



# **2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

The 2014 Annual Report provides residents of the Greater Miramichi Region with an overview of development activity, departmental initiatives, and financial information pertaining to the functioning of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission. Though the Report is a snapshot of activity over the past year, it also highlights Commission trends over the past five years.

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## GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

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### Highlights

Election of the Commission Executive held; M.A. Douglas Munn was elect as Chairperson and M.A. Bev Gaston was elected as Vice Chairperson. (p.3)

In May of 2014, Regional Service Commission #5 (RSC5) formerly changed its name to the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC). (p.7)

The new GMRSC Human Resources (HR) Policy and Procedures Manual was adopted. (p.8)

The development of the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi – Rural Plan was initiated. (p.8)

The total value of construction for the Greater Miramichi Region increased by 19.1% between 2013 and 2014 (\$37.88m and \$45.13m, respectively). (p.9)

New construction of the Central NB Nursing Home in Boiestown, Rural Community of Upper Miramichi. (p.10)

[Significant renovations to schools in the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown.] p.12

[Significant multi-unit apartment building construction in the City of Miramichi.] (pp. 11-13)

Though a decrease from 2013, the value of commercial construction remained high in 2014 for the City of Miramichi representing roughly \$11m (\$11.5m in 2013). (p.16)

The value of institutional construction [for the City of Miramichi] continues to show steady increase between 2010 and 2014, from \$1.24m and \$5.53m respectively (346% increase). (p.16)

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## **SECTION A – GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

### **1 Message from the Chairperson**

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I have the opportunity to present the Chairperson’s message for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC). The Board of the GMRSC is comprised of eight members who represent 19 Local Service Districts (LSDs), two Villages, one Rural Community, and one City. This diverse group of people has come together in the interest of the Greater Miramichi Region and has formed an extremely well-functioning Commission. Mutual respect and working toward a common goal is the hallmark of this Board. I would like to personally thank the members for their dedication to the Commission.

2014 marked the second full year of the the Regional Service Commission (RSC). The Commission employs 11 qualified professionals in various management, planning, building inspection, and waste management roles. The Commission is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated and qualified employees.

The Commission has two permanent committees: the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee (PRAC) is comprised of eight members from the communities served by the RSC and a three person Finance and Budget Committee comprised of three GMRSC Board members. The Commission also formed an ad-hoc committee charged with looking at recycling initiatives.

There were a total of nine regular meetings in 2014 with nearly 100% attendance by Board members; this is a testament to their interest and dedication. The regular meetings are held in various locations throughout the Greater Miramichi Region.

The Commission had a busy year as it undertook many initiatives; the following are some of the highlights from 2014:

- Ad-hoc Recycling Committee was formed. (January)

## Highlights

[The value of residential construction in the unincorporated areas] represented over half (52%) of the total value of residential construction in 2014. (p.17)

Solid Waste Services applied for the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) ‘Composting & Education and was awarded \$20,000. Various workshops were offered to municipalities, LSDs, and First Nations. (p.29)

The 2015 [Solid Waste Services] Calendar was mailed to each household in the GMRSC Region. (p.34)

[The] Waste Reduction Coordinator provided presentations to numerous schools and local community groups. (p.35)

A total of 594.4 MT of waste was diverted from the landfill through the Blue Bin recycling program. (p.36)

Three Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste collections occurred in 2014. Approximately 22.67 MT of E-waste was diverted from the landfill through these events. (p.39)

- Board approved the GMRSC Operational Workplan 2014-2016. (February)
- Name of the Commission was formally changed by provincial regulation to the 'Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission.' This serves as the legal name of the Commission. (May)
- GMRSC approved the introduction of a residential curbside recycling program, which is scheduled to be in place in September 2015. (October)
- Board approved in principle an Excellence Recognition Award that will recognize development projects that make a positive contribution within the Region. This award, as proposed by Planning Services, will be known as the "Silver Shingle Award". (October)
- Election of the Commission Executive held; M.A. Douglas Munn was elect as Chairperson and M.A. Bev Gaston was elected as Vice Chairperson. (November)

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2015 will present and I wish the incoming Chairperson and Vice Chairperson well as they move the Commission even further as an integral part of the development of our beautiful Greater Miramichi Region. With a strong and now experienced Board dedicated to improving the Greater Miramichi Region and with the help of professional staff, GMRSC is positioned to be a very successful regional body.

Gerry Cormier, Chairperson

## **2 About the Regional Service Commission**

### **2.1 MANDATE AND HISTORY**

The GMRSC is an organization that brings together representatives of communities in the Region to:

1. Strengthen cooperation;
2. Deliver cost effective services; and
3. Improve accountability and transparency.

The GMRSC is an agency that works for, and is funded by, its member communities.

### **2.2 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The GMRSC is governed by a board of eight members (see Figure 1). Board members are made up of mayors from member municipalities and rural communities, and representatives from LSDs within the Region. (Please see 'Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record, Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)' for 2014.)

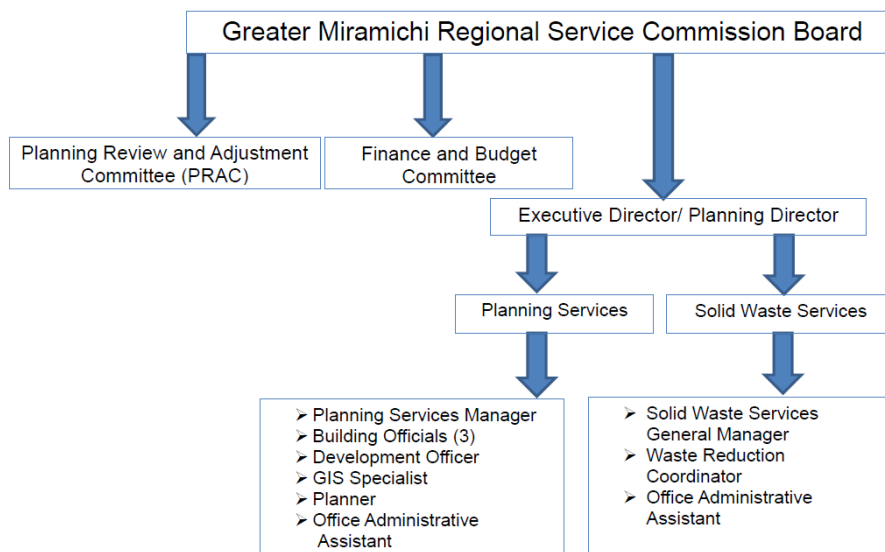
FIGURE 1: GMRSC BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2014

Board Member	Community
M.A. Gerry Cormier, Chairperson	City of Miramichi
M.A. Bev Gaston, Vice Chairperson	Village of Doaktown
M.A. Douglas Munn	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
M.A. Andy Hawkes	Village of Blackville
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
John Goodfellow	LSD Representative
Gerald Ross	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

The Executive Director is a direct employee of the GMRSC Board. He is responsible for staffing to provide Commission services and overseeing day-to-day activities. Please refer to 'Appendix B – 2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2014-2016' for an overview of ongoing and proposed initiatives for 2015. The Workplan is based on an RSC5 (now GMRSC) Board members and senior staff visioning session held in November, 2013. The GMRSC structure is outlined in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2: GMRSC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission Structure



The PRAC is made up of seven members (see Figure 3). Committee members are appointed by the GMRSC Board. The role of the PRAC is to advise (i.e. provide 'views' to municipal and rural community councils and the Minister of the Department of Environment and Local Government) and make decisions on planning and subdivision applications as specified under the NB *Community Planning Act*. The decisions made by this Committee have a significant impact on how development occurs within the

Greater Miramichi Region. (Please see ‘Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record, Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)’ for 2014.)

FIGURE 3: PRAC MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
William Treadwell, Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Joe Veriker, Vice Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Robert Hallihan	Renous
Robert McLeod	Lower Newcastle
Kurt Marks	Village of Blackville
Scott Clowater	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
Lynn Gregan	Hardwicke
[Vacant]	Derby

The Finance and Budget Committee are made up of members from the GMRSC Board (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
John Goodfellow	South Esk
Elizabeth Bowes	Derby
Robert Hallihan	Renous

### 3 Financial Information

#### 3.1 GMRSC FUNDING

The GMRSC is funded by the participating municipalities and the LSDs that receive various services. The municipalities and LSDs include the cost of services they receive from the RSC in their local property tax rates. The GMRSC has no other source of funding. All planning service and permit fees are returned to the community in which it was generated. The programs and staff of Solid Waste Services are partially funded through a service charge attached to the tipping fee at the landfill site (Chaleur Regional Service Commission establishes the tipping fee for the facility).

#### 3.2 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Figure 5 outlines the cost of planning and building inspection services for the 2014 year. In the case of the LSDs, the fees are remitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

All funding partners receive the services of the nine full-time employees of the Planning Services division, which includes inspections services as well. All funding partners also receive the services of the eight member PRAC. Please refer to ‘Appendix C – GMRSC 2014 Financial Statement’ for more details.

FIGURE 5: COST OF PLANNING SERVICES BY COMMUNITY FOR 2014

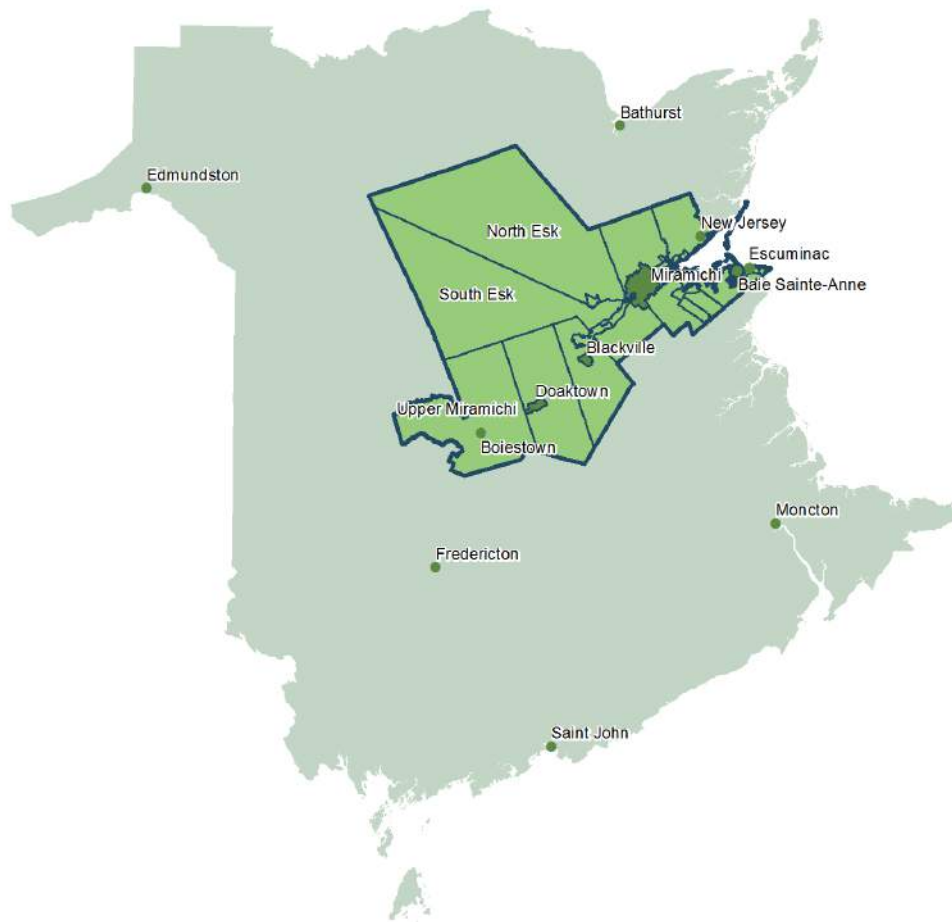
	Budget Amount	Revenue from Fees	Net Cost
Miramichi	\$412,648.00	\$211,049.31	\$201,598.69
LSDs	\$257,542.00	\$74,426.32	\$183,115.68
Blackville	\$13,886.00	\$4,338.80	\$9,547.20
Doaktown	\$17,453.00	\$2,479.79	\$14,973.21
Upper Miramichi	\$34,092.00	\$40,936.60	\$+6,844.60

#### 4 About the Region

The Greater Miramichi Region is located in northeastern New Brunswick. The Region is tied together by the Miramichi River and serves communities located within this picturesque river valley. The City of Miramichi is the service centre of this rural Region (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: GMRSC SERVICE AREA

**GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION - SERVICE AREA**  
**COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI - ZONE DE SERVICE**



The economy is in transition from a heavy reliance on natural resources to professional services, retail, education, health care, and value added manufacturing. Figure 7 below gives an overview of the Region.

FIGURE 7: OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Population (2011)	<b>38,481</b>
Tax Base (2014)	<b>\$2.39 Billion</b>
Area	<b>12,000km<sup>2</sup>, 17% of NB</b>
Municipalities / Rural Communities Served	<b>4</b>
Local Service Districts Served (Unincorporated)	<b>19</b>
Local Service District Advisory Committees	<b>8</b>

Figure 8 outlines the 19 LSDs served by the Commission.

FIGURE 8: LSDS WITHIN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Parish of Alnwick	Lower Newcastle-Russellville
Baie Ste. Anne	Parish of Nelson
Black River-Hardwicke	Parish of Newcastle
Parish of Blackville	Parish of North Esk
Parish of Blissfield	Oak Point-Bartibog Bridge
Parish of Chatham	Renous-Quarryville
Parish of Derby	Parish of South Esk
Escuminac	St. Margarets
Parish of Glenelg	Sunny Corner
Parish of Hardwicke	

## SECTION B – PLANNING SERVICES

### 5 Planning Services Annual Summary

#### 5.1 OVERVIEW

2014 marked the second full year of operation under the new RSC structure. In May of 2014, Regional Service Commission #5 (RSC5) formerly changed its name to the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC). This new name better reflects the communities in the Miramichi River Valley and surrounding areas served by the RSC, collectively referred to as the Greater Miramichi Region.

Guided by the long-serving chair of the former Miramichi Planning District Commission (MPDC), Chairman William Treadwell and the other six PRAC members held eight meetings and dealt with 16 applications, including subdivisions, variances, conditional and temporary uses, and amendments to rural plans, municipal development plan, and zoning by-law.

Enhancing relationships and collaborating with the public, customers, community stakeholders, and other departments and agencies involved in the land development process are critical and ongoing endeavors for Planning Services. In 2014, we participated in and/or hosted a number of sessions with



provincial agencies; Councils and Staff of the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown, Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, and the City of Miramichi; and departments of the City of Miramichi, Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee, and others.

## 5.2 IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Throughout 2014, Planning Services actively worked on a number of initiatives to:

- Make it more convenient for customers to access our services;
- Be more transparent about how we do business; and
- Improve clarity about the factors that influence the speed and outcomes of development applications.

For convenience of our newest customers in the Upper Miramichi, Doaktown, and Blackville area, Planning Services continues to operate a satellite office in Doaktown during the building season from the beginning of May to late September. Open on Tuesdays during the summer months, customers can drop in to speak with a Building Inspector and avoid driving all the way to the City of Miramichi for service.

Numerous initiatives for corporate services and day-to-day administration have been completed or are ongoing. First, adoption of the new GMRSC title was accompanied by new corporate branding and media. This includes a new logo, signage, and associated advertisement materials. Second, the new GMRSC Human Resources (HR) Policy and Procedures Manual was adopted. This Manual was developed largely in collaboration with the other 11 RSCs and reflects governmental legal standards and best practices. All new employees under the GMRSC will now be able to refer to the common Manual, thus streamlining in-office HR processes. This Manual is accompanied by job-specific employee training plans. Though the development of all plans is still underway, this will ultimately give more guidance and assistance to future employees of the GMRSC in the orientation stage of employment. Third, work continues on revamping the GMRSC website. An in-house working group continues to assist the development of the new website that reflects the mandate, services, and overall operations of all aspects of the GMRSC. The new website will function as a communications hub for clients seeking building and development support, by-laws and regulations, upcoming news and events, and more. The website will be linked with social media to increase transparency in day-to-day operations and overall RSC function.

As the mandate of the RSC is to increase regional collaboration and explore the viability of adding on regional services as stipulated under the New Brunswick *Community Planning Act*, the Executive Director attended numerous meetings with agencies and stakeholder groups across the region. A Staff Sergeant of the RCMP attended a Board of Directors meeting to further discuss police regional collaboration amongst municipalities and communities within LSDs. The Board also met with the Emergency Measures Officer (EMO) assigned to the region and went over a draft of the Regional Emergency Measures Plan.

Planning Services staff worked on numerous policy and regulatory projects in 2014. The development of the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi – Rural Plan was initiated. Council appointed a Steering Committee in November, 2014 to help guide and facilitate this process. A detailed Land Use Survey was completed and the Public Participation Program began shortly thereafter. Staff continues to work closely with the Village of Blackville Rural Plan Steering Committee and Village of Doaktown Council in

amending their Rural Plans; these housekeeping plan amendments will be completed in early and mid-2015, respectively. The Building Inspectors of planning services worked diligently on updating and modernizing the City of Miramichi Building By-law No. 63. The registration date for the new By-law No. 95 is February, 2015. Further, this groundwork will lay the foundation for subsequent building by-law reviews of the other three GMRSC partner municipalities and Rural Community.

Staff also completed numerous in-house administrative and informational projects to better advise clients in the streamlining of the building/development approval process. A series of informational booklets was created on select planning and building topics to help clients better understand the process and regulatory requirements associated with simple and more complex building/development projects. These booklets will be included on the newly revamped GMRSC website. Staff also worked on revamping outdated application forms and templates, which should further simplify and help clients streamline the building/development approval process.

To keep skills honed and stay up-to-date with best practices, ongoing professional development is very important. In 2014, Planning Staff continued to improve their skills and abilities to serve our Region by participating in the ESRI Canada User Conference, Building Inspector accreditation courses, and American Planning Association Conference. Staff was also integral to the planning and implementation of the 2014 Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) Conference, held in Fredericton, in which planners took part in organizing committees and ran workshops.

## **6 Development Activity**

### **6.1 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

The total value of construction for the Greater Miramichi Region increased by 19.1% between 2013 and 2014 (\$37.88m and \$45.13m, respectively). A number of significant developments that received some form of development approval or permit in 2014 are highlighted below. These projects, among others, are particularly significant due to their size and scale, importance to the community, and/or their contribution to realizing key objectives of the Municipal Development and Rural Plans for their respective areas.

- New construction of the Central NB Nursing Home in Boiestown, Rural Community of Upper Miramichi (see Figure 9);

FIGURE 9: NEW CENTRAL NB NURSING HOME, RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI



- Renovations to the existing Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home on Lobban Avenue in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 10);

FIGURE 10: MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH NURSING HOME, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New 24-unit apartment building on Renaud Street in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 11);

FIGURE 11: NEW 24-UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New Club Sportif building in Lagacéville, Local Service District (LSD) of Alnwick (see Figure 12);

FIGURE 12: NEW CLUB SPORTIF BUILDING, LSD OF ALNWICK



- Renovations to the existing Blackville School (see Figure 13);

FIGURE 13: BLACKVILLE SCHOOL, VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE



- Expansion to the community/school library in the Village of Doaktown (see Figure 14);

FIGURE 14: DOAKTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN



- New Wilson’s Sporting Camp hotel/motel building in the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi (see Figure 15)

FIGURE 15: NEW CAMP BUILDING, RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI



Other notable development projects in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2014 include:

- New firing/practicing range at the Correctional Services Canada facility in the LSD of Renous-Quarryville;
- New 24-unit apartment building on Ironmen Road in the City of Miramichi; and
- Renovations to the existing Wal-Mart building on Douglastown Boulevard in the City of Miramichi.

## 6.2 BUILDING PERMITS ACTIVITY

Figures 16 to 20 outline the building permits activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2010 and 2014. (Please refer to Tables 16 to 20 in ‘Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) It is important to note that no data is present for the Village of Doaktown and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi between 2010 and 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at this time.

Almost half (49%) of the total building permits issued were within the City of Miramichi; this is followed by the unincorporated areas where 41% of permits were issued. The majority (66%) of permits issued in the City of Miramichi were residential. The number of permits in all land use categories within the City (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and signs) have increased between 2013 and 2014.

FIGURE 16: CITY OF MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

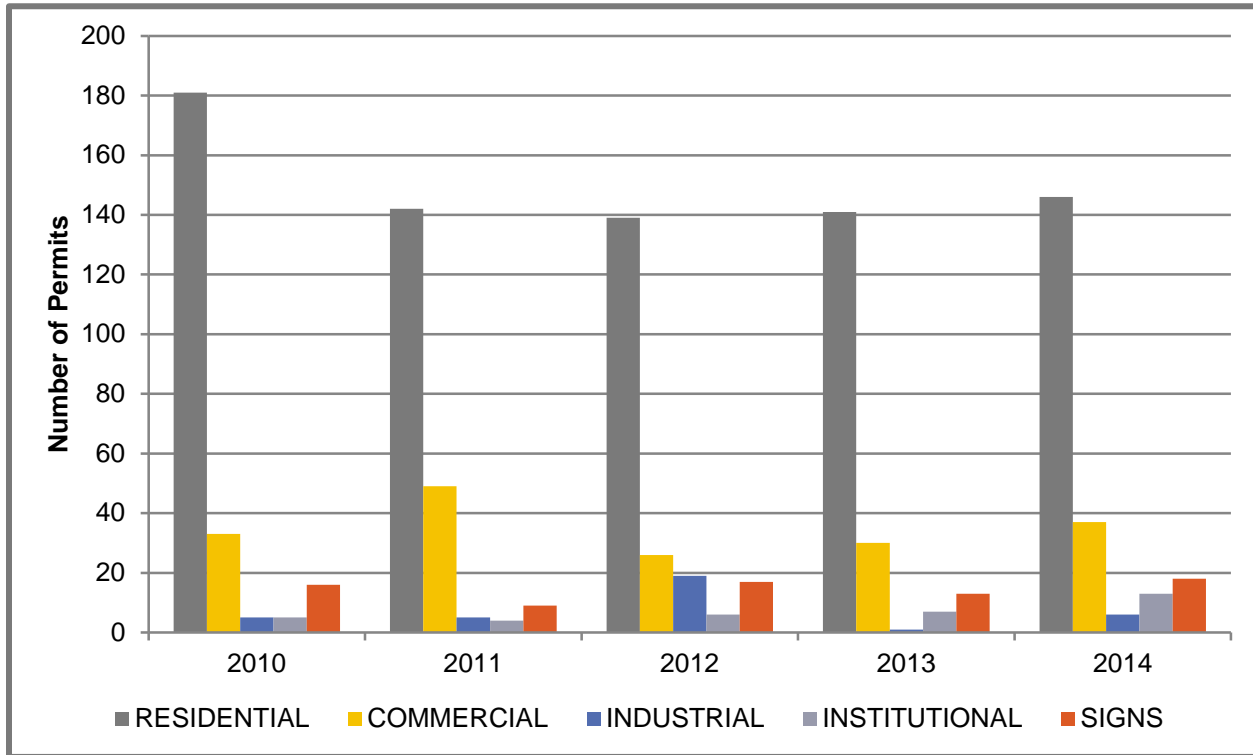


FIGURE 17: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE BUILDING PERMITS

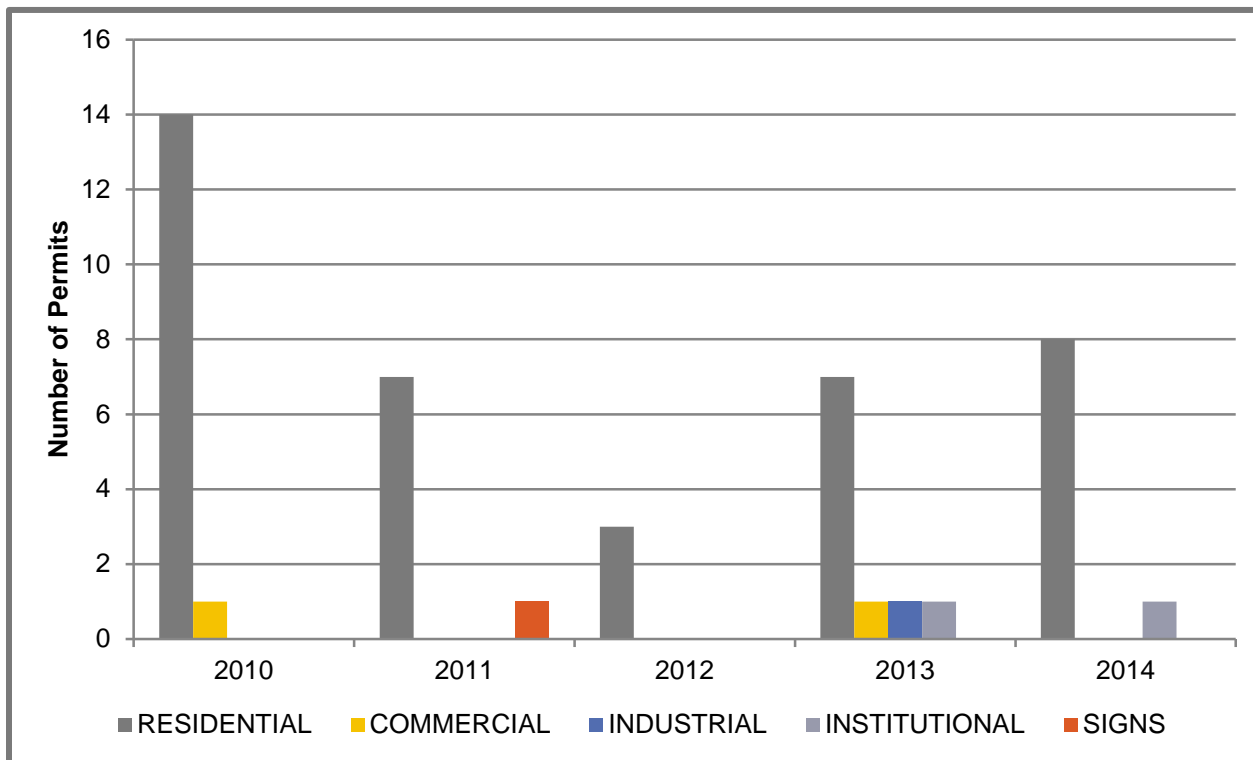


FIGURE 18: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN BUILDING PERMITS

