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The Old Florenceville Bridge *The Future of our Historic Landmark*

The Old Florenceville Bridge was closed in November 2020 by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI), citing structural issues that did not allow it to pass inspection.

Since that time, Town officials have been in contact with DTI as well as MLA Margaret Johnson for updates on when the bridge will reopen.

To ensure the significance of the bridge was fully understood by the Province, Mayor Karl Curtis sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure outlining its importance from historical, tourism and local usage perspectives, and asked for a meeting to discuss the closure further.

In the spring of 2016, the Old Florenceville Bridge was closed due to a culvert collapse on Jim Davis Drive, and as a result, the bridge was closed for 14 months while a bailey bridge was constructed to replace the failed culvert at a Town cost of nearly \$415,000.

The bridge was able to reopen by June 2017, but less than two years later, the province advised the weight restriction would need to

be reduced from 10 tonnes to 5 tonnes in anticipation of the Route 130 Bridge closure for repairs. From April to October 2019, the Old Florenceville Bridge became the lifeline for the Town.

Following a meeting with DTI Minister Jill Green and staff at the end of February 2021, provincial government officials explained that their preliminary cost estimate to refurbish the bridge is somewhere between \$10 and \$20 million, or north of \$40 million to rebuild it.

They advised there is no funding available in their capital plan budget, as many other bridges and roadways in the province are in need of work.

Provincial government officials provided photos of the significant corrosion, pitting, and loss of sections, as well as rust holes to bottom chords, slender components and connections.

The Town is continuing to work with the province for alternate methods of repair that would allow the bridge to reopen in some capacity, and will continue to press for a solution to have it open to vehicles again.

Municipal Election Seeking Nominations

Have you ever considered running for Town Council or Mayor?

A municipal election is planned for May 10, 2021. Candidates may begin to file their nomination papers with the appropriate returning officer on Monday, March 22. The nomination period closes at 2pm on Friday, April 9.

Visit our website to watch a video from the February 9 Council meeting to see what serving on Council is all about!

www.florencevillebristol.ca/councilminutes

For the candidate nomination papers and FAQ, visit Elections NB for more details.

www.electionsnb.ca/content/enb/en/representatives/municipal-candidates.html

Recent Town Projects >>>

Main Street Project

The new pavers have a lifetime warranty, making them a smart investment, and will alleviate numerous tripping hazards that have developed.

The red pavers in the downtown area are showing their age. They are crumbling in many areas, and have begun to create trip hazards. Knowing the sidewalk had to be extended in front of the new On The Boardwalk Café & Wine, that block was the logical place to start the Paver Replacement Project.

In the summer of 2020, the pavers were replaced on Main Street from the Florenceville Post Office to River Arts Centre, and continued around the side of the cemetery by the Florenceville Irving. This portion of the project cost \$99,000, which included taking up the old red pavers.

The colour selected is in neutral grey and brown tones, and has created a polished look for residents and tourists alike.

Council will be replacing the balance of the red pavers throughout the downtown in 2021 and beyond.

Once the project is complete, our downtown in Florenceville Ward 2 will have a unified look that will last for many years to come.

Other curbside improvements in the retail downtown core have happened as well,



which began with the McCain Produce and River Art Centre buildings. Last summer, the addition of the beautiful new On the Boardwalk Café & Wine building has become a feature on Main Street, not to be outdone by a major facelift to the strip mall and pharmacy addition on McCain Street.

Great things are happening in our town!

**Change your
CLOCKS...**



**Change your
BATTERIES!**

Sunday, March 14 Clocks go forward

While Germany and Austria were the first countries to use Daylight Saving Time in 1916, it is a little-known fact that a few hundred Canadians beat the German Empire by eight years.

On July 1, 1908, the residents of Port Arthur, Ontario, known today as Thunder Bay, turned their clocks forward by one hour to start the world's first Daylight Saving Time period. Five cities in Canada used daylight saving time prior to 1918, including Halifax.

