



TOWN OF OXFORD

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Conducted through Zoom, streamed live to Facebook

Monday, October 4, 2021

6 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – September 7, 2021

4. Reports

4.1 RCMP Report and update on business

4.2 Black River Update

5. Correspondence

5.1 Amherst and County of Cumberland Mayors letter to Minister of Health and  
Wellness

6. Adjournment



## Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, conducted through Zoom and streamed live to FaceBook  
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
Presiding Officer: Mayor Gregory Henley  
Councilors Present: Deputy Mayor Wade Adshade, Carla Black, Brenton Colborne, Paul Jones, Arnold MacDonald and Chrystal McNutt  
Regrets: Nil

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting.***

Staff in attendance: Town Clerk - Linda Cloney (recording secretary)

### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Add 5.6 Immunization Clinic

Add 5.7 Oxford Minor Ball

Add 5.8 Black River update

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for September 7, 2021, be approved, as amended.

***Motion Carried***

### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for June 7, 2021, be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **4. New Business**

#### **4.1 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – September 30, 2021**

September 30 is recognized Federally and Provincially as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The Town of Oxford Union Members automatically get this day as a holiday, as per their CUPE contract, but the Town of Oxford Non-union members do not. Non-union

staff are asking Council to consider amending the Town of Oxford's Personnel Policy to include September 30<sup>th</sup>, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a public holiday in the listing of recognized holidays.

More discussion on this at the next Council Meeting.

#### **4.2 Reduction of Speed Limits - update**

A verbal update given by staff. Council had asked staff to research other communities that have reduced their speed limits as to the effectiveness from that process. There were two other municipalities that have this done and they have their own Police Force in which is not comparable, as we have a RCMP policing model.

The reduction of Speed limits will be discussed during budget time.

#### **4.3 Municipal Fire Inspector Appointments**

The Town of Oxford need to update the Nova Scotia Office of the Fire Marshal the appointment of Municipal Fire Inspectors. Therefore, the Town needs to appoint those that have the capabilities of being the Municipal Fire Inspectors. In Cumberland, those that can be appointed are David Buell, Melissa Siddall, and Thomas Trenholm. Staff have spoken with Mr. Buell, and all those mentioned above are aware and accept the appointments, if given.

This will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

#### **4.4 Request from Ms. Robinson**

Ms. Robinson is requesting an extension to the deadline for opening a business. Council's response is to learn from Ms. Robinson when does she expect to open her business.

This will be discussed further at the next Council Meeting.

#### **4.5 Request from Mr. Brookins**

Staff presented to Council the Customer Service Request from Mr. Brookins. He is a resident that lives just past the highway. His complaint is the noise from Engine Braking. Mr. Brookins request is for Council to put in place a By-law addressing this issue.

Council had advised staff that there is already a bylaw in place addressing this matter. Staff will research further in the Bylaw records.

#### **4.6 Oxford Council Meetings and Proceedings Policy**

Deputy Mayor Adshade has notified Council that in the New Year he may not be able to attend many of the Council Meeting due to work. He is asking Council to consider changing the dates of the meetings in this policy to correspond with his work schedule.

This matter will be discussed at the December Council Meeting.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### **5.1 Department of Justice Minister Appointee – Police Advisory Board**

The Town of Oxford received correspondence that a Minister appointment has recently been made to the Police Advisory Board. The person appointed is Mr. Thomas Shears of Oxford. Congratulations was sent out to Mr. Shears from the Town Council.

#### **5.2 NSCC Cumberland Campus – thank you note**

NSCC sent a thank you note regarding the recent donation to the NSCC Cumberland Campus. This support assists students that attend the NSCC Cumberland.

#### **5.3 Cumberland RCMP Policing Review – update**

Effective August 18, 2021, the new billing structure for 30 Regular Members in Cumberland will be as follows: The Municipality of Cumberland will be billed for 27.3 regular members and the Town of Oxford will be billed for 2.7 regular members.

There is still the remaining portion of the Policing Review that includes further reduction of two regular members that will be voted on at an upcoming Cumberland Council meeting and the RCMP Liaison, Donna Jewers, will update the outcome to the Oxford Town Council.

Staff are currently reviewing the revised billing adjustment and will report to Council at the next Council meeting the savings that is expected.

#### **5.4 Cumberland Public Libraries – Annual Report**

This report reflects all the programming and outreaching the Cumberland Public Libraries had done over this past year.

