

# Contact Us

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# 2019

Year in Review



# Mayor's Message

There were many exciting community events in 2019. Some of my favourites were the recent Festival of Lights and Santa Claus Parade. It was great to see the number of people who attended. The audience is always the most enjoyable part of any event!

With the doubling of the Federal Gas Tax to municipalities for 2019, the Town of Truro was able to complete some needed capital road and sidewalk work. Some of the most notable projects included the rebuilding of Arlington, Muir and Faulkner Streets, and extensive repaving on Marshland Drive, Harmony Road, and McClures Mills Road, just to name a few.

As I look forward into 2020, I continue to see growth and vitality for Truro. We'll kick the year off in a big way! In March 2020, we are set to host the IIHF Women's World Hockey Championships, a partnership event shared between Halifax and Truro. This is an international event that will showcase the RECC as a world class venue and it will bring some of the best hockey from around the world here to Truro. Don't miss it!

In closing, I'd like to say that on behalf of Truro Town Council and Town staff, I want to wish you the very best for 2020 - good health, peace of mind, and love in abundance.

Thank you,  
Bill Mills  
Mayor of the Town of Truro

# A Year in Review

Happy New Year! I would like to first start by thanking our citizens for another great year. I also want to recognize the accomplishments of our partners in Colchester County, Millbrook First Nation, Bible Hill, and Stewiacke, and the great work we've been able to support through partnerships with the Downtown Truro Partnership, Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP), and other community organizations. Finally, a thank you to our Town staff members for making it all work.

We are coming off of another banner year in Truro, with total value of construction for 2019 sitting just over \$21 million. We are seeing several residential and commercial developments under construction, or in preparation and planning stages to begin construction in 2020.

Our residential vacancy rate is low and real estate sales are doing well. Much of our older housing stock is being recognized for its historical character and is being brought back to life through dramatic transformations and creative renovations. This is leading to a renewal of our downtown neighbourhoods that I am excited to see!

# Victoria Park

# The Railyard



## Improvements & Upgrades

Throughout 2019, there were a number of changes and upgrades made within Victoria Park.

Early in the year, a new maintenance shed was built at the far end of the main parking lot. This new maintenance shed replaces the former undersized facility. It also incorporates two public winterized washrooms that are available for use throughout the year. Other washroom facilities in the park are only suitable for summer use.

A new boardwalk and lookoff was also completed above the waterfalls. This was done to improve accessibility in the area and provide a viewing area of the waterfalls to those with mobility challenges.

Several other trail bridges and walkways also saw major maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

Most recently, the Joe Howe Falls saw the rebuild of an iconic shelter. The previous one was required to be torn down due to safety reasons. The new shelter is a hemlock timber frame structure, maintaining the aesthetics of Victoria Park.

Additional improvements will continue in 2020.



## Railyard Master Plan & Active Transportation

In June, the Town of Truro issued a Request for Proposals to conduct a Master Plan for the Railyard Mountain Bike Park in Truro's Victoria Park. The Master Plan provides a strategic direction for the planning, management, development and operation of the Railyard Mountain Bike Park over the next 7-10 years.

The Town of Truro, with project consultants Nova, Vélo Québec, and Bicycle Nova Scotia, worked through master planning exercises as a means of determining the appropriate approach that would help establish the Railyard as not only a key mountain biking designation, but also as a valuable asset for the community.

In September, community consultation was conducted to seek public input into the Master Plan. About 40 people attended the session and were asked such things as how they use the park, what their likes and dislikes are, and what their vision is for the Railyard in 20 years. This information was then used to form the basis of the Master Plan.

Council received the final Railyard Mountain Bike Park Master Plan in November. The Plan proposes developments over the next 10 years, to be completed in three phases. Recommendations focus on such things as staff training, trail construction, maintenance, infrastructure, increased signage, marketing and communications.

Earlier in the year, residents were also given the opportunity to provide input about biking for Truro's Active Transportation Plan.

