goudge, stated that the Truro event was easily one of the biggest turnouts the race has had for a midday stop, and also one of the most enthusiastic! Later that same evening, Salty Dog Brewing Company hosted a live concert featuring Joel Plaskett Emergency, Mo Kenney, and Alert the Medic.

Canada Day itself was filled with free live entertainment and family activities throughout Victoria Park and the Civic Square. The Town of Truro and Downtown Truro Partnership also partnered to host a live concert featuring Port Cities in the evening, leading up to the fireworks display over the Library.

Additional downtown events continued throughout the summer and included, the 2018 Pride festival, Rock the Hub festival, a live Trews concert, and the EMBRACE Truro festival, along with a number of other smaller events.

# Engineering & Public Works

## Major Projects in 2018

Truro's Engineering and Public Works Department works hard to maintain the Town's roads, water and sewer services, while also overseeing capital improvements and infrastructure projects. Over the past year, the following projects were completed by the Town's Engineering and Public Works Department:

### Adelaide Street (Lane Avenue to End of Street)

This full reconstruction project began in October and included new curb and gutter, sidewalk, rebuilding of base gravels, paving of the street, and landscaping. The curb, and nearly one third of the street rebuild, was completed in October. However, a wet fall and early arrival of winter will require the remainder of the project to be completed in the Spring of 2019. The total project cost is approximately \$290,000.

### Melrose Terrace (Shannon Drive to Sunset Crescent)

This short section of Melrose Terrace included new curb and gutter, rebuilding of the sub-base, new asphalt, and reinstatement of landscaping. The total project cost was approximately \$86,000.

### Ridgewood Drive (Pleasant Street to End of Street)

Ridgewood Drive, a 125m section of street adjoining Pleasant Street, received new curb and gutter, base gravels, and new asphalt. The project cost was approximately \$113,000.

### Wood Street (Brunswick Street to Prince Street)

Serving as a local connector between Prince Street and Brunswick Street, the 150m section of Wood Street was completely rebuilt and repaved. In addition, new curb and gutter was installed, as well as sidewalks on the east and west sides of the street. The total cost for this project was approximately \$150,000.

### Young St (Curb bump-out)

Over 750m of new curb and gutter was installed along Young Street from Fairview Drive to the southern end of the Mira Long Term Care Facility. The purpose of this curb was two-fold. Adding new curb allowed the uncharacteristically wide street cross-section to be narrowed from upwards of 13m to a more typical width of 9m. The narrowing improved sight lines at the intersection of Glenwood Drive and Young Street and reduced the crosswalk distance on Young Street. The second purpose of the project was to add more greenspace and landscaping along the road and to create areas for storm water. The total budget for the project was \$92,000.

### New Sidewalk Construction

Two new sidewalks were added to the existing network to improve pedestrian walkability. The first was a 130m section along Revere Street in the downtown. This new sidewalk offers a safer and more defined route between Queen Street and Prince Street and creates a better defined access point to the parking lot on the west side of Revere Street.

In addition to the Revere Street sidewalk, 450m of new sidewalk was added to the east side of Cobequid Drive. This provides a safer route for children travelling to and from Truro Elementary and Truro Junior High School, from this residential area.

The total budget for these two projects was \$172,000.



