

Action on the HILL

Greetings from the Commission

As 'summer' has come and gone and children have headed back to the classroom, I hope everyone is able to reflect on enjoyment had over the warm weather seasons, and looks forward to the remainder of the year ahead.

Since I last wrote to you, the Village has had several items on the go:

- The Village has engaged Haley Smith as Parks and Recreation Director to lead recreation and cultural services within the community. Haley is determined to introduce new programming opportunities to the community and brings with her a positive outlook, post-secondary qualifications, and several years of experience working with the Village and volunteering. Haley may be contacted at haley.smith@biblehill.ca, or at 902-893-8083.
- Our day camp counsellors have led day camps for children daily over the summer offering activities for 30 participants per week, including outdoor games, trips to Scotia Pool, Hatfield Farms, and Atlantic Splash Adventure Park. The success of this program is due to the efforts of our Parks and Recreation Director and her programming staff. Thank you!
- Baseball field prep was performed earlier this year including levelling and adding surface material, and repairing fences and gates. A great deal of time is spent on fields between May and October mowing, dragging, lining, collecting garbage, and cleaning washrooms. We hope the availability of these facilities for minor and slo-pitch ball are valued by the community.
- Safe Halloween planning is underway, and scheduled for Monday, October 31st from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, while supplies last. Our Parks and Recreation Director is looking forward to the event and seeing all the children dressed up in their costumes! A fun time will be had by all!
- The Village has awarded the purchase of a new fire apparatus to replace our oldest, a 2003 Volvo pumper-tanker. Fort Garry Fire Trucks will manufacture a 2023 tanker for Bible Hill, which will have a pump capable of moving 1,050 gallons of water per minute at 150 PSI, will carry 3,000 gallons of water on board, feature two 2,900-gallon porta-tanks for offloading water, and will be built on a Freightliner M2 cab with a 450 HP Cummins L9 diesel engine. The truck will cost \$698,251, plus HST, with \$430,800 budgeted to come from savings in a capital reserve established to help finance purchases of fire apparatus – which helps keep property tax rates consistent year-over-year when such large purchases take place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Commission Meetings

Village Commission and committee meetings are open for observation to the public. Commissioners meet twice per month on the second and third Tuesday at 7:00 PM to discuss village matters, set policy, approve expenditures, and chart the path for Bible Hill. Join us!

Maggie's Place



Maggie's Place

Family Resource Centre offers a free playgroup at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall or the Bible Hill Recreation Park each Tuesday from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM from September to June. Playgroups are a fun play and social time for parents/caregivers and their children from birth to school age to enjoy together. Each session consists of a free play and art time, a healthy peanut-free snack, and ends with circle time – songs, stories, and active fun. All families are welcome to join. For more information, check out www.maggiesplace.ca or on Facebook at 'Maggie's Place-Colchester'. Thanks to the United Way of Colchester County for their financial support of this program.