Community Hall Wheelchair Ramp

Prior to the pandemic, the Hall was host to the Bridge Club, Seniors Group, Florenceville Rotary Club, Collectors Club, Chamber of Commerce and many private rentals. The previous ramp was starting to crumble, and the rebar had fallen out of the structure in places, causing safety concerns for the welfare of the numerous residents who use the facility on a regular basis.

The Community Hall was built in 1921 as a school for grades 1-11. Its Art Deco features are what gave it the designation of one of Canada's Historic Places. It was used as a school until 1977, and has also acted as the Village Office.

Currently, it is used as a Community Hall by various clubs, the Florenceville-Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and hosts many private functions.

The new wheelchair ramp gives the building a fresh look with its white railing. We look forward to welcoming guests again once pandemic regulations relax.



Recent Town Projects >>>

School Street Improvements

The deterioration of the road surface, problematic speed bumps and the need for a sidewalk were the reasons this project topped the project list.

Following recommendations from the Department of Public Works and Maintenance, Council identified School Street as the number one priority for remediation in 2020. The roadway was in very poor condition and the storm sewer had failed in years passed. With the extensive usage, it was evident improvements were needed.

Contractors began by replacing an existing manhole and cracked pipe section, then laid a concrete sidewalk along the North side of

School Street. The addition of a sidewalk was a key feature to add, since the street is a main artery for students walking to and from the Carleton North High School (CNHS).

The old pavement was removed to make way for a newly paved surface – minus the speed bumps.

The decision to eliminate the speed bumps was based on feedback from our engineers. They felt the increased noise due



to braking and accelerating, delay for emergency vehicle response times, difficulties clearing snow, as well as the reduced effectiveness on short streets at lower speeds, did not add value for the extra cost needed.

The total project cost \$288,000, and has been a welcome upgrade for CNHS traffic.

Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery (ALMAG)

A unique community gallery supported by the Town of Florenceville-Bristol, private donations, the Carleton North Community Foundation, the Province of New Brunswick and other granting agencies, the Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery focuses on New Brunswick artists and bringing art to the Upper Saint John River Valley.

March 20 – May Exhibit:

Gordon Dunphy and 3 local carvers

Watch for other workshops and events on their website:

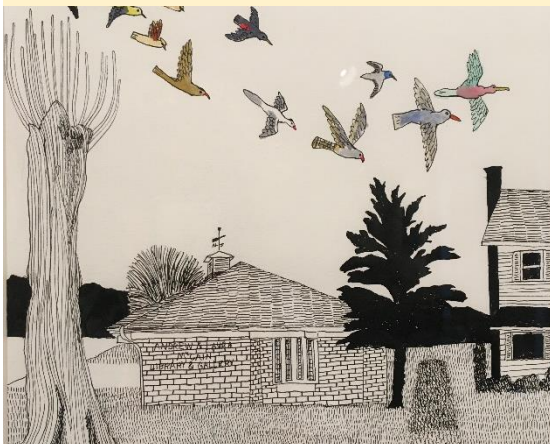
Workshops at the River Arts Centre

Summer Art Camps for all ages

Buttermilk Creek Festival, September 11

For more information, please visit

www.mccainartgallery.com



Welcome to the Neighbourhood! Florenceville Amsterdam Inn & Suites

The new Florenceville Amsterdam Inn & Suites is taking shape on Centreville Road. This state-of-the-art facility will include 78 room suites, 190 person conference/banquet centre, with a 94 seat full-service restaurant, meeting rooms, and gym facilities. It is located at 383 Centreville Road, between Potato World and the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources office.

In September 2020, de Winter Brothers President and CEO John J. de Winter announced the construction of the full-service hotel. Since then, the vacant lot has quickly transformed due to its unique construction method.

The first floor is constructed using traditional methods, while the hotel rooms are constructed by Alantra Leasing Inc. off-

site as modular built suites. The modular units are stacked in place with a crane – yes, just like LEGO™.

