

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 6th, 2017 @ 5:30 pm
Municipal Administration Centre**

- 1) Call to Order – Chairman, Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
- 2) Approval of Agenda
- 3) Approval of May 16th, 2017 Committee of the Whole Minutes
- 4) Business Arising from the Minutes
- 5) TIR Semi-Annual Update
- 6) Presentation - Big Marsh Road / Glebe Road Resident Presentation
- 7) Notice of Low Income Tax Exemption Policy Amendment
- 8) Discussion of a Municipal Health & Wellness Plan
- 9) Consideration of Annual and One-Time Grant Requests
- 10) Consideration of Tenders
 - a. Antigonish County Court House
 - b. Somers Road Waterline Extension
 - c. Antigonish Municipal Office Roof Replacement & Painting
- 11) Consideration of the Allocation of a Grant to the Havre Boucher Community Centre
- 12) Staff Reports
- 13) Adjournment

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: *COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEMO*
DATE: JUNE 6TH, 2017

TIR SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE (For Information)

Jamie Chishom and his staff will be on hand to provide the Committee with a semi-annual update of local operations, and answer any questions that the Committee may have.

BIG MARSH ROAD / GLEBE ROAD RESIDENT PRESENTATION (For Information)

Residents of Big Marsh Road and Glebe Road have requested an opportunity to speak to the Committee regarding concerns with the conditions of their roads. They have provided a summary of their communications with representatives from TIR, their local volunteer fire department, and the SRSB, which is attached for your reference.

NOTICE OF LOW-INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY AMENDMENT (For Decision)

Finance staff is proposing an increase to the amount of tax exemption provided to property owners of qualifying income. Raising the amount of the exemption to \$125 from \$100 represents a proposed total budgetary increase of \$2,600 for the program. Comparable numbers from other Municipal Units are as follows:

Municipal Unit	Qualifying Income Threshold	Exemption Amount
County of Antigonish (Proposed)	\$25,000	\$125
County of Antigonish (Presently)	\$25,000	\$100
Town of Antigonish	CRA Guaranteed Income Supplement	\$125
District of Guysborough	\$25,000	\$100
Town of Port Hawkesbury	\$23,000	\$200
Victoria County	\$25,000	\$200
District of St. Mary's	\$19,300	\$110
Annapolis Royal	\$18,000	\$300
Kings County	\$34,000	\$256
Town of Digby	\$22,000	\$250
Municipality of Digby	\$24,000	\$250
Cumberland County		
Single	\$17,957	\$306
Multi	\$19,958	\$211
CBM & Inverness County		
Single	\$14,500	\$100
Multi	\$17,500	\$100

DISCUSSION OF A HEALTