



TRURO  
make the connection



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2017  
a year in review



# mayor's message

## a year in review

Welcome to the 2018 New Year! With the start of 2018 upon us, we now have a chance to look back at the Town over the past year. The last year was a year of accomplishment, not only by Council and staff, but by the wider community through the residents, businesses, and visitors.

I have heard it said many times over the past year that Truro has found its "Swagger." I tend to agree. One of the great enjoyments over the past year has been talking to citizens and hearing compliments on such things as the new library, Civic Square, the Caldwell Roach Kings Mutual ice surface, our new directional and wayfinding signage, Rogers Hometown Hockey, the size of the crowd for Remembrance Day and so on! I want to thank you for your encouragement, as it is appreciated for me personally, and for our Council and the town staff who really make it work.

The end of 2017 saw the World Junior A Challenge take place in Truro at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC). This world class event was exciting, fast, entertaining and carried out by a team of volunteers who really 'hit the event out of the park'. The event is another success story for the region and, as a result, more events will come! The RECC staff also deserve mention, as with each event they become much more confident and skilled. As such, the reward for great work will be more work! The new dehumidification system at the RECC has improved service delivery, and health and fitness memberships are up - all signaling great things for the community.

With the opening of the new Colchester East Hants Public Library, cardholders and usage statistics have grown exponentially. Combine this with the events taking place downtown and with the co-operation of the

Downtown Truro Partnership, the Town has a vibrancy everyone can feel!

The past year has also seen the completion of major construction projects, one being the apartment complex on Victoria Street. This will only add to the people in our downtown and signals growth and vitality of our local economy!

Our region continues to experience growth which will help Truro continue to grow business and employment opportunities. Expansion of the Truro Business Park and the extension of William Barnhill Drive have opened up development opportunities on the top of Young Street. Negotiations are well underway on a number of properties available for development, with those projects expected to begin construction during 2018.

Events Truro Colchester, a joint committee with the Municipality of Colchester, is made up of citizens, business leaders, and staff who are continuing the task of seeking out events for the region. They continue to work to find events that will fit within our scope and that will appeal to a wide variety of residents and visitors. I must say they have done a great job! Be watching for further announcements coming soon!

Our new REN (Regional Enterprise Network) will start shifting into second gear this year. I am confident with the Board and staff in place that good things will continue to happen.

Looking forward, the Town will be focused on reducing our debt over the next 3 years. We have been very aggressive in our development. The good news from that is that all Town owned facilities have undergone required upgrades and maintenance to ensure long term sustainability. With the help of some new Federal and Provincial government programs, we will have greater

leverage in the years ahead to tackle streets and sidewalks. We want you to know, we hear you and will help to address these concerns.

In closing, it is becoming very evident that people are "making the connection" to Truro! That doesn't just happen and we can't do it without your support. The past number of years have proven that when we work together, great things do, and will happen!"

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



# new wayfinding signage

the town installs signage encouraging visitors to explore

During 2017, the Town of Truro Planning & Development Department undertook the exciting job of designing a full signage scheme for the Town. The project included new wayfinding signs, downtown pedestrian informational signs, welcome, highway and gateway signs, public parking signs, and visitor information signage.

The project was identified as a priority in 2015, during a First Impression Assessment done for tourism purposes in the area. The report noted that local attractions were difficult to find and not well identified. It was noted that good wayfinding in a community increases retail sales and services on average by 18%, while also making visitor experiences more enjoyable.

The signs were installed by the Truro Parks, Recreation and Culture Department during the Summer and Fall of 2017. In total, 58 signs were installed.

The new signs will help to orient visitors and encourage them to explore Truro.



# regional enterprise network

truro approves three year agreement for REN

In June 2017, the Town of Truro, in partnership with the County of Colchester, Millbrook First Nation, and the Town of Stewiacke approved an inter-municipal agreement to participate in a Regional Enterprise Network (REN). The REN is designed to help bolster regional economic development and to provide better support to the business community.

The REN has been named the *Partnership for Economic Prosperity* and includes participation from the Municipalities, the Province of Nova Scotia, the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses. All partners have agreed to finance the organization for three years. The *Partnership for Economic Prosperity* is distinct from other RENs operating in the Province, in that local businesses are financial contributors and have helped to build the concept and intent of the organization.