General Contractor Iron Maple Construction and Alantra Leasing Inc. have extensive construction experience and have partnered to ensure a high end finished facility will be ready to greet guests.

This hotel property will support projected future demand for the greater community and western region of New Brunswick and will support opportunities to

a multitude of market segments that have been identified through detailed market studies. It is estimated 40 jobs will be needed to operate this executive property. It is expected to open July 2021.

**This is a major
economic
investment in a time
when it is needed
by our community.**



Coming in 2022 >>>

Northern Carleton Civic Centre

Recreation Facility Addition

The expanded Northern Carleton Civic Centre will improve access to cultural and recreational facilities for Florenceville-Bristol residents.

The government of Canada recognizes the different ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted smaller and rural communities across the province, and are making strategic investments in infrastructure to meet the specific needs of rural municipalities and to help them strengthen their local economies.



Funding was announced March 5, 2021 to expand the Northern Carleton Civic Centre (NCCC) with a new multipurpose facility by the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, on behalf of the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Rural Economic Development, the Honourable Margaret Johnson, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and MLA for Carleton-Victoria on behalf of Gary Crossman, Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation, and his Worship Karl Curtis, Mayor of Florenceville-Bristol.

The new facility will allow residents of Florenceville-Bristol and region to have access to more programs and services. The project will see a new multipurpose facility added to the existing centre. The new complex includes gymnastics facilities, an open gymnasium, an indoor walking track, and multipurpose room.

The Government of Canada is investing more than \$5.5 million in this \$9.2 million project through the Rural and Northern Infrastructure Stream (RNIS) of the Investing



in Canada infrastructure program. The balance of the funding will come from private donors led by a significant gift from the McCain Foundation and individual McCain family members, as well as a contribution from the Town of Florenceville-Bristol. The Town will be doing fundraising initiatives in the coming months to achieve its contribution.

Through the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada is investing more than \$180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada's rural and northern communities.



A Facility for All Ages and Abilities

“The expansion of the Northern Carleton Civic Centre will be a tremendous benefit to the residents of Florenceville-Bristol and the entire region. Today’s announcement is a celebration of hard work, planning, local leadership and cooperation between all levels of government.”

– Hon. Margaret Johnson, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and MLA for Carleton-Victoria

The new facility will be an addition to our existing NCCC that houses an arena, which like many Canadian communities, is a beehive of activity during the winter months.

A committee has been working hard behind the scenes for months to determine the various recreational components that should be included in this addition.

With the increased interest in gymnastics, the current gymnastics facility located across the street from the NCCC is much too small, and merits a more modern facility.

A lack of open gym space had been identified as another needed amenity. Although we have school and church gymnasiums available in our Town, they are often booked, which speaks to the demand. An open gymnasium will provide a space for basketball, volleyball, badminton, soccer, pickleball, ball hockey, and a variety of other options.

A walking track was also identified as a key element of this facility. With our harsh

winters, walking outside is not a safe option for many people. It will be elevated above the perimeter of the gymnastics and open gym spaces, making it a perfect option while family members are participating in other activities at the complex.

A multipurpose room is included to allow for many smaller activities, like yoga, Zumba®, table tennis, meditation, and could even be used for a meal area during tournaments.

This addition will be accessible so people with disabilities and seniors can take advantage of everything this facility will have to offer and improve mobility among these potentially vulnerable groups.

We envision this multipurpose structure to be the focal point for socialization and the heart of activity in our region. This is an important component of creating a strong community and is a way for new-comers to our area of all ages to meet people and form relationships with their neighbours.



The Town has contracted the services of Hatchard Engineering Ltd. and Nadeau Soucy Ellis Architects to plan, design and manage construction of the facility.

Since the residents of neighbouring communities will also benefit greatly from the facilities, this expansion will not only make this complex the hub of our Town year-round, but the hub of our region year-round.

The addition will be attached to the right side of the Northern Carleton Civic Centre and extend towards the existing outdoor pool. Construction will begin as soon as the weather allows. Continue to follow us on social media for updates on an opening date.