The Town asked residents to provide their input on such things as destinations, routes, barriers and safety concerns. The information was then used to inform an Active Transportation Plan for biking throughout Truro. It will help to further the Town's efforts to connect cycling routes throughout Truro and the outlying areas. The Town is also looking at infrastructure requirements to make biking throughout Truro more convenient and desirable for residents and visitors.

# Storytime & Facility Tours

In July, the Truro Police Service and the Truro Fire Service partnered with the Colchester East Hants Public Library - Truro branch, to conduct story time sessions and facility tours for children in the community. The partnership allowed a Police Officer and Firefighter to read a story to a group of children with a tour of the Truro Police Service and Truro Fire Service buildings to follow.

Children were able to meet the Police Officer and Firefighter and get an inside look at their typical day, operations and equipment. The program is part of the summer safety program and seeks to build positive relationships between children and those that serve in the community.



## Truro's CAO Representing NS and PEI on Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators Board

In May, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Truro, Mike Dolter, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA).

CAMA is a national, not-for-profit association open to all Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers and any person employed in a senior management position that reports directly to the CAO.

CAMA has a membership of approximately 650 City Managers, Chief Administrative Officers and senior appointed officials from all parts of Canada. Their primary role is to champion excellence in municipal administration by providing members with opportunities to grow and develop their personal knowledge and skills in best serving the public and to assist members with building a culture of service within their municipal corporations.

Mike Dolter was elected by his peers to represent Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. He also serves as President to the Nova Scotia Association of Municipal Administrators and Director for Property Valuation Services Corporation of Nova Scotia.

## Truro Police Chief

### Dave McNeil Receives Prestigious Award



Truro Police Chief, Dave MacNeil, was presented with the Order of Merit of the Police Forces this past October. The award was presented by Governor General, Julie Payette, during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Chief MacNeil was the only Nova Scotian of the group of 40 recipients. The Order of Merit of the Police Forces honours leadership, exceptional service, and distinctive merit displayed by the men and women of the Canadian Police Services, while also recognizing their commitment to Canada.

Chief MacNeil has been serving on the Truro Police Force since 1993. He has been serving as Police Chief for the past decade and is also a member of several local, provincial, and national committees.

## Truro Engages Honeywell to Enhance Energy Efficiencies

Over the later half of 2019, the Town of Truro worked with Honeywell to identify opportunities to improve efficiencies within Town buildings, reduce energy consumption and lower environmental emissions.

In December, Truro Town Council approved a \$1.9 million energy and facility renewal program that includes lighting, mechanical equipment and building control upgrades. It is estimated that the program will save nearly \$96,000 annually in operational and utility savings.

The Town expects work to begin in 2020.



# Neighbourhood



# Parks

## Improvements & Upgrades

The Town of Truro's, Parks Recreation and Culture Department worked to improve several neighbourhood parks throughout the year.

At the Stan "Chook" Maxwell Park, located on Prince Street, the Town of Truro partnered with the African Nova Scotian community to build and install 20 community garden plots. All of the plots have been reserved and will be ready for use in the Spring of 2020. Over the next year, the Town of Truro will also be adding a trail to the Stan Maxwell Park to enhance accessibility.

With the cooperation of the East End Community Enhancement Committee, the Town of Truro installed new benches at the Herb Peppard Park. New interpretive signage honouring Herb Peppard was also designed and produced, and will be installed in the Spring of 2020.

As part of the Town of Truro's walkability initiative, the Upham Drive pathway was upgraded to a wider, gravel trail. The pathway is very popular for school age children and provides a better connection from Truro Junior High to Truro Elementary.

Lighting was also added to the Truro - Bible Hill Dog Park on Lorne Street and the Tim Hortons Skate Park on Brunswick Street. This allows for enhanced use of the parks in the evening hours.

## October is "Reduce Single Use" Month

Understanding that municipalities have a large role to play to help protect the environment and to help encourage the reduction of single use items, the Town of Truro encouraged reduction of wasteful single-use items and proclaimed the month of October as "Reduce Single Use" month.

The Town of Truro partnered with the Downtown Truro Partnership, Colchester Solid Waste Resource Management, Divert NS, and the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce on this initiative.