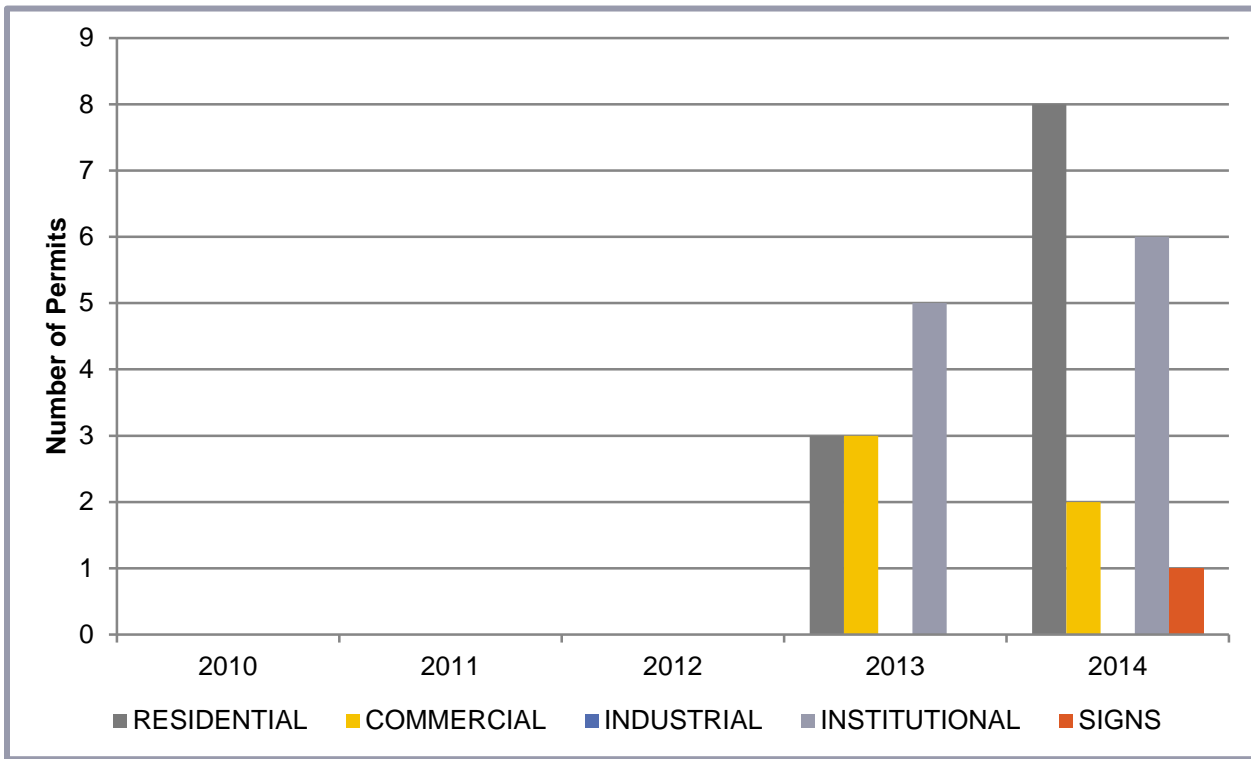


FIGURE 19: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

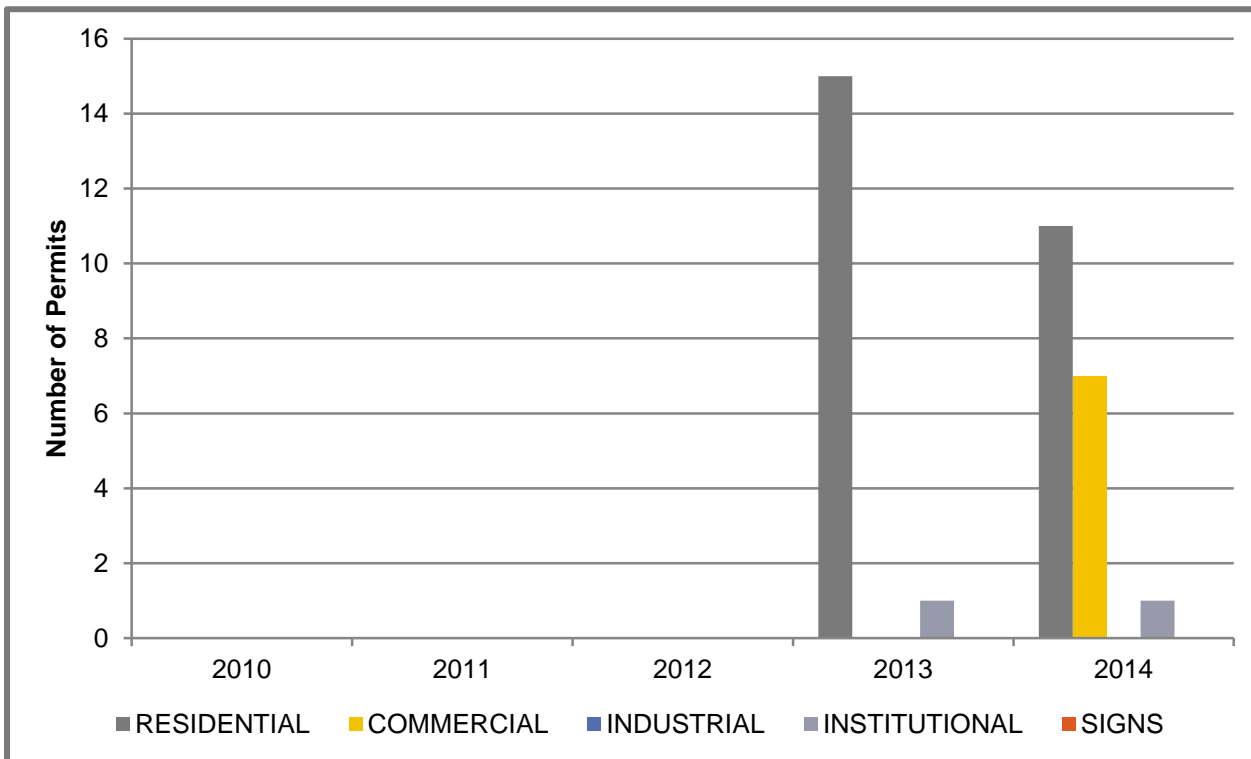




FIGURE 20: UNINCORPORATED AREAS BUILDING PERMITS

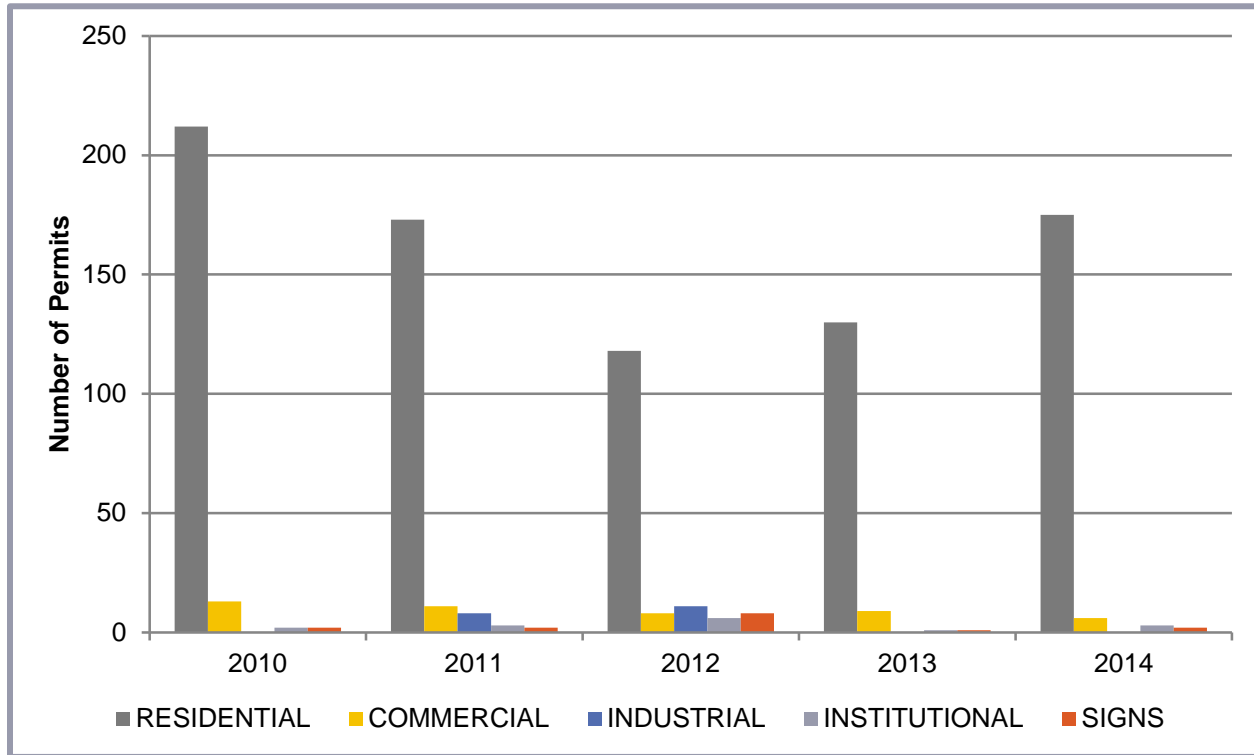


Figure 21 outlines the total value of construction by municipality and unincorporated areas for 2014. Over half (55%) of the total value of construction for the Region came from the City of Miramichi. This is followed by the unincorporated areas and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi making up 26% and 17%, respectively.

FIGURE 21: TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION, 2014

Community	Value
City of Miramichi	\$24.83 Million
Village of Blackville	\$392 Thousand
Village of Doaktown	\$583 Thousand
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi	\$7.68 Million
Unincorporated Areas	\$11.64 Million
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$45.13 Million</i>

Figures 22 to 26 outline the value of construction activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2010 and 2014. (Please refer to Tables 22 to 26 in 'Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) Though a decrease from 2013, the value of commercial construction remained high in 2014 for the City of Miramichi representing roughly \$11m (\$11.5m in 2013). The value of institutional construction continues to show steady increase between 2010 and 2014, from \$1.24m and \$5.53m respectively (346% increase). Although strong, the value of residential construction did not significantly change in the City over the five year period. The value of industrial construction stagnated between 2010 and 2014 totaling less than \$1m each year.

Development activity remains modest in the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown, and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi. Peaks in value of construction data for these municipalities is representative of specific development projects (e.g. renovation to the Blackville School, expansion of the Doaktown community/school library, and new Central New Brunswick Nursing Home in Upper Miramichi).

The value of residential construction in the unincorporated areas remained relatively consistent from 2010 to 2014 at \$9.7m. This represented over half (52%) of the total value of residential construction in 2014.

FIGURE 22: CITY OF MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

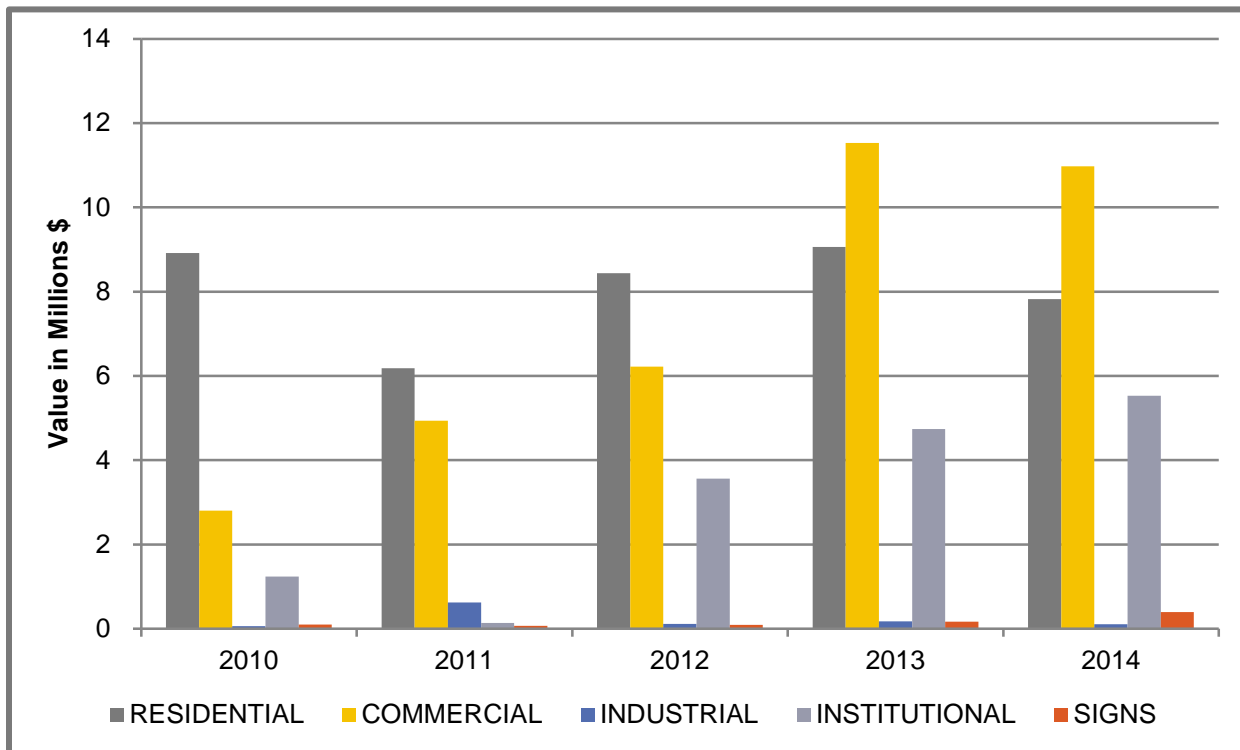


FIGURE 23: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

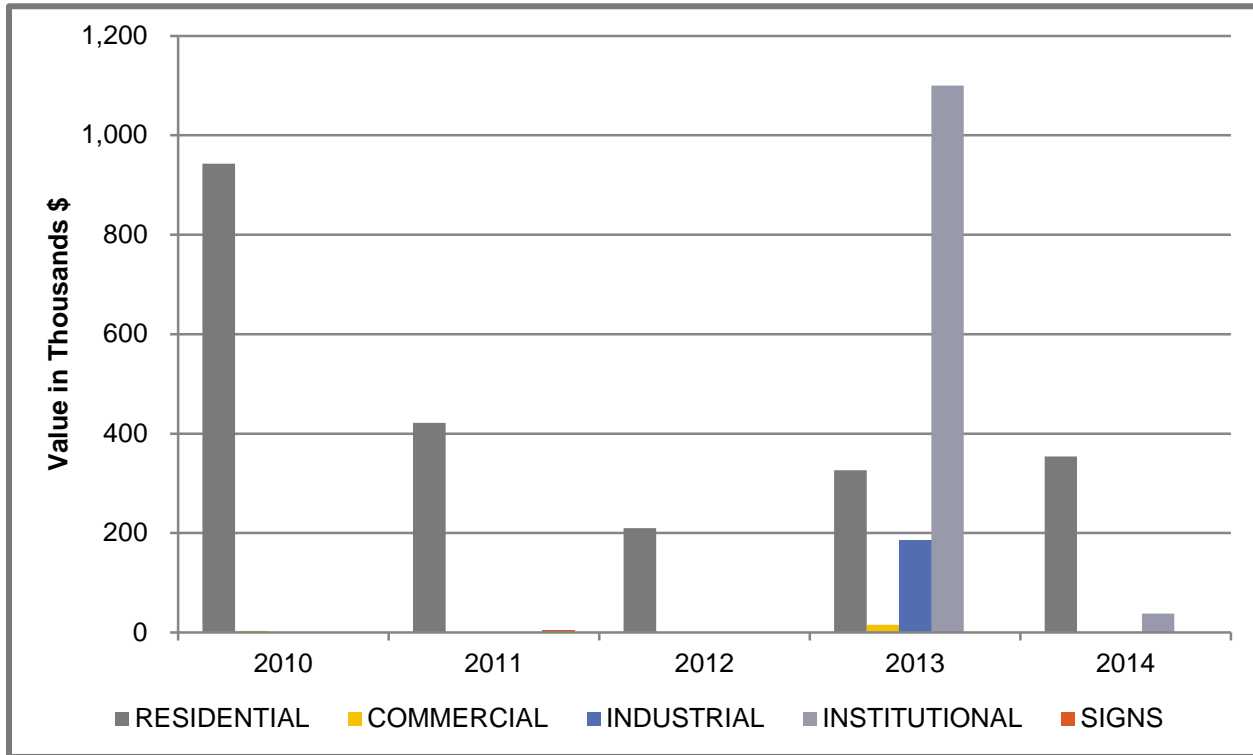


FIGURE 24: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

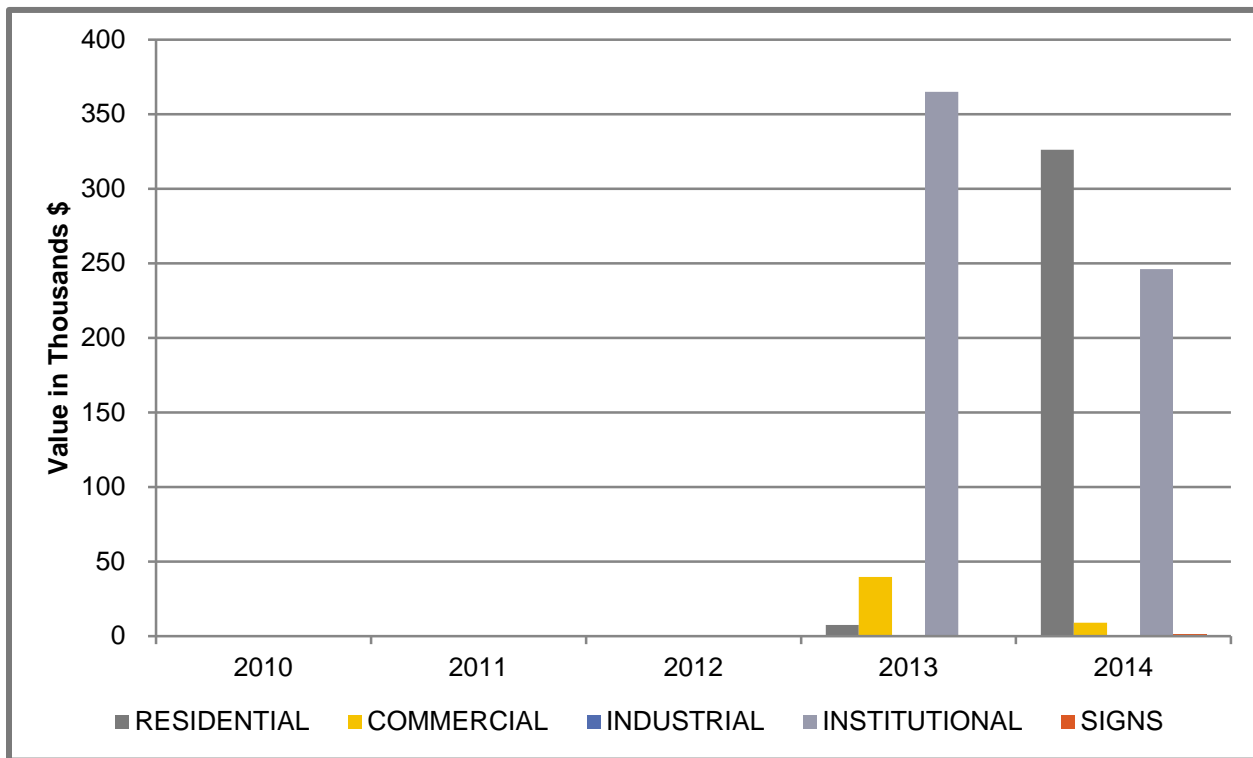


FIGURE 25: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

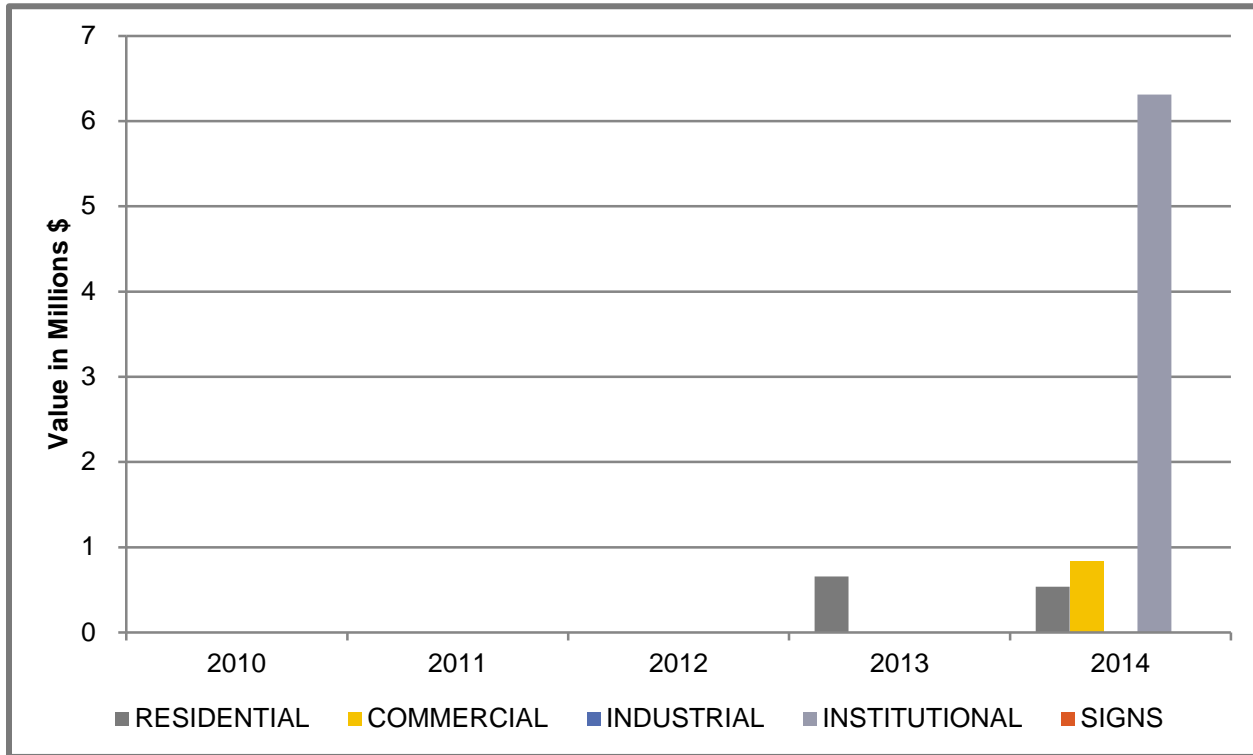
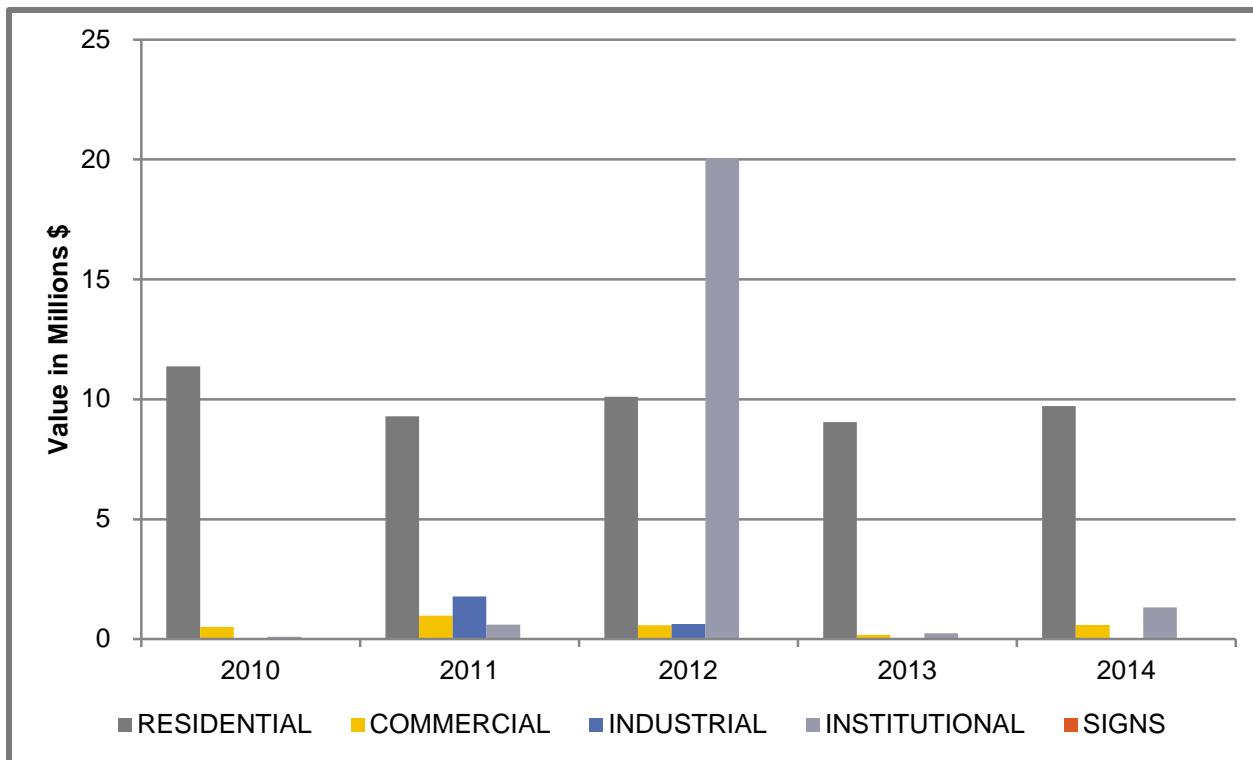


FIGURE 26: UNINCORPORATED AREAS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION



### 6.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Planning applications include plan amendments (e.g. Municipal Development Plan and Rural Plans), rezonings, and variances (e.g. Development Officer and PRAC). Other planning applications, such as temporary and similar and compatible uses, are included under PRAC variances. Though technically not variances as stipulated under the New Brunswick *Community Planning Act*, they are handled in a similar fashion and they must go to the PRAC for a decision.

Figures 27 to 31 outline planning applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2010 and 2014. (Please refer to Tables 27 to 31 in 'Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.) It is important to note that no data is present for the Village of Doaktown and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi between 2010 and 2012, as both communities were not a part of the GMRSC at this time.

A majority (89%) of the total applications handled were from the City of Miramichi. A recent change to the NB *Community Planning Act* allows Development Officers (DOs) to make decisions on dimensional variances and temporary use applications. This has increased staff resources, because variances that must go to the PRAC are work and time intensive. The majority of variance applications handled in all municipalities (city, villages, and rural community) were handled in-house through the DO variance process (20 out of 25 total). As is typical, there were not many applications for plan amendments or rezonings in 2014.