- Our community hall, known as 'H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall', next to our office, at 69 Pictou Road, has had new black-framed windows installed and the metal fascia around the building painted to match. Several new exterior doors will also be installed in the coming weeks. These new fixtures replace original units up to 40 years old. Funding for this project up to 50% or \$67,545 comes from the Federal Government through ACOA's Canada Community Revitalization Fund, for which we're very thankful.
- This year's budget included funding to further renew sidewalk on College Road, in conjunction with the NS Department of Public Works' re-curb and re-paving of the street. Unfortunately, the results of the tendering process earlier this year offered little choice as costs came in much higher than our originally high estimates, therefore it was decided that the Village would not proceed at this time with the College Rd sidewalk work. The Commission then refocused and tendered sidewalk renewal work on Main Street, the results of which were also higher than expected. The Village awarded one of the two tendered projects for sidewalk renewal on Main Street, between the Salmon River truss bridge and the CN rail line at a cost of \$141,200, plus HST.
- The Village has awarded \$104,235 of sidewalk maintenance work throughout the Village. This work includes renewing driveway ramps and areas of sidewalk in need to maintain further useful life of the larger sidewalk. The work will also address gaps in accessibility, to create smooth surfaces from sidewalks to where buttons for cross-walk lights have been installed over previous years away from the sidewalk's edge.
- Trail resurfacing near the playground and along the loop from the parking lot around the baseball fields and multi-purpose field at Bible Hill Recreation Park has taken place, which has removed vegetation, defined the edges, and added new surfacing material. The cost of the work was \$12,400.
- Commissioners are hosting this year's conference and annual general meeting of the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) on Sept 16 and 17. The event invites Commissioners and municipal staff from the 20 villages around Nova Scotia to our community, where they will engage in several professional development opportunities in areas of leadership, indigenous peoples, and community engagement, tour and learn about all that Dalhousie University has to offer, hear from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs and staff, and network while experiencing Bible Hill. The conference is financially supported by the Village, ANSV, the Department of Municipal Affairs, and Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Ltd.
- Environmental monitoring of surface and ground water at the location of a former landfill under Bible Hill Recreation Park will take place this year by engineering firm Dillon Consulting. This program has been ongoing since the early 2000s and, with approval of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, is now conducted once every five years. The results of the monitoring program will be made available to the public on our website.

If you have a question, or are experiencing an issue, please consider contacting the Village office or Commissioners directly. Each Commissioner has been assigned an area of focus as follows:

- Environmental health services matters – Commissioner Tim Shea
- Protective services matters – Commissioner Knickolle Pitcher
- Recreation and cultural services matters – Deputy Chair Donna Van Kroonenburg
- Transportation services matters – Commissioner Tom Burke

Commissioners may be contacted by email using the format: firstname.lastname@biblehill.ca

Kevin Kennedy
Chair, Village of Bible Hill

Follow Village of Bible Hill on Social Media

Connecting with the Village on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) is a great way to hear about new programs and initiatives, Commission news, and local events. In addition to our roadside sign and website, upcoming programs are posted on social media, as well as news and pictures from past programs. Please connect with Village of Bible Hill to keep up on current events in your Village!

A message from RCMP

Criminal Record Checks, Vulnerable Record Checks, and Child Abuse Registry Checks

What is a Criminal Record Check? This process verifies whether an individual has a criminal record. It does not include any non-convictions but may contain discharges if disclosure period is still open.

What is a Vulnerable Sector Check? This process verifies whether an individual has a criminal record, as well as any record suspensions (formerly pardons) for sexual offences and local police records for information (adverse) relevant to the VS check. The information that can be legally disclosed is provided to the applicant.

You will be required to provide the RCMP-GRC with the following information:

- A description of the position
- The name of the organization staffing the position
- Details about the children or vulnerable persons (e.g. age, or other factors that can show how the person is vulnerable)
- If the position is volunteer, provide a letter from the organization stating the person will not be paid for services or any other personal expenses incurred.

Once the RCMP-GRC has determined that the position meets the requirements for a vulnerable sector check, a name-based search will be conducted. In some cases, you will be required to submit fingerprints to confirm your identity. The use of fingerprints ensures the accuracy of the identification process. Once the vulnerable sector check is completed, the RCMP-GRC will send the results to the requesting organization.

What is a Child Abuse Registry Check? The Child Abuse Register (Department of Community Services – Government of Nova Scotia) keeps a record of the names of people that the provincial court or family court has found (during a court process in Nova Scotia) to have caused harm to a child. The Department of Community Services uses the Child Abuse Register to screen prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and employees or volunteers who work with children. Child protection workers also use the register to help determine if a child needs protective services. This is NOT completed through the RCMP-GRC. You may apply online at <https://child-abuse-register-search.novascotia.ca/en/privacy>.

Where do I attend for a Criminal Record Check / Vulnerable Record Check? All residents of Bible Hill, NS can attend Bible Hill Detachment to have criminal record checks completed. All residents of Truro, NS can attend Truro Police Service at 776 Prince Street, Truro, Nova Scotia.