Many fundraising events will be announced in the coming months through social media, our website, and the Town notification system.

We look forward to sharing the progress of the new facility with you and thank you in advance for your patience during the construction phase.



Outdoor Summer Market

A Summer Favourite

We are looking forward to filling your basket with fresh produce, meats, organic vegetables, pure maple products, flowers, jewellery, paintings, a variety of wooden crafts and other local artisans works.

We are excited for Outdoor Summer Market season to start! With the pandemic restrictions last summer, we were able to safely host a few markets at Riverside Park, so plans are in the works to try it on a weekly basis this year.

As with last year, all vendors will be required to have a Covid Operational Plan, to ensure the safety of our guests. The season may be a little shorter, but watch for details on our social media pages and website.

If you would like information on becoming a vendor, please contact 392-6763 ext. 202 for more details.

See you at the market!



Council Commits to Heightened Focus on Tourism Economy

Council is keen to work with private investors, and the provincial and federal governments, in order to maximize our natural assets and unique cultural characteristics.

The Town of Florenceville-Bristol completed a hybrid version of the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (ACOA) Sustainable Tourism Expansion Program (STEP) initiative in 2020. The STEP Hybrid project included three phases:

The Assessment Phase: A broad assessment of the Town, in terms of tourism potential, including the initial completion of ACOA's Sustainable Tourism Assessment Screener. The Screener is used to assess the overall readiness of a destination related to the tourism sector.

The Accelerated Market Readiness (AMR) phase: A series of consultations with the Town and businesses/stakeholders in order to advance product, service and experiential opportunities.

The Capacity Building Sessions Phase: Based on the needs determined from the AMR phase, capacity building measures

targeting existing and potential entrepreneurs are being considered that can be delivered during COVID-related restrictions.

The Town has completed the first two phases of the STEP Hybrid initiative, with only the capacity-building phase left to deliver. This phase will endeavour to assist entrepreneurs intent on creating culinary tourism products, services and experiences that align with the Town's French Fry Capital of the World brand; and/or involve the creation of signature outdoor adventure experiences, signature quality retail craft experiences, or experiences which capitalize on the destination area's St. John River and agricultural heritage assets.

If you own a business or are an entrepreneur in Florenceville-Bristol and would like to take part in any of these sessions, please contact us at 392-6763 ext. 202 for more details.



Historic Highlight >>>

The Marich Pole: Understanding the Symbolism

Thanks in part to funding from the provincial and federal governments, the Marich Pole was commissioned by the Town of Florenceville-Bristol, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Marich House, an historic property located on Curtis Road.



Pictured from left: Mayor Karl Curtis, Engineer Brent Pearson, Bob Fullerton of Cook's Construction, artist Stephen Hutchings, Kacie Graham of S.W. Graham Welding, Kevin Nicholson of Nicholson Bucket and Boom Services, Leigh Hunter of Craig Manufacturing, Herb Pryor of S. M. Graham Welding, Dale Forsythe of D. Forsythe Ltd.

Following a province-wide competition, Stephen Hutchings' sculpture, The Marich Pole, was the public art installation selected for the Town in June 2020 at Riverside Park.

By identifying the shapes on the pole, viewers of all ages—from daycare toddlers, to students, to seniors out for a stroll—will be able to piece together their own understanding of the history and importance of Marich House in early Bristol.

There are two portraits near the bottom of the pole: one of the first resident, Winifred Phillips, and his daughter Mary Findlay. The flowers reference the extensive flower beds and greenhouses that flourished on the site; and a teapot and tea cups that represent fine china, a hallmark of the shop for many years. The old-style chairs represent the style of furniture that was sold in the retail shop and probably used by the occupants for many years. The chairs also denote conversation, relaxation, work, dining—foundations for what makes a community. The horse refers to the livery stable that thrived early on in the house's history. The light bulb denotes the first electric power in the area—generated by



the Marich House for its own use and that of the nearby Baptist Church (now Second Wind Music Centre). Near the top is the water tower, a landmark in its own right, and the source for water and power in the early days of the house. The water tower sports a shamrock in reference to its current iteration as the Shamrock Train Inn & Suites. Last, perched at the top of the pole are a couple of images of the house itself—much as the real house sits high on the nearby cliff looking down on Main Street and the river.