The nine person Board has been in place since the Spring of 2017. The Board has since been working to prepare a budget, set a strategic direction, and identify staffing needs.

# deer management

public information meeting for deer management in truro

In June 2017, the Town of Truro hosted a public information session at the Truro Fire Hall to allow residents to access information regarding Truro's urban deer population. A number of local experts were present at the meeting including the Department of Natural Resources, the Nova Scotia Health Authority, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, and Hillendale Perennials. Experts had information booths discussing topics such as living with wildlife, plantings for deer, wildlife feeding bylaws, and possible deer management solutions.

As part of this session, the Planning & Development Department conducted a survey asking people their opinions on the urban deer population and their feelings towards possible deer management solutions. Overall responses from the survey were generally divided.



# the railyard

## the railyard mountain bike park and colchester short track

In September 2017, Truro Town Council heard a proposal to brand and develop the upper portion of Victoria Park into the Railyard Mountain Bike Park. With the upper portion of Victoria Park already being used by skilled mountain bikers and for mountain biking events, there was a natural next step to brand the mountain biking area and to further develop the amenities to be able to promote this area as a destination for mountain biking tourism.

The first phase of the project includes signage and marketing materials and has been budgeted to cost roughly \$20,000. Signage is expected to be installed in the Spring of 2018. The second phase will include further developing a website, as well as installing additional infrastructure and support services such as washroom facilities, rest areas, water fountains, and bike racks.

Development of the Bike Skills Park and Short Track area was completed in this area in 2016 to help encourage novice, beginner, and intermediate riders. The skills area is designed as a fun open area within a natural wooded environment. Users can have fun while challenging and enhancing their bike handling skills. The trails have all been designed and built to be smooth, fast, and to flow with mountain bike riders in mind.

Colchester Short Track, led by a group of community volunteers, has been hosting a series of short track races in the Bike Skills Park and Short Track area during the Spring and Fall. These events have grown to over 170 participants each week, from pre-schoolers to adults, from as far away as Halifax and New Glasgow.



# skate park expansion

## truro's skate park hosts grand re-opening

In June 2017, the Town of Truro, in partnership with the Municipality of the County of Colchester, Province of Nova Scotia, Tim Hortons, HAF Skate and Tattoo, Wilsons, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester, welcomed everyone to the Truro Tim Horton's Skate Park grand re-opening to celebrate the completion of the phase two expansion to the park.

During the Spring of 2017, phase two of the Tim Hortons Skate Park was constructed, adding nearly 6,000 sq. ft. to the existing park. The expansion is what is known as a "Street Plaza", which offers more flat areas and open spaces, providing improved areas for beginners, with additional options for intermediate and advanced users. It has been designed to emulate and improve upon the street skating experience and includes obstacles such as stairs, railings, planters and benches.

The event kicked-off with a ribbon cutting ceremony and remarks by local dignitaries. After which, HAF Skate and Tattoo hosted an evening of entertainment and activities.



# truro fire brigade

## hosts a “walk in our boots” event



In September 2017, the Truro Fire Service and Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade hosted the annual *Walk in Our Boots* event in the Truro Superstore parking lot. The event is an open house and includes a fire fighter combat challenge.



For 2017, thirteen teams competed in the challenge and the final round featured Truro's IAFF career team battling Brookfield to earn the title. The event also featured a Jaws of Life demo, touch-a-truck, featuring Truro's 1919 American LaFrance Pumper, education about fire extinguishers, a firefighter training maze, as well as a combat challenge for children.

The Truro Fire Brigade started the event 10 years ago to showcase and promote volunteer membership.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter in Truro is encouraged to contact the Truro Fire Brigade at [recruitment@truofirebrigade.ca](mailto:recruitment@truofirebrigade.ca), or by stopping by the Truro Fire Station at 165 Victoria Street.