#### **5.5 Property Valuation Services – Annual Report**

This report focuses on their team's resilience and gratitude throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and PVSC's continues commitment to providing quality service for their clients.

## **5.6 Immunization Clinic – Oxford Fire Hall - September 10**

There is an Immunization Clinic organized at the Oxford Fire Hall for September 10 beginning at 10 am and close at 3 pm. Walk-ins are encouraged to come in.

## **5.7 Oxford Minor Baseball**

Oxford Minor Baseball has had a successful year.

Mayor and Council extends congratulations to the U14 female division for their win of a provincial championship and the U13 A team that won the first title in over 20 years. Congratulations to both of those teams and to all the coaches and players. Well done everyone, you made us proud.

## **5.8 Black River Update**

Mayor Henley received correspondence from MLA Tory Rushton an update regarding the Black River smell. MLA Tory Rushton was contacted by the Department of Environment, and they are waiting for test results right now. As he gets updated, he will reach out to the Town of Oxford.

## **6. Adjournment**

At 6:21 pm, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

***Motion Carried***

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Gregory Henley, Mayor

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Linda Cloney, Recording Secretary

**RCMP**



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

# Oxford

## Police Advisory Board

**June 21, 2021 – September 19, 2021**

Submitted by S/Sgt. Craig Learning

## CALLS FOR SERVICE OXFORD RCMP

### June 21, 2021 – September 19, 2021

TOWN	June 21 – September 19, 2021	June 21 – September 19, 2020
Zone 12 – Town	105	99
OXS – Oxford school	1	0
<b>TOTAL TOWN</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>99</b>

RURAL	June 21 – September 19, 2021	June 21 – September 19, 2020
Zone 6	57	107
Zone 7	39	45
Zone 8	11	16
Zone 15	0	0
Zone 16	3	3
TCH TC1	1	2
TCH TC2	101	210
EXP	0	0
Other rural	85	78
<b>TOTAL RURAL</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>461</b>
<b>TOTAL TOWN AND RURAL</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>560</b>

### Oxford Detachment Updates

#### June 21, 2021 – September 19, 2021

#### 2021-1246594

Impaired Driving BOLO from Colchester. EHS reporting a grey SUV traveling west in the eastbound lane on Highway 104. The vehicle almost hit their ambulance. Cumberland members set up on the Cumberland side of tolls and intercepted the vehicle traveling east bound. A traffic stop was initiated at which time the vehicle pulled off at Exit 8 and proceeded down Wentworth/Collingwood Road. Obvious signs of alcohol impairment were observed by members and the subject of complaint (SOC) was arrested and transported to Oxford Detachment. Breath demand resulted in tests of .09 x 2. The SOC was released on an appearance notice to appear in Provincial Court on November 1, 2021.

#### 2021-1254761

Members were dispatched to a weapons complaint. After further investigation, members were advised that the SOC had been at the residence to meet up with a 15 year old girl. The SOC was arrested for Luring of a Child. This matter is before the courts with an appearance scheduled in December.

**2021-1126782**

On August 1, Colchester and Cumberland members responded to a home invasion in the Wentworth area. The complainant reported an unknown male, later identified, was attempting to enter his home with a hammer. The SOC was gone on arrival, but later located along Highway 4 in Wentworth. The SOC resisted arrest and stole an unoccupied police vehicle. When fleeing, the SOC dragged a member a short distance causing injuries. The SOC later crashed the police vehicle and was taken in to custody. This matter remains before the courts. Carriage of the investigation lies with Colchester RCMP.

**2021-1370269**

RCMP were dispatched to a structure fire with possibly 5 casualties. RCMP officers attended the scene; a camper trailer parked off Mountain Rd. Six people were confirmed as deceased. Scene secured for further investigation and attendance by RCMP Forensic Identification Services, the Medical Examiner's Office, and the Fire Marshall. This matter remains under investigation, however the incident has been deemed non-suspicious and accidental in nature. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Preliminary findings surrounding cause of death suggest smoke inhalation.

