



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

The 2017 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 (GMRSC). 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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Highlights

With regard to total value of construction, 2017 marked the most successful year on record for the Greater Miramichi Region which experienced a 121% increase in total value of construction compared to the previous calendar year (\$25.33 to \$55.96 million) (p.17).

2017 marked a particularly successful year for commercial projects in the City of Miramichi whereby 30% of permits issued were for commercial projects compared to 16% in the previous year (2016) (p. 14).

Planning Services completed a review and update of the Village of Doaktown Rural Plan in 2017 (enacted on October 18, 2017). Doaktown's Building By-law was also reviewed and updated (p. 9).

The City of Miramichi and unincorporated areas each shared 45% of total permits issued by the GMRSC, followed by Doaktown (5%), Upper Miramichi (3%), and Blackville (2%) (p. 14).

The City of Miramichi experienced a 324% increase in total value of construction compared to the previous year (p. 17).

The Region's small municipalities (Blackville, Doaktown, and Upper Miramichi) each experienced a decrease in total value of construction compared to the previous year (73%, 74%, and 37% respectively) while the unincorporated areas experienced a 22% increase (p. 17).

In the City of Miramichi, multi-unit residential projects in 2017 had a total value of \$3.26 million, whereas there were no multi-unit residential projects undertaken in the City during the two years prior (p. 18).

In the unincorporated areas, the value of construction increased by 22% with an over \$2.24 million value increase in residential construction from 2016 (p. 18).

Highlights

In 2017, Solid Waste Services applied to the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) for a “Waste Reduction Awareness Campaign” and was awarded \$50,000. The project assisted to raise awareness and educate the public on proper disposal of waste, programs offered through the GMRSC, and to develop the Recycle Coach app. A bilingual Activity Book was updated and reprinted which contains educational games and puzzles for school-aged children. A significant portion of the funds were used to advertise on local radio stations, local newspaper, local magazine and municipal newsletters (p.30).

Solid Waste Services attended seminars (p.34).

The waste diversion rate for the Greater Miramichi Region in 2016 was 15% (p.34).

In 2017, a total of 974 kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW events (p.34).

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2017 (p.36).

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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.

The Commission employs 12 qualified professionals in various management, planning, building inspection, and waste management roles. There were significant staff changes in 2017, Juanita McKendrick retired after serving the Miramichi Planning District Commission and the GMRSC for nearly 26 years. Shawn Cripps joined the staff in May and assumed the dual role of Chief Financial Officer and Manager of Special Projects. Nicholas O’Dette joined Planning Services in May and assumed the role of Jr. Planner. The Commission is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated and qualified employees. Since its formation in 2013, the GMRSC has evolved into an effective forum for discussing issues of importance to the region.

The Commission has two permanent committees: the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee (PRAC) are 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. There were a total of eight regular meetings in 2017 with strong 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 2017:

- The GMRSC prepared and distributed an Emergency Preparedness Information brochure. It was distributed via direct mail to all 18,000 households in the region.
- The GMRSC received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Green Municipal Fund) and the PNB Environmental Trust Fund to undertake a study on the feasibility of establishing an Enviro-Centre in the region. This facility, if established would receive HHW, e-waste and other commodities so as to divert these from the landfill. This facility would enable citizen to safely and conveniently dispose of these forms of waste year round.
- In June, a Regional Service Commission Conference was held in Miramichi. This one-day conference brought together RSC board members from the 12 Commissions to discuss best practices and share details on successful initiatives of the RSCs.
- 2017 marked this first year that the Silver Shingle Award was presented. This award recognizes Excellence in development in the greater Miramichi region.
- The Board established an Ad-hoc Committee tasked with exploring office and building options for the Commission.
- In November, the GMRSC entered into a five-year agreement with Chaleur RSC for receiving recyclable materials. This agreement ensures that the municipalities and LSDs will not be charged a tipping fee by the CRSC to receive these materials.
- The Board continued to discuss and explore many opportunities for regional collaborative on significant projects, services and issues.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2018 will present and I look forward to working with Commission members, provincial government departments and other stakeholders as we work together for the betterment of our region. With a strong and now experienced Board dedicated to improving the Greater Miramichi Region and with the help of professional staff, GMRSC will continue to be a very successful regional body.

M. A. Douglas Munn, 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 Table 1). Board members are made up of mayors from member municipalities / Rural Community and representatives from Local Service Districts (LSDs) within the Region.

TABLE 1: GMRSC BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017

Board Member	Community
M.A. Douglas Munn, Chairperson	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
M.A. Beverly Gaston, Vice Chairperson	Village of Doaktown
M.A. Adam Lordon*	City of Miramichi
M.A. Christopher Hennessy	Village of Blackville
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
John Goodfellow	LSD Representative
Lynn Gregan	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

* The City of Miramichi has also been represented by Brian King.

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 – GMRSC Operational Workplan 2018-2020” for an overview of ongoing and proposed initiatives for the coming years. The Workplan is based on a GMRSC Board members and senior staff visioning session held in January, 2018.

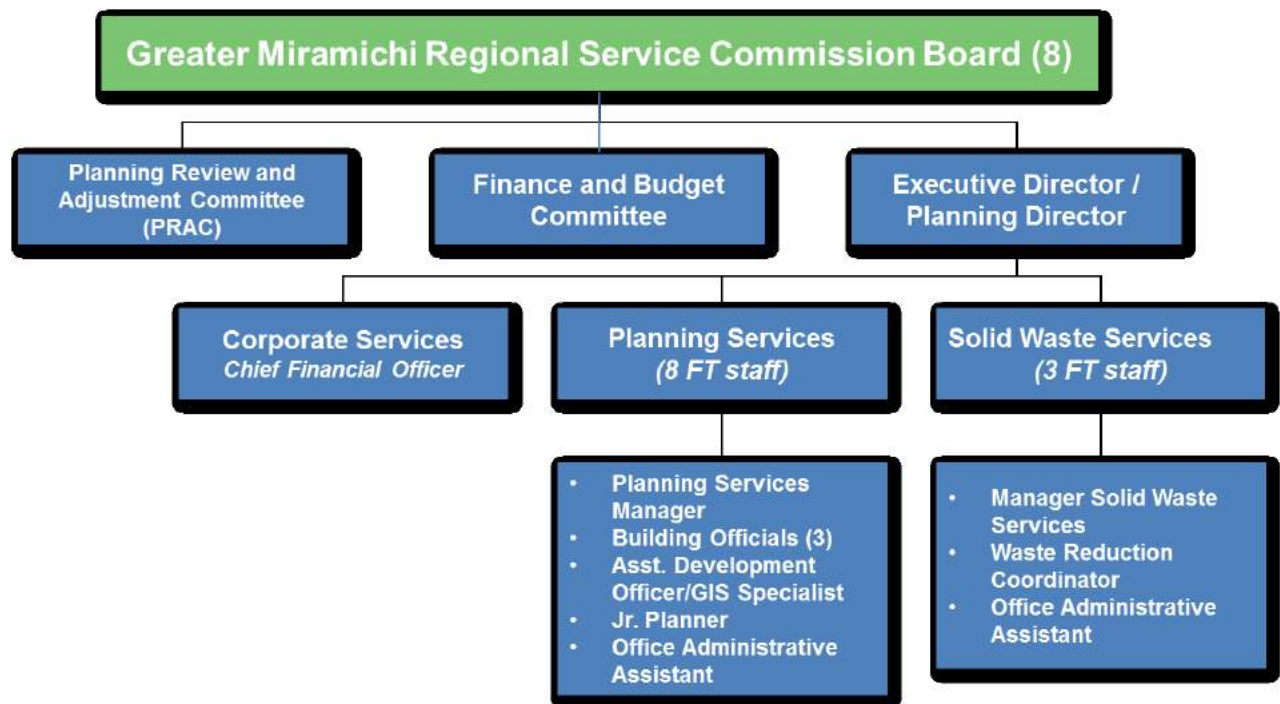
Numerous initiatives for Corporate Services and day-to-day administration have been completed in 2017:

- The City of Miramichi completed its review of its relationship with the GMRSC and concluded that there is value in continuing to participate in the Regional Commission.
- The GMRSC reviewed the McKendy Report (Improving the Regional Service Commissions in New Brunswick) and provided comments to the Department of Environment and Local Government.
- The GMRSC prepared and distributed an Emergency Preparedness Information brochure. It was distributed via direct mail to all 18,000 households in the region.
- GMRSC Operational Workplan 2017-2019 was adopted by the Commission and will provide direction for the next three years.
- The GMRSC and Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes the desire to build and continually improve the working relationship between ONB and the GMRSC to ensure that economic development is at the forefront in the region. The intent of the MOU is to:
 - Develop, strengthen, and maintain effective collaboration, as appropriate, between ONB and the Regional Service Commission members (municipalities and unincorporated areas) in addition to other agreed upon delivery agents, by aligning community economic development priorities.

- Improve information sharing and coordinated approaches to common processes between identified partners as it pertains to regional economic development.
- The GMRSC received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Green Municipal Fund) and the PNB Environmental Trust Fund to undertake a study on the feasibility of establishing an Enviro-Centre in the region. This facility, if established, would receive HHW, e-waste and other commodities so as to divert these from the landfill. This facility would enable citizen to safely and conveniently dispose of these forms of waste year round.
- In June, a Regional Service Commission Conference was held in Miramichi. This one-day conference brought together RSC board members from the 12 Commissions to discuss best practices and share details on successful initiatives of the RSCs.
- 2017 marked this first year that the Silver Shingle Award was presented. This award recognized Excellence in development in the greater Miramichi region.
- The Board established an Ad-hoc Committee tasked with exploring office and building options for the Commission.
- In November, the GMRSC entered into a five-year agreement with Chaleur RSC (CRSC) for receiving recyclable materials. This agreement ensures that the municipalities and LSDs will not be charged a tipping fee by the CRSC to receive these materials.
- The Board continued to discuss and explore many opportunities for regional collaborative on significant projects, services, and issues.

The GMRSC organizational structure is outlined in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: GMRSC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The PRAC is made up of eight members (see Table 2). 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.

Appendix A contains the “GMRSC Board / PRAC Member Attendance Record, Meeting Per Diems, and Expenses (Mileage)” for 2017.

TABLE 2: PRAC MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
William Treadwell, Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Joseph Veriker, Vice Chairperson	City of Miramichi
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative
Robert McLeod	LSD Representative
Kurt Marks	Village of Blackville
Scott Clowater	Rural Community of Upper Miramichi
Lynn Gregan	LSD Representative
Burton Cain	LSD Representative

The Finance and Budget Committee are made up of members from the GMRSC Board (see Table 3).

TABLE 3: FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member	Community
John Goodfellow, Chairman	LSD Representative
Elizabeth Bowes	LSD Representative
Robert Hallihan	LSD Representative

3 Financial Information

3.1 GMRSC FUNDING

The GMRSC is funded by the participating municipalities and 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

Table 4 outlines the cost of planning and building inspection services for the 2017 year. In total, \$427,251 in fee revenue was collected and returned to the municipalities and LSDs. 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 inspection services as well. All funding partners also receive the services of the eight-member PRAC. Please refer to “Appendix C – GMRSC 2017 Financial Statement” for more details. Table 4 on the next page presents the cost of Planning Services by community for 2017.

TABLE 4: COST OF PLANNING SERVICES BY COMMUNITY FOR 2017

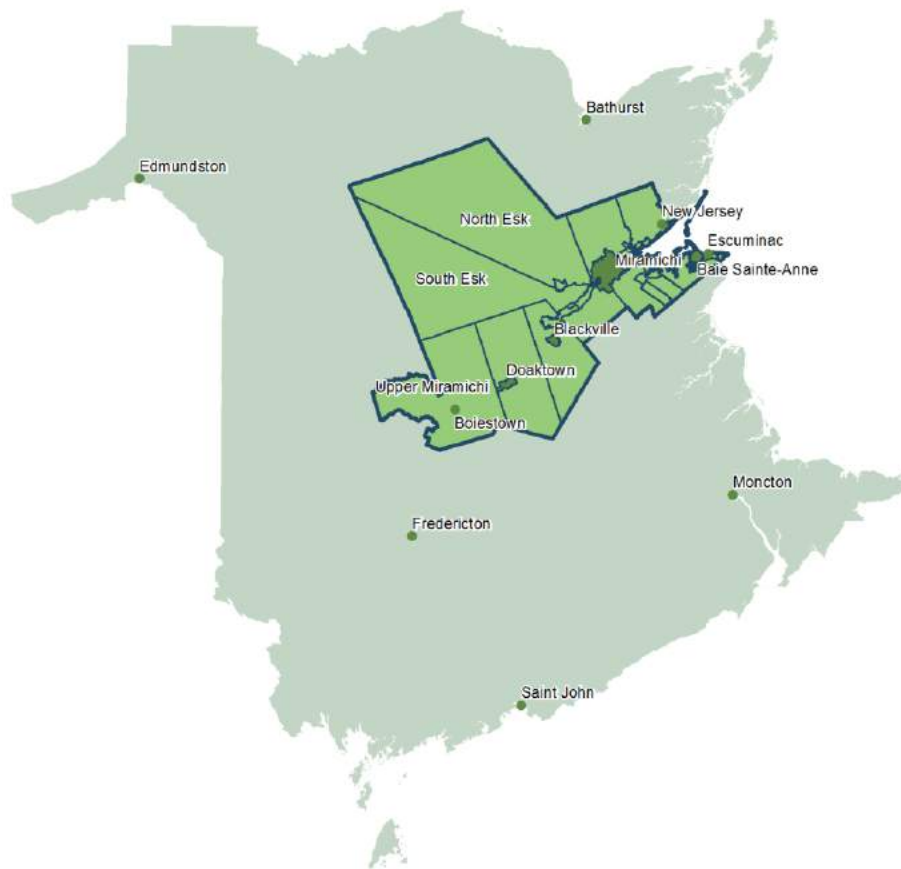
Community	Budget Amount	Revenue from Fees	Net Cost
Miramichi	\$414,189	\$341,573	\$72,616
Village of Blackville	\$14,013	\$4,524	\$9,489
Village of Doaktown	\$16,366	\$3,406	\$12,960
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi	\$33,335	\$8,526	\$24,809
LSDs	\$260,536	\$69,720	\$190,816

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 2).

FIGURE 2: 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. Table 5 below gives an overview of the Region.

TABLE 5: OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Population (2016 Census)	39,193
Tax Base (October, 2017)	\$2.59 Billion
Area	12,000 km ² , 17% of NB
Municipalities / Rural Communities Served	4
Local Service Districts Served (Unincorporated)	19
Local Service District Advisory Committees	10

Table 6 outlines the 19 LSDs served by the Commission.

TABLE 6: LSDS WITHIN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

Greater Miramichi Region LSDs	
1. Alnwick	11. Lower Newcastle-Russellville
2. Baie-Sainte-Anne	12. Nelson
3. Black River-Hardwicke	13. Newcastle
4. Blackville	14. North Esk
5. Blissfield	15. Oak Point-Bartibog Bridge
6. Chatham	16. Renous-Quarryville
7. Derby	17. South Esk
8. Escuminac	18. St. Margarets
9. Glenelg	19. Sunny Corner
10. Hardwicke	

SECTION B – PLANNING SERVICES

5 Planning Services Annual Summary

5.1 OVERVIEW

2017 was the fifth full year of operation under the RSC structure. As in previous years, 2017 marked another active development season for the Greater Miramichi Region coupled with strong staff efforts to advance a number of in-house departmental projects and initiatives.

Guided by the long-serving chair of the former Miramichi Planning District Commission (MPDC), Chairman William Treadwell and the other seven PRAC members held eight meetings and dealt with 21 applications in total including subdivisions, variances, temporary uses, similar/compatible use approvals, and by-law amendments.

Enhancing relationships and collaborating with the public, customers, community stakeholders, and other departments and agencies involved in the land development process continues to be an ongoing activity for Planning Services. In 2017, we participated in and hosted a number of sessions with

provincial agencies, Councils and Staff of the Villages of Blackville and Doaktown, Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, the City of Miramichi, departments of the City of Miramichi, and others.

5.2 IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Throughout 2017, Planning Services actively worked on a number of initiatives to:

- Continue making it more convenient for customers to access our services;
- Be more transparent about how we do business;
- Streamline and coordinate the development review and approval process; and,
- Improve clarity about the factors that influence the speed and outcomes of development applications.

For convenience to our customers in the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, Village of Doaktown, and Village of Blackville area, Planning Services operated a satellite office in the Village of Doaktown during the building season from May to September. Open on Tuesdays during the summer months, customers were able to drop in to speak with a Building Inspector and avoid the relatively long-distance commute to the City of Miramichi for service.

Planning Services' interactive zoning maps, initially launched in 2016, received 549 page views in 2017. Anecdotally, the availability and ease of the online maps have received much praise by clients, particularly those involved with the real estate industry.

A review and update of the Village of Doaktown Rural Plan was completed in 2017 (enacted on October 18, 2017). Ongoing since 2016, the Doaktown Rural Plan project involved numerous meetings with the Steering Committee (of Council), field work, drafting of policies and regulations, and public review. The Village of Doaktown's Building By-law was also reviewed and updated. The new Building By-law is more detailed, making it easier to read and interpret than its predecessor, which is a benefit both to property owners/developers and staff. The Building By-law contains similar provisions to others within the GMRSC region, providing consistency in interpretation and application to developers in the area.

To keep skills honed and to stay up-to-date with best practices, ongoing professional development is very important. In 2017, staff members of Planning Services continued to improve their skills and abilities to serve our Region by participating in many conferences, workshops, and training sessions including the Atlantic Planners Institute Conference, New Brunswick Development Officer Association Learning Event, Statistics Canada's Census webinars, and others.

Over time, staff recognised that there could be improvement done to better understand the building and development approval process and so, application forms, pamphlets, and checklists were regularly updated to help clients with this process.

6 Development Activity

6.1 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The following section highlights prominent developments in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2017.

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.

- Reconstruction of the "Doak Barn" on historical site, for public/community use, guided tours and public classes in the Village of Doaktown (see Figure 3);

FIGURE 3: "DOAK BARN" RECONSTRUCTION, VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN



- New construction of combination Swiss Chalet / Harvey's restaurant on King George Highway the City of Miramichi (see Figure 4);

FIGURE 4: NEW SWISS CHALET / HARVEY'S RESTAURANT, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- A new commercial building with two suites (Subway and Pizza Pro) in Bridgeview Plaza on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 5);

FIGURE 5: NEW SUBWAY / PIZZA PRO, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New construction of a UV Waste Water Treatment Facility in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 6);

FIGURE 6: NEW UV WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- “Castle Manor” redevelopment on Newcastle Boulevard in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 7);

FIGURE 7: “CASTLE MANOR” REDEVELOPMENT, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New construction of a salt storage facility on Route 108 in Renous (see Figure 8);

FIGURE 8: NEW SALT STORAGE FACILITY, RENOUS



- Façade improvements to Bridgeview Plaza on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 9);

FIGURE 9: BRIDGEVIEW PLAZA FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



- New facility building at French Fort Cove in the City of Miramichi (see Figure 10);

FIGURE 10: NEW FACILITY BUILDING, CITY OF MIRAMICHI



Other notable development projects in the Greater Miramichi Region in 2017 include:

- Construction of Shannex Nursing Homes on Water Street and King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (building permit issued; construction on-going);
- Construction of Beaubear Manor on St. Patrick's Drive in the City of Miramichi (building permit issued; construction on-going); and,
- Construction of Prince Place on King George Highway in the City of Miramichi (building permit issued; construction on-going).

6.2 BUILDING PERMITS ACTIVITY

Figures 11 to 15 outline building permit activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2013 and 2017. Please refer to Tables 16 to 20 in "Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables" to view a more detailed breakdown of the Figures.

The City of Miramichi and unincorporated areas each shared 45% of total permits issued by the GMRSC, followed by the Village of Doaktown (5%), Rural Community of Upper Miramichi (3%), and Village of Blackville (2%). The majority (48%) of permits issued in the City of Miramichi were for residential projects, a decrease from 70% of permits issued in 2016. 2017 marked a particularly successful year for commercial projects in the City of Miramichi whereby 30% of permits issued were for commercial projects compared to 16% in the previous year (2016). Industrial and institutional project permits represented 5% and 10% of total permits issued in the City, respectively, an increase from 3% and 6% in 2016.

In the Village of Blackville and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, all building permits issued in 2017 related to residential projects while in the Village of Doaktown, building permits issued represented a higher mix of land uses and building types (47% residential; 12% commercial; 35% institutional; 6% signage).

In the unincorporated areas, 94% of building permits issued were for residential projects while commercial and industrial projects made up 3% each of total permits issued in these areas.

FIGURE 11: CITY OF MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

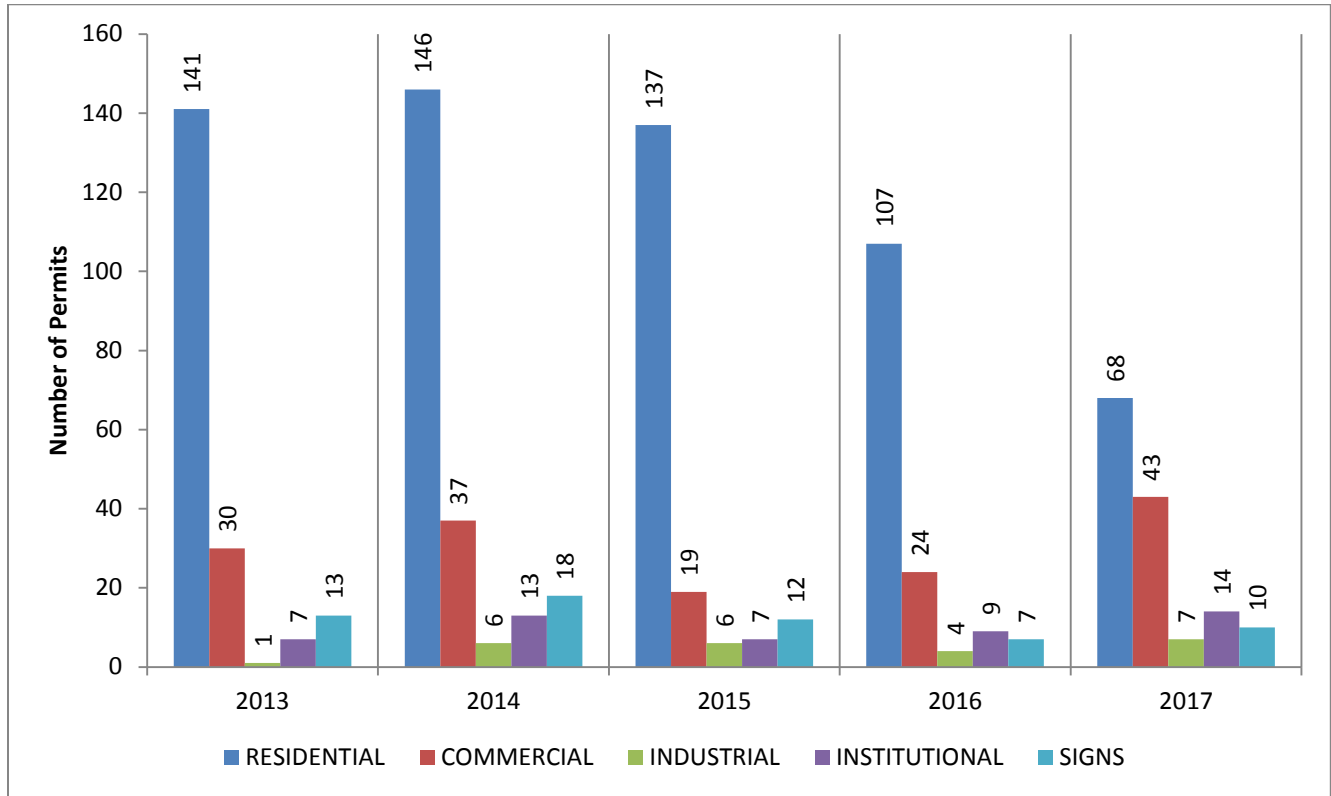


FIGURE 12: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE BUILDING PERMITS

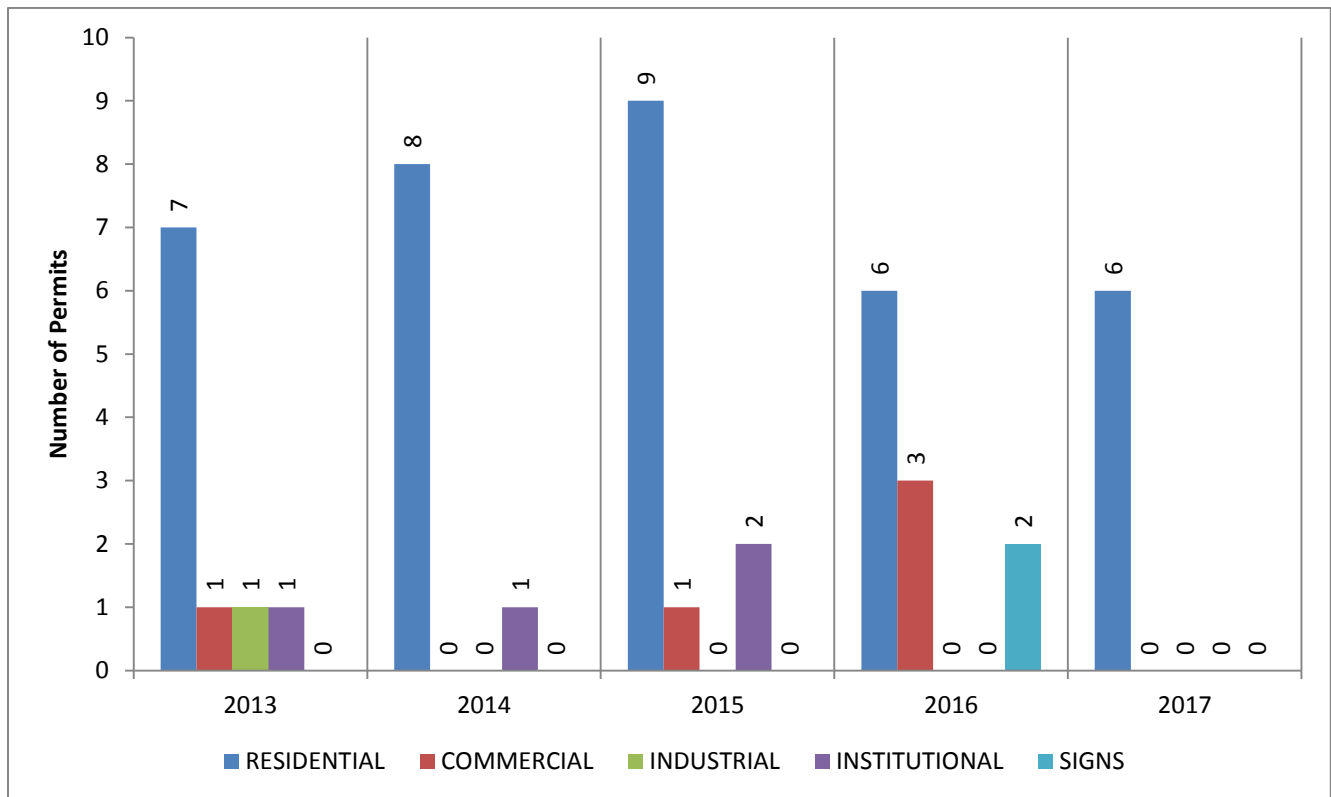


FIGURE 13: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN BUILDING PERMITS

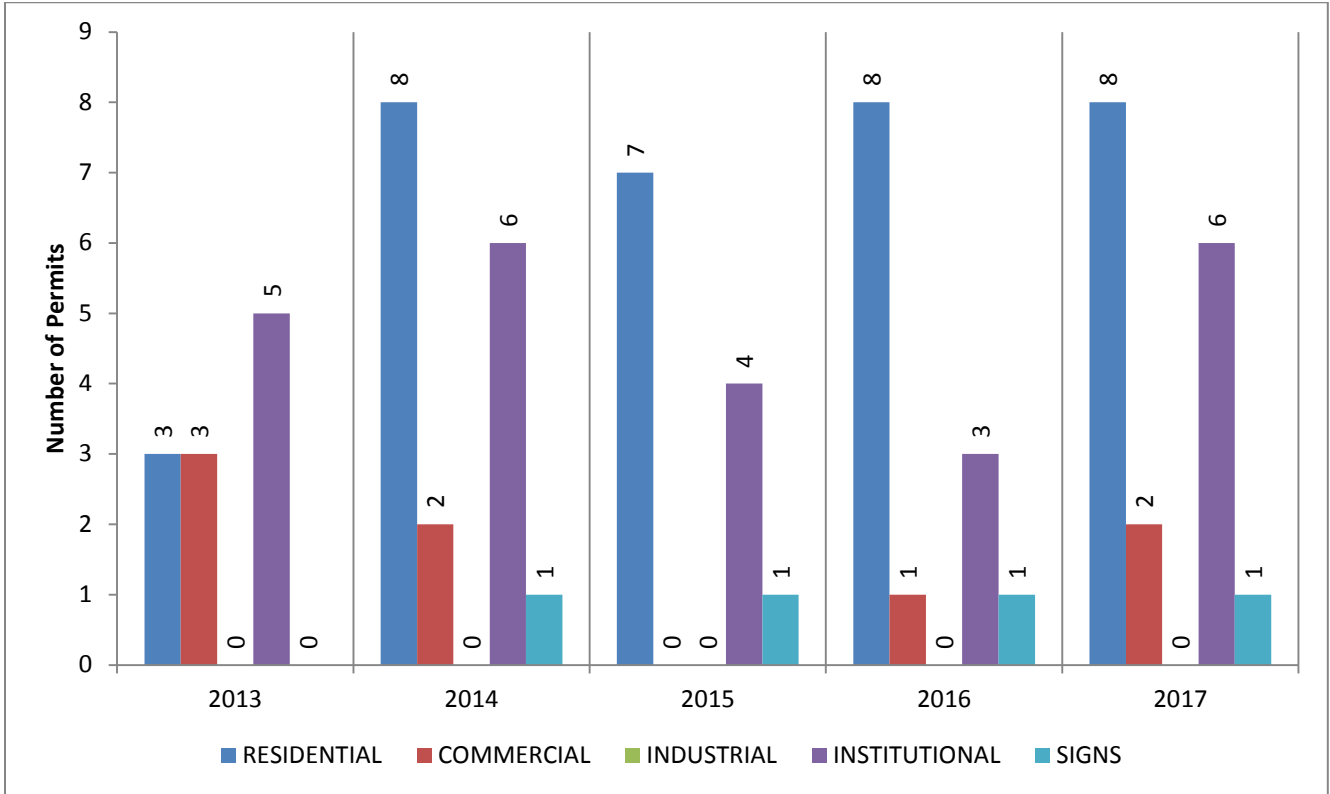


FIGURE 14: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI BUILDING PERMITS

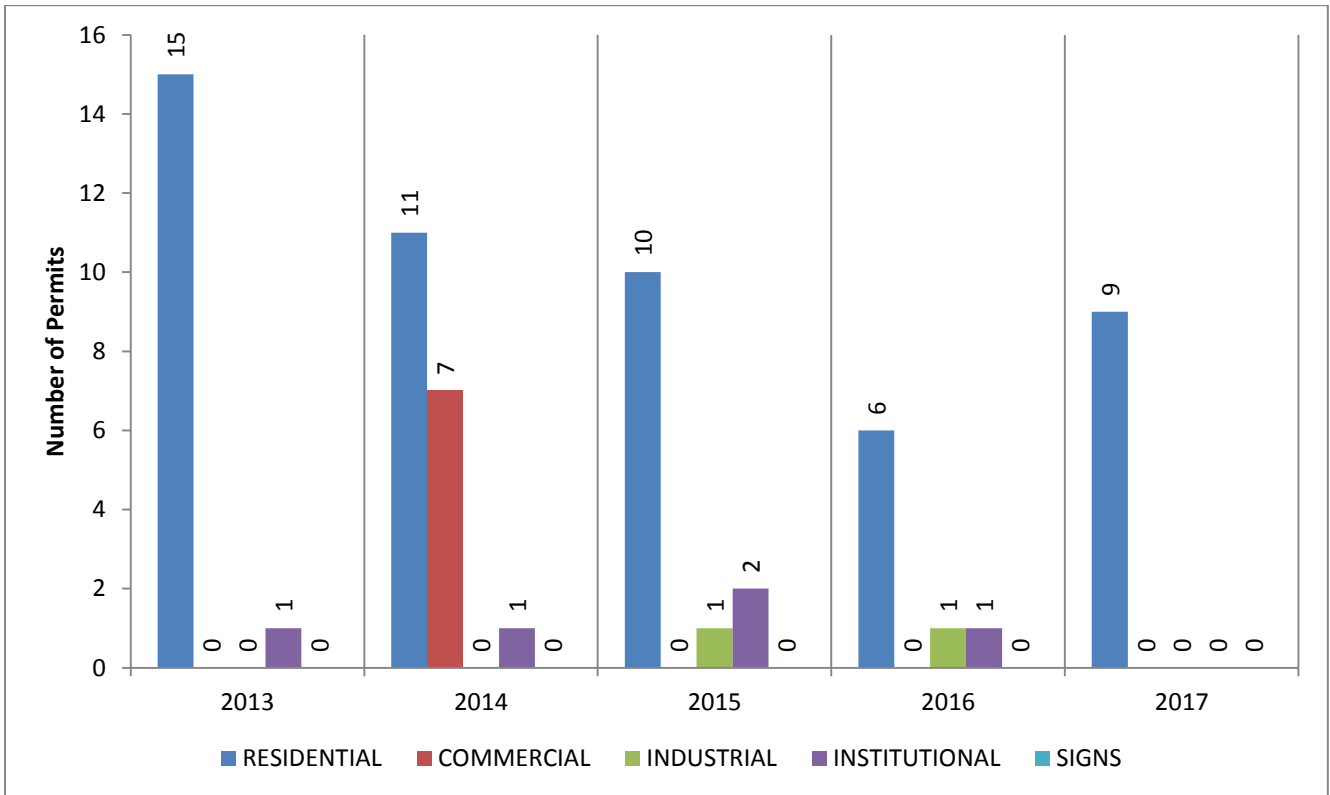


FIGURE 15: UNINCORPORATED AREAS BUILDING PERMITS

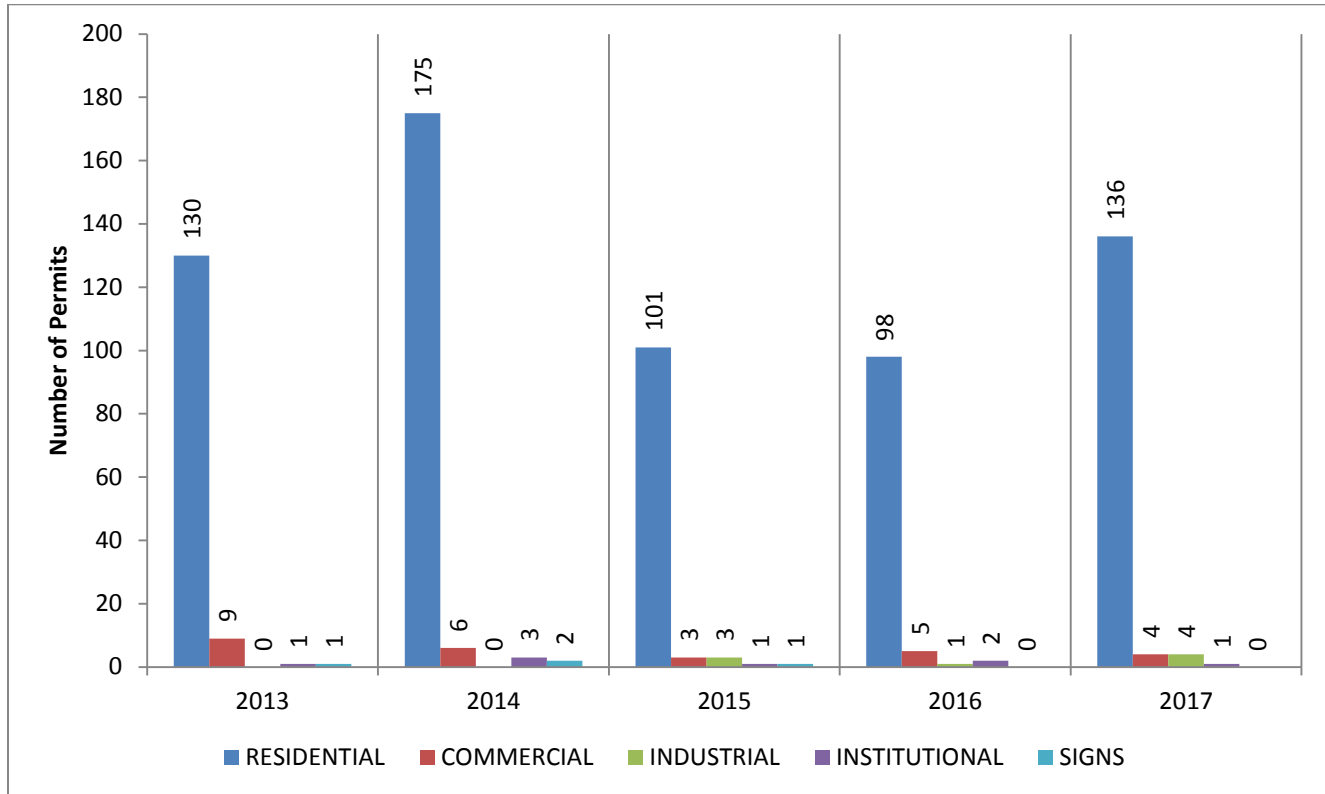


Table 7 outlines the total value of construction by municipality and in unincorporated areas for 2017. With regard to total value of construction, 2017 marked the most successful year on record for the Greater Miramichi Region which experienced a 121% increase in total value of construction compared to the previous calendar year (\$25.33 to \$55.96 million). 77% of the total value of construction for the Region came from the City of Miramichi, 20% from unincorporated areas, 2% from Village of Doaktown, about 1% from Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, and a fraction of a percentage from Village of Blackville. The City of Miramichi experienced a 324% increase in total value of construction compared to the previous year. The Region’s small municipalities (Village of Blackville, Village of Doaktown, and Rural Community of Upper Miramichi) each experienced a decrease in total value of construction compared to the previous year (73%, 74%, and 37% respectively) while the unincorporated areas experienced a 22% increase.

TABLE 7: TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION, 2017

Community	Value
City of Miramichi	\$43.02 Million
Village of Blackville	\$165 Thousand
Village of Doaktown	\$1.24 Million
Rural Community of Upper Miramichi	\$527 Thousand
Unincorporated Areas	\$11.0 Million
Total	\$55.96 Million

Figures 16 to 20 outline the value of construction activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2013 and 2017 (please refer to Tables 22 to 26 in “Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables”).

In the City of Miramichi, the value of residential construction increased by 64% compared to 2016. Multi-unit residential projects in 2017 had a total value of \$3.26 million, whereas there were no multi-unit residential projects undertaken in the City during the two years prior. The City of Miramichi also experienced a 654% increase its value of mini/mobile home construction permits compared to 2016. The value of commercial and institutional construction saw an increase of 338% and 2,397% respectively compared to 2016 while industrial construction saw a 42% decrease in value. As for the other communities, the value of construction decreased by 73% for the Village of Blackville, 61% for the Village of Doaktown, and 18% for the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi. In the unincorporated areas, the value of construction increased by 27% with an over \$2.5 million value increase in residential construction from 2016.