# rogers hometown hockey

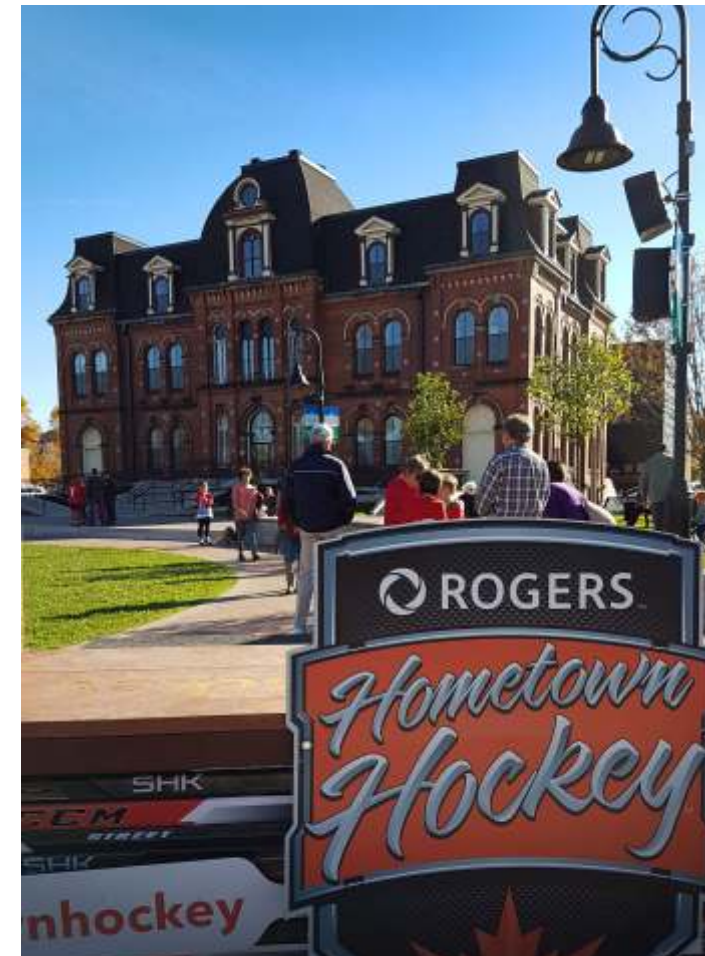
## truro hosts rogers hometown hockey event downtown

In October 2017, the Town of Truro hosted Rogers Hometown Hockey in the downtown Civic Square. Truro was one of 24 communities selected in 2017-2018 to host the weekly two day festival and national broadcast on Sportsnet. The weekend event was hosted by Ron MacLean and Tara Slone and finished with a live broadcast and viewing of a Pittsburgh Penguins and Winnipeg Jets game on the Sunday evening.

The Truro event focused on Truro's significant hockey history, focusing on Mi'kmaq stick making and significant African Nova Scotian hockey players, as well as celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Junior A Bearcats franchise.

The broadcast also featured Brookfield's, Lyle Carter, who played 15 games with the former NHL California Golden Seals and a feature with Jonathan Torrens at the Riverbreeze Fear Farm.

The festival included autograph signings by NHL alumni Jon Sim and Colin White, as well as a live performance by Matt Mays. Overall the event was filled with family friendly, free activities for the entire community.



# downtown concerts

truro civic square: a popular choice for outdoor concerts



In 2016, the Town of Truro won the Molson Coors One Horse Town concert which saw the downtown Civic Square play host to Dean Brody, Chad Brownlee, and the River Town Saints for the venue's first outdoor concert!

Given the success of the 2016 event, a number of concerts were successfully hosted at the Civic Square during the summer of 2017. During the summer, the Town of Truro worked with private business and promoters to oversee logistics for hosting concerts in the downtown Civic Square. For 2017, this included the Trews performing at the venue in August, with Big Sugar and One Bad Son being featured in September during "Rock the Hub". Both events were produced by a local downtown business owner. Many other acts also performed as part of separate events.

Rogers Hometown Hockey also featured a live performance by Matt Mays in the Civic Square.

Stay tuned for more concerts coming to the Civic Square in 2018!



# embrace festival

marks its 7th year in 2017!

EMBRACE Truro - a celebration of Truro's diversity and culture - and sponsored by the Town of Truro's Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee. This years performers included Truro Concert Band , Jean Abram: Smudging Ceremony, The Iron Tide Singers , Julie Johnstone & Friends, Colchester Highland Dance Association, Josee from ACA-Jam, Colchester Legion Pipes & Drums, Gallus Gael Re-enactors, Bollywood Kids, Maritime Bhangra Group and Maritime Centre for African Dance.