**2021888880 et al.**

There was significant protest activity at the NS/NB border in relation to COVID restrictions from April to June, 2021. Most notable was the protest called for by MLA, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, which started along Hwy 104 at Exit 7 on June 22, then transitioned to the TCH NS/NB land border crossing. Hundreds of people were in attendance at both sites, resulting in several public safety issues that could not be handled by local members alone. Extensive efforts to negotiate and have protestors leave peacefully were not successful. This resulted in a transition to an enforcement plan and a full STO (Special Tactical Operations) deployment to carry out the operations plan. This plan was a great success with the ultimate clearing of the Highway. Three people were arrested during the operation and are currently facing criminal charges. This event resulted in significant traffic disruption, public safety issues, and also impacted the economy and health care system immensely. It required detailed planning and a comprehensive operations plan on the part of police.

#### **Other Cumberland District Files of note:**

**20211133608** – On August 2, Cst. Mike Currie was on scene at a motor vehicle collision on Hwy 104 West Bound in Salt Springs. While at the MVC, Cst. Currie's PC was struck from behind by a commercial truck which caused extensive damage. Additional members attended scene and Cst. Currie was taken to hospital, assessed and released. EHS attended to treat the other involved parties, but there were no serious injuries. The collision analyst was contacted, but did not attend. Heavy rain and reduced visibility at time of collision. SOC was charged for Fail to Move Over, and issued a 24 hours suspension.

**2021740520 (NB RCMP) & 2021740096 (Cumberland). Missing Person turned Homicide.** Male missing out of New Brunswick. Reported May 28<sup>th</sup>. His vehicle was recovered here in Cumberland the same day. It appeared to have been hidden. Vehicle was seized. Several suspicious elements arose during the course of the investigation which led to the engagement of NB Major Crime and the ultimate laying of first degree murder charges within a week. Cumberland District members played a big part in this investigation.

**20216311492 & 2021-1653063.** A male subject was identified as a person of interest in recent suspicious fires in New Salem, NS. On May 13, the SOC was arrested after being identified as the suspect in a residential break, enter & theft along Old Halifax Rd. The occupants were known to the SOC SOC was remanded on multiple charges (B&E, mischief, disguise with intent, criminal harassment, etc). Matter has since been disposed of in court with a guilty plea to some charges and a sentence of 2 years.



**20211046442. Missing Person Update.** Male (74 yrs) of Fox River, last seen July 17, after leaving his residence in his vehicle. Reported shortly before 1500 hrs on July 18 by his wife. Suffering from early on-set Alzheimers. Extensive Air Support, and ground search undertaken, with support of GSAR. Male located the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> by searching personnel. Male was submerged in marshy water in a backroads wooded area near Port Greville. He was still alive and upon discovery was overjoyed, reflected in his statement, "I can't believe you found me; I can't believe you found me". Flown to hospital. He is recovering well. Male had become stuck in this vehicle along one of the trails, and had attempted to walk out. Due to his deteriorating health however, he was unable to. Great work by all involved in this file. An outcome that was not expected given the timeline, environment and risk of exposure.

## Cumberland District ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

### Priorities:

- Crime Prevention and Reduction
- Road Safety
- Connecting With Our Community – Community Engagement
- Our People – Health and Respectful Workplace

### Highlights:

- SCEU is currently addressing several ongoing issues in our county, including the numerous thefts of catalytic converters. Prospective investigative techniques have been identified to apprehend those responsible.
- SCEU is currently engaged in a long term investigation into serious offences that are having an impact throughout the County. Unable to share further details at this time.
- SCEU continues to fulfill their mandate by combatting the drug trade throughout the County.
  - May 19 - 2021687182. Male arrested for trafficking cocaine, and searched incidental to arrest. One half gram of cocaine located in front left pocket in purple metallic zip lock bag. No case seizure as Crown will not proceed with small quantity possession charges at this time.
  - June 17 - Drug Trafficking. Investigation continues into male subject selling CDSA in the Amherst area.
  - August 24 - 20211268499. Cumberland Integrated SCEU and Amherst Police Department patrol members stopped a vehicle as it entered Amherst and arrested the driver and passenger for possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of 100 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine, 92 tablets of suspected speed (methamphetamine) and small amounts of suspected cocaine and suspected gabapentin with an approximate street value of \$11,000. Two males have been **charged** with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking. One male was on parole at the time of his arrest and his parole has since been suspended. He has been returned to a federal institution where he will remain in custody. The second male was released on conditions. Both men are scheduled to appear in Amherst Provincial Court on November 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m

Our Community Policing Officer has resumed her role as of September 9, 2021. The following is a snapshot of last week's activities which demonstrates what we will see in Oxford and other County Communities as the year unfolds.