FIGURE 27: CITY OF MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

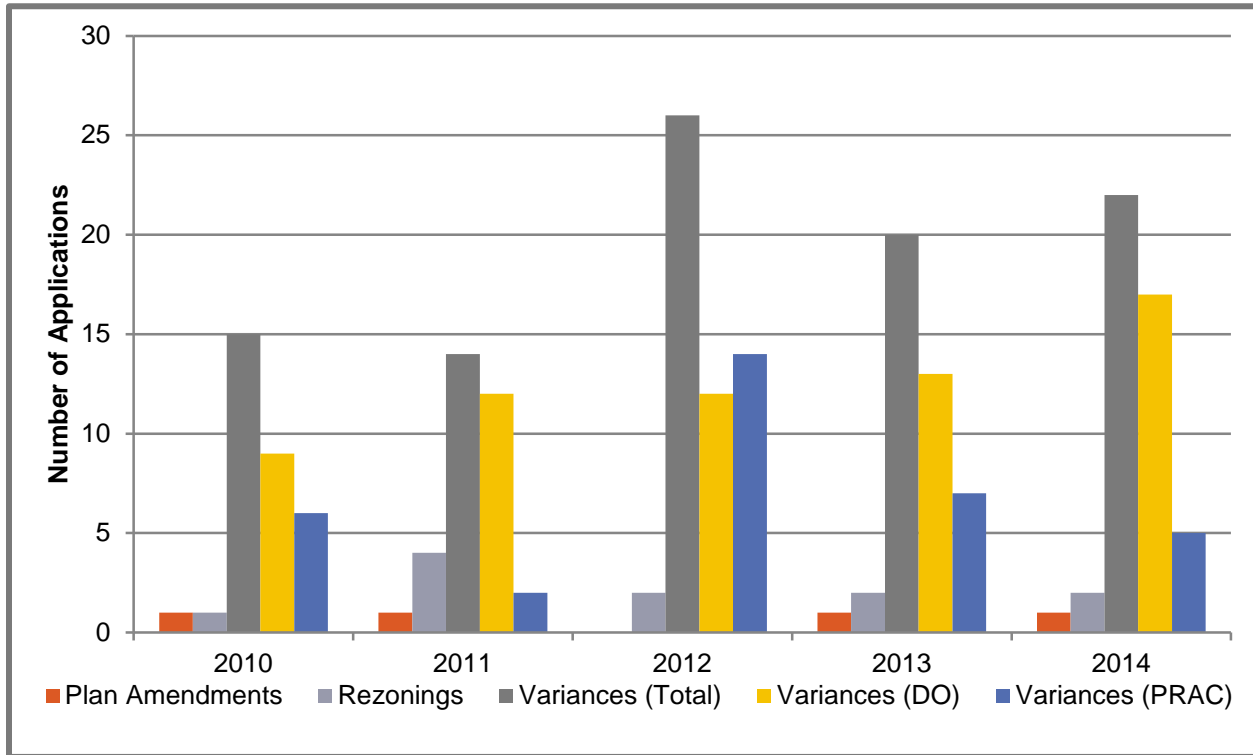


FIGURE 28: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

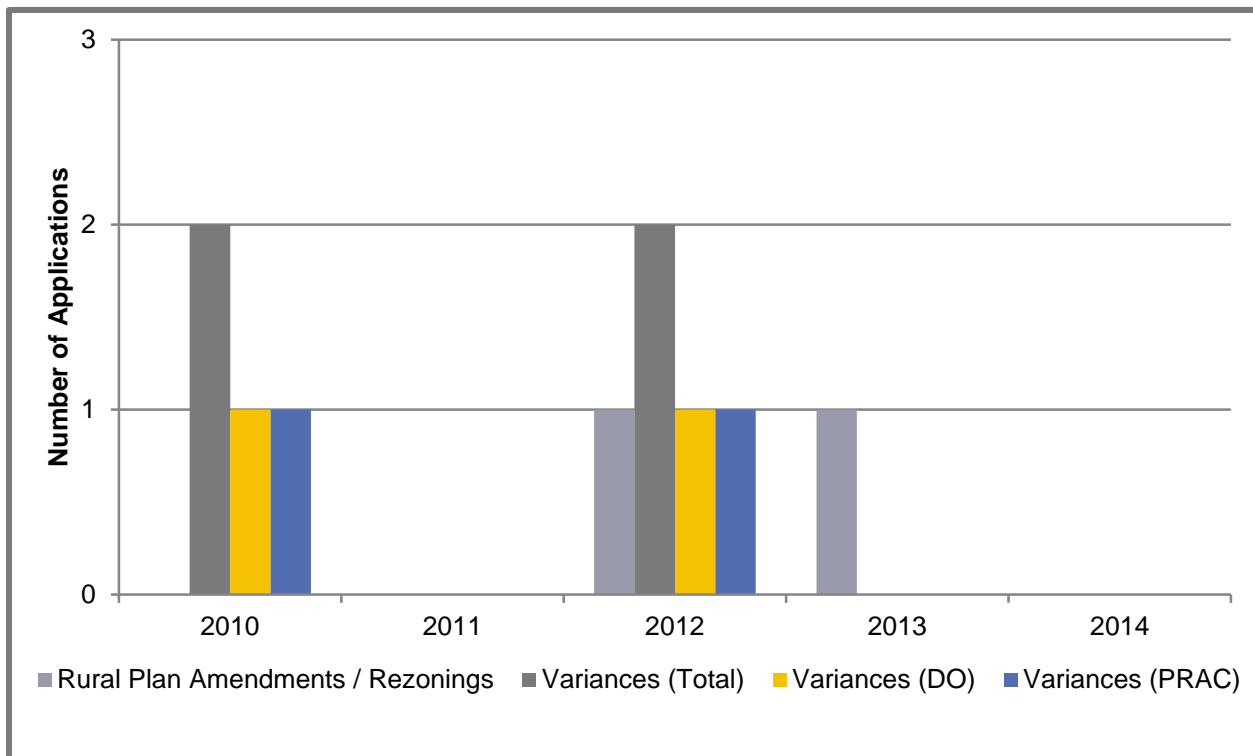


FIGURE 29: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

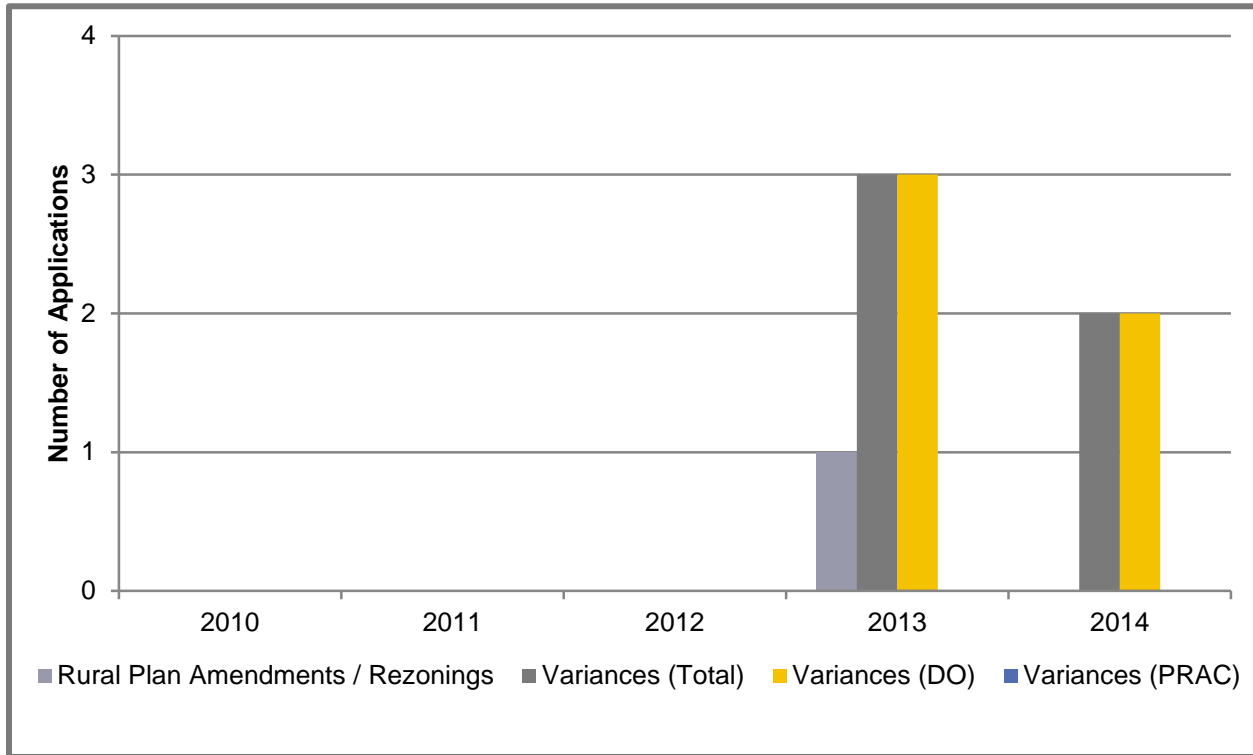


FIGURE 30: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

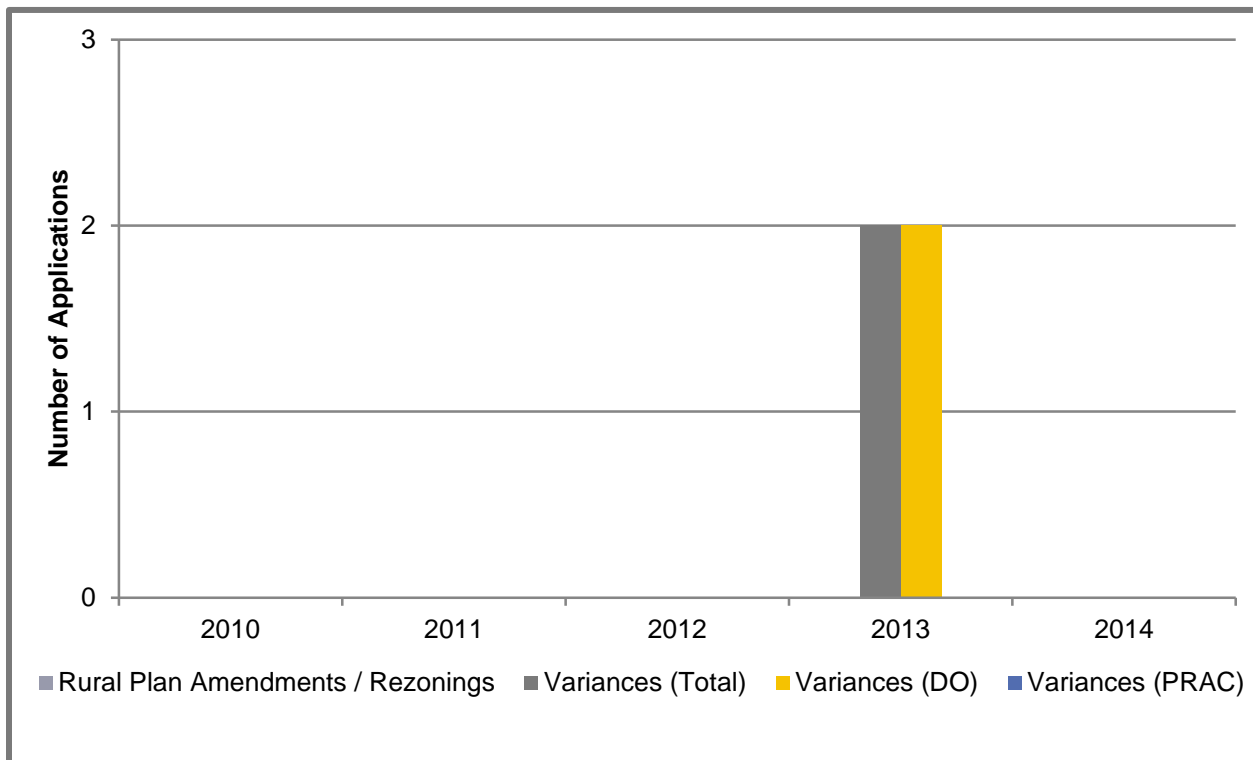
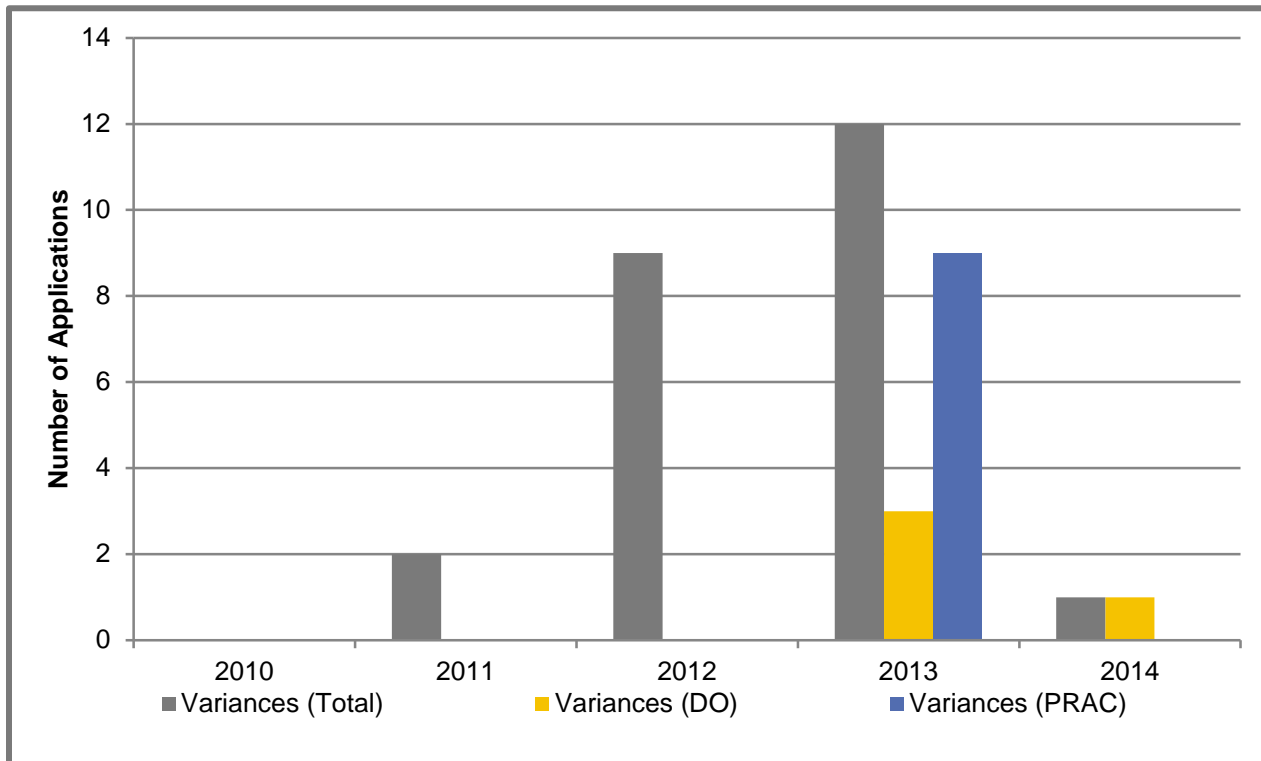


FIGURE 31: UNINCORPORATED AREAS PLANNING APPLICATIONS



#### 6.4 ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES ACTIVITY

Administrative applications / files include confirmations of zoning, zoning compliances, site plan reviews, enforcement files, access approvals, and other documents (e.g. approving deeds for registration). These are integral to facilitating the NB *Community Planning Act* and to allow Planning Services to provide consistent and efficient customer service.

Figures 32 to 36 outline administrative applications / files activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2010 and 2014. (Please refer to Tables 32 to 36 in 'Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.)

As with planning applications, the majority (63%) of the total applications handled were from the City of Miramichi. In the City of Miramichi, confirmations of zoning remain the highest volume administrative file / application. In the unincorporated areas, 'other documents' remain the highest volume of administrative file / application.



FIGURE 32: CITY OF MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

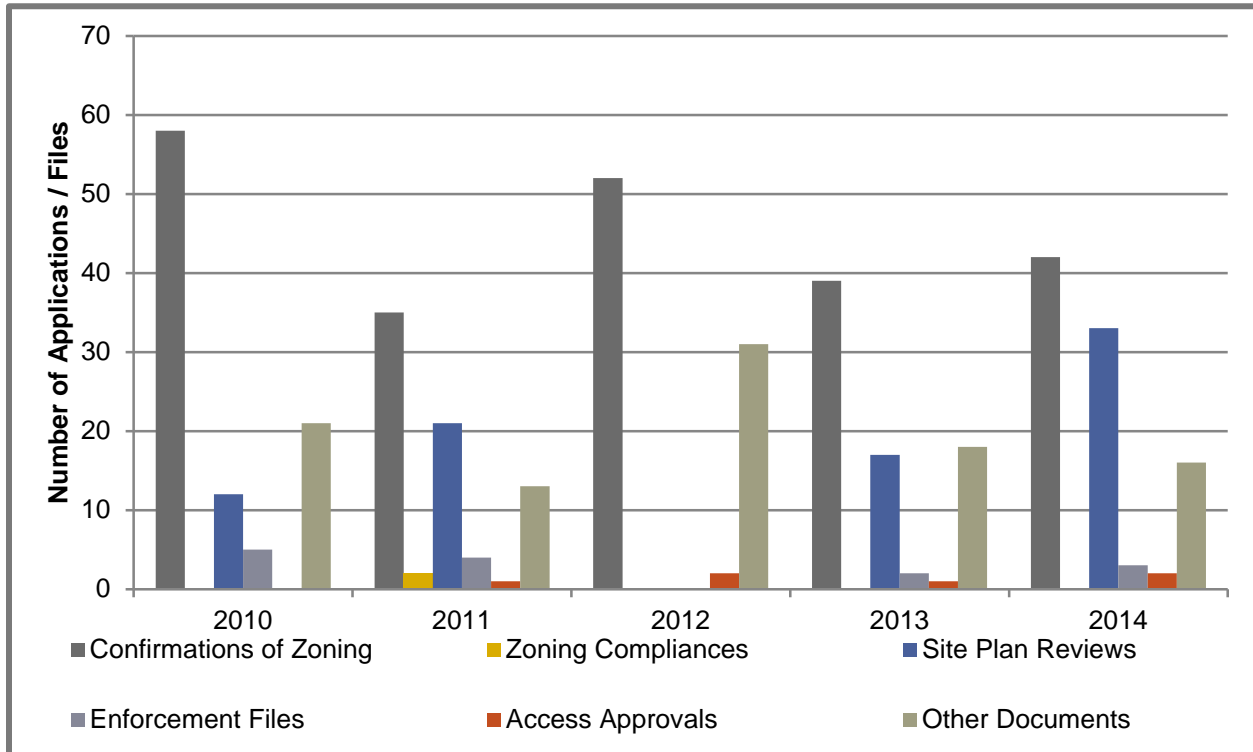


FIGURE 33: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

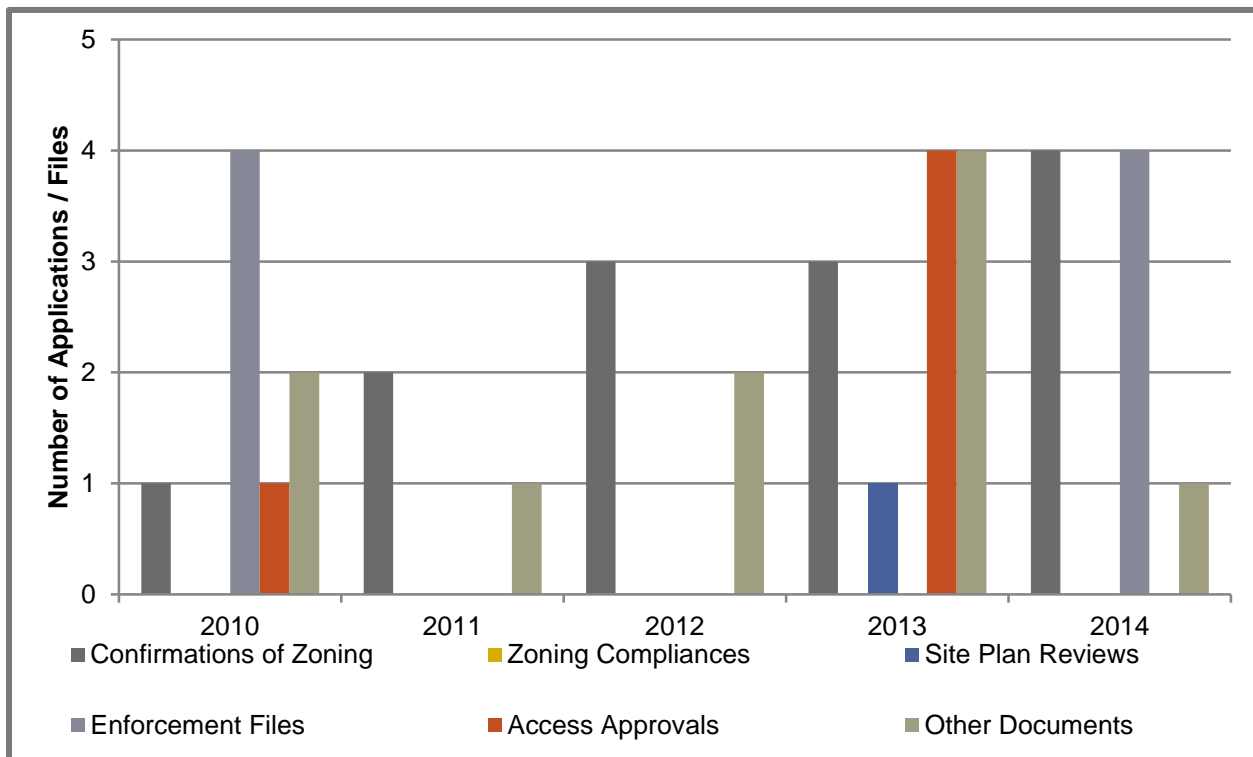


FIGURE 34: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

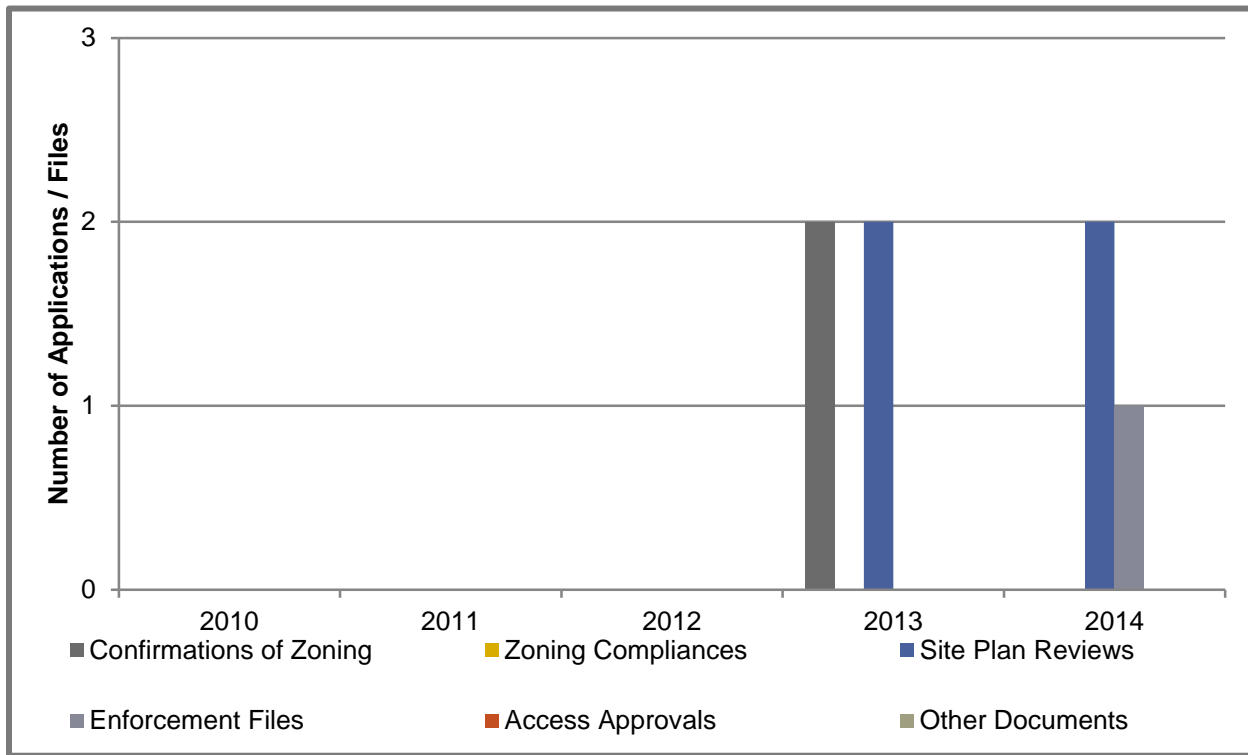


FIGURE 35: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

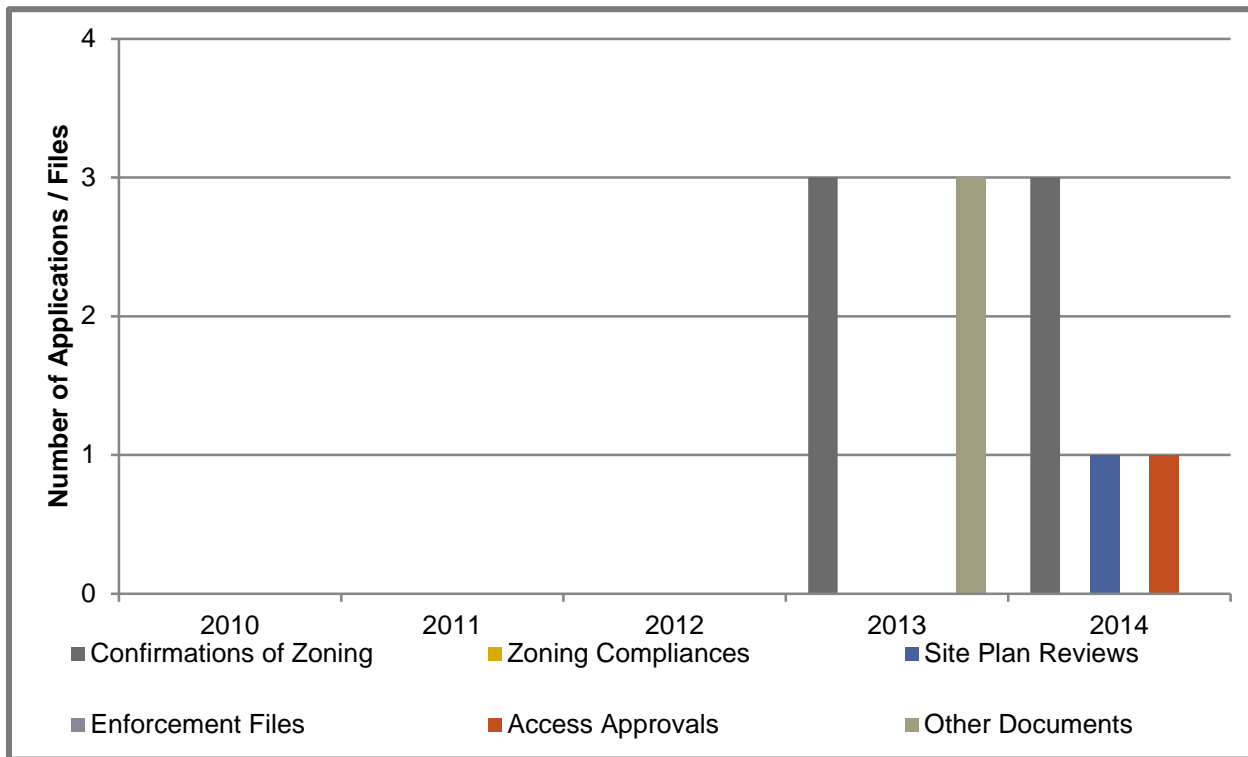
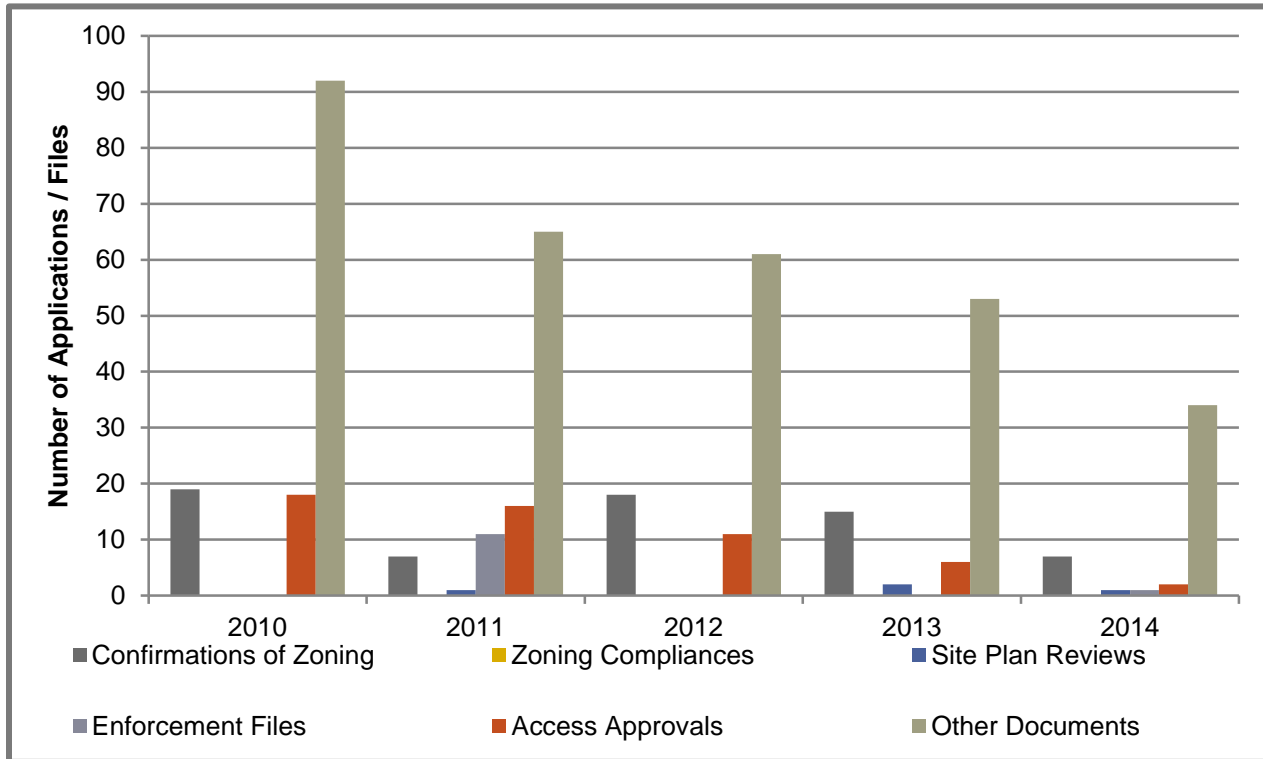


FIGURE 36: UNINCORPORATED ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES



### 6.5 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Figures 37 to 38 outline subdivision applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2010 and 2014. (Please refer to Tables 37 to 38 in ‘Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graphs.)