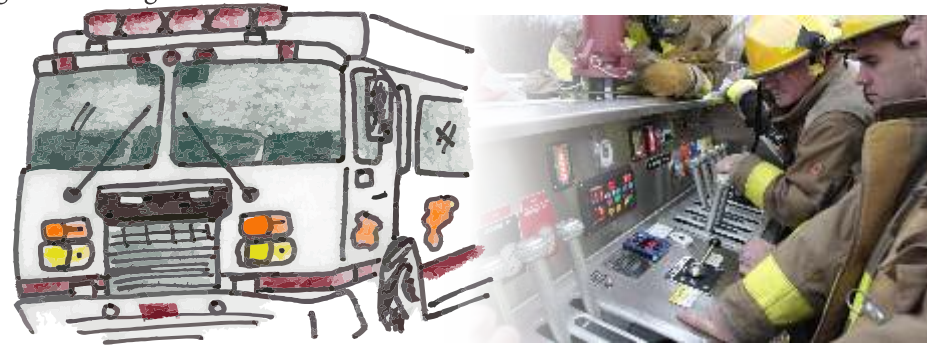
## Road Preservation Program

The Summer Capital program got an early start thanks to the new Road Preservation Tax, approved by Council in the 2018-2019 budget. The purpose of the program is to address deteriorating streets with cost effective rehabilitation techniques before they fail and require more costly street reconstruction. The first year of the program included the milling and re-paving of seven high traffic arterial and collector streets throughout town. A total of 1.5km of streets were paved with a budget of approximately \$340,000.

## Federal and Provincial Long Service Awards Presented to Truro Fire and Truro Police

In May, a number of career firefighters from Local 1627 received acknowledgment of their long service. The awards were presented by Deputy Premier, the Honourable Karen Casey at Truro's Town Hall. The following members were presented with a number of awards which included 20 year Federal medals, 25 year Provincial medals, 30 year Federal bars, and 35 year Provincial bars. The Town of Truro would like to congratulate all members who received awards and thanks all members for their service. The following career firefighters received awards:

- Kevin Boates
- Albert C Gamlin
- Tim Saxton
- Josh Chisling
- Peter Smith
- Maurice Colpitts



In September, members of the Truro Police Service also received recognition for Provincial long service. The medal presentation took place in Halifax and included 15 year Provincial medals and 25 year Provincial bars. Awards were presented to the following members:

- Sgt Steve VanHerk
- Sgt Darrin Smith
- Detective Cst Peter Cullip
- Detective Cst Jason Yhard



The following three members of the Truro Police Service were also presented with Federal Police Exemplary Service medals for 20 years of distinguished service:

- Sgt Rick Hickox
- Cst Karen DeGroot
- Inspector Robert Hearn



## Truro Police Issue Positive Tickets to Children

Over the summer, the Truro Police rewarded children for safe and positive behaviour with a "Positive Ticket". A Positive Ticket was given to children who were being physically active while also being a good citizen and respecting Municipal and Provincial bylaws and laws. The ticket was redeemable for a free swim at Victoria Park pool or a free day pass to the Rath Eastlink Community Centre.

Tickets were handed out by two constables who conducted bike and foot patrols throughout the Town during the summer months. The idea behind the initiative was to encourage children to get moving and to be active in the community, while also being safe and respectful. It also helped to build positive relationships between the police and local youth.

The campaign was conducted in partnership with the Truro Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Rath Eastlink Community Centre.

## Truro Police Hosted Second Annual Holiday Heroes Event

In December, the Truro Police, along with the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, Department of Community Services, and through sponsorship from a number of local businesses, hosted the second Holiday Heroes event for children.

As part of the event more than 40 children had full day access to the RECC's skating rink, swimming pool, and climbing wall. The children also received a visit from Santa and took part in a number of holiday activities.

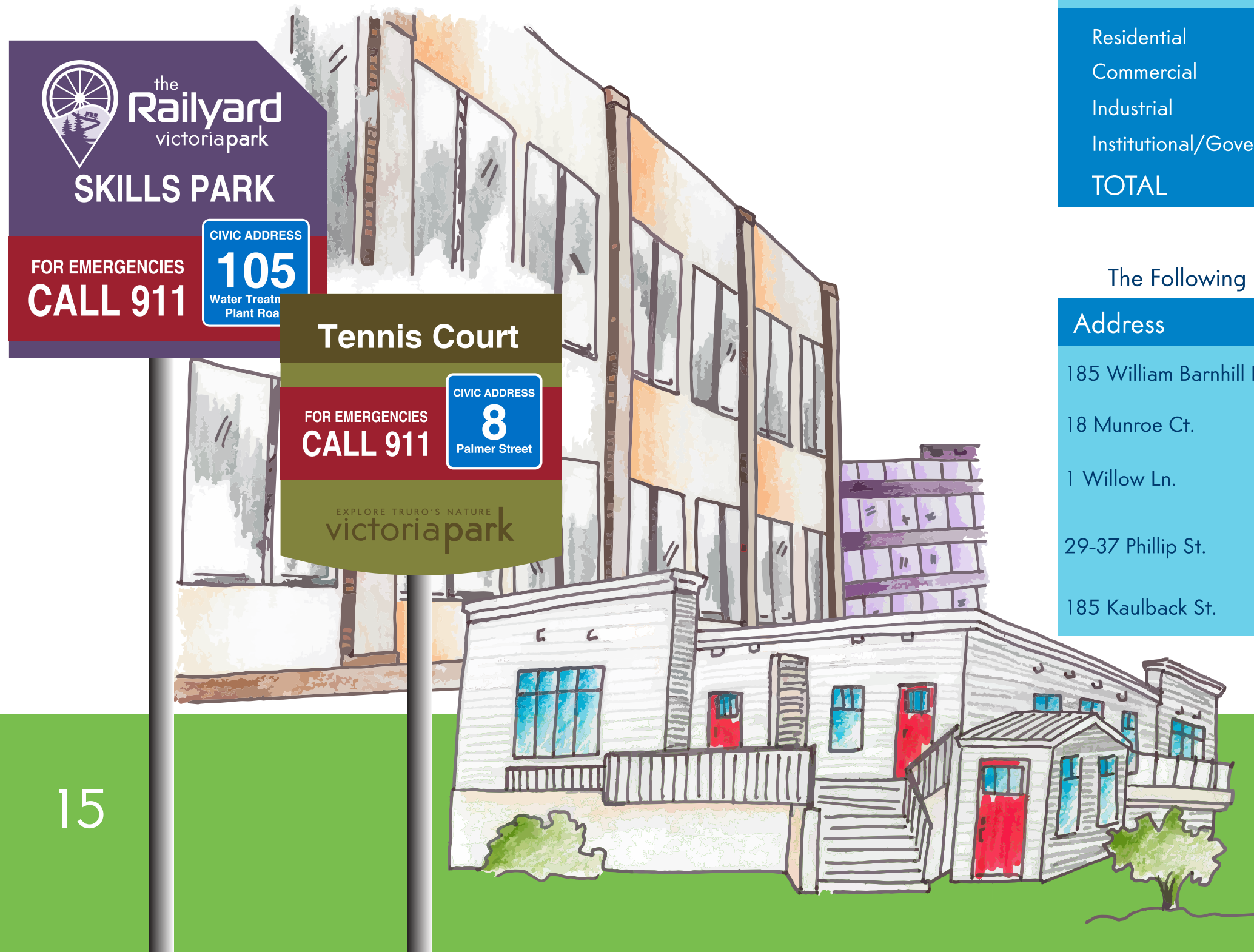
The event was by invitation only, with the names of children being provided by various schools and community organizations. The event gives children a memorable Christmas experience, who may otherwise not have a chance.



## Truro Add's Over 35 New Civic Addresses in Victoria Park

The Town of Truro Planning & Development Department, along with Truro Police and Fire Services, partnered with Emergency Management Office (EMO), Emergency Health Services(EHS) and the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre to add 35 new civic addresses, with identifying signage, to Victoria Park in an effort to make the park an even safer place for residents. These civic numbers, along with select roads and trails, have been added to the Provincial database for emergency measures.

Next time you're visiting Victoria Park, take note of the new signs and try to make a habit to note where you are. The Provincial 911 system operates off of civic addressing, so making note of which point you are closest to can be invaluable during an emergency.



## Truro Continues to Experience Growth Through 2018

During 2018, the Town of Truro experienced continued growth and added diversity to the local economy. The Town's Planning & Development Department issued a total of 145 building permits for a total construction value of \$17,120,064, with Commercial and Industrial permits making up nearly 70% of that total.