- SAFE plans were emailed out for tombstone data updates for each school.
- Contact/visits with Cumberland North Academy regarding support services and resources following last week's fatal fire, victims of which included students at CNA.

- Planning for victim services meeting in the coming weeks to discuss VS volunteers and their deployment to ensure we are maximizing their effectiveness.
- Invite sent to River Hebert District School for their participation in the RCMP Talks session with *The White Hatter* concerning online safety, grades 6-8.
- Emailed NWAC about participation in the Sisters in Spirit Vigils to be held Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at all of our 5 detachments in Cumberland County.
- Smudging at the bandstand in Parrsboro.
- Spoke with Community Safety Net about ordering the updated version of Drug Safety books. They will add Cumberland into their schedule and contact the CPO when they are ready to print.
- River Hebert sent back registration form for the RCMP Talks session and were subsequently selected and registered by National Youth Services for 2021-10-06. Grade 7 class.
- Email sent to HQ to request a copy of the Intimate Image Sharing videos created by the NS Youth Cyber Advisory Committee, for students and parents, to be fanned out to schools and the community.
- Email sent to schools for student recruitment for the Youth Cybercrime Advisory Committee. Next meeting will be the end of October. CPO has had some interest expressed in submitting some students names.
- Located educational items from Anisinabek Nation in ON, as advised from HQ, on Residential School History, the wounds created and the healing to come. Will read and then fan out to Cumberland Members to educate themselves.
- Email sent to Tim Horton's Children's Camp in Tatamagouche, NS, regarding information about partnering and setting up a youth leadership camp for this area, and possibly others in NS and NB in the Spring/Summer 2022 (COVID permitting).
- Researched an appropriate acknowledgement of Mi'kmaq Territory for NS, to be used at the beginning of ceremonies, and presentation. Added to office door for members to reference.
- Located a resource through The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq: *Teaching about Mi'kmaq* for grades primary to nine, and will fan out as an educational tool for Cumberland members.
- Interest expressed from Springhill Junior-Senior High School on another RCMP Talks Session for one of their Gr 9 Healthy Living Classes. They will determine which of the upcoming 3 would be appropriate for their curriculum.
- Meeting with member Board member of C.A.S.T about also becoming a board member. He would like to have a member as a part of the Roots of Hope and Jack.org programs when they are up and running in the County, which CPO advised he could send the information and invite to the RCMP.

# Saving Donald Duck – Oxford.

8:40

90%

← COP of Coffee



**COP of Coffee**

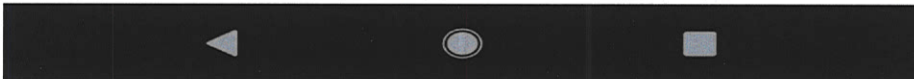
2h · 🌐



[#FromOurInbox](#) >> While working as North Watch Commander, I was at the Oxford [Emergency Health Services - EHS](#) base and noticed a Cormorant walking up the side of Main st. It stopped at the base's large puddle, swam, had a drink and proceeded to walk up the side of main st. I felt he may be injured as he would hop sideways when a car passed. He then walked up to the front door of the RCMP station. I followed him and called Cst. V. Manuel and apprised him of his guest. He came out and we chatted about my concerns and he quickly agreed. DNR was called and Conservation Officer K. Newcombe responded quickly from Amherst. At this point the cormorant was sleeping on a pallet behind the station and we had already fended off a curious cat. It was captured without Incident or injury by the DNR officer and was going to be kept for observation and assessment. Teamwork!!



Write a comment...



Elder Abuse Awareness Day. June 15.



National Indigenous People's Day. June 21.



Cumberland District RCMP hosted a Smudging Ceremony September 15, 2021 at the Community Bandstand in Parrsboro. The ceremony was facilitated by Mi'kmaq Elder, Manson Gloade. District Eagle Feathers were smudged, as were employees of Cumberland District RCMP. Parrsboro HS Grade 7 Students also attended to observe. Following the ceremony, Mr. Gloade and employees retreated to the Parrsboro Detachment for Refreshments and discussion surrounding historical and Indigenous issues.



Employees of the Cumberland District RCMP, along with Mi'kmaq Elder, Manson Gloade.



Tobacco Offering to Elder Manson Gloade. Presented by S/Sgt. Craig Learning.

## APPENDIX A

The following is a list of all members and staff who are currently posted to Cumberland District R.C.M.P.  
\*\* ODS (medical leave) / GRTW (graduated return to work) \*\*

**District Commander:** S/Sgt. Craig Learning  
**Operations NCO:** Sgt. Jason Pennoyer (ODS)

### Amherst Office

**Team Leader: Cpl. Josh DuBois (Seconded)**

Cst. Victor Manuel  
Cst. Jeffrey Campbell  
Cst. Phil Basque  
Cst. Matt Bray (ODS)  
Cst. Richard Harvey  
D/A Rachael McLellan  
D/A Crystal Farrell

### Oxford Office

**Team Leader: Cpl. Robert (ODS)**

Cst. Paul Cheesman  
Cst. Heather Graves  
Cst. Donald Fisher  
Cst. Heather Lourie  
D/A Lina Taraschi

### Parrsboro Office

**Team Leader: Cpl. Troy Gill (ODS)**

Cst. Troy Hopkins (ODS)  
Cst. Don Matthews  
Cst. Tyler Smith  
Cst. Steve Maddison  
D/A Heather Winters

### Pugwash Office

**Team Leader: Cpl. Shawn Galbraith (GRTW)**

Cst. Marc Blinn  
Cst. Rena Currie  
Cst. Anna Cochrane  
D/A Kimberly Carroll

### Springhill Office

**Team Leader: Sgt. Dave Lilly (ODS)**

Cst. Tom Livingstone  
Cst. Mike Currie  
Cst. Marilyn Campbell (GRTW)  
Cst. (Vacant)  
Cst. (Vacant)  
Cst. James Campbell (GRTW)  
Cst. Gina Macrae  
D/A Cindy MacDonald

### Street Crime Enforcement Unit

**Team Leader: Cpl. Clay Wortman (Seconded to Ops)**

Cst. Mike Black (Seconded to GD)  
Cst. Ryan Wilson  
Cst. John Haggerty (APD)  
Cst. Stefan Deuville (APD)

### Community Policing Officer

Cst. Sarah Pennoyer



**Domestic Violence Coordinator**  
Lydia Quinn

**Court Liaison Officer**  
Alanna Blanch



September 24, 2021

Honourable Michelle Thompson  
Minister of Health and Wellness  
Department of Health and Wellness  
Barrington Tower  
1894 Barrington Street  
P.O. Box 488  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2R8

via email with hard copy to follow

The Honorable Michelle Thompson:

We are writing to express our concerns about the critical shortage of nurses at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre (CRHCC) and how it impacts on All Saints Hospital in Springhill.

On Thursday, September 23, 2021 we met with our two MLAs, Tory Rushton and Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin along with Foundation representatives from All Saints Hospital and CRHCC, as well as the Chairman of the Cumberland Healthcare Professionals Recruitment and Retention Committee (non-physician allied health professionals) Deborah Kogon. We, as mayors, are members of our local physician recruitment committee.

The chronic shortage of nurses has recently become acute. The latest need to transfer emergency room nurses from All Saints to CRHCC attests to this.

Our meeting was to see what more we, as a community, can do to retain nurses and also recruit more.

Recruitment of nurses rests solely with Nova Scotia Health (NSH) but is unfortunately a slow and often tedious process. Currently, because nurses are employees of NSH we are very limited in what we can do.

One idea we had was to suggest that you allow us to have an increased role in the hiring of nurses. We believe an effective, innovative approach would be to treat nurse recruitment like physician recruitment. NSH would determine how many nursing positions are allotted to each hospital but have each institution seek out, interview and hire their staff.



The acute shortage of nurses in our region is severely limiting the delivery of healthcare to our citizens and needs to be addressed quickly and definitively.

Any or all of our group are willing to meet to discuss. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

David Kogon, MD, Mayor  
Town of Amherst

Murray Scott, Mayor  
Municipality of the County of Cumberland

cc: Honourable Tory Rushton, MLA  
Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, MLA  
Honourable Tim Houston, Premier  
Karen Oldfield, NSH  
Greg Herrett, CAO, Municipality of Cumberland County  
Jason MacDonald, CAO, Town of Amherst  
Gregory Henley, Mayor, Town of Oxford  
Linda Cloney, Acting Clerk, Town of Oxford