Residents and businesses were able to participate in several initiatives which took place throughout the month. These included a Take the Pledge Challenge, free paper bags for the Town's annual leaf collection program, a Reduce Single Use workshop at the Truro Farmers' Market, the Fall Compost Giveaway at the Colchester Compost Facility, and many more.



## TCPEP Focuses of Physician Recruitment

As a funding partner of the Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP), the Town of Truro continued supporting the TCPEP and its mandate to promote the Truro Colchester region, support business growth and innovation, and help businesses with workforce attraction and retention.

In 2019, the TCPEP created a new regional brand and regional marketing materials, aided physician recruitment efforts, and established a focused business development program to meet with businesses one-on-one to discuss growth and retention issues.

Physician recruitment remains a hot issue in Nova Scotia. Working with the Town of Truro, and other partners, the TCPEP has taken a leadership role on physician recruitment. For this, the TCPEP assists with physician recruitment tours, promotes the region at physician recruitment events, and is developing new strategies to increase physician recruitment and retention for the local area.

In July, the new North Nova Family Medicine Teaching Site in Truro welcomed six new residents. These residents will spend two years in a family practice where they will follow a group of patients, gaining skills and experience in areas like maternal care, mental health and senior care. As part of this new program, the TCPEP coordinated welcoming activities for the six new physician residents, including an afternoon scavenger hunt and a welcome BBQ at Masstown Market.

In October, the TCPEP secured \$25,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia to develop a stronger network of volunteers to aid physician recruitment and retention efforts.

The TCPEP is a Regional Enterprise Network managed by a board of local businesses and community leaders. Their offices are located at 35 Commercial Street, Truro.



# Downtown Façade Improvement Incentive Program & other Downtown Developments

The Town of Truro and Downtown Truro Partnership recognise that the image of Downtown Truro is an important economic development tool. The historic quality of the buildings, the available amenity space, green and social interaction spaces in the downtown area, are all important assets to the image, the 'feel', and the attraction to those that live, work and shop in the downtown core. For that reason, in 2019, the Town of Truro and the Downtown Truro Partnership worked together to support a Downtown Façade Improvement Program.

The Program provided financial incentive and aid to assist commercial property owners and business tenants to improve the exterior appearance of their properties. Each commercial property in the Urban Regional Core was eligible for up to \$2,000 in matching funds for projects that would update or restore their building façades. The program was put in place to further stimulate commercial building improvements, promote investment, and enhance the physical appearance and economic vitality of Downtown Truro.

By the end of 2019, nearly all of the \$50,000 in total grant funding was approved for 27 different projects. Projects included such things as signage, paint, siding, windows, brick repair and more. The nearly \$50,000 in grant funding was surpassed by private investment and a total investment of more than \$330,000 was spent on these 27 projects.

Other major construction projects which took place during 2019 in Downtown Truro included the new U-Haul Distribution Centre, located at 24 Court Street, the new Common Works development, located at 9 Commercial Street, the new Costandi Design, located at 45 Willow Street, the new Canadian Mental Health Association: Colchester East Hants Branch, property located at 859 Prince Street, the new Colchester Food Bank, located at 580 Prince Street, the new Truro Medi Spa, located at 61 Queen Street, and the new Hollis Wealth location at 628 Prince Street.



## Expansion of the Truro Business Park Underway

The Town of Truro sold the last two lots under their ownership on Industrial Avenue in late 2018 and early 2019. This made way for the expansion of the Truro Business Park into 300+ acres, located south of William Barnhill Drive, opening up 10 new lots for future development along the southern portion of Young Street.

During the later part of 2019, the Town of Truro's Engineering and Public Works crews spent time clearing the first two of the 10 lots, better preparing them for future development. It is planned that work will continue in 2020, once the winter weather settles, and before road crews get busy with street repairs and maintenance.

The Truro Industrial Development Society also worked hard through 2019 to launch a new website for the Truro Business Park ([www.trurobusinesspark.ca](http://www.trurobusinesspark.ca)). The website highlights advantages to doing business in the Truro Business Park, lists lots available for sale, and provides a business directory for existing businesses within the Park.