As with previous years, the majority (63%) of total applications handled were from the unincorporated areas of the Region. Subsequently, the majority (65%) of new lots were created in the unincorporated areas.

FIGURE 37: SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS IN GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

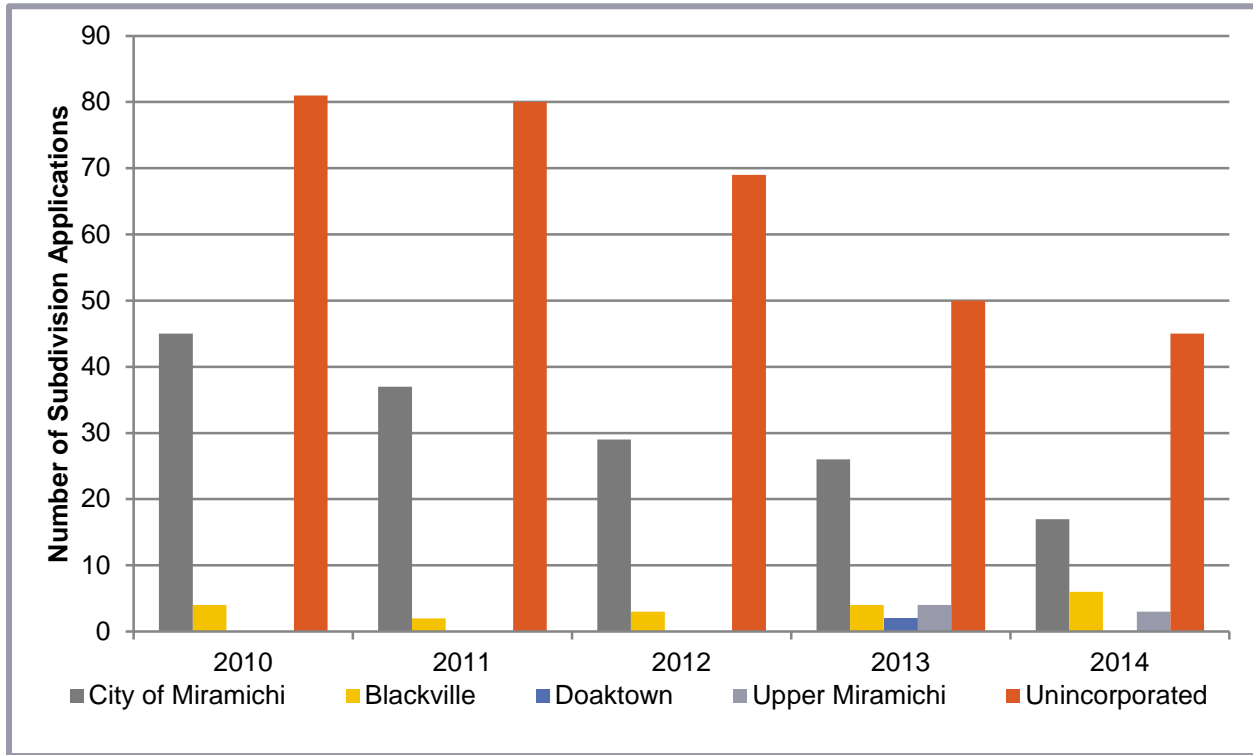
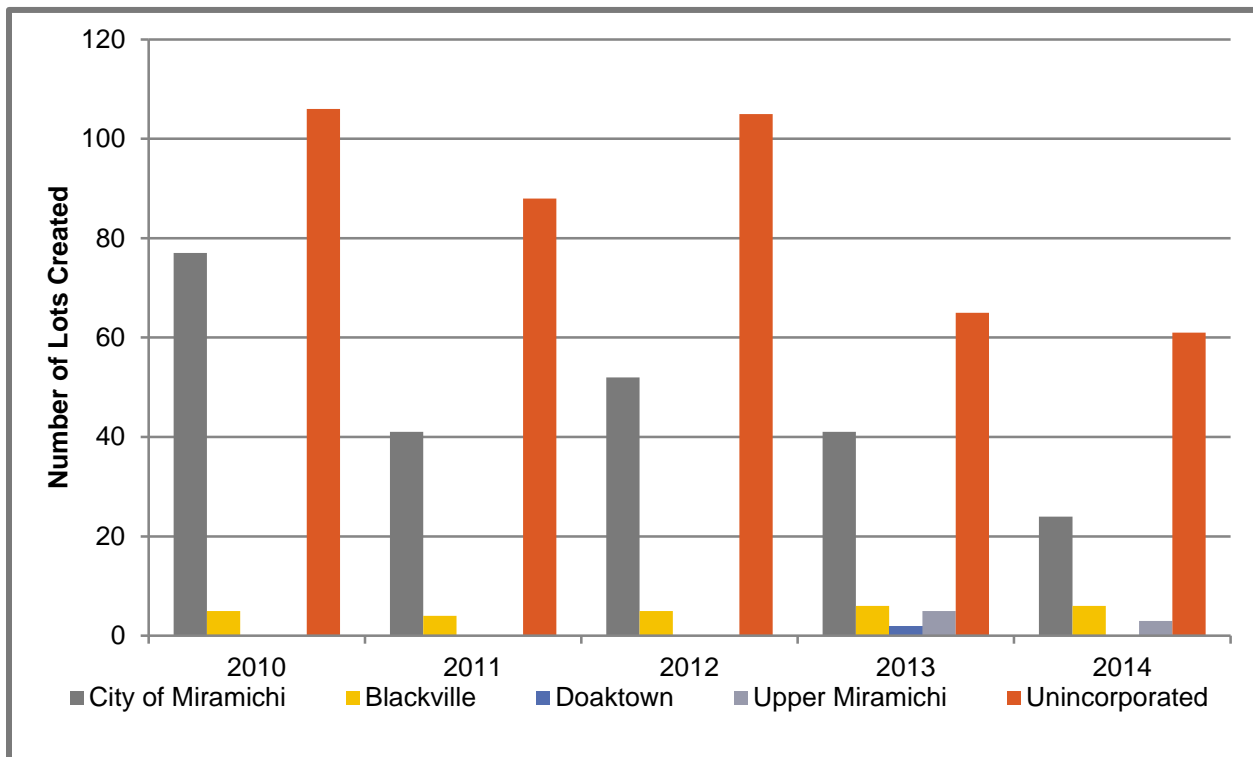


FIGURE 38: NEW LOTS CREATED IN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION



## SECTION C – SOLID WASTE SERVICES

### 7 Tonnage Report

#### 7.1 TIPPING FEES

As of January 2014, tipping fees at Red Pine sanitary landfill facility (Chaleur RSC #3) increased to \$71.15 per Metric Tons (MT) for regular waste and remained constant at \$29.50 per MT for Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris. Figures 39 and 40 give breakdowns of tipping fees for 2014.

FIGURE 39: REGULAR WASTE TIPPING FEE

Regular Waste (Residential and ICI Sector)	Breakdown of Total Tipping Fee
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tipping Fee	\$46.75
GMRSC Surcharge	\$24.40
<i>Total Tip Fee</i>	<i>\$71.15</i>

FIGURE 40: C&D WASTE TIPPING FEE

Construction & Demolition (C&D)	Breakdown of Total Tipping Fee
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tipping Fee	\$25.00
GMRSC Surcharge	\$4.50
<i>Total Tip Fee</i>	<i>\$29.50</i>

#### 7.2 TONNAGE COLLECTION

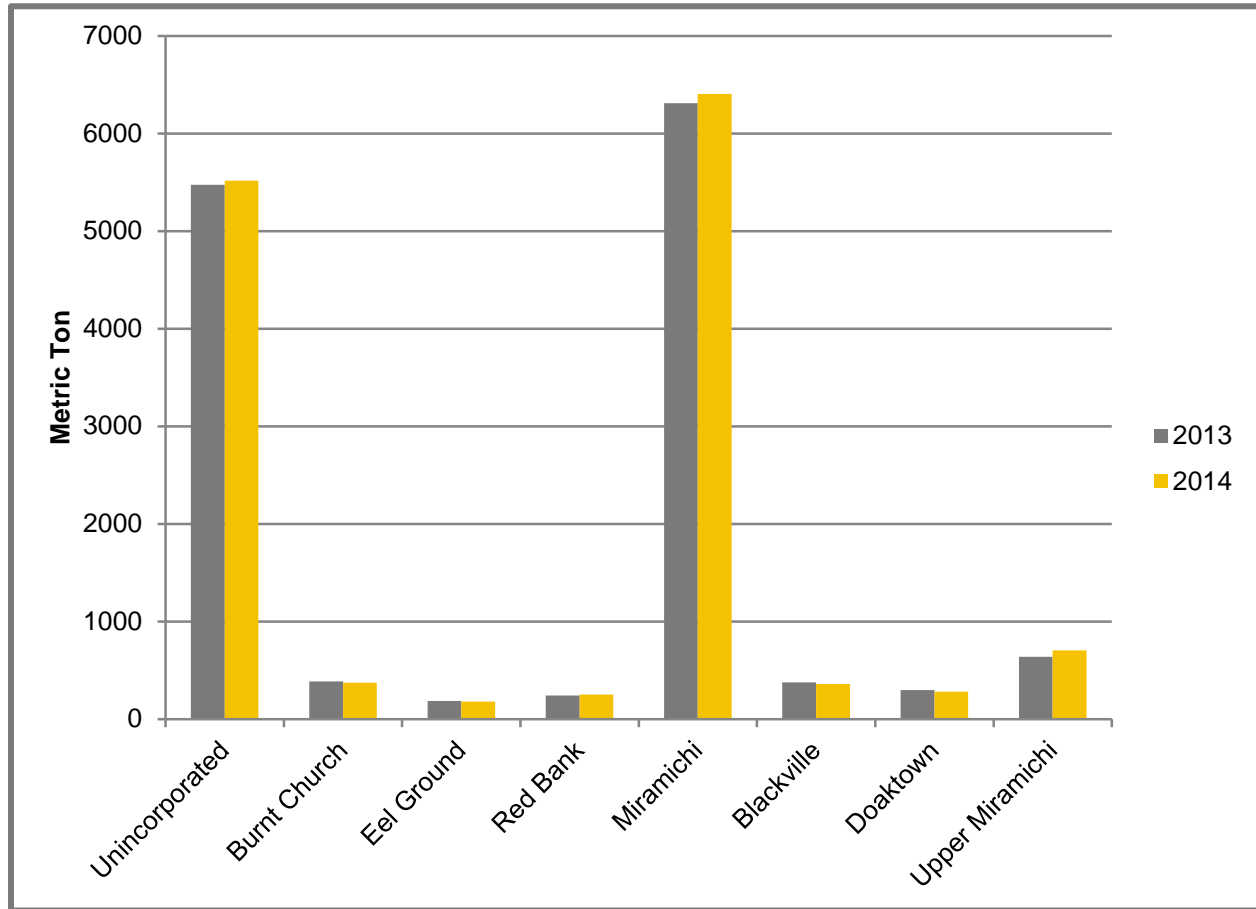
In 2014, the Greater Miramichi Region produced a total of 24,015.76 MT of waste that was direct-hauled to the Red Pine sanitary landfill located in Allardville, NB (see Figure 41). The total tonnage decreased from 2013 to 2014 by 8.16 MT.

FIGURE 41: TONNAGE BY SECTOR FOR 2014

2014 Tonnage	Metric Tonnes (MT)
Residential	14,068.30
Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI)	7,476.23
Construction & Demolition (C&D)	1,878.86
Cash Sales	592.37
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,015.76</i>

Figure 42 outlines the total waste collection by unincorporated areas, municipalities, and First Nations. (Please refer to Table 42 in 'Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables' to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.)

FIGURE 42: WASTE COLLECTION BY UNINCORPORATED, MUNICIPALITIES, AND FIRST NATIONS IN METRIC TONS



## 8 Solid Waste Services Annual Summary

### 8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

Solid Waste Services, GMRSC applied for the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) ‘Composting Through Educational Workshops’ and was awarded \$20,000. Composting workshops were offered in each municipality and centrally located in LSDs.

Retractable banners were created to promote composting, vermicomposting, and the Green Cone Digester (see Figures 43 – 45). These were on display during the composting workshops for the participants that did not want to attend the presentation but wanted additional information.

FIGURE 43: COMPOSTING BANNER

**GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
*Solid Waste Services*  
*Services des déchets solides*  
**COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI**

# Composting ~ Compostage

**What is composting?**  
Composting is Mother Nature's way of taking care of her own "garbage". Fallen leaves, fruits and dead tree branches all decompose naturally producing a rich soil called humus that nourishes living plants. Composting can reduce your organic waste by 30% or more!



**Qu'est-ce que le compostage?**  
Le compostage est la manière dont Dame Nature s'occupe de ses "ordures". Les feuilles tombées, les fruits, et les branches d'arbres mortes se décomposent tous naturellement, produisant un sol riche appelé humus qui nourrit les plantes. Réduisez vos déchets organiques de plus de 30 p. 100.

**Benefits of soil enriched with compost**

- 🌱 Conditions soil for plants, flower beds, vegetables and lawn
- 🍌 Releases nutrients necessary for plants
- 🐛 Causes less damage from insects & diseases
- 🍌 Soaks up excess water, releasing moisture when needed
- 🌱 Extends growing season



**Bénéfices de la terre enrichie du composte**

- 🌱 Améliore l'état de votre terre de vos plantes, vos lits de fleurs ou votre potager
- 🍌 Libère des nutriments nécessaires aux plantes
- 🐛 Les insectes et les maladies font moins de dommages
- 🍌 Absorbe l'excès d'eau et la libérant pendant les sécheresses
- 🌱 Allonge la saison de croissance

**Don't Waste It, Compost It!**  
**Ne gaspillez pas vos déchets. Compostez les!**



**Recycling Hotline: 778.9917**  
**[www.greatermiramichirsc.ca](http://www.greatermiramichirsc.ca)**

Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work  
Votre Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement au travail



FIGURE 44: VERMICOMPOSTING BANNER

**GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
*Solid Waste Services*  
*Services des déchets solides*  
**COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI**

# VERMICOMPOSTING ~ LOMBRICOMPOSTAGE



**What is vermicomposting?**

Vermicomposting is composting with specialty worms. Most commonly used are Red Wigglers. The worms eat food scraps and turn it into nutrient rich compost. Vermicompost provides the same benefits as backyard compost.

**Qu'est-ce que le lombricompost?**

C'est tout simplement du compost obtenu à l'aide de vers spéciaux appelés "Vers rouges". Ces vers rouges mangent les déchets et les transforment en un compost riche en nutriments. Le lombricompost a les mêmes bénéfices que le compost.

### Wormy Facts

- Worms have 5 hearts
- Eat up to 1/2 of their body weight each day
- Dislike light and will burrow in their bedding when exposed
- Breathe through their skin
- 4 or 5 offsprings emerge from cocoons at a time



### À savoir sur les vers...

- Les vers ont 5 cœurs.
- Ils mangent l'équivalent de la moitié de leur poids chaque jour.
- Ils n'aiment pas la lumière. S'ils sont exposés à la lumière, ils vont creuser dans leur litière pour s'y cacher.
- Il y a environ 4 à 5 bébés vers par cocon.
- Ils respirent par leur peau.



**Don't waste it, compost it!**

**Ne gaspillez pas vos déchets.  
Compostez les!**

Recycling Hotline: 778.9917  
[www.greatermiramichirsc.ca](http://www.greatermiramichirsc.ca)

Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work  
Votre Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement au travail





FIGURE 45: GREEN CONE BANNER

**GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
*Solid Waste Services*  
*Services des déchets solides*  
**COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI**

# Green Cone



**What is the Green Cone?**

The Green Cone is a Food Waste Digester that works to engineer the perfect environment for decomposition. The sun heats an insulated chamber reaching optimal temperatures and internally circulates air, accelerates aerobic digestion and decreases organic volume through a natural process.

**Qu'est-ce que le Green Cone?**

La conception brevetée du système utilise la chaleur produite par le soleil entre les cônes interne et externe pour favoriser la circulation de l'air, ce qui facilite la croissance de micro-organismes bénéfiques et le processus de décomposition aérobie souhaité. Les déchets organiques ménagers sont transformés en eau, dioxyde de carbone et résidus de quantité négligeable.

**Benefits of the Green Cone**

- Reduces household waste up to 50%
- Accepts ALL food waste including meat, bones, dairy, cooking oil, pet waste and seafood scraps.
- Optimally digests 1+ kg. or 2+ lbs. every 1-2 days in summer, slows down in winter.
- Does not attract vermin, is raccoon-proof and bear resistant.

**Avantages du Green Cone**

- Il réduit jusqu'à 50% des déchets ménagers collectés.
- On peut y déposer viande, poisson, os, fromages, excréments etc
- 1 kg de déchets organiques seront digérés à chaque pendant l'été. La digestion peut modérer pendant l'hiver.
- Ce produit n'attire pas la vermine et est à l'épreuve des rats-laveurs et des ours.



**Recycling Hotline: 778.9917**

**www.greatermiramichirsc.ca**



Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work  
Votre Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement au travail

New Brunswick  
Nouveau Brunswick

Workshops were offered to adults and children. While the adults attended the presentations, kids learned about composting and vermicomposting and their benefits by creating crafts. Egg cartons were reused for the body of the caterpillar; and a mix of vermicast, soil and grass seeds were added to the egg carton (see Figure 46). Once home, the children saw how quickly the grass grew due to the high nutrients of the soil amendment.

FIGURE 46: COMPOSTING CRAFT EXAMPLE



During the workshops, participants were introduced to the Green Cone Digester (see Figure 47). The Green Cone Digester is a system that will accept all kitchen waste including bones, dairy, meat and fish residue. The Green Cone Digester does not produce compost but gets rid of organics in an eco-friendly way by deteriorating the waste.

FIGURE 47: GREEN CONE DIGESTER



At the end of the sessions, participants had the opportunity to purchase composters, vermicomposters, or Green Cone Digesters at reduced cost. A total of nine workshops were held resulting in 68 participants and 30 units sold.

FIGURE 48: EXAMPLE OF EARTH MACHINE BACKYARD COMPOSTER



## 8.2 SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2015 CALENDAR

The 2015 calendar was mailed to each household in the GMRSC Region (see Figure 49). The Residential Curbside Recycling program was introduced on the cover and throughout the calendar. To offset the cost of printing and shipping of the calendar, various companies in the recycling and solid waste industry were contacted to sponsor a page(s) (see Figure 50).

FIGURE 49: SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2015 CALENDAR COVER



FIGURE 50: CALENDAR SPONSORS

Sponsor	Waste Theme	Number of Advertising Pages
Recycle NB	Used Tires, Paint, Oil & Glycol	3
Fero	Construction & Demolition	1
Breau Disposal	White Goods Collection	1

### 8.3 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Solid Waste Services purchased promotional items displaying the new logo and mascot. These new promo items include:

- Activity lunch bag, made from Kraft paper including non-toxic crayons for decorating;
- Pencils made from 100% recycled newsprint; and
- Mini wheeled recycling carts.

### 8.4 APPEARANCES

Solid Waste Services did participate at the Miramichi Home & Community Showcase in 2014. Melanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator provided presentations to numerous schools and local community groups. Figures 51 and 52 summarize event- and school-based appearances on behalf of Solid Waste Services.

FIGURE 51: EVENT-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	Location
April 25 – 27, 2014	Miramichi Home & Community Showcase
May 7, 2014	Compost Workshop, Miramichi
June 21, 2014	Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste Collection, Miramichi
June 21, 2014	Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste Collection, Doaktown
August 2, 2014	Compost Workshop, Blackville
August 2, 2014	Compost Workshop, Sunny Corner
August 7, 2014	Compost Workshop, Eel Ground First Nation
August 9, 2014	Compost Workshop, Doaktown
August 14, 2014	Compost Workshop, Miramichi Garden Club
August 16, 2014	Compost Workshop, Black-River Hardwick
August 23, 2014	Compost Workshop, Lagacéville
August 23, 2014	Compost Workshop, Barryville
October 4, 2014	Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste Collection, Miramichi

FIGURE 52: SCHOOL-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	School	Topic
April 22, 2014	Blackville School	Waste Reduction
April 23, 2014	Nelson Rural School	Waste Reduction

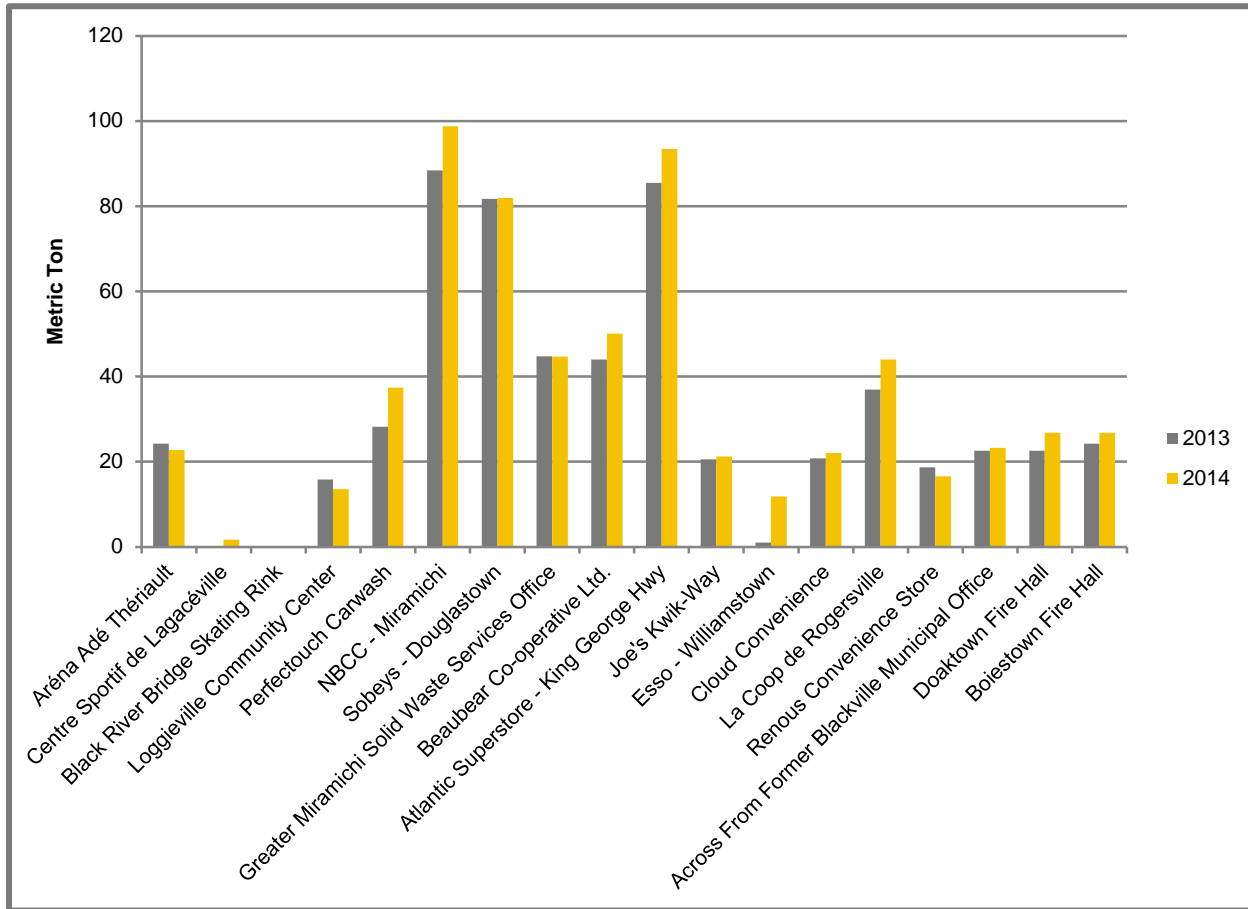
## 9 Waste Reduction and Diversion

### 9.1 DIVERSION REPORT – RECYCLING STATISTICS

Mélanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator continued the waste diversion efforts including Household Hazardous & E-waste Collections and events throughout the Region, composting workshops, classroom visits, and the creation of print and radio advertising.

Figure 53 outlines recycling statistics for 2013 and 2014. This quantity of waste diverted from the landfill and the materials recycled. A total of 594.4 MT was diverted from the landfill through the Recycling Depot program. (Please refer to Table 53 in ‘Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables’ to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.)

FIGURE 53: WASTE DIVERTED BY RECYCLING DEPOT LOCATION



### 9.2 RECYCLING DEPOTS

New depot locations were added at the Sports Club in the Lagacéville LSD and in Black River Bridge for a total of 18 sites within the Greater Miramichi Region. The Village of Rogersville is no longer within the service Region, but the GMRSC continued to provide recycling services to the Village until December 31, 2014.

FIGURE 54: BLUE BIN RECYCLING DEPOT



#### Battery Depots

In 2013, Solid Waste Services was awarded \$15,000 to implement and promote a battery recycling program. The project was implemented in partnership with the organization Call2Recycle, which supplied 25 cardboard box containers designed to collect used batteries and cell phones (see Figure 55). To date, there are 16 locations throughout the Region.