# staff retirements

town of truro retirees in 2017

The Town of Truro was sad to say goodbye to seven long term employees in 2017. 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. Our 2017 retirees included:

PARKS, REC & CULTURE	Doug MacKenzie (39 Years), Jim McCready (30 Years), & Henry McInnis (17 Years)
POLICE SERVICE	Randy MacKenzie (38 Years)
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	Ken MacLeod (28 Years)
ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS	Bruce Dalrymple (29 Years), Kerry Simmonds (28 Years)

# truro police service

## youth and senior mentoring program

In the Spring of 2017, the Truro Police Service received a Federal grant through the New Horizons for Seniors Project. The program links senior mentors with youth for a one year period. The mentors act as positive role models for the youth and share their life experiences. The Truro Police, in partnership with SchoolsPlus, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester and the Truro Inclusion Project worked to carefully match youth in the community who were in need of support with local seniors. The project will continue until mid-2018.

## Cst Catherine Campbell kids awareness day

On May 20th, 2017, the Truro Police Service and the family of Cst Campbell hosted the first annual Cst Catherine Campbell Kids Awareness Day to conclude Police Week. The event took place in front of the Truro Police Service and the Civic Square. There was a BBQ, games and prizes, draws for bike helmets, and a colouring contest.

The event also included a touch-a-truck event which included a Truro Police Service car, Truro Fire Service aerial fire truck, and an EHS Ambulance. As well, there were demonstrations from Truro's K9 unit, a visit by Cyber, and tours of the Truro Police Station.

The event also saw one of the Civic Square benches dedicated to the memory of Cst Catherine Campbell. The bench was funded by the Nova Scotia Police Association, Local 102, and the Town of Truro. It includes a plaque which bears Campbell's name and badge number.

## police participate in annual pride parade

Truro's Pride festivities lasted a full week in 2017, beginning with the Pride flag being raised at Truro Town Hall on July 24th, and finishing with a Pride parade and celebrations at the Civic Square on the afternoon of July 29th. The Truro Police participated throughout the week and marched together in the Pride Parade.

The Truro Police, in partnership with the Truro Fire Service, also handled policing and assisted with traffic control during the event.

## holiday heroes event & food drive

The Truro Police hosted the first Holiday Heroes event in Truro on December 22nd. The event allowed several children to have a special memory of the holiday season, as the day was filled with activities and experiences.

For the event, the Truro Police Service partnered with the Truro Boys and Girls Club, Christmas Index Program, and the Department of Community Services to select a number of children who would benefit from the event. About 50 children were invited to take part in activities which included breakfast, crafts, cookie and tree decorating, skating, touch-a-truck, and a visit from Santa. Many local businesses and community partners helped to fund the event.

Along with providing a great memory for children, it was hoped that the children taking part would develop a better understanding of the role of police officers in the community and to help them foster a growing, positive relationship with the police.

In November, the Truro Police Service also sponsored a food drive for the Salvation Army, with all proceeds going to the Christmas Program and the Food Assistance Program.



# truro's civic square

## caldwell roach kings mutual outdoor skating rink opens

January 2017 saw the opening of the Caldwell Roach Kings Mutual outdoor skating rink in Truro's Civic Square. It was open to the public from January until March in 2017. The rink was well used and on average attracted 30-50 skaters at any one time throughout the season.

The rink, which sits in front of the Colchester East Hants Public Library during the winter months, is 140 ft by 100 ft. The rink was purchased as part of the Civic Square Redevelopment Project, in which half of the funding was provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency as part of the Innovative Communities Fund.

As part of the opening, the Town's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department also launched a skate drive in which people could donate their older skates to be available for borrow through the Town. Donated skates were cleaned, sharpened, and an annual maintenance program ensures they are ready for borrow.

The grand opening of the Caldwell Roach Kings Mutual outdoor skating rink took place on February 4th to coincide with the first Saturday of the annual Winter Long John Festival. The event included live entertainment, horse and wagon rides and hot chocolate. Truro Mayor, Bill Mills was also spotted skating in his red onesie long john for the opening celebration.

The Town of Truro has skates, snowshoes, and cross country skis available for borrow throughout the winter season through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. These items are available for borrow Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Anyone wishing to borrow these items can stop by the Town of Truro Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, located at 40 Douglas Street during this time.