With the first lot on Young Street now sold, there are now nine lots available for sale and development. Lots are priced at \$25,000/acre and are fully serviceable with municipal water and sewer. All lots are zoned M2 Commercial Industrial.



# Façade Improvement



# The Business Park

## Truro Plays Host to a Number of Annual Events

Each year the Town of Truro hosts several annual community events.

Each year kicks off with the annual Winter Long John Festival in mid-February. For 2019, the event featured a Mayors Challenge to wear your long johns to work, a kick off at Truro's Civic Square, which featured musical entertainment, horse and wagon rides, skating, and refreshments. The kick-off event was sponsored by Stanfield's Limited, with the horse and wagon rides sponsored by the Downtown Truro Partnership. The festival also featured many outdoor (and indoor) winter activities.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt in Victoria Park took place on April 13th. This event featured an Easter egg hunt for younger children, and an Easter themed scavenger hunt for older children. All children received a chocolate Easter egg and got to visit with the Easter Bunny!

Canada Day in Truro, jointly hosted between the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Town of Truro, featured fun for the entire family. The afternoon celebrations in the Civic Square included bouncy houses, face painting, a summer snack bar, and live entertainment. The Colchester Historeum also offered free children's programming! The evening saw the Civic Square playing host to a free Canada Day Concert, featuring Joel Plaskett Emergency. Unfortunately, the annual fireworks display was cancelled due to the weather, however the fireworks show was included with the Pride Festival celebrations later in July.

The annual Pride Festival took place in mid-July. This event was hosted by the Truro Pride Committee, made up of representatives from the Town of Truro and Downtown Truro Partnership, along with community members and organizations. National Parks Day Celebrations, along with Truro's VP Challenge also took place in mid-July at Victoria Park.

From August 21-23, Truro was entertained by the Truro BuskerFest! Hosted by the Downtown Truro Partnership, and supported by the Town of Truro, this 3-day festival saw Inglis Place turned into a major street festival with live entertainment and busker acts. The event was highlighted by Truro's own Ian Stewart, who attempted to beat the Guinness World Record for chain saw juggling!

Each year wouldn't be complete without annual holiday celebrations! Supported by both the Town of Truro and Downtown Truro Partnership, events included the annual Festival of Lights, with the tree lighting and fireworks at the Civic Square, the Santa Claus Parade, and New Years Eve on the Town.

# Truro Events



# Engineering

# & Public Works



## Robie Street: New Sidewalk

Approximately 425m of new curb, gutter and sidewalk were installed along Robie Street between Juniper Street and Marshland Drive. The new sidewalk replaced an aging asphalt sidewalk that had no physical separation between the busy travel lanes of Robie Street. The installation of raised curb and landscaped boulevard provides a much safer pathway for pedestrians along this high traffic area. The total budget for this project was \$120,000.

## Street Revitalization Muir Street, Faulkner Street, & Arlington Place

With Pavement Condition Indexes of 27 or lower (very poor or worse), and representing a large portion of Heritage Conservation District I, Arlington Place, Muir Street, and Faulkner Street were prime candidates for rehabilitation.

Heritage Conservation District I consists of a neighbourhood of 34 late Victorian style residences built between 1871 and 1938, located on Muir, Faulkner, Pleasant and Victoria Streets in the urban core of Truro. Much of this area was developed by Dr. David Muir (1846-1904), a physician, land developer and Mayor of Truro. Muir owned large properties in this area and contracted with Robert O. McCurdy to build homes, including the Muir residence, for resale on the subdivided lots.

The street revitalization project included the rebuilding of over 800m of curb and gutter, 400m of sidewalk, and nearly 450m of street. In addition, traffic flow on Faulkner Street was converted to one-way northbound, and one-way westbound on Muir Street, east of Arlington Place. Total project budget was \$458,000.