FIGURE 16: CITY OF MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

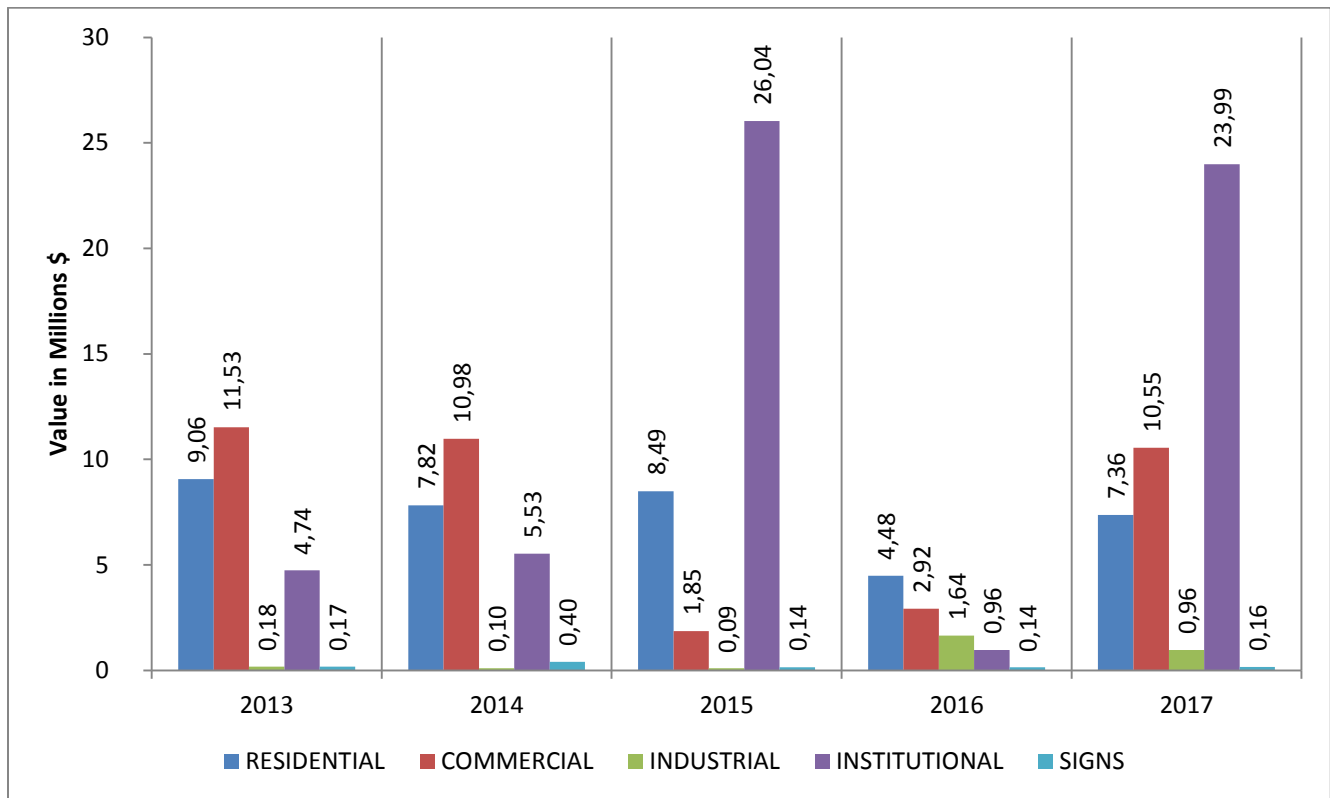


FIGURE 17: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

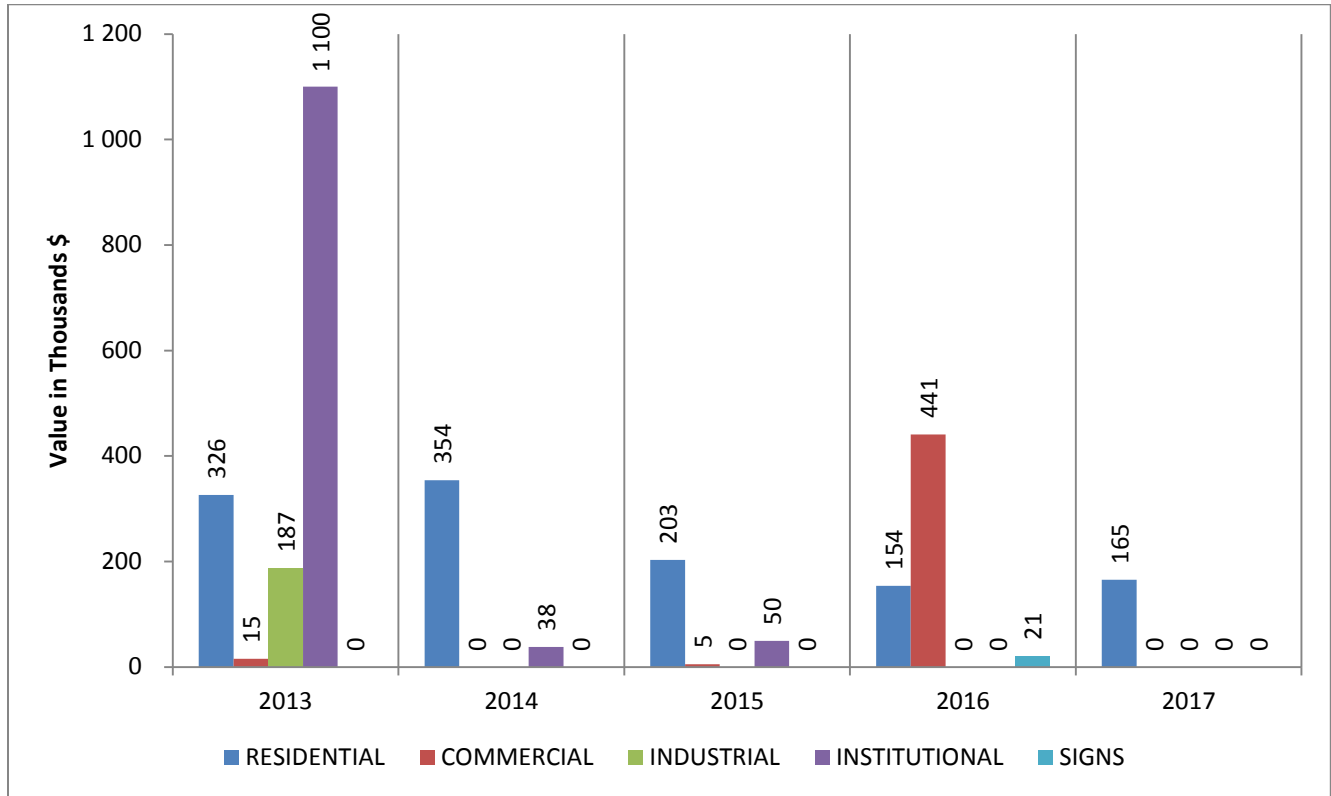


FIGURE 18: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

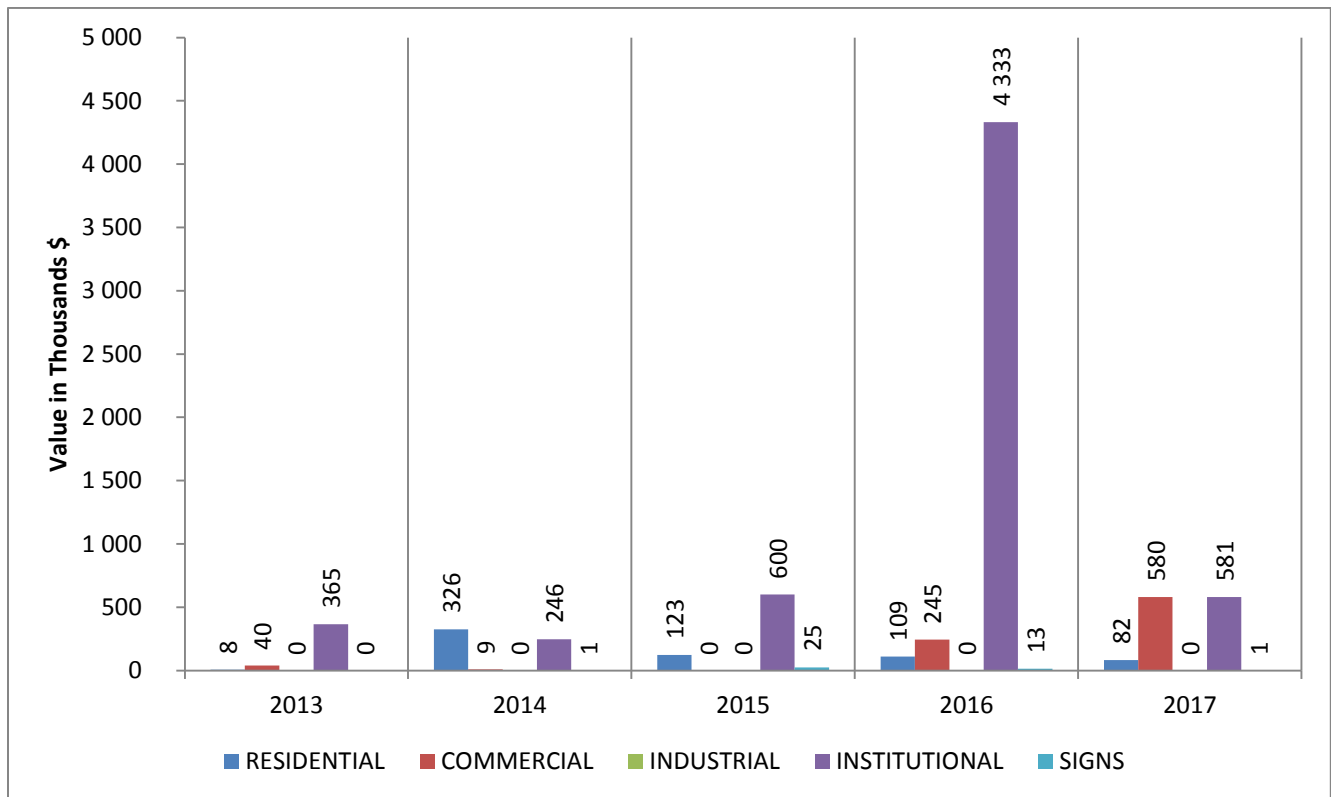


FIGURE 19: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION

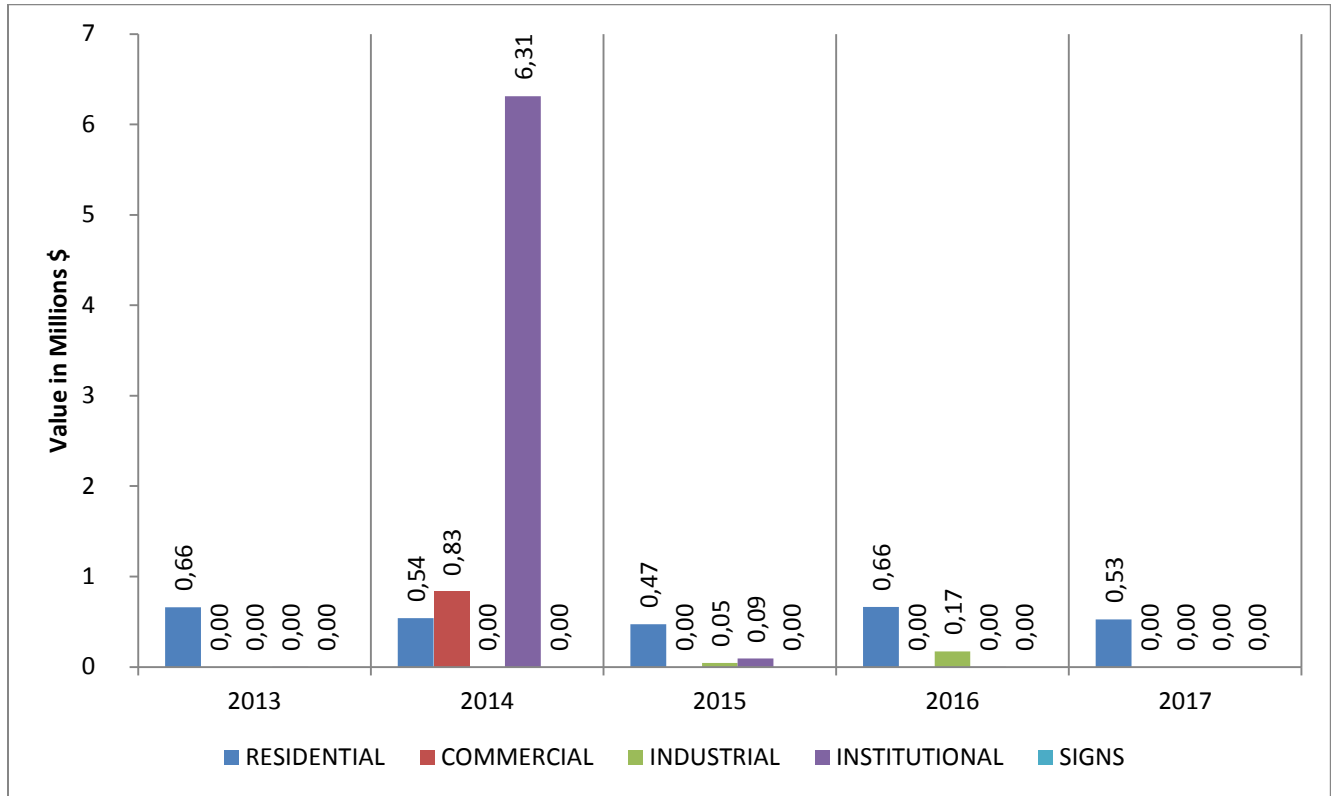
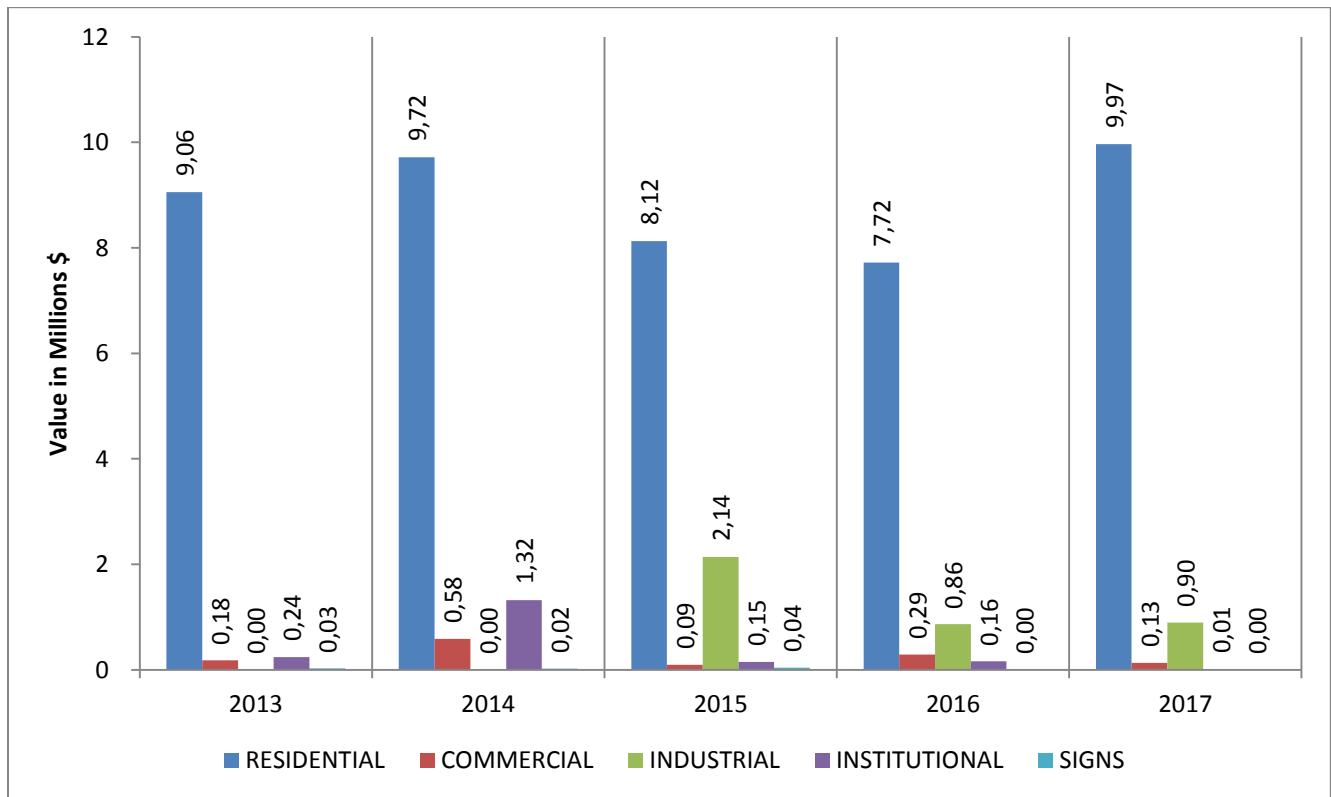


FIGURE 20: UNINCORPORATED AREAS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION



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 21 to 25 outline planning applications activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2013 and 2017 (please refer to Tables 27 to 31 in “Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables”).

The total number of applications went down from 57 in 2016 to 50 in 2017; 54% of these applications were for the City of Miramichi. 36 out of 41 variance applications were handled internally by Development Officers, the 5 others being processed through the PRAC. There were 8 applications for plan amendments or rezonings in the City of Miramichi.

FIGURE 21: CITY OF MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

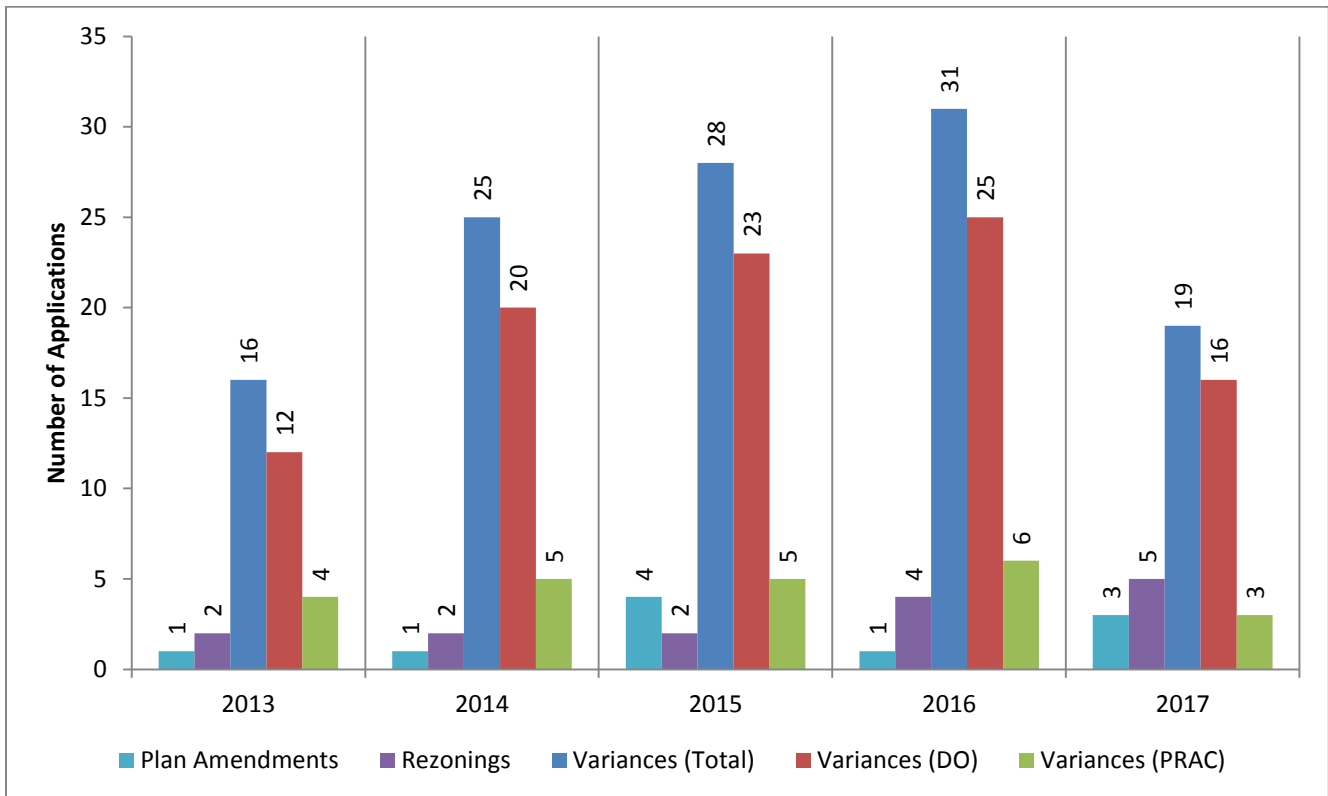


FIGURE 22: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

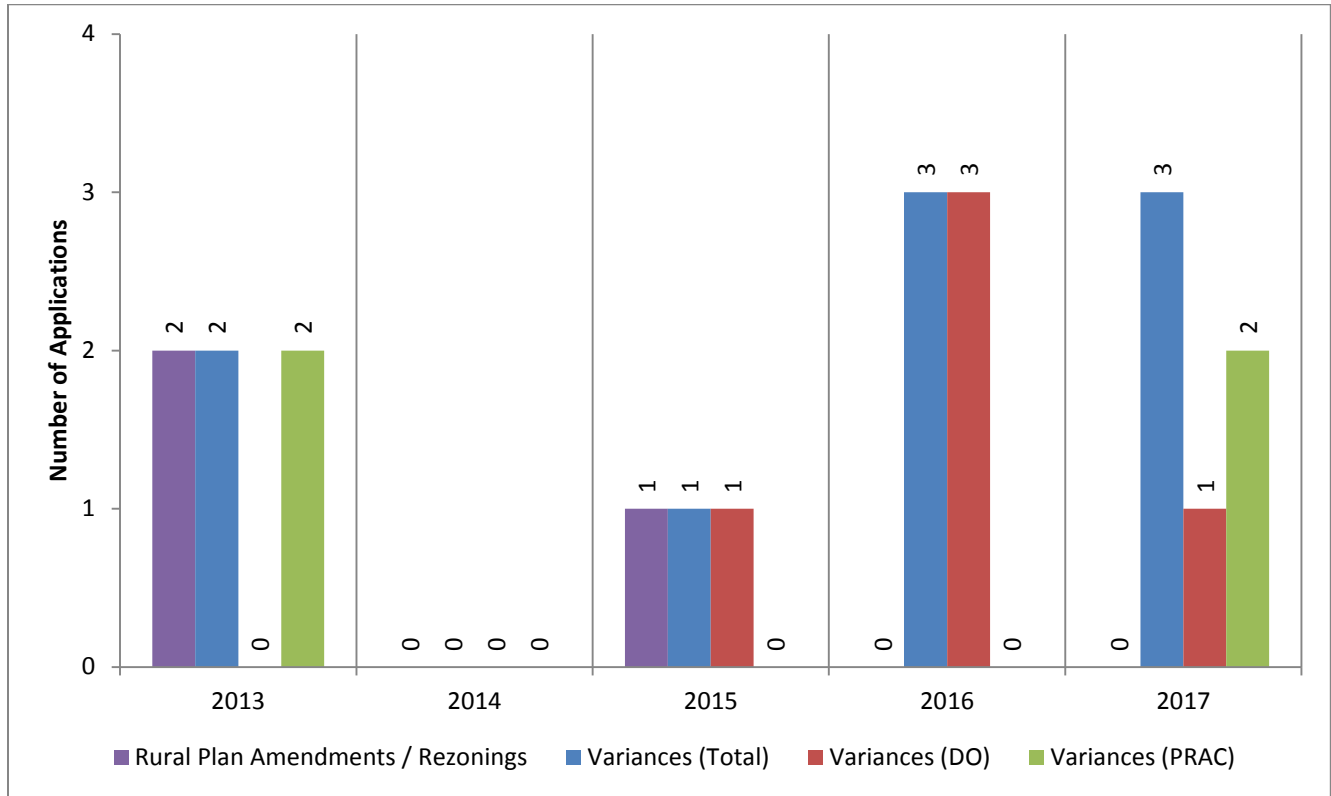


FIGURE 23: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS

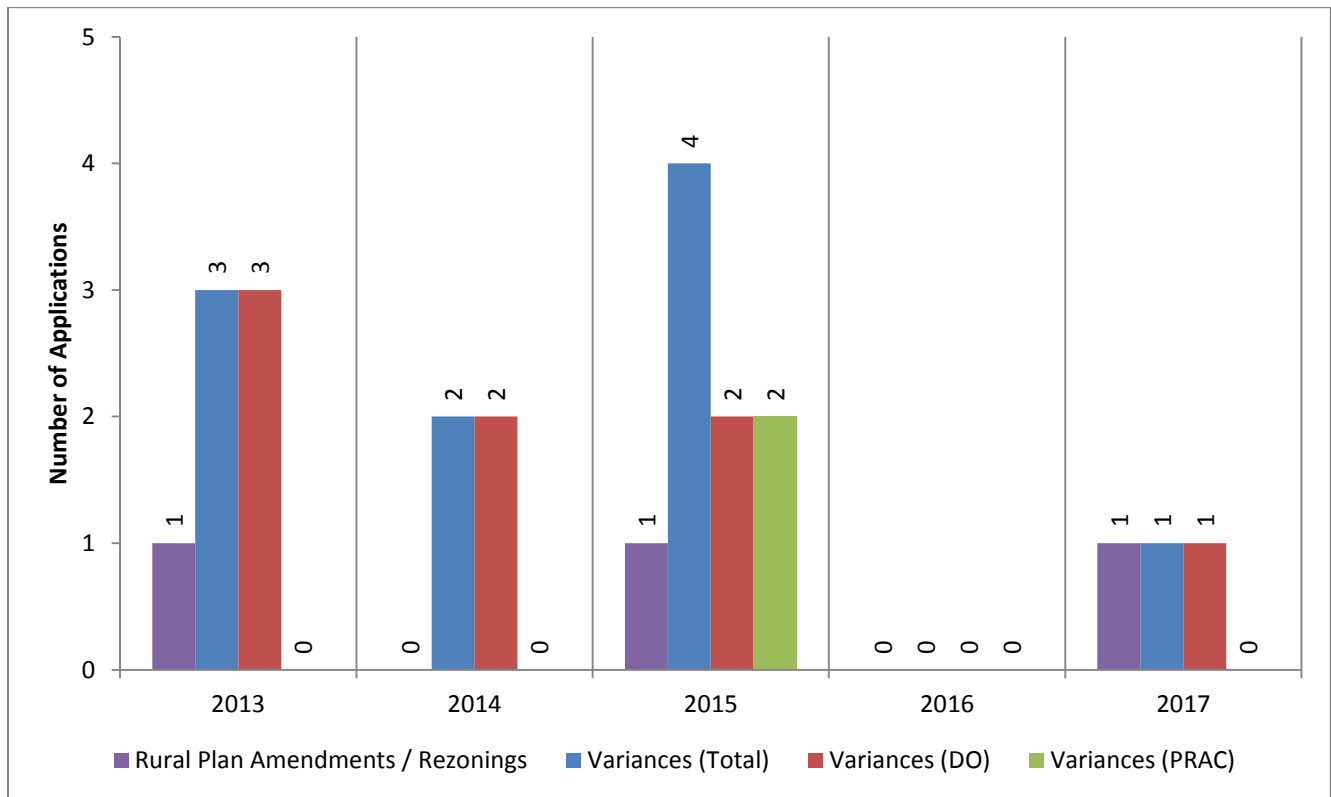


FIGURE 24: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI PLANNING APPLICATIONS

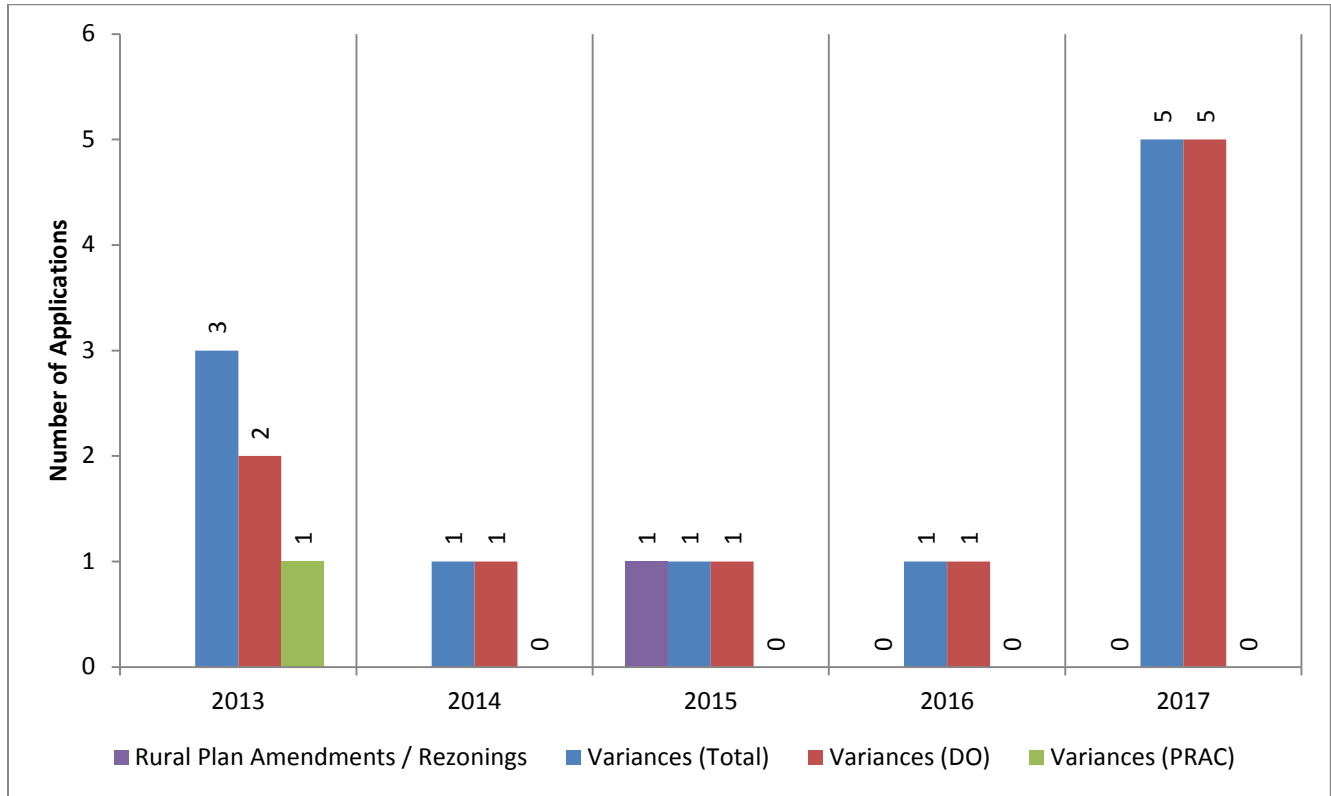
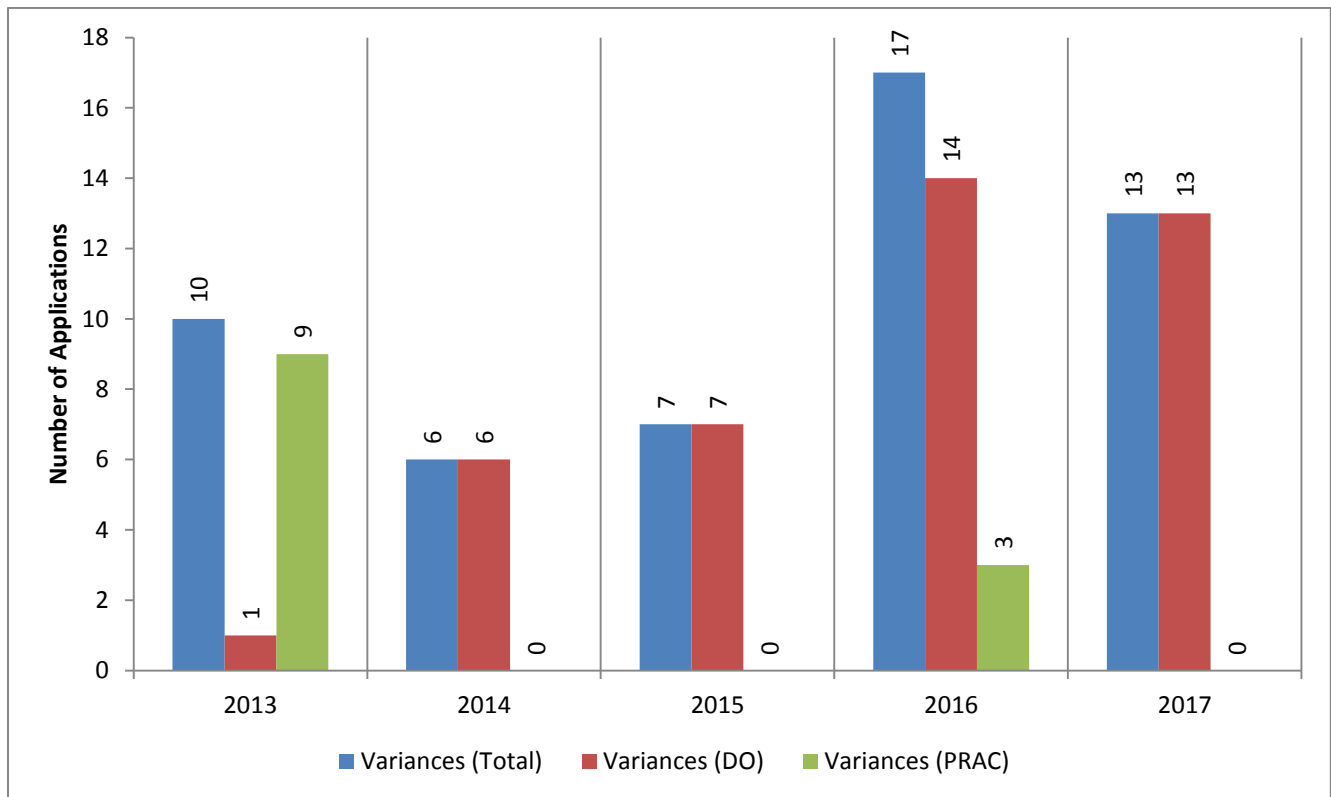


FIGURE 25: UNINCORPORATED AREAS PLANNING APPLICATIONS



6.4 ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES ACTIVITY

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

Figures 26 to 30 outline administrative applications / files activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2013 and 2017. 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

The number of administrative applications / files processed in 2017 totals 261 different files, an increase of 30% from the previous year. “Site Plan Reviews” more than doubled during the year; 92 compared to 43 in 2016. The majority of these reviews were handled for the City of Miramichi (75). A total of 87 “Other Documents” were received, counting 43 of them in the unincorporated areas.

FIGURE 26: CITY OF MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

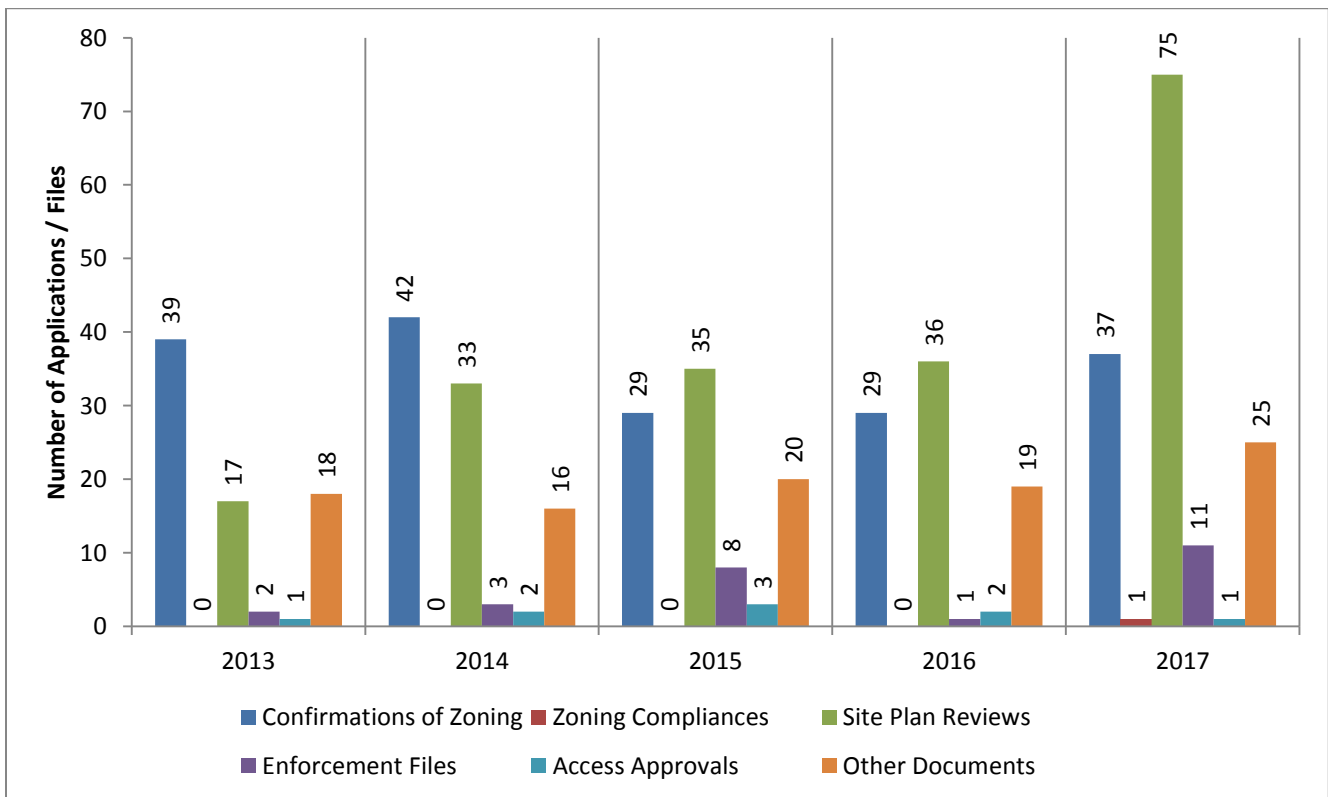


FIGURE 27: VILLAGE OF BLACKVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

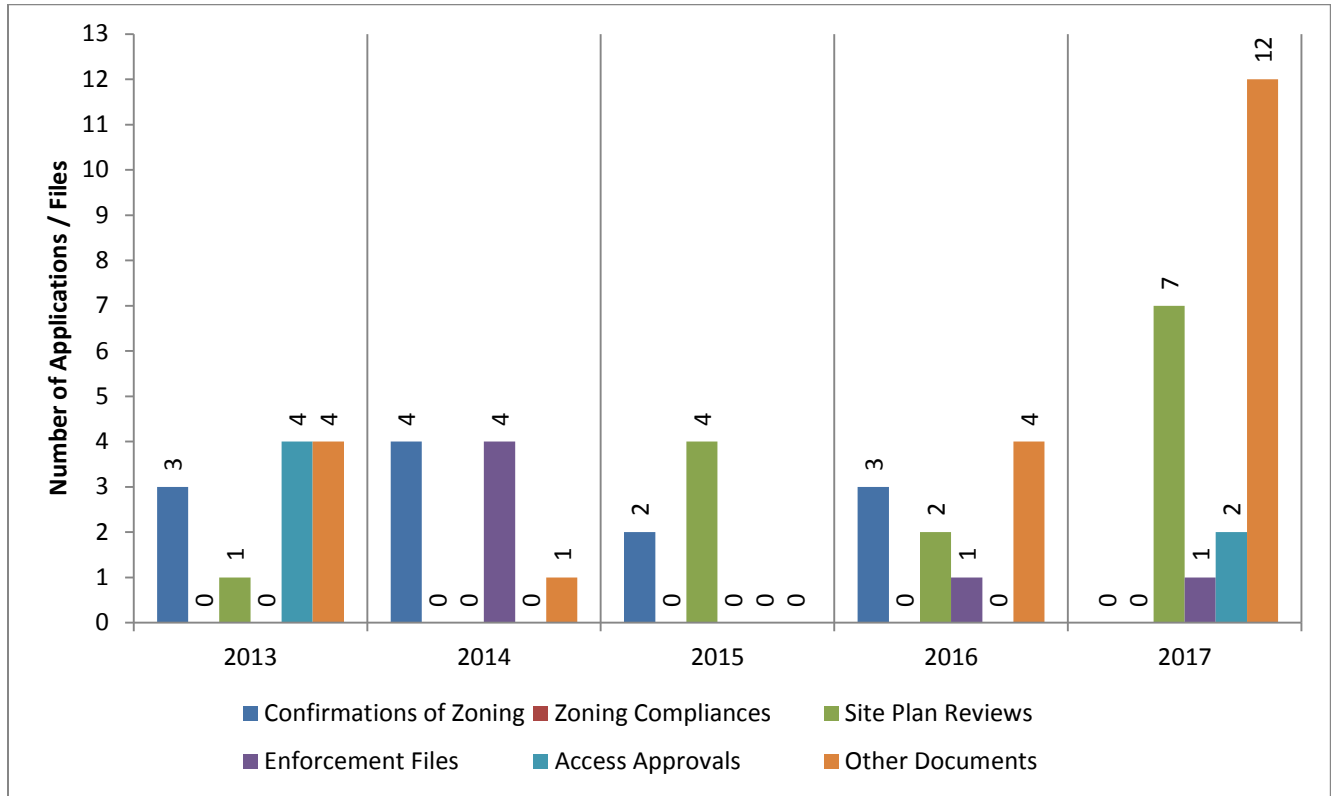


FIGURE 28: VILLAGE OF DOAKTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

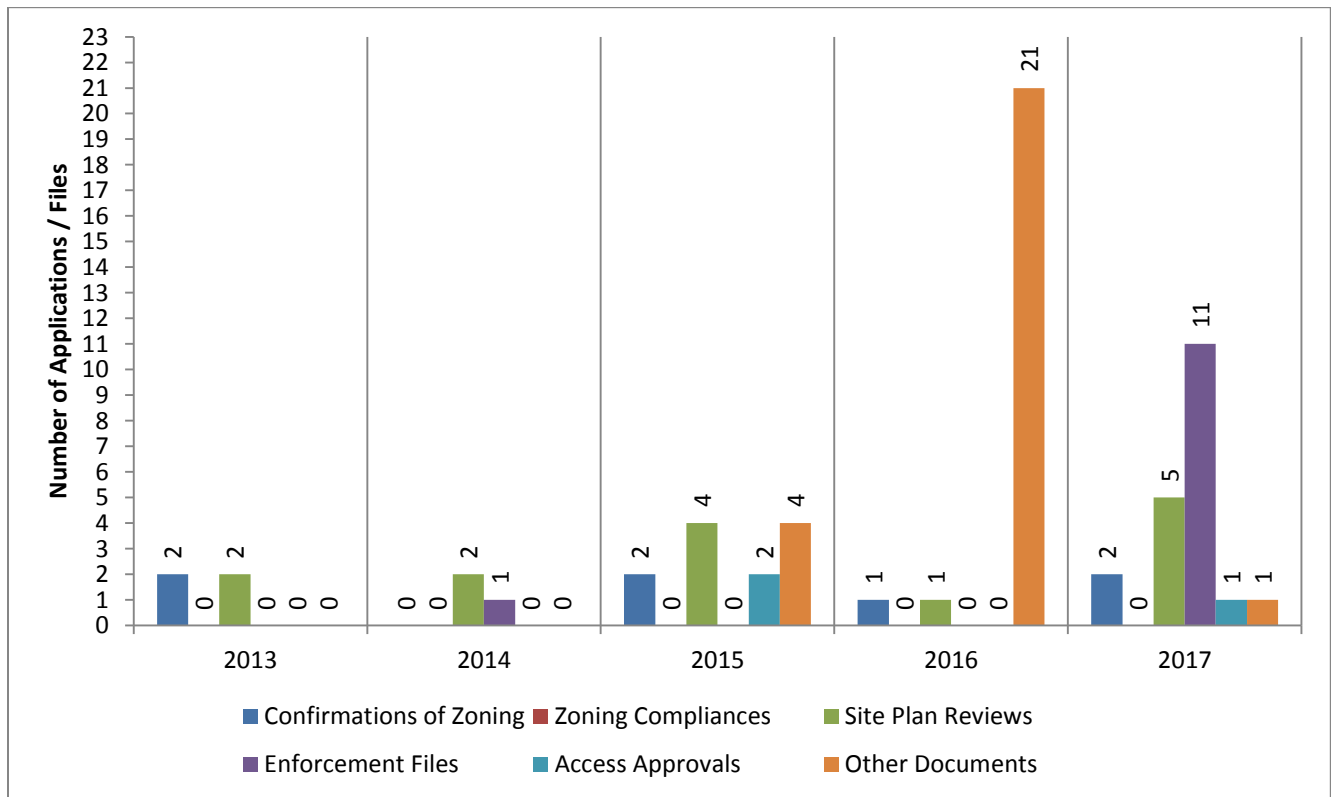


FIGURE 29: RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES

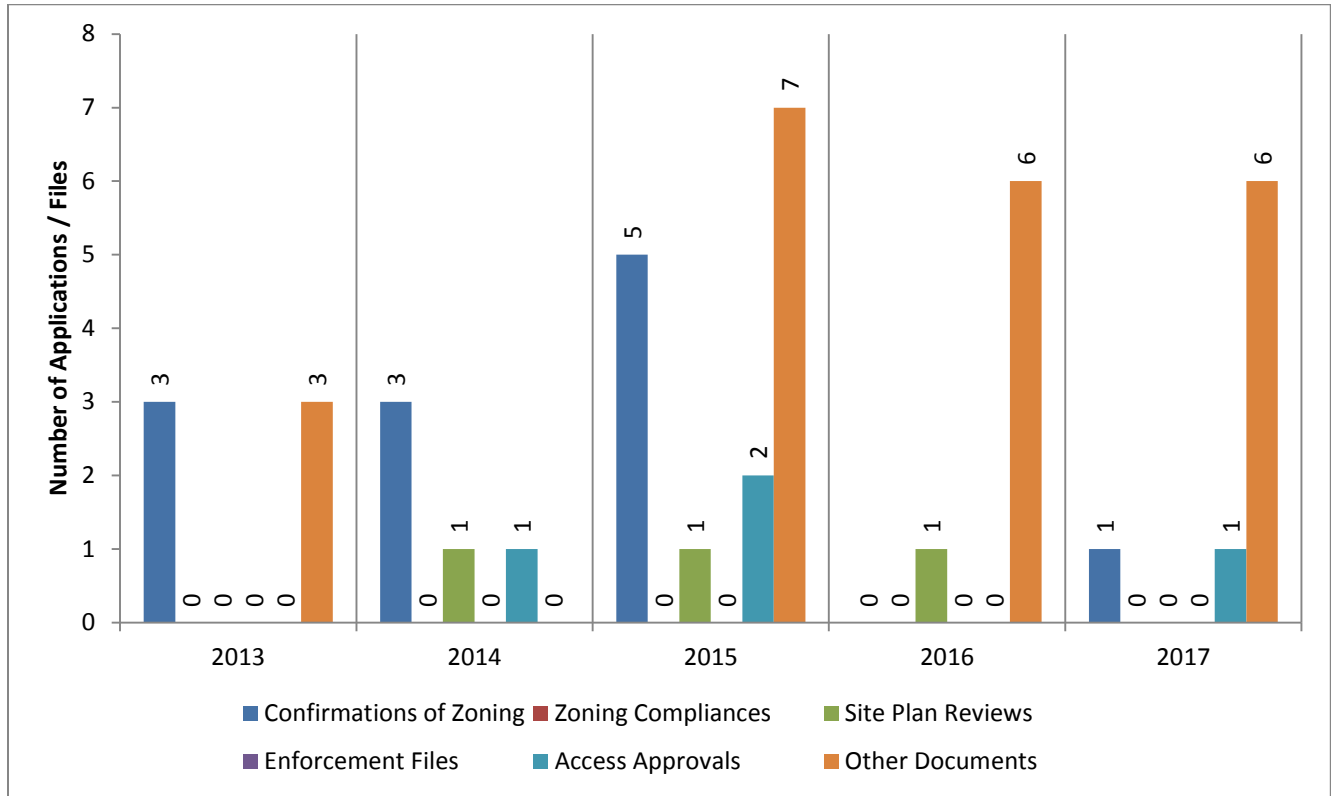
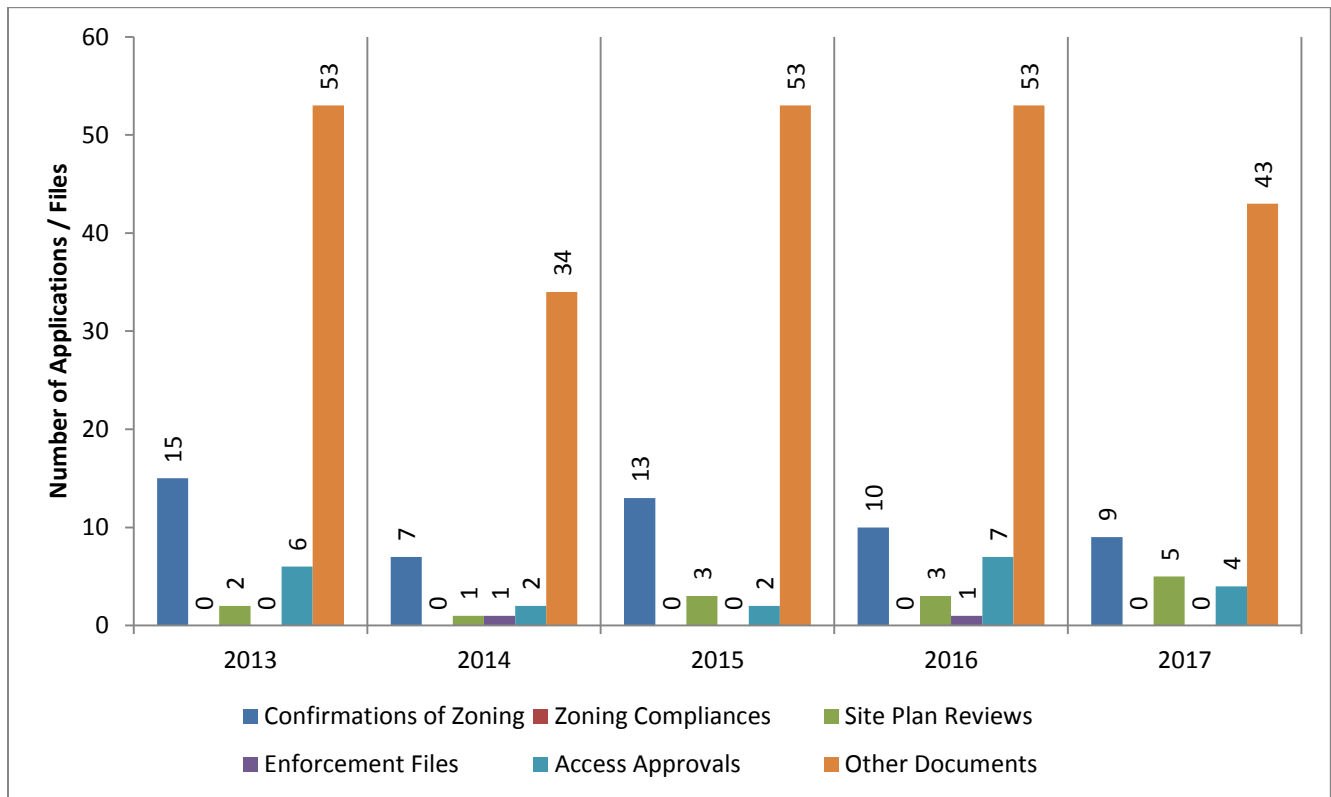


FIGURE 30: UNINCORPORATED ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS / FILES



6.5 SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS ACTIVITY

Figures 31 and 32 outline subdivision application activity in the Greater Miramichi Region between 2013 and 2017. Please refer to Tables 37 and 38 in “Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables” to view more detailed data associated with the following Figures.