A plaque to explain the symbolism will be installed near the sculpture in 2021.

Partial Solar Eclipse June 10, 2021

A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and the earth, causing the moon to block out the sun for a brief period. A partial solar eclipse will take place over Florenceville-Bristol on Thursday, June 10, 2021. It will begin at 5:35 a.m. reach its maximum at 6:36 a.m. when most of the sun will be blocked, and end at 7:38 a.m.

This event will be a teaser for the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse when we will experience totality in Florenceville-Bristol.

Q: *Will sunglasses protect my eyes?*

A: *No. Sunglasses will not be enough to protect your eyes from a solar eclipse.*



You should never look directly at the sun without protective eye gear, even if it is just the rim of the sun peeking out from behind the moon. While sunglasses will not protect your eyes, you can use sunglasses with special lenses that will filter out the sun's rays.

Or you can make a pinhole card projector. Find instructions at timeanddate.com.

www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/make-pinhole-projector.html

Summer Student Job Opportunities



The Town of Florenceville-Bristol feels it is important to provide job opportunities for our youth, whether it is at the high school level or during post-secondary studies.

There are positions available in recreation, lifeguard & pool staff, tourism, and ground maintenance for the Summer of 2021.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Office located at 19 Station Road, or you can visit the Town's website for an online form. www.florencevillebristol.ca/jobopportunities

The Town also participates in the Province of New Brunswick's S.E.E.D. program, which provides quality experiential learning opportunities through the summer months. Unlike in previous years, students do not need to have a S.E.E.D. voucher to apply for a position.

The list of all approved employers and jobs will be available to students through the Employer Directory at www.NBSEED.ca starting on March 15, 2021.

Final thoughts...

Primary Care Providers in our Community

New Brunswickers without a Primary Care Provider can register with Patient Connect NB and be assigned to a provider on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will be contacted by the Primary Care Provider's office once you are referred to their practice.

Are you one of many New Brunswickers who do not have a Primary Care Physician? If so, have you already registered on Patient Connect NB?

Registering on Patient Connect NB is an important step in the process. Some may feel they are in good health and they do not have an immediate need to be matched with a Primary Care Provider. However, you may not realize that this database is a determining factor in where new doctors are located in the province.

A recent meeting revealed we have approximately 200 people between Juniper and Florenceville-Bristol who do not have a Primary Care Provider, however, this figure may be even higher if there are people who have not registered.

Online registration is available, or for those without internet access, please contact the Town Office at 392-6013 to help you register.

Please register today to ensure the appropriate number of Primary Care Providers are available in our area.

Register at Patient Connect NB

www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health/Hospital-Services/content/Patient_Connect_NB.html



Carleton County Spring Show and Sale April 12-14, 2021 at NCCC

The 68th Annual Carleton County Spring Show and Sale will be featuring 22 animals of seven different breeds, all competing for title of Grand Champion 2021. There are nine 4-H animals and 13 Open Show animals registered. Please follow Carleton County Spring Show & Sale on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updated schedules and COVID-19 protocol and requirements.

Big Garbage Day Thursday, May 6, 2021

The Following items will **NOT** be picked up:

- Refrigerators & Freezers, Propane Tanks
- Liquid waste like paint, solvents, oil, etc.
- Toxic Materials
- Motor Vehicle Parts (including tires)
- Construction & Demo waste exceeding 180kg



Beautification Grant

Florenceville-Bristol Town property owners can apply for funding to assist with projects that will increase their property's curb appeal. Visit our website to view the full Beautification Grant Policy #21 and application form. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2021.

www.florencevillebristol.ca/policies