Faulkner Street - BEFORE



Faulkner Street - AFTER



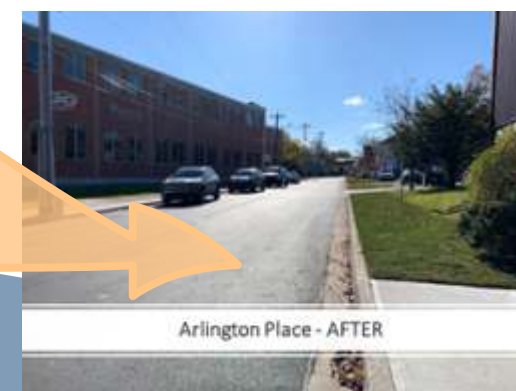
Muir Street - BEFORE



Muir Street - AFTER



Arlington Place - BEFORE



Arlington Place - AFTER

## Palmer Street

Palmer Street is a local residential street which provides access to the Truro Tennis Club and Victoria Park Pool. A busy area in the summer, it was important to maintain parking on both the east and west sides of the street. To achieve this, a mountable curb was placed on the west side of the street with a paved parking surface behind the curb. The rolled curb serves to direct stormwater to catch basins along the street and to define the street travel way. In addition to new curb and gutter, this project also involved the replacement of 165m of sidewalk, rebuilding of the road surface, and reinstatement of landscaping. The budget for this project was approximately \$200,000.

## Road Preservation Program

Once again, summer capital projects got an early start thanks to the Road Preservation Program. 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 second year of the program included the milling and re-paving, or overlay, of (7) seven streets throughout town. A total of 1.5kms of streets were paved with a budget of approximately \$448,000.

# 2019

## Workplace Wellness Award

The Engineering and Public Works Department was awarded with the Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS) Wellness Innovation Award. AMANS Wellness Awards recognise municipalities who have made an effort in creating wellness programs that promote and encourage healthy work environments through increased work productivity and awareness on employee wellness.

New for 2019, the Workplace Innovation Award was added to recognise municipalities who have developed, and successfully implemented, an innovative approach to some aspects of workplace wellness.

The Town of Truro accepted the award at the AMANS Fall Conference.



# Rath Eastlink

## Community Centre Installs New Luxury Suites

In August 2019, the Rath Eastlink Community Centre began construction on a new multipurpose lounge and 6 new luxury suites in the Community Credit Union Arena. Funding for the project was provided by an operating surplus from the RECC, with contributions also coming from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Province of Nova Scotia, the Town of Truro, and the Municipality of the County of Colchester. Total project costs were approximately \$700,000.

The arena also saw the conversion to LED lighting, which means the arena is more energy efficient and now also meets NHL broadcast standards. The conversion is expected to generate power savings of approximately \$20,000 per year. It is also anticipated that the suites and lounge will see a return on investment in 5 years.

The multipurpose lounge and luxury suites opened in late December, 2019. The lounge can hold 30 people for any one event, while the 6 luxury suites can each hold an additional 14 people. The additions of the lounge and the suites will increase seating capacity and further enhance the RECC's ability to attract major events to the region.

Sponsorship has now been sold on all of the luxury suites, but they can still be privately booked when available. The RECC is still seeking a title sponsor for the multipurpose lounge.

## Truro Continues to Experience Growth Through 2019

During 2019, Truro experienced strong growth and added diversity to the local economy. The Town of Truro issued a total of 133 building permits for a total construction value of \$21.8 million.

### 2019 Building Permits:

| Type                     | Value of Construction |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Residential              | \$9,310,826           |
| Commercial               | \$6,775,612           |
| Industrial               | \$2,614,400           |
| Institutional/Government | \$3,127,001           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$21,827,839</b>   |

### Development Agreements/Re-Zonings that were issued in 2019:

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 184 Arthur Street   | Colchester Community Workshops |
| Application to permit 6 dwelling units in an existing commercial building.                      |                                |
| 880 Prince Street   | Walker Lofts Incorporated      |
| Application to permit the development of 6-9 dwelling units in an existing commercial building. |                                |
| 25 Dominion Street  | Olf Properties Incorporated    |
| Application to permit 2 additional dwelling units in an existing multiple unit dwelling.        |                                |

## Special Committee of Council to develop a Local Action Plan with the African Nova Scotian Community

In October, Truro Town Council voted to form a Special Committee of Council, consisting of members of the African Nova Scotian community and Council appointed representatives, to help develop an action plan that will help guide the Town and the community to find solutions to longstanding issues around recognition, communication and understanding.