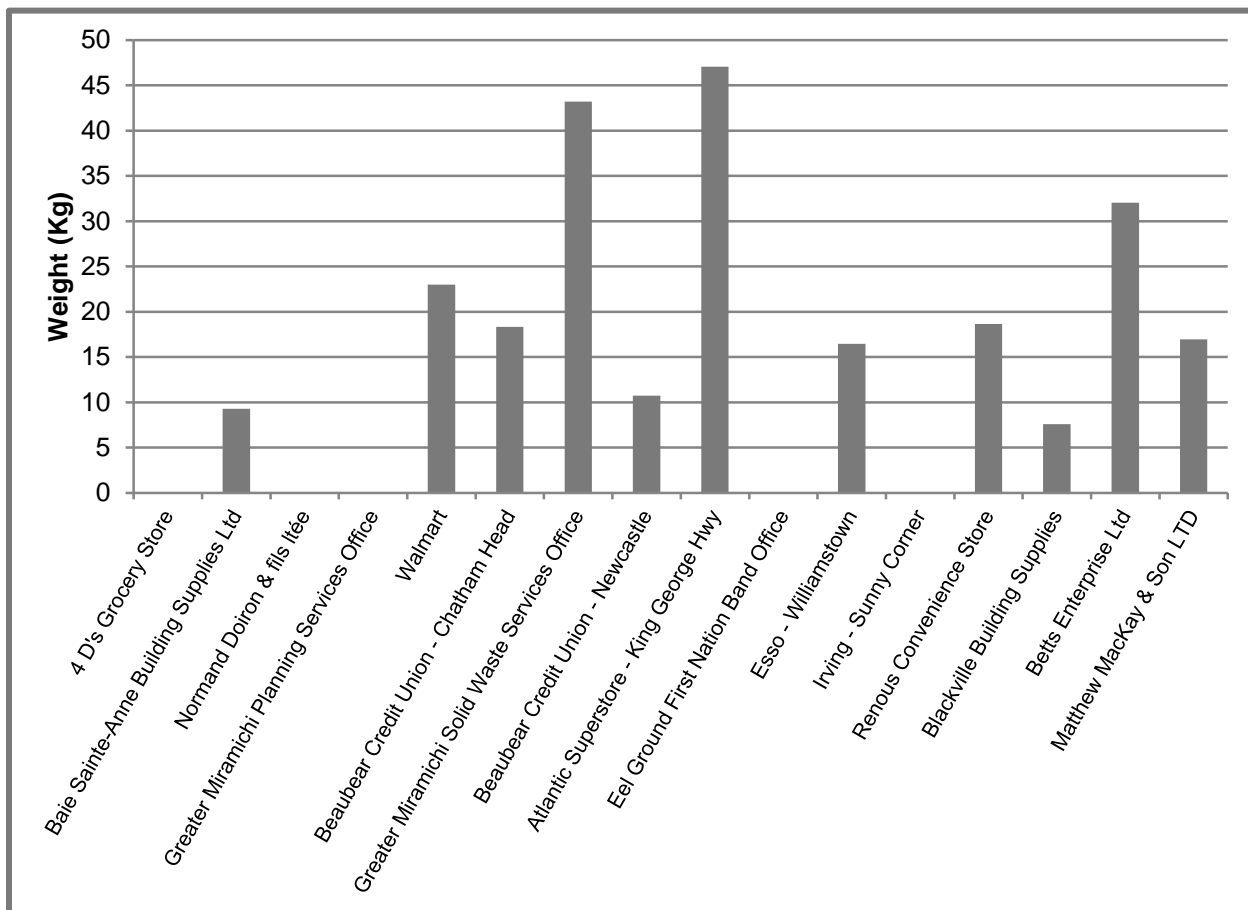
FIGURE 55: USED BATTERIES AND CELL PHONES COLLECTION BOX



In order to raise awareness and educate the public on the Battery & Cell Phone Recycling Program, a large portion of the funds was used for advertising. Media such as radio, newspapers, monthly publications, local magazines, and web portals were used to reach the public. A flyer detailing the program was created and distributed to all households throughout the Region.

In 2014, a total of 403kg of batteries was diverted from the landfill (see Figure 56). During HHW events, the batteries were segregated, sorted, and packaged properly by staff and volunteers after the event ended.

FIGURE 56: BATTERY DIVERSION



### 9.3 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND E-WASTE COLLECTION

A total of three Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste collections were held in 2014. The Spring Household Hazardous Waste & E-waste collections took place June 21, 2014 in Miramichi and Doaktown (see Figures 57 – 60). Approximately 400 vehicles were served during the Miramichi event and 70 during the Doaktown event. A total of 4,800 L of paint and 8.51 MT of electronic waste was collected and recycled. The Fall Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste collection took place October 4, 2014 in Miramichi. A total of 436 vehicles were served. During the event, 5124 L of paint and 14.17 MT of electronic waste was collected and recycled.

During the events, flammables, paint, household batteries, propane tanks, and oil seem to comprise the majority of hazardous materials collected. The two events in Miramichi were held at the Saint Mary's Church parking lot. The event in Doaktown was held at the Doaktown Fire Hall's parking lot. The working crew included staff from Solid Waste Services and Planning Services and volunteers from the Chatham Rotary, James M. Hill Interact Club, the Mayor of Doaktown, and one staff from the Doaktown Municipality. A total of 22.67 MT of electronic waste was diverted from the landfill in 2014 and sent for recycling (see Figure 61).



FIGURE 57: E-WASTE DIVERSION EVENT, JUNE 21, 2014



FIGURE 58: E-WASTE DIVERSION EVENT, JUNE 21, 2014



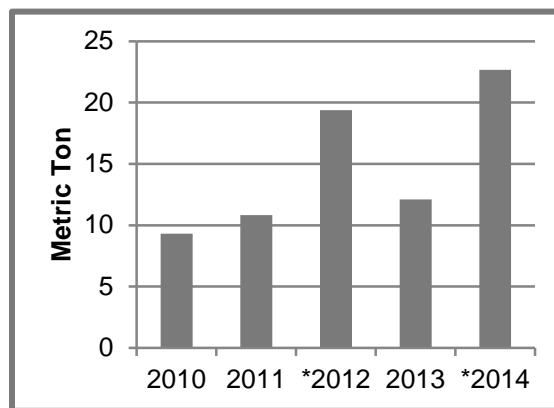
FIGURE 59: PAINT DIVERSION, JUNE 21, 2014



FIGURE 60: PAINT DIVERSION, JUNE 21, 2014



FIGURE 61: E-WASTE DIVERSION, \*2012 SPRING COLLECTION MULTIPLE EVENTS (4 INSTEAD OF 2)



\*2012 - FOUR SPRING COLLECTIONS, 2014 - TWO SPRING COLLECTIONS

## 10 FUTURE DIRECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

- The GMRSC formed an Ad-hoc Recycling Committee to explore various recycling and waste reduction initiatives.
- The GRMSC Board approved the implementation of a Residential Curbside Recycling Program. Wheeled carts will be provided to each household which will allow residents to recycle at home. Alternate pick-up of recyclables and solid waste will allow collection and transportation to the Red Pine facility to remain the same without incurring additional costs.
- An Education & Implementation Plan will be developed.
- Public Information Sessions will be held throughout the Greater Miramichi Region in 2015.
- Environmental Trust Fund application will be submitted requesting funds for the Residential Curbside Recycling Community Education project launch.
- Examine Optimized Collection for the Region which will allow for mapping out zones for waste collection resulting in competitive contract negotiations.
- Explore options for recovery of compact fluorescent lights, household hazardous waste, and E-waste (electronics) collections, and the feasibility of a hybrid waste diversion facility.
- Renewal of Solid Waste Service Agreement with Chaleur Regional Service Commission (RSC #3) for disposal services at the Red Pine sanitary landfill.
- Participate in the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.
- Other initiatives are articulated in the Workplan, see 'Appendix B – 2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2014-2016'.
- Note: Please refer to 'Appendix G – Solid Waste Media Coverage' for media highlights from 2014.

**SECTION D – APPENDICES**

**Appendix A – GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record,  
Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)**

### **GMRSC Board Member Attendance**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Meeting Attendance</b>
Gerry Cormier - Chairman*	9/9
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	9/9
Douglas Munn	9/9
Andy Hawkes	9/9
Elizabeth Bowes	9/9
Gerald Ross*	9/9
John Goodfellow	9/9
Robert Hallihan	9/9

\*Lisa Harris sat twice for Gerry Cormier; Michael Marsh sat once for Gerald Ross

### **PRAC Member Attendance**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Meeting Attendance</b>
William Treadwell - Chairman	8/8
Joe Veriker - Vice Chairman	6/8
Kurt Marks	6/8
Scott Clowater	8/8
Robert Hallihan	6/8
Lynn Gregan	5/8
Robert McLeod	8/8

**GMRSC Board Member Per Diem and Expenses**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gerry Cormier - Chairman	\$700.00	\$32.80	<b>\$732.80</b>
Beverly Gaston - Vice Chairman	\$1,025.00	\$633.54	<b>\$1,658.54</b>
Douglas Munn	\$900.00	\$895.44	<b>\$1,795.44</b>
Andy Hawkes	\$825.00	\$307.50	<b>\$1,132.50</b>
Elizabeth Bowes	\$975.00	\$242.72	<b>\$1,217.72</b>
Gerald Ross	\$1,050.00	\$438.55	<b>\$1,488.55</b>
John Goodfellow	\$1,050.00	\$232.47	<b>\$1,282.47</b>
Robert Hallihan	\$1,275.00	\$481.40	<b>\$1,756.40</b>
Lisa Harris	\$150.00	\$115.62	<b>\$265.62</b>
Michael Marsh	\$225.00	\$89.38	<b>\$314.38</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8,175.00</b>	<b>\$3,469.42</b>	<b>\$11,644.42</b>





































**PRAC Member Per Diem and Expenses**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	<b>Total</b>
William Treadwell - Chairman	\$800.00	\$91.80	<b>\$891.80</b>
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	\$450.00	\$29.52	<b>\$479.52</b>
Kurt Marks	\$450.00	\$246.00	<b>\$696.00</b>
Scott Clowater	\$600.00	\$811.80	<b>\$1,411.80</b>
Robert Hallihan	\$450.00	\$231.24	<b>\$681.24</b>
Lynn Gregan	\$375.00	\$205.00	<b>\$580.00</b>
Robert McLeod	\$600.00	\$295.20	<b>\$895.20</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,725.00</b>	<b>\$1,910.56</b>	<b>\$5,635.56</b>

**Appendix B – 2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC – Operational  
Workplan (2014-2016)**



2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

	 task or project		 continuous activity	 initial assessment					
<b>Service Category</b>	<b>Workplan Category</b>		<b>Services/Project</b>			<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>STATUS as of December 31,2014</b>
<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>	<b>Administration &amp; Management</b>	1	continue corporate consolidation of MPDC & NSWC, through merging/consolidating/stream-lining administrative & financial computer systems, employee responsibilities and procedures						On-going; , transition nearing completion.
(CS)	(CS-1)	2	assess the cost/benefit of moving all operations and staff into one building						Discussed availability of space @ 1773 Water Street with property owner, none available, preliminary floor plan prepared for 1773 Water St., not cost projections prepared.
		3	undertake Salary Scale review for all employees, in collaboration with other RSCs						Data shared with RSC1; RSCs will consider study in 2015
		4	develop Human Resources/Personnel Manual, based on NSWC, MPDC & Generic policies						Completed
		5	facilitate strategic planning for updating 3-Year Operational Workplan						Completed
		6	support preparation of annual Financial Statement and Audit						Completed
		7	complete Employee Performance Evaluations						Completed, December 2014
		8	prepare an annual employee training plan						Not for all Staff; BI training needs identified
		9	develop photo ID cards for all RSC employees						Completed
		10	maintain Records Management Strategy as per Department Guidelines						On-going
		11	respond to RTPPA requests for information & complaints						On-going
		12	on-going Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Purchasing and other financial administration						On-going
		13	on-going client reception & office administration, including inventory, records management, maintenance of buildings and equipment, supplies management & purchasing						On-going
		14	participate in regular RSC Executive Directors meetings						On-going

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		15	RSC5 Procedure By-law development	▲			Preliminary review completed, issues identified.
	<b>Member / Board Support</b>	1	research and report on various issues initiated by Board and individual members	▄	▄	▄	As directed by Board as per approved motion.
		2	logistics and administration for regular Board Meetings	▄	▄	▄	On-going
	(CS - 2)	3	quarterly financial updates to Board	▄	▄	▄	software and change in administrative duties
		4	info sessions (& tours) for Board - selected topics	▄	▄	▄	On-going and as needed
	<b>Public Relations / Communications</b>	1	implement a public relations/communications program, including corporate branding & media releases	▄	▄	▄	New Logo, letterhead and signage; media releases have been mostly related to Board activity, meetings and decisions
	(CS - 3)	2	develop and implement annual Excellence Recognition Awards for solid waste & planning/development initiative/projects by clients, organizations etc.	▲	●	●	Draft of "Silver Shingle" Award for development projects presented to board in November
		3	assist with planning and support for outreach activities by Board & members with public, stakeholders & other agencies	▄	▄	▄	On-going
		4	website improvement, including corporate consolidation activities, corporate branding for GMRSC & addition of French (translation) content	●	●		On-going; tasked GIS Specialist to coordinate this initiative
		5	send member communities a monthly building activity report	▄	▄	▄	On-going/monthly
		6	send CMHC & Statistics Canada monthly building activity report	▄	▄	▄	On-going/monthly
		7	prepare & distribute Annual Report	●	●	●	2013 Annual Report Completed
		8	maintain good working relations and make presentations to community & business organizations, other agencies, development/real estate industry groups, member Municipal Councils and LSD Regional Advisory Committee, regarding issues, roles & activities of GMRSC	▄	▄	▄	On-going, RAC meetings, presentations to Councils, special interest groups, such relators and inter-agency meetings; twice annual meeting with LSM and municipal administrators

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
	<b>Technology / Info Systems</b>	1	develop & implement technology/equipment upgrading and replacement plan	▲	●	●	Implemented with assistance of IT consultant
	(CS - 4)	2	establish remote access so all RSC locations are able to connect to one, secure server	●			Completed, including Doaktown seasonal office
		3	examine feasibility of Building Inspectors utilizing mobile technology for on-site reporting and permitting		▲		Will examine in 2015; review Southeast RSC model
		4	purchase Statistics Canada-2011 Census data, through PC Census ; review cost-sharing opportunities	●			Cost probative/no longer compatible GIS; examine other sources
		5	Server Update & back up procedure	●			On-going; twice weekly back-ups
<b>REGIONAL COLLABORATION</b>							
		1	examine options for improving Police collaboration ( RCMP, Miramichi Police and other enforcement agencies)	●			Meeting with RCMP Staff Sargent, Board meeting with RCMP and Board information session with RCMP and Public Safety held in November 2014
	(RC)	2	examine feasibility of By-law Compliance Officer for municipalities within GMRSC	●			Discussed with Municipal Administrators; this will be examined further.
		3	determine what role GMRSC might play in regional tourism promotion	●			No action
		4	determine what role GMRSC might play in regional economic development	●			No action
		5	participation in development of Regional Emergency Measures Plan	●			Draft of Regional Plan completed by EMO
<b>SOLID WASTE SERVICES</b>							
	<b>SW Collection &amp; Disposal</b>	1	negotiate renewal of contract with RSC3 (Chaleur) for GMRSC use of Red Pine Landfill facility	●			Extension in place and agreement will be further discussed and signed in early 2015.
		2	household hazardous waste and e-waste public "drop-off" events	●	●	●	Three events held and response from public was very strong. 10,017 kg of paint, 264.2 kg of household batteries and 22.68 mt (50,000 lbs)of e-waste diverted
(SW)	(SW - 1)			3	2	3	
		3	introduce, administer & evaluate new household battery collection/ Recycling Program	intro	intro	eval	On-going; public response has been very positive 507.55kg (1118.96 lbs) diverted

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		4	examine feasibility of hybrid waste diversion facility for Hazardous household waste, e-waste, white goods, construction/demolition waste, tires	▲	▲		Plan on visiting facilities in southern NB and PEI in 2015
		5	participate in development of Provincial Waste Management Strategy	●			On-going. Subcommittee of RSCs submitting application to Environmental Trust Fund for monies to engage a qualified consultant to develop provincial strategy
		6	examine "optimized" collections across the whole RSC area (common contracting process)		●		Will examine feasibility in late Fall 2015.
		7	examine options for new recovery program for compact fluorescent light bulbs	▲ <small>scope &amp; ETF \$</small>	●	●	Planned for 2015
		8	examine option for recycling to increase diversion rates, incl curbside pick-ups. A pilot project could be introduced in some LSDs & municipalities	▲ <small>scope &amp; ETF \$</small>	● <b>impl</b>		Board approved program in October 2014 for implementation throughout region in fall 2015
		9	examine options for Residential Recycling Program (FERO contract for collection from big blue drop-off bins expires Sept 2017)		●	●	Residential curbside recycling to be implemented in fall 2015; blue depot program will cease.
		10	maintenance & promotion of residential depot recycling program (big blue bins)	〰	〰	〰	Continued in 2014; will gradually shift to promoting residential curbside recycling in early 2015
		11	develop and implement programs for various waste reduction strategies (e.g. composting, recycling, re-use)	〰	〰	〰	On-going
	<b>Public Relations &amp; Education</b>	1	collaborate with NB Dept of Environment & Local Government, building industry and Planning Services to facilitate proper disposal of construction/demolition waste, reduce use of "land reclamation sites", & discourage illegal dumping	▲	●		Issue has been discussed in informal manner; will press the issue in 2015
	(SW - 2)	2	redevelop Activity Workbooks for children	●			Completed
		3	develop & produce annual programs & events wall calendar	●	●	●	Completed
		4	public education - new waste reduction initiatives	〰	〰	〰	On-going






































2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		5	public education - info booths & presentations to trade shows, schools, festivals, community organizations, institutional & commercial industries				8 events
		6	composting workshops & promotions				9 composting workshops
		7	on-going media advertising of programs				On-going
		8	examine use of social media for public relations & education				Facebook and twitter Accounts being established
	<b>Administration / Management / Professional Development</b>	1	Records Management - develop & implement system & procedures & archiving protocol for hard copy and digital files/records				On-going
		2	assist in drafting & preparation of Annual Report				Completed
	(SW - 3)	3	Human Resources Manual-staff committee to review & revise				Completed
		4	monitoring & tracking volumes of waste diverted and landfilled				On-going
		5	participate in quarterly meetings of Solid Waste Division managers (all RSCs)				On-going
		6	participate in semi-annual Inter-Agency meetings				On-going
		7	briefings to Board on selected solid waste and program issues & activities				On-going as needed and directed
<b>PLANNING SERVICES</b>	<b>Building Permit &amp; Inspection</b>	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice)- National Building Code & by-laws, building permit application requirements				On-going
		2	intake and review applications for building permit				Tracking system established
(PS)	(PS - 1)	3	perform building-permit-related inspections				Approximatley 275 inspections completed
		4	develop Operational Policies for building cost valuations				Completed
		5	develop Operational Policies, forms and procedures for tracking inspections				Completed

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		6	update Info sheets/pamphlets regarding building permits & inspections "FAQs"	●			Completed; series of seven (7) information brochures
		7	NBBOA training for 1 Inspector to achieve Levels 1 & 2 and another 2 Inspectors to achieve Level 3	●	●	●	Training is on-going as courses are made available, 2 have obtained level 2, one obtained level 1; pending courses to reach next level
		8	develop Building Inspectors Manual, as part of Succession Planning Initiative	●			Preliminary information collected
		9	Building By-law Comprehensive Review - Miramichi & Doaktown	●			Miramichi completed; Doaktown will coincide with Rural Plan Update
		10	Building By-law Comprehensive Review - Blackville		●		
		11	develop new Building By-law - Upper Miramichi		●		
							Items PS-2 1-8 will be detailed in 2014 Annual Report
	<b>Development Support</b>	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice) -Zoning & Development & Subdividing land	〰	〰	〰	On-going
	(PS - 2)	2	Amendments to Rural Plans, Zoning By-law, Municipal Development Plan (Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentation to Planning Review & Adjustment Committee(PRAC), inter-agency review & process coordination, presentations to municipal Councils and handling public inquiries )	〰	〰	〰	On-going
		3	Applications to Subdivide Land ((Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentations to planning Review & adjustment Committee (PRAC), inter-agency review & process coordination)	〰	〰	〰	On-going
		4	Variance Applications (Intake & review and approvals (Development Officers) and reports & presentations to Planning Review & Adjustment Committee (PRAC)	〰	〰	〰	On-going

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		5	Building Permit Applications- Site Plan Review (Intake & review - zoning compliance re all building permit application that are NOT a single/2-unit dwelling)				On-going
		6	Confirmations of Zoning				On-going
		7	Planner review & comment on Subdivision Applications				On-going
		8	CRINS Applications (Planner review & comment re telecommunications towers & related developments)				On-going
		9	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reviews (review & comment to Province, as needed (project specific))				On-going
		10	Updating databases re subdivisions plans approvals, documents approvals, variances, changes to zoning & Plan designations, Orders to Comply				On-going
		11	Development Agreements, assist municipalities in preparation				On-going
		12	initiate & coordinate Developer Assistance Committee (DAC) meetings				On-going
		13	create maps re individual development applications (reports, public notification, presentations)				On-going
		14	Miramichi & Blackville Zoning wall maps - informal office consolidation				Completed
		15	GMRSC area wall maps, with Municipalities, LSDs, county & RSC boundaries				Completed
	<b>Member / PRAC Support</b>	1	logistics & administrative support for regular PRAC meetings				On-going
		2	orientation of new Planning Review & Adjustment Committee (PRAC )members (as appointment terms expire/change)				On-going
	(PS - 3)	3	prepare monthly reports on planning & development activities				On-going

2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
		4	Info Sessions to PRAC- specific topics (e.g. new ARC GIS system)				On-going as needed.
		5	Procedure By-law & policy - updates & revisions				Voting in-camera approved; to be reviewed in 2015.
		6	Info Sessions to RSC Board- specific topics				On-going as needed.
	<b>Long-range Planning (Policy &amp; Projects)</b>	1	Miramichi Zoning By-law - "housekeeping" review/amendments (incl. incorporate LIDAR & floodplain mapping into GIS mapping AND review zones and zoning regulations re flood risk assessment and climate change , AND construction & demolition waste dumpsite & open pits etc.)				Planning Staff have collected items for consideration
	(PS - 4)	2	Blackville Rural Plan-Comprehensive Review				On-going
		3	Doaktown Rural Plan - Selected Review (e.g. fees & fishing camps)				On-going
		4	Upper Miramichi Rural Plan (First) - Research, Drafting & Public Consultation				On-going; existing land use completed, steering committee formed, resident survey initiated
		5	participate in provincial discussion regarding regional planning				No discussions
		6	research for preparation of Regional Plan				
		7	Water Supply Assessment -policy update				Completed
		8	Application forms- update/reformat				Completed
		9	switch/Implement new GIS system (ARCGIS) (incl. data import & "cleaning", add new data streaming links, system formatting to improve user-friendliness)				Completed
		10	attend, make presentations to, coordinate Inter-Agency meetings (semi-annual)				On-going
		11	Miramichi & Blackville Subdivision By-law - Review				On-going
		12	Doaktown Subdivision By-law - Review				
		13	develop new Subdivision By-law - Upper Miramichi				



2014 Update of Activities of the GMRSC - Operational Workplan 2014-2016

Service Category	Workplan Category		Services/Project	2014	2015	2016	STATUS as of December 31,2014
	<b>Administration/Management/Professional Development</b>	1	train a new "back-up" Development Officer for subdivision application & documents approvals	●	●		On-going. Planner is being mentored by Assistant Development Office
	(PS - 5)	2	assess needs & outsource development of Application intake & status tracking Database	●	●		Planning Staff committee formed, information collected on various database systems
		3	Human Resources Manual-staff committee to review & revise	●			Completed
		4	assist in drafting & preparation of Annual Report	●	●	●	2013 Annual Report Completed and Approved
		5	Records Management - update/re-organize digital archiving system & procedures	●	●		On-going
		6	Records Management - annual archiving & destruction of hard copy & digital "Planning Services" records	●	●	●	On-going
		7	Records Management - archiving 5-year backlog of "Planning" hard-copy records	●			Completed
		8	Internal Policy/Procedures Manual	●			Outline and issues identified
		9	Junior Planner training - CIP Ethics course, NB Property Law	●			Course was not made available in 2014
		10	GIS Specialist training - ESRI Canada conference (Atlantic Region)	●			Attended, October 2014
		11	Planning Services Manager - professional development (APA annual conference)	●			Attended, April 2014
		12	participate in Planning Directors meetings	~	~	~	5 meetings
		13	planning staff participation in NB Association of Planners & Canadian Institute of Planners Continuous Professional Learning events	~	~	~	On-going and as made available
		14	renew annually "Planning & Building Inspection Services Agreements" with 4 member municipalities	●	●	●	3 of 4 municipalities signed (City of Miramichi did not)
		15	training Office Administrator on PRAC meeting support	●			Completed



## **Appendix C – GMRSC 2014 Financial Statement**

## **Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables**

**Table 16: Building Permits Issued - City of Miramichi**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings	36	31	36	33	44	45	30	23	33	47
Multiple Unit Dwellings	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	5
Mini/Mobile Homes	14	12	16	20	7	9	12	8	5	7
Other Improvements	105	141	107	107	139	127	100	106	101	87
Total	156	185	160	161	190	181	142	139	141	146
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction	8	9	10	3	4	4	7	9	4	10
Renovations	29	31	37	37	47	29	42	17	26	27
Total	37	40	47	40	51	33	49	26	30	37
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	19	0	3
Renovations	5	5	4	3	10	4	2	0	1	3
Total	9	8	5	5	11	5	5	19	1	6
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	5	1	2
Renovations	4	12	10	5	5	4	4	1	6	11
Total	6	12	15	5	5	5	4	6	7	13
<b>SIGNS</b>	42	30	35	24	22	16	9	17	13	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>220</b>

**Table 17: Building Permits Issued - Village of Blackille**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings					3	6	2	1	2	2
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes					3	1	0	0	1	0
Other Improvements					5	7	5	2	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction					0	0	0	0	1	0
Renovations					1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction					0	0	0	0	1	0
Renovations					0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction					1	0	0	0	1	0
Renovations					0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SIGNS</b>					1	0	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 18: Building Permits Issued - Village of Doaktown**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings									0	2
Multiple Unit Dwellings									0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes									0	0
Other Improvements									3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction									3	0
Renovations									0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction									0	0
Renovations									0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction									5	0
Renovations									0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SIGNS</b>									0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>





**Table 20: Building Permits Issued - Unincorporated**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings	59	46	57	42	49	52	44	17	31	38
Multiple Unit Dwellings					0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	43	26	30	25	16	25	23	10	19	34
Cottages	39	25	15	10	11	13	5	18	16	11
Other Improvements	87	111	94	93	88	122	101	73	64	92
Total	228	208	196	170	164	212	173	118	130	175
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
Construction	14	9	12	10	10	13	11	8	9	6
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
Construction	4	0	1	25	6	0	8	11	0	0
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
Construction	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	6	1	3
<b>SIGNS</b>	1	0	4	4	9	2	2	8	1	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>186</b>

**Table 22: Building Permit Values - City of Miramichi**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings	3,883,200	4,226,000	5,748,600	6,221,200	6,684,597	7,012,989	4,433,800	3,968,460	4,902,734	5,125,210
Multiple Unit Dwellings	110,000	200,000	200,000	1,582,000	0	0	0	2,197,014	2,720,000	1,417,028
Mini/Mobile Homes	538,000	616,000	762,000	1,043,500	395,800	654,357	648,000	449,000	114,500	596,818
Other Improvements	1,076,675	1,048,527	1,505,460	1,401,924	1,300,690	1,247,634	1,100,309	1,821,040	1,324,454	684,047
Total	5,607,875	6,090,527	8,216,060	10,248,624	8,381,087	8,914,980	6,182,109	8,435,514	9,061,688	7,823,103
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction	5,459,900	4,840,700	5,188,800	208,500	2,637,735	925,000	2,485,400	3,973,590	505,000	6,484,930
Renovations	1,376,900	1,368,418	8,333,686	1,854,233	3,835,644	1,879,657	2,449,810	2,247,500	11,021,357	4,493,673
Total	6,836,800	6,209,118	13,522,486	2,062,733	6,473,379	2,804,657	4,935,210	6,221,090	11,526,357	10,978,603
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction	1,189,700	1,150,000	11,000	460,000	4,000,000	20,000	333,000	113,000	0	98,640
Renovations	564,500	47,100	210,000	284,000	966,785	40,000	288,000	0	179,000	6,300
Total	1,754,200	1,197,100	221,000	744,000	4,966,785	60,000	621,000	113,000	179,000	104,940
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction	116,000	0	364,250	0	0	10,000	0	2,546,003	679,000	276,650
Renovations	190,000	628,450	1,076,740	758,880	573,600	1,229,000	134,700	1,014,000	4,061,238	5,254,796
Total	306,000	628,450	1,440,990	758,880	573,600	1,239,000	134,700	3,560,003	4,740,238	5,531,446
<b>SIGNS</b>	125,623	148,850	102,595	138,380	76,573	102,733	69,550	91,850	167,865	399,346
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$14,630,498</b>	<b>\$14,274,045</b>	<b>\$23,503,131</b>	<b>\$13,952,617</b>	<b>\$20,471,424</b>	<b>\$13,121,370</b>	<b>\$11,942,569</b>	<b>\$18,421,457</b>	<b>\$25,675,148</b>	<b>\$24,837,438</b>