How much does it cost for a Criminal Record Check / Vulnerable Record Check? This is a service provided by the RCMP-GRC at no charge (there is a nominal charge if subsequent fingerprints are required to confirm the identify the applicant – also known as certified criminal record check).

Where can I obtain additional information related to criminal record and vulnerable record checks? You may obtain additional information at <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/types-criminal-background-checks>.



Fire Prevention Week

Mark your calendars for the Bible Hill Fire Brigade's Fire Prevention Week Open House open house, taking place on October 15th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Burn Safe

With the weather being dry, you must check the provincial website before burning at <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>. This website is updated at 2:00 PM every day and gives information about each county. As well, a reminder that there is an Outdoor Fire By-law that applies in the Village of Bible Hill. This means that you can only burn using a compliant fire pit on a compliant pad – in addition to the Provincial burning restrictions. Outdoor fires are not permitted to generate nuisance smoke. For more information, consult the by-law.

Kinsman Club of Bible Hill

The Kinsmen Club of Bible Hill we be resuming their meetings on September 8, 2022 and will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Thursday going forward until the end of June 2023. Meetings will be held at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre in Truro. Anyone interested in finding out more about Kinsmen can contact Glen MacKenzie at secretary@biblehillkinsmen.ca or Henry Vissers at president@biblehillkinsmen.ca. More information about Kinsmen can also be found at <https://www.kincanada.ca/>

Senior Fitness Classes

Stay physically active with our Senior Fitness Classes at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Classes will resume on October 3rd. Call the office or e-mail admin@biblehill.ca for more information. The cost is \$2 per class. Drop in and check it out!



Zumba and yoga with Celeste

ZUMBA! It's back to fun and fitness at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall with something for everyone! Zumba is back and started on Monday, September 12, with classes Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8:30am to 9:30am. These classes are sure to start your day off on the right foot with one hour of fun and fitness, loads of giggles, plenty of pop and Latin music and movement, and tons of friendship. All ages and experience are welcomed.

Indoor yoga classes began on September 30 and continue every Friday morning at 10:00 AM. Practice is for all levels. Please register to secure your spot in Zumba! or yoga by contacting Celeste at 902-814-8000 or cchesal@gmail.com

Joyful Yoga

Practice yoga with experienced Joyful Yoga instructor, Diane, who leads this Flow Yoga style class, best for those who have done yoga before. As well as being an amazing physical exercise, yoga offers so much more. You will leave the class feeling refreshed, relaxed and inspired. If you can breathe, you can do yoga. Registration is required for all classes with an 8-week class starting September 20 at the H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall. To secure your spot or for more information, contact Joy at 902-956-2166 or joyfullyoga@hotmail.com.



Bible Hill Recreation Park

Enjoy the outdoors at Bible Hill Recreation Park, 38 Guest Drive (off College Road). Cool off with splash pad fun, read a book under the gazebo, have lunch under the picnic shelter, play on the natural and conventional playground equipment, try out the new pavement obstacle course, walk, wheel, or cycle the park trails, or take the Cobequid Trail from the park along the bank of the Salmon River to reach Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus and take in their stunning rock and alumni gardens.



Scotia Pool – Glen W. Smith Community Pool

Scotia Pool is excited to welcome patrons to our warm water pool, located right here in Bible Hill! We offer a full slate of services including lane swims, Aqua Fit, Aqua Therapy, Aqua Zumba, Red Cross swimming lessons, summer camps, parent and tot swims and open swims.

Did you know you can rent the pool and our outdoor enclosed gazebo for birthday parties and other private events? Contact Scotia Pool at 902-893-6364 or scotiapool@gmail.com. Our friendly staff look forward to seeing you!

Senior Socials – For those young at heart!

Senior Socials are held weekly for adults 55+ at H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall. The Senior Socials will take place every Friday (except holidays) from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Each week, you will be entertained by the Y Senior Citizens Band, and on the last Friday of the month, tea, coffee and a light lunch will be provided.