Excluding Government or Institutional permits, 2018 and 2016 were the strongest two construction periods for the Town of Truro since 2007.

### 2018 Building Permits:

Type	Value of Construction
Residential	\$5,001,355
Commercial	\$4,111,408
Industrial	\$7,597,501
Institutional/Government	\$409,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,120,064</b>

The Following Development Agreements/Re-Zonings were also issued in 2018:

Address	Applicant	Details
185 William Barnhill Dr.	Meech Holdings Ltd.	Application to amend a 2012 Development Agreement to include a new two-phase residential development consisting of 38 dwelling units.
18 Munroe Ct.	Wallace Living	Application to permit the development of 5 additional dwelling units in an existing 35-unit dwelling.
1 Willow Ln.	Roy R. Smith	Change to the Municipal Planning Strategy - future land use designation and zoning of 1 Willow Lane from the General Commercial designation and General Commercial (C4) Zone to the General Residential designation and General Residential (R3) Zone.
29-37 Phillip St.	Meech Holdings Ltd.	Application to permit a multiple unit residential development consisting of reuse and residential conversion of the existing building and the construction of a new four-unit, one-storey building to the rear.
185 Kaulback St.	Brentwood Developments Ltd.	Application to permit three, 50-unit, 4 storey residential buildings.

## Truro Police Hire Seniors' Safety Co-ordinator

In November, the Truro Police Service hired Doug MacDonald in the new position of Seniors' Safety Coordinator. This citizen position acts as a liaison between the Truro Police and the senior community. Doug is in charge of providing education on senior services in Truro, including such things as living safely, senior health, personal safety, and crime prevention.

Doug works closely with local agencies and senior groups and helps provide referrals and information on appropriate services.

Funding for the position was provided through a three year grant from the NS Department of Seniors. Anyone wishing to reach Doug MacDonald can do so Monday to Thursday, from 9 am – 1 pm by phone at (902) 897-3277 or by email at [dmacdonald@truro.ca](mailto:dmacdonald@truro.ca).

## Town of Truro Celebrates African Heritage Month

On February 5, the Truro Town Council hosted a celebration for African Heritage Month at Truro Town Hall. The celebration included songs, spoken word, and proclamation by the Mayor. The event was open to the public and well attended. The proclamation takes place annually as part of the official local kickoff for African Heritage Month.

The 2018 African Heritage Month Provincial theme was "Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community" and honoured African Nova Scotians and their long legacy of uniting passion that has provided a base to educate and celebrate an important part of Nova Scotia's culture and heritage.



# Truro's Annual Operating Budget

## Where Does the Money Come From?

Approximately 80% of the Town of Truro's revenue is received from property taxes. The amount of tax revenue a property owner is required to pay is based on the assessed value of the property owned and the tax rate. The assessed value of a property is not determined by the Town of Truro. Properties within Nova Scotia are assessed annually by the Property Valuation Services Corporation or PVSC, [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca). Through the annual budget process, Truro Town Council approves the property tax rates for the year.

Other revenues come from municipal revenue sources and unconditional grants.

In 2018-2019, the Town of Truro approved the following tax rates:

**Residential Tax Rate - \$1.83 per \$100 of assessment**

**Commercial Tax Rate - \$4.50 per \$100 of assessment**

To illustrate how a property tax bill would be calculated, if the assessed value of a property was \$100,000, and the residential tax rate is \$1.83 per \$100 of assessment, the total annual property tax bill would equal \$1,830.

## Town of Truro Staff Retirements in 2018

The Town of Truro was sad to say goodbye to two long term employees in 2018. The Town of Truro thanks these employees for their great work and years of service to the Town, and wishes them all the best in their retirement!

**POLICE SERVICE** Jessy Rowley (30 Years)  
**FINANCE DEPARTMENT** Pat Yuill (21 Years)