

Municipality acquires property and equipment at former Comeau Lumber sawmill



Negotiations are currently underway with a company who is interested in modernizing and operating the lumber mill. As well, the Municipality is exploring various possibilities for the site with other prospective businesses looking to locate in Clare.

“Council sees great potential for a future industrial park”, says Warden Melanson. *“The capabilities exist to produce heat and power on-site that could benefit future tenants of this location.”* In fact, the site houses a one megawatt combined heat and power biomass plant and all the associated equipment.

With energy reduction at the forefront of the Municipality’s “Clare Energy Master Plan”, this acquisition falls directly in line with the plan. The development of this project would demonstrate the innovative use of renewable energy and ‘green’ energy solutions. The Municipality of Clare was able to tap into the Federal Gas Tax Funds for the purchase of the heat and power plant and associated equipment, at a cost of \$225,000.

“Acquisition of the property and the assets was the right decision”, states the Warden. *“The components of the former lumber mill were going to be sold-off piece by piece at an auction by the Bankruptcy Trustees. Council felt it was important to safeguard the economic development potential of the site”,* adds Warden Melanson. ♦

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

Jean Melanson – Warden

(649-2661/home; 769-8732/cellular)
Beaver River, Woodvale, Salmon River, Mavillette (west), Cedar Lake, Springdale, Lake Doucette, Mayflower, Hectanooga, Briar Lake (to the Yarmouth County line) – District 8.

Ronnie LeBlanc – Deputy Warden

(645-2687)
Cape Saint-Mary, Mavillette (east), Saint Alphonse and Meteghan (south) – District 7.

Russell Comeau (645-3035)

Meteghan (north), St Martin, Meteghan Centre, parts of Meteghan River, St Benoni, parts of Meteghan Station and Maxwellton – District 6.

Brian Comeau (769-0715)

Parts of Meteghan River, Lower Saulnierville, Saulnierville (south), Bangor, parts of Meteghan Station and parts of Maxwellton – District 5.

Arnold LeBlanc (769-3744)

Saulnierville (north), Saulnierville Station, Comeauville, Little Brook (south), Little Brook Station (south), Concession (south), Lower Concession and parts of St Joseph – District 4.

Simon LeBlanc (769-3459)

Little Brook (north), Little Brook Station, Church Point, Church Point Station and Grosses Coques – District 3.

Danny Hill (837-5888)

Concession (north), Saint Joseph, Moodys Corner, Richfield (to Yarmouth County line), Corberrie, Margo, New Tusket, Havelock, Hassett, Hilltown, Easton, Southville and Weaver Settlement (to the Digby Municipal line) – District 2.

Nil Doucet (837-4324)

Belliveau Cove, Saint Bernard, New Edinburgh, Ohio and Weaver Settlement (to the Digby Municipal line) – District 1. ♦

METEGHAN: The Municipality of Clare recently invested a portion of its Federal Gas Tax Funds in a combined heat and power plant located on the site of the former Comeau Lumber Ltd lumber mill. The agreement between the Municipality of Clare and Green Hunt Wedlake (Receiver) outlines the Municipality’s purchase of the power plant and all associated equipment.

The remaining assets of the now bankrupt Comeau Lumber which could not be purchased with Gas Tax Funds (which include the land, other buildings and equipment) became the property of the Municipality of Clare, via a municipal tax sale in early May, where the Municipality exercised its right to proceed to the recovery of unpaid property taxes, acquiring title to all the assets.

The site, situated on Highway 1 in Meteghan, covers approximately fifty acres, has access to three-phase power and is connected to the municipal sewer system.

The Municipality is now preparing to make ready the site in order to be able to accommodate tenants. *“One of our intentions, as per the Municipal Planning Strategy, is to encourage new businesses to come to Clare”,* explains Warden Jean Melanson.

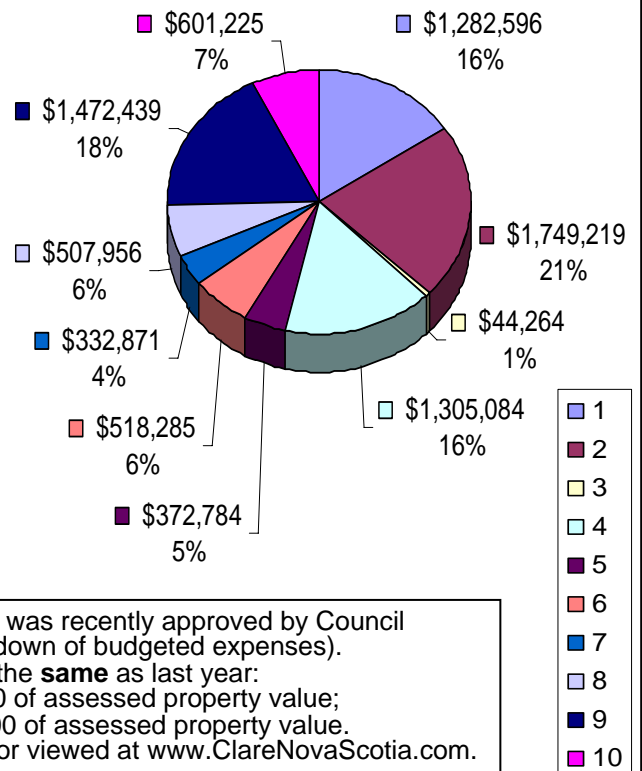
WHAT IS THE FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND?