The Committee will be guided through the development of a terms of reference and objectives, with reference to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, Nova Scotia's Action Plan for the Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, the 2015 UN Decade of People of African Descent Action Plan and the 2017 Report by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. These documents will help to identify broader issues at the federal and provincial levels and should enable the Committee and the community to develop strategies that initiate real and positive change for Truro.

Beginning in 2020, Council will seek to work collaboratively with the African Nova Scotian community to enhance the relationship and to recognize their historical contribution in the community. Council will also work to support the seeking of justice, and new developments through provincial and federal governments.

Truro Town Council envisions the action plan to be a personal document that deals with local concerns, while still establishing the foundation to help the community address some of the larger issues at the provincial and national level. The Committee is being considered one of the most proactive steps taken by a municipality to partner with the African Nova Scotian community. Council hopes that other municipalities will take similar action toward developing an environment within their communities where truth, education, understanding, dialogue and awareness can flourish to help heal and unite.

# Federal Gas Tax Fund Streets and a Splashpad!

In 2019, municipalities across Canada received a one-time doubling from the Federal Gas Tax Fund. The Gas Tax Fund provides direct support to municipalities for local community-based projects.

With the announcement of the one-time doubling, Town staff put together a list of projects for consideration. There were a number of street projects selected, adding to the sustainability of the Town's street ratings system and 5 year Capital Plan.

The following streets were selected for asphalt over-lay projects: Arthur Street (King to Willow) \$85,000, Camden Road (Harmony Road to Town line) \$330,000, Harmony Road (Town line to Town line) \$115,000, Marshland Drive (Robie Street to Park Street) \$315,000.

In addition, paving on Brunswick, Queen, Robie and Young Streets were also completed at a total cost of \$150,000.

As part of the additional allocation, Council also approved a new splashpad for Victoria Park at a cost of \$150,000. Tessier Récréo-Parc was awarded the tender in late 2019 and will build the new splashpad where the existing pad is located.

The new organic shaped play pad will compliment the beauty of Victoria Park. It will allow children of all ages, abilities and play styles to choose their own adventure, as the new splashpad will be packed with creative play experiences, complimented with natural colours and accents.

The splashpad is expected to be open for the Summer of 2020.



## Public Education Program to help with Deer Management

The Town of Truro ran several campaigns to help educate citizens on the effects of feeding the local deer population. Truro, like many other urban municipalities, struggles to find ways to help control the urban deer population.

One of the main reasons the deer population is so significant in Truro is due to the deer's ability to easily locate food in urban areas. While many people may enjoy seeing and feeding local deer, they are a local concern due to the rise in ticks and Lyme Disease. Deer are also a significant safety and traffic concern, and are a nuisance to many.

The most recent signage campaign, which sees signage placed in several areas throughout Town, implores citizens not to feed the deer and explains the significant risks to both the deer and the public.

The Town will continue to work with the NS Department of Natural Resources to help control the urban deer population.

# 2019 Retirements

The Town was sad to say goodbye to these long term employees in 2019:

- Jim Flemming (39 Years) | Truro Police Service
- Robert Levine (48 Years) | Emergency Measures Organization
- Paul Bigelow (31 Years) | Engineering & Public Works
- Tim Saxton (28 Years) | Truro Fire Service

## 2019/20 Truro's Annual Operating Budget

Residential Tax Rate  
**\$1.85/\$100**  
Assessment

Commercial Tax Rate  
**\$4.50/\$100**  
Assessment

Road Preservation Tax Rate  
**\$0.0525/\$100**  
Assessment

**\$28.83** Million  
**Operating**



CUPE Contract Agreement  
**2.5%** Increase



Wage Increase  
For Police & Fire



TCPEP Contribution  
**\$60,450**

Capital Reserve Funding  
**\$435,000**

**\$2.3** Million  
**Capital**



Buildings, Vehicles & Equipment  
**\$1.1** Million



Streets  
**\$1.2** Million