# world junior

## A challenge

### a great event for truro

The World Junior A Challenge took place at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre from December 10 -16. The World Junior A Challenge is an under 20 international hockey tournament sponsored by Hockey Canada. The tournament showcases Junior A level hockey. The 2017 event featured 6 teams, including a Canada East and West team. In the end, Canada West walked away with the gold medal, beating USA in the finals.

Funding for the event was provided by the Town of Truro, Municipality of the County of Colchester, the Province of Nova Scotia, and through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Millbrook First Nation also contributed to the event as the Gold Sponsor and a number of private businesses supported the event through other individual sponsorship levels.

Over 100 volunteers contributed to the success of the event.

In recognition of the long-term service by past Hockey Canada board member, and Hockey Nova Scotia President/Life Member the late Jed Ritcey, a former Truro resident, the 2017 World Junior A Challenge served as the catalyst for the establishment of the Jed Ritcey . This legacy will provide additional funding opportunities to support local minor hockey development, future event-hosting and capital upgrades to local rinks in Truro and Colchester County.

The World Junior A Challenge has an economic impact of up to \$3 million for the host community.

# RECC

## new dehumidification equipment

In January 2017, Truro Town Council passed a motion to share 40% of the costs of upgrading the dehumidification equipment at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC). In total the project cost roughly \$585,000. This amount was shared between the Town of Truro and the Municipality of the County of Colchester, with \$277,400 of the project costs secured through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Innovative Communities Fund.

The new dehumidification equipment was installed in the Fall of 2017. It replaces an old system, which was able to remove 80 pounds of moisture per hour. The new system can remove 600 to 800 pounds of moisture per hour.

The upgrades will allow for increased capacity and will enhance the RECC's ability to attract and deliver a wider variety of major events, further positioning the facility as a top choice in Atlantic Canada.



# douglas street centre

## upgrades to building

In late 2016, the Town of Truro received almost \$150,000 in funding through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The Town matched this funding to complete a number of upgrades at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre, during the Spring and Summer of 2017. The intention of the upgrades is to make the building's maintenance sustainable for the next 25 years.

Renovation work included updating the building's HVAC system, replacing a major portion of the roof, and building façade improvements.

The Douglas Street Elementary School opened in 1957. After the closure of the school, Truro's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department took over the building. Today the building is home to the Town's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, the Truro Boys and Girls Club, and other community organizations. The building also allows for private rentals for community recreation classes and groups wishing to use the gymnasium, boardroom and/or former classrooms for recreational activities. Current activities include belly dancing classes, rug hooking, pickleball, badminton, meetings and birthday parties.

# water meter upgrades

## replacement program

In 2017, the Town of Truro budgeted nearly \$1.2 million for a water meter replacement and upgrade program. As part of this program, the Town of Truro's Engineering & Public Works Department contracted Neptune Technology Group to replace nearly two-thirds of the existing residential water meters with new upgraded versions.

The purpose of the project was to replace existing meters that had reached the end of their useful life, as well as to ensure continued billing accuracy and improved reading efficiency. The project wrapped up in early December and, in total, over 3,000 new meters were installed.

# planning & development

## major construction projects in 2017

Over 2016 and 2017, the Town of Truro saw a number of major construction projects. Many projects that started construction in 2016 or early 2017 have been completed, or are very near the completion stage.

### 2016/2017 major construction permits: over \$500,000

location	project	value
236 Robie Street	New Construction - Restaurant	\$750,000
180 Victoria Street	New Construction - 50 unit apartment	\$5,000,000
415 Willow Street	Renovation - Industrial	\$1,500,000
400 Queen Street	New Construction - Residential Care Facility	\$1,100,000
70 Industrial Avenue	Addition - Feed Mill	\$10,000,000
158 Glenwood Drive	New Construction - 12 unit apartment	\$890,000