**Table 23: Building Permit Values - Village of Blackville**

<b>Type of Permits</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings					275,265	708,900	346,000	110,000	145,200	287,730
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes					178,000	22,000	0	0	72,122	0
Other Improvements					30,500	212,000	75,300	100,000	108,800	66,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>483,765</b>	<b>942,900</b>	<b>421,300</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>326,122</b>	<b>353,730</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction					0	0	0	0	15,400	0
Renovations					30,000	3,400	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction					0	0	0	0	187,000	0
Renovations					0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction					860,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	0
Renovations					0	0	0	0	0	37,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>860,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>37,850</b>
<b>SIGNS</b>					16,000	0	5,000	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,389,765</b>	<b>\$946,300</b>	<b>\$426,300</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$1,628,522</b>	<b>\$391,580</b>

**Table 24: Building Permit Values - Village of Doaktown**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings									0	240,480
Multiple Unit Dwellings									0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes									0	0
Other Improvements									7,500	85,638
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500	326,118
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction									39,612	9,104
Renovations									0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,612	9,104
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction									0	0
Renovations									0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction									365,000	0
Renovations									0	246,078
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365,000	246,078
<b>SIGNS</b>									0	1,490
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$412,112</b>	<b>\$582,790</b>

**Table 25: Building Permit Vaules - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings									404,400	358,470
Multiple Unit Dwellings									0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes									85,000	94,720
Other Improvements									169,300	84,924
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	658,700	538,114
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
New Construction									0	569,400
Renovations									0	263,686
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	833,086
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
New Construction									0	0
Renovations									0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
New Construction									0	6,311,130
Renovations									1,000	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	6,311,130
<b>SIGNS</b>										
									0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$659,700</b>	<b>\$7,682,330</b>

**Table 26: Building Permit Values - Unincorporated**

Type of Permits	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>										
Single Unit Dwellings	3,889,800	3,968,000	7,200,800	5,258,220	6,464,100	7,153,680	6,115,900	5,502,098	5,001,000	3,587,535
Multiple Unit Dwellings					0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	1,690,400	942,200	1,186,080	981,300	528,960	1,150,500	1,311,040	1,356,200	1,405,302	3,574,113
Cottages	1,211,300	1,223,560	1,611,360	1,120,000	879,000	1,216,500	471,000	1,432,500	1,456,000	1,272,786
Other Improvements	1,998,524	956,210	1,476,250	1,303,153	1,488,200	1,856,500	1,388,140	1,812,550	1,193,036	1,281,908
Total	8,790,024	7,089,970	11,474,490	8,662,673	9,360,260	11,377,180	9,286,080	10,103,348	9,055,338	9,716,341
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>										
Construction	1,285,600	514,000	627,000	980,200	637,640	503,390	971,400	575,500	179,800	584,640
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>										
Construction	47,725	0	163,000	19,440,100	4,659,000	0	1,771,645	635,000	0	0
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>										
Construction	206,400	50,000	200,000	10,000	4,779,500	98,095	607,000	20,063,332	240,000	1,319,640
<b>SIGNS</b>	4,600	0	8,200	3,824	37,307	1,200	125	18,070	25,000	19,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$10,334,349</b>	<b>\$7,653,970</b>	<b>\$12,472,690</b>	<b>\$29,096,797</b>	<b>\$19,473,707</b>	<b>\$11,979,865</b>	<b>\$12,636,250</b>	<b>\$31,395,250</b>	<b>\$9,500,138</b>	<b>\$11,639,621</b>

## **Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables**

**Table 27: Planning Applications - City of Miramichi**

Applications	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Plan Amendments	1	5	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1
Rezoning	1	7	3	0	3	1	4	2	2	2
Variations (Total)	12	17	22	31	18	15	14	26	20	22
Variations (DO)					8	9	12	12	13	17
Variations (PRAC)					10	6	2	14	7	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>

**Table 28: Planning Applications - Village of Blackville**

Applications	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning				0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Variations (Total)				3	3	2	0	2	0	0
Variations (DO)					1	1	0	1	0	0
Variations (PRAC)					2	1	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 29: Planning Applications - Village of Doaktown**

Applications	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning									1	0
Variations (Total)									3	2
Variations (DO)									3	2
Variations (PRAC)									0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 30: Planning Applications - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi**

Applications	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning										
Variations (Total)									2	0
Variations (DO)									2	0
Variations (PRAC)									0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 31: Planning Applications - Unincorporated**

Applications	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Variations (Total)	19	15	14	9	23	0	2	9	12	1
Variations (DO)									3	1
Variations (PRAC)									9	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>



**Table 32: Administrative Applications / Files -  
City of Miramichi**

Applications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Confirmations of Zoning	58	35	52	39	42
Zoning Compliances	0	2		0	0
Site Plan Reviews	12	21		17	33
Enforcement Files	5	4		2	3
Access Approvals	0	1	2	1	2
Other Documents	21	13	31	18	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>96</b>

**Table 33: Administrative Applications / Files -  
Village of Blackville**

Applications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Confirmations of Zoning	1	2	3	3	4
Zoning Compliances	0	0		0	0
Site Plan Reviews	0	0		1	0
Enforcement Files	4	0		0	4
Access Approvals	1	0	0	4	0
Other Documents	2	1	2	4	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 34: Administrative Applications / Files -  
Village of Doaktown**

Applications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Confirmations of Zoning				2	0
Zoning Compliances				0	0
Site Plan Reviews				2	2
Enforcement Files				0	1
Access Approvals				0	0
Other Documents				0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 35: Administrative Applications / Files -  
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi**

Applications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Confirmations of Zoning				3	3
Zoning Compliances				0	0
Site Plan Reviews				0	1
Enforcement Files				0	0
Access Approvals				0	1
Other Documents				3	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table 36: Administrative Applications / Files -  
Unincorporated**

Applications	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Confirmations of Zoning	19	7	18	15	7
Zoning Compliances	0	0		0	0
Site Plan Reviews	0	1		2	1
Enforcement Files	0	11		0	1
Access Approvals	18	16	11	6	2
Other Documents	92	65	61	53	34
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>45</b>

**Table 37: Subdivision Applications - Greater Miramichi Region**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
City of Miramichi	22	31	31	38	31	45	37	29	26	17
Blackville			7	3	2	4	2	3	4	6
Doaktown									2	0
Upper Miramichi									4	3
Unincorporated	100	91	96	84	72	81	80	69	50	45
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>71</b>

**Table 38: New Lots Created - Greater Miramichi Region**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
City of Miramichi	35	41	50	82	37	77	41	52	41	24
Blackville			12	9	2	5	4	5	6	6
Doaktown									2	0
Upper Miramichi									5	3
Unincorporated	152	118	135	123	114	106	88	105	65	61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>94</b>

## **Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables**

**Table 42: Summary of Domestic & Commercial Waste Hauled to Red Pine**

Month	Unincorporated	Burnt Church	Eel Ground	Red Bank	Miramichi	Blackville	Doaktown	Upper Miramichi	Commercial Waste	Other C & D	Cash Sales	Monthly Totals
JAN.	445.49	33.39	18.00	22.50	479.09	30.77	21.91	53.83	556.74	183.37	-	1,845.09
FEB.	312.12	21.19	14.40	18.50	355.44	20.70	20.99	32.87	473.56	227.49	-	1,497.26
MAR.	316.85	23.80	15.63	17.50	352.66	17.40	14.82	46.88	463.65	205.38	0.49	1,475.06
APR.	461.38	33.73	14.40	20.50	556.99	34.37	20.16	74.13	678.81	320.06	1.31	2,215.84
MAY	598.23	43.67	19.40	38.36	678.83	46.53	35.85	85.71	764.01	169.95	12.76	2,493.30
JUNE	453.50	31.19	14.40	13.50	543.69	21.97	24.50	55.06	657.98	116.48	20.55	1,952.82
June 28-30 billed in July											115.55	115.55
JULY	566.30	28.33	14.40	19.89	669.74	43.75	33.18	76.31	752.59	161.11	119.66	2,485.26
AUG.	488.62	33.90	14.40	25.28	569.53	26.65	24.34	57.54	659.86	66.41	47.18	2,013.71
SEPT.	489.89	31.73	14.40	19.70	594.01	26.71	29.46	53.35	604.75	64.74	22.61	1,951.35
OCT.	528.99	37.44	16.90	13.63	613.41	37.14	18.50	75.67	674.68	45.60	5.80	2,067.76
NOV.	397.42	27.07	12.80	23.50	499.27	24.19	17.47	41.66	598.13	60.56	26.64	1,728.71
DEC.	456.67	26.67	11.20	19.00	492.30	30.05	19.74	49.42	591.47	257.71	219.82	2,174.05
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,515.46</b>	<b>372.11</b>	<b>180.33</b>	<b>251.86</b>	<b>6,404.96</b>	<b>360.23</b>	<b>280.92</b>	<b>702.43</b>	<b>7,476.23</b>	<b>1,878.86</b>	<b>592.37</b>	<b>24,015.76</b>
mothly avg												<b>2,001.31</b>

<b>LSDs</b>	5,515.46	MT	<b>Residential</b>	<b>14,068.30</b>	MT
<b>MUNICIPAL</b>	7,748.54	MT	<b>ICI (Commercial)</b>	7,476.23	MT
<b>FIRST NATIONS</b>	804.30	MT	<b>C &amp; D Debris</b>	1,878.86	MT
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<u><b>14,068.30</b></u>	MT	<b>Cash Sales</b>	592.37	MT
			<b>Total GMRSC</b>	<u><b>24,015.76</b></u>	MT

Regular Tip Fee: \$71.15  
C & D Tip Fee: \$29.50

<b>Table 53: Recycling Tonnage per Location</b>		
<b>Locations</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Aréna Adé Thériault	24.26	22.73
Centre Sportif de Lagacéville		1.66
Black River Bridge Skating Rink		0
Loggieville Community Center	15.8	13.55
Perfectouch Carwash	28.22	37.36
NBCC - Miramichi	88.4	98.76
Sobeys - Douglastown	81.76	81.94
Greater Miramichi Solid Waste Services Office	44.72	44.68
Beaubear Co-operative Ltd.	44.01	50.09
Atlantic Superstore - King George Hwy	85.48	93.46
Joe's Kwik-Way	20.59	21.2
Esso - Williamstown	1	11.87
Cloud Convenience	20.78	22.04
La Coop de Rogersville	36.93	43.97
Renous Convenience Store	18.7	16.54
Across From Former Blackville Municipal Office	22.59	23.29
Doaktown Fire Hall	22.6	26.76
Boiestown Fire Hall	24.27	26.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>580.11</b>	<b>636.66</b>

<b>Table 56: Battery Diversion</b>	
<b>Locations</b>	<b>Total Weight</b>
4 D's Grocery Store	0
Baie Sainte-Anne Building Supplies Ltd	9.3
Normand Doiron & fils ltée	0
Greater Miramichi Planning Services Office	0
Walmart	23
Beaubear Credit Union - Chatham Head	18.35
Greater Miramichi Solid Waste Services Office	43.2
Beaubear Credit Union - Newcastle	10.75
Atlantic Superstore - King George Hwy	47.05
Eel Ground First Nation Band Office	0
Esso - Williamstown	16.45
Irving - Sunny Corner	0
Renous Convenience Store	18.65
Blackville Building Supplies	7.6
Betts Enterprise Ltd	32.05
Matthew MacKay & Son LTD	16.95
Miramichi HHW	244.4
Doaktown HHW	19.8
<b>TOTAL (Kg)</b>	<b>402.95</b>
<b>TOTAL (mt)</b>	<b>0.40295</b>
<b>Average Per Box (Kg)</b>	<b>10.60395</b>
<b>TOTAL (lbs)</b>	<b>888.35</b>

<b>Table 61: E-waste Tonnage</b>				
<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>*2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>*2014</b>
9.3	10.83	19.39	12.1	22.68

\*2012 - Four Spring collections, 2014 - Two Spring collections

## **Appendix G – Solid Waste Media Coverage**

# Opinion

A6

Friday, September 5, 2014

Patricia Graham, Ombudswoman, Brunswick News  
 Online: [telegraphjournal.com](http://telegraphjournal.com)  
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Miramichi Leader

## Curbside recycling initiative good on environmental and economic levels

Thankfully, the era of people ignoring the environment and thinking those that do care about the environment all wear Birkenstocks and eat granola is, for the most part, long gone. That outdated outlook on all things green was hardly conducive for governments and society as a whole trying to get a grip on issues like pollution, saving energy and recycling.

Thankfully, awareness is much different than it was a few short decades ago, and with that in mind, it's good to see the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission looking at funding options for curbside recycling.

Melanie Cripps, waste reduction coordinator with Recycle Northumberland, spelled out to the commission last month why the large blue containers now in use in the region should be removed in favour of curbside recycling: it's just not achieving the results that were initially projected when the bins were first brought out nine years ago.

In fact, the depots are only taking in about 3.8 per cent of the diversion rate. Diversion rate measures the amount of recyclable material that is ending up in landfills, rather than in recycling plants. Ms. Cripps said industry standard is around 30 per cent and that Miramichi still has a very long way to go in attaining that goal.

The solution being proposed is curbside recycling which, according to Ms. Cripps, should boost that rate in significant fashion.

"You just need to put (recyclables) in the cart and then wheel it to the end of the road as if you were taking out your garbage," she said.

Of course, when you're embarking on this kind of initiative, it's all for naught if the public doesn't buy into it. That's why it's good to see this project is being looked at with education and public awareness taken into account. The idea will be to host open houses, attend trade shows, host community meetings and use local media to get out the message and hear feedback about the curbside plan.

Doaktown mayor Beverly Gaston, for one, is confident that with the help of an educational component, most people will see the benefits of participating in curbside recycling.

"When you ask children in school about recycling they will tell you where recyclables should go, it's people like us that need to be educated," he said in a story with the Miramichi Leader. "If we don't do this, what will it cost us in five or six years?...We have to look at the long-term effects."

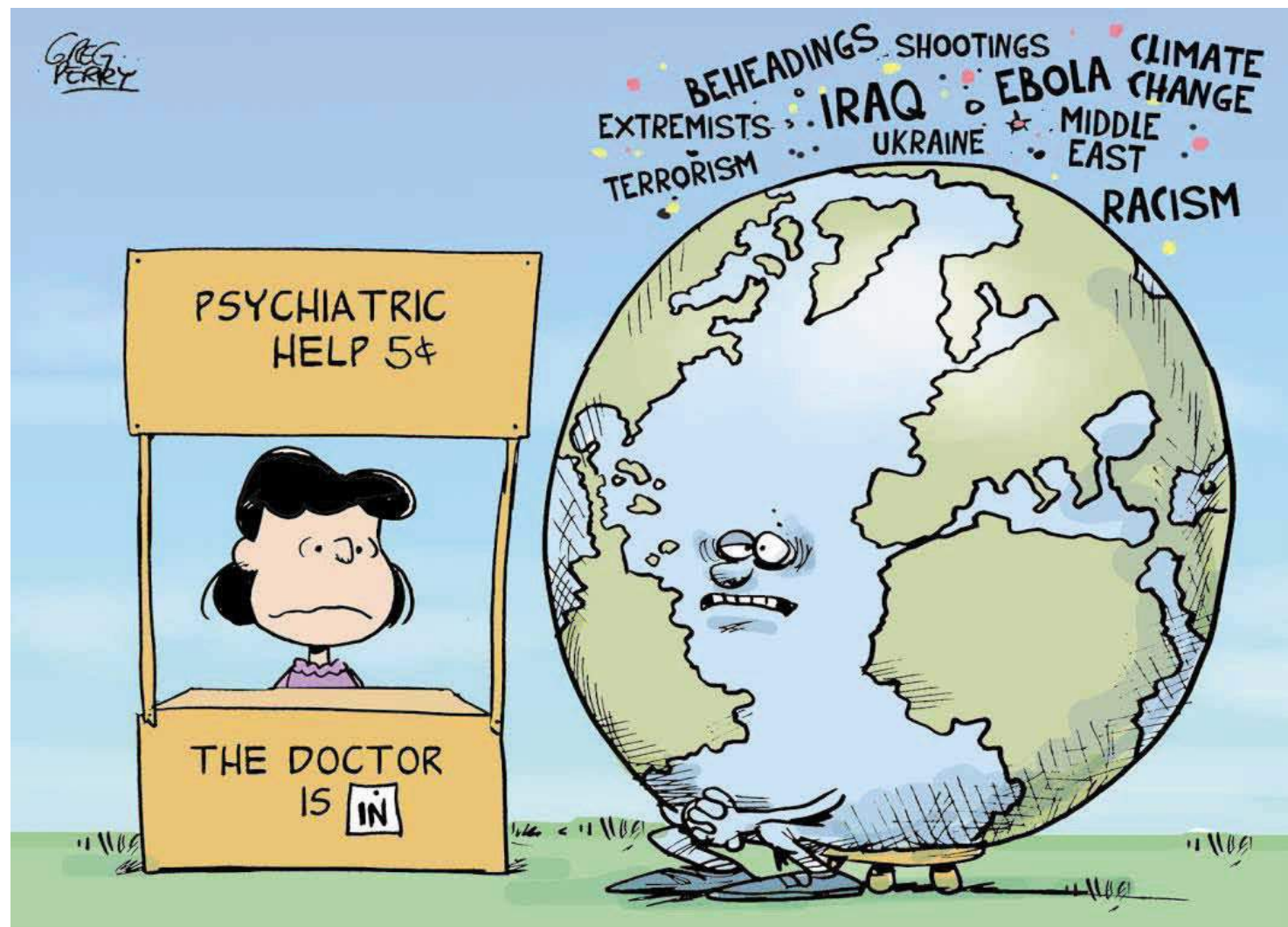
Fortunately, it sounds like things could get off to a running start if such a program is implemented. Ms. Cripps said that 95 per cent of the people who responded to a recent survey said they thought the household bins would be beneficial.

And just to be clear, she said there would be no extra cost for the recyclable collection as garbage collectors would be following the same routes, just implementing alternate pickups. The bins would also accept disposable coffee cups and hard plastics, like prescription pill bottles and yogurt tubs.

Alongside a predicted higher participation rate meaning less recyclable ending up in landfills, Ms. Cripps also said the change would have substantial cost-savings, which makes this a win-win situation in these fiscally challenging times.

"Just in 2015, we would save approximately \$10,000 in the last four months of the year."

Admittedly, it's somewhat surprising that we don't already have curbside recycling in a city our size, given that it's 2014, but better late than never. Whatever that can be done to utilize less space in landfills is a positive, and such an initiative is long overdue for Miramichi and the region at large. If the program is ultimately launched with a strategic public awareness and educational component, we have no doubt it will be a success here on the river.



## Four policies for New Brunswick's next government



Green Ideas  
 Carl Duivenvoorden



According to Green Ideas columnist Carl Duivenvoorden, there are different initiatives the provincial government could put in place to encourage car pooling.

PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

On Sept. 22, New Brunswickers will elect a new government. Regardless of who wins, here are four policies that could help our province use less energy, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and benefit from the coming green economy.

### Embrace solar energy

A Fredericton man made the news last February after designing and building a solar furnace that worked so well it overheated. A friend of mine designed and built his own solar heater for \$300 worth of materials, and he has a list of people who want him to build them one.

New Brunswick is one of the sunnier provinces in Canada, and as a friend of mine likes to say, "The sun never sends a bill." So why aren't we taking advantage of all that sunlight and using New Brunswick expertise and labour to build solar heaters for every building in the province? It's an opportunity that can lower our bills and emissions and put New Brunswickers to work.

And while we're at it, let's kick-start solar power generation in New Brunswick by offering incentives to homeowners and businesses to generate power on their rooftops and feed it into the provincial grid. Such incentives have been used with great success in progressive jurisdictions like Germany and Ontario. Pay for it through a small charge added to every power bill; anyone who doesn't like it could simply install a solar panel to get their money back and more.

### Champion carpooling

Of all the ways we use fossil fuels, our default commuting method – one person, one car – has to rank as one of the most wasteful. That's especially egregious in a province that imports virtually every drop of oil it uses.

So how to create a culture of carpooling? Start with some well-located carpool parking lots along main routes into our larger communities. Add a toll-free hotline to help potential carpoolers find each other (perhaps operated by Service New Brunswick), and put that number on signs along those routes. Build a ride-share website like Saint John's shareyourride.ca for the entire province. Promote widely. Add a penny to gas prices to pay for it all. (Closely related priority: support better public transit, including intercity buses.)

### Make New Brunswick a leader in recycling

Great things are happening in different areas of the province, but the unavoidable truth is that recycling in New Brunswick is a patchwork of programs with mediocre rates of participation. Worse, by lumping garbage collection costs into property taxes, we inadvertently encourage trash and discourage recycling.

Most of what we throw out is not true waste; it's recyclable or compostable. So let's implement a clear and simple provincewide waste

diversion program modelled on what works elsewhere. Given the mélange of programs operating around the province, it will take commitment and investment – but the payoff will be much-extended lives for our current landfills, much better participation rates and jobs in recycling. Pay for it by raising landfill tipping fees.

### Strengthen Efficiency NB

It's well known that investments in energy efficiency pay huge dividends, especially in a world of rising energy prices. Efficiency NB, established by the Lord government in 2006 for the specific purpose of delivering energy efficiency programs, has undergone significant budget cuts in recent years and has been forced to pare its programs.

If we are to be serious about energy savings, Efficiency NB's funding must be restored so it can offer a complete slate of programs to motivate and support New Brunswickers. Pay for it through a small surcharge on power bills.

There are many more possibilities and opportunities – local food, biomass energy, eco-tourism and more. But focusing on these four priorities would at least be a great start.

Carl Duivenvoorden  
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# Miramichi Leader

The Leader since 1906

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# City urged to participate in curbside recycling program

KRIS MCDAVID  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Wilson Bell points to a statistic he said perfectly illustrates the need for a residential curbside recycling program in the Miramichi region.

The number was 3.5 per cent, as in, the amount of trash being diverted from the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where 100,000 metric tonnes of waste from all over northeastern New Brunswick is sent every year.

Whether it's recyclable materials or last night's lobster dinner, Miramichiers are still sending an overwhelming majority of their garbage to the landfill, where it is buried, capped and left to rot forever.

Bell, the executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which oversees solid waste collection throughout most of Northumberland County, said the commission is moving full-speed ahead with the introduction of curbside recycling across its coverage area next year and shared details of the rollout with Miramichi city councillors Monday night.

"This is my last presentation and all of the other municipalities have endorsed, informally, that they're on board," Bell said. "There is a willingness to pursue this

and, basically, we believe this is just the right thing to do."

Individual municipalities, local service districts and First Nations can either adopt a voluntary participation strategy or they could institute a bylaw making participation mandatory.

Mandatory participation would be the ideal route to take, Bell said, saying the commission would be able to assist any municipalities wishing to draw up a bylaw template.

As a means of introducing Miramichi residents to the world of recycling in 2005, the former Northumberland Solid Waste Commission set up a series of large bins in various locations throughout the region.

The results since that time, Bell noted, have been negligible and the cost of transporting the bins to the nearest recycling facility in Moncton, as well as maintenance, just hasn't been worth it, given the program has barely put a dent in diversion rates.

Not only have many of the depot sites become a dumping ground for a whole assortment of items that just shouldn't be there, but it cost the commission \$201,000 to oversee the depot program.

"I drive by some of these depots, and I see box springs and mattresses and TVs,

propane tanks – we're putting these depots on people's private property and people are dumping stuff that's obviously not suitable," Bell said.

Introducing a curbside program, Bell said, is the next step in the evolution of recycling in this part of the province, pointing out that 88 per cent of people who responded to a recent survey from the commission responded positively to the idea.

The plan, which as of right now is on track to be introduced next September, would see each household issued a large blue cart that residents will be able to dump their loose recyclables into.

The biggest change will see regular garbage pickups occurring just once every two weeks, with the alternate week reserved for the collection of recyclables.

In 2013, the Miramichi region produced 24,023 metric tonnes of waste that ended up buried in the Red Pine landfill, down by about 2,800 metric tonnes from 2012.

The City of Miramichi, as the largest municipality in the commission's boundaries, produced the highest amount of solid waste, accounting for 6,310 metric tonnes of garbage this past year and adding to the strain at the landfill.

"Each cell where the waste is dumped at Red Pine lasts about two and a half years, and the cost of building a new cell

is about \$2 million – so every 24 months, another \$2 million is being spent to build another cell, and that's a lot of money," Bell said. "The landfill isn't designed to break down the trash – once it's in there, it basically just stays there, and it doesn't really decompose."

Bell said there is a strong appetite among Miramichiers for expanded, more direct and convenient access to recycling, which he said the curbside program should accomplish, while also hopefully increasing landfill diversion by 14 per cent.

A wide assortment of items would be accepted at the curb, with that list including plastics, cardboard, newspaper, soup cans and even disposable coffee cups and wrapping paper.

If the commission eventually gets the go-ahead, it would then place an order for about 18,500 carts, including 6,900 for every single-unit dwelling, residence and apartment unit in the city.

Purchasing those carts, at \$75 apiece, would not come cheaply. In order to do it, Bell said the commission could either submit an application to the municipal capital borrowing board and either invoice the municipalities and local service districts for their share or add the cost of the carts to the tipping fees on recycling. "On an annual basis, it would be about

\$67,000 a year that you would have to add to your tax rate, for the carts themselves, if you wanted to participate," he said.

Another option would be for communities to allocate a portion of their gas tax funding, for example, to cover the cost – what Bell said is the least favourable option at this point – make residents purchase each cart directly.

He was quick to point out that communities would save substantially in the long run, noting there would be an \$80,000 savings by 2016 if the curbside program was adopted in favour of the current depot setup.

The neighbouring Chaleur Regional Service Commission's curbside program is now in full swing, with the city of Bathurst picking up a similar setup as to what was being proposed for the Miramichi region on Oct. 7.

Bathurst chose to have residents pay for recycling bins separately, while other municipalities included the price of blue bins in municipal taxes.

Bell said the commission's board will vote on whether to move forward with the program during a meeting next week. He said the process will move quickly, meaning he'd ideally like to have a response from the city sooner rather than later.

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## THE NORTH

“When it made that sound I thought maybe I won a free ticket or another \$5, but when she looked it said ‘big amount winner.’” LORIN DEDAM

# Thirteen Bathurst homes to be demolished

**JAMES MALLORY**  
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Work has begun to demolish and remove 13 homes along the shoreline in Bathurst.

Homes on Ocean Ridge Drive are being removed due to land instability where land banks meet the Bathurst Harbour.

City Mayor Stephen Brunet said the City of Bathurst has ordered the homes to be removed following a lengthy legal process that extends back to 2007. “The agreement was hammered out over the last four or five years,” he said. “They came to a settlement and now they’re ready to take the homes down and move on and the properties will all be taken over by the city. The land owners/home owners will move to new locations of their choice.”