Seniors Care Grant

The Seniors Care Grant provides financial support to low-to-modest income seniors to help them stay in their homes. The Seniors Care Grant is an annual grant program to reimburse costs of up to \$500 to help cover the costs of household services. It can be used to cover the costs of such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

To be eligible for this grant:

- You still reside in your home
- The property or lease agreement is in your name or includes your name
- You are 65 years of age or over
- You have an annual household net income of \$37,500 or less

For more information, visit <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-costs-seniors-care-grant>.

Property Tax Rebate for Seniors

Administered by Service Nova Scotia on behalf of the Department of Community Services, this program is designed to help eligible seniors remain in their homes by providing them with an annual rebate on their municipal property taxes. The program provides eligible homeowners with a 50% rebate of the actual residential municipal property taxes paid the previous year, up to a maximum of \$800 per year.

Act fast! The application deadline is December 31, 2022. For more information and to start your application, call 1-800-670-4357 or visit www.novascotia.ca/sns/access/individuals/consumer-awareness/property-tax-rebate-for-seniors.asp

HomeWarming

Everyone should benefit from energy efficiency. HomeWarming offers no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades to income-qualified Nova Scotians.

If they discover that upgrades like draft-proofing, insulation or other efficiency options can help make heating & cooling your home substantially more affordable and comfortable, they'll install the upgrades at no cost to you.

Call 1-877-434-2136 or visit www.homewarming.ca to see if you are eligible for free upgrades to your home.

Feeding Wildlife

When thinking about feeding wildlife, first consider their safety and welfare of yourself, your family and neighbours. Backyard feeding often means animals travel near and across roadways, sidewalks and around houses. Wildlife fed in residential areas lose their natural fear of people and become vulnerable, while young animals fail to learn the skills required to secure their natural diets. Please do not feed deer and other wildlife in the Village. To learn more about living safely with wildlife, please visit <https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/>.

We're hiring!

After School Program Leaders

Village of Bible Hill is recruiting two After School Program Leaders for the 2022-2023 school year. These positions will deliver fun, interactive programs in Bible Hill and Valley schools. We are looking for passionate, energetic, mature, and responsible leaders with an interest in developing leadership skills to lead our programs. The programs will be physical activity-focused, with elements of play, self-leadership, and teamwork. Most programs will be based on outdoor play, games, skill building, and nature awareness activities. The wage is \$15.60 per hour, for up to 15 hours per week, 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, throughout the school year, with opportunity for extra hours with holiday and other programming if requested by the Parks and Recreation Director. More information can be found on our website, or by calling the Village Office. If this may interest you, please consider working with us. Forward your resume by mail, email, or in-person to the attention of Haley Smith, Parks and Recreation Director.

Bible Hill Consolidated

If you are interested in becoming a noon-hour supervisor at Bible Hill Consolidated (12:10 PM -1:10 PM, Monday to Friday) please contact the school at 902-896-5511 or email fougerekj@ccrce.ca.

Housing Nova Scotia programming

Housing Nova Scotia offers several programs to help residents with lower incomes maintain and modify their homes to ensure they are safe and affordable. Some program offerings include:

- Canada-Nova Scotia Targeted Housing Benefit assists eligible low-income households to reduce housing need. It provides a direct-to-household benefit to households in core or severe core housing need in targeted vulnerable populations
- Disabled Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Homeowners provides financial assistance to people who cannot afford to make their homes more accessible for persons with disabilities. The maximum amount of funding available for homeowners is \$16,000.
- Access-A-Home Program helps people adapt their homes to become wheelchair accessible. The amount of the grant depends on your income and the maximum amount available is \$7,000 forgivable grant
- Provincial Housing Emergency Repair Program is equally funded by the federal and provincial governments and offers financial assistance for homeowners to make emergency repairs to their homes. The maximum amount of funding available is a \$6,500 grant to help cover the cost of labour and materials.
- Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence program helps homeowners pay for home adaptations so seniors with low incomes can stay in their homes independently for longer periods of time. A one-time forgivable grant of up to \$3,500 is available.