### Development Agreements Issued in 2016/2017

Address	Applicant	Details
102 Ford St.	Om Khanna	Multiple unit residential development consisting of a three-storey, 12 unit building and a three-storey, 6 unit building in the General Residential (R3) Zone.
180 Victoria St.	Smartland Developments Inc.	Multiple unit residential development consisting of two, 50-unit, four storey buildings in the Downtown Commercial (C1) Zone.
158 Glenwood Dr.	Jon Creelman	Multiple unit residential development consisting of a 12-unit, three storey building in the General Residential (R3) Zone.
65 Walker St.	Annex Investments Ltd.	Multiple unit residential development consisting of a 6-unit, three storey building in the Downtown Commercial (C1) Zone.
Upham Dr.	Meech Holdings Ltd.	Amendment to a 2012 Development Agreement to permit the development of five, 4-unit, one storey townhouse style dwelling units on a private lane.
63 Queen St.	Van Aardt Investments Ltd.	Development of an Institutional Use (aesthetic medicine practice) and two ancillary dwelling units.
118 Lyman St.	Brentwood Developments Ltd.	Multiple unit residential development consisting of six, two storey townhouse style buildings, each containing 10 dwelling units.
199 Willow St.	Meech Holdings Ltd.	Amendment to a 2008 Development Agreement to permit a new 6-unit, three storey residential building.

# engineering & public works

## major projects in 2017

The Town of Truro's Engineering & 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, a number of projects have been completed by the Department.

### **McLean Street (from Parkdale Avenue to End)**

This full reconstruction project included pouring of new curbs and sidewalks, rebuilding of base gravels, paving of the street, and landscaping. Additional storm water infrastructure was also incorporated to improve drainage. The total project budget was approximately \$225,000.

### **South Street**

The reconstruction of South Street included new curbs and gutters, replacement of the sidewalk, rebuilding of the sub-base, new asphalt, and reinstatement of landscaping. The total project cost was approximately \$178,000.

### **Willow Street and Court Street**

Willow Street, between Smith Avenue and Prince Street, and Court Street are key arterial sections, carrying heavy traffic volumes. The existing road bed was sound, but the surface had begun to deteriorate under heavy traffic and hard winters. Dexter Construction was awarded the tender to cold mill the existing asphalt surface, which involved a controlled removal of the top 2 inches of asphalt. The milled surface was prepped and covered with a new layer of asphalt creating a smooth new driving surface. The project cost was approximately \$70,000.

### **William Barnhill Drive (between Industrial Avenue and Crossley Avenue)**

In 2016, William Barnhill Drive was extended approximately 1 kilometer to the east, creating a link between Willow Street and Young Street, and opening up previously landlocked parcels in the Truro Business Park. However, a 360 metre section of William Barnhill Drive, between Industrial Avenue and Crossley Avenue, was still unpaved. In 2017, the Truro Industrial Development Society allocated funds to complete the paving in this remaining section of road. The total cost for this project was approximately \$150,000.

### **Upham Drive (between Willow Street to Polymer Road)**

Upham Drive serves not only as a central entrance to the Truro Business Park, but it is also a well-used access route to Truro Elementary School and the surrounding residential areas. Inadequate roadside drainage, combined with heavy truck traffic, had led to the failure of the asphalt surface. In the Fall 2017, crews addressed drainage concerns, rebuilt the gravel base, and re-paved the road between Willow Street and Polymer Road. The total project cost was approximately \$220,000.

### **Civic Square – Library Parking Lot**

The first phase of parking lot improvements involved the construction of a new parking area between the Library and the Police Station, to the south of the Civic Square. This project included new curbs, walkways, relocation of underground utilities, lighting, landscaping, and paving. Total project cost was approximately \$100,000.

# truro receives FCM award

## for outstanding participation in international programs

The Town of Truro received an Outstanding Participation award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in March 2017 for volunteer participation in the Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED). Through the CARILED program, the Town of Truro worked to improve zoning and land use practices in a number of communities, by drafting revitalization plans, recommending changes to downtown streets and public places, and recommending changes to regulations to streamline processes for businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Town of Truro has been participating in International Programs through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities since 2011, helping local governments in Bolivia, Belize, Jamaica, and Guyana.

As part of a current program, Partnership for Municipal Innovation in Local Economic Development (PMI-LED), the Town of Truro is partnered with Cabezas, Bolivia.

# truro's annual operating budget

## your taxes explained

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 2017-2018, the Town of Truro approved the following tax rates:

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

Commercial Tax Rate - \$4.48 per \$100 of assessment

There is also a fee charged to offset the increased costs of treating sewage and wastewater, as per federal regulations. The Sewer Charge is based on the amount of water consumed. If the amount of water consumed per billing period is 1,250 cubic metres (cm) of water, or less, the charge is \$0.63 per cm. Any amount of consumption greater than 1,250 cm, in the same billing period, will be a charge of \$0.05 per cm.