Subdivision Applications for the Region increased in all municipalities and the unincorporated areas by 52% compared to the previous year. However, the creation of lots decreased by 20% overall. The majority (53%) of applications came from the unincorporated areas. As a result, the majority (61%) of new lots were created in these areas.

FIGURE 31: SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS IN GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION

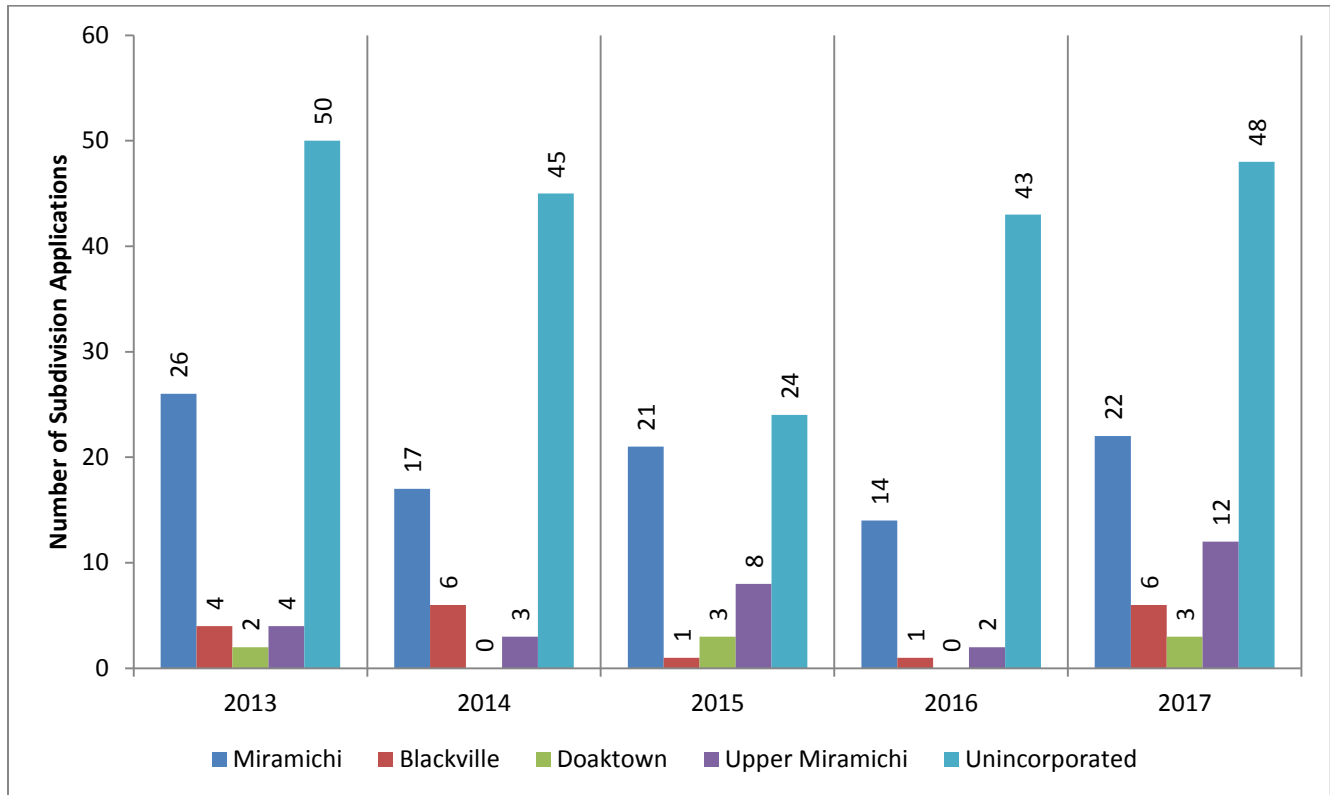
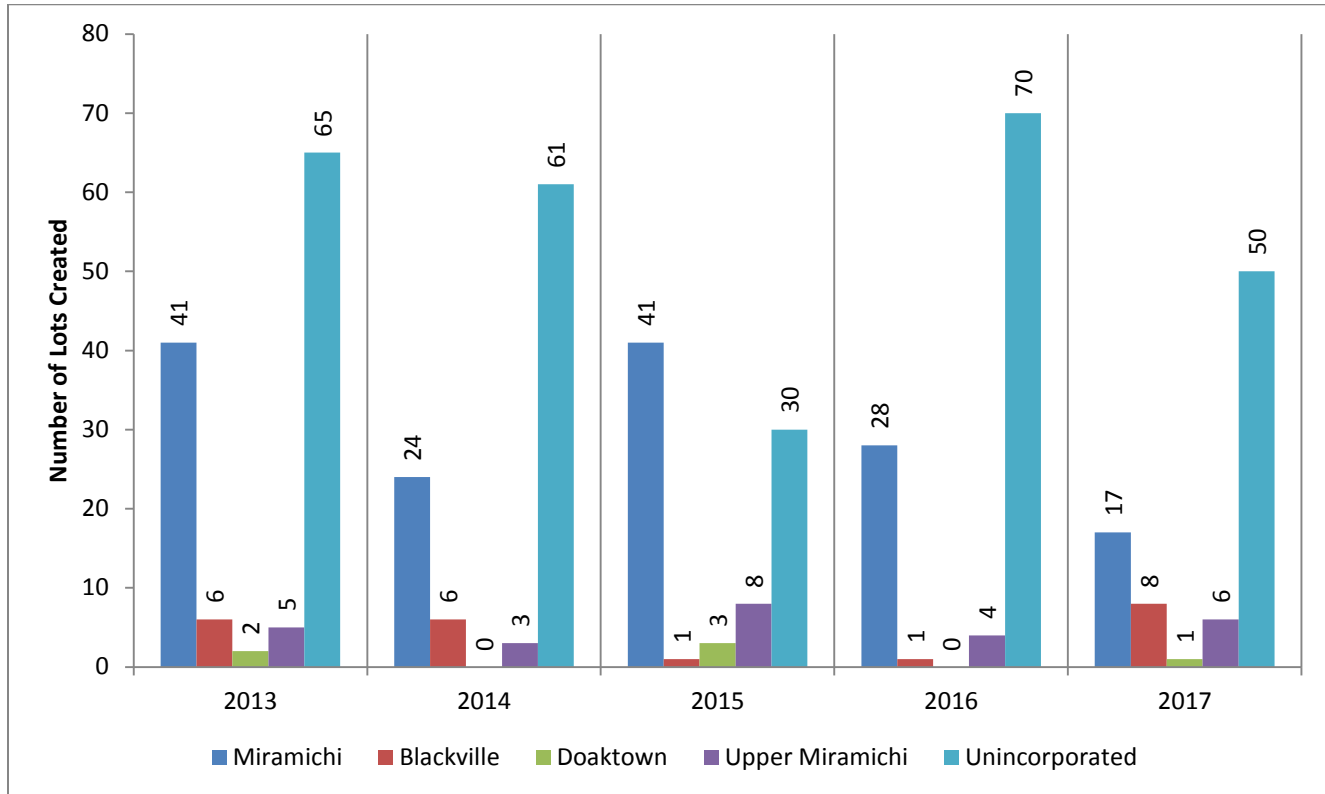


FIGURE 32: NEW LOTS CREATED IN THE GREATER MIRAMICHI REGION



SECTION C – SOLID WASTE SERVICES

7 Tonnage Report

7.1 TIPPING FEES

As of January 2017, tipping fees at Red Pine Sanitary Landfill Facility (Chaleur RSC3) increased to \$80.90 per Metric Tonne (MT) for regular waste and increased to \$35.50 per MT for Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste. Tables 8 and 9 below give breakdowns of tipping fees for 2017 for municipal waste and for the Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial (ICI) sector.

TABLE 8: REGULAR WASTE TIPPING FEE

Regular Waste (Residential and ICI Sector)	Breakdown of Total Tip Fee (per MT)
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tip Fee	\$55.50
RSC5 Surcharge	\$25.40
Total Tip Fee	\$80.90

TABLE 9: C&D WASTE TIPPING FEE

C and D Waste	Breakdown of Fee (per MT)
Red Pine Sanitary Landfill - Tip Fee	\$30.00
RSC5 Surcharge	\$5.50
Total Tip Fee	\$35.50

7.2 TONNAGE COLLECTION

In 2017, the Greater Miramichi Region produced a total of 22,080.23 MT of waste that was direct-hauled to the Red Pine Sanitary Landfill located in Allardville, NB (see Figure 33). The total tonnage increased from 2016 to 2017 by 1,682.03 MT.

The increase in tonnage could be the consequence of the January 2017 Ice Storm which resulted in additional food waste and yard debris.

Figure 34 outlines the total waste collection by municipalities, LSDs, and First Nations (FNs). Please refer to Table 42 in “Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables” to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.

FIGURE 33: TONNAGE BY SECTOR FOR 2017

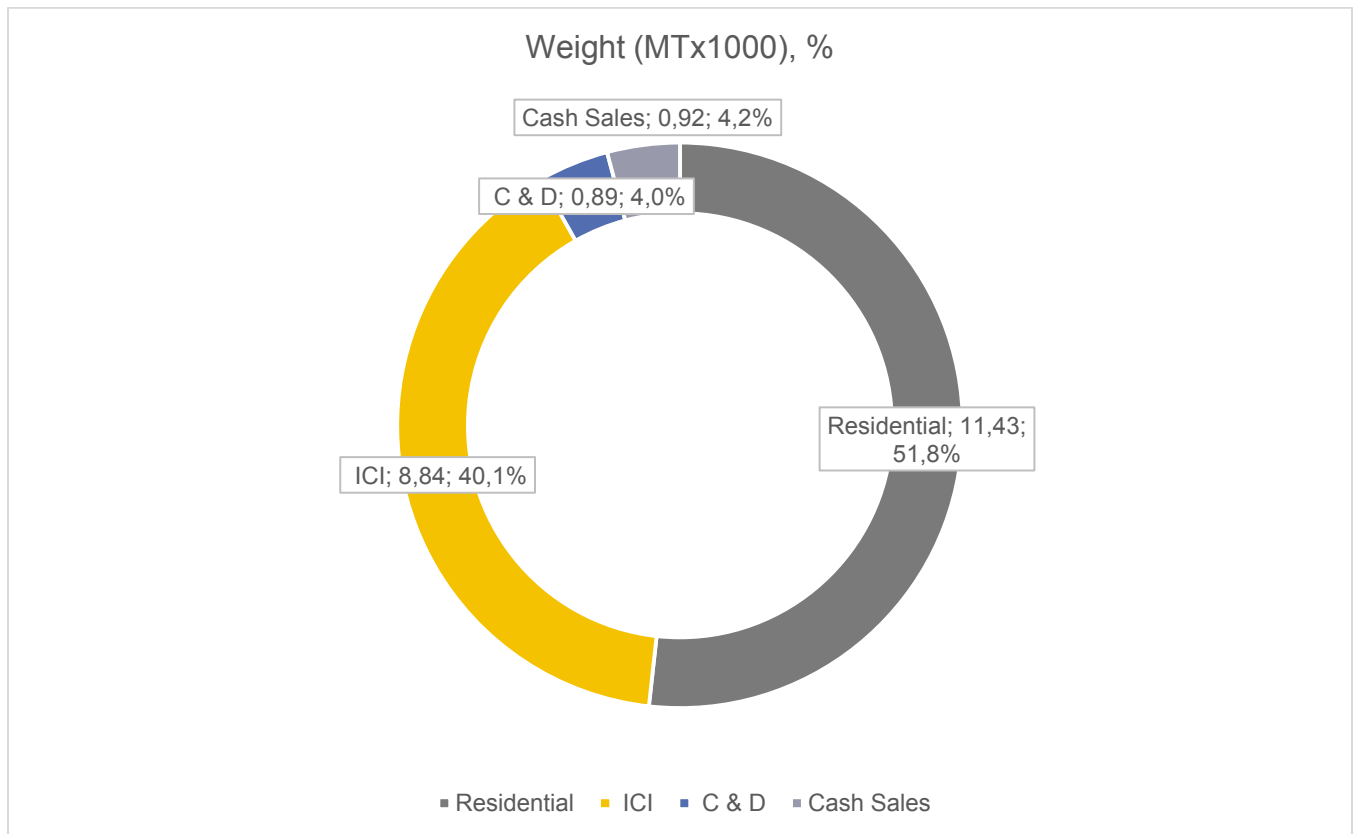
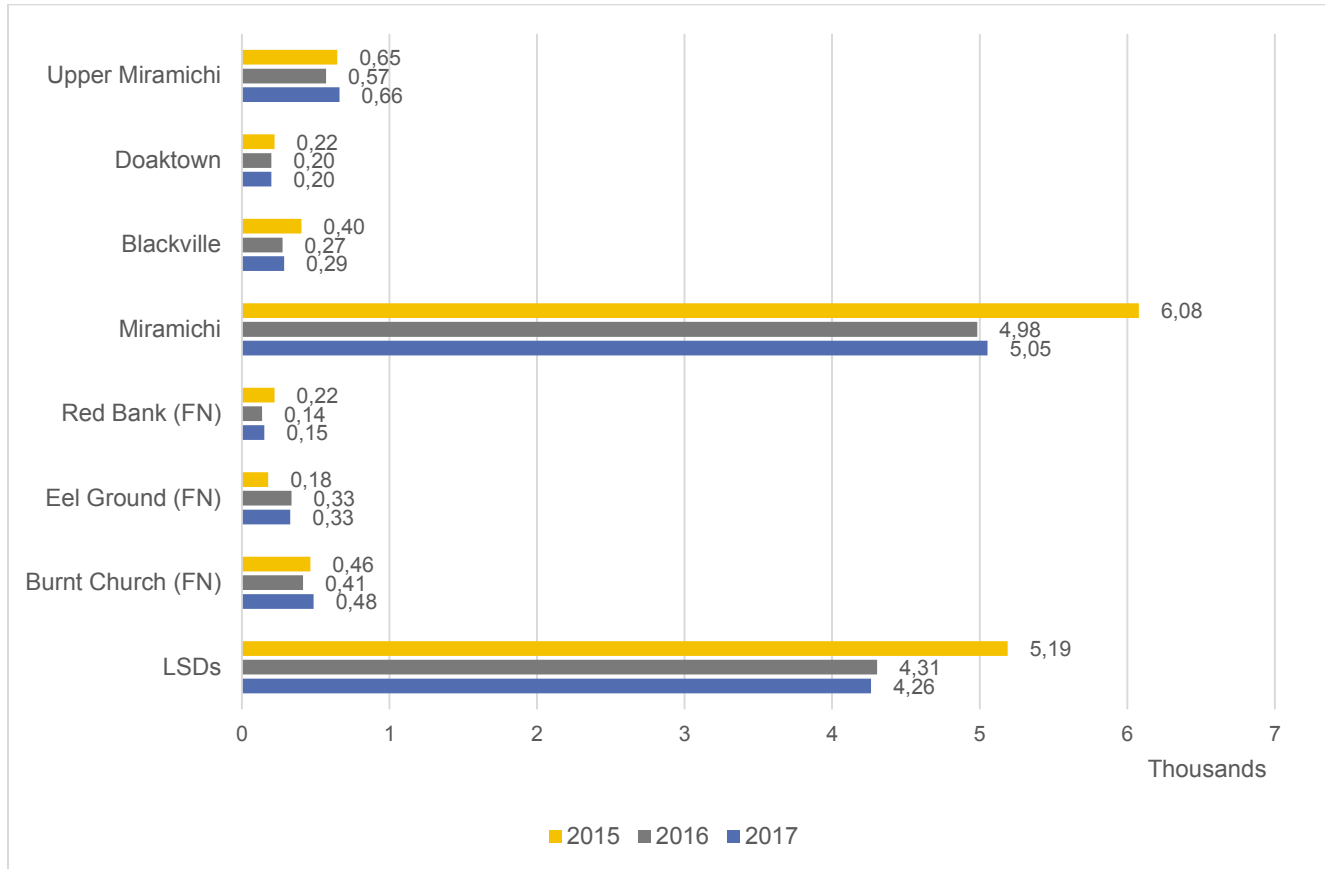


FIGURE 34: WASTE COLLECTION BY MUNICIPALITIES, LSDs, AND FIRST NATIONS (FNs) IN MTX1000



8 Solid Waste Services Annual Summary

8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

Solid Waste Services finalized the Organic Waste Reduction Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) project in March 2017. The GMRSC – Solid Waste Services had received \$30,000.00 to raise awareness on the alternative methods to disposing organic waste to inform the residents of the GMRSC region. Seeds and scratch pads were purchased as promotional items to hand out at composting workshops and schools. A bilingual newsletter was created in-house and delivered via Canada Post to each household. The newsletter included information on composting, vermicomposting, Green Cones, tips on reducing organic waste, and a listing of the scheduled 2017 Composting Workshops.

Solid Waste Services was awarded \$50,000 in ETF monies for a “Waste Reduction Awareness Campaign”. The project assisted to raise awareness and educate the public on proper disposal of waste, programs offered through the GMRSC and to develop the Recycle Coach app. A bilingual Activity Book was updated and reprinted which contains educational games and puzzles for school aged children. A significant portion of the funds were used to advertise on local radio stations, local newspaper, local magazine, and municipal newsletters.

8.2 GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND

Solid Waste Services received a grant from Green Municipal Fund (GMF) in the amount of \$27,500 to engage with a consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study for the Greater Miramichi Enviro-Centre. Upon posting a Request For Proposal, Dillon Consulting Limited was awarded the contract.

The Department of Environments and Local Government contributed \$15,000 towards the feasibility study for the Greater Miramichi Enviro-Centre.

The feasibility study will determine if a permanent facility is viable in the GMRSC region. The results will include:

- The viability of implementing a facility in the GMRSC region;
- An analysis of the options available to the GMRSC given the geography of the region;
- The anticipated volume of materials;
- Optimal location for the facility;
- Preliminary site design;
- Initial capital cost to establish a facility;
- Options for a permanent building or other innovative options, such as installation of portable units or establishing a mobile collection system;
- Employment generation; and,
- Estimated annual operating cost.

8.3 SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2018 CALENDAR

The 2018 Calendar was delivered to each household in the Greater Miramichi Region via Canada Post (see Figure 35). The cover highlighted the Residential Curbside Recycling program results to-date and the introduction of the Recycle Coach app. 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 (see Table 10).

FIGURE 35: SOLID WASTE SERVICES 2018 CALENDAR COVER

Residents of the Greater Miramichi Region have diverted
Les résidents de la région du Grand Miramichi ont détourné
7,384,604 lbs = 174% Increase Augmentation
of recyclables from landfill in two years!
de matières recyclables du site d'enfouissement dans deux ans!

Look inside for important dates and information!
Collection Schedule
Recycling Programs
Organic Waste Reduction
Household Hazardous Waste Collections
Download our free app **recycleCoach**

Regardez à l'intérieur pour des dates et des informations importantes!
Horaire de Collecte
Programmes de recyclage
Réduction des déchets organiques
Collectes de déchets domestiques dangereux
Téléchargez l'application **recycleCoach** gratuite

Calendrier 2018 Calendar
Recycling Hotline / Ligne Info-recyclage: 506.778.CART (2278)
Toll Free / Sans Frais: 1.844.307.CART (2278)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Services des déchets solides
Solid Waste Services
COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI
www.gretermiramichirsc.ca
f GMRSC - Solid Waste Services
CSRGM - Services des déchets solides

TABLE 10: CALENDAR SPONSORS

Sponsor	Waste Theme	Number of Pages Advertising
Recycle NB	Used tires, paint, electronics (E-waste), oil and glycol	4
Fero	Construction and Demolition	1

8.4 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Solid Waste Services purchased promotional items to distribute during tradeshows and various appearances. These new promo items include:

- Reusable water bottles
- Magnifying rulers
- Hand sanitizers
- Pens made from recycled plastic bottles
- Pencils made from recycled newspaper
- Scratch pads
- Tumblers

- Stickers with an environmental message
- Temporary tattoos
- Seeds for Bees

8.5 APPEARANCES

The Waste Reduction Coordinator provided several workshops and presentations to numerous schools, local community groups and various events. Tables 11 and 12 summarize events and school-based appearances on behalf of Solid Waste Services. Figure 36 is an assortment of images from these events, appearances, and information sessions.

TABLE 11: EVENT-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	Location
February 22, 2017	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
March 16, 2017	Science East – Gretna Green
March 25, 2017	Metepeneniagiag Spring Equinox
May 2, 2017	Eel Ground Wellness Fair
May 2, 2017	Composting Workshop – Miramichi
May 4, 2017	Composting Workshop – Barryville
May 9, 2017	Composting Workshop – Doaktown
May 11, 2017	Composting Workshop – Upper Miramichi
May 18, 2017	Composting Workshop – Burnt Church
May 23, 2017	Composting Workshop – Baie Ste-Anne
May 24, 2017	Composting Workshop – Blackville
May 30, 2017	Composting Workshop – St-Wilfred
June 1, 2017	Science East – Carrefour Beausoleil
September 16, 2017	Blackville Wellness Fair
September 21, 2017	Doaktown Wellness Fair
October 23, 2017	Girl Guides – Blackville
November 2, 2017	Science East – Max Aitken

TABLE 12: SCHOOL-BASED APPEARANCES

Date	School	Topic
February 20, 2017	École René Chouinard	Battery Recycling
February 21, 2017	North and South Esk Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
February 23, 2017	North and South Esk Regional	Recycling (3 r's)
February 27, 2017	École régionale Baie Ste-Anne	Recycling (3 r's)
March 2, 2017	Nelson Rural	Recycling (3 r's)
March 14, 2017	Natoaganeg School	Recycling (3 r's)
April 4, 2017	Saint Andrews Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
April 5, 2017	Dr. Losier	Recycling (3 r's)
April 20, 2017	Nelson Rural	Recycling (3 r's)
October 10, 2017	Central New Brunswick Academy	Recycling (3 r's)
October 18, 2017	Doaktown Elementary	Recycling (3 r's)
November 9, 2017	North and South Esk Regional	Composting

FIGURE 36: PICTURES FROM EVENTS



8.6 SEMINARS

Solid Waste Services attended seminars. Table 13 summarizes the seminars attended.

TABLE 13: LIST OF SEMINARS AND TOURS

Date	Location
March 13 – 17, 2017	Americana Conferences, Montreal, QC

9 Waste Reduction and Diversion

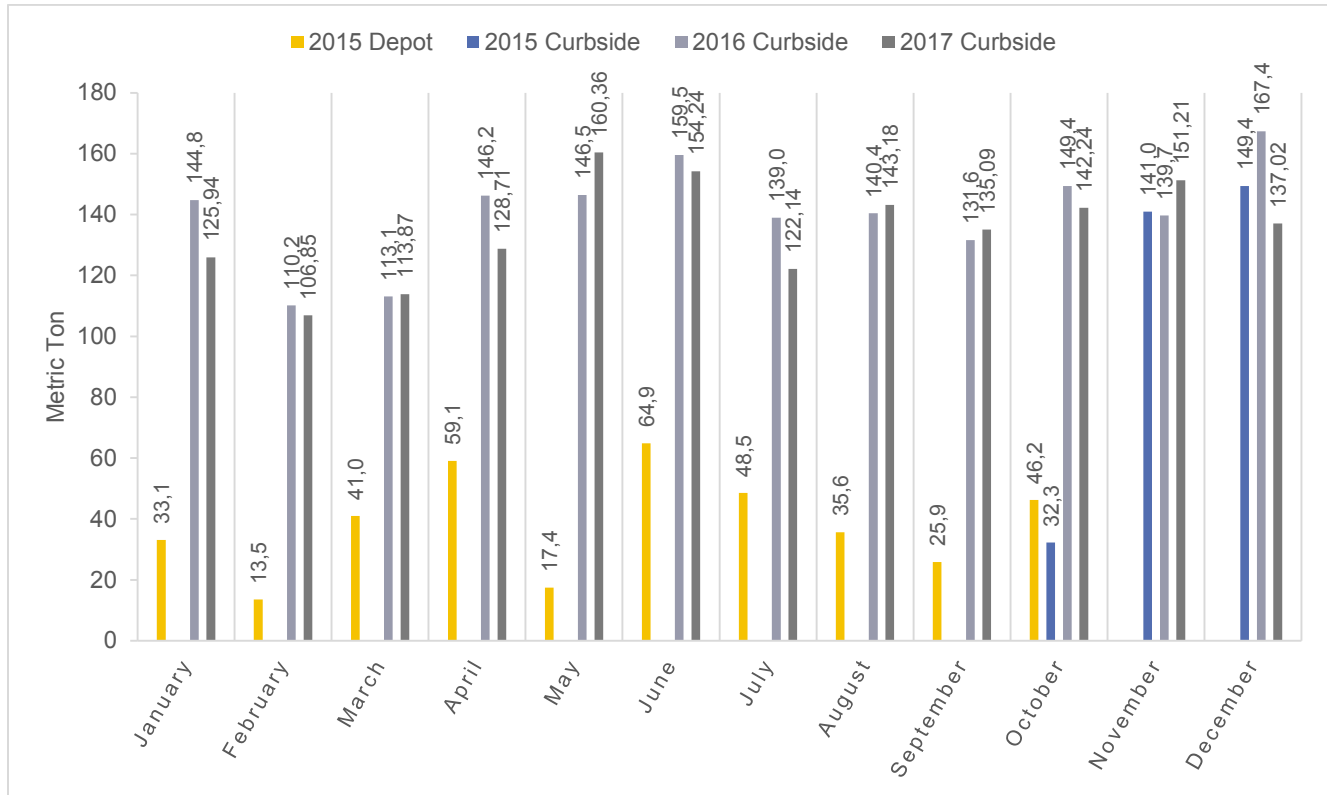
9.1 DIVERSION REPORT – RECYCLING STATISTICS

Mélanie Cripps, Waste Reduction Coordinator, organized waste diversion programs including Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-waste) Collections. Other waste reduction initiatives included composting workshops, classroom visits, and promotion of various programs.

Figure 37 outlines recycling statistics for 2016 and 2017. A total of 1,682.03 MT was diverted from the landfill through the Residential Curbside Recycling Program in 2017. Waste diverted from the landfill that is recycled results in savings on tip fee charges and will prolong the use of the landfill cell. Please

refer to Table 49 in “Appendix F – Solid Waste Services Tables” to view more detailed data associated with the following graph.

FIGURE 37: WASTE DIVERSION BY RECYCLING DEPOT AND CURBSIDE PROGRAMS



9.2 BATTERY DEPOTS

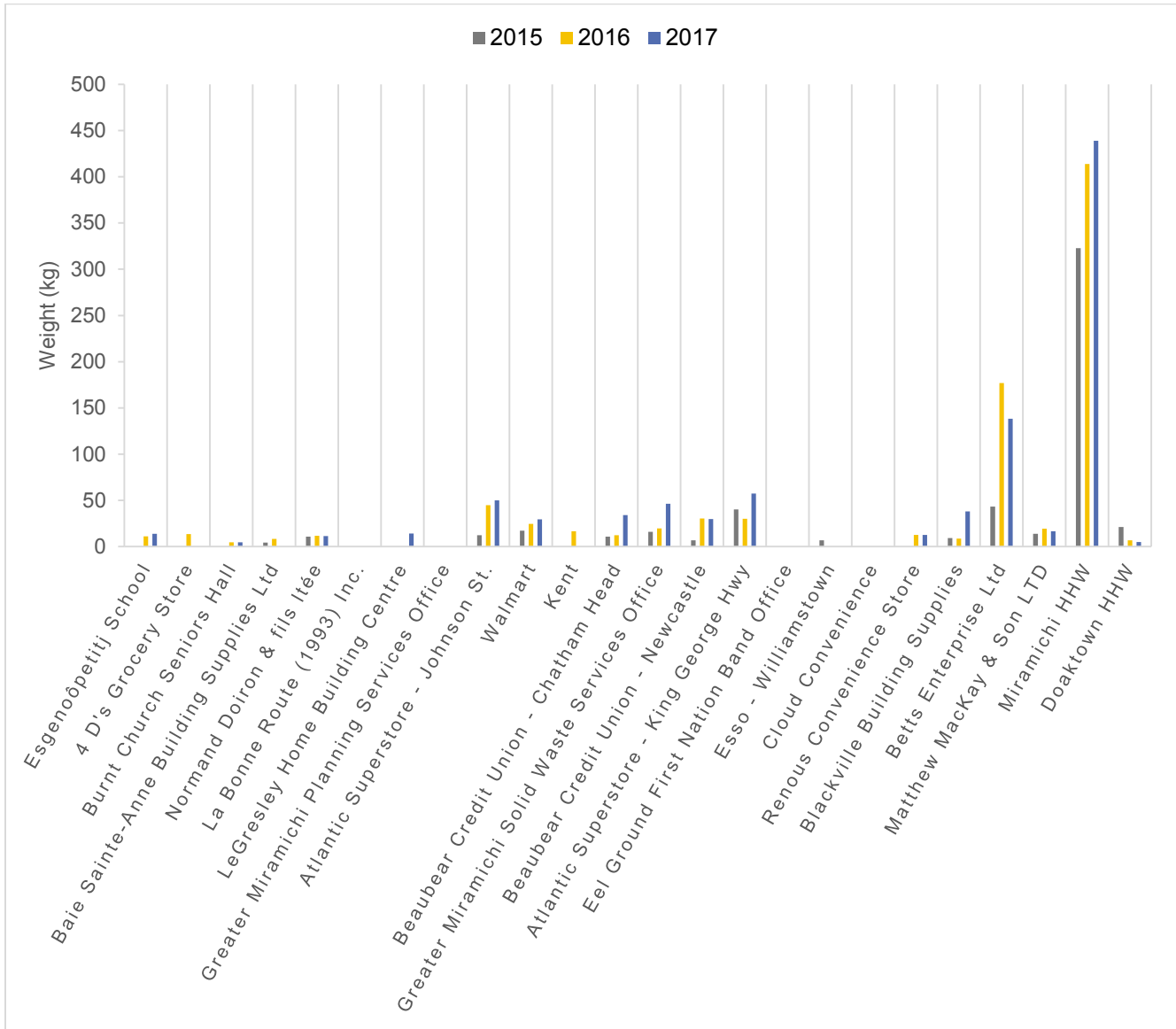
In 2017, Solid Waste Services added additional battery and cell phone drop-off sites throughout the Greater Miramichi Region. A total of 23 drop-off locations are available to residents to recycle their old cell phones and used batteries.

FIGURE 38: EXAMPLE OF BATTERIES AND CELL PHONES RECYCLING BOX



In 2017, a total of 974 kg of batteries and cell phones was diverted from the landfill through collections from drop-off sites and HHW events (Figure 39 compares diversion amounts from 2016-2017). Batteries collected at HHW and E-Waste events were segregated to be properly sorted and packaged by volunteers resulting in cost savings.

FIGURE 39: CELL PHONE AND BATTERY WASTE DIVERSION FROM DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



9.3 HHW AND ELECTRONIC (E-WASTE) COLLECTION

A total of three HHW and E-Waste collections were held in 2017. The working crew included staff from the GMRSC, volunteers from various groups, and residents. Solid Waste Services invited Doran's Recycling Ltd. to collect E-waste during the spring and fall HHW & E-waste events.

The spring HHW and E-Waste collections took place June 3, 2017 in the City of Miramichi (Saint Mary's Church) and the Village of Doaktown (Fire Hall) (see Figure 40). Approximately 519 and 66 vehicles were served respectively. Approximately 10 MT of E-Waste was collected and recycled. The fall HHW and E-Waste collection took place on September 30, 2017 in Miramichi. A total of 383 vehicles were served and 4.5 MT E-Waste was collected and recycled at this event.

Flammables, household batteries, propane tanks, paint and oil seem to comprise the majority of hazardous materials collected. During these events, reusable bags containing material providing information and locations to dispose of paint, E-waste, oil and batteries year round, were distributed to participants.

Approximately 14.5 MT of E-waste was diverted from the landfill and sent for recycling (see Figure 41).

FIGURE 40: SPRING AND FALL HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

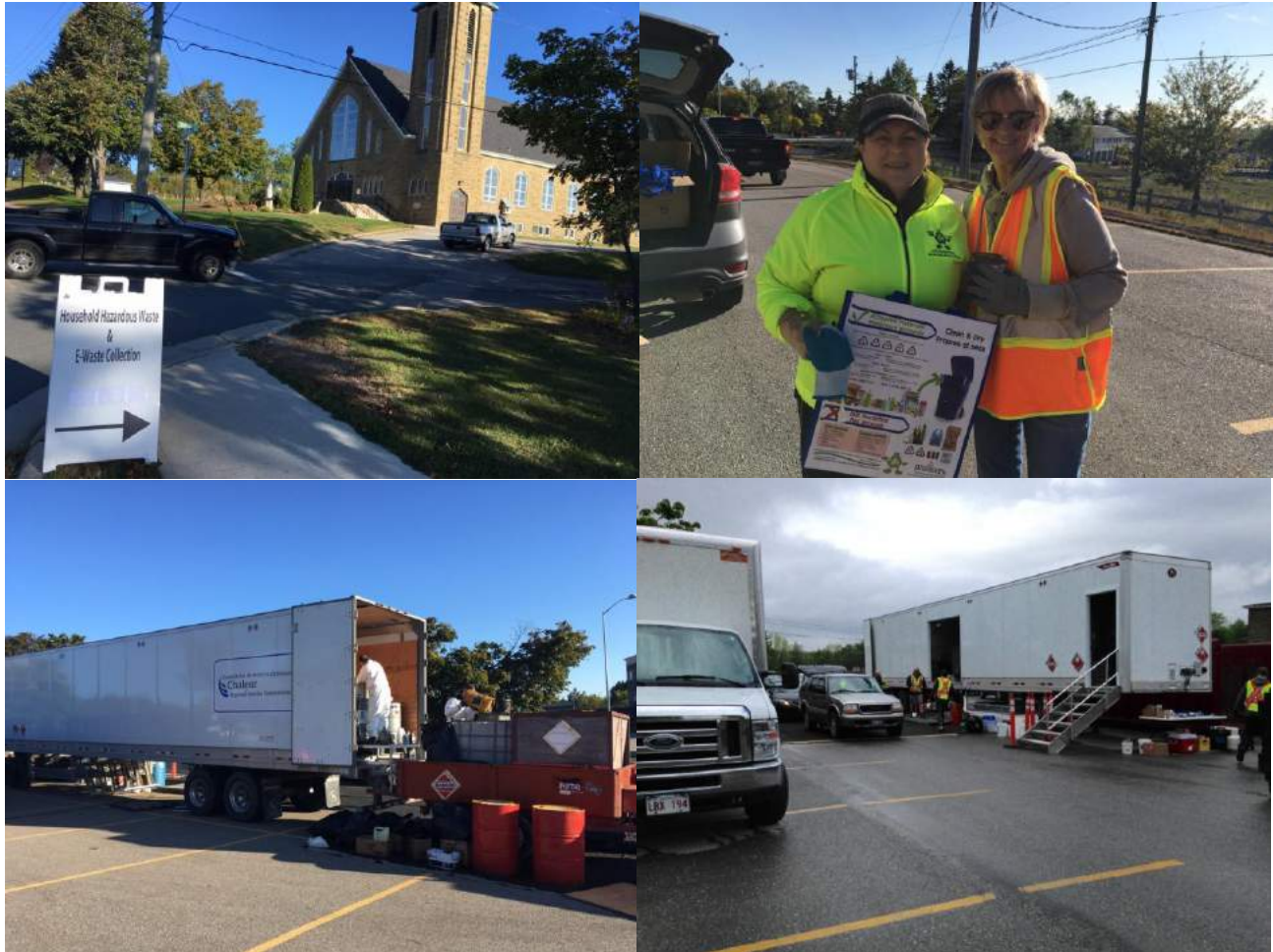
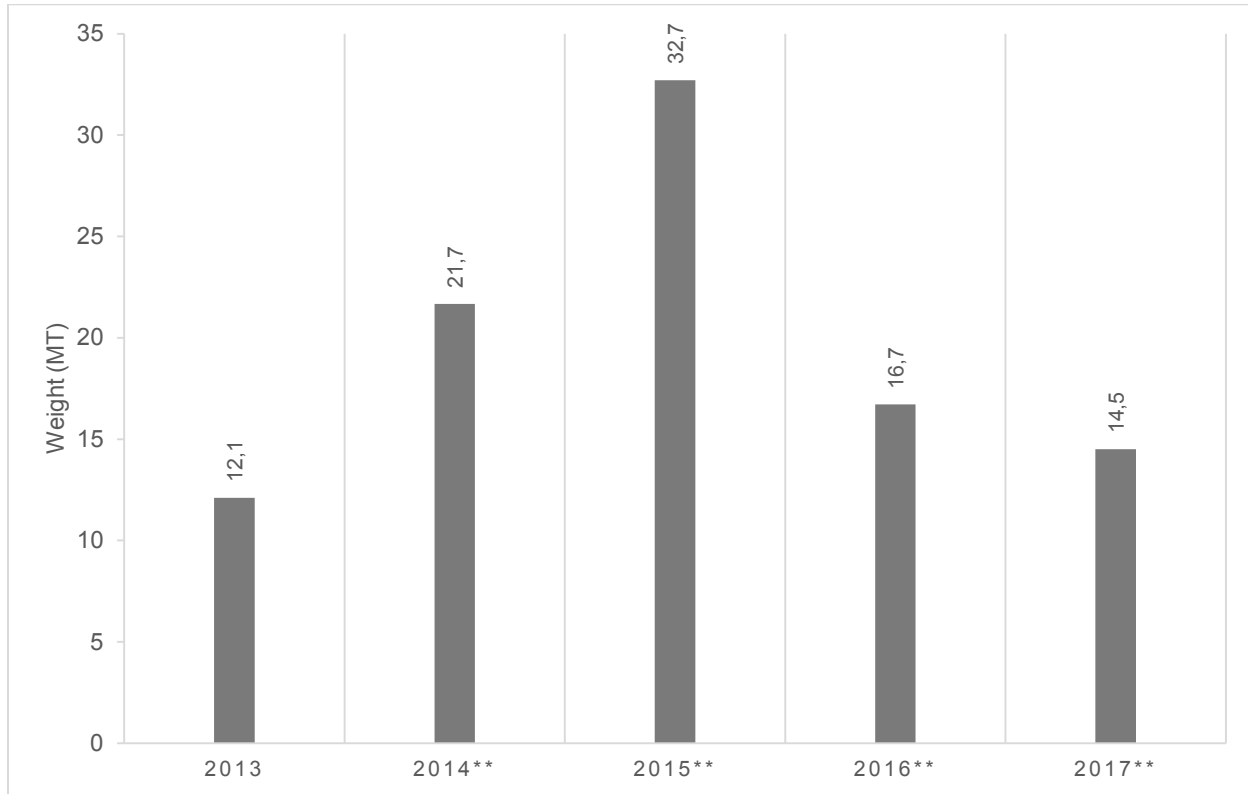


FIGURE 41: E-WASTE DIVERSION FROM HHW AND E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS



** Two Spring collections

10 FUTURE DIRECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

- Analyse the Enviro-Centre Feasibility Study and decision whether or not to proceed.
- Pending approval of ETF application – Green Fair Trade Shown within GMRSC Region Explore potential interest and community partnership.
- Pending approval of joint ETF application with Chaleur RSC – Recyclables Composition Audit.
- Examine feasibility for sorting/recycling locations in Northern New Brunswick with neighbouring RSCs.
- Evaluate feasibility of implementing ICI participation in recycling program.
- Explore options for recovery of compact fluorescent lights.
- Promotion of Recycle Coach App for notifications, alerts and education pertaining to waste and recycling collection schedules and special events.
- Ongoing promotion and education of recycling and other waste reduction programs.
- Examine optimized collection for the Greater Miramichi Region which will allow for restructuring waste collection zones, resulting in competitive contract negotiations.
- Participate in the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.
- Other initiatives are articulated in the “GMRSC Operational Workplan (2018-2020)” (see Appendix B).