The Gas Tax Fund is a federal program that provides money to Canada’s cities, towns and municipalities. It provides long-term financial support for municipal infrastructure projects that focus on contributing to cleaner air, cleaner water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The federal Gas Tax Fund supports environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure, such as community energy systems, drinking water, public transit, solid waste management and wastewater infrastructure. It benefits communities by providing funding to increase the capacity of municipalities to undertake long-term planning. ♦

2011 - 2012 BUDGET FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARE

1	General Government Services \$1,282,596 (Grants to Organizations; Low Income Exemptions; Office Administration; Tax Appeals & Write-Offs; Provincial Tax Assessment Services)	
2	Protective Services \$1,749,219 (Animal Control; By-Law Enforcement; EMO; Fire Departments; RCMP; Seniors Security)	
3	Transportation Services \$ 44,264 (Public Transportation; Sidewalks; Street Lights)	
4	Environmental Health Services \$1,305,084 (Sewer Collection, Treatment & Disposal; Garbage/Recycling Collection & Disposal)	
5	Debt Charges \$ 372,784 (Transfer Station; Clare Health Centre)	
6	Public Health and Welfare \$ 518,285 (Clare Health Centre; Low Income Seniors' Housing)	
7	Environmental Development Services \$ 332,871 (Community Development; Planning; Tourism)	
8	Recreation and Cultural Services, Buildings other than Municipal Office \$ 507,956	
9	Education (School Board) \$1,472,439	
10	Capital Projects (Capital and Gas Tax Funds).... \$ 601,225	
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES		\$8,186,723



The 2011-2012 Municipal Budget for the Municipality of Clare was recently approved by Council in the amount of **\$8,186,723.00** (see above for general breakdown of budgeted expenses). Both Residential and Commercial Tax Rates in Clare remain the **same** as last year:

- the **Residential** Tax Rate has been set at **\$1.02** per \$100 of assessed property value;
- the **Commercial** Tax Rate has been set at **\$2.07** per \$100 of assessed property value.

A copy of the budget can be obtained at the Municipal Office or viewed at www.ClareNovaScotia.com.

POST YOUR CIVIC NUMBER

Council would like to remind all property owners that it is very important to post the civic number of your home, cottage or business. In case of an emergency needing 911 services (ambulance, fire department or police) your life or the lives of others could depend on it.

If you own a lot of land with no building, it is prudent to post the civic number if there is activity there, such as logging, camping and other activities, even if temporary or seasonal.

To order signs with your civic number, contact the "Clare Lions Club" in Meteghan Centre at 645-2086 or the Southville Fire Chief Doug Cromwell at 837-4232. You can also pick up an order form at the municipal office or print it from the municipal website at www.ClareNovaScotia.com.

If you don't know your civic number, please contact the Municipal Civic Numbering Department at 769-3655. ♦

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

Council recognizes the importance of volunteerism. As such, each year the Clare Department of Recreation organizes a banquet to thank all the volunteers of our community. As well, the Province asks each municipality and town to select an outstanding volunteer for the provincial awards.



Anne LeBlanc of Concession, (photo, left) who organises "Angel Stitches", was selected this year as Clare's representative and received the 2011 Volunteer Award.

The Province also presented Specialty Awards. A teenager from Comeauville **Simon Dugas** received the "Youth Volunteer of the Year" representing all of Nova Scotia. He is the son of Ruth and Carmen Dugas.

Council congratulates both and thanks all volunteers in Clare. ♦

Jeannette Doucet Honoured for 30 Years of Service

Jeannette Doucet was recently recognized by Council and staff for reaching the milestone of 30 years as a municipal employee at the Municipality of the District of Clare.

In May 1981, Jeannette graduated from *Université Sainte-Anne* and shortly after began working at the Municipal Office in Little Brook known at that time as the "Court House".

Jeannette had been hired temporarily to assist with the preparation of the 1981 municipal tax bills and soon after began her first full-time job as the Municipality's Receptionist-Typist.

She was later promoted to Tax Clerk and held that post for almost 25 years. In 2005, Jeannette was appointed Director of Finance and Deputy Clerk, and continues to work in that capacity.



Congratulations Jeannette!

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CLARE NEWSLETTER

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The Municipality of the District of Clare Newsletter is published twice a year and mailed to residents of Clare to provide information on municipal services, activities and programs. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please call 769-2031 or email cking@munipalcity.clare.ns.ca ♦