Mayor Brunet said he cannot comment on the details of the court settlement such as financial compensation for the home owners/land owners.

“That I cannot discuss because the judge has put a court order on confidentiality over the details of the agreement with the home owners.”

“The people in those homes and all the insurance companies and everybody involved hammered out a deal and that’s all confidential to protect the rights of those individuals.”



Work began on Thursday to demolish 13 homes on Ocean Ridge Drive in Bathurst. PHOTO: JAMES MALLORY/THE NORTHERN LIGHT

In 2007, a landslide occurred in the general area of Ocean Ridge Drive, Nevins Lane and Major Lane, also referred to as the Seawinds Subdivision. The landslide displaced a sewer line and led to the City of Bathurst issuing an evacuation notice to 13 homes in the area.

Since then, the city and homeowners have been wrestling with the issue of what action can be taken to try to prevent further land movement, and what protective measures could be put in place.

In 2010, the Seawinds area was rezoned by city council as a non-build zone.

In a 2010 interview, Mayor Brunet told The Northern Light that more than \$400,000 of taxpayers’ dollars had already been spent to deal with the Seawinds land movement file.

“There’s been a lot of money spent on legal matters over this,” said the mayor on Oct. 28. “We spent a bunch of money

over the last seven years on legal opinions and matters that deal with this file.”

Preparation for demolishing the homes began last Wednesday and was expected to take a couple weeks to complete. As of Thursday afternoon, one home was in the process of being demolished.

“The area will be filled with top soil and then it will be turned into a green space and it will be fenced off,” said the mayor of the 13 properties.

Mayor Brunet said the 13 homeowners have chosen different paths for resettling.

“I know that some people have purchased other homes and that some people are building homes,” he said.

The entire issue has been a nightmare for home owners and others involved, however, the mayor said there is a silver lining.

“We have to be very thankful that there was no loss of life in that time that this was worked on. That was always a concern of mine that one of those homes going over the bank with people in it so I’m really pleased that it’s come to this point now and the safety of the people that there were was good until the very end.”

R.H. Frenette of Petit-Rocher is the contractor hired to demolish the homes.

# ‘I said to myself, some day I will hit the jackpot, and that day came’

**SAMANTHA MAGEE**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

When he went to a corner store to check his lottery tickets, a Burnt Church man didn’t expect to win more than a few dollars, if anything.

But on Oct. 22, the last of Lorin Dedam’s five Lotto Max tickets made that sought-after sound when the cashier scanned it at the Irving gas and convenience store in Neguac, meaning he had won.

He won big, too – Lorin Dedam claimed his cash prize of \$107,020 on Oct. 24 and said he couldn’t be happier.

“My third ticket she scanned I won \$5,” he told the Miramichi Leader.

The other three were losers and he said he wasn’t expecting much from his last ticket.

“When it made that sound I thought maybe I won a free ticket or another \$5 but when she looked it said ‘big amount winner’ and to call a number,” said Dedam.

“She started jumping around and she was more excited than I was,” he said with a laugh.

Dedam said he couldn’t believe it at first and thought maybe it was a mistake. His brother was with him and urged the clerk to make a call to verify the win while they waited.

“I said stop joking with me but she kept saying, you really, ‘really won.’ My brother Clark said to print the receipt and it said, ‘Congratulations you won \$107,020.’ It didn’t really hit me yet, I was

very calm.”

When the cashier finally got through to someone at Atlantic Lottery, he confirmed for her where and when he had bought the ticket and the clerk assured him he had indeed won.

“I said to myself, someday I will hit the jackpot and that day came. It was amazing.”

Dedam plays the lottery every week and usually buys three tickets at a time, worth seven dollars, always choosing randomly generated numbers.

He won in the Oct. 17 draw using the Twist option, a \$1 add-on where seven of the 21 Lotto Max numbers are randomly shaded on a buyer’s ticket.

The 40-year-old Dedam, who is unemployed, said the money will help alleviate financial stress for he and his family.

He said the only way he could feel luckier was if he had his much-needed transplant of two organs.

“I’ve been a diabetic for 36 years,” said Dedam, who hopes to one day not have to rely on dialysis and insulin treatments.

“Now that’s a dream.”

He is currently on a waiting list to get both a kidney and pancreas transplant. He said while nothing in the world can replace being in good health, he said his winnings will make his days a whole lot happier because he can help his family.

Dedam quipped it was going to be a very good Christmas.

“I already bought my mom new furniture and I bought my brothers gifts,” he said.



Lorin Dedam of Burnt Church proudly displays his winnings. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

For himself, he purchased a brand new Mac computer, with a 27-inch screen. “I just have to learn how to use it now,” he said with a laugh.

According to Atlantic Lottery, Depanneur Annette in Neguac, where Dedam bought the lucky ticket, will receive one per cent of \$107,020 for selling the

winning ticket.

Meanwhile, Dedam said he fully intends to continue to play every week.

# Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission OKs its 2015 budget

**KRIS MCDAVID**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission’s board of directors has voted in favour of adopting the organization’s 2015 budget.

The commission, about to enter its third year of operation, covers a service area that stretches across most of Northumberland County from Upper Miramichi in the west through the city of Miramichi to Escuminac and the Burnt Church area in the east.

The service commission is presently mandated with overseeing the delivery of solid waste and planning services although emergency measures, regional policing and recreational infrastructure will likely come under its auspices in the future.

Wilson Bell, the commission’s executive director, went over the details of the organization’s \$2.5 million budget during a monthly meeting held at Miramichi City Hall on Oct. 28.

In it, Bell explained the lion’s share of expenditures is directly tied into the solid waste side of the equation, roughly \$1.74 million, with about \$713,000 set aside for planning.

The Miramichi commission operates on an annual budget of approximately \$2.5 million. The commission services a total population of 38,471 residents

within a geographic area possessing a tax base of \$2.3 billion.

The commission’s budget is funded by the communities it serves, a list that consists of Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown, Upper Miramichi and 19 of local service districts.

As the member community with by far the highest tax base, at about \$1.34 billion, Miramichi is also responsible for paying the highest amount back to the commission.

Miramichi will pay about nine per cent less than it did in 2014, with the total cost to the city for next year registering in at just over \$813,000.

The unincorporated local service districts, meanwhile, will be responsible for \$616,000 with Upper Miramichi (\$74,000), Blackville (\$38,500) and Doaktown (\$36,000) rounding out the list.

Combined, communities will pay \$119,544 less than they did this year.

Every board member but one voted in favour of adopting the new budget. Upper Miramichi Mayor Douglas Munn said while he was generally in favour of the budget he noted that he and his council were not enthusiastic about a one per cent increase in employee contribution for commission employee RRSPs. “I’ve got a lot of problems with it,” Munn said.

“Everybody in this world right now is cutting back and I don’t feel a one per



Wilson Bell, executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

cent increase at this time is a just cause for spending money – as a municipality I can’t give something like that to my employees, and my council found that if I couldn’t give it to them I shouldn’t be giving it to other people.”

Bell noted the one per cent increase on RRSPs is among the lowest of any commission in the province, pointing out that the other 11 were averaging something close to a six per cent increase in contributions for next year.

Munn attempted to amend the motion at that point so the RRSP adjustment would be left out, however it was defeated due in large part to the weighted vote Miramichi Mayor Gerry Cormier, the board’s chairman, gets because of the contributions his municipality makes.

Meanwhile, the commission announced that it will be looking to fill four vacancies on its Planning Review and Adjustment Committee effective Jan. 1, 2015.

The committee is appointed to carry out advisory and decision-making functions as specified under the provincial Community Planning Act.

Former PRAC member Anne Creamer resigned from the committee earlier this year and the terms of current members Bob Hallihan, Lynne Grogan and Scott Clowater all expire at the end of the year, however all three have expressed an interest in continuing on in their duties.

The terms of members Bill Treadwell, Joe Veriker, Kurt Marks and Robert McLeod do not expire until next June.

Also discussed Tuesday night, planner Colleen Bawn pitched the board on recognizing noteworthy development projects by instituting an awards program.

The Silver Single Awards, Bawn said, would be handed out to recognize only the most “extraordinary” projects taking place in the region.

# Roadwork, transit shortfall, mill updates to dominate council

By Kris McDavid  
mcdavid.kris@miramichileader.com

MIRAMICHI – With the Chatham O'Donaghues Ironmen set to host another Canadian senior baseball championships at Ironmen Field in 2015, and things expected to get a little busier in the surrounding neighbourhood by the time the federal pay centre building opens up, councillors Monday night will decide whether to bump a well-worn street up its priority list for upgrades.

A motion on the agenda for the finance and administration meeting recommends that the city's five-year capital plan be amended to place the reconstruction of John Street at the top of its to-do list for 2014.

A separate motion also calls that 2013 capital funding be allocated to the project, which would be concentrated between Water Street and Church Street near the busy intersection that carries traffic to and from the Centennial Bridge.

If approved, the changes to the list would seem to come again at the expense of Riverside Drive in Chatham, which had been the city's No. 1 priority until being bumped down in 2012 in favour of a massive reconstruction project that took place



Kris McDavid/Miramichi Leader Photo

Council will vote on a motion Monday night to place John Street at the top of its five-year capital improvements plan.

at Airforce Crescent in Retirement Miramichi.

Also on the agenda for Monday night, council will consider a motion asking that \$21,000 be pulled from the city's contingency fund to cover off a current shortfall of funds within Miramichi Transit.

The city's bus service, established in 2009, garnered \$200,000 from the city in 2013 and has requested an additional \$130,000 for 2014 in order to expand its service into new areas of the city.

Meanwhile, council will also vote on whether to amend a consulting

contract issued to Paul McGraw earlier in the fall.

McGraw, a well-known volunteer within the community, was signed on to work alongside economic development director Jeff MacTavish to help co-ordinate and execute a marketing and sales strategy aimed at targeting

and attracting new businesses to the area, specifically those in the fields of aerospace and defence.

Terms of the motion would see McGraw be personally liable for any and all of the obligations of the job as set out within the terms of the amended contract.

Finally, Mayor Gerry Cormier will provide an update to council on a meeting that took place between a city delegation and Paul Levesque, the deputy minister of the provincial Department of Natural Resources, early last week.

Cormier, along with Deputy Mayor Lisa Harris, Coun. Joan Cripps and city manager Mike Noel sat down with Levesque last Tuesday to discuss a couple of key forestry files, namely the status of the Miramichi Lumber Products mill and the Riverstone Plywood mill.

Miramichi Lumber has been struggling to stay afloat after failing to negotiate a deal to secure an increase in its access to Crown saw logs, while the owner of Riverstone Plywood, Jean-Yves Cardinal, has seen his own negotiations with the province stall after having his business plan rejected a few months ago.

Monday's council meeting gets underway at 6 p.m.

# Commission to get crash course on solid waste, recycling programs

By Kris McDavid  
mcdavid.kris@miramichileader.com

MIRAMICHI — For many Miramichiers, knowledge of the way the region's solid waste is handled is limited to simply wheeling it out to the end of the driveway each week and picking up your empty cans at the end of the day.

What happens in between can be a bit of a mystery.

And while human waste is far from a glamorous topic, its one that's been firmly in the spotlight these days as communities around the province roll out new programs aimed at reducing the footprint of our trash by the time it reaches the landfill.

Nowhere is this more true than in southeastern New Brunswick, where residents have been dealing with rejection stickers on their garbage in light of new regulations passed by the area's regional service commission rolling out strict new curbside sorting standards tightening up what constitutes so-called "wet" and "dry" garbage.

There is no such system for Northumberland County residents who fall within the boundaries of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission.

The entity known as Recycle Northumberland, doesn't discriminate against the types of bags that are used — black bags containing a combination of wet and dry trash are readily accepted and subsequently hauled and buried at the Red Pine Landfill located about midway between Miramichi and Bathurst in Allardville.

The City of Miramichi, alone, is projected to send 6,607 metric tonnes of solid waste to the landfill to date.

But there's much more going on at the landfill that meets the eye according to Wilson Bell, the executive director of Miramichi's service commission. With that in mind, Red Pine management is slated to bring the



File photo

Officials with the Red Pine Landfill are scheduled to update the Miramichi Regional Service Commission on some new developments and practices in solid waste management during Tuesday's monthly meeting.

commission's board of directors up to speed on some of those developments during the body's monthly meeting in Blackville.

"We were fortunate enough to be able to tour the Red Pine landfill facility and it's a lot more involved than I ever imagined," Bell said. "I think people would be quite surprised as to what's involved and you definitely don't want to call it a dump anymore, because it's certainly not a dump."

The pair of Yanick Sirois and Jocelyne Hache will further explain the role of the landfill during Tuesday night's meeting at the Blackville village office. The meeting is open to the public and gets underway at 6 p.m.

Commission members will also view a presentation on a new curbside recycling program rolled out earlier this year on a limited basis for a handful of communities in the Chaleur region, which Red Pine also services.

Miramichi's solid waste authority does offer recycling programs, such as setting up 15 drop-off recycling

depots in different locations around the region and organizing, from time to time, special collections for used appliances, or white goods, and also for household hazardous waste or e-waste products, such as electronics.

Bell said the uptake for those programs has been strong, and suggests there is a strong appetite among Miramichiers for expanded access to recycling.

The reaction to the bi-annual hazardous waste and e-waste events, he said, was especially noteworthy. Bell said the current plan would see a third collection day for those items arranged in time for next year.

"There was about 5.47 metric tonnes of e-waste, which is your old electronics, computers and televisions, that were collected at our last (session) with about 353 vehicles going through on that collection day," Bell said.

"There was also about 1,400 litres of oil that I'm sure would have been disposed of somewhere else on top of 7,500 kilograms of batteries, so it

goes to show that there is a demand for the service."

Bell pointed out that the provincial government has formed a committee to look at forming a uniform solid waste management strategy that would be put in place for each service commission to use as a guideline.

That process is still in its infancy, but the director said he'll report back

to the commission any new developments that may come from it over the course of the next few months.

"It's a pretty broad term of reference, but what they basically want to look at is are there ways across the province where we can manage our solid waste better in terms of recycling or in terms of reducing costs for everybody," he said.

Bell noted the commission is also tapping into a \$30,000 reserve fund to ramp up public awareness campaigns promoting some of its programs.

A pool of funds has also been shuffled into the reserve fund that was initially set aside for the organization to conduct a feasibility study into the possibility of building a materials recovery centre.

Such a facility would be designed to divert organic waste from the landfill to large-scale composting facilities, with a 2009 study estimating the construction of the centre would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 162,000 tonnes and would extend the current landfill's life by 22 per cent.

That conversation has been put on the back burner for now, but Bell said if the commission wishes to pick it up again in the New Year then the capital reserve money could be accessed to move the file forward.

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# Miramichi Leader

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October 31, 2014

## Situation 'critical' for rural areas: mayors

Liberal government urged to come up with economic action plan in view of declining tax base, exodus of people

**KRIS MCDAVID**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The mayors of two Miramichi communities are urging Premier Brian Gallant to act quickly to develop policy and institute measures to help ward off a looming economic and demographic crisis in rural New Brunswick.

Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston and Doug Munn, the mayor of the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, said they see the warning signs constantly.

Both mayors preside over communities suffering from rapidly aging populations that are both in decline due to a steady exodus of young, skilled workers who are forced to move away from the area in order to land meaningful employment.

A declining tax base that is creating more strain on an extremely limited municipal operating budget, a shrinking population that has left even basic services like finding a plumber or an electrician hard to come by and an economic future that seems to become cloudier as time goes by, are all problems Gaston said he thinks about every day.

Doaktown lost 100 people between 2006 and 2011's National Household Survey from Statistics Canada – which adds up to 11 per cent of the village gone in the span of five years.

It's a story not exclusive to either

community, one that can be found in many other small communities elsewhere in the province.

But Gaston said it should be clear by now that unless something changes, and preferably soon, rural New Brunswick's future will continue to become more uncertain.

With that in mind, Gaston is hopeful the new government will take their concerns seriously and move swiftly on files like shale gas development, which was seen as a potential lure that would draw back many local workers who are employed in the oil and gas sector elsewhere in Canada.

"We have to look at the overall picture in New Brunswick – he's the premier and we have to work together to make things happen, but we need resource development, so we have to look at it and move forward," Gaston said.

"The whole picture – whether it's forestry, the pipeline or natural gas, it's extremely important to us, and we have to somehow find a way to work together to make it work."

Doaktown got a major boost in March when officials with J.D. Irving, Limited announced the company would be investing \$15 million in order to construct a more modern and efficient sawmill at its Doaktown white pine operation.

The initiative will see the creation of 118 direct and indirect construction jobs when work begins in 2015. Once the new facility is operational, it will result in the creation of 40 new positions in woodlands operations as well as 28 indirect jobs, while also preserving the roughly 115 positions at the mill right now.

Gaston said the massive investment from JDI offers hope to the roughly 800 people who reside here and the

hundreds more who live in places like Upper Miramichi and Blackville.

But whether it's taking advantage of new opportunities in mining, potential shale gas development or manufacturing and attracting small business, the mayor said he's hopeful the word is out that the region is hungry for more.

Gaston, along with Munn, both said they would be interested in sitting down with Gallant in the near future to go over some of their concerns and discuss a path forward.

The Liberals have promised to impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, the controversial process companies use to extract natural gas from deep below the earth's surface, until they're convinced the process is safe.

PLEASE SEE → **JOBS, A2**

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**WEATHER 2 DAY OUTLOOK**

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	
H: 6 L: 1	H: 7 L: -1



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**A timely reminder**  
Friday is Halloween and three-year-old Hadley Fraser is dressed as a tornado this year for her trick or treating. This weekend also marks the annual return to Atlantic standard time. Everyone is reminded to turn their clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Hadley is the daughter of Mark Fraser, who is holding the clock in this photograph. Daylight time officially ends at 2 a.m. Sunday Nov. 2 according to the Old Farmer's Almanac. PHOTO: SHANNON MACLEOD/MIRAMICHI LEADER

## Young goblins reminded of curfew

**SHANNON MACLEOD**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The city's police department is hoping for a quiet Oct. 31, as it has been in recent years.

Brian Cummings, deputy chief of the Miramichi Police Force, said the city's had an 8 p.m. curfew on Halloween for the last few years, and it doesn't seem to cause them any issues.

Along with the city of Miramichi, there's an 8 p.m. curfew in Baie-Sainte-Anne, Blackville and Doaktown. In Rogersville, trick-or-treating is allowed from 5 to 7 p.m., but there's no set curfew. In Neguac, there is also no set curfew.

PLEASE SEE → **SAFETY, A2**

## Commission approves curbside recycling, but some concerns remain

**KRIS MCDAVID**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Curbside recycling is officially on the way for the vast majority of Northumberland County residents.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors voted in favour of instituting the new program at their monthly meeting Tuesday night, held at Miramichi City Hall.

The decision was not unanimous, however, and questions remain about how the new blue cart recycling setup will be enforced and whether there is a strong enough interest among residents in the region's rural areas to participate.

Board members John Goodfellow and Elizabeth Bowes, who represent a pair

of local service districts on the board, were the two dissenting votes.

The program is on track to come into effect by next September, and Melanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator with the commission's solid waste services wing, said officials were aware there was bound to be some initial resistance due to the change in routine.

She said she believes that some of the education and awareness programs the commission plans on orchestrating over the course of the next few months will help to better inform the public of the program. She said she also believes that people will eventually recognize the program makes perfect sense.

PLEASE SEE → **CARTS, A2**



**Lest we forget**  
Marianne Harris, district secretary to the Chatham Legion Branch No. 10, pins a poppy on the left lapel of Mayor Gerry Cormier, middle, alongside Gerald Mullins, first vice-president with the Newcastle Branch No. 10 Royal Canadian Legion. The poppy campaign starts Friday. See story page A3.

PHOTO: K. BRYANNAH JAMES/MIRAMICHI LEADER

## New Recycling Depot Locations

**Congratulations**  
Stephanie Thibodeau  
of Doaktown, winner of the iPad mini!




**New Depot Locations**  
You can now bring your paper, cardboard, #1, 2 & 4 plastics, milk cartons and metal cans to two new depot locations:

- Centre Sportif Lagacéville, 1928 Route 450
- Black River Bridge, 6 Little Branch Rd. (Skating Rink)

**Did you know...** Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

# Clock is ticking for solutions to be found, Gaston says

## JOBS → A1

Doaktown and Upper Miramichi, along with the village of Blackville, have all come out in favour of the industry and the economic potential it could offer.

Gaston said he's eager to hear what kind of alternate economic solutions the government has in mind.

"We hear it from taxpayers everyday - we're not only losing our young people, but now we're starting to lose seniors and they just can't pay any more taxes," he said. "From a small community with a declining tax base, the situation is critical - we're not just talking seven or eight or 10 years here, we're talking soon that we have to come up with something."

On Tuesday, Energy Minister Donald Arseneault said the government is still discussing what a moratorium will look like, noting he hasn't ruled out banning the practice of fracking in only certain parts of the province.

Arseneault made the comments to Brunswick News after touring Corridor Resources' McCully well field in Penobscis, saying he was concerned about what the effect would be if Corridor could no longer supply neighbouring potash mines with needed natural gas.

Munn, who said residents in his community are generally not happy about the moratorium, said Upper Miramichi "needs all the work it can get."

"We're very supportive of shale gas if it's done right, and I always feel bad because the first gas producer in North



Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston, at the J.D. Irving, Limited funding announcement in the village on Mar. 14, said the economic situation in his community is at a critical stage. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

America has been New Brunswick and Corridor Resources has been fracking in this province (many) years without an issue, without a problem," Munn said.

"My community is very supportive of it if it's done right and if we can reap some of the benefits from it."

Officials with the former Progressive Conservative government said there were indications the region stretching from Doaktown to Upper Miramichi had potential for shale gas development.

Munn's community, meanwhile, hosted an open house organized by

representatives of TransCanada, the company behind the proposed Energy East pipeline that would cut through Upper Miramichi on its journey from Alberta to Saint John, on Wednesday afternoon at the Boiestown Lions Club.

He said that's a project his rural community is counting on.

"It's tax revenue for the village, it's jobs for a year or two for people and we need all of this, it's hard times," he said.

"Rural New Brunswick was the main economy of this province and although the urban people don't see it as much, we're suffering right now."

# Patrols will be stepped up in city

## SAFETY → A1

Cummings said, in city limits, anyone out in the streets past 8 p.m. will be stopped.

"They'll definitely be checked by our officers and advised that the curfew is in place, and if they're trick-or-treating, they'll be told it's time to go home and shut it down," said Cummings. "If they're up to other pranks, they'll definitely be answering some harder questions, but they'll definitely be checked."

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, Cummings said Halloween seemed to be the one night that people felt they could have free reign when it came to chaos.

"And very slowly, that mindset has changed. And in the last number of years, Halloween has been a very orderly and quiet night in Miramichi," Cummings said. "There were some individuals who revelled in the notoriety that those (chaotic) nights used to bring, but those days are long gone. We live in a much more quiet and understanding society."

Patrols will be stepped up throughout the city, especially because Halloween falls on a Friday, said Cummings.

"It just makes sense that there's no school the next day. More people will be out and about because it's on a Friday night, so we definitely will be putting on some more officers. How many? We're not saying for obvious reasons, but we are beefing up patrols."

Even though children will be dressed up in costumes, parents should try to include some reflectors, if possible especially if costumes are dark.

"When kids are out, we like to see them wear as much reflective clothing as possible, and to be mindful of the fact that they shouldn't be zigzagging across the streets to ensure their safety."

As for non-trick-or-treaters, such as motorists, they're reminded to be cognizant of the fact that streets will be busier with children. Things can happen so fast, and Cummings said they don't want any incidents.

"I mean, we want people to keep their speeds down every night of the year, but especially on Halloween, it gets darker earlier now and sometimes kids wear costumes that aren't as reflective as they should be, they could be harder to see," he said. "So for those few hours that the kids get to go out, trick or treat and enjoy themselves, we'd like to ensure people slow down and be ever vigilant."

Cummings said when it comes to the good stuff, the candy, parents should always check it over before it's consumed.

"Those types of things can happen, although they seem to be very rare instances, but we like to see parents check their kids' candy over."

"We're hopeful and optimistic that this will be another quiet and fun Halloween for the kids. We just want to make sure we get through safely with no incidents," said Cummings.

In a news release, the New Brunswick RCMP provided a list of useful tips to keep in mind before heading out for Halloween festivities. Motorists are reminded to reduce speed and limit distractions in vehicle in case drivers need to react quickly. For the complete list of safety tips, visit miramichileader.com.

## Times and Heights for High and Low Tides

2014-10-31 (Friday)			2014-11-01 (Saturday)			2014-11-02 (Sunday)		
Time	Height		Time	Height		Time	Height	
ADT	(m)	(ft)	ADT	(m)	(ft)	ADT	(m)	(ft)
07:02	0.1	0.3	00:13	1.3	4.3	01:35	1.2	3.9
12:59	0.8	2.6	07:56	0.1	0.3	08:52	0.2	0.7
18:21	0.5	1.6	14:04	0.9	3.0	15:04	1	3.3
			19:42	0.4	1.3	21:01	0.3	1.0

## Program rollout set for September

### CARTS → A1

Not only will instituting curbside recycling drastically decrease the amount of waste being sent to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, Cripps said it's also designed to be extremely user-friendly.

She said it really is as simple as throwing all of one's recyclables into a blue cart and wheeling it out to the curb every second week, with regular garbage collection remaining in place on the alternating weeks.

"You really don't even think about it anymore, it becomes a way of life after a couple of weeks," Cripps said. "My next door neighbour is 90 years old and she pushes her cart to the end of the road every week and I haven't seen any problems. But people are scared of the change, but with education and hopefully some encouragement, people will get on board with this."

The curbside program would serve as a replacement to the outdated, expensive and largely ineffective depot program that was established in 2006.

At present, even with over a dozen of those big blue drop-off bins set up around the region, the commission is only witnessing landfill diversion rates of just 3.5 per cent, which is well below the generally accepted level.

While the mayors of Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi were all in favour of the program, there was some resistance from those board members representing the region's local service districts.

Goodfellow also said the program misses the point, saying he thinks it fails to address the larger issue that people are just producing far too much waste as time goes on.

Individual municipalities, local service districts and First Nations can either adopt a voluntary participation strategy or they could institute a bylaw making participation mandatory.

Goodfellow said that from a local service district perspective, he couldn't support rural residents taking a hit on their taxes in order to pay for the program even if they chose not to participate.

"So does this mean you're going to depend on the tax base on which you're paying taxes, which is grossly unfair?" he said. "So this is not a user pay and this is for anyone who pays property tax - that was not the message I got and people will be discouraged to hear this."

Wilson Bell, executive director of the commission, said the plan was always to add the cost of the cart to the tax rate across the entire region, stressing it is by far the simplest way to institute the program.

The commission will have to order roughly 18,500 carts at about \$75 apiece, a major expense that will likely be made up through an adjustment within each municipal budget or, in the case of local service districts, through the provincial Department of Local Government.

As a condition of approving the program, the service commission will also transfer a total of \$550,625 from a capital reserve fund to get a head start on acquiring the carts, which is about 6,500 to start.

The cost of distributing the carts to local service districts would register in at around \$417,000, amounting to a \$9.93 tax increase to a home valued at \$100,000.



These large blue recycling depots will soon be a thing of the past after the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission approved moving forward with the introduction of a curbside program that will come into effect late next year. PHOTO: NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

The use of gas tax funding and being able to harness a couple of federal funding programs may also cut into those costs, however.

Goodfellow also said he doubted the program could be effectively enforced since there would be nothing preventing residents from continuing to combine their recyclables with their regular garbage.

Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston said that although there will likely be initial conversion costs communities will need to swallow, in the long term, he said embracing the program would equal real savings down the road.

By 2016, the commission is estimating the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate, while also reducing the amount being paid in tipping fees at the landfill.

"I don't know if the local service districts have to write a cheque for garbage removal every month, but when you're a mayor you do, especially in a smaller community, and all you see is the price (of transporting garbage to the landfill) going up and up and up," Gaston said.

"There is nothing we can do to change that except to recycle - if we don't do something there is just no end in sight to the cost and regardless of whether the LSDs (want it or not), there's no way around it ... it's either pay the price or recycle more."

Robert Hallihan, the commission board member representing the Renous-Quarryville local service district, said that even though he's admittedly an "old-school" kind of guy, even he can't understand why there would be any hesitation toward embracing curbside recycling.

He said those people are just going to have to find a way to get over it and fall in line with a practice that is commonplace and has been proven effective in other parts of the province.

"I remember when we had dumps scattered all over the country - people do not want to change, we're in the 21st century now and we've got to keep moving on," Hallihan said.

"Nobody wants to step up to the plate and say 'hey, we're going to do these things' ... you're going to pay taxes regardless and I don't mind paying taxes if I can see we're doing something with them. Let's organize it, get it going and if we're saving money, that's what it's all about."

Bowes, meanwhile, said part of the reason she voted against the motion was because she believes local service district residents weren't consulted far enough in advance.

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# City's strategic plan aims to promote unity, common goals

**KRIS MCDAVID**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Nine months, dozens of pages and \$70,000 later, the city's long-awaited strategic plan, unveiled on Thursday, boils down to four simple pillars.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the extensive document prepared by an outside consultant, one officials say lays out a clear vision for the next five years and prioritizes specific areas for the municipality to target in order to spur growth, make life better for taxpayers while hopefully attracting new ones in the process.

The plan, developed with the help of Terry Shears of Quispamsis-based firm T.M. Shears Associates Inc., will serve as the framework or reference point for nearly every single decision made within the walls of Miramichi City Hall.

It covers all departments and, according to city manager Mike Noel, the whole purpose of having something this thorough in writing will help ensure that city council and staff remain accountable to the taxpayer and transparent in their processes while also setting up a road map that clearly spells out the direction the city needs to take as it looks to move back toward relative prosperity.

"In federal and provincial politics people have platforms – they clearly say what they're going to do when they get into power; civil servants are told here's the platform, implement it, but we don't have party politics at the municipal level," Noel said on Friday.

"This is their vision, the unified vision

and platform of this council – so without this, you tend to have piecemeal initiatives that aren't necessarily co-ordinated, with no specific focus, so this allows council and the community to know exactly where we're going and from an administrative point of view it allows staff to know where council wants to take the community."

At its core, the strategy revolves around four key areas of focus – economic development, community services and culture, municipal governance and infrastructure.

Those four pillars, Noel said, form the baseline for everything the city is looking to achieve over the next few years.

The plan was developed with the input of stakeholders, including the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce, both downtown business associations and members of the public who responded to a series of online surveys.

Councillors, city staff and Shears, himself, all took a leading role in its development as well.

"What we find is that whenever we do this the public at-large and people from the outside often will have a different view of what the company is doing than the people inside," Shears said. "It's the same thing with the city – when you go to the residents, even though the councillors and the people working for the city think they know what the needs of the city are, when you talk to the public you find out there are other things."

Shears said some of New Brunswick's larger city's have similar plans in place and notes the ones that don't probably should.

The approach is a rather simple one. On the economic development front, the report reads that the city will look to strengthen its base by building on its existing strengths and diversifying its offerings in order to spur new investment.

It will also strive to enhance quality of life for residents by supporting and properly marketing its natural setting and rich cultural heritage.

From a government standpoint, the strategy says it will institute a culture that provides leadership in order to effectively deliver city services and providing opportunities to engage the public in order to generate feedback and dialogue designed to make "Miramichi a better place."

Finally, the city will also look to continue to invest in strategic infrastructure in a manner that "meets current community needs and responds to future challenges."

More specific goals and checkpoints have been established within each of those categories as well.

For instance, the city will place an emphasis on encouraging sustainable land use in order to make way for new development on the economic development side while also undertaking measures to promote a culture of volunteering in order to help sustain some of the city's showcase events.

If these goals seem somewhat obvious, and that a city looking to grow should logically focus on strengthening its economic base and harnessing its strengths, Noel agrees.

That said, he noted it was important for those goals to be presented in a



City manager Mike Noel says the city's newly-adopted strategic plan will ensure accountability and clear objectives over the next five years.  
PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

formal way so that there are absolutely no misunderstandings moving forward.

"This is more of a confirmation of where we go – these aren't things we weren't already aware of, it's just a way of confirming it," Noel said. "It's almost to reaffirm that those firm pillars are the priority areas for us."

Noel said mechanisms will be in place to ensure the road map is followed, adding that the directors of each department will, four times a year, meet with him directly to report on their progress with those details ultimately being relayed to council.

Report cards for each department, he said, will be prepared every year as well

in order to chart what has and has not been accomplished.

Mayor Gerry Cormier said he's more than pleased with the finished product. He said the plan ensures a buy-in from all councillors and staff moving forward where, in years past, maybe there wasn't nearly as much.

"This council really wants this and I think this is a road map to give us a guide to where we're going in years to come, so I think it's long overdue," he said. "There's going to be accountability and it's going to be done, so I think that's important."

The new plan can be viewed in its entirety online at miramichi.org.

# Curbside recycling in city moves ahead to consultation process

**SAMANTHA MAGEE**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Curbside recycling is now one step closer to being implemented in the region after the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission passed a motion to move ahead with the program.

The commission voted last week in favour of exploring funding options for the program and to begin consultations with the public.

Melanie Cripps, waste reduction coordinator with Recycle Northumberland, gave a presentation to the committee at Miramichi City Hall, outlining why the current depots, the large, blue containers located throughout the region, should be abandoned in favour of curbside recycling that could begin as early as September of next year.

She said it would be much easier if residents had access to their personal blue carts, simply placing them at the end of the driveway at the appropriate time and having it collected, alternating weekly with garbage collection.

She said the main reason with proposing curbside recycling is because the current depots aren't collecting as much recyclable material as the committee initially thought they might when the project was launched in 2005.

Cripps said the depots are only taking in about 3.8 per cent of the diversion rate. Diversion rate measures the amount of

recyclable material that is ending up in landfills, rather than in recycling plants. She said industry standard is around 30 per cent and that Miramichi still has a very long way to go in attaining that goal, and Cripps said she believes curbside recycling would likely boost that rate significantly.

"You just need to put (recyclables) in the cart and then wheel it to the end of the road as if you were taking out your garbage," she said.

Executive director of the commission, Wilson Bell said, based on the reports the commission received from Chaleur, he believes the program would work well in Miramichi.

"They gave us all their data. We could hire a consultant and go and do a feasibility study and a pilot project but at the end of the day I think we will get the same results," said Bell.

There are currently 15 depot sites in the region covered by the commission, and Cripps said most of those sites have seen illegal dumping, something else she believes, curbside recycling would put a stop to.

"You can see what's in the cart, if there are a bunch of things that shouldn't be in there, it could be rejected so that way they are more accountable for what they put in," she said.

The bins would also come with an identification chip that would help identify areas with low participation.

Bell stressed that the chips would not be used to track what individual households were recycling but rather to get an overall sense of which communities were participating in the program and which were not, to identify where more education might be required.

"We're not the cart police," he said.

Committee member John Goodfellow said he was skeptical about the project and would rather have a more accessible depot.

"I have visions of pushing that cart through the snow so many months of the year... It might work better in urban area than in a rural area," he said.

Mayor of Doaktown, Beverly Gaston, responded, saying that with the help of the educational component, he was certain most people would see its benefits.

"When you ask children in school about recycling they will tell you where recyclables should go, it's people like us that need to be educated. If we don't do this, what will it cost us in five or six years?... We have to look at the long-term effects," said Gaston.

Education, is a large component of the proposed project and would include hosting open houses, attending trade shows, hosting community meetings and using local media to get out the message and hear feedback about the curbside plan.

Cripps added that 95 per cent of the people who responded to a recent survey said they thought the household



Erica Fitzpatrick and her daughter Mya using the recycling bin in the parking lot beside Burger King in Douglstown.  
PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

bins would be beneficial. She said there would be no extra cost for the recyclable collection as garbage collectors would be following the same routes, just implementing alternate pickups. The bins would also accept disposable coffee cups and hard plastics, like prescription pill bottles and yogurt tubs.

Alongside a predicted higher participation rate meaning less recyclable ending up in landfills, Cripps also said the change would have substantial cost-savings.

"Just in 2015, we would save approximately \$10,000 in the last four

months of the year."

If the program is rolled out, matters such as who should pay for the bins and deciding if the curbside recycling should be voluntary or mandatory still have yet to be considered. Some of the potential cons of the program, addressed in the presentation were loss of a commodity, the plastic bags and some issues with smell caused by the alternate pickups.

The total cost would be about \$1,572,960 for the estimated 22,000 carts that would be needed for all single-unit dwellings, and apartment units.

# Church asking Miramichi residents to help clean up highway

**SAMANTHA MAGEE**  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Newcastle United Baptist Church is hosting a community roadside clean-up on Saturday, Sept. 6, and organizers are hoping to see at least 150 to 200 Miramichi residents donate their morning to help the city look its best.

"We're just trying to make Miramichi nicer, it's such a beautiful area and it's too bad when there's all this litter around," said Amy Pike, director of community and communications for the church.

The event, called the Amazing

Clean-Up, is the first of its kind and was formed after the church was approached by local businessman Hal Somers, a member of the Newcastle United Baptist Church congregation and owner of the Towne Ford and Miramichi Mazda vehicle dealerships.

"Hal came to us after he was driving one day and saw someone throw trash out of their car and it really frustrated him," said Pike. "We care about our city and want it to look beautiful ... and (together) we wanted to do something about it."

The church is asking those considering

volunteering their time to preregister, but residents can also just show up to meet in the parking lot anytime between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Cleanup will go until 12 p.m. where participants can meet back in the church parking lot for a free barbecue. There will also be face painting for children and team prizes as well.

"Towne Ford is donating the garbage bags and gloves and we will assign people areas to clean up," said Pike. "People can also request specific areas if they notice part of their neighbourhood really needs a cleanup."

Pike said they would like to see the King

George Highway done, on both sides of the river, connected by the Miramichi Bridge and the Centennial Bridge.

"We'll be trying to do that loop around the river but if anybody wants to do outside that loop, anything is great," said Pike.

She suggested that those wishing to register as a team ensure at least one person has access to a vehicle.

Added Pike: "We want to celebrate people who (have been cleaning up on their own), too. We appreciate it so much."

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“When I reached my hand down to grab hold of it, I felt something nipping at my finger, and it was alive - I was sure it was a toy.” BUDDY REYNOLDS

# THE NORTH

## City urged to join curbside recycling program



Two hunters found this crawfish alive in the Miramichi region 'a good 10 kilometres away from any water.'

PHOTO: SAMANTHA MAGEE/MIRAMICHI LEADER

### Crayfish find worthy of museum interest

SAMANTHA MAGEE  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • Two local hunters actually ended up rescuing an animal while they were out hunting partridge last Saturday.

And, oddly enough, the animal they found in the Napan area was of the marine persuasion.

Buddy Reynolds and his friend Leroy Mersereau found a crawfish in the middle of a dirt road in the woods around 10 a.m. last Saturday.

The pair were on their all-terrain vehicles, and Reynolds spotted the crawfish when they stopped to take a break.

“When I saw it I thought it was a toy. I stopped the four-wheeler got off and took a look,” said Reynolds. “When I reached my hand down to grab hold of it, I felt something nipping at my finger, and it was alive - I was sure it was a toy.”

Reynolds said he is always looking to the ground for tracks while hunting and added that he is also a volunteer with the ground search and rescue group, and his keen eyes picked it up.

He said he isn't sure how long the crustacean had been there but that he was “well dried up.”

He said that is curious because there are no rivers or streams within close proximity.

“There was no moisture whatsoever on him, but I did read an article that said they could live out of the water for like a week as long as there's a gland or gill they can breathe out of, if it's moist they can survive, but this guy wasn't.”

However, Reynolds said rain from the night before may have helped him survive the night.

Crawfish are sometimes referred to as freshwater lobsters and are a staple in Cajun cuisine and considered a delicacy in states like Louisiana.

Reynolds posted a video of his discovery to a Facebook group called NB Hunters, which has garnered a lot of attention.

After being contacted by the Miramichi Leader, it seems the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John is interested as well.

In an effort to confirm the creature's species, the newspaper reached out to Donald McAlpine, the head of the natural science department of the New Brunswick Museum and sent him the pictures.

McAlpine says the crawfish in question is a male *Orconectes virilis*, or a virilis crawfish and is not native to New Brunswick.

“Although typically they are not that colour,” he said.

According to research papers written by McAlpine, who is also a research curator and head of the zoology section, the species is usually found in the most westerly border adjacent to Maine.

He added that crawfish can also go several days without water if need be.

However in 2005, the same species of crawfish was found in Black River and is suspected to be “the result of accidental or more likely intentional introduction by humankind,” according to the research paper entitled Occurrence of the Potentially Invasive Crayfish.

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the virile, or virilis, crawfish and the spinycheek crayfish are both non-native species, which are expanding their range in New Brunswick.

The only crawfish native to the province is the Appalachian brook crayfish.

“Where we found him on the Glynn Road, he was a good 10 kilometres away from any water,” said Reynolds.

KRIS MCDAVID  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • Wilson Bell points to a statistic he said perfectly illustrates the need for a residential curbside recycling program in the Miramichi region.

The number was 3.5 per cent, as in, the amount of trash being diverted from the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where 100,000 metric tonnes of waste from all over northeastern New Brunswick is sent every year.

Whether it's recyclable materials or last night's lobster dinner, Miramichiers are still sending an overwhelming majority of their garbage to the landfill, where it is buried, capped and left to rot forever.

Bell, the executive director of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which oversees solid waste collection throughout most of Northumberland County, said the commission is moving full speed ahead with the introduction of curbside recycling across its coverage area next year and shared details of the rollout with Miramichi city councillors Monday night.

“This is my last presentation and all of the other municipalities have endorsed, informally, that they're on board,” Bell said. “There is a willingness to pursue this and, basically, we believe this is just the right thing to do.”

Individual municipalities, local service districts and First Nations can either adopt a voluntary participation strategy or they could institute a bylaw making participation mandatory.

Mandatory participation would be the ideal route to take, Bell said, saying the commission would be able to assist any municipalities wishing to draw up a bylaw template.

As a means of introducing Miramichi residents to the world of recycling in 2005, the former Northumberland Solid Waste Commission set up a series of large bins in various locations throughout the region.



Scenes like this one at the blue recycling depots set up across the region would be a thing of the past if Miramichi communities choose to adopt curbside recycling. PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

The results since that time, Bell noted, have been negligible and the cost of transporting the bins to the nearest recycling facility in Moncton, as well as maintenance, just hasn't been worth it given the program has barely put a dent in diversion rates.

Not only have many of the depot sites become a dumping ground for a whole assortment of items that just shouldn't be there, but it cost the commission \$201,000 to oversee the depot program.

“I drive by some of these depots and I see box springs and mattresses and TVs, propane tanks - we're putting these depots on people's private property and people are dumping stuff that obviously not suitable,” Bell said.

Introducing a curbside program, Bell said, is the next step in the evolution of recycling in this part of the province, pointing out that 88 per cent of people who responded to a recent survey put out by the commission responded positively to the idea.

The plan, which, as of right now is on track to be introduced next September, would see each household issued

a large blue cart that residents will be able to dump their loose recyclables into.

The biggest change will see regular garbage pickups occurring just once every two weeks, with the alternate week reserved for the collection of recyclables.

In 2013, the Miramichi region produced 24,023 metric tonnes of waste that ended up buried in the Red Pine landfill, down by about 2,800 metric tonnes from 2012.

The city of Miramichi, as the largest municipality in the commission's boundaries, produced the highest amount of solid waste, accounting for 6,310 metric tonnes of garbage this past year and adding to the strain at the landfill.

“Each cell where the waste is dumped at Red Pine lasts about two and a half years and the cost of building a new cell is about \$2 million - so every 24 months, another \$2 million is being spent to build another cell and that's a lot of money,” Bell said. “The landfill isn't designed to break down the trash

- once it's in there, it basically just stays there and it doesn't really decompose.”

Bell said there is a strong appetite among Miramichiers for expanded, more direct and convenient access to recycling, which he said the curbside program should accomplish while also hopefully increasing landfill diversion by 14 per cent.

A wide assortment of items would be accepted at the curb, with that list including plastics, cardboard, newspaper, soup cans and even disposable coffee cups and wrapping paper.

If the commission eventually gets the go-ahead, it would then place an order for about 18,500 carts, including 6,900 for every single-unit dwelling, residence and apartment unit in the city.

Purchasing those carts, at \$75 apiece, would not come cheaply. In order to do it, Bell said the commission could either submit an application to the municipal capital borrowing board and either invoice the municipalities and local service districts for their share or add the cost of the carts to the tipping fees on recycling.



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# THE NORTH

“My next-door neighbour is 90 years old and she pushes her cart to the end of the road every week, and I haven’t seen any problems.” MELANIE CRIPPS

## Curbside recycling approved

KRIS MCDAVID  
MIRAMICHI LEADER

MIRAMICHI • Curbside recycling is officially on the way for the vast majority of Northumberland County residents.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission’s board of directors voted in favour of instituting the new program at their monthly meeting Tuesday night, held at Miramichi City Hall.

The decision was not unanimous, however, and questions remain about how the new blue cart recycling setup will be enforced and whether there is a strong enough interest among residents in the region’s rural areas to participate. Board members John Goodfellow and Elizabeth Bowes, who represent a pair of local service districts on the board, were the two dissenting votes.

The program is on track to come into effect by next September, and Melanie Cripps, waste reduction co-ordinator with the commission’s solid waste services wing, said officials were aware there was bound to be some initial resistance due to the change in routine.

She said she believes that some of the education and awareness programs the commission plans on orchestrating over the course of the next few months will help to better inform the public of the program. She said she also believes that people will eventually recognize the program makes perfect sense.

Not only will instituting curbside recycling drastically decrease the amount of waste being sent to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, Cripps said it’s also designed to be extremely user-friendly.

She said it really is as simple as throwing all of one’s recyclables into a blue cart and wheeling it out to the curb every second week, with regular garbage collection remaining in place on the alternating weeks.

“You really don’t even think about it anymore, it becomes a way of life after a

couple of weeks,” Cripps said. “My next-door neighbour is 90 years old and she pushes her cart to the end of the road every week, and I haven’t seen any problems. But people are scared of the change, but with education and hopefully some encouragement, people will get on board with this.”

The curbside program would serve as a replacement to the outdated, expensive and largely ineffective depot program that was established in 2006.

At present, even with over a dozen of those big blue drop-off bins set up around the region, the commission is only witnessing landfill diversion rates of just 3.5 per cent, which is well below the generally accepted level.

While the mayors of Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi were all in favour of the program, there was some resistance from those board members representing the region’s local service districts.

Goodfellow also said the program misses the point, saying he thinks it fails to address the larger issue that people are just producing far too much waste as time goes on.

Individual municipalities, local service districts and First Nations can either adopt a voluntary participation strategy or they could institute a bylaw making participation mandatory.

Goodfellow said that from a local service district perspective, he couldn’t support rural residents taking a hit on their taxes in order to pay for the program even if they chose not to participate.

“So does this mean you’re going to depend on the tax base on which you’re paying taxes, which is grossly unfair?” he said. “So this is not a user pay and this is for anyone who pays property tax – that was not the message I got and people will be discouraged to hear this.”

Wilson Bell, executive director of the commission, said the plan was always to add the cost of the cart to the tax rate across the entire region, stressing it is by

far the simplest way to institute the program.

The commission will have to order roughly 18,500 carts at about \$75 apiece, a major expense that will likely be made up through an adjustment within each municipal budget or, in the case of local service districts, through the provincial Department of Local Government.

As a condition of approving the program, the service commission will also transfer a total of \$550,625 from a capital reserve fund to get a head start on acquiring the carts, which is about 6,500 to start.

The cost of distributing the carts to local service districts would register in at around \$417,000, amounting to a \$9.93 tax increase to a home valued at \$100,000.

The use of gas tax funding and being able to harness a couple of federal funding programs may also cut into those costs, however.

Goodfellow also said he doubted the program could be effectively enforced since there would be nothing preventing residents from continuing to combine their recyclables with their regular garbage.

Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston said that although there will likely be initial conversion costs communities will need to swallow, in the long term, he said embracing the program would equal real savings down the road.

By 2016, the commission is estimating the recycling program will amount to savings of \$80,000 compared to the depot program, along with about \$51,000 in savings if it can reach a 20 per cent diversion rate, while also reducing the amount being paid in tipping fees at the landfill.

“I don’t know if the local service districts have to write a cheque for garbage removal every month, but when you’re a mayor you do, especially in a smaller community, and all you see is the price (of transporting garbage to the landfill) going up and up and up,” Gaston said.



The gazebo at the Promenade Waterfront will be seeing an artificial ice surface soon. PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

## Bathurst waterfront will get artificial ice

TAMARA GRAVELLE  
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

BATHURST • After a couple of delays, the artificial ice project at the Promenade waterfront is nearing completion.

Waterfront committee chairman and Bathurst councillor Scott Ferguson said the original idea was to have the artificial ice in place and ready to go for the summer, but the committee decided to wait due to the amount of events taking place under the gazebo each summer.

“With the multiple uses of the gazebo itself, which includes the nightly entertainment and stuff like that, we decided to wait until after the Harvest Festival (in October),” he said.

The committee also wasn’t sure how durable the artificial ice is and wanted to see it and test it before putting it together at the waterfront and having to cover it during the summer events, Ferguson said.

The second delay was caused by a water drainage issue.

“On the roof of the building, the water itself drains off onto the surface,” he said. “This is also a problem we had with the original ice. When we had a really warm day in the winter ... the snow accumulating on top would start melting, go through the drainage, directly onto the ice surface below and melted the ice, creating a safety issue.”

Ferguson said this issue should be rectified as of Oct. 28 and they plan to start installing the artificial ice surface on Nov. 3. The ice was purchased by the city in the spring of 2013.

Money was given to the city by the province that was earmarked for recreational activities, Ferguson said. It was originally going to go to the boardwalk project on the north side of Richelieu Park, but that project didn’t end up taking up as much money as the committee thought it would.

“We didn’t end up building the wood part of the boardwalk on the north side of the causeway,” he said. “So we saved a hundred and some thousand dollars there, and that money had to be used in the park.”

The committee thought adding the artificial ice to the downtown core would be beneficial to residents of the Bathurst region.

He’s not sure how long the artificial

ice surface will take to install, seeing as it’s the first time the city has had it, but he expects it will take three to four days to put in the first time they do it.

Once it’s installed, it will be free to the public to use and will be managed by the waterfront personnel.

The artificial ice won’t be just a winter activity. The committee would like to keep it in place for residents to enjoy in the summer.

When events go on under the gazebo, Ferguson said the ice will either be removed or they will build a strong cover to go over it.

The committee wanted to have the artificial ice surface because it gives Bathurst residents another outdoor activity to do in the winter.

**“We’re trying to promote that healthy, active living.”**

SCOTT FERGUSON

“We do have a number of skating rinks throughout the city,” Ferguson said. “But nothing really central. We also wanted to create a little bit of a buzz down in the waterfront during the winter months.”

The city may also have activities on the ice, he said. An example would be during the Santa Claus Parade, a family can go to the waterfront before or after it starts for some skating fun and hot chocolate.

“That’s our goal and what we want to do,” Ferguson said. “Once it’s in and we see how it works, we might have a family night once a week or once every two weeks for people to come by and enjoy some stuff downtown.”

He said the committee works to promote healthy, active living, and as someone who specializes in physical education, he believes having ice at the waterfront is a great way to encourage residents to be active.

“We’re trying to promote that healthy, active living,” he said. “As a physical education specialist, that’s really important to me.”



These large blue recycling depots will soon be a thing of the past after the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission approved moving forward with the introduction of a curbside program that will come into effect late next year.

PHOTO: NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

## Work on new green trail along old railroad bed in Bathurst now underway

JENNIFER BISHOP  
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

BATHURST • The end of summer doesn’t mean the end of walking and biking season, nor does it mean work will stop on the green trails in Bathurst.

CN Rail has officially given the old rail bed, which runs from the former Smurfit-Stone mill site in Bathurst to Basin Street, to the City of Bathurst to be used as a non-motorized green walking and cycling trail. This is according to Matthew Abernethy, director of engineering services for the city and city liaison on the newly named Sentiers Verte Chaleur Green Trails committee.

The new trail runs close to where an existing trail was located. Abernethy said the former trail was in poor repair and would have needed repairs at a similar cost to creating a new one. The committee opted to make a new trail along the rail bed because it will be more accessible to people because there are no hills on the new trail.

“It’s work where you’d put a whole bunch of money into it to maintain what we had, we wouldn’t be gaining anything,” said Abernethy. “This way

we’re spending about the same amount of money but we’re having a higher quality trail. This trail is easier for children to seniors with no big hills or anything like that.”

Work on the new trail began the week of Oct. 20 and will continue until it’s complete, Abernethy said.

“We’re going to be removing whatever’s left of the rails, taking out all the railway ties which are going to be under the trail and then laying down gravel just for the base of the trail,” he said.

Between the former mill site and King Avenue, Abernethy said tailings will be laid and from Dumaresq Street to Riverside Drive he said gravel will be laid until the committee decides if they’d like to top the trail with tailings or pave it.

“Whether or not we get enough donations to do the paving is kind of what that hinges on,” he said. “We’d like to have a full paved trail all the way around the basin through to Coronation Park and downtown as a loop but we’re looking at quite a bit of money to do that.”

Abernethy said the trail is likely to be ready for use before the snow flies but

any paving that might happen would take place next year.

The projects being completed by the committee are being funded in a number of ways. The committee is fundraising and accepting donations from the community for about \$47,000 so far, city council has allotted \$25,000 per year towards trail projects and the provincial government also gave the committee \$30,000.

Now that work is beginning on the new trail in Bathurst, the committee is looking to the future of trails in both Bathurst and the Chaleur region.

“The fundraising doesn’t really end,” said Abernethy. “We’ve got plans now for about a half a million dollars of work.”

That work would include connecting all of the trails in Bathurst, advertising and signage for the trails and eventually hopes to expand and connect to neighbouring communities like Beresford.

“We’re looking to do something on Riverside Drive all the way around the basin – maybe a paved shoulder ... we’re looking at more signage to keep people on the route,” he said. “We’re looking to be a trail system so we want to have



George Gregory of New Brunswick Trails is shown brush cutting the former rail line in Bathurst on Aug. 21. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

connection throughout the city and (having) everywhere accessible.”

The name of the committee recently changed from Sentiers Bathurst NB Trails to Sentiers Verte Chaleur Green Trails because of the committee’s plan to expand to the rest of the region.

“We’re going to be looking to people from Beresford and different areas to donate to this cause and kind of expand it to the whole region,” said Abernethy. “Partnerships are important and dealing with our neighbours is the way to go. We don’t want to exclude anybody from accessing our trails and we don’t

want to have them exclude us from using theirs.”

The committee is looking for community support with a number of projects in a number of ways. Abernethy said donations from community members to help fund the projects the committee plans to do over the next number of years will be needed as well as volunteers for projects that will not be completed by contractors.

Abernethy said committee member Samuel Daigle can be contacted via the Sentiers Bathurst NB Trails Facebook page by anyone who is willing to help.