For more information on these programs, including eligibility, call 1-844-424-5110 or visit <https://housing.novascotia.ca/programs-and-services>.

Sport and Recreation Funding Opportunities:

Kidsport is a national children's program that helps kids overcome the financial barriers preventing or limiting their participation in organized sport. Managed and operated in Nova Scotia by Sport Nova Scotia since 1994, KidSport Nova Scotia has assisted over 31,000 children totalling over \$7.7 Million. KidSport Nova Scotia provides funding of up to \$500/year/child for sport registration and/or equipment. In 2020 KidSport™ Nova Scotia allocated over \$323,844 to more than 1,100 children from Sydney to Yarmouth. For more information please contact Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager with the County of Colchester, at 902-897-3181 or cburgess@colchester.ca.



Support 4 Sport is a funding program through Sport Nova Scotia that can assist with purchasing sports equipment, supporting coaches, and supporting high performance athletes. It will also help support officials. If you or your child is associated with a Provincial Sport Organization it is worth looking into. For more information please contact Janine MacIntyre, Support4Sport Coordinator with Sport Nova Scotia at 902-425-5450 ext. 372 or jmacintyre@sportnovascotia.ca.

Jumpstart funds any kids who would like to be active or learn a new sport or activity. From age 4-18, families can receive help with registration costs, equipment and/or transportation. Founded in 2005, Jumpstart has helped more than 2 million kids get in the game! For more information please contact Stephanie Milbury, Administrative Assistant with Town of Truro 902-893-6078 or samilbury@truro.ca or jumpstart_admin@cantire.com.

RECC LIFE (Leisure Inclusion for Everyone) reduces financial barriers to programs offered by the Rath Eastlink Community Centre to help offset costs for their programming to a maximum of 90%. The RECC believes that everyone has the right to live well and prosper, and the RECC LIFE program helps ensure that. Please contact the RECC at recclife@ratheastlinkcc.ca , 902-893- 2224 or online at <https://www.ratheastlinkcommunitycentre.ca/>.

Bible Hill Recreation Park Revitalization

The Village has recently engaged Trace Planning and Design to re-envision the playpark and beyond. Working with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Commissioners, local school children and the public, Trace developed a design for renewing the playground at Bible Hill Recreation Park. The playground is proposed to be renewed to make a creative, multi-generational, and central recreational gathering grounds for all residents and guests. This exciting work is planned to involve:

- A revitalized playpark with fun new equipment, including a large hybrid multi-generational play structure, a wheelchair accessible swing, improved sub-surface drainage, Fibar play area surfacing, and surface level concrete edging;
- A new asphalt walking loop around the playpark with two lanes, creating multi-use lanes for walks, bike rides, roller blades, and wheelchairs;
- A resurfaced basketball court space, with lines for two pickleball courts and children's games, on a bright coloured base;
- A new granular pathway through the centre of the park linking the asphalt track and play park area with the parking lot, baseball field area, and walking trail at the south end of the park;
- Creation of a central social zone near the play equipment featuring rock/log themed benches, plant bed, and a rounded gateway trellis;
- Creation of social spaces with seating and shade structures within the play equipment area;
- New plantings of shade trees, bicycle racks, picnic tables, and more!

The proposed work is estimated to cost upwards of \$1MM, plus HST, which is hoped to be funded in at least three ways: the Village, other governments, and public contributions.

How can an individual or organization get involved?

- Spread the word! Tell family, friends, and colleagues about this work, how it will improve opportunities within the community, and what is required to get it done.
- Donate! If you or your organization are in a position to donate, please consider making a contribution to 'Village of Bible Hill' for the 'Bible Hill Recreation Park project'. Donations greater than \$10 can be provided a donation receipt. Please approach us if you are considering a substantial donation to discuss recognition opportunities by calling the Clerk and Treasurer at 902-893-8083 or by email at clerk@biblehill.ca.

For more information, including illustrations of the playground design, please visit our website at biblehill.ca/bhrpnewal.