SECTION D – APPENDICES

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

GMRSC Board Member Attendance

Member	Meeting Attendance
Douglas Munn - Chairman	5/7
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	5/7
Christopher Hennessy	3/7
Adam Lordon	5/7
Brian King	1/7
Gerald Ross	2/7
Lynn Gregan	4/7
John Goodfellow	7/7
Robert Hallihan	6/7
Elizabeth Bowes	7/7

PRAC Member Attendance

Member	Meeting Attendance
William Treadwell - Chairman	6/7
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	6/7
Kurt Marks	7/7
Scott Clowater	7/7
Robert Hallihan	7/7
Lynn Gregan	3/7
Robert McLeod	7/7
Burton Cain	4/7

GMRSC Board Member Per Diem and Expenses

Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
Douglas Munn - Chairman	\$800.00	\$751.94	\$1,551.94
Beverly Gaston -Vice Chairman	\$600.00	\$432.00	\$1,032.00
Elizabeth Bowes	\$975.00	\$257.65	\$1,232.65
Gerald Ross	\$225.00	\$73.80	\$298.80
John Goodfellow	\$900.00	\$212.22	\$1,112.22
Robert Hallihan	\$600.00	\$269.78	\$869.78
Lynn Gregan	\$600.00	\$307.50	\$907.50
Adam Lordon	\$600.00	\$32.80	\$632.80
Christopher Hennessy	\$300.00	\$164.00	\$464.00
TOTALS	\$5,600.00	\$2,501.69	\$8,101.69

PRAC Member Per Diem and Expenses

Board Member	Per Diem	Mileage	Total
William Treadwell - Chairman	\$800.00	\$71.75	\$871.75
Joseph Veriker - Vice Chairman	\$600.00	\$25.83	\$625.83
Kurt Marks	\$675.00	\$362.00	\$1,037.00
Scott Clowater	\$675.00	\$721.60	\$1,396.60
Robert Hallihan	\$600.00	\$275.52	\$875.52
Lynn Gregan	\$375.00	164,00	\$375.00
Robert McLeod	\$675.00	\$262.40	\$937.40
Burton Cain	\$450.00	\$123.30	\$573.30
TOTALS	\$4,850.00	\$1,842.40	\$6,692.40

Appendix B – GMRSC Operational Workplan (2018-2020)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE SERVICES RÉGIONAUX DU GRAND MIRAMICHI

Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission Operational Workplan (2018-2020)

January 2018

Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission Operational Workplan (2018-2020)

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission) has developed this Operational Workplan to provide direction and clarity of the tasks, initiatives and projects that will be undertaken for the member communities over the next three years (2018-2020). The Commission Visioning Session held on November 5, 2013 served as the starting point and source for much of the Operational Workplan. Over the subsequent years many additional areas of focus have emerged and thus are reflected in the new Operational Workplan.

The specific tasks, projects and initiatives are illustrated in the GMRSC Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (Attached). Within each of the Service Categories, there are subcategories that provide specific details.

Once approved by the Board, the Workplan will provide a checklist to review the activities each year. Although this is an approved Operational Workplan; there can be changes made; however if changes do occur (as directed by the Board) other initiatives may as a result be delayed or eliminated. Commission Staff, under the direction of the Executive Director, are responsible to undertake the initiatives contained in the Operation Workplan. The Workplan will be referred to during annual budget preparations to determine if additional funding is needed or if funds need to be allocated within the budget to ensure a specific project is initiated in any given year.

The Operational Workplan is divided into the following categories:

1. Corporate Services (CS)
2. Regional Collaboration (RC)
3. Solid Waste Services (SW)
4. Planning Services (PS)

Services or Projects are described and when (year) each will be initiated or completed. It should be noted that there are several tasks that are continuous in nature and have been identified as such. These are key components of overall service delivery of the Regional Service Commission to the member communities.

Staff resources, financial ability and the priorities of the member communities and the Commission form the basis of the timing of the when tasks or projects are scheduled to be completed. If there is a need to significantly alter the Workplan, it will be clearly articulated to the Board members.

The Operational Workplan will be posted on the Commission's website and distributed to the member communities and the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Corporate Services

This section deals with administrative, staff and other management functions of the organization. The Executive Director is primarily responsible for these activities. Many of the activities listed will occur on annual basis while others are one-time initiatives that will be addressed in a specific year.

Regional Collaboration

Collaboration at a regional level is one of the advantages of the Regional Service Commission and this section provides a listing of the type of activities that will form this service delivery function. In most instances, the items listed involve meeting, dialoguing and sharing of information with various groups to achieve collaboration on a regional basis. These regional initiatives may include mandated services of regional planning, regional recreation planning and non-mandated services such as tourism promotion and economic development.

Solid Waste Services

The disposal of solid waste and programs aimed at recycling and reducing waste is the primary focus of this service. GMRSC is one of only a few Commissions that provide a direct haul service to a landfill site, this presents challenges and opportunities. The Work Plan includes initiatives to examine ways to increase diversion rates and to make the disposal of waste more efficient for all participating members. The introduction of curbside recycling in 2015 has been well received and has resulted in increase in diversion rates. There are specific tasks related to education, public awareness programs and other directed initiatives to increase diversion rates and promote recycling.

Planning Services

These services include the preparation of municipal by-laws, such as Rural Plans, Municipal Development Plans, and subdivision, zoning and building by-laws/regulations and development approvals and inspections. There are other on-going tasks such development approvals, reporting, applications to the PRAC, consultations with prospective developers which are on-going and occur on a regular basis. Building Inspection services is part of the overall planning services provided to the member communities. This is a highly technical and important service. This service to communities involves plans review, inspections of construction projects, enforcement of the National Building Code of Canada and various by-laws and provincial regulations. Planning Services staff continues to refer to and implement the report: “Working Together: A Plan to Better Assist and Support Our Clients, 2016.”




















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
CORPORATE SERVICES (CS)	Administration & Management (CS-1)	1	Assess the cost/benefit of moving all operations and staff into one building. Based on result of Enviro-centre feasibility study, determine if SWS can be housed in facility; determine needs and options for Planning Services.				NOTE: Lease for 1773 Water Street expires in March 2019; preliminary discussion with owner, will extend lease, under same conditions, until March 2021.
		2	To better serve clients related to the potential for closure of the Centennial Bridge in 2019 for a year; examine feasibility of relocation some Planning Services staff to 505 Old King George Highway, staggered work hours, remote connectivity to server.				Evaluate the level of service and number of employees; assess office accommodations, meeting space etc. Will require advertising etc.
		3	Undertake review of Salary Scale for all employees.				Adopted July 13, 2016. Review in year 3, i.e., 2019.
		4	Review Human Resources/Personnel Manual.				Review content of original manual.
		5	Review 3-Year Operational Workplan.				Review and Update of 2018-2020 Operational Workplan.
		6	Support preparation of annual Financial Statement and Audit.				Annually.
		7	Complete Employee Performance Evaluations.				Annually.
		8	Prepare an annual employee training plan.				BI training needs identified, GIS Specialist to take SNB property Law Course.
		9	Customer service training for employees.				
		10	Develop photo ID cards for all RSC employees.				Update with current legislation; on-going updates as necessary.
































GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		11	Maintain Records Management Strategy as per Department Guidelines.				On-going.
		12	Respond to RTPPA requests for information & complaints.				On-going.
		13	On-going Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Purchasing and other financial administration.				On-going.
		14	On-going client reception & office administration, including inventory, records management, maintenance of buildings and equipment, supplies management & purchasing.				On-going.
		15	Participate in regular RSC Executive Directors meetings.				On-going.
		16	GMRSC Procedure By-law Review.				Establish small working committee comprised of two members and two staff to review and revise as needed.
	Member / Board Support (CS - 2)	1	Research and report on various issues initiated by Board.				As directed by Board as per approved motion.
		2	Logistics and administration for regular Board Meetings.				On-going.
		3	Quarterly financial updates to Board.				1/4ly basis.
		4	Info/briefing sessions for Board - selected topics.				On-going and as needed.
	Public Relations / Communications	1	Annual Excellence Recognition Awards for solid waste & planning/development initiative/projects				"Silver Shingle" Award for development projects; selection committee comprised of reps from

























GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
	(CS - 3)		by clients, organizations etc.				community has been established.
		2	Assist with planning and support for outreach activities by Board & members with public, stakeholders & other agencies.				Realtor session held in December 2017.
		3	Website monitoring and updating, translation of content.				Funding for Translation of content of Planning Services and Corporate portions has been obtained and completed. Update as needed.
		4	Send member communities a monthly building/development activity report.				On-going/monthly.
		5	Send CMHC, SNB & Statistics Canada monthly building activity report.				On-going/monthly.
		6	Prepare & distribute Annual Report.				Annually.
		7	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 as relators and inter-agency meetings; twice annual meeting with LSM and municipal administrators.
		8	Development tour for City Council.				Similar to PRAC tour conducted in 2017.
	Technology / Info Systems (CS - 4)	1	Develop & implement technology/equipment upgrading and replacement plan.				Implemented with assistance of IT consultant.
		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				Tablets and ESRI software purchased. Database partially developed.




















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
			permitting.				
		4	Server Update & back up procedure.				On-going; twice weekly back-ups.
		5	Establish emails for members.				Secure email accounts.
		6	Establish an intranet.				Secure intranet for sharing of and hosting documents.
REGIONAL COLLABORATION	(RC)	1	Examine options for improving Police collaboration (RCMP, Miramichi Police and other enforcement agencies).				Continue Meeting held with RCMP as required.
		2	Examine feasibility of By-law Compliance Officer for municipalities within GMRSC.				Discuss with Municipal Administrators in 2018.
		3	Determine what role GMRSC might play in regional tourism promotion.				
		4	GMRSC in conjunction with ONB to be involved in regional economic development.				ONB Community Economic Development Executive in place in region effective January 2018.
		5	Determine interest in conducting regional or sub regional recreation planning, including asset inventory. Provincial funding available (75% up to \$75,000).				
		6	Participation in development of Regional Emergency Measures Plan.				Draft of Regional Plan completed by EMO. New coordinator hired, plan will likely be revised in 2018.
		7	Collect background data for Regional Plan.				Prepare Summary document of data and sources.

GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		8	Gather pertinent data on relative policing cost and other criteria; with objective to determine if a feasibility study should be undertaken to examine establishment of regional policing or other service option.				If there is sufficient support, include cost of study (est. \$100,000- \$125,000) in 2019 budget.
SOLID WASTE SERVICES (SW)	SW Collection & Disposal (SW - 1)	1	Contract with Chaleur RSC for GMRSC use of Red Pine Landfill facility.				20 Year Agreement signed in May 2016. 5-year recycling agreement signed 2017. Monitor and meet with RSCs partners annually.
		2	household hazardous waste and e-waste public "drop-off" events.				Hold three events annually (two in Miramichi; one in Doaktown). Hold half-day volunteer training/orientation
		3	Administer & monitor household battery collection/ Recycling Program.				Add new drop-off sites as they become available.
		4	Examine feasibility of hybrid waste diversion facility for Hazardous household waste, e-waste, white goods, construction/demolition waste, tires.				Enviro-centre feasibility study is currently underway. Study to be completed by April 2018.
		5	Participate in development of Provincial Waste Management Strategy.				On-going. Subcommittee of RSCs submitted application to Environmental Trust Fund to develop framework to undertake a provincial waste audit.
		6	Examine "optimized" collections across the whole RSC area (common contracting purposes).				Will examine feasibility in 2018. Implement in 2019 if determined to be feasible.
		7	Examine options for new recovery program for compact fluorescent light bulbs.				Planned for 2018 based on results of Envrio-centre feasibility study.
		8	Evaluate feasibility of implementing ICI				Review feasibility; consult other RSCs and





















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
			participation in recycling.				determine if able to expand initiative to ICI in region.
		9	Monitor residential curbside recycling program.				Continue to monitor and examine means to increase diversion rates. Publicize results on a quarterly basis.
		10	Develop and implement programs for various waste reduction strategies (e.g. composting, recycling-use).				On-going.
		11	Implement "Recycle Coach" app.				Advertising, promotion, contest, etc.
	Public Relations & Education (SW-2)	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.				Program established in 2017 between GMRSC and DELG (regional office) including an information brochure for distribution.
		2	Develop & produce annual programs & events wall calendar.				
		3	Public education regarding new waste reduction initiatives.				
		4	Public education - info booths & presentations to trade shows, schools, community organizations, institutional & commercial industries.				Continue with school, clubs, community groups and other events. 2018 ETF Application - "Green Fair" trade show.
		5	Composting workshops & promotions.				Hold workshops annually or as requested.
		6	On-going media advertising of programs.				On-going.
		7	Examine use of social media for public relations & education.				Facebook Account established. Link Facebook account to Twitter.






















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		8	Revamp advertising material, more graphics less words.				Review promotional and educational material; may require assistance of a graphic designer.
	Administration / Management / Professional Development (SW-3)	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.				On-going.
		3	Monitoring & tracking volumes of waste diverted and landfilled.				On-going.
		4	Participate in quarterly meetings of Solid Waste Division managers (all RSCs).				On-going.
		5	Participate in Waste Reduction Coordinators quarterly meetings.				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.
PLANNING SERVICES (PS)	Building Permit & Inspection (PS - 1)	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.
		3	Perform building-permit-related inspections.				

GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Workplan Category</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Services/Project</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Notes</i>
		4	Examine feasibility of establishing an in-take counter for all development and building permit applications.	▲			Evaluate implication on office layout and staffing requirements.
		5	Develop Operational Policies, forms, and procedures for tracking inspections.	〰	〰	〰	On-going as necessary.
		6	Update Info sheets/pamphlets regarding building permits & inspections "FAQs".	〰	〰	〰	Completed; series of information brochures. Revise and add additional topics as needed.
		7	NBBOA training One Three Inspector, 2 level 2 Inspectors (one pending Level 3).	●	●	●	
		8	Develop Building Inspectors Manual, as part of Succession Planning Initiative.	●			Preliminary information collected.
		9	Building By-law Comprehensive Review - Miramichi & Doaktown.	✓			Miramichi and Doaktown completed.
		10	Building By-law Comprehensive Review – Blackville.	●			Will coincide with Rural Plan Update and Review.
		11	Draft new Building By-law - Upper Miramichi.	✓			Completed in 2017.Review as needed.
		12	Develop comprehensive checklist for common projects, such as SUDs, decks, garages, multiple units; that designers and developers can use.	●			Completed; update as necessary.
		13	Develop a standardize Enforcement Policy for Building and Development.	●			Consistent approach based on the new Community Planning Act.
		14	Set up automated phone line and email for requesting inspections.	●			
	Development	1	Responding to Inquiries (Info & Advice) -Zoning & Development & Subdividing land.	〰	〰	〰	On-going.

















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Workplan Category</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Services/Project</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	Support (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.
		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	Inspections for site plan / zoning by-law compliance.				
		7	Confirmations of Zoning.				On-going. CoZ form to be updated in 2018.

















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		8	Planner review & comment on Subdivision Applications.				On-going.
		9	CRINS Applications (Planner review & comment re telecommunications towers & related developments).				On-going.
		10	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reviews (review & comment to Province, as needed (project specific).				On-going.
		11	Updating databases re subdivisions plans approvals, documents approvals, variances, changes to zoning & Plan designations, Orders to Comply.				On-going.
		12	Development Agreements, assist municipalities in preparation.				On-going.
		13	Initiate & coordinate Developer Assistance Committee (DAC) meetings.				On-going.
		14	Create maps re individual development applications (reports, public notification, presentations).				On-going.
	Member / PRAC Support (PS - 3)	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.















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		3	Prepare monthly reports on planning & development activities.				On-going.
		4	Info Sessions to PRAC- specific topics.				On-going as needed.
		5	PRAC Tour.				Bus tour held October 2017. Arrange tour in 2020 for new PRAC members.
		6	Procedure By-law & policy - updates & revisions.				PRAC By-law amended by GMRSC in 2015 to require all meetings/decision to occur in public. Determine if PRAC By-law should be amended to increase the number of terms members can serve.
		7	Info Sessions to RSC Board- specific topics.				On-going as needed.
	Long-range Planning (Policy & Projects) (PS - 4)	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; amendment process to commence early 2018.
		2	Blackville Rural Plan Review.				Significant amendment completed (2015) regarding a new Mixed-Use zone for majority of the Village. Draft of new Rural Plan provided to Council in February 2017.
		3	Doaktown Rural Plan.				Completed in 2017. Monitor and make amendments as needed.



















GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
		4	Upper Miramichi Rural Plan.				Rural plan completed and adopted by Council September 2015. Monitor and make amendments as needed.
		5	Review all Plans and By-laws for conformity with new CPA.				
		6	Participate in provincial discussion regarding regional planning.				
		7	Research for preparation of Regional Plan.				Commence collection of basic background information and mapping data.
		8	Application forms- update/reformat.				Completed.
		9	City of Miramichi Municipal Development Plan Review.				Review of Plan, current plan was adopted in 2012; 7 year review required.
		10	Attend, make presentations to, coordinate Inter-Agency meetings (semi-annual).				On-going.
		11	Blackville Subdivision and Building By-law Review.				To coincide with Rural Plan Update.
		12	Doaktown Subdivision By-law and Building By-law.				Building By-law Completed.
		13	Develop new Subdivision By-law - Upper Miramichi.				Will continue with Provincial Subdivision regulation until amendment is approved regarding the vesting of public streets and their maintenance.
		14	Harkins Area Secondary Plan- City of Miramichi				Undertake secondary plan for the area around the Harkins school sites.
	Administration/ Management/ Professional	1	Train a new "back-up" Development Officer for subdivision application & documents approvals.				Completed.






























GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

Service Category	Workplan Category	#	Services/Project	2018	2019	2020	Notes
	Development (PS - 5)						
		2	Application intake & status tracking Database development.				Planning Staff committee formed, information collected on various database systems.
		3	Assist in drafting & preparation of Annual Report.				
		4	Records Management - update/re-organize digital archiving system & procedures.				On-going.
		5	Records Management - annual archiving & destruction of hard copy & digital "Planning Services" records.				On-going.
		8	Junior Planner training - CIP Ethics course, NB Property Law.				
		9	GIS Specialist training - ESRI Canada conference (Atlantic Region).				Attending annually.
		10	Planning staff attending professional development courses and conferences.				On-going and as made available.
		11	Participate in Planning Directors meetings.				4-5 meetings annually.
		12	Planning staff participation in NB Association of Planners & Canadian Institute of Planners Continuous Professional Learning events				On-going and as made available.
		13	Renew annually "Planning & Building Inspection Services Agreements" with 4 member municipalities				Ensure that each sign agreement annually based on approved budget.
	Public Relations & Education	1	Major revision/update to content & format of Planning Service website, including addition of				On-going, not completed.








GMRSC – Operational Workplan 2018-2020 (January 29, 2018)


Initiate Task or Project


Continuous Activity


Initial Assessment


Completed

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Workplan Category</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Services/Project</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	(PS - 6)		portals designed for major client groups & types of development.				
		2	Provide sessions for developers, lawyers, real estate agents, surveyors and others.				Target specific segments of the development industry with specific topics related to development; improve delivery of service by education and sharing information with regular clients.
		3	Develop Information Pamphlets on selected topics.				Brochures Series (7) on Development Completed.
		4	Continue to implement and monitor " Working Together: A Plan to better Assist and Support Our Clients (2016-2017).				

Appendix C – GMRSC 2017 Financial Statement

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2017**



GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

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To the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

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Independent Auditors' Report	2.
Statement of Operations	3.
Statement of Financial Position	4.
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	5.
Statement of Cash Flow	6.
Notes to the Financial Statements	7 - 21.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Financial Statements
Year ended December 31, 2017

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (the "Commission") are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of CPA Canada. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgement, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Commission's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The board of directors and management review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by Allen, Paquet & Arseneau LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Commission. The accompanying Independent Auditors' Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Commission's financial statements.



Wilson Bell, Executive Director



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of
Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year ended December 31, 2017 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the revised consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the revised consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission as at December 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles as outlined in the Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook.

Miramichi, NB

June 25, 2018

Allen, Paquet & Arseneau LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants


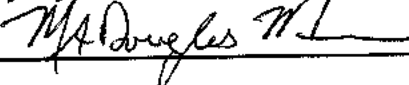
GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Operations****For the Year Ended December 31**

	2017	2017	2016
	(Unaudited) Budget Note 13	Actual	Actual
REVENUE			
Member charges	\$ 1,223,661	\$ 1,608,972	\$ 1,646,136
Sales of service	731,470	849,020	742,616
Other revenue	45,100	8,400	45,000
Interest	-	2,586	4,030
	2,000,231	2,468,978	2,437,782
EXPENDITURES			
Administration	558,398	651,471	632,332
Fiscal services	46,600	18,807	21,325
Governance	20,900	12,752	17,895
Planning and building inspection services	541,818	509,156	567,116
Solid waste services	981,379	1,322,946	1,282,887
Regional planning	7,000	-	-
Regional emergency measures planning	5,000	4,240	-
	2,161,095	2,519,372	2,521,555
ANNUAL DEFICIT	\$ (160,864)	\$ (50,394)	\$ (83,773)
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, beginning of year		893,120	976,893
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, end of year		\$ 842,726	\$ 893,120

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2017	2016
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and short term investments (Note 3)	\$ 552,200	\$ 300,076
Receivables		
General	183,664	298,484
Due from federal government (Note 4)	134,644	177,722
	\$ 870,508	\$ 776,282
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 312,214	\$ 72,926
Due to members	86,098	84,191
Post employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits payable (Note 6)	111,957	111,957
Deferred revenue	-	65,126
Long term debt (Note 7)	549,000	726,000
	1,059,269	1,060,200
NET ASSETS	(188,761)	(283,918)
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 8)	1,329,816	1,614,626
Accumulated amortization (Note 8)	(315,888)	(451,277)
	1,013,928	1,163,349
Inventory of supplies	15,584	10,726
Prepaid expenses	1,975	2,963
	1,031,487	1,177,038
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 842,726	\$ 893,120

On Behalf of the Directors

 Director
 Director

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Changes in Net Assets****For the Year Ended December 31**

	2017	2016
Annual deficit (Page 3)	\$ (50,394)	(83,773)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	144,573	204,301
Amortization of tangible capital assets	13,649	13,649
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	(8,800)	-
	99,028	134,177
Decrease (increase) of inventory of supplies	(4,859)	(1,696)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	988	3,523
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	95,157	136,004
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	(283,918)	(419,922)
NET ASSETS, end of year (Page 4)	\$ (188,761)	\$ (283,918)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Statement of Cash Flow****For the Year Ended December 31****2017****2016**

OPERATING TRANSACTIONS

Annual deficit	\$ (50,394)	\$ (83,773)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	13,649	13,649
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	(8,800)	-
Receivables		
General	114,820	(87,518)
Due from federal government	43,078	(24,106)
Inventory	(4,859)	(1,696)
Prepaid expenses	988	3,523
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	239,288	(1,242,564)
Deferred revenue	(65,126)	65,126
Post employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits payable	-	45,444
Due to members	1,907	(27,065)
	284,551	(1,338,980)

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS

Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	144,573	204,301
	144,573	204,301

FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

Long term debt	(177,000)	(176,000)
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NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS **252,124** **(1,310,679)****CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year** **300,076** **1,610,755**

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year (Note 3) **\$ 552,200** **\$ 300,076**

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is a restructured entity, created effective January 1, 2013, which is a combination of the Miramichi Planning District Commission and the Northumberland Solid Waste Commission. The Commission was established under a special act of the New Brunswick legislature with a mandate to provide or facilitate the provision of regional planning services and solid waste disposal services to all its members, and to all its members that are local service districts, a land use planning service. The commission operates as a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from taxes under the Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local governments, as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of CPA Canada.

Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Commission are as follows:

(a) Reporting entity

The financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenditures and changes in net assets and cash flows of the Commission .

Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

(b) Budget

The budget figures contained in these financial statements were approved by the Board on November 15, 2016.

(c) Revenue recognition

Unrestricted revenue is recorded on an accrual basis and is recognized when collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Other revenue is recorded when it is earned.

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

(e) Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net replacement cost with cost being determined on the first-in, first out basis.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) Financial instruments

The Commission's financial instruments consist of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivables, due from Federal Government and payables and accruals. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Commission is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short term deposits.

(h) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost of the tangible capital assets are amortized on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Land:	
All land owned by the Commission, including land under buildings	N/A
Buildings:	
All buildings owned by the Commission, as single assets.	40 years
Equipment:	
Includes recycling bins and other non-office equipment	5 years
Paving:	
Paving of parking lot at the Solid Waste Services office.	20 years
Leasehold improvements	
Costs to renovate, modify or improve leases Local Planning Services' office.	Over lease term
Office equipment:	
Includes desks, chairs, file cabinets, furniture and similar assets.	5 years
Computer hardware and software:	
Includes personal computers, monitors, laptops, printers, servers and similar assets.	5 years

The Commission has a capitalization threshold of \$2,500. Any item purchased under this threshold is recorded as an expense in the year the item is acquired.

All grants and other third party contributions are recorded as income in the year the expenditure for the capital asset is incurred. The full cost of the asset is capitalized during the year the asset is substantially complete and put into use.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(i) Segmented information

The Commission is a diversified service unit that provides a wide range of services to its members. For management reporting purposes, the Commission's operations and activities are organized and reported by function. This presentation was created for the purpose of recording specific activities to attain certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. Commission services are provided by departments as follows:

Corporate services

This department is responsible for the overall governance and financial administration of the Commission. This includes board functions, general and financial management, legal matters and compliance with legislation as well as member relations.

Co-operative and regional planning services

This department is responsible for providing its members with a forum in order to initiate cooperative action among its members, which includes discussions with respect to regional planning, regional policing collaboration, regional emergency measures planning, regional sport, recreation and culture infrastructure planning and cost sharing, as well as any other regional services agreed upon by the members.

Local planning services

This department provides is responsible for providing land use planning services to all municipalities and local service districts in its territory. This function includes the development of rural plans, the administration and enforcement of the plans, the issuance of building permits, conducting building inspections and the approval of subdivisions.

Solid waste services

This department provides solid waste disposal services to the Municipalities, Rural Communities and Local Service Districts within the region. This includes coordination of various recycling programs, the handling of hazardous waste and the promotion of composting.

3. CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

	2017	2016
Term deposits (restricted)	\$ 450,073	\$ 347,973
Term deposits (unrestricted)	35,493	64,007
Cash (unrestricted)	66,634	(111,904)
	\$ 552,200	\$ 300,076

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

4. DUE FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

	2017	2016
Canada Revenue Agency (HST refund)	\$ 151,124	\$ 193,938
Canada Revenue Agency (payroll source deductions)	(16,480)	(16,216)
Due from federal government	\$ 134,644	\$ 177,722

5. COMMITMENTSOffice and equipment leases

The Commission has outstanding lease commitments for the location of its local planning services premises. The lease payments for 2018 will be \$3,436 per month, increasing 3% annually, until March 31, 2019.

6. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, COMPENSATED ABSENCES AND TERMINATION BENEFITS

Employees are eligible for a one-time payment in recognition of years of services to the Commission. A permanent employee that has reached the age of 60 years or a combination of age and years of service equal to 75 years; are entitled at the time of retirement to a payment equal to one weeks wage for every year of service. The payment is calculated based on the salary for the last full year of service. Alternatively, in the event that the employee is terminated, the Commission will provide severance in the amount of two or three weeks per year of service depending on amount of years worked for the Commission up to a maximum of 6 to 18 months. The Commission provides sick leave that accumulates at 1.25 or 1.5 days per month for all employees (varies depending on employment agreement) other than contract employees. Employees can accumulate a maximum of 120 or 260 sick leave days (varies depending on employment agreement). An employee can take a leave with pay for an amount of time equal to the accumulated sick leave. There is no monetary compensation for unused sick leave when an employee ceases to be employed with the Commission.

An actuarial valuation of severance in accordance with PSA 3255 has been completed. An actuarial method was applied to determine the expected usage, and there was an attempt to perform a valuation based on assumptions about future events such as interest rates, wage and salary increases, and employee turnover or retirement. The assumptions used reflect the Commission's best estimates.

The following summarizes the significant assumptions in the valuation:

- annual salary increase is 2%;
- the discount rate used to determine the accrued benefit obligation is 3.75%;
- retirement age is 63;
- annual turnover rate is 0.8%

The estimated liability was \$111,957 on December 31, 2017.

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

7. LONG-TERM DEBT

	2017	2016
New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, debentures, variable interest rate from 1.05% to 2.10%, principal payable annually and interest semi annually, maturing in 2020. O.I.C. #BN-36	\$ 549,000	\$ 726,000

Principal repayments of long term debt over the next five years are due as follows:

2018	\$ 180,000
2019	183,000
2020	186,000
	\$ 549,000

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

8. SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

COST	Land	Paving	Buildings	Equipment	Office Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	2017 Total	2016 Total
	Balance, beginning of year	\$ 48,568	\$ 21,878	\$ 177,936	\$ 1,235,729	\$ 18,500	\$ 49,772	\$ 42,243	\$ 1,614,626
Add: additions during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: disposals during the year	-	-	-	(284,810)	-	-	-	(284,810)	(204,301)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	48,568	21,878	177,936	950,919	18,500	49,772	42,243	1,329,816	1,614,626
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION									
Balance, beginning of year	-	12,034	68,690	279,038	18,500	40,439	32,576	451,277	437,628
Add: amortization during the year	-	1,094	4,448	-	-	4,148	3,959	13,649	13,649
Less: accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(149,038)	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	13,128	73,138	130,000	18,500	44,587	36,535	315,888	451,277
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 48,568	\$ 8,750	\$ 104,798	\$ 840,919	\$ -	\$ 5,185	\$ 5,708	\$ 1,013,928	\$ 1,163,349
Consists of:									
Solid Waste Fund Assets	\$ 48,568	\$ 8,750	\$ 104,798	\$ 840,919	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,708	\$ 1,008,743	\$ 1,132,911
Local Planning Fund Assets	-	-	-	-	-	5,185	-	5,185	10,438
	\$ 48,568	\$ 8,750	\$ 104,798	\$ 840,919	\$ -	\$ 5,185	\$ 5,708	\$ 1,013,928	\$ 1,163,349

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

9. SCHEDULE OF SEGMENT DISCLOSURE

	Regional Emergency	Corporate	Co-operative and	Local	Solid Waste	Total	Total
	Measures Planning	Services	Regional Planning	Planning	Services	2017	2016
REVENUES							
Member charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,217	\$ 738,347	\$ 845,408	\$ 1,608,972	\$ 1,646,136
Sales of services	-	-	-	-	849,020	849,020	742,616
Other revenue	-	-	-	-	8,400	8,400	45,000
Interest	-	-	20	558	2,008	2,586	4,030
	-	-	25,237	738,905	1,704,836	2,468,978	2,437,782
EXPENDITURES							
Salaries and benefits	-	196,381	-	509,446	204,145	909,972	954,568
Operating expenses	-	53,879	-	141,676	1,329,988	1,525,543	1,515,799
Amortization	-	-	-	4,700	8,949	13,649	13,649
Interest	-	-	-	5,348	13,459	18,807	21,325
Other	4,240	6,652	-	2,427	38,082	51,401	16,214
	4,240	256,912	-	663,597	1,594,623	2,519,372	2,521,555
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$ (4,240)	\$ (256,912)	\$ 25,237	\$ 75,308	\$ 110,213	\$ (50,394)	\$ (83,773)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

10. RECONCILIATION OF ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

The Regional Service Delivery act, Items 27(7) and 27(8) stipulate if a Commission has a deficit/surplus with respect to a service at the end of its fiscal year, the Commission shall cause the deficit/surplus to be debited/credited against/ to the Commission's budget with respect to that service for the second next ensuing year.

	Regional Emergency Measures Planning Operating Fund	Corporate Services Operating Fund	Co-operative and Regional Planning Operating Fund	Local Planning Operating Fund	Solid Waste Operating Fund	Local Planning Capital Fund	Solid Waste Capital Fund	Amount carried to next page
2017 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (4,240)	\$ (256,940)	\$ 25,217	\$ 79,936	\$ 117,182	\$ (4,700)	\$ (8,949)	\$ (52,494)
Adjustments to annual surplus (deficit) for funding Requirements								
Second previous year's surplus (deficit)	-	-	34,390	9,758	49,567	-	-	94,215
Allocation to corporate services	-	240,534	(48,107)	(105,579)	(86,848)	-	-	-
Transfer from solid waste operating fund to solid waste operating reserve fund	-	-	-	-	(40,000)	-	-	(40,000)
Transfer from solid waste operating fund to solid waste capital reserve fund	-	-	-	-	(60,000)	-	-	(60,000)
Long term debt principal repayment	-	-	-	-	(177,000)	-	177,000	-
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	-	-	-	-	144,573	-	(144,573)	-
Amortization expense	-	-	-	-	-	4,700	8,949	13,649
Total adjustments to 2017 annual surplus (deficit)	-	240,534	(13,217)	(95,821)	(169,708)	4,700	41,376	7,864
2017 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ (4,240)	\$ (16,406)	\$ 12,000	\$ (15,885)	\$ (52,526)	\$ -	\$ 32,427	\$ (44,630)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

10. RECONCILIATION OF ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (continued)

	Amount carried from last page	Corporate Services Operating Reserve Fund	Corporate Services Capital Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Operating Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Capital Reserve Fund	Total 2017
2017 ANNUAL DEFICIT PER PSAB	\$ (52,494)	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ 7	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 244	\$ 1,736	\$ (50,394)
Adjustments to annual surplus (deficit) for funding requirements:										
Second previous year's surplus (deficit)	94,215	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94,215
Transfer from solid waste operating fund to solid waste operating reserve fund	(40,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	-
Transfer from solid waste operating fund to solid waste capital reserve fund	(60,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Amortization expense	13,649	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,649
Total adjustments to 2017 annual surplus (deficit)	7,864	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	60,000	107,864
2017 ANNUAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR FUNDING PURPOSES	\$ (44,630)	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ 7	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 40,244	\$ 61,736	\$ 57,470

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017


11. STATEMENT OF RESERVES

	Corporate Services Operating Reserve Fund	Corporate Services Capital Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Cooperative & Regional Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Operating Reserve Fund	Local Planning Services Capital Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Operating Services Reserve Fund	Solid Waste Services Capital Reserve Fund	Total 2017	Total 2016
ASSETS										
Cash	\$ 2,026	\$ 2,025	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,013	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,064	\$ 70,412	\$ 362,646	\$ 450,072	\$ 347,970
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$ 2,026	\$ 2,025	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,013	\$ 5,063	\$ 5,064	\$ 70,412	\$ 362,646	\$ 450,072	\$ 347,970
REVENUE										
Interest	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ 7	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 244	\$ 1,736	\$ 2,100	\$ 3,481
Operating fund							40,000	60,000	100,000	
EXPENDITURES										
Transfer to solid waste capital fund									394,000	
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ 7	\$ 36	\$ 36	\$ 40,244	\$ 61,736	\$ 102,100	\$ (390,519)

Name of Investment	Principal Amount	Interest Rate	Date of Maturity
Cashable GIC	\$ 124,308	0.64%	April 25, 2018
Cashable GIC	\$ 118,646	0.64%	April 25, 2018
Cashable GIC	\$ 8,252	0.05%	June 1, 2018
Cashable GIC	\$ 40,000	1.04%	December 8, 2018
Cashable GIC	\$ 60,000	1.04%	December 8, 2018
Non-redeemable GIC	\$ 8,098	1.62%	June 19, 2018
Non-redeemable GIC	\$ 30,368	1.62%	June 19, 2018
Non-redeemable GIC	\$ 8,908	1.64%	June 20, 2018
Non-redeemable GIC	\$ 50,323	1.64%	June 20, 2018

Board of directors resolution regarding transfers to reserves:

Moved by Adnan Lordon, seconded by Lynn Giegan that the sum of \$40,000 be transferred from the Solid Waste Operating Fund to the Solid Waste Operating Reserve Fund.
 Moved by Adnan Lordon, seconded by Elizabeth Bowes that the sum of \$60,000 be transferred from the Solid Waste Operating Fund to the Solid Waste Capital Reserve Fund.
 I hereby certify that the above is true and an exact copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 20, 2017.


 Wilson Bell
 Executive Director
 Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission
 Date June 25/18

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

12. OPERATING BUDGET TO PSA BUDGET

	Corporate Services	Co-operative and Regional Planning	Local Planning Services	Solid Waste Services	Amortization	Transfers	Total
REVENUE							
Member charges	\$ -	\$ 25,217	\$ 738,350	\$ 460,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,223,661
Sales of services	-	-	-	731,470	-	-	731,470
Transfers from own and other funds	240,534	-	-	-	-	(240,534)	-
Other revenue	-	-	16,000	83,100	-	(54,000)	45,100
Surplus of second previous year	-	34,890	9,758	49,567	-	(94,215)	-
	240,534	60,107	764,108	1,324,231	-	(388,749)	2,000,231
EXPENDITURES							
Administration	218,134	-	120,411	219,853	-	-	558,398
Allocation from corporate services	-	48,107	105,579	86,848	-	(240,534)	-
Other fiscal services	1,500	-	-	45,100	-	-	46,600
Governance	20,900	-	-	-	-	-	20,900
Planning and building inspection services	-	-	537,118	-	4,700	-	541,818
Regional planning	-	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000
Regional emergency measures planning	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Solid waste services - operations	-	-	-	972,430	8,949	-	981,379
Transfer to capital fund	-	-	1,000	-	-	(1,000)	-
	240,534	60,107	764,108	1,324,231	13,649	(241,534)	2,161,095
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (13,649)	\$ (147,215)	\$ (160,864)

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

13. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT

	(Unaudited)		
	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
REVENUE			
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Member charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 12,911	\$ 12,911	\$ 24,297
- Village of Blackville	564	564	1,054
- Village of Doaktown	539	539	1,014
- Upper Miramichi	1,347	1,347	2,541
- Local Service Districts	9,856	9,856	18,644
Interest	-	20	15
	\$ 25,217	\$ 25,237	\$ 47,565
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Member charges</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 414,138	\$ 414,136	\$ 404,404
- Village of Blackville	14,011	14,011	13,467
- Village of Doaktown	16,364	16,364	15,948
- Upper Miramichi	33,332	33,332	32,700
- Local Service Districts	260,505	260,504	257,092
Interest	-	558	602
	\$ 738,350	\$ 738,905	\$ 724,213
<u>Solid Waste Services</u>			
<i>Member tipping fees</i>			
- City of Miramichi	\$ 223,836	\$ 407,942	\$ 426,241
- Village of Blackville	11,916	22,240	23,457
- Village of Doaktown	8,604	16,114	16,328
- Upper Miramichi	23,051	53,426	48,464
- Local Service Districts	192,687	345,686	360,485
	460,094	845,408	874,975
<i>Revenue from other sources</i>			
Tipping Fees from Other Sources	731,470	828,695	725,583
Recycling	-	-	7,323
Other operational revenue	-	20,325	9,710
Government transfers	45,100	-	45,000
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	8,400	-
Interest	-	2,008	3,413
	776,570	859,428	791,029
	\$ 1,236,664	\$ 1,704,836	\$ 1,666,004
	\$ 2,000,231	\$ 2,468,978	\$ 2,437,782

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

13. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
EXPENDITURES			
<u>Corporate Services</u>			
<i>Governance</i>			
Honorariums	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,400
Travel	6,400	2,266	3,052
Training and development	3,000	-	3,029
Other	5,500	4,886	5,414
	20,900	12,752	17,895
<i>Administration</i>			
Salaries and benefits	169,134	196,381	181,445
Travel	5,000	5,006	1,682
Training and development	-	837	1,799
External audit fees	8,500	7,821	13,963
External accounting fees	6,500	1,400	5,950
Telephone	3,000	2,083	1,040
Other financial management	-	1,093	268
Liability insurance	17,000	18,373	18,760
Professional services	-	6,889	2,925
Legal services	2,000	391	2,693
Office supplies	5,500	2,120	4,440
Other	1,500	1,766	974
	218,134	244,160	235,939
<i>Fiscal services</i>			
Bank service charge	1,500	-	-
	\$ 240,534	\$ 256,912	\$ 253,834
<u>Co-operative and Regional Planning</u>			
<i>Regional services</i>			
Regional planning	7,000	-	-
Regional emergency measures planning	5,000	4,240	-
	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,240	\$ -

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

13. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
<u>Local Planning Services</u>			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising	\$ 7,000	\$ 393	\$ 2,282
Conference and membership	3,500	462	1,313
Electricity	-	6,676	4,791
Office building	47,050	49,676	51,782
Office supplies	7,700	15,432	18,176
Other	-	-	839
Printing and copying	1,200	3,944	4,410
Professional services	-	5,085	8,870
Salaries and benefits	35,586	47,162	37,786
Telecommunications	10,000	11,806	13,054
Training and development	2,500	429	688
Travel	5,875	8,028	5,303
	120,411	149,093	149,294
<i>Planning and building inspection services</i>			
Amortization	4,700	4,700	4,700
Salaries and benefits	494,743	462,284	518,425
Travel	17,625	21,048	19,067
Training and development	9,000	10,121	13,384
Map and reference material	500	-	-
Geographic information system	4,000	965	3,450
Planning advisory committee	6,750	7,611	5,970
Other	4,500	2,427	2,120
	541,818	509,156	567,116
<i>Fiscal services</i>			
Bank service charge	-	5,348	4,518
	\$ 662,229	\$ 663,597	\$ 720,928

GREATER MIRAMICHI REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

13. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES SUPPORT (continued)

	(Unaudited) 2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
EXPENDITURES (continued)			
<u>Solid Waste Services</u>			
<i>Administration</i>			
Advertising and promotional	\$ 67,800	\$ 52,952	\$ 53,376
Office Building	-	574	491
Office supplies	4,000	4,606	7,209
Other	2,000	38,082	6,867
Printing and copying	100	-	-
Professional services	-	2,543	259
Salaries and benefits	132,953	140,197	162,373
Telecommunications	6,000	8,243	9,042
Training and development	1,000	4,520	1,180
Travel	6,000	6,501	6,302
	219,853	258,218	247,099
<i>Operations</i>			
Amortization	8,949	8,949	8,949
Repairs and maintenance	8,000	8,929	8,318
Janitorial	-	1,261	1,040
Property Tax	12,800	13,498	13,734
Electricity	6,500	4,548	3,888
Compost program	20,000	18,244	13,820
Salaries and benefits	55,786	63,948	54,539
Tipping fees	812,344	1,152,435	1,127,807
Collection	-	-	313
Material recovery project	-	3,849	-
Contracted services	-	3,728	13,878
Hazardous household waste	57,000	43,557	36,601
	981,379	1,322,946	1,282,887
<i>Fiscal services</i>			
Interest on long term debt	45,100	13,459	16,807
	\$ 1,246,332	\$ 1,594,623	\$ 1,546,793

Appendix D – Building Permits Activity Tables

Table 16: Building Permits Issued - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	33	44	45	30	23	33	47	29	11	12
Multiple Unit Dwellings	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	1
Mini/Mobile Homes	20	7	9	12	8	5	7	13	2	15
Other Improvements	107	139	127	100	106	101	87	95	94	40
Total	161	190	181	142	139	141	146	137	107	68
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	3	4	4	7	9	4	10	8	8	15
Renovations	37	47	29	42	17	26	27	11	16	28
Total	40	51	33	49	26	30	37	19	24	43
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	2	1	1	3	19	0	3	1	2	3
Renovations	3	10	4	2	0	1	3	5	2	4
Total	5	11	5	5	19	1	6	6	4	7
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	0	0	1	0	5	1	2	3	2	7
Renovations	5	5	4	4	1	6	11	4	7	7
Total	5	5	5	4	6	7	13	7	9	14
SIGNS	24	22	16	9	17	13	18	12	7	10
TOTALS	235	279	240	209	207	192	220	181	151	142

Table 17: Building Permits Issued - Village of Blackille

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings		3	6	2	1	2	2	0	1	1
Multiple Unit Dwellings			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes		3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Other Improvements		5	7	5	2	4	6	8	5	5
Total	0	11	14	7	3	7	8	9	6	6
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Renovations		1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Renovations		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction		1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Renovations		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
SIGNS		1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTALS	0	14	15	8	3	10	9	12	11	6

Table 18: Building Permits Issued - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings						0	2	0	1	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes						0	0	1	0	0
Other Improvements						3	6	6	7	8
Total	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	7	8	8
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction						3	0	0	0	0
Renovations						0	2	0	1	2
Total	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	2
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction						0	0	0	0	0
Renovations						0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction						5	0	0	1	3
Renovations						0	6	4	2	3
Total	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	4	3	6
SIGNS						0	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	11	17	12	13	17

Table 19: Building Permits Issued - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings						4	2	2	2	5
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes						1	1	0	0	1
Other Improvements						10	8	8	4	3
Total	0	0	0	0	0	15	11	10	6	9
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction						0	2	0	0	0
Renovations						0	5	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction						0	0	1	1	0
Renovations						0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction						0	1	2	0	0
Renovations						1	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
SIGNS						0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	16	19	13	8	9

Table 20: Building Permits Issued - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	42	49	52	44	17	31	38	24	24	34
Multiple Unit Dwellings		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	25	16	25	23	10	19	34	11	14	12
Cottages	10	11	13	5	18	16	11	8	11	14
Other Improvements	93	88	122	101	73	64	92	58	49	76
Total	170	164	212	173	118	130	175	101	98	136
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	10	10	13	11	8	9	6	3	5	4
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	25	6	0	8	11	0	0	3	1	4
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	1	3	2	3	6	1	3	1	2	1
SIGNS	4	9	2	2	8	1	2	1	0	0
TOTALS	210	192	229	197	151	141	186	109	106	145

Table 22: Building Permit Values - City of Miramichi

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	6 221 200	6 684 597	7 012 989	4 433 800	3 968 460	4 902 734	5 125 210	6 208 575	2 234 156	2 470 966
Multiple Unit Dwellings	1 582 000	0	0	0	2 197 014	2 720 000	1 417 028	0	0	3 264 300
Mini/Mobile Homes	1 043 500	395 800	654 357	648 000	449 000	114 500	596 818	827 500	140 920	1 062 640
Other Improvements	1 401 924	1 300 690	1 247 634	1 100 309	1 821 040	1 324 454	684 047	1 449 084	2 107 378	560 290
Total	10 248 624	8 381 087	8 914 980	6 182 109	8 435 514	9 061 688	7 823 103	8 485 159	4 482 454	7 358 195
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction	208 500	2 637 735	925 000	2 485 400	3 973 590	505 000	6 484 930	409 721	1 869 389	6 787 577
Renovations	1 854 233	3 835 644	1 879 657	2 449 810	2 247 500	11 021 357	4 493 673	1 443 914	1 051 975	3 765 304
Total	2 062 733	6 473 379	2 804 657	4 935 210	6 221 090	11 526 357	10 978 603	1 853 635	2 921 364	10 552 881
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction	460 000	4 000 000	20 000	333 000	113 000	0	98 640	48 620	1 489 764	333 290
Renovations	284 000	966 785	40 000	288 000	0	179 000	6 300	43 840	152 459	627 127
Total	744 000	4 966 785	60 000	621 000	113 000	179 000	104 940	92 460	1 642 223	960 417
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction	0	0	10 000	0	2 546 003	679 000	276 650	24 050 654	711 565	18 519 000
Renovations	758 880	573 600	1 229 000	134 700	1 014 000	4 061 238	5 254 796	1 986 280	249 340	5 474 274
Total	758 880	573 600	1 239 000	134 700	3 560 003	4 740 238	5 531 446	26 036 934	960 905	23 993 274
SIGNS	138 380	76 573	102 733	69 550	91 850	167 865	399 346	144 933	140 310	158 751
TOTALS	\$13 952 617	\$20 471 424	\$13 121 370	\$11 942 569	\$18 421 457	\$25 675 148	\$24 837 438	\$36 613 121	\$10 147 256	\$43 023 518

Table 23: Building Permit Values - Village of Blackville

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings		275 265	708 900	346 000	110 000	145 200	287 730	0	145 600	52 067
Multiple Unit Dwellings			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes		178 000	22 000	0	0	72 122	0	59 202	0	0
Other Improvements		30 500	212 000	75 300	100 000	108 800	66 000	143 960	7 955	113 240
Total	0	483 765	942 900	421 300	210 000	326 122	353 730	203 162	153 555	165 307
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction		0	0	0	0	15 400	0	0	4 400	0
Renovations		30 000	3 400	0	0	0	0	5 056	436 500	0
Total	0	30 000	3 400	0	0	15 400	0	5 056	440 900	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction		0	0	0	0	187 000	0	0	0	0
Renovations		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	187 000	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction		860 000	0	0	0	1 100 000	0	48 600	0	0
Renovations		0	0	0	0	0	37 850	1 000	0	0
Total	0	860 000	0	0	0	1 100 000	37 850	49 600	0	0
SIGNS		16 000	0	5 000	0	0	0	0	21 000	0
TOTALS	\$0	\$1 389 765	\$946 300	\$426 300	\$210 000	\$1 628 522	\$391 580	\$257 818	\$615 455	\$165 307

Table 24: Building Permit Values - Village of Doaktown

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings						0	240 480	0	43 967	0
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes						0	0	57 600	0	0
Other Improvements						7 500	85 638	65 030	65 170	81 725
Total	0	0	0	0	0	7 500	326 118	122 630	109 137	81 725
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction						39 612	9 104	0	0	0
Renovations						0	0	0	244 759	579 600
Total	0	0	0	0	0	39 612	9 104	0	244 759	579 600
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction						0	0	0	0	0
Renovations						0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction						365 000	0	0	4 309 300	431 964
Renovations						0	246 078	599 665	23 300	148 700
Total	0	0	0	0	0	365 000	246 078	599 665	4 332 600	580 664
SIGNS						0	1 490	25 000	13 000	700
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$412 112	\$582 790	\$747 295	\$4 699 496	\$1 242 689

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

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings						404 400	358 470	351 540	486 640	389 500
Multiple Unit Dwellings						0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes						85 000	94 720	0	0	26 040
Other Improvements						169 300	84 924	121 415	176 640	111 740
Total	0	0	0	0	0	658 700	538 114	472 955	663 280	527 280
COMMERCIAL										
New Construction						0	569 400	0	0	0
Renovations						0	263 686	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	833 086	0	0	0
INDUSTRIAL										
New Construction						0	0	45 000	172 000	0
Renovations						0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45 000	172 000	0
INSTITUTIONAL										
New Construction						0	6 311 130	93 800	0	0
Renovations						1 000	0	0	1 000	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	1 000	6 311 130	93 800	1 000	0
SIGNS										
TOTALS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$659 700	\$7 682 330	\$611 755	\$836 280	\$527 280

Table 26: Building Permit Values - Unincorporated

Type of Permits	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RESIDENTIAL										
Single Unit Dwellings	5 258 220	6 464 100	7 153 680	6 115 900	5 502 098	5 001 000	3 587 535	4 862 955	4 958 836	7 090 552
Multiple Unit Dwellings		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini/Mobile Homes	981 300	528 960	1 150 500	1 311 040	1 356 200	1 405 302	3 574 113	852 520	810 160	732 480
Cottages	1 120 000	879 000	1 216 500	471 000	1 432 500	1 456 000	1 272 786	1 286 695	1 392 538	959 916
Other Improvements	1 303 153	1 488 200	1 856 500	1 388 140	1 812 550	1 193 036	1 281 908	1 122 792	560 877	1 182 324
Total	8 662 673	9 360 260	11 377 180	9 286 080	10 103 348	9 055 338	9 716 341	8 124 962	7 722 410	9 965 273
COMMERCIAL										
Construction	980 200	637 640	503 390	971 400	575 500	179 800	584 640	92 900	289 632	129 520
INDUSTRIAL										
Construction	19 440 100	4 659 000	0	1 771 645	635 000	0	0	2 136 125	862 450	897 900
INSTITUTIONAL										
Construction	10 000	4 779 500	98 095	607 000	20 063 332	240 000	1 319 640	150 000	159 880	11 520
SIGNS	3 824	37 307	1 200	125	18 070	25 000	19 000	40 000	0	0
TOTALS	\$29 096 797	\$19 473 707	\$11 979 865	\$12 636 250	\$31 395 250	\$9 500 138	\$11 639 621	\$10 543 987	\$9 034 372	\$11 004 213

Appendix E – Planning/Subdivision Applications/Files Activity Tables

Table 27: Planning Applications - City of Miramichi

Applications	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Plan Amendments	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	3
Rezoning	0	3	1	4	2	2	2	2	4	5
Variations (Total)	31	18	15	14	26	16	25	28	31	19
Variations (DO)		8	9	12	12	12	20	23	25	16
Variations (PRAC)		10	6	2	14	4	5	5	6	3
TOTALS	31	24	17	19	28	19	28	34	36	27

Table 28: Planning Applications - Village of Blackville

Applications	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
Variations (Total)	3	3	2	1	2	2	0	1	3	3
Variations (DO)		1	1	1	1	0	0	1	3	1
Variations (PRAC)		2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	3	3	2	1	3	4	0	2	3	3

Table 29: Planning Applications - Village of Doaktown

Applications	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning						1	0	1	0	1
Variations (Total)						3	2	4	0	1
Variations (DO)						3	2	2	0	1
Variations (PRAC)						0	0	2	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	5	0	2

Table 30: Planning Applications - Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Applications	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Rural Plan Amendments / Rezoning								1	0	0
Variations (Total)						3	1	1	1	5
Variations (DO)						2	1	1	1	5
Variations (PRAC)						1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	5

Table 31: Planning Applications - Unincorporated

Applications	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Variations (Total)	9	23	0	2	9	10	6	7	17	13
Variations (DO)						1	6	7	14	13
Variations (PRAC)						9	0	0	3	0
TOTALS	9	23	0	2	9	10	6	7	17	13

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

Applications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmations of Zoning	39	42	29	29	37
Zoning Compliances	0	0	0	0	1
Site Plan Reviews	17	33	35	36	75
Enforcement Files	2	3	8	1	11
Access Approvals	1	2	3	2	1
Other Documents	18	16	20	19	25
TOTALS	77	96	95	87	150

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

Applications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmations of Zoning	3	3	5	0	1
Zoning Compliances	0	0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	0	1	1	1	0
Enforcement Files	0	0	0	0	0
Access Approvals	0	1	2	0	1
Other Documents	3	0	7	6	6
TOTALS	6	5	15	7	8

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

Applications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmations of Zoning	3	4	2	3	0
Zoning Compliances	0	0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	1	0	4	2	7
Enforcement Files	0	4	0	1	1
Access Approvals	4	0	0	0	2
Other Documents	4	1	0	4	12
TOTALS	12	9	6	10	22

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

Applications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmations of Zoning	15	7	13	10	9
Zoning Compliances	0	0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	2	1	3	3	5
Enforcement Files	0	1	0	1	0
Access Approvals	6	2	2	7	4
Other Documents	53	34	53	53	43
TOTALS	76	45	71	74	61

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

Applications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmations of Zoning	2	0	2	1	2
Zoning Compliances	0	0	0	0	0
Site Plan Reviews	2	2	4	1	5
Enforcement Files	0	1	0	0	11
Access Approvals	0	0	2	0	1
Other Documents	0	0	4	21	1
TOTALS	4	3	12	23	20

Table 37: Subdivision Applications - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Miramichi	38	31	45	37	29	26	17	21	14	22
Blackville	3	2	4	2	3	4	6	1	1	6
Doaktown						2	0	3	0	3
Upper Miramichi						4	3	8	2	12
Unincorporated	84	72	81	80	69	50	45	24	43	48
TOTALS	125	105	130	119	101	86	71	57	60	91

Table 38: New Lots Created - Greater Miramichi Region

Regions	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Miramichi	82	37	77	41	52	41	24	41	28	17
Blackville	9	2	5	4	5	6	6	1	1	8
Doaktown						2	0	3	0	1
Upper Miramichi						5	3	8	4	6
Unincorporated	123	114	106	88	105	65	61	30	70	50
TOTALS	214	153	188	133	162	119	94	83	103	82

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.	342.94	34.58	20.94	9.63	399.29	17.25	19.42	52.14	610.21	170.04	6.07	1,682.51
FEB.	264.46	26.70	19.61	8.21	337.53	14.05	10.55	34.03	611.01	131.97	442.78	1,900.90
MAR.	347.03	29.16	26.15	9.86	358.29	34.61	12.98	44.87	629.25	162.07	2.40	1,656.67
APR.	341.27	36.59	19.20	11.78	406.84	19.06	15.59	36.78	568.43	121.24	19.94	1,596.72
MAY	393.52	38.06	23.72	20.60	528.94	43.41	15.00	64.92	902.55	35.21	17.27	2,083.20
JUNE	377.29	54.40	44.31	17.38	457.25	28.00	21.95	87.57	800.23	46.70	40.65	1,975.73
JULY	329.19	49.50	25.14	10.37	453.78	19.57	24.48	58.04	752.40	24.02	90.06	1,836.55
AUG.	427.64	44.91	27.82	11.19	463.62	29.80	16.45	59.63	778.04	14.51	14.37	1,887.98
SEPT.	364.07	39.77	30.56	11.18	409.79	19.66	15.58	69.42	964.35	18.81	55.77	1,998.96
OCT.	387.62	37.97	45.62	13.97	444.95	20.04	17.47	45.93	754.32	31.71	17.14	1,816.74
NOV.	373.95	46.95	19.85	11.94	440.37	19.95	14.97	67.64	758.53	51.52	54.37	1,860.04
DEC.	315.67	46.38	25.07	15.68	353.07	19.96	14.74	39.42	714.87	83.08	156.29	1,784.23
TOTALS	4,264.65	484.97	327.99	151.79	5,053.72	285.36	199.18	660.39	8,844.19	890.88	917.11	22,080.23
monthly avg												1,840.02

LSDs 4,264.65 MT
MUNICIPAL 6,198.65 MT
FIRST NATIONS 964.75 MT
SUB-TOTAL 11,428.05 MT

Residential 11,428.05 MT
ICI (Commercial) 8,844.19 MT
C & D Debris 890.88 MT
Cash Sales 917.11 MT
Total GMRSC 22,080.23 MT

Regular Tip Fee: \$80.90
C & D Tip Fee: \$35.50

Table 50: Waste Diversion by Recycling Depot and Curbside Programs (tonne)

	2015		2016	2017
Months	Depot	Curbside	Curbside	Curbside
January	33.08	-	144.75	125.94
February	13.54	-	110.17	106.85
March	40.97	-	113.13	113.87
April	59.09	-	146.22	128.71
May	17.42	-	146.46	160.36
June	64.88	-	159.52	154.24
July	48.54	-	138.97	122.14
August	35.62	-	140.42	143.18
September	25.89	-	131.6	135.09
October	46.24	32.27	149.36	142.24
November	-	140.95	139.65	151.21
December	-	149.39	167.38	137.02
TOTALS	385.27	322.61	1687.63	1620.85

Table 54: E-waste Tonnage

2013	2014**	2015**	2016**	2017**
12.1	21.68	32.7	16.71	14.5

** Two Spring collections

Table 52: Cell Phone and Battery Waste Diversion from Drop-Off Locations

Locations	2014*	2015**	2016***	2017***
Esgenoôpetitj School			11.2	13.86
4 D's Grocery Store	0	0	13.7	0
Burnt Church Seniors Hall		0	4.75	4.65
Baie Sainte-Anne Building Supplies Ltd	9.3	4.45	8.5	0
Normand Doiron & fils ltée	0	10.95	11.9	11.35
La Bonne Route (1993) Inc.		0	0	0
LeGresley Home Building Centre		0	0	14.2
Greater Miramichi Planning Services Office	0	0	0	0
Atlantic Superstore - Johnson St.		12.5	45	49.97
Walmart	23	17.2	24.6	29.43
Kent		0	16.7	0
Beaubear Credit Union - Chatham Head	18.35	10.85	12.5	34.15
Greater Miramichi Solid Waste Services Office	43.2	15.9	19.6	46.35
Beaubear Credit Union - Newcastle	10.75	6.9	30.45	29.9
Atlantic Superstore - King George Hwy	47.05	40.4	30.15	57.5
Eel Ground First Nation Band Office	0	0	0	0
Esso - Williamstown	16.45	6.7	0	0
Cloud Convenience		0	0	0
Renous Convenience Store	18.65	0	12.7	12.52
Blackville Building Supplies	7.6	9.4	8.65	38.15
Betts Enterprise Ltd	32.05	43.45	176.81	138.2
Matthew MacKay & Son LTD	16.95	13.8	19.3	16.75
Miramichi HHW	244.4	322.8	413.98	438.95
Doaktown HHW	19.8	21.4	6.7	5
TOTAL (Kg)	507.55	536.7	867.19	940.93
TOTAL (mt)	0.50755	0.5367	0.86719	0.94093
Average Per Box (Kg)	13.35658	13.09024	17.00373	18.44961
TOTAL (lbs)	1118.96	1183.22	1911.83	2074.40

* 38 boxes

** 41 boxes

*** 50 boxes

Appendix G – Solid Waste Services Media Coverage

Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Wednesday

July 12, 2017



Elaine Bellingham chats with Advanced Heli-Flights pilot Robert Thorne while going for a ride in a helicopter, one of the items on her bucket list, on Saturday, July 8. PHOTO: JOCELYN TURNER/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Up, up and away! Miramichi senior takes flight on bucket list adventure

JOCELYN TURNER
MIRAMICHI LEADER

You can call her cheeky, spry and a hoot but there's one thing you can't call Elaine Bellingham and that's a chicken. The 91 year old spent her Saturday checking an item off her bucket list with a flight in a helicopter.

"It was just something different I suppose," she said. "I've flown in planes but not a helicopter, never on a helicopter. It was my wish to be in a helicopter ... It's fascinating."

Bellingham is originally from England and has been living in Miramichi since 1984. A friend of hers, Shelley Greely, made her helicopter wish come true

during last weekend's Miramichi Festival of Tall Ships.

Advanced Heli-Flight was offering helicopter flights so people could get a bird's eye view of the tall ships while they were docked in Newcastle and Chatham.

Greely put her plan in motion, booking the flight to ensure her friend could

check the item off her bucket list.

Bellingham, who turns 92 in six months said she started working on her bucket list because there's no time like the present and she said she still has plenty of time to get all her items checked off.

PLEASE SEE → **FLIGHT, A6**

Region's recycling rates climb

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

While the Miramichi still has some work left to do in order to maximize the environmental and financial benefits of its two-year-old curbside recycling program, the region is continuing to put a dent in the amount of garbage being sent to the landfill.

Officials with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's solid waste services division presented their annual report for 2016 during a meeting in the city last week.

In all, just under 20,400 metric tonnes of solid waste was trucked to the Red Pine landfill in Allardville last year, for a year-over-year reduction of about 1,550 metric tonnes.

Those gains in the diversion rates being witnessed in the regional service commission's coverage area – which spans the vast majority of Northumberland County – were being almost entirely attributed to the fact that people are adapting to the curbside program, according to Melanie Cripps, the commission's waste reduction coordinator.

Since the rollout of the mandatory recycling program back in the fall of 2015, the region has been able to divert roughly 4,000 metric tonnes of garbage overall.

"It's pretty good for a first [full] year,

really good," Cripps said.

The commission, she said, has been putting in a lot of work since the introduction of the program trying to get Miramichiers acclimated to the bi-weekly rotation of wheeling their blue recycling bin out to the curb on designated weeks.

The switch to curbside recycling phased out the old system of weekly standard black bag garbage collection, which meant that people had to lug their recyclables to the nearest depot location in order to reduce the strain on the landfill.

That left the Miramichi region with some of the more paltry diversion rates in the province, typically hovering at around the seven per cent mark.

In 2016, however, the latest figures show that the residential recycling rate managed to top 15 per cent, a vast improvement but still short of the 20 per cent mark that officials have identified as an ideal target to reach in order to witness significant savings on tipping fees collected on all waste transported to Red Pine.

Cripps noted, however, the performance typically varies from area-to-area and that there's plenty of room for improvement.

Certain parts of the coverage area are

PLEASE SEE → **RATES, A2**



At left, is a young David Barker, pictured at the helm of the HMCS Oriole in this photo taken in 1964. At right, is Barker once again at the helm of the Oriole for the first time since taking part in a training program with the Royal Canadian Navy in 1964. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Miramichi man reconnects with tall ship more than 50 years later

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Back in 1964, Dave Barker was fresh out of high school and in search of adventure.

He found it aboard the HMCS Oriole during a trip across the Strait of Georgia from Esquimalt, British Columbia, and into Vancouver after opting to enlist in the Royal Canadian Navy, where the now-retired Miramichi Valley High School teacher served for about a year.

"It was quite a lot of fun and definitely a learning experience for somebody right out of high school," Barker said.

"I recall it being quite foggy, the seas weren't exactly rough but the conditions weren't too bad either - the quarters weren't cramped but like any small sailing vessel, every space was utilized and I remember it being a very fast-moving vessel."

Along the way, a military photographer snapped a picture of a young Barker at the helm of the oldest active ship in the Canadian navy fleet.

Now more than 50 years later, Barker found himself back in that very same spot more than 5,000 kilometres away

PLEASE SEE → **SHIP, A2**

Coalition calls for immediate revival of salmon tags

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A coalition of New Brunswick salmon anglers are calling on officials with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to back away from the blanket catch-and-release restrictions that have been in place the last three seasons and move to reinstate salmon tags for the rest of the 2017 season.

Members of the Coalition for Better Salmon Management, a group consisting of over 1,000 people united against the federal government's positioning on the management of the province's run of wild Atlantic salmon, put out a statement on Wednesday in which they made that request.

Part of the spirit behind the founding of the coalition earlier this year was to challenge DFO's stance on the salmon file and push the government department back toward policy that would allow anglers to take part a moderate grilse harvest as part of the traditional recreational fishery.

The hook-and-release measures were put in place by the department in response to extremely poor salmon counts recorded in 2014, resulting in back-to-back-to-back seasons of catch and release in the years since.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc confirmed recently that the government is still considering the possibility of establishing a river-by-river management system in New Brunswick that would allow rivers deemed healthy enough to support retention to remain open to catch-and-keep fishing.

Tom Pettigrew, a retired biologist who serves as the chair of the coalition's steering committee, said members of his group believe strongly that the best way to foster a spirit of stewardship on the rivers is by allowing everyday anglers to participate in a responsibly-managed fishery.

He said the organization is adamant that allowing a "moderate" grilse harvest would in no way jeopardize the

PLEASE SEE → **TAGS, A2**

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A look at the intricate woodwork and the signature badge of the HMCS Oriole during the recent Miramichi tall ships festival. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Miramichi man reconnects with tall ship

SHIP → A1

from where that initial photograph was taken, with the Oriole making the long journey east and pulling into port in the city this past weekend, one of five ships that made up the Festival of Tall Ships on the Miramichi.

Barker, who was raised in North Bay, Ontario, but later relocated to his adopted hometown of Miramichi, said he immediately perked up when he heard the ship, which was built in 1921 and commissioned into the Navy in 1952, was scheduled to make a weekend cameo as part of the Miramichi festival.

"It was a short venture on the Oriole but I just thought, wow, that was in the late fall of 1964, so I'm really looking forward to seeing how it looks today compared with back then," Barker said in an interview last Friday.

"It's going to be kind of neat, actually - the pictures I have are military pictures taken by an official cameraman on board and they were given to all of the officer cadets, but I'm thinking the vessel might have had some modifications, so that's what I'm interested in seeing."

As planned, Barker took full advantage of the opportunity, making his way down to the Port of Newcastle and laying eyes on a ship he hadn't seen since that memorable voyage along the British Columbia coast.

The ship continues to serve the same

purpose today as it did back in 1964 when Barker was among the young cadets being shown the ropes of navigating a sailing ship out on the high seas.

The nimble vessel is 102-feet long, bears over 11,000 square-feet of sail and features a main mast standing 94 feet high.

Today, the Oriole's crew is made up of a commanding officer and five enlisted members with room for up to 18 trainees on board. And it only rarely makes appearances on the East Coast.

It was actually earlier in 1964 when the Oriole last made the gruelling trek east, taking part in ceremonies commemorating the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival to Quebec.

Speaking again on Monday, Barker said he was thrilled to have been presented with an opportunity to encounter the ship again after all this time, almost out of the blue. He says he recognized right away some slight alterations to the setup of the helm but, by and large, he said the ship was largely as he remembered.

While his stay in the Navy was relatively short, it was also memorable. And Barker says his experience on the Oriole was a big reason why.

Not only did he get to tour the ship, as thousands of others did during the weekend tall ships festival, Barker also naturally seized the chance of recreating the picture that was taken some 53

years prior.

"I had a chance to share my story with some of the the crew and they were all about 18 or 19 years old, which is about how old I would have been way back when," Barker said on Monday.

"But it was very neat to get back on the ship and have that experience - I may not have had a lot of experience on the Oriole but I was certainly on the Oriole, and if you look at the picture of the helmsman, that's yours truly from many years ago."

The Oriole, along with the British Rona II and the Dutch Class A ships Gulden Leeuw, Oosterschelde and Europa, are all taking part in the massive gathering of tall ships taking place in eastern Canada this summer as part of the ongoing Canada 150 celebrations.

Dozens of ships will be headed to the gigantic Rendez-Vous 2017 regatta taking place on the St. Lawrence River in Quebec City and Levis later this month.

All five ships bid adieu to the Miramichi after a three-day stay on Sunday, sailing back out of the Miramichi River and into the Northumberland Strait shortly, this time under full sail, shortly before sundown.

Hundreds of people lined the banks of the river as they did during the welcoming parade of sail on Friday to help send them off.

The Oriole is scheduled to arrive in Rimouski, Quebec, later this week.

Recycling rates climb in region

RATES → A1

hanging around near the pre-curbside recycling rates and Cripps said the commission is hoping to bore deeper into the data and determine where challenges exist before working to rectify them through further education.

She noted that the commission is only able to capture information based on the tonnage that's recorded once a truck has finished its collection route, which often includes a number of different communities.

While it provides staff with at least a rough snapshot of areas that are performing better than others, commission board members said they'd be interested in getting a more localized look at the communities that are struggling to grasp the concept, particularly in the region's rural local service districts.

"If we were able to do that, we'd have a greater understanding of that LSD and a greater influence, but we're essentially working in the dark," said board member John Goodfellow.

The concept of the Miramichi system, when compared to other parts of the province that use a multiple-bag system for sorting different forms of recyclables, is relatively simplistic.

Residents toss all of their loose recyclables into their commission-provided blue bins and wheel them out for collection every second week. On alternating weeks, collection is reserved for regular organic waste and

non-recyclable material.

Wilson Bell, commission executive director, said officials are in the process of developing a smartphone app that should help better connect users to information on the program and how to make the most of it.

In addition to regular curbside collection, the commission also reported another strong response to the different special waste reduction initiatives it holds in the run of a year.

For example, nearly 900 kilograms of batteries and old cellphones were kept out of the landfill last year as people took advantage of 23 authorized drop-off locations for those materials throughout the region.

From there, three household hazardous waste and e-waste collection events saw nearly 1,000 vehicles dropping off their old electronics and paint cans to be properly disposed of, for a total tonnage of 17.71.

In her report, Cripps noted that work continues on other projects aimed at reducing those rates even further.

The commission, for instance, was just recently granted \$30,000 through the Environmental Trust Fund to help fund a new public awareness campaign aimed at getting people to take part in composting.

A year-round sorting facility is also being considered. That would allow people to drop off their household hazardous goods, old appliances, electronics and other items that otherwise take up room in the garage.



The first full year of curbside recycling in the Miramichi region resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of garbage that was buried in the Red Pine landfill in 2016, with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's coverage area posting a diversion rate of around 15 per cent.

PHOTO: THE NORTHERN LIGHT ARCHIVE

Management coalition calls for immediate reinstatement of salmon tags

TAGS → A1

overall health of the salmon population since most grilse - typically young salmon that have spent a single winter at sea - are males and not spawning females.

So while it might be a longshot to get DFO to agree to reverse course on their management plan this summer, Pettigrew said it's important to give the government a "push".

"They've failed to come forward and justify, articulate and quantify this conservation benefit that they claim is the reason for keeping the restrictions in place for a third straight year," Pettigrew said.

"The fact that they've failed to come out and do that, they've put themselves in a default position - in other words, if you're not willing to come out and justify your measure, then lift the ban."

In their release, the coalition stresses that it supports "sound" conservation measures and aren't looking to exploit the stock.

To the contrary, Pettigrew said a number of New Brunswick anglers are leaving their rods and tackle at home out of frustration with DFO's policies.

In many cases, he said those everyday

fishermen are the eyes and ears of the river and that having them on the water is one of the best ways of promoting a culture of stewardship.

"Most anglers routinely practice catch and release and generally retain far fewer grilse than the season catch limit allows," he said. "What is important however, is that the opportunity to harvest a fish or two be there."

Pettigrew added that reinstating the sale of tags could be done fairly easily, noting all it would take is a variation order. The salmon season in New Brunswick runs until mid-October.

Fisheries and Oceans officials on Thursday, however, offered a quick response, noting that no changes to the current management plan would be forthcoming this season.

"The DFO sets catch and release of the recreational fishery in the name of conservation of this important stock and is not considering reinstating grilse harvest tags for the balance of the 2017 season," spokesman Steve Hachey said.

"The requests for harvest of grilse in the recreational fishery will be discussed during salmon advisory meetings for salmon fishing areas."

Department staff, in an interview in May, spelled out their reasoning



Members of the Coalition for Better Salmon Management are calling on Fisheries and Oceans Canada to reinstate the sale of salmon tags this season, with New Brunswick in the middle of a third season of catch-and-release salmon fishing restrictions. PHOTO: ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

for instituting another season of catch-and-release fishing by saying it was simply better to err on the side of caution.

Frédéric Butruille, the senior fisheries management officer for DFO's gulf unit, said the department understands it's a divisive issue with passionate

viewpoints being expressed on all sides.

But he cautioned that it was important the government not rush into anything since there's still quite a bit that isn't known about what's happening to the salmon.

"It's important not to go out too far, too fast," he said. "Because there is still

a lot of uncertainty - and we think it's important to be cautious when increasing the fishing pressure on these stocks."

LeBlanc, meanwhile, has pledged to work with stakeholders with the hope of putting a river-by-river system in place in time for the 2018 season. Those discussions, which will involve First Nations, other indigenous organizations and recreational fishery stakeholders, are expected to pick up in the fall.

"The economic impact of the sport fishery is huge. It provides hundreds and hundreds of jobs in communities that don't have a lot of employment opportunities," LeBlanc said in June. "So I'm prepared to use federal resources to do what's required."

Recreational salmon fishing generates roughly \$20 million to the Miramichi region's economy, according to a recent study.

The minister is also set to host a major meeting in Shediac later this summer, with invitations being extended to each and fisheries ministers of the North Atlantic nations.

Part of the agenda will centre around a ramp-up in the commercial salmon fishery in Greenland, which is expected to harvest some 14,000 large salmon this year.

Miramichi Leader

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NEWS TIPS

mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR

Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN

ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Monday

September 25, 2017

People arrested in relation to suspicious death released

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Four men arrested at the scene of a suspicious death outside Miramichi were released from custody sometime on Friday.

RCMP Sgt. Chantal Farrah said the men were released on Friday night. The courthouse in Miramichi was kept open late into the evening Friday for a potential court appearance that didn't happen. They haven't been charged, police said.

"The investigation is still very much on going," Farrah said on Sunday afternoon. "If anyone has any information that can assist us with knowing more for the investigation, they can always contact the RCMP or through Crime Stoppers."

RCMP reported Friday morning that police responded to a report of an altercation involving several people on Bellefond Road in Bellefond around 8:30 p.m. Thursday.

When they arrived, they found the man unresponsive at the scene. Police said he was transported to Miramichi Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Three 24-year-old men and a 23-year-old man were arrested at the scene.

A police car was parked in the driveway of the crime scene on Friday morning through the afternoon.

The investigation is ongoing and an autopsy is being conducted to determine the cause of death.

The number for Crime Stoppers is 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), by texting TIP212 + your message to 'CRIMES' (274637), or by Secure Web Tips at www.crimenb.ca if you want to remain anonymous. The public can contact their local RCMP detachment or call 1-888-506-RCMP [7267.]



Police were at the scene at a residence in Bellefond after a 60-year-old man was found unresponsive Thursday night and later pronounced dead in hospital. Four were taken into custody and later released. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Nursing home bid to be revealed

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

After months of anticipation and speculation, the city will find out Monday which of three proponents vying for an opportunity to build New Brunswick's largest nursing home will get the go-ahead for the massive project.

Seniors and Long-term Care Minister Lisa Harris has called a press conference for 12 p.m. Monday at the Chatham Head Recreation Centre for what she describes as a "major announcement."

Premier Brian Gallant, after delivering a presentation to the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, confirmed to reporters that the winning bid for the 240-bed, privately-operated nursing home will be revealed at Monday's announcement.

"Ensuring we have the capacity to provide seniors across the province with the nursing homes they need and that we will need in the future is important, and that's why we made the commitment to ensure there would be 240 beds here on the Miramichi," Gallant said.

"I don't want to steal [Minister Harris's] thunder, but [the announcement will be] on Monday."

The new home will replace the 133-bed Mount St. Joseph Nursing home, which recently wrapped up a \$10.5 million, taxpayer-funded renovation, as well as the 81-bed Miramichi Senior Citizens Home.

Three finalists were being considered under the government-issued request for proposals [RFP] launched earlier this year.

The venue for next week's big reveal is fitting, considering each of the bidders is proposing development on three prime pieces of undeveloped property in the city's Chatham Head neighbourhood, all of which are located just seconds from the Miramichi Regional Hospital.

Each proposal is unique in terms of design and amenities.

The first company to reveal its plans was Halifax-based Shannex corporation, which already owns and operates each of the current P3 nursing homes in the

Airport seeks funding from municipalities to fuel growth strategy

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Representatives of the Miramichi Airport Commission are seeking regional funding support as the organization looks to expand its role in generating economic development opportunities.

Commission president Derek Burchill, vice-president Jason Harris and airport manager Dale Mattinson delivered their pitch to a room full of Northumberland County mayors and local service district reps during a meeting of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission in the city Monday night.

The delegation said the airport's objective is to establish itself as a facility that benefits the entire Miramichi region and not just the city. With that in mind, they said they're hoping some of the county's smaller municipalities will be interested in coming to the table as partners.

"Our airport is the regional airport for this area - it's something that we don't want to lose and it's something that we want to keep and continue to grow,"

Harris said. "So what we're doing here tonight is asking for your support during your budget process and hopefully you can come up with some ideas and provide the airport with a subsidy on a yearly basis."

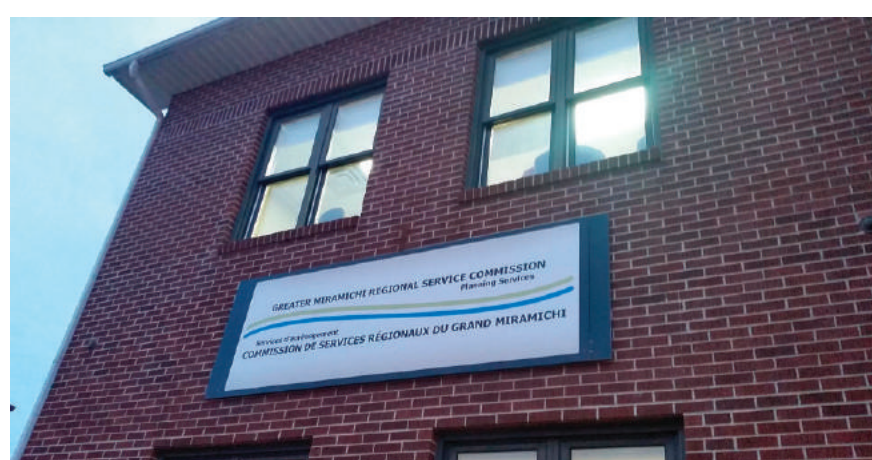
Harris said the Miramichi Airport is facing stiff competition from other smaller facilities in the province's north, as well as from the full suite of services offered at New Brunswick's three largest airports in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton.

In order to ensure the airport has the best possible chance at long-term success, Harris said having the wider region put some skin in the game would help increase its odds.

Earlier this summer, different municipalities in Restigouche County came together to contribute a total of \$150,000 toward the Charlo Airport on an ongoing basis.

It was confirmed last month the provincial government would match that contribution over the next three years

PLEASE SEE → AIRPORT, A2



Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission offices. The organization passed its budget for 2018 on Monday, Sept. 18. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

Member costs rise for first time in 2018 service commission budget

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Member communities of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission will have to dig a little deeper into their budgets next year thanks to rising service delivery costs.

Officials with the service commission delivered an overview of the budget to its board of directors during a meeting in the city Monday night.

The board, which is comprised of the

region's mayors and a handful of local service district representatives, gave their unanimous approval to the budget after looking over the numbers.

Shawn Cripps, the RSC's chief financial officer, delivered the presentation and noted that the biggest reason for the budget increases are due to a significant hike in tipping fees collected at the Red Pine landfill in Allardville, where the region's solid waste is trucked every

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Nursing home bid to be revealed

HOME →A1

province.

Shannex's plans are unique in that they call for two separate developments in different parts of the city, with facilities being proposed for land located directly across from the hospital on Water Street as well as a separate property on the King George Highway in Douglstown.

The Water Street project would include 180 beds designated for nursing home care, as well as 40 beds earmarked for memory care and an adult day facility that was one of the provisions written into the RFP by the government.

Across the river in Douglstown, Shannex proposes to establish a retirement living community on a large property situated across from Kent Building Supplies on the King George Highway.

This development would feature two separate buildings, one equipped with 60 beds designated for nursing home care and 10 memory care beds, as well as a three-storey structure hooked around 22 assisted living suites. There also would be outdoor recreational space for activities like a putting green and bocce ball.

Another proponent, the Surrey, B.C.-based Lark Group, is proposing a hub-and-spoke style senior care complex featuring eight individual residential units spiralling out from the main entrance to the home.

Lark is looking to build on land located just south of the hospital property that would be accessed via the Brown Road.

The third applicant is a joint bid from Moncton's Alleira Living group and Ontario-based construction player EllisDon. It represents a dramatic departure from the way nursing homes are traditionally built.

Following the philosophy of renowned aging care expert Dr. Bill Thomas, who provided input into Alleira's proposal, the bid seeks to establish what would be Canada's first certified "green house" nursing home.

The green house concept is rooted in

Thomas's belief that developers should be moving away from institutional, hospital-like nursing homes in favour of smaller, less-rigid setups designed to reflect the comforts of home.

The Alleira/EllisDon project centres on property situated on the Bridge Road near the Chatham Head Recreation Centre. It would feature 20 "households" of 12 elders with open kitchen and living room space, adult day programming, a children's daycare, an intergenerational courtyard and more.

Despite being well-received by city officials and trumpeted by the government as a major step forward for the delivery of senior care in this region, there have also been pockets of sharp opposition to the project.

Over 11,000 people signed a petition opposing the project in 2015, while representatives of the two community-based, nonprofit nursing homes slated to close upon completion of the new facility have been critical of the government's decision.

Progressive Conservative Leader Blaine Higgs blasted the government in the spring for its handling of the file, saying he sees no good reason to close both existing homes.

Robert Stewart, meanwhile, the president and CEO of Catholic Health International - which operates the 133-bed Mount - expressed disbelief earlier this summer over the government decision to phase out a facility that just recently wrapped up \$10.5 million worth of upgrades.

Catholic Health, along with representatives from the MSCH, were one of the proponents that responded to the first phase of the government procurement process last year.

The local bid, the details of which are still unclear, was screened out of the process following an initial request for qualifications [RFQ] stage, officials from both sides confirmed earlier this year.

The current plan, with the promise of 240 beds, the subtraction of 214 beds and the eventual closure of the existing two homes, would result in a gain of 26 nursing home beds for the city.



Seniors and Long-term Care Minister Lisa Harris is set to announce the winner of the government RFP to build a new privately operated, 240-bed nursing home in the city. The announcement is set for 12 p.m. on Monday at the Chatham Head Recreation Centre. PHOTO: HALEY-LYNN BOHAN/MIRAMICHI LEADER



A look at the exterior of the new \$1.5 million Miramichi Airport terminal. Airport officials are asking for financial contributions from the area's municipalities to help the facility with its long-term growth agenda. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Airport seeks funding to fuel growth strategy

AIRPORT →A1

as a means of helping the Charlo facility remain a viable contributor to the region's economic base.

Harris said the Miramichi contingent is asking for similar support from its neighbours.

He left the request somewhat open-ended, without indicating how much the airport was looking to raise through municipal contributions.

In terms of what the airport brings to communities like Blackville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi, the mayors of which all sit on the RSC board of directors, Harris said the facility operates as a key transportation gateway.

For instance, he noted the facility routinely attracts private flights carrying people from all over the world who come to the area to fish the Miramichi River.

The industry built up around recreational salmon fishing helps fuel the economies of a number of small river communities, helping support jobs while generating roughly \$20 million every year, according to a recent study.

He also noted the airport is keen on expanding its horizons and, ideally, securing new contracts and attracting investment that can help create jobs to benefit the entire region.

Right now, the airport relies heavily on the presence of its anchor tenant, Forest Protection Limited - the

company contracted by the province to oversee aerial firefighting and pest suppression services.

Aside from the FPL flights, the airport also provides charter service to Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as northern Quebec, while fielding corporate flights, courier service, gliders, medivac, the RCMP, the Canadian Forces and other clients.

Miramichi attracted roughly 4,700 flights last year.

The airport has been undergoing rapid renewal over the last few years, securing funding for the extension of its 10,006-foot runway, the longest in the province, as well as the installation of new landing systems. Earlier this year, it cut the ribbon on a new \$1.5 million terminal.

The city came to the table with a \$250,000 commitment to help make that project a reality. The organization also generates revenues by leasing office space in the new terminal.

In terms of any financial contributions it might receive from municipalities, Harris said the organization would be completely transparent about where the money is going.

He noted the commission would also extend an invitation to a representative from any of those communities to sit on the airport's board of directors.

When asked by RSC board member John Goodfellow how the airport planned to use the money, Burchill said the airport - which typically

turns a modest profit every year - would use additional resources to help with its growth strategy.

Burchill said while the airport is stable right now, he noted that officials want to see the facility soar higher.

"We are going to be building buildings. We're getting feelers almost on a monthly basis and we think this thing could explode if a few things happen," Burchill said.

Douglas Munn, mayor of Upper Miramichi and chair of the RSC board of directors, said taxpayers in his community - which is situated more than an hour from the city - would want more information about the impact and what a contribution would be directed toward.

Still, he said the matter warranted further discussion.

The city, for many years, provided the airport with an annual grant up until the facility stopped submitting its annual request to the municipality in 2013.

Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon said he'd have to double check the city's budget to determine the nature of the relationship between the two, but noted the city agreed to supply \$250,000 toward the terminal project in 2015 because it believed in what the airport was trying to do.

"Like any other capital ask, it was evaluated and the city thought it was important that we have a new terminal, so they did participate in that project," he said.

Member costs rise for first time in 2018 service commission budget

COST →A1

week.

The fee increase of \$2.50 per metric tonne means communities now will be billed \$83.40 for every metric tonne of garbage that flows through the gates of the regional landfill.

"We just found this out on Thursday," Cripps said. "So it caught us a little by surprise."

The delivery of solid waste collection to the region is one of the RSC's two main planks. The organization is also responsible for regional planning and issuing building permits.

In all, the commission's operating budget will rise to a little over \$2.35 million in 2018, which represents a year-over-year increase of slightly more than \$200,000.

Roughly \$1.3 million of that amount is being funded by the municipalities and LSDs who fall within the commission's

coverage area, with those contributions rising by just under nine per cent.

As always, most of the increase will fall on the city of Miramichi, which is by far the largest member of the RSC and is therefore responsible for providing most of the funding.

Miramichi's share for 2018 will rise by just over \$61,000 for a total contribution of \$712,355.

That amount still must be approved by Miramichi city councillors when the matter comes up during budget time.

Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon was curious about a line in the budget that had the city marked down for a \$20,789 increase in the amount of funding it provides to the RSC for what's described as co-operative and regional planning services.

Wilson Bell, the executive director of the commission, did his best to explain, noting the pool of funding is there in anticipation that the organization's

roles and responsibilities will likely expand beyond planning and solid waste in the coming year.

Part of the plan for the RSCs moving forward would see the commission helping facilitate any potential regional recreational infrastructure partnerships.

"It's a broad category that includes recreational infrastructure sharing aspects. We have some provincial funding and also in there would be any other type of cooperative initiatives or the delivery of any other kind of regional service, which would be covered under that category," Bell said.

Bell clarified that nothing under those programs would be undertaken without approval from the board.

Also on the planning side, the budget is rising by an expected 11.2 per cent in 2018 thanks to the presence of a carry-over deficit of \$85,000 this year.

Cripps explained the amount can be

directly attributed to a recent actuary report that came with an increase in post-retirement benefits for commission staff.

"I think this is the first time in five years where we've actually operated a deficit in one of these services and we definitely don't foresee it happening in the future," he said. "But, for budget purposes, we need to account for it."

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission covers a massive amount of territory in Northumberland County, stretching from the rural community of Upper Miramichi in the west all the way to Escuminac and Burnt Church in the east.

In terms of staffing, the commission is comprised of nine positions on the planning side with three workers in solid waste.

Despite the increased cost to member communities for the coming year, municipal contributions to the RSC have

been declining steadily since the commissions were launched in 2013.

In Miramichi's case, the \$712,000 it's expected to foot in 2018 is 24 per cent lower than what it was paying into the organization four years ago.

The 2018 budget is the first time that membership costs have gone up since the commission came into existence.

As for the other members, the 19 LSDs will collectively pay a little over \$500,000, with Upper Miramichi (\$63,000), Blackville (\$28,000) and Doaktown (\$27,000) rounding out the list. Member costs, across the board, have dropped by roughly 25 per cent since 2013.

RSC members have an opportunity to get some return on their investment, with the planning office remitting any fees collected through the sale of building permits back to the municipalities and LSDs where they were issued.

Miramichi, for instance, got back a little over \$123,000 this past year.

Miramichi Leader

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NEWS TIPS

mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR

Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN

ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING

Amanda Eagan (506) 627-7412

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Friday

October 20, 2017

Pot producer buys major swath of land

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

After aggressively courting the attention of the burgeoning marijuana sector over the last several months, the city of Miramichi now looks like it could be on the cusp of something big. Officials are remaining tight-lipped about certain elements of the major land deal unanimously approved by council during last month's regular meeting, but Jeff MacTavish, the city's director of economic development and tourism,

confirmed Tuesday the transaction was executed with an unnamed player in the cannabis industry.

That company, MacTavish said, is on track to become the new owner of 7.8 undeveloped hectares in the Chatham Industrial Park on the northwest side of the 90-degree bend along Walsh Avenue across from the NB Power offices.

Although these are still early days and there are several steps that have to play out, MacTavish said the hope is this eventually leads to the development of what would be Miramichi's first

marijuana production operation.

"The first step for a marijuana production facility is for the company to actually secure a piece of property and have an identifiable PID [property identification number], so their legal team is working on that right now," MacTavish said.

"Once that happens, they can then proceed with Health Canada and make applications for their medical licences – but they want to have everything in order so they can make those applications."

City officials have been working for

years to market its untapped industrial park properties as a pot-sweetener aimed at attracting private-sector investment and, ultimately, job creation.

The land comes fully serviced, pre-zoned and, most importantly, it can be had for next to nothing as long as certain provisions are met.

It can also be acquired in one of two ways.

Either the city can agree to turn it over to the proponent for free, but with conditions attached relating to timelines for the project to be completed, or the

developer can agree to purchase it at 80 per cent of the assessed value and not be subjected to those conditions.

MacTavish said in this case, they're going with Scenario 1, meaning the company will have to meet some basic conditions just as any other suitor would.

"This is no different, really, from any of the other [industrial park transactions] we've made in the past.

"We're transferring the property to a potential business owner, and we're

PLEASE SEE → POT, A2

Making wishes come true



The Children's Wish annual Wish Maker Walk took place Oct. 14 at the Lindon Rec Centre, where Davey Paul, son of Heidi and Jamie Paul, met the Miramichi Timberwolves. He also took a ride in a Miramichi Police Force vehicle with Const. Tim Mercier. Paul wished to visit Disney World with his family, and that wish just came true. PHOTO: GRACE TROWBRIDGE/FOR THE MIRAMICHI LEADER

'Every square inch of this structure gets touched'

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Anybody who has driven over the Centennial Bridge this year has seen the scaffolding, the heavy equipment and the dozens of workers perched nearly 250 feet above the Miramichi River.

But what's actually taking place up there as crews carry out the final portions in the second phase of the \$83 million structural rehabilitation on arguably the most vital transportation link in northeastern New Brunswick.

The Miramichi Leader was given an exclusive look inside the massive construction zone on Monday, with senior officials from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure providing a detailed breakdown of the project's inner-workings.

Darren Matchett, the department's district engineer for the Miramichi region, said it's been remarkable to watch the project unfold with anywhere from 40 to 70 workers on location here every single day throughout the construction season.

And by the time the final three phases of the nearly decade-long project finally wraps up a few years down the road, he

PLEASE SEE → BRIDGE, A4

Pact could save taxpayers \$15M: Recycle NB CEO

Miramichi mayor says such a deal 'just seems like a no-brainer'

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The CEO of Recycle NB says most people may not be aware of it, but New Brunswick taxpayers have been getting a raw deal with the way their paper and household packaging is being recycled.

Pat McCarthy enlightened members of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission during their monthly board meeting Tuesday night, urging municipal officials to nudge the province to execute a formal agreement with the private sector that would see the producers of those consumer

goods paying for the cost of recycling them as well.

This setup is already standard practice in other jurisdictions such as British Columbia and Quebec, where private industry is responsible for tending to the entire lifecycle of their paper and packaged products, which means paying 100 per cent of the cost for the collection, processing and marketing of those goods at the curb.

In New Brunswick, the burden of covering costs ultimately falls on the taxpayer, with municipalities budgeting funds for collection every year that are eventually turned over to the regional service commissions, which oversee solid waste collection and recycling programming.

McCarthy said nearly every other province has secured some sort of

PLEASE SEE → PACT, A8



Pat McCarthy, the CEO of Recycle NB, says he's hoping the province will consider pursuing an agreement with the producers of paper and packaged goods to cover the cost of recycling those items, similar to what exists in other provinces.

PHOTO: TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

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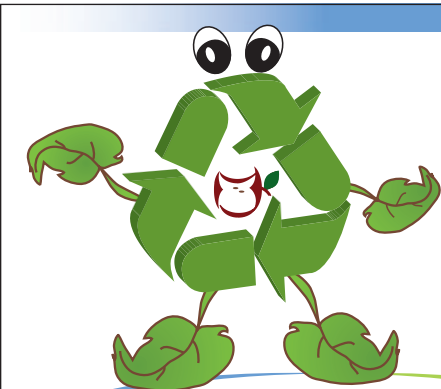
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DEATH NOTICES



BOSMA, MOETSCHÉ (vanDIGGELEN)
1916 – 2017
It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Moetsche "Maudie" Bosma (vanDiggelen) in her 101st year. Wife of the late U. Jeep Bosma (d.2005), she passed away at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Moetsche was born in Wommels, Friesland, Holland and was the last living child born to Gerrit and Trijntje (Timmermans) vanDiggelen.

She leaves behind her four children: Tineke (David) Goodfellow, Alice (Jim) Madigan-Bosma, John (Paula) Bosma, and Mieke Bosma, along with nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Moetsche was predeceased by her parents, two sisters: Marie Bloemhof and Tjitske deGraaf and four brothers: Johannes, Tjeerd, Michiel, and Jan.

Our mother, who was our beloved Mem and Nanny, inspired her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with her strength, determination and love. Moetsche served as a farmer's helper, seamstress, cleaning lady, housekeeper, caterer and was part owner of the Fabric Discount Store. She survived two World Wars, The Great Depression, The Cold War and an eleven day journey across the Atlantic Ocean to her adopted country of Canada which granted her and her family citizenship in 1962.

Moetsche was busy in her life but had time to pursue her passions of painting, reading, sewing, knitting and crocheting. She could knit sweaters, many for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren without a pattern, relying instead on a photo. She crocheted many winter hats, also based on photos, for her family and donated many to those in need.

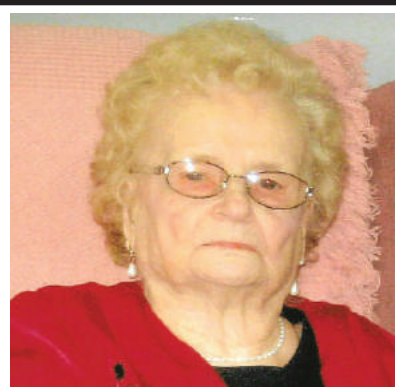
During the occupation of Holland in World War II, Moetsche married Uilke Jeep Bosma on November 9, 1940. In 1943, at considerable risk, she and her husband hid Lia, an eight year-old Jewish girl, who eventually was able to escape Nazi persecution and live a full life in America. Then, in 1955, she and her family emigrated to Canada where Jeep secured a job at the Gem Bakery, owned by Charlie and Bill Delano who welcomed them to the Miramichi and provided them with housing and employment.

The family later moved to Mary Street and then on to the Miramichi Golf & Country Club where Moetsche began her catering career. She furthered this line of work at the Newcastle Curling Club from where she once served the Canadian rock band, April Wine. On June 29, 2016 her family celebrated her 100th birthday, "Century of Love", at a Bosma/vanDiggelen Reunion attended by two nieces and three nephews from Holland.

Our Mem and Nanny was a loving mother for 76 years and grandmother for 57 years who always catered to her family, exclusively after she retired in 1982. She was a pillar of strength for her family. She had a positive outlook and loved to recount stories about her former life in Holland. She believed everyone, despite age, colour, position in life or religion deserved equal respect, acting as a role model for her family.

Visiting will be at **Davidson's Funeral Home Ltd.**, 597 Old King George Highway, Miramichi, on Thursday, October 19th, from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Friday, October 20th from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. The Funeral service will held from St. Andrews United Church on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight. Interment will be in Miramichi Cemetery in Miramichi West.

View all obituaries in New Brunswick at obituaries.miramichileader.com



MacDONALD, BESSIE I.
1924–2017
Miramichi – Bessie Isabel MacDonald, widow of the late Lloyd L. MacDonald, of the Miramichi Senior Citizens Home and formerly of Point Aux Carr, passed away at her residence on Saturday evening, October 14, 2017, at the age of 93. Born in Lower Napan, she was the daughter of the late Melvin and Mary (MacDiarmid) MacDonald.

She was a homemaker and a member of Carmel United Church, Napan; a member of Branch # 3, Royal Canadian Legion, Miramichi; a member of the Pioneer Senior Citizens Club.

She is survived by two daughters, Cathy Lebel (Robert) and Cindy Kinsella (Wayne), all of Miramichi; four sons, Bliss MacDonald (Rosemary), of Napan, Blair MacDonald (Mary), of Point Aux Carr, David MacDonald, of Miramichi, Dale MacDonald (Diane), of Point Aux Carr; four sisters, Esther Gillis, of Fredericton, Catherine Godfrey, of Miramichi, Ethel Godfrey (Bert), of Miramichi, Hilda Vienotte (Vince), of Saint John; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Lloyd, in 1964; her parents; her step-father, Bernie MacDonald; two brothers, Chester and Carl MacDonald; two sisters Jean Nelligan and Marion Taylor; her long time companion, Sandy MacDonald.

Visitation was at **Adams Funeral Home**, 140 King St., on Tuesday. Funeral service was held from Adams Funeral Home Chapel, on Wednesday at 2 pm, conducted by David Allan, B.A., M.Div. Music for the service was provided by Mr. William Sweezy and the hymns were "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", "The Old Rugged Cross" and "How Great Thou Art". The scriptures were read by Rosemary MacDonald and the eulogy was given by Lynn Lloyd. Honorary pallbearers were Bert Godfrey, Bill Taylor, Vincent Veinotte, Bunny and Marie McLenaghan, She rman MacDiarmid, Paul Kelly and Shawn Cook. Active pallbearers were Darren MacDonald, George Lloyd, Blair Lawrence MacDonald, Lloyd MacDonald, Jason MacDonald, Germaine MacNaughton. Interment was in the Black River Community Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to any charity of the donors' choice would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Adams Funeral Home Ltd., 140 King St., Miramichi, telephone 773-3492 or messages of condolence may be sent online to www.adamsfh.ca

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"Grief shared is grief diminished"
- Rabbi Grollman



THERIAULT, MARY
Mary Norma (Richard) Theriault, wife of Arthur Theriault of Miramichi passed away Friday, October 13th, 2017 at the Miramichi Regional Hospital at the age of 82. Born in Loggieville, NB, she was the daughter of Selime and Bridget (Comeau) Richard.

She was a homemaker and devoted mother to eight children and attended St. Michael's Basilica where she was a long standing member of the choir.

She is survived by Arthur, her husband of 63 years and her children; Stephen (Colleen), Lynn (John) MacDonald, Mark, and Roger (Alex) all of Miramichi; Lisa (Darren) Kadey of Saint John, Aaron (Renee) of Quispamsis and her daughter-in-law Holly Theriault of Merida, Mexico. She was a proud grandmother of ten grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. Norma is also survived by three sisters; Mabel (Evan) Absalom, Lynn (Victor) Fullerton, and Rosemary (Bernard) LeMay and four brothers; John (Margaret), Paul (Leona), Mel (Mary) and Roger Richard and many nieces and nephews.

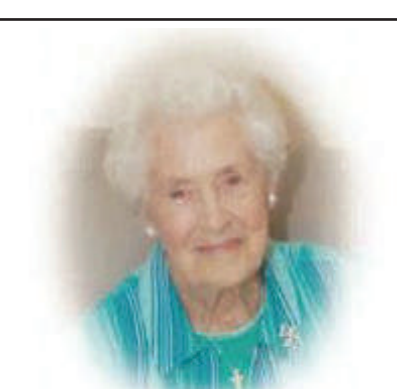
She was predeceased by her parents; Selime and Bridget Richard and her two sons Rick and Brian.

Mary Norma (Richard) Theriault rested at **Maher's Funeral Home** Miramichi on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 pm. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 11am from St Michael's Basilica with Fr Paul Doucet officiating, assisted by Fr. Charles Udeh. Pallbearers were John MacDonald, Alexander MacDonald, Connor MacDonald, Darren Kadey, Michael Theriault, and Mel Theriault. Music by St Michael's Choir and organist David Bunnell.

As a expression of sympathy a donation may be made to the Alzheimer Society or the St Michael's Capital Campaign would be appreciated.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of Maher's Funeral Home, Miramichi NB. Telephone 773-4321 or www.mahersfh.com

MEMORIAMS



Jean Phee
In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother who passed away October 20, 2013.
Beautiful memories are woven in gold.
This is the picture we tenderly hold.
Deep in our hearts her memory is kept,
To love and to cherish and never forget
Sadly missed by Helen and Family.

PRAYERS

Saint Jude's Novena: May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, loved, praised and glorified throughout the world now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, Pray for us. St Jude help the hopeless, pray for us. Say this nine times a day for nine days. By the 8th day it will be answered. Publication must be promised. Will not fail. Thank you St Jude for favour received. D.M

ML -2017-10-20

news



NB Power PHOTO: BNI ARCHIVE

NB Power says it paid \$1.7 million in severance to former CEO David Hay

ADAM HURAS
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

NB Power says it had to pay its former president and CEO David Hay at least \$1.7 million after he left the utility, a figure that has been kept secret for the last seven years.

Hay left the position abruptly in January 2010 amid the efforts of the Shawn Graham government to sell some of NB Power's assets to Hydro-Québec.

He was 10 months into a three-year contract at the time.

The Liberal government at the time refused to discuss details of the retirement package it was offering Hay.

Government public accounts records show Hay was being paid \$400,000 to \$424,999 before he left the position.

His severance deal was about four times that amount.

NB Power spokeswoman Marie-Andrée Bolduc says Hay was paid between \$925,000 and \$950,000 in 2010 and then between \$775,000 and \$800,000 in 2011 for a total settlement of between \$1.7 million and \$1.75 million.

Hay's exit came after he abstained from a key vote on the proposed power deal at an NB Power board meeting where the remainder of the 11-member, government-appointed board endorsed the tentative sale to Quebec's utility.

"This is David Hay's decision," then-Liberal energy minister Jack Keir said in 2010.

"He saw that NB Power is headed in a new direction and he saw this as an opportune time to pass the torch."

Despite the settlement, the details of

the payout have been kept out of the government's annual Blue Book - a compilation of salaries, severance payments and travel expenses paid to public sector employees.

Instead, the section on NB Power's severance payments in 2011 carried a disclaimer: "Due to confidentiality provisions with government, the retirement allowance/severance and salary paid to one executive is excluded."

Back in 2010, Keir said details about Hay's severance would be made public.

"There's a process in place and that information will come out in the 'blue book,'" he told the Telegraph-Journal at the time.

When that didn't happen a year later, Keir, then no longer an MLA and the Graham government kicked from power, expressed surprise that there was a confidentiality agreement.

"I don't know why it's not in blue book. I was told it would be," he said in 2011. "I'm not sure it was bad advice at the time but I was told that it would be in blue book."

Then Progressive Conservative Energy Minister Craig Leonard said in 2011 that the government is bound by a confidentiality agreement the previous Liberal government agreed to in the matter.

Attempts to reach Hay on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

CIBC World Markets hired David Hay as vice chairman of investment banking just a few months after he left NB Power. He retired from that position in 2015.

Hay remains on the board of directors for Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited.

Pact could save \$15M, says CEO

PACT →A1

funding arrangement with industry on paper and packaging, which makes up the majority of items collected under New Brunswick's different residential curbside recycling programs.

As far as no-brainers go, he said this one should be a slam dunk. But, for whatever reason, he said the issue doesn't seem to be one of government's top priorities at the moment.

"That's why we're talking to the municipalities, because municipalities have a lot more pull than Recycle NB might. We're an agency of the government, so we can't push it."

"But, as far as this being on their agenda, it's on their list of recycling products, but still years down the road, but we would really like to see a contract signed with industry to get reimbursed for that."

Under its mandate, Recycle NB administers the provincial tire, oil, glycol, paint and electronic waste recycling initiatives.

Stewardship agreements with industry on those particular products are in place, McCarthy said, noting that extending it into plastics and packaging is the next logical step.

Anybody who purchases a bottle of pop or a box of cereal in New Brunswick, he said, is paying a built-in fee that producers set on their products collected specifically for recycling. Oftentimes, McCarthy said, that recycling fee only amounts to a fraction of a cent, but it's still there.

And the fact that the money is being used in other provinces to cover the cost of recycling while industry gets a free pass in this one doesn't quite seem fair, he said.

All of that money adds up quickly, McCarthy said.

In Quebec, for instance, he said the private sector is collectively reimbursing the government to the tune of \$128 million annually for the recycling of those products.

If New Brunswick adopts a similar system, McCarthy said based on the province's current diversion numbers, that would likely amount to an annual taxpayer savings of about \$15 million.

The city of Fredericton, alone, would be remitted roughly \$1 million on recycling costs if the province was able to forge a pact with industry, he said.

McCarthy said it's up to the Environment and Local Government Department to get the ball rolling to determine the structure of any agreement, the funding model and the rest of the framework while negotiating a deal with corporations.

"If the government decided today that they wanted this program, we're still probably looking two or three years down the road [for implementation]. It's a process, there are a lot of challenges, but there would be [a lot of benefits]."

Miramichi service commission board members, including the mayors of the region's municipalities and local service district representatives, said it seems obvious this is something the province should pursue.

McCarthy said he has heard a lot during his travels around the province delivering these presentations to other commissions.

"I mean, it just seems like a no-brainer," said Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon. "It saves people money, and it's going to divert more things from the landfill."

A spokesman, meanwhile, for the Department of Environment and Local Government said on Wednesday that the department is aware of the file and are in the early stages of determining how to move forward.

"The Department of Environment and Local Government continues to be an active member of Recycle NB's dialogue regarding packaging and printed paper," said Marc-Andre Chiasson. "[We are] exploring what a possible PPP program could look like for the Province of New Brunswick."

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Appendix H – Planning Services Media Coverage

Shannex confirms interest in nursing home RFP; moves to develop two separate properties

KRIS MCDAVID Miramichi Leader

February 22, 2017

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A look at the Shannex Parkland development in Milledgeville. The company is looking to build a similar-type structure as part of a retirement living and nursing home complex on land in Douglastown, with plans for a separate long-term care facility on land in Chatham Head.
Telegraph-Journal Archive

A pair of development applications from Shannex relating to two large-scale senior care developments in the works for the city were granted preliminary approvals from an arm of the regional planning office this week.

Members of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's Planning Review and Adjustment Committee passed motions following a detailed presentation that laid out the Halifax-based corporation's plans for a pair of properties it's looking to build on in Chatham Head and Douglastown.

Darrell Dixon, Shannex's construction manager, was present for the hearing in Miramichi on Tuesday and confirmed that both projects are in relation to the RFP the provincial government has opened up looking for a proponent to build and operate a 240-bed nursing home.

In Shannex's case, their proposal calls for two separate complexes located at opposite ends of the city which, when tallied together, would total 240 beds.

"Shannex is very pleased the committee supported the two variance applications and at this point we'll just continue along with the RFP process and we'll be optimistic about an outcome," Dixon said.

The nuts and bolts of the company's plans go well beyond simply the nursing home component, however.

Justin Forbes, a planner with the Miramichi RSC, noted in his presentation that Shannex is looking to erect a two-storey, 220-bed long-term care facility on a 54-hectare [133-acre] piece of land directly across from the Miramichi Regional Hospital.

That project would include 180 beds designated for nursing home care as well as 40 beds earmarked for memory care and an adult day facility that was one of the provisions written into the RFP by the government.

Across the river in Douglastown, meanwhile, Shannex is aiming to establish what's being described as a retirement living community on a large property situated across from Kent Building Supplies along the King George Highway.

This development would feature two separate buildings, one equipped with 60 nursing home beds and 10 memory care beds, as well as a three-storey structure hooked around 22 assisted living suites, and outdoor recreational space for activities like miniature golf and bocce ball.

The variances being requested by the company on both projects related to things like parking space width and the depth of the setback from the structures from the road, neither of which Forbes said would be deal-breakers if this were ultimately given to move ahead.

Forbes did note the city's engineering department was recommending a detailed traffic study be put together for the Chatham Head property.

The Douglastown site, meanwhile, rubs up against against a small trickle of a stream known as Phillips Brook and, because of that, the company will need to work with the Department of Environment and Local Government on a watercourse and wetland alteration application.

Other than that, however, Forbes noted that each project appeared fairly straightforward and generally in line with the city's municipal development plan, its bylaws and the provisions of the provincial Community Planning Act.

A number of people sat in on the hearing, including representatives of the Miramichi Senior Citizens Home, the 81-bed non-profit nursing home which the government says will close once the new 240 beds come online.

The 133-bed Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home, which just recently saw a nearly \$10 million renovation project wrap up, will also close down once the process plays out.

Representatives of both existing nursing homes have expressed concern about the government's pledge to ensure that any new nursing home builds are done using a public-private partnership [P3].

The loss of both community-based, non-profit facilities would leave the incoming private operation as the only option for nursing home care in the city.

The government has said it hopes to have the winner of the RFP identified sometime this summer, with Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser saying in an interview earlier this week he's hoping to see shovels in the ground by the fall.

Despite Miramichi's rapidly-aging population, the initiative will only result in a net gain of 26 nursing home spaces over what exists now, however government officials have said the addition of memory care beds - like what Shannex is proposing with its bid - and other senior care options should be able to absorb some of that demand as well.

Shannex currently operates all three of the province's privately-managed nursing homes.

Douglas Mills, whose home sits next door the site of the proposed Douglastown development, was the only person who attended the meeting to speak on the matter.

Mills said that while he didn't want his concerns about the plans for the project to be confused with direct opposition to the project itself, he said there were some details in the blueprints he was hoping could be rectified before the time comes to actually build.

Specifically, Mills said he feels the parking lot area and site access is located too close to his property line, at just 20 feet away, which he said he feels is a little intrusive.

He also expressed concern over the amount of heavy equipment that will be accessing the construction site just a few feet away from the edge of his property.

"You're going to have a three-story building with a foundation 20-feet from our property line and we're going to be looking straight up at this building," Mills said.

"When it comes to rocking up that shoreline and building up your waterfront, there's going to be a lot of excavators, bulldozers and loads of trucks with rocks building up that waterfront and once you put in foundations, that traffic is going to have to go down that little 20-foot line."

Dixon responded directly to Mills and noted that Shannex was committed to working with its neighbours and planned to maintain an open line of communication if and when the go-aheads for construction are granted.

"Our process, should we be selected and this all happens, we would certainly be coming out to meet with all of our neighbours before anything happens," he said. "We're owner-operators and we want to be good neighbours, so we will certainly be meeting with you and talking about your boundary and exactly what's happening."

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City hoping new advisory committee can help facilitate new development

KRIS MCDAVID Miramichi Leader

March 8, 2017

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Miramichi City Hall on Henry Street. Miramichi city council passed a motion Tuesday night creating a new development advisory committee.
Miramichi Leader Archive

In response to questions and concerns at the city level about the ability of developers to effectively navigate through the different stages of the planning process, the municipality has now put a call out to qualified people willing to come forward and help smooth some of that out.

Miramichi city council voted during a special council meeting Tuesday night to adopt a new policy creating a special Development Advisory Committee consisting of city representatives and other stakeholders officials are hoping can help better facilitate development in the city.

Establishing this type of body, which would also include representation from the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, was one of the recommendations included in a detailed report from city manager Mike Noel released earlier this year that examined the city's relationship with the regional planning office administered by the RSC.

That report was ordered by the former council early last year amid concerns some of them said they had been hearing from developers in the city who were alleging they were having issues with planners getting their projects through to completion.

Noel's report, which was presented to council in late January, noted that he could find no evidence of any wrongdoing by the planning office that was in any way hurting the level of development in the city.

It was also noted that in carrying out this exercise that no developers were willing to go on the record or provide specific examples of their experience in working with the RSC.

While there was no discussion from council on the motion passed Tuesday night, Mayor Adam Lordon said in a recent interview that he believes the formation of this type of a committee will add another layer of transparency to the development process.

And if it helps ensure that more people are investing into different projects in the city, then he said this will be well worth it.

"Hopefully this will help improve issues on the development front because, in general, when we're engaged we can always help improve things," Lordon said in February.

"I don't just want to chalk it all up to people's complaints being unfounded – to me, there were enough complaints where there are some valid concerns."

The idea behind the formation of the new committee would see it serving as a point of contact for any issues or recommendations relating to the "development experience" in Miramichi.

While the RSC isn't anyway required to promote or advocate on behalf of developers, acting as more of a regulator and ensuring any projects that do take place are in accordance with different bylaws and legislation, Lordon has said the city does have a direct interest in ensuring that development is taking place within its borders.

"One of the challenges is that these [situations] require content experts, and councils are not content experts," Lordon said. "So we're going to be engaging our own advisory panel of experts to suggest what they feel we should do."

Noel, in a management report attached to the new policy, said the city is looking for people who have specific skillsets and backgrounds in the world of development and, preferably, those who have had experience building things in the city.

The Developers Advisory Committee will consist of between three and six members who will be appointed by council to a maximum term of two years.

The committee will also, from time-to-time, be able to present reports and recommendations to council for consideration.

"Such input can only serve to benefit development within the city by offering a unique viewpoint prior to the city modifying various bylaws or policies," Noel said.

After ending its year-long stalemate with the RSC, the city returned to the organization's board of directors last month, with Lordon attending his first meeting as mayor.

Lordon has said the city is committed to making the most of its role on the RSC moving forward and plans to be an active participant.

In the meantime, the formation of the new DAC continues a recent pattern at city hall of reaching out to the community for greater input into city affairs.

Earlier this year council passed similar motions to establish a handful of new citizens' advisory committees that will be devoted to areas like community heritage, community arts and culture and community parks, with applications now being accepted for positions on those panels as well.

"We're excited to be engaging more and more citizens in the business of the city," Lordon said at the time. "It's a priority of this council to increase community engagement and increase the dialogue between city hall and council and our citizens."

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news

Miramichi students, city councillors paint pride flag stamps downtown

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Some local high school students have been busy painting the town red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple.

In anticipation of the National Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, Miramichi Valley High School student members of the Gender Sexuality Alliance, with an assist from members of city council, painted pride flag stamps Monday, May 8, at two locations around the Newcastle town square; one in front of city hall and the other in front of the Beaverbrook Kin Centre.

Motorists drove by and looked with interest to see what the students and councillors were doing.

Grade 12 student Alex Bell was more than thrilled to see members of the club along with members of city council painting pride stamps downtown together.

"It makes me really happy because it's not something I thought would be possible," Bell said. "A couple of years ago, I didn't think anyone would do this, but I'm happy that we can do it now."

Bell said it's a sign that the Miramichi region is becoming more inclusive.

Melanie Maltby Ingersoll, a teacher and co-advisor for the Gender Sexuality Alliance at the school, along with long with teacher Elizabeth Kelly, said the students in the club made a request to city council back in March to show support for the local LGBTQ community, and it was approved.

"We were looking to do a rainbow



Miramichi Valley High School students in the Gender Sexuality Awareness Club and members of Miramichi city council stand in front of the pride stamp they painted in front of city hall in downtown Newcastle. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

crosswalk like they have in Moncton and Halifax, but due to safety concerns ... The students thought it would be a good idea to do rainbow stamps [instead]," Maltby Ingersoll said.

The club started off with about 20 students at the start of the school year, and now has about 10 students who are part of the club on a regular basis. Maltby

Ingersoll hopes to see the numbers increase next year.

"We're going to have an activity with students from Gretna Green and Max Aitken Academy so they get to know us, our faces and our names so when they come up to the high school, they won't be shy to join our [Gender Sexuality Alliance]," Maltby Ingersoll said.

City council was represented by Mayor Adam Lordon as well as councillors Ryan Somers and Tony "Bucket" Walsh, who came out to lend a hand painting the stamps. Lordon said it's a positive sign that things are moving forward in Miramichi and shows how inclusive the city has become.

The students who put forth the idea of painting pride stamps, Lordon added, are prime examples of youth making a difference in the community and are leading by example.

"The community they built in their school is one that's open and inclusive and everyone is free to be themselves and that's the same idea we want to have here in the city," Lordon said. "We want everyone to know that Miramichi is an accepting and open and an inclusive place for everyone."

The mayor said actions speak louder than words and this is one of the things that can help show change.

Lordon said the community has come a long way since he was in high school. Something like painting a pride stamp or crosswalk downtown or anywhere in the city for that matter, would have been on very few people's radar.

"For these kids to feel comfortable enough to bring this forward and see their entire council get behind this, makes me proud to be the mayor of this community," Lordon said. "When they unveiled the pride flag in front of city hall, it made me really emotional. It's really special and all of us are trying hard to evolve and be our best selves and this shows we're on the right track."



A look at a rendering of a proposed 240-bed nursing home from the Lark Group of Surrey, British Columbia.

PHOTO: THE LARK GROUP

B.C. company in the running to build nursing home

LARK → A1

the PRAC during a meeting in Miramichi that took place on April 18.

Planner Justin Forbes, in his report, noted the nuts and bolts of the company's plans appear to be generally consistent with the city's municipal development strategy.

It was noted, however, that the plans submitted to the planning office by the Lark Group amounted to more of a general overview and that a few details remain outstanding at this stage, including clarity on the building's positioning, setbacks and separation distances.

"The site plan provided does not provide sufficient detail for planning staff to confirm that the proposed development complies with R-6 and other applicable zoning regulations at this time," Forbes wrote.

"While this is so, generally, it is reasonably acceptable to presume that a 240-bed nursing home could be developed on the site in a manner that complies with zoning regulations."

When and if the applicant eventually applies for a building permit, Forbes noted the expectation on the planning end of things would call for the submission of a more detailed site plan.

As for the fate of the rezoning application, that decision will ultimately fall to Miramichi city council.

The provincial government, which put out a call for bids on the P3 project last year, is expecting to confirm which proponent will build and operate the development sometime this summer, with construction possibly getting underway this year.

Shannex's plans, meanwhile, came to light in February after providing an application requesting variances on a property in Chatham Head and another on a piece of land along the King George Highway in Douglastown.

Both properties form the basis of the Shannex bid.

The Chatham Head component would feature a two-storey, 220-bed long-term care facility on a 54-hectare [133-acre] piece of land directly across from the Miramichi Regional Hospital.

That project would include 180 beds designated for nursing home care as well as 40 beds earmarked for memory care and an adult day facility that was one of the provisions written into the RFP by the government.

Across the river in Douglastown, meanwhile, Shannex is aiming to establish what's being described as a retirement living community on a large property situated across from Kent Building Supplies along the King George Highway.

This development would feature two separate buildings, one equipped with 60 nursing home beds and 10 memory care beds, as well as a three-storey structure hooked around 22 assisted living suites, and outdoor recreational space for activities like a putting green and bocce ball.

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NEWS TIPS
mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR
Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN
ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING
Amanda Eagan (506) 627-7412

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Gold standard for development being honoured with 'Silver Shingle' award

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is recognizing the work of a handful of developers who have gone above and beyond when it comes to exercising innovation and sound building practices.

The RSC has released a list of five finalists who are in the running to receive the first ever Silver Shingle award for excellence in development.

This is an initiative commission staff have been working on for some time after looking into ways of recognizing some of the quality development that has been taking place throughout the RSC's coverage area.

Eventually, they settled on the Silver Shingle concept, which will be presented to the proponent whose project is determined to have made the greatest impact in terms of community image, economic development and a host of other criteria that are all factored in as well.

"We wanted to recognize the quality development that's occurring in our region, and we have five quality nominees here, so it's really great to see we have that kind of development taking place," said Wilson Bell, the executive director of the RSC.

"It's also to put a positive spin on our role as well, in terms of development control as opposed to construction and regulate all the time, so we try to help facilitate things."

Five high-profile projects are in the running for the inaugural award, which will be presented during the commission board meeting taking place at their Water Street offices on May 31 at 12 p.m.

The list of finalists is diverse, ranging from large-scale big box developments to nursing homes and special-care homes, an apartment complex and a downtown coffee shop.

Rio Plaza Properties Inc., a partnership between national retail developer Riocan and Fredericton-based Plaza Retail REIT, for their work in redeveloping the Northumberland Square mall are on the short list.

The companies, who entered into a partnership on the property two summers ago, are in the process of putting the finishing touches of a major reconfiguration of the mall, converting it from its former designation as a walk-through space into a strip setup featuring walk-up storefronts.

From there, the list of finalists includes Martell Home Builders, for their 24-unit apartment building on Ironmen Road at Retirement Miramichi, as well as Miramar Enterprises Inc., which established the Mill Cove coffee shop in a historic building previously damaged by fire on the Newcastle Town Square.

The nominees are rounded out by the 30-bed Central New Brunswick Nursing Home, which opened its doors in the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi and, finally, Cheryl and Theo Craig, the proponents behind a pair of 10-bed special care homes located on Newcastle Boulevard.

Some of the factors the commission was looking for in presenting this award were projects that, for instance, find a new use for a previously unused building, enhances the aesthetic of a neighbourhood or a community, provides safe and efficient access, incorporates quality design and helps enhance the local tax base.

Bell said the final list of five is a really strong, well-rounded one and hits on a lot of what planners were seeking to recognize in presenting this kind of award.

"You have a couple of redevelopments on that list, people who are investing back into the community and using existing infrastructure, and it's also good to see we're getting some diversity in the housing stock as well," he said.

"And obviously the need for nursing home and special care beds is critical as well, so that type of diversity is what we're looking for and hoping for, so hopefully we'll be seeing more of it."

The service commission has been working on improving its level of communication and engagement with the public and the clients it serves, and Bell said this initiative is all part of that commitment.

From here, meanwhile, a five-member selection committee will work to select this year's winner.

That group will feature representation from the RSC's board of directors, a member of the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee, a staffer from the RSC's planning services division and a representative from the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce and Miramichi Valley Business Association.

N.B. does not apply for disaster relief

JOHN CHILIBECK
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

FREDERICTON • With no reports of large-scale damage caused by recent flooding, New Brunswick's government says it hasn't applied for disaster relief.

Over the last several days, people in communities along the St. John River, especially in Maugerville and Sheffield, a short drive east of Fredericton, have pumped water from their basements and tried to move their valuables to higher ground.

But the damage so far does not appear to be widespread.

"It is still too early to establish the need for financial assistance at this time," said Robert Duguay, a spokesman for the Emergency Measures Organization, in an email Monday afternoon.

"Water levels remain high and above flood stage in several locations of the lower St. John River basin. Some roads are still affected by the water levels and they will be reopened as soon they are considered safe by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. At this time NB EMO has received no reports of major impacts."

Ottawa provides financial relief in the case of large-scale natural disasters, such as the flooding that sowed havoc in the village of Perth-Andover in northwestern New Brunswick in March 2012. During that inundation, about 500 people were evacuated from buildings, including a wing of the local hospital.

The federal government has a cost-sharing formula, based on per capita funding, when disaster strikes. The bigger the financial burden on the



Mary Mossop's house in Maugerville is slowly becoming an island. She has moved everything from her crawlspace and is ready to wait the flood out. PHOTO: ROBERT WILLIAMS

province, the bigger the percentage of relief it can qualify for, up to 90 per cent of total costs.

Meanwhile, the Insurance Bureau of Canada reminded the public Monday that property owners could become ineligible for future government disaster relief if they had the possibility of buying overland flood or sewer backup insurance, but failed to take out a policy.

Amanda Dean, a vice president at the Atlantic division of the bureau, said in an interview up to five companies had

made those types of insurance products available to New Brunswick property owners, starting two years ago.

She said it's possible even more companies offer the packages now. The bureau hasn't surveyed its members in a while on the issue.

"If New Brunswick applied for disaster relief, we'd work with the provincial EMO to let them know who should have been eligible for insurance and how readily available it was," Dean said Monday.

Following the extensive flooding in Sydney, N.S., last October the Nova Scotia government applied for disaster relief. Dean said some property owners saw the amount they were eligible for clawed back, based on the insurance products they had or didn't have.

Sarah Gillis, a spokeswoman for Nova Scotia's EMO, said in an interview Monday afternoon she could not immediately provide figures or detailed information on the government's relief efforts last fall.

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Region's forestry sector needs to focus on the 'next 30 years': mayor

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

If the city's neighbours want to present a unified front to the provincial government in a call to action on kick-starting the region's forestry sector, Miramichi's mayor says he'd be more than open to help push that message.

There are no less than three different mill proposals for the Miramichi region

currently in limbo, including two in the city. With that in mind, Mayor Adam Lordon said now might be the time for the region's municipalities and local service districts to raise the idea in a more formal capacity with the government, and determine what might be done about it.

"If you guys would like to get something together as an organization to go talk to them about forestry, the city would be happy to be a part of that,"

Lordon said during last week's Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission board meeting.

"We see it happening too, and it's sort of been a death by attrition – we want to get forestry back on the table as a priority regionally, and I'd be happy to commit the city to working with this organization in order to do that."

Lordon proposed the idea after members of the board, which is made up of

area mayors and local service district representatives, expressed frustration that more wasn't being done on the forestry front.

John Goodfellow, who represents the local service district of South Esk, said he feels the policies of the government have been responsible for hampering development in the regional forestry sector.

PLEASE SEE → **FORESTRY, A2**

Man who admitted to murder wants to change plea

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A 21-year-old man who pleaded guilty to the 2016 home invasion and slaying of a retired NB Power worker has made a motion to withdraw his plea, which will be heard later this summer.

Brandon Blake Colford, of Howard Road near Blackville, was flanked by a pair of sheriff's deputies as he appeared in custody before Justice Fred Ferguson in Miramichi Court of Queen's Bench for motions day on Monday.

Colford has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of 49-year-old Michael "Mickey" Ryan, who was found dead in his Richard Street minihome the morning of April 23.

Miramichi police arrested him in Moncton on April 29 of last year and he has been in custody ever since.

Colford eventually pleaded guilty to the charge during an appearance back on Jan. 12 and acknowledged his role in the events as presented by the court.

However, during a scheduled presentence hearing that took place on May 3, the court learned that Colford and his defence lawyer, Edward Darrach, had parted ways and that it was the intention of the accused to file a motion to have his guilty plea withdrawn for the purposes of changing it to not guilty.

Ferguson on Monday approved a date for the motion to be heard, with the matter set for Friday, Sept. 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Jean-Guy Savoie has been representing the Crown in the case while defence lawyer Allison Menard appeared on a temporary retainer only for matters related to this specific motion.

While Menard will be appearing as Colford's legal counsel for the hearing scheduled for September, Ferguson expressed concern about the fact that the accused doesn't have any legal representation secured for the next stage of the process, whatever that may be.

Whether the case heads to trial, which would happen if the application is successful, or if it proceeds to the sentencing stages again, Ferguson said

PLEASE SEE → **COURT, A2**

RSC doles out first Silver Shingle

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Representatives of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission settled on one of the bigger commercial developments in the city's recent history to dole out its first ever Silver Shingle award for excellence in development last week.

After whittling it down to a list of five finalists, officials presented representatives from Rio Plaza Properties Inc. with the inaugural award on May 31, an initiative designed to recognize regional projects that stand above the rest in terms of execution and impact.

Wilson Bell, the executive director of the commission, said it's important to generate increased awareness about some of the quality development that takes place throughout the Miramichi region in the run of a year, pointing out that there was definitely no shortage to choose from.

"We really enjoy working with these developers and it just goes to show that we want to be available to help move these projects along," Bell said. "So if you have more projects, please come back and we'd be happy to work with you again."

Rio Plaza, a partnership between

PLEASE SEE → **AWARD, A2**

Tiny teacher



Jenna Walsh, with her son Kent Walsh, took part in the Roots of Empathy's year-end celebration Monday afternoon at Beaverbrook Kin Centre in Newcastle. The program teaches young school children how to be empathetic, using babies as teachers. For more photos see B6 or miramichileader.com PHOTO: HALEY-LYNN BOHAN

'We will just let love and kindness carry on': deputy chief on defaced pride stamps

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Miramichi's mayor said the defacing – for a second time – of pride flags painted on city streets is not a reflection of who Miramichi residents are.

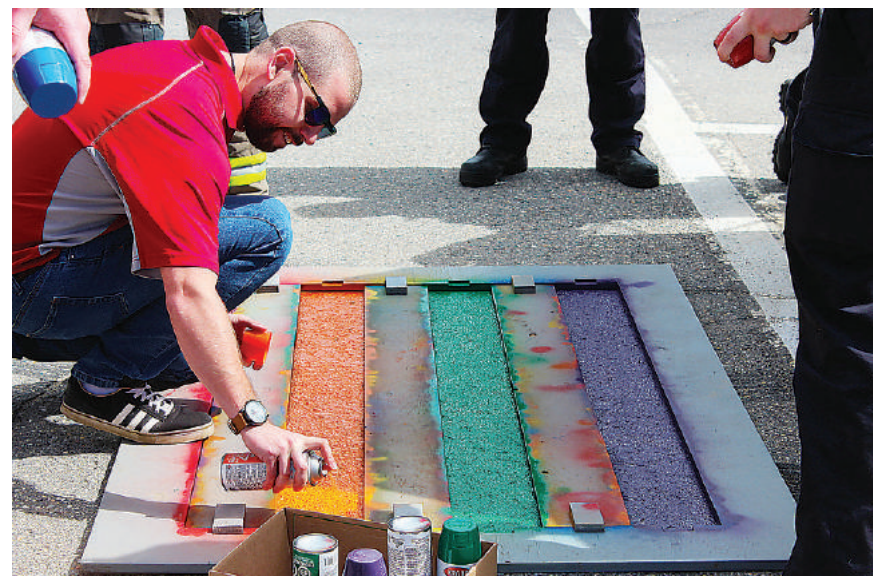
Mayor Adam Lordon said although it is disappointing to see the pride stamps being defaced, it's out of sync with how most of the community feels.

Lordon said the community has

evolved and will continue to evolve, and said some people are out of step with where the city and the country is going as a whole.

"It's clear these are the actions of someone who is looking for attention and looking to stir the pot. A better thing to do would be to sit down and have a conversation, we all have to respect each other. Is it a targeted act, I think that it is.

PLEASE SEE → **STAMPS, A2**



Nathan Stewart helps repaints the pride flag in downtown Newcastle Monday afternoon, along with a group from the Kinsmen and the MVHS GSA. PHOTO: HALEY-LYNN BOHAN

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Court Man who painted swastika on historic home sentenced for vandalism, other crimes **A5**

Community Members of Miramichi Garden Club to be at farmers markets **B5**

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news

Man wants to change plea

COURT →A1

it was in the interest of everyone that Colford have those questions related to representation firmed up well before then.

“At the young age of 21, I would want counsel to be present and representing Mr. Colford either at a sentence hearing or at a trial,” Ferguson said.

“Without prejudging it too much, I can say that someone 21 years old ... either defending a second-degree murder on his own or making representations on a sentencing, it’s an unfair position to put someone in.”

Ferguson noted the court still does not yet know the basis for Colford’s request to have his previous plea stricken from the record.

The veteran judge, however, also said

he wanted to make it clear to both sides that it was critical to ensure that any disclosure that might relate to Darrah’s role in the matter is provided to him as soon as possible.

Several members of the Ryan family were on hand in the public viewing gallery to take in the day’s proceedings, as they’ve done consistently from the outset of the case.

Last August, meanwhile, 44-year-old Lucy Marie Peterson of Blackville was dealt a two-year sentence by Justice Jack Walsh after pleading guilty to her role leading up to and in the aftermath of the events of April 23, 2016

Peterson had previously pleaded guilty to breaking and entering into Ryan’s residence for the purposes of committing an indictable offence and as being an accessory after the fact.



21-year-old Brandon Blake Colford will have his motion to withdraw an earlier guilty plea to second-degree murder in the death of 49-year-old Michael Ryan heard in September. PHOTO: ERNESTO CARRANZA/MIRAMICHI LEADER

‘We will just let love and kindness carry on’: deputy chief

STAMPS →A1

It’s just the kind of thing that is harmful for the community,” Lordon said.

Brian Cummings, deputy chief of the Miramichi Police Force, said hate will never win.

“We don’t allow these types of incidents to rule our lives or to take over the prevailing attitude in the community, and we will just let love and kindness carry on,” Cummings said.

Lordon said it reflects poorly on the community when the city is drawing attention to itself for defacing pride stamps.

“We want to draw attention for the fact we’re evolving to a point where we are painting pride stamps on the ground, where we are developing immigration strategies, raising the Mi’kmaq flag. Those are the kind of things we want to be focusing on as a community, where we are taking actions to be inclusive,” Lordon said. “Some people are uncomfortable with that, but that’s where we are going.”

Despite some negative and vulgar comments that appeared online, Lordon said he was approached by people in the community who gave their full support.

“After we were done painting the pride stamps [the second time] I had a gentleman stop me in the grocery store afterwards, shake my hand and say how good this was for the community,” Lordon said.

Cummings said the vandalism done to pride flags painted on city streets is completely unnecessary and his department, although not investigating, is not turning a blind eye.

“We aren’t standing idly by and just allowing this to happen. It’s unfortunate, it inflames the public needlessly. In this day and age, there’s no need for this type of incident to be occurring.”

Cummings said if they encounter anyone spinning their tires on pride stamps to vandalize the stamps, they will be fined \$172.50 under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.

That being said, Cummings said if they found someone was damaging them in some other way that the department felt warranted proceeding with criminal charges, they would do just that.

“What those charges would be, at the end of the day, ultimately rests with the Crown prosecutor’s office.”

No one has come forward to press any

charges, but anyone with information should contact the Miramichi Police Force at 623-2124 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Students from the Miramichi Valley High School Gender Sexuality Alliance Club and students from the Max Aitken Academy and Gretna Green School initially painted three pride stamps in the community on May 8.

One pride stamp is located behind Miramichi Valley High, one in front of city hall, and the other in front of the Beaverbrook Kin Centre in Newcastle. They are not located in the centre of the road, but off to the side.

The club received permission from Miramichi City Council earlier this year and raised the funds on their own to pay for the spray paint. By May 11, all three were defaced with tire marks, something the club believes was done deliberately.

Then, on May 30 they were repainted again and a little more than 24 hours later, the one in front of the kin centre was once again vandalized overnight on May 31.

On Friday, June 2, members of the Miramichi Fire Department “D” shift duty crew removed some of the paint used to deface the pride stamp.

Melanie Maltby Ingersoll, a teacher at Miramichi Valley High School, said she heard individuals complaining that the pride flag itself is only for people who are gay.

“It’s not, it’s a flag that’s accepting of all people,” she said. “The pride stamps are a symbol of love for all, no matter their gender or sexual orientation. It’s about inclusively and love, not exclusion and hate.”

Maltby Ingersoll said she wants to know why the pride stamps continue to be defaced despite mayor and council advocating for Miramichi to be considered an open and inclusive community.

“What is it? Is it the same people doing this, and [if so] what is your problem? Are you angry, are you frustrated ... I just don’t understand what the message is. If you have something to say, go out and say it,” Maltby Ingersoll said. “I don’t know what their point is. I see this as a hate message, I don’t know what else this is.”

It’s not a matter of if, but when the GSA club will repaint the pride stamp.

“We will take care of it, but we’re just not sure how often we will, but we will take care of it,” Maltby Ingersoll said.

RSC doles out first Silver Shingle award

AWARD →A1

national retail developer Riocan and Fredericton-based Plaza Retail REIT, received the honour for their work in transforming the city’s Northumberland Square mall property over the last few years.

The company invested heavily in converting what was once a tired-looking, 1970s style shopping mall into a more modern-looking and accessible configuration that has drawn praise from planners and city economic development officials.

The first phase of the work saw the demolition of the former Zellers space that had long-anchored Northumberland Square and, subsequently, the construction of the new Winners and Giant Tiger stores that opened back in 2014.

Last year, meanwhile, work picked up again with crews undertaking a complete remodel of the mall and converting it from its former setup into a strip configuration allowing direct, walk-up access to customers.

Most of that work wrapped up in the spring, with previous mall tenants relocated to the new front section and the company in the process of trying to find occupants for a pair of large store fronts.

While the cost of the project has not been disclosed, Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon, speaking on behalf of the city, said it’s clear the level of investment was significant and thanked the firm for their commitment to the community.

Lordon also recognized the other finalists as well, noting that the city is coming off a string of brisk years in terms of development and said all of that activity is collectively helping Miramichi turn a corner.

“As we try to renew the community and bring more life, the redevelopment of existing properties is such an important piece of that, in the downtowns and all around the city,” he said. “So we commend all of you on your hard work and dedication to our community – keep it up.”



A look at the new facade of the redesigned Northumberland Square mall in Miramichi. The developer, Rio Plaza Properties Inc., were presented with the first ever Silver Shingle award for excellence in development at a recent Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission meeting. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Four of the five finalists were city-based projects. The new Central New Brunswick Nursing Home in the former village of Boiestown was the sole rural nominee.

The remainder of the list included: Martell Home Builders, for their 24-unit apartment building on Ironmen Road at Retirement Miramichi; Miramar Enterprises Inc., which established the Mill Cove coffee shop in a historic building previously damaged by fire on the Newcastle Town Square; and Cheryl and Theo Craig, the proponents behind a pair of 10-bed special care homes located on Newcastle Boulevard.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission struck a committee consisting of representation from its board and planning services office, the Planning Review and Adjustment Committee, the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce and the Miramichi Valley Business Association to determine a winner.

Criteria included factors such as finding a new use for a previously unused building, enhancing the aesthetic of a neighbourhood or a community, providing safe and efficient access, incorporating quality design techniques and enhancing the local tax base.

“Developers are the lifeblood of our communities,” said Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston, who’s also the president of the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick.

“And without developers, we don’t prosper, and we know the tremendous investment and time that’s put into these developments, so that makes a big difference for municipalities who can’t live on government funding alone and we really appreciate the effort you folks put into our communities.”

The service commission is expected to release its development figures for 2016 during its next meeting later this month.

Focus on the ‘next 30 years’ of forestry in region: mayor

FORESTRY →A1

That isn’t a new narrative.

There were protests last year over the government’s refusal to discuss the situation involving the shuttered Miramichi Lumber sawmill operation on Jane Street in the former town of Newcastle.

The mill has, for a couple of years, been embroiled in a legal battle with the province involving matters related to Crown wood supply.

Plans from Miramichi Lumber officials to launch a new business entity in Blackville on the former UPM-Kymmene sawmill property, which the company says would put over 100 people back to work, have been stalled while the separate legal matter continues to unfold.

The company has also been barred by the province from accessing its existing Crown allocation for well over a year, and little has changed in the months since.

Separate from the Miramichi Lumber file, plans by a Quebec businessman to revive the former Atcon plywood mill in Nelson have since been put on hold, while the status of a proposal from Fredericton’s Northern Energy Solutions group to establish a pellet mill in the city remains murky at best.

At present, the Arbec Forest Products oriented strandboard mill in Miramichi and the J.D. Irving, Limited white pine operation in Doaktown are the only two mills operating in Northumberland County.

Lordon said that forestry still fits into the picture, even while the city’s vision for diversifying its economic base has evolved beyond the traditional resource sector to include areas like digital technology and animation, industrial fabrication, aerospace and defence, agricultural technology and, potentially, marijuana.

But he also cautioned that if the region is going to send any kind of a message to the province on this particular issue, it can’t be the same as the one that’s been sent in the past.

Lordon stressed that no matter how



Miramichi’s mayor said he would be open to working with the city’s surrounding communities and pressing the government for more activity in the forestry sector. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

badly people may want it, there’s no going back in time to the days when nearly anybody could land a job at the local sawmill or pulp and paper mill.

But just because those days are over, doesn’t mean the forestry sector shouldn’t play a role in helping generate new economic activity on the Miramichi, he said, noting it’s just going to look a little different.

“We’re looking for the economy of the next 30 years and forestry, as an industry, is globally in decline, so we’re not going to have success if we’re going to just pursue the economies of 30 years ago – we have to look at what’s next,” Lordon said.

“So if forestry is important to you guys, we’re going to play a part in supporting that, but the city’s priorities are evolving and looking at what is next.”

Lordon said the pellet plant proposal, as an example, aligns with that vision of tomorrow.

Northern Energy Solutions, backed by veteran forestry executive Ross Creelman, has proposed to harness the region’s biomass, which would otherwise

be going to waste, and use it to produce a high-end pellet that would be shipped through the Port of Belledune to markets in Europe as a fuel source for power plants being converted from coal.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser has spoken highly about the project in the recent past, saying in an interview earlier this year that the file was “certainly not something that has been dropped.”

Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn, whose community has typically relied heavily on forestry for economic sustenance, agreed, meanwhile, that there’s still a lot of value in the woods as long as the right business case comes along.

“It could be something as simple as popsicle sticks - maybe we’ll go make popsicle sticks, because at least that way there won’t be a tariff on it,” Munn, who chairs the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission board, said.

“There’s more uses for wood nowadays than there used to be, so there’s a lot we could be doing with the forestry industry.”

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mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR
Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN
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Miramichi Leader

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Monday

October 23, 2017

Commission wants info on airport funding

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Communities that make up the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission say they need more clarity after the Miramichi Airport made a pitch for support to the region's

municipalities.

A delegation representing the Miramichi Airport Commission made a brief presentation to RSC board members during a meeting last month.

Airport president Derek Burchill and Jason Harris, vice president of the Miramichi Chamber of

Commerce, said they were at the board meeting to gauge municipal interest in providing financial support and greater collaboration to help the airport fulfil its growth strategy.

The RSC's board of directors features representation from the mayors of Miramichi, Blackville, Doaktown and

Upper Miramichi. Some of the mayors said they would require more information from the airport about how the money would be used before taking it back to their respective councils for consideration.

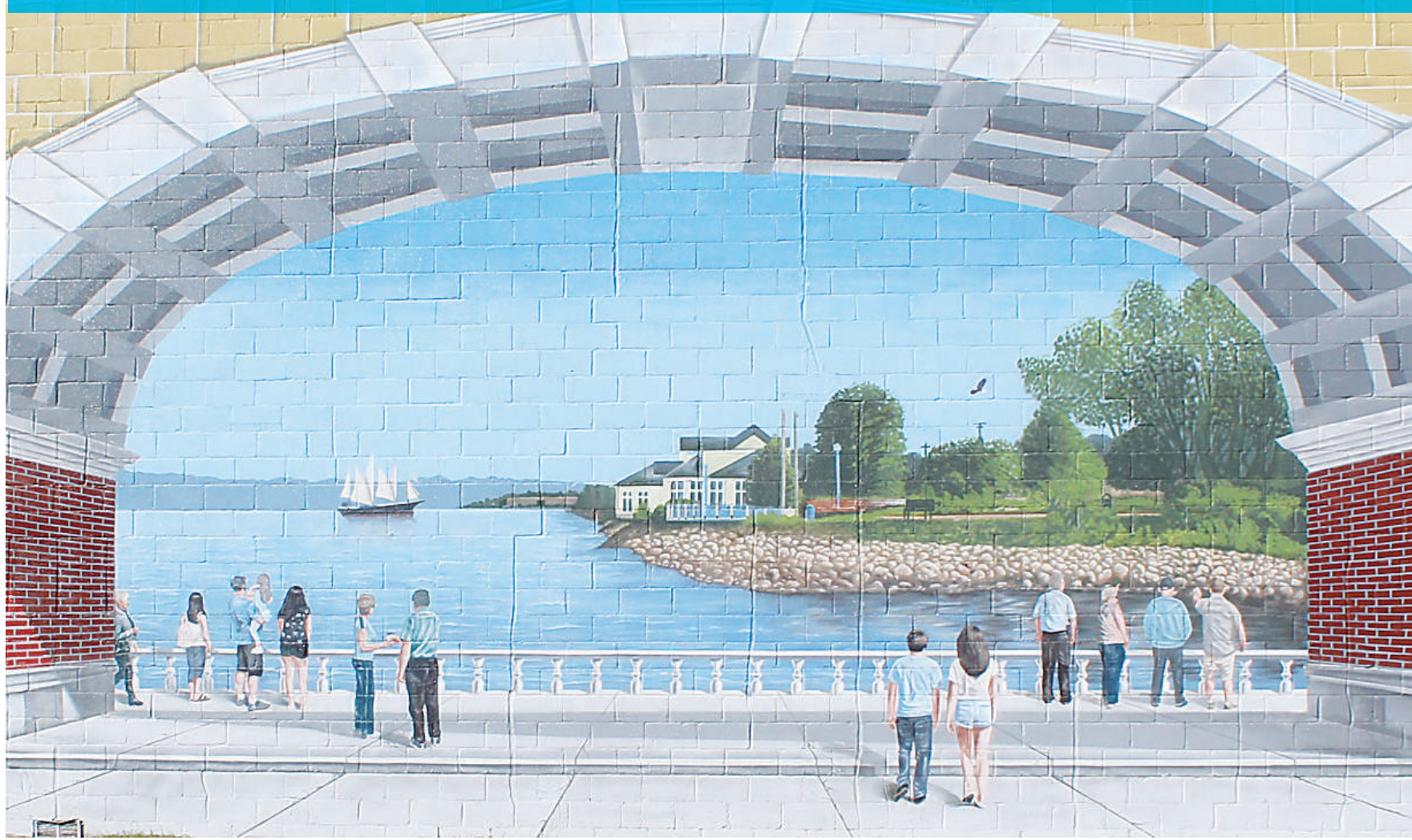
Harris, during his presentation last month, said the airport sees itself as

a regional transportation gateway that supports economic development throughout much of Northumberland County, not just the city.

He also said that if area municipalities could find enough room in their

PLEASE SEE → **COMMISSION, A2**

Adding beauty to the city



Allie Howe's mural in Chatham on the Vogue Theatre building was recently completed and features many of his family members and prominent community figures in Miramichi. The mural is a part of beautification funding by the city.

PHOTO: ERNESTO CARRANZA/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Province recommends patience on wharf

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

After sitting down with Miramichi city officials last week, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser said he thinks the best course of action the city can take on its stalled Station Wharf file is to simply sit tight.

The municipality was forced to hit the pause button on its long-planned reconstruction of the Chatham wharf this summer after even the lowest bid under a public tender for the work came in more than \$2 million over the city's estimate.

That unexpected development left councillors and staff trying to determine how best to proceed on a file widely known to be one of council's top infrastructure priorities.

The provincial and federal governments in late 2016 already committed a combined \$3.8 million toward the project, which was valued at about \$5 million when the city put out the tender a few months ago.

On the city's end, the fact the low bid came in at \$7.3 million essentially means it either undershot their financial estimates or chose a bad time to launch the procurement process.

Fraser, speaking in an interview this week, confirmed he and some of his department staff met with a city delegation that included Mayor Adam Lordon, city manager Mike Noel and engineering director Darren Row last week to take a closer look.

And upon further inspection, Fraser

PLEASE SEE → **WHARF, A2**

New Brunswick mayors call for conversation on property tax reform

SARAH SEELEY
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

New Brunswick mayors have varied opinions about property tax reform in the province following Finance Minister Cathy Rogers' reaction to Saint John Common Council's plan to lobby for the elimination of the provincial property tax.

Mayors from around Atlantic Canada were meeting in Moncton Thursday for the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, an annual gathering of municipal leaders to discuss issues and exchange ideas.

Rogers said in an interview Tuesday that the government won't give up the revenue it receives from property taxes because New Brunswick would return to the days before the Equal Opportunity program in the 1960s, when public services across the province were vastly unequal.

Mike O'Brien, the mayor of Fredericton, said he understands the importance of equal opportunity.

"It's the backbone of how the province operates and how the country operates," he said.

However, he supports property tax reform and is willing to discuss possible changes with the province.

"The dialogue is necessary. Things



From left to right: Miramichi mayor Adam Lordon, Saint John mayor Don Darling, Fredericton mayor Mike O'Brien, Moncton mayor Dawn Arnold, and Campbellton mayor Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin are five of the New Brunswick mayors asking for an open conversation with the province on property tax reforms. PHOTO: SARAH SEELEY/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

have changed and the province needs the urban voice to move forward on policy decisions," he said.

O'Brien said he knows reform would be a slow process.

"We understand the province can't snap their fingers and change any process," he said. "It won't be solved

today, tomorrow or next year, but let's start talking about it."

Shediac mayor Jacques LeBlanc said he agrees with Rogers' comments because of the strain property tax reform would put on smaller municipalities.

"It would probably be a big cost undertaking. At this time, I think what

we need to do is establish confidence in the present system we have and see how we can improve it moving forward," he said.

"Before we make a proper decision, we need a proper consultation and the

PLEASE SEE → **TAX, A4**

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news

Patience recommended

WHARF →A1

said Transportation and Infrastructure Department staff believe the city did everything correctly on its end, leading provincial staff in his department to conclude that the market may have been somewhat saturated last summer when tender bids were submitted.

Instead of committing more money to the project, he said his personal feeling is that the prudent course of action would be for the city to relaunch the tender, with slight adjustments, at a later date.

"We had a similar situation at DTI where we put out a tender for some wharf work at Deer Island, and we had an engineering estimate of \$2 million and it came back at \$4.8 [million], so we had to make the decision to cancel the tender because it wasn't in the budget we set aside for it," said Fraser, also responsible for Regional Development Corp.

"So what we recommended to the city is that they retender later this fall and break it down into two different phases, which we think will help achieve a better price and would allow more people to bid."

He said the advice given to the city would call for an initial tender being called for the demolition of the existing wharf, while a second document would specifically be tailored to construction.

By taking this approach, Fraser said, it may result in a more realistic price that better aligns with the engineering department's estimates while giving more companies a chance to land some of the work.

"We think this will achieve a better market price."

Back in August, he confirmed the province and Ottawa were asked by the city to inject a combined \$3 million in additional funding for the project to allow it to continue, but Fraser said the province wasn't prepared to commit more.

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Innovative Communities Fund is providing the federal contribution, while the provincial share is coming from the Miramichi Regional Economic Development and Innovation Fund, which Fraser is also responsible for.

The minister said the province "has to live within our means," adding that it would be irresponsible to throw more money at the project without trying to find a better solution.

Plans for the Station Wharf redevelopment have been underway for over a year.

Those capital upgrades represents a key cog in the city's plan to enhance the visitor experience along Waterford Green by opening up the riverfront to increased foot traffic and recreational activity.

The city is also hoping to position Station Wharf as a future gateway for the arrival of small cruise ships.

The project included the construction of a new floating dock to replace the existing wooden structure, along with the installation of a rock wall aimed at better protecting the infrastructure.

Lordon, meanwhile, said that he was preparing to brief the rest of council on the city's meeting with Fraser during a closed-door meeting this week.



Paula Doucet, president of the New Brunswick Nurses Union. PHOTO: ADAM BOWIE/THE DAILY GLEANER

New Brunswick vows to beef up worker protection legislation

ADAM BOWIE
THE DAILY GLEANER

Legislative protections for workers who face on-the-job violence should be in place by April, the government announced Wednesday.

In a news release, officials with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour announced plans to work with labour unions, Work-SafeNB and other stakeholders to develop new regulations to promote workers' rights and prevent workplace violence, and to conduct research that will help government better understand the issue.

It's a move officials with the New Brunswick Nurses Union have been calling on the government to make for years, even launching a public awareness campaign last year to drive home

their point.

"We're very pleased that finally, after 10 years of lobbying, that government recognizes workplace violence is a workplace hazard," Paula Doucet, the union's president, said Wednesday. "We're pleased with the commitment from this government to ensure the proper tools and supports are in place - that risk assessments are done - not only for registered nurses in this province, but for workers across New Brunswick. I think it's a huge win."

She said officials from the labour movement have been invited to participate in the work being done by the government's steering committee.

"This is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach by government, labour, employers and the public. Public education is essential to successfully reducing rates of violence in the

workplace," said Doucet.

Labour, Employment and Population Growth Minister Gilles LePage said the goal is to have these changes in place by April 28 - the National Day of Mourning for those who have suffered injury, illness or death on the job.

"Education and awareness are crucial, and we will continue to educate the public, workers and employers on the importance of creating safe and healthy workplaces that are free from discrimination and harassment," LePage said in a news release.

Violence in the workplace includes more than physical aggression, according to the release. It can also include threatening behaviour, such as throwing objects; oral or written threats; harassment or sexual harassment; and bullying or verbal abuse, including condescending language.

Sentencing in deadly fentanyl case adjourned

ERNESTO CARRANZA
MIRAMICHI LEADER

A Fredericton man who pleaded guilty to criminal negligence by trafficking blue Percocet pills containing fentanyl causing bodily harm to a resident of Esgegoopetitj First Nation will be sentenced on several charges Dec. 1.

Jesse Michael Joe, 35, of Brooks Court appeared before Judge Geri Mahoney in Miramichi provincial court Friday.

Joe was appearing, in custody, for a scheduled sentencing on a charge of drug trafficking pills containing fentanyl on April 20 in Esgegoopetitj First Nation. He was found guilty of that on Aug. 30 after a three-day trial.

Instead of proceeding with sentencing, Joe's lawyer, Edward Derrah, said his client wished to change his pleas on several additional charges and have the sentencing set over so everything could be done at once.

Joe will remain in custody until sentencing.

Prosecutors Bill Morrissy, representing the provincial Crown, and Caroline Lirette, representing the federal Crown, said they had no objections to Joe changing his pleas and having his sentencing adjourned.

Joe has pleaded guilty to breaching probation, criminal negligence by trafficking blue Percocet pills containing fentanyl causing bodily harm, defeating the course of justice, unlawfully trafficking blue Percocet pills containing fentanyl and trafficking an illegal substance, all having taken place in Esgegoopetitj First Nation between April 7 and April 12.

Mahoney adjourned his sentencing until Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. to allow time to obtain victim-impact statements.

Joe will remain in custody until sentencing.

Service Commission wants more info on airport funding project

COMMISSION →A1

respective budgets, the airport would be looking for those councils to possibly commit to providing an annual financial subsidy to the organization.

During the RSC's most recent monthly meeting on Monday, executive director Wilson Bell said the commission was going to need more clarity from the airport before providing a formal response.

"The airport commission made a brief presentation to the board and ... I guess it was not clear as to what the ask was, as it were," Bell said. "So I would suggest that we write to the airport commission seeking clarification."

Specifically, Bell said the board is looking for more detail as to how much money the airport commission is looking to receive from the municipalities, as well as any specifics about how that funding would be used.

He said there is also confusion about whether this was a one-time ask or if the expectation was that these hypothetical subsidies would be granted on an annual basis.

Harris did confirm during his presentation that the airport would be looking for the municipalities to become a funding partner on a consistent, go-forward basis.

In terms of specific amounts and what the funding would be used for, the airport contingent left both of those questions somewhat open-ended.

Burchill said last month that any funding the airport receives would be put into helping the facility pursue, and hopefully secure, new contracts with businesses that might be



A look at the exterior of the new \$1.5 million Miramichi Airport terminal. Airport officials are asking for financial contributions from the area's municipalities to help the facility with its long-term growth agenda.

PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

interested in establishing a presence in Miramichi and, ultimately, spurring new economic development opportunities for the region.

Clarifying the delegation's remarks in an interview on Thursday, the commission president said the airport chose the RSC as a forum to speak so that it could reach out to as many municipal representatives as possible.

Burchill said the airport's motivation is less about asking for money and more about trying to promote a spirit of regional collaboration on a file he says is important to all Miramichiers.

He said that bringing the wider region into the conversation and reserving a seat on the airport's board of directors for any municipality that wishes

to take part would only enhance the airport's chances of achieving its goals.

"Basically the message really was that we want more participation from the surrounding area, more regional buy-in to help us network and move ahead with possible opportunities in the future," Burchill said.

"It's not [primarily] about the money - it's just that the more people you have on board, the better."

The Miramichi Airport opened the doors to its brand new \$1.5 million terminal building earlier this year with the help of a \$250,000 contribution from the City of Miramichi. It generates revenues by leasing office space within that building.

Years ago, the airport commission

had been the recipient of annual grant funding from the city. However that practice ceased in 2013 after the airport stopped submitting requests.

Burchill said that with the new terminal in place and a dispute with its primary tenant - Forest Protection Limited, which operates the province's aerial fire suppression fleet - now resolved, the organization is primed for growth.

While he wasn't at liberty to share specifics, he said the airport has been attracting interest and officials are optimistic real opportunities could be on the horizon.

Aside from FPL, the Miramichi Airport also relies on revenues generated from private and public landings and takeoffs, which includes regular charter service to remote locations in northern Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The airport had high hopes a few years ago that it could become a regional charter hub, serving as a gateway for the area's transient workforce. However, the slowdown in the Alberta oil sands has tempered those plans for the time being.

At various points over its recent history, the airport commission has discussed the possibility of pursuing air cargo, a flight school for Chinese pilots and establishing the facility as a service centre for diverted commercial passenger aircraft.

The airport has been undergoing rapid renewal over the last few years, securing funding for the extension of its 10,006-foot runway, the longest in the province, as well as installation of new landing systems.

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NEWS TIPS
mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR
Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN
ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING
Amanda Eagan (506) 627-7412

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Appendix I – Regional Collaboration Media Coverage

City to finally make a decision on planning commission later this month

KRIS MCDAVID Miramichi Leader

January 11, 2017

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A look at the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission offices on Water Street. Miramichi city manager Mike Noel says a long-awaited report on the city's relationship with the planning office is due back before the end of the month.

Photo: Kris McDavid/Miramichi Leader

City council is nearing a decision on whether or not it wants to continue to receive planning services as delivered by the Miramichi Regional Service Commission.

City manager Mike Noel confirmed this week the final version of the report that council instructed him to compile, examining the city's relationship with regional planners, is basically finished and will be formally presented for council's consideration at a meeting later this month.

The order from council came after a handful of them shared complaints they said they were hearing from unnamed developers in the city who said they were having difficulty dealing with planners on different projects.

Noel's report was initially expected back in November, however in an interview Wednesday morning, he said a public presentation and a recommendation to council would be coming within a week or two at the latest.

"A draft version was handed out to council in December only to find out whether it answered the inquiries they were expecting and a public presentation, it looks like, will happen either next Tuesday or the week after," Noel said.

New Brunswick's 12 regional service commissions were legislated into existence in 2012 with the mandate of initially overseeing the delivery of planning and solid waste services, while also providing a forum for regional collaboration among municipalities and local service districts.

In the case of the Greater Miramichi RSC, while it's headquartered in the city, it provides services to a vast coverage area that encompasses everything from Upper Miramichi to Escuminac and Burnt Church.

The former council went public with its own frustration early last year during a public presentation made by an RSC planner detailing a rezoning application from a local businessman who was looking to expand.

Councillor Billy Fleiger and former councillor Peggy McLean were the most outspoken, with each of them saying they were worried the planning process as currently constructed may run the risk of discouraging investment in the city.

It was at that point that the city manager was instructed to examine the pros and cons of Miramichi's relationship with the RSC and to report back at a later date.

For the first time, Noel this week provided a window into what his nearly year-long exercise has entailed.

In general, the city manager said his work has involved a lot of comparing and contrasting the current state of affairs with planning to the way they were under the former Miramichi District Planning Commission, which was eventually folded into the RSC.

"I looked at what the services were that they were providing, the quality of the services and what the relationship with the city was like back then, I talked about the [provincial] act changing and then evaluating the services after the implementation," Noel said.

The scope of that included evaluating the financial cost to the city to access those services under the RSC versus what it cost under the old system and the way those services are provided.

Noel also said there is a section in the report that will shed some light on the nature of the complaints that have quietly been coming from developers, none of whom have gone public with their concerns other than addressing them privately to city officials.

That is, after all, how this process all got started and Noel said it was important to investigate the experiences that developers have been having getting their projects through to completion.

"The focus of the paper is, essentially, what have been the advantages and disadvantages, so I had to compare one with the other," he said. "But I also had to deal with the reality of the complaint portion of this, that's the basis of this, so I then went back to council and asked if they wanted recommendations and they said they wanted recommendations."

Council has remained mostly silent on the situation for the last several months, opting to reserve comment until the management report comes back.

Noel said they will have a chance to provide feedback on the matter in public once the meeting takes place later this month.

Service commission officials, meanwhile, have been patiently waiting for the city to make a decision as well.

Wilson Bell, the executive director of the RSC, said the ball was firmly in the city's court.

"I don't know if this has been a real pressing matter for them to deal with it, but we haven't received any type of correspondence or decisions based on their review," he said during the commission's final board meeting of the year in November.

He has maintained that while the organization is constantly striving to provide quality service to its clients and improve its level of communication, planners are bound by stringent regulations, many of them within the city's own zoning bylaws and development plans, as well as the Building Code of Canada.

Commission planners are responsible for working with builders and helping guide their projects from the design phase to the point where they are ready to break ground. They also, in cases where a variance is required, make presentations and professional recommendations to council on a given project.

Bell has also stressed the role of planners isn't to advocate on behalf of developers, but to act as a regulator while providing a certain amount of guidance along the way.

The commission has also pointed to a string of near-record years of construction activity in Miramichi as evidence that things are getting built and that people are investing in the market.

The most recent figures for 2015 shows a total of \$36.61 million worth of permits being issued by the planning office, which was up from \$24.8 million in 2014.

If the city does ultimately choose to part ways with the planning office, it must first, according to the Department of Environment and Local Government, provide two years' advanced notice.

A hypothetical split would only relate to the planning side as well, and not the RSC's other mandated services, which includes solid waste collection.

Communities like Edmundston and Grand Falls are already in the middle of their own respective two-year wait periods after making the decision earlier that they would prefer to handle their planning services in-house.

Miramichi, meanwhile, is easily the biggest funding provider to the RSC by virtue of being the urban centre of Northumberland County. The city is expected to supply the commission with a little over \$650,000 in 2017, or about \$100,000 less than what it paid to the organization this year.

The RSC remits back any planning-related fees it collects back to the municipalities.

The commission's planning manager, Colleen Bawn, who was often the public face of the office and responsible for delivering applications and recommendations to council resigned from her position in December.

RSC plans mass mail-out of emergency information after ice storm confusion

KRIS MCDAVID Miramichi Leader

February 27, 2017

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A look at the aftermath of the January ice storm in Miramichi, where officials with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission are putting together an emergency information package for 18,000 residents
Jocelyn Turner/Miramichi Leader

With the Miramichi area now a month removed from one of the worst ice storms to ever hit the region, officials with the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission are looking at ways of making sure as many people as possible are ready when, not if, the next severe weather event strikes.

RSC officials, during their board meeting in Miramichi last week, revealed they are looking to connect over 18,000 households in their coverage area with vital information that can be used in case of a prolonged power outage or other weather emergency.

Wilson Bell, executive director of the commission, provided an overview of the plan with board members recalling a lot of the public confusion that surfaced during the ice storm and examples of people not knowing where to turn or what to do.

"It's probably more apparent now that something like this is needed than possibly it was before," Bell said. "It's simply going to be an information source our residents can tap into that essentially will provide them with a quick reference guide with all of the phone numbers and information you may need during an emergency situation."

The emergency preparedness guide will be sent to every household in the RSC's coverage area, which encompasses everything from Upper Miramichi in the west to Burnt Church and Escuminac in the east, in the coming weeks.

The guide will include an emergency checklist highlighting what people should have in their homes in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency weather situation. There'll also be contact information for government bodies like the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization, NB Power and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bell said the commission was notified about incidents of public confusion about where to go and who to call for information and support during the ice storm.

While the RSC's primary focus is on the delivery of planning services and solid waste collection, the organization was established with the goal of helping facilitate regional collaboration.

The idea when the province's 12 commissions were formed at the beginning of 2013 was that they would eventually expand their mandate to include the coordination of regional emergency measures.

While that isn't officially a part of what the commission does, or at least not yet, the organization and the communities it represents is in frequent contact with NB EMO officials.

Bell said it made sense, given what took place in January, and the RSC's ability to reach so many people, to better harness that role and help ensure people are better prepared when the next storm hits.

"I think we all know how to dial 911 but I didn't know a lot of these other numbers existed," he said.

Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon said a lot of this would have come in handy in the city at the height of the storm.

Lordon noted the Miramichi Fire Department responded to as many calls in just a few days as they normally would over the span of several months, with the Miramichi Police Force reporting constant activity funneling into headquarters as well.

He said many calls were made out of desperation and of not knowing where to turn.

"We were receiving a lot of calls in through the police station and through 911 that were people looking for NB Power," Lordon said. "There were calls asking when their power was coming back on, so definitely a lot of non-emergency calls."

The ice storm, which has been described by senior officials with NB Power as the most disruptive weather event in recent history, left more than 17,000 homes and businesses in Northumberland County without power.

Miramichi city bore the brunt of much of that, as did many of the rural communities east of the city, many of whom remained in the dark for several days.

While it's a simple gesture, the RSC's board seemed in agreement that sending out this kind of information to as many people as possible might help soften the blow the next time this happens.

Doaktown Mayor Bev Gaston suggested the packet should also include some guidelines concerning how to safely operate a gas-powered generator, which so many New Brunswickers turned to in desperation in order to stay warm and keep their pipes from freezing.

The improper use of a generator played a role in the deaths of two people on the Acadian Peninsula and was also a factor in sending dozens of people to hospital who were suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The situation got so bad that the provincial government put out a series of emergency broadcasts on radio and television advising people about the dangers of using a portable generator.

The government, meanwhile, is holding a series of public meetings in April aimed at generating feedback from New Brunswickers regarding the storm response and where improvements could be made.

Meetings will take place between April 3 and 6, with a session set for Miramichi. Specific dates, times and locations have yet to be confirmed.

The province is also putting together a report reviewing its response to the disaster, the contents of which is due to be released in July.

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Area municipalities receptive to increased regional collaboration

KRIS MCDAVID Miramichi Leader

March 10, 2017

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The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission, whose offices are shown here, is preparing to explore how it can help strengthen regional collaboration in areas like tourism and economic development as part of an expanded mandate.

Miramichi Leader Archive

Municipal leaders in the Miramichi region are in agreement that there is plenty of room for increased regional collaboration on multiple fronts and they're hoping the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission can help facilitate it.

The discussion came up at the most recent service commission board meeting as executive director Wilson Bell went over some of the details of a new three-year operational strategy the commission is in the middle of developing.

So far, the scope of the province's 12 service commission's has mostly been limited to providing solid waste collection and planning services to their respective coverage areas, with the long-range plan calling for things like emergency measures, policing and recreational infrastructure to be phased in over time.

While that hasn't happened yet, Bell said the commission is preparing for an expanded role between now and 2019 when it looks to include areas like regional economic development and tourism under its mandate as well.

The city of Miramichi recently returned as an active participant on the service commission board and Mayor Adam Lordon said the municipality is still trying to determine how to get the most out of the organization on local and regional levels.

"From our perspective, we're trying to increase regional collaboration as well, across the board, and we're just trying to assess whether this organization can be a venue for that," he said.

"But we want to be inclusive to other municipalities and First Nations, for instance, who aren't necessarily involved with this organization - so we have an eye on that, when it goes beyond planning and recycling, that we do include some of our other neighbours."

Lordon specifically said he wanted to ensure that certain elements of the regional conversation, if the RSCs were indeed the vehicle best suited to facilitating that, wouldn't simply be limited to the people sitting at the table.

The mayor of the Miramichi commission's anchor member and biggest funding contributor said he would be interested, for example, in seeing communities like Rogersville and Neguac, who are members of neighbouring RSCs but considered a part of the Miramichi region, being kept in the loop on matters of regional importance.

He said that should also include the region's three indigenous communities in Eel Ground, Esgenoopeitj and Metepenagiag, which are part of the RSC in that they receive garbage collection from the commission but do not have any representation on the board or in terms of local planning.

Bell said that depending on where this goes, he feels extending conversations beyond the commission's coverage area would be feasible in certain cases.

He said that might be particularly true in areas like economic development and tourism, areas where there has long been discussion about pulling the entire region closer together and using a strength in numbers approach on these issues.

"So regional tourism may be beyond our boundaries but it may include other groups as well and the same as regional economic development - what's our role going to be? That's still uncertain but it would be a regional thing not necessarily confined to our borders," Bell said.

"There are all kinds of opportunities and we had some discussions way back when with the [Miramichi River Tourism Association] to see what we could bring to the table, so when it comes to regional service commissions on some of these things, it's really a blank page - if there's a need or a willingness to collaborate, then the vehicle is here to do that."

The Miramichi River Tourism Association is one of the only true functioning Miramichi-specific regional entities, representing tourism operators from Upper Miramichi all the way to Tabusintac and Escuminac in the east.

In terms of economic development, groups like the Miramichi Valley Business Association were established in the wake of the loss of Enterprise Miramichi under the former Progressive Conservative government, however, the reach of that organization mainly encompasses those upriver communities west of the Anderson Bridge.

Bev Gaston, the mayor of Doaktown and the president of the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick, said that with the recent updates to the Municipalities Act introduced by the Gallant Liberals last month, he expects those changes could help facilitate more regional discussion as well, on top of providing municipalities with greater autonomy.

Included among the changes were provisions that will allow municipalities to provide financial incentives to businesses and land well below market value, broadening the powers of councils to enact bylaws and new planning and the inclusion development tools that would allow a local government to collect fees on certain types of developments.

Gaston said the RSC may have a role to play in facilitating discussions on how to maximize the impact of some of those changes.

"The new act seems to allow for more collaboration at the municipal level, but also local service districts on economic development and that, so it may be put to the regional service commissions to reach out," Gaston said.

Doaktown also just opened the doors on a new \$7-million arena that he sees as more of a regional venue rather than just a local hockey rink.

With that in mind, Gaston said the municipality is in the process of negotiating user agreements with the surrounding unincorporated areas who will also benefit from the presence of the new arena complex.

Bell also, finally, touched on another regional idea that has been kicked around for the last couple years.

The idea of hiring a full-time bylaw compliance officer that would be shared by the city, the villages of Blackville and Doaktown and the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi, was first raised by the RSC in 2015.

Bell said he's hoping for further direction on that file, noting it's possible with everybody in agreement that the position could be included in next year's budget.

Looking at the situation in the city, the responsibility for investigating bylaw complaints under matters such as unsightly premises, for instance, has typically fallen to the city clerk's department.

City officials have said previously that it would cost in the neighbourhood of \$66,000 to add a bylaw officer as a full-time employee.

It was scratched as a line item in the budget in 2013 and hasn't been a major topic of discussion since.

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Monday

June 5, 2017

Miramichi region, province to partner to spur economy

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Although they had some reservations and expressed a certain amount of hesitation, the Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors

say they're open to the idea of working more closely with the provincial government on regional economic development.

The board, which is comprised of mayors and local service district representatives from the commission's coverage

area in Northumberland County, on Tuesday approved a motion to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Opportunities NB aimed at improving greater collaboration between the provincial and regional level. As part of the agreement,

Opportunities NB, the government's economic development agency, would agree to hire an economic development officer exclusively for the Miramichi region at no cost to the commission or the

PLEASE SEE → **ECONOMY, A2**



Dameron LeBlanc
PHOTO: ERNESTO CARRANZA/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Longboarder upset with city bylaw

ERNESTO CARRANZA
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Bart Simpson wouldn't have anything good to say about one of Miramichi's bylaws.

Dameron LeBlanc, new resident to Miramichi, started a petition to have a city bylaw changed to allow him to longboard within city limits.

"I went out on my longboard for the first time two weeks ago, and not 10 minutes later on Pleasant Street, the cops stopped me twice and told me I wasn't allowed to longboard in town," said LeBlanc.

So far he's accumulated 75 online signatures and 50 paper signatures. LeBlanc's aim is to reach 1,000 individual signatures, and then present to city council.

"I've been longboarding for four years. I'm originally from Moncton, where they have a ban, but they don't enforce it there."

LeBlanc did his own research on the bylaw and found along with longboards, residents couldn't use skateboards, inline skates, or roller skates, while scooters and bicycles are exempt.

"I called city hall and they told me anything that falls under the category of 'board' is not allowed on the road, and the bylaw is updated to encompass anything new that comes to market," he said. "They also told me if you were using a skateboard or longboard on the road, you would be interfering with traffic. But then I thought, 'Couldn't

PLEASE SEE → **CITY, A2**

Inside

Fishing Northwest Miramichi River closed to all forms of angling until June 9 **A3**

Baseball That escalated quickly: Cardinals roll Red Sox in rout **B2**

News **A2** : Community **B4**
Opinion **A5** : Classified **B5**
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Still the boss



Legendary New York Islander Mike Bossy sits with Brandy Donald. The player was a guest at the 26th annual Rivermen Dinner and Auction at the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition Centre on Saturday. Several signed Bossy jerseys and gear were auctioned off in front of a crowd of more than 200 people. For more photos and a story, see inside and miramichileader.com... PHOTO: ERNESTO CARRANZA/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Don't rock the boat: Stay safe out on the water, marine unit urges

JOCELYN TURNER
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Rowing your boat gently down the stream can be a dream, but only if you're following safe boating practices.

The Miramichi Police Force's marine unit monitors the waterways in the area and said there are several rules and regulations that boaters need to follow, or they could face hefty fines.

"All boating regulations are federal laws, which fall under the Canada Shipping Act and the Small Vessel Act," said Miramichi Police Force Sgt. Bob Bruce. "[Rules include] anyone who operates a motorized vessel must have a boating competency card, which is issued after taking a safety course, a driver's license so to speak. Fines for not having that [are] \$250."

Those under the age of 12 can only operate a boat that has a 12 horsepower motor or less. There is a \$250 fine for those who allowed the younger person to operate a boat of more than 12 horsepower.

There is a \$100 fine to youth within the

ages of 12 and 16 for operating a boat that has more than a 40 horsepower motor.

Youth older than 16 have no horsepower restrictions. Youth must be older than 16 to operate a personal watercraft, such as a Sea-Doo and other similar equipment. If they are found doing so, there is a \$100 fine.

"All motorized boats over 10hp must be registered and bear a hull identification number," said Bruce, adding that if the operator does not have that required information, they face a \$250 fine.

There are also safety equipment-related fines. Bruce said boaters must have a life jacket for each person on board, even if it's a human powered watercraft like a kayak or canoe. There is a \$200 fine for the first missing life jacket and a \$100 fine for each additional life jacket that's missing.

"They must have proper lighting for night, navigation markers and a mast-head light," said Bruce, adding that not having that equipment is a \$200 fine.

"They need safety gear on board. Required items depend on the size of the



Const. Chris Hogan patrols the Miramichi River. The Miramichi Police Force has a marine unit, which monitors the river to ensure all boaters are utilizing safe practices while operating their watercraft. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

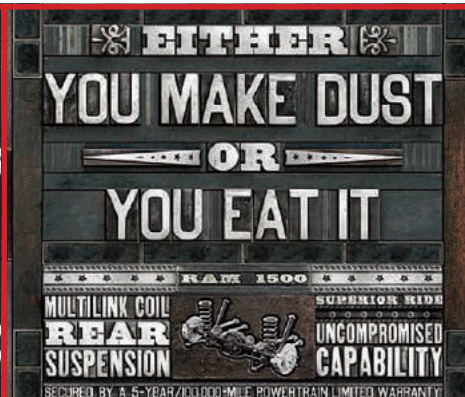
boat, the width of the waterway. Basic items are buoyant heaving line, paddle, anchor, bailers, watertight flashlight, sound signaling device and fire extinguisher."

Bruce said when people take the boating competency course, a large component is made up of the "navigation rules,"

which go over items such as what coloured buoys mean, which side to pass a boat, docking and anchoring rules.

Alcohol can only be consumed on a boat if it has a washroom, and when a boat is anchored. The operator must

PLEASE SEE → **BOAT, A2**



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news

Miramichi region and New Brunswick are set to partner to help spur economy

ECONOMY →A1

communities that make up its membership.

According to a copy of the agreement, one of the primary goals of the initiative would be for both sides to “jointly determine the general fields and specific subjects of collaboration aimed at increasing community economic development growth within the specific region.”

That wording, however, left some board members feeling less than comfortable about the government’s motives.

The main concern around the table was that agreeing to the pact would increase the risk of giving the province additional leverage in dictating to the Miramichi region what it thinks its priorities for economic development ought to be instead of allowing communities to set their own priorities.

Even with those lingering questions, Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon said there’s value in at least figuring out whether this new resource is something that can work for - and with - communities to help facilitate new economic opportunities in the region.

“The more hands we can have in working towards creating opportunities, the better but this needs to be grassroots and coming from the existing priorities and ideas that are assessed within our region rather than having ONB telling us what our priorities should be,” Lordon said.

“But if they want to listen and work with us and assess the opportunities and ideas in the sectors we already feel are good for growth here, for example forestry, tourism, industrial manufacturing and cannabis, then I’m all for it.”

If it’s ultimately determined, however, that the situation isn’t working out, then the regional service commission has the option of backing out in 90 days time. With that in mind, the majority of



The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission board of directors debated the merits of entering into a memorandum of understanding with the provincial government aimed at collaborating more closely on matters related to economic development. PHOTO: KRIS MCDAVID/MIRAMICHI LEADER

board members felt it was at least worth a shot.

The pact would also result in the development of a regional work plan for economic development that would identify common priorities for development and brainstorm ideas of how to realize those goals.

Only LSD reps John Goodfellow and Elizabeth Bowes voted against the motion.

“It disturbs me that we’re bringing in a member of government to basically do our planning, or a lot of it, for us,”

Goodfellow said.

“I would hate for them to have any more control over local economic development than what they already have - they’ve prevented mills from opening in this particular area, which we need for economic development, and they’ve done nothing but stand in our road.”

Upper Miramichi Mayor Doug Munn and commission chair said he understands the apprehension but pointed out that, in his view, this is a no-lose situation for the commission.

He said the cost of this - at zero dollars

- as well as the flexibility to escape from the agreement if it doesn’t live up to its promises, gives him confidence that it’s at least worth a try.

Munn said he also feels like it could, in theory, provide the Miramichi region with a valuable forum to better communicate and explain its intentions on the economic development front.

“What the provincial government does can affect us but the problem is, we really have no say in making them do anything so all we can do is try to lead them along and hopefully they help us

out,” he said.

“We really have no resources as a small town to do anything [on economic development] and I usually direct people to the CBDC or the Miramichi Valley Business Association, so somebody like this would make the difference in allowing us to work on some things.”

Wilson Bell, the executive director the regional commission, said that the person who would be filling the economic development position would not be a bureaucrat working remotely from an office in Fredericton.

He said it was communicated by the province that they want the position to be filled by somebody local, and asked the commission to think of some names who might be suited for the job.

Opportunities NB already has a regional economic development officer based in Miramichi, Rick Lloyd, however that position would be complementary to the one that would be working at the commission level in helping focus priorities.

Bell said it’s his understanding that the province was looking to move on this quickly and wanted to have somebody in place later this summer.

For Lordon, meanwhile, he said this is going to conclude in one of two ways - either it will have achieved nothing at all or, ideally, this will become a real, functioning tool that will help create some tangible opportunities for economic development

“There’s no adverse reaction or any potential for this to be negative - at worst, it might not help if we don’t focus on giving them the right priorities,” he said.

“So to do this, then the real work begins because then we all have the input of communicating what we really want this person to do - so it’s either going to be an indifferent thing or a good thing and that will be up to us in how we work with them.”

Longboarder upset with Miramichi bylaw that does not allow activity within city limits

CITY →A1

you be interfering with traffic using a bicycle?” And then I asked about sidewalks, and I was told I would be interfering with pedestrians.”

It specifically states under bylaw No. 68 of the City of Miramichi, respecting loitering and public nuisance, section 6 (d), “Ski, toboggan or slide, roller-skate, rollerblade, skateboard, interfere with traffic by offering vehicle window cleaning services or engage in any other sport, game or other recreational activity on any street, sidewalk or in any park within the areas identified from time to time as the business improvement areas except where specifically permitted by the

City of Miramichi.”

Mayor Adam Lordon said he is aware of the petition, and said he thinks the bylaw needed a review.

“There is a bylaw in the city books that prohibits skateboards and longboards,” said Lordon. “But that being said, the bylaw is there, and if and when enough signatures for the petition are gathered, they are welcome to make a formal request to council to review the bylaw for repeal or to be amended.”

The process will only start when it is formally proposed, Lordon said.

“We want to always want to be an inclusive community and allow people to pursue whatever recreational hobbies that they have.”

LeBlanc moved to the city with his

girlfriend. While he has access to a car, it is limited and longboarding serves as his primary form of transportation.

“I really enjoy longboarding and I am dedicated to it, plus I think it is really environmentally friendly and I have never been in a dangerous situation riding my longboard in Moncton or elsewhere. I think it can be very safe,” said LeBlanc.

He added longboards don’t have the same functions as a skateboard and can’t be used in a skate park.

“I understand we have a skateboard park here in Miramichi, but you can’t really rip off a half pipe of a quarter pipe with a longboard,” said LeBlanc. “I think riding a longboard in Miramichi can be safe, or at least as safe as riding

a bike here.”

Through social app Instagram, LeBlanc has connected with other skateboarders and longboarders around the city who are also frustrated with the bylaw.

LeBlanc said staff from city hall have already reached out to him to try and figure out how to fix the bylaw, but said he would still appreciate signatures for his petition at <https://secure.avaaz.org>.

He said the bylaw shouldn’t be framed in a way that makes it seem skateboarders or longboarders are doing something wrong.

“That’s not fair at all to the skateboarding community,” said Lordon. “I would encourage them strongly to

request a bylaw review, and maybe even a presentation for council with their suggested amendments to the bylaw, and a public conversation would be good for everybody.”

Lordon admitted he had no prior knowledge to the bylaw, and only through social media conversation was he made aware of it.

He emphasised public conversation about these types of bylaws was important to allow the city to grow.

“These things are driven by citizens ... we always wants to think of different modes of transportation and we want to provide the means to get people somewhere without having to use a car, whether it is a bike, longboard, and a skateboard,” Lordon said.

Don’t rock the boat: Stay safe out on the water this year, marine unit urges

BOAT →A1

be sober, as the same driving while impaired rules used in a vehicle apply to operating a boat, according to Bruce.

There is a \$172.50 fine for open liquor. Another consequence is a criminal record and loss of driver’s license for impaired operation.

“Tubes and other floating items can only be towed by a boat in daylight hours, and only when one person on board is designated to be a safety look out,” Bruce added.

When people go out on the water for recreational purposes, there are things they can do outside of the mandatory rules and regulations that will ensure their safety and make sure they can be reached if something were to happen.

“Everyone should tell someone of their plans before they head out,” said Bruce. “Your boat should be of a size suitable for the water conditions, and do not overload the boat.”

It’s also recommended to let someone know where you plan to make stops

“We want everyone to enjoy the waterways. We have a fantastic river with very scenic locations.”

SGT. BOB BRUCE

along your boating journey and when the estimated time of arrival at your destination will be. Letting others know the route you will be taking will give people an idea of where you might be if you become stranded.

Bruce said the police force has eight officers who, in addition to their regular duties, are trained in the operation of the marine unit, which has been in operation for the last eight years.

“These officers have also had boat competency training through courses with

the Canadian Coast Guard,” said the sergeant. “We share a 28’ Zodiac boat with the fire department. We are out on the water during most organized boating activities with many periodic patrols made throughout the boating season. When we are out, we do conduct enforcement of the boating rules while promoting the safe operation for all on our waterways.”

There are many recreational boaters and fishermen in the Miramichi area, and Bruce said boaters can count on seeing the marine unit out on the water.

“We want everyone to enjoy the waterways. We have a fantastic river with very scenic locations,” he said. “Please follow all safety rules, respect other marine users and have a safe and enjoyable summer.”

Further boating safety information can be found at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca. More information is also available by contacting the police force at 623-2124. For any boating emergencies, call 911. Police officers or the Miramichi Fire Department will respond to all emergency boating calls.



The Miramichi Police Force has a marine unit, which monitors the river to ensure all boaters are following safe practices while operating their watercraft. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

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NEWS TIPS
mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR
Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN
ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING
Amanda Eagan (506) 627-7412

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DAN KRAUS
COMMENTARY

As a northern nation that was mostly covered by glaciers only 10,000 years ago, Canada has fewer species than tropical countries where the evolution and emergence of new species has been operating in stable environments for hundreds of thousands of years. Tiny Panama has 10 times more tree species than Canada. Brazil has hundreds of more species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species compared to Canada.

Protecting the diversity of species on planet Earth is critical for conservation, and future generations should judge us on the number that we knowingly discard from our global menagerie. Sumatran tigers and Cuban parakeets are important to save, and so is the Yukon grasshopper and the more than 500 other globally rare species that live in Canada.

What has become increasingly clear is that nature conservation must not only focus on areas with high numbers of different species; successful conservation also requires the protection of large, intact ecosystems. A 2016 study found that the area of intact wilderness landscapes has shrunk to just 23 per cent of the planet, and has declined by 10 per cent since 1990.

This is where Canada can truly play a global leadership role in conservation. We live in a country where our own conservation decisions matter to the world.

Here are four key facts that every Canadian should know about our country, and why Canada is an important force for global conservation.

1. The world's largest area of intact forest landscapes are here in Canada, in

the vast stretch of spruce, fir and birch that extends from Newfoundland and Labrador to Yukon. More than one-third of the Canadian land base (3.47 million square kilometres) is covered with trees. While Canada ranks third for total forest cover (behind Brazil and Russia), we have more intact forest than any other country.

2. Canada has one-quarter of the wetlands remaining on Earth. In a world that has lost an estimated that 64 per cent of its wetlands since 1900, Canada has an unparalleled abundance of this important ecosystem. Canadian wetlands are very diverse and range from vast forested peatlands in the boreal, to marshes and deltas in freshwater lakes to prairie potholes. Canada has approximately 25 per cent of the world's wetlands by area, and wetlands cover approximately 1.5 million square kilometres of our county (equivalent to more than twice the size of France).

3. Canada has 60 per cent of all freshwater lakes in the world, more than all other nations combined. This includes more than 560 lakes that are larger than 100 square kilometres. In total, there are approximately 2 million lakes, and fresh water covers approximately nine per cent of our country.

4. Canada has the longest marine coast in the world. Canada's marine coasts measure more than 243,000 kilometres in length. This is the longest coast of any country in the world, and exceeds the combined coastal length of Japan, Indonesia, Australia, United States, Norway and Russia. Much of our northern coast in the Arctic is still wild and remote.

Within these places are extraordinary wildlife. We live in a country that has more polar bears, narwhals, lake trout, caribou, Harris's sparrows, jack pine

Protecting the diversity of species on planet Earth is critical for conservation, and future generations should judge us on the number that we knowingly discard from our global menagerie.

and hundreds of other species than anywhere else on the planet. There are places such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Johnson's Mills Shorebird Reserve where Canadians can still observe the awesome spectacle of wildlife abundance. In a world that is rapidly losing wildlife, Canada has an opportunity to conserve and restore nature's abundance, an opportunity that has slipped away from much of our planet.

Nature is a defining feature of Canada. Our vast, northern geography has shaped our economy, society and Canadian identity. As we mark the 150th birthday of Canada, all of us should know what makes our nation unique, our opportunity for global leadership in conservation and our obligation to future generations of Canadians.

Dan Kraus is National Conservation Biologist with the Nature Conservancy of Canada

RSC provides a venue for regional collaboration

Now that the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors is back at full strength with the return of the city to the table after a lengthy hiatus, we're beginning to see some signs of the expanded role this body can play in terms of facilitating regional collaboration.

The RSC, we feel strongly, can be much more than just an organization that doles out building permits and oversees the collection of garbage and recyclables. And based on the level of discourse we've seen around the board table over the last few meetings, we're beginning to witness some signs that the commission's role is poised to grow as we move forward.

Given that there's no shortage of pressing issues to discuss here in the Miramichi region, we would absolutely encourage the commission to continue to take full advantage of its role in providing a vital forum for these types of discussions to take place. While the RSC tends to fly under the radar to a certain degree, the venue it provides for the mayors and local service district representatives throughout most of Northumberland County to come together around a single table isn't something that should be wasted.

So although the city may have its own thing going on and its own agenda related to economic development, tourism or recreational infrastructure - just as Doaktown, Blackville or Upper Miramichi may have - it's important not to look past the fact that the Miramichi, as a living, breathing entity, is much better off when everybody is working together.

It hasn't happened enough in recent years, with the city seemingly becoming more distanced from its rural friends and neighbours upriver or down on either side of the Miramichi Bay.

Thankfully, there are some clear indicators that's all beginning to change, with the city's increased activity on the RSC representing just one, albeit an important one. Miramichi's upcoming turn as the host of the 2018 Jeux de l'Acadie is another example of the city embracing its role as the hub of the region by tapping into the expertise that exists in surrounding communities like Neguac, Rogersville and Baie-Sainte-Anne.

The Miramichi River Tourism Association, as well, has provided another key avenue for regionalization in what is a critically important sector.

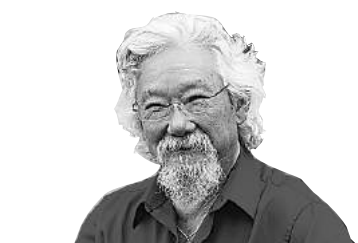
So while we would encourage the city to continue to focus on its own vision for future growth on a local level, we can't lose sight of the fact that we remain a city of under 18,000 people. And when it comes to the cutthroat business of being able to attract private sector investment, new businesses and creating jobs, we would argue that our biggest competition is coming from within the province, namely the three urban centres in and around Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton.

If the Miramichi is going to prosper then it's going to take a strength in numbers approach that must include input from the surrounding municipalities.

This is a unique, resilient part of the province that is just brimming with potential and with everybody pulling in the same direction and working collaboratively, we feel strongly our time will come yet again.

As Miramichi's Adam Lordon said at last week's commission meeting, Miramichiers can't continue to yearn for the way things used to be and, instead, everybody needs to be focused on "the next 30 years."

Protecting Earth's oceans is paying off



Science Matters David Suzuki

Do you remember Harry Potter's invisibility cloak? It turns out wizards aren't the only ones who can vanish from sight with a special coat. Marine researchers have discovered shrimp-like crustaceans called hyperiids that can hide in the open using internal nanotechnology to cloak themselves in invisibility. That's just one among many fascinating discoveries celebrated on World Oceans Day, June 8.

Last summer, scientists confirmed the elusive Greenland shark can live up to 400 years, beating out ancient bowhead whales and rougheye rockfish for the longest documented lifespan of any vertebrate. Researchers are just starting to learn about the two-metre, scale-free ragfish with cartilage skeleton and flabby flesh found in Alaskan waters, and the faceless fish found in Australian waters, whose eyes, gills and mouth are hidden.

That we're still discovering new wonders in the oceans is even more reason to protect them. We have a long way to go, though. In early 2016, about three per cent of oceans had formal protection from industrial activities, up from one per cent five years ago. Twenty countries, including Chile, Palau, the U.S. and the U.K., have committed to increasing marine protection.

Last summer's expansion of Hawaii's Papah naumoku kea Marine

National Monument created the world's largest marine protected area. In October, the Ross Sea — home to some of the most productive waters in the Antarctic — was finally declared a marine reserve after a decades-long push.

When a coalition of 24 countries agreed to provide international protection for 1,548,812 square kilometres of the Southern Ocean, the Ross Sea surpassed Papah naumoku kea as the largest marine reserve. Most impressively, Palau, part of Micronesia in the western Pacific, turned 80 per cent of its waters — an area the size of California — into a marine reserve. Britain established the Pitcairn Islands reserve in the South Pacific, a contiguous underwater park nearly the size of Pakistan.

In 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and then U.S. president Barack Obama issued a joint statement to "substantially surpass" international commitments to reach 10 per cent marine protection, even though Canada has protected less than one per cent so far. Our government is getting started, though. It announced strong protection for globally significant glass sponge reefs near B.C.'s Haida Gwaii earlier this year, ending years of inaction.

Along with increased ocean

protection, new technologies are opening up ocean exploration. Researchers are adapting drones to track coastal erosion, map coral reefs, survey penguin populations, assess whale health and even learn about mysterious sea turtle behaviour. Thanks to a microscope that works underwater, scientists are learning how coral polyps interact and about patterns algae use to take over coral ecosystems.

Some jurisdictions are also getting serious about plastics that are choking seabirds, fish and marine mammals. California and Hawaii banned plastic grocery bags and some countries discourage use through taxation. In the U.S., Congress passed the Microbead-Free Waters Act to phase out tiny plastic microbeads in soaps, facial scrubs, toothpaste and other products by 2018. The United Nations Environment Programme is calling for a worldwide ban on products containing microplastics.

Protection efforts appear to be paying off. This year, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada down-listed shortfin mako sharks from "threatened" to "special concern". Around the world, anti-finning campaigns have helped decrease shark fin consumption. Endangered manatees made a comeback in the U.S., with Florida seeing a 500

per cent increase in the population, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose reclassifying them from "endangered" to "threatened".

Many whale populations are also rebounding after decades of commercial exploitation. Hunted to near extinction in the early 20th century, North Pacific humpback whales were recently reclassified from "endangered" to "special concern." Biologists estimate their population at 18,000.

Likewise, blue whales in the eastern North Pacific off California are showing signs of recovery, currently numbering about 2,000. Nearly exterminated by commercial whaling fleets before receiving worldwide protection in 1967, blue whales remain one of the rarest marine mammals, numbering between 10,000 and 25,000 worldwide. Earth's oceans still face many overwhelming challenges and political obstacles, yet the resilience of nature and ecosystems is powerful. If we can rally around actions that protect rich ocean biodiversity, they can continue to provide an endless bounty of wonder and treasure.

David Suzuki

is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Communications Specialist Theresa Beer.

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Miramichi Leader

"The Leader since 1906"

Wednesday

June 14, 2017

ONB mum on consultations with service commissions

KRIS MCDAVID
MIRAMICHI LEADER

Officials with the provincial government's job creation agency are, for now at least, declining to discuss the details of a plan that will see them paying to staff each of New Brunswick's 12 regional service commissions with economic development specialists.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission's board of directors voted in favour of signing a memorandum of understanding with Opportunities New Brunswick during a meeting late last month intended, according to the wording of the pact, for "aligning

community economic development priorities."

An ONB spokeswoman said that more details on the situation would be forthcoming in the weeks ahead but, for now, discussions with the different commissions remain ongoing.

"Opportunities NB has been consulting with stakeholders in communities and the Regional Service Commissions across the province to further explore the Opportunities-based model for economic development outlined in the New Brunswick Economic Growth Plan," said Mary-Anne Hurley-Corbyn in a statement on Monday.

"While it would be premature to

comment as the consultations are ongoing, ONB would be happy to provide more information on this once the consultations are complete."

The matter led to some speculation around the RSC board table during that last meeting about what ONB's motivations might be in pursuing this kind of partnership at this point in time, with two members of the board – John Goodfellow and Elizabeth Bowes – voting against it after expressing they weren't entirely comfortable with the situation.

Goodfellow, who represents the local service district of South Esk on the board, took it a step further, saying that

he didn't believe the agency could be trusted to work in the best interests of the region.

More specifically, he said he was worried that instead of allowing the region's member communities – which includes the city of Miramichi, the villages of Blackville and Doaktown, the Rural Community of Upper Miramichi and several rural LSDs – to chart their own economic strategies, that the risk was there for the province to use the RSCs as a tool to dictate their own vision for growth to the regions.

That this arrangement is being

PLEASE SEE → ONB, A2

Province still grapples with reconciliation after report

SHANE MAGEE
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Mandatory indigenous history training for provincial civil servants and a reworked school curriculum are among the ways New Brunswick is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls for action issued two years ago this month.

Graydon Nicholas, chair of native studies at St. Thomas University, said not enough has been done to improve a range of indigenous issues in the province – from housing conditions to knowledge of indigenous peoples. The former lieutenant governor said that gap in knowledge becomes apparent when he teaches.

"It's almost a cultural shock," he said about how his students have reacted when learning about indigenous history and treaties and in the province.

Education was top of mind for Murray Sinclair, who was chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"Education is what got us into this mess — the use of education at least in terms of residential schools — but education is the key to reconciliation," Sinclair told CBC in 2015.

The commission issued 94 recommendations to deal with the legacy of residential schools after spending six years hearing from thousands of survivors of the institutions. The government funded, church run schools ripped thousands of young indigenous people from their families over 120 years, leaving lasting physical and emotional scars.

The Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia was the only residential school in the Maritimes. The commission's final report describes students huddling in groups to stay warm due to poor heating, physical abuse and being stripped of their culture. David Nevin told the commission he saw a girl "savagely" beaten by Shubenacadie staff for refusing to stop speaking Mi'kmaq. The Shubenacadie school closed in 1967.

New Brunswick's education department has launched a committee tasked with fulfilling commission recommendations on education.

Terry Weir, a member of the committee, will start a new role in September

PLEASE SEE → RECONCILIATION, A2

Bad moon rising



There was no trouble on the way but it did create a beautifully eerie scene as a light strawberry-red moon rose over Miramichi Saturday, June 10. PHOTO: JOCELYN TURNER/MIRAMICHI LEADER

'It's going to be a really special moment': mayor on 2018 Acadian Games

JEREMY TREVORS
MIRAMICHI LEADER

It was a joyous occasion for Miramichi and École Carrefour Beausoleil on Monday.

Students gathered outside the school to watch the ceremonial torch come in before it heads off to Fredericton for the 37th edition of the Jeux de l'Acadie, taking place later this month.

Miramichi will play host to the games in 2018, between June 27 to July 1, and preparations are already well underway, just a little more than a year away.

Paul McGraw, with the city's Department of Economic Development and Tourism, said not only will it stimulate the local economy, but it will also unify

all the linguistic and cultural communities in the area.

It also exposes people to Acadian culture, more than just one day like Acadian Day does on Aug. 15 every year.

"This way, it's going to be a five-, six-day event, so we intend to have a presence all over the city," McGraw said. "Miramichi isn't a big city, having an event like this has an even bigger significance than it does in a larger centre."

Not to say that the games aren't important in larger centres, but when you come to a smaller community it would put the event even more so on the map.

"The people will know the sights, sounds and images of the games and

PLEASE SEE → GAMES, A2



From left, Marc Allain, Paul McGraw, Acajoux, Gillies Allain, Mayor Adam Lordon and Rachel Bernard during a press conference for the Jeux de l'Acadie on Monday at Carrefour Beausoleil. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

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news

Correction

A story entitled "T-Wolves hold successful MHL draft" published on page B1 of the Monday, June 12 edition of the Miramichi Leader incorrectly said Rob MacDonald was awarded the Roger Meek Executive of the Year Award.

In fact, the award was presented to the entire Miramichi Timberwolves executive.

We regret the error.

Grappling with reconciliation

RECONCILIATION →A1

as one of three respect and diversity leads with the Anglophone East School District. It's a position that will see her working with district schools to implement the provincial government's 10-year education plan, which includes an objective to improve indigenous education.

The department's 10-year plan indicates 7.8 per cent of teachers have had training on indigenous history and culture.

Students learn about residential schools and treaties in only 15 per cent of grade levels, the plan states. The plan aims to boost both figures to 100 per cent by 2026.

"I think it's hugely important," Weir said. "Teaching all of our children in all of our schools the importance of compassion and understanding - I can't stress how important that is."

As part of her new role, she hopes to get schools in the district to take part in Orange Shirt Day on Sept. 30 aimed at recognizing the impact of residential schools have had through lessons or videos.

Kelly Cormier, a spokeswoman for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, stated in an email that planned changes to the anglophone curriculum include additions to social studies, treaty education, literacy, art and other subjects at various grade levels.

One commission recommendation was for federal, provincial and municipal governments to educate their employees on the history of indigenous peoples including the history of residential schools. It called on the training to cover cultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

Sarah Bustard, a spokeswoman for Service New Brunswick, stated in an email that the province is working to develop mandatory training for all civil servants that would cover cultural awareness, indigenous history, residential schools and the commission's calls to action. The training is expected to be implemented by 2018, Bustard stated.

Other parts of the country have implemented similar sessions for public sector employees. Teachers in Ontario have attended workshops on how to teach students about residential schools while city council in Yellowknife, NWT budgeted to spend \$30,000 this year for all of its employees to undergo a full-day of training in partnership with an indigenous consultant.

Isabelle LeBlanc, spokeswoman for the City of Moncton, said the municipality has a "broad-based" cross cultural training session for its employees but it doesn't have specific education around indigenous people. LeBlanc wasn't able to say Friday afternoon whether there are plans to implement the type of training the commission sought.

But Nicholas said it's important that such education efforts aren't one-time seminars and leave a lasting change in attitudes.

Nicholas said he was approached earlier this year to help provide training for public service employees through the Canada School of Public Service, which provides training for civil servants.

"I would consider it - but not for a one-time thing," Nicholas said. "Someone wants to go there, taking the training and then say 'I know everything about First Nations.'"

Nicholas offered to speak to a session but said his schedule would prevent further involvement.

Indigenous peoples represented three per cent of the province's population in 2011.

'It's going to be a really special moment': mayor on 2018 Acadian Games

GAMES →A1

they will see the games are not only important for Francophones in the community, but for Anglophones in the community," McGraw said.

"The only thing I regret is Gerry Cormier isn't here to see this, that would have been a big moment for him," McGraw said about his close friend and late mayor of the city, who died almost a year ago.

Marc Allain, executive director for Carrefour Beausoleil, said they have passionate people behind the scenes and is looking forward to the games finally getting underway.

"We're a little nervous because it's a big undertaking, but we're really happy with where things are at right now. It's a lot of work," Allain said.

They are also searching for more volunteers and for more funding. One sponsor has already committed to the games, Adaptive Office Solutions, located on Wellington Street.

"They're one of the first people we approached and they said yes right away so we're really happy about that," Allain said.

Anyone willing to volunteer can do so by calling the reception at Carrefour Beausoleil at 627-4125, or by emailing Alda Poirier at apoirier@carbeau.ca.

Allain said when they put in a request for the games, they put in a list of more than 1,300 names of people who would be ready to give their time.

"People here aren't shy to roll up their sleeves and jump into the middle of things. The only thing we need is for people to register early, tell us what they can do, but we're confident that won't be an issue," Allain said.

Mayor Adam Lordon said all the wheels are in motion and said there is an incredible enthusiasm for the Jeux de l'Acadie.

"It's going to be a really special moment for the city and the region," Lordon said. "We love celebrating our cultures and this is going to bring people and athletes from across Atlantic



Students competing at the Acadian Games this year, pose with Acajoux. In no particular order Alexander MacIntosh, Megan Murphy, Lynn Godin, Hannah MacGregor, Patrick Comeau, Francis Sonier, Lindsey Anne Tenass, Lyla Sarkis, Colby Richardson, Ryley MacIntosh, Maude Sonier and Kayla Russell. Missing from photo are Erika Blackmore, Emma MacKinnon, Steven Richard, Pierre-Luc Savoie, Keenan Mintsa, Ellahna Mintsa, Pénélope Rousselle and Madalyn MacKinnon.

PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

Canada to Miramichi. It's going to give us a nice spotlight in the Acadian communities."

Lordon hopes the parents, coaches and athletes have a great time and eventually return to Miramichi once the games are over.

"For our francophone population, it's a really proud moment and a coming out of sorts," Lordon said. "We know the whole city will be behind them to make sure everyone has an incredible experience."

"It's great for diversity, inclusivity, it's great for the economy. It's really a win-win all the way around," Lordon added.

This will also be a good chance for Miramichi to showcase some of the newer facilities in the community.

As well as using Miramichi Valley High School, Carrefour Beausoleil, French Fort Cove and the track at James M. Hill, the city will also be use the new turf field at King Street Elementary School.

They will also build a mountain bike



Students from this year's contingent of the Jeux de l'Acadie with the flame of the games. PHOTO: JEREMY TREVORS/MIRAMICHI LEADER

track at the cove, which they will keep for after the games and will be available for the public to use.

They may also look into using Max Aitken Academy, as well.

"We still have to finalize some of

the venues, because when we submitted our bid, we don't have Max Aitken Academy and we didn't have the artificial turf field," McGraw said. "We're going to work things out in the coming weeks."

Opportunities NB mum on consultations with service commissions

ONB →A1

pushed with the economic growth plan introduced by the Gallant Liberals last fall in mind, however, provides at least some window into its design.

The plan highlights a handful of different sectors the government has targeted for job creation creating new economic opportunities.

That list includes industries like wild blueberry cultivation, cyber security, the marijuana sector, tourism and local foods and beverages.

A copy of the memorandum supplied to the Miramichi Leader shows that part of the objective would be for the province and the region to work collaboratively toward identifying and executing opportunities for growth.

The document goes on to state that the initiative is aiming to establish a "proactive approach to alignment of regional partners" that will "more effectively leverage resources and information from all sources to drive economic results across the province."

It also indicates that, in the spirit of the wider economic growth plan, part of the goal is to promote regionally-driven economic development plans, along with region-specific support services aimed at helping promote and facilitate that growth.

Despite some lingering questions about how this might all function, the majority of board members in Miramichi said they were more than confident the gesture is sincere and that they were willing to at least see where this goes.

And if it doesn't function the way they want, then the commission has the option of breaking the agreement following a period of 90 days.

Miramichi Mayor Adam Lordon pointed out that given all of the provisions written into the memorandum, he can see no downside.

He said seeing this through could, in theory, allow the Miramichi region



A look at the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission offices in Miramichi. PHOTO: MIRAMICHI LEADER ARCHIVE

and its communities a more direct say in controlling its own economic affairs while affording a better flow of communication and increased collaboration with the province in order to help facilitate some of this.

In the city's case, he said the vision already aligns with some of what's spelled out in the provincial strategy, including marijuana, tourism and fostering smart tech sectors.

While he said he's willing to approach this with an open mind, Lordon noted he agreed with Goodfellow that this likely isn't going to work out if the government ends up taking a top-down approach.

"This needs to be grassroots and it needs to come from within the existing

priorities, ideas and opportunities that are assessed within our region rather than having ONB telling us what our priorities should be, so that would be my concern," Lordon said. "But if they're going to come in and say 'We don't think you should be in forestry anymore,' or 'We're trying to make the cannabis cluster in Saint John,' these are going to be problems."

Upper Miramichi Mayor and commission board chair Doug Munn said he's been "assured" that this staffer would only be there to work with the commission's members rather than force-feeding some directive from Fredericton.

Wilson Bell, the executive director of the regional commission, added the person who would be filling the

economic development position would not be a bureaucrat working remotely from an office in the capital.

He said it was communicated by the province that they want the position to be filled by somebody local, and asked the commission to think of some names who might be suited for the job.

Opportunities NB already has a regional economic development officer based in Miramichi, Rick Lloyd. However that position would be complementary to the one that would be working at the commission level in helping focus priorities.

Bell said it was his understanding that ONB was hoping to have a candidate identified and hired sometime this summer.

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mlnews@brunswicknews.com

EDITOR
Shannon MacLeod
macleod.shannon@brunswicknews.com
506-627-7407

OMBUDSMAN
ombudsman@brunswicknews.com

ADVERTISING
Amanda Eagan (506) 627-7412

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CANADIAN GOTHIC



GREG PERRY

Conservative senator wrong, laws can reducing bullying

KIMBERLEY ENS MANNING & ELIZABETH J. MEYER
COMMENTARY

MONTREAL • Conservative Sen. Donald Plett recently said, "I don't think there's any law in the world that will prevent children from bullying."

With all due respect, the Manitoba senator is wrong.

He made the comment last week during discussion in the Senate about Bill C-16, which is designed to protect gender identity and gender expression in the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code.

In fact, laws can make a huge difference in the lives of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) youth and children. And, yes, laws can reduce the bullying they experience.

Bullying is not occasional teasing, nor is it a one-off insult. Bullying is a sustained, targeted and often profoundly violent (emotional and/or physical) form of aggression.

In most school policies, bullying is defined as negative behaviours (verbal, physical and psychological) targeted at another individual repeatedly, intentionally and over time.

Transgender youth experience bullying at much higher rates than their cisgender (non-transgender) peers. Indeed, a 2015 University of British Columbia study of 923 transgender youth in Canada found that more than one in three younger had been physically threatened or injured in the past year (36 per cent) and nearly half of older youth reported various types of cyber-bullying.

Given that many of these kids also experience homelessness, poverty and, in some cases, familial rejection, it's little wonder that 65 per cent of younger participants in the study had seriously considered suicide and one-third had attempted it at least once.

Fortunately, we've learned a lot about how to reduce bullying and many school boards are putting resources into implementing measures to reduce the problem.

While we agree that no law can wipe out bullying, it can surely help to move us in that direction.

We know from research carried out by GLSEN, a U.S.-based organization with a mission to create safe and affirming schools, that LGBTQ students in schools that have anti-bullying policies reported lower levels of victimization compared to those in schools without policies.

Furthermore, students in schools with policies that clearly prohibited bullying based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression reported the lowest levels of bullying, compared to students in schools with no policy and students in schools with a generic policy. Perhaps most important for the debate

on C-16, the research shows how bullying towards LGBTQ youth is less prevalent in states that have clear protections against LGBTQ bullying and harassment in schools.

We have witnessed the results of dedicated professionals working to educate themselves and their peers to ensure the safety of transgender students in schools. We have seen schools at which the only out-transgender child walks the halls safe from bullying, schools in which diversity in all of its beauty is affirmed and celebrated rather than denigrated and destroyed.

But it's not just educators who are making the difference for these kids. Lawmakers can make a huge difference, too.

When laws protecting our most vulnerable citizens are in place, they provide an additional layer of motivation and protection for educators and other professionals who are trying to save lives and ensure safety and respect for all students in Canadian schools.

While we agree that no law can wipe out bullying, it can surely help to move us in that direction.

Laws matter. Bill C-16 matters. We urge the Senate to pass Bill C-16 without delay.

Kimberley Ens Manning

is an expert with EvidenceNetwork.ca, a principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and associate professor of political science at Concordia University. In her capacity as a founding board member of Gender Creative Kids Canada, Manning frequently gives public presentations on transgender children and their families.

Elizabeth J. Meyer

is the associate dean of teacher education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is the author of Gender, Bullying, and Harassment: Strategies to end sexism and homophobia in Schools and Gender and Sexual Diversity in Schools.

July 1 registry deadline looms for N.B. lobbyists

ALEXANDRE DESCHÈNES
COMMENTARY

We all know that in a democracy, there is always someone out there trying to influence governmental decisions.

As of April 1, 2017, the Office of the Integrity Commissioner has been tasked with the responsibility of supervising lobbyists in this province. From now on, lobbying government continues to be a legitimate activity when appropriately conducted and as long as certain rules are followed.

New Brunswick has adopted these new rules in order to provide transparency with respect to the identity of lobbyists and on whose behalf they are lobbying. In addition, the lobbyists will be required to identify the target of their lobbying, as well as indicate the anticipated outcome of their lobbying efforts.

Let me explain briefly what lobbying is about.

employee of the client.

There are two types of in-house lobbyists. One is an employee of an organization such as corporations who pursue financial gain while the other in-house lobbyist is an employee of a non-profit organization such as a Chamber of Commerce.

As of April 1 2017, these lobbyists have to register and file a return with our office, free of charge. They have until July 1 this year to file a return, which details among other things, the targets of their lobbying efforts, the intended lobbying activities, as well as the purpose.

Failure to file a return can result in heavy fines. Individuals who are unpaid volunteers and who lobby on behalf of a not-for-profit organization are the only lobbyists not required to register under the act, or file a return.

The public office holders who may be targeted by lobbyists constitute a very large group such as Members of the Legislative Assembly and cabinet ministers and their staff, members of a District Education Council and the board of directors of a regional health authority as well as a large group of public service employees identified in the act.

Many groups of persons and many types of communications are not

considered to be lobbying. As a result, the filing of a return is not required by these persons when acting in their official capacity.

For example, to name just a few, Members of the Legislative Assembly and cabinet ministers and members of other legislative assemblies, members of the House of Commons or the Senate and their respective staff, members of a municipal council or association, the council of a First Nations band as defined in the Indian Act are not required to file a return.

There are also many types of communications not covered by the act. For example, submissions being made as part of a public record made to a committee of the legislative assembly or made to a public office holder on behalf of a person in relation to the implementation of a policy, program or directive by that public office holder with respect to that person or the submission made to a Member of the Legislative Assembly by an individual on behalf of a constituent of the Member of the Legislative Assembly with respect to any personal matter of that constituent are not considered to be lobbying activities.

New Brunswickers understand that it is in the public interest that they be

allowed open access to government but now insist that legitimate paid lobbyists should be readily identifiable along with the organizations they represent.

The registry system that our office now oversees is easily accessible and should not be seen as impeding access to government. It is hoped that lobbyists will cooperate and that the system will go a long way in reducing some of the cynicism that seems to exist in relation to lobbying activities that take place in our province.

The registration and the filing are done through a link posted on the integrity commissioner's website.

My administrative assistant, Rosanne Landry-Richard, is available to help lobbyists comply with their new obligations. She can be reached at 506-457-7890 during business hours. Access to our website is obtained via the link gnb.ca/legis/conflict/

Alexandre Deschênes

The Honorable Alexandre Deschênes, Q.C. was appointed New Brunswick's first Integrity Commissioner in December, 2016. His duties include oversight of the Lobbyist Registration Act, which became law on April 1, 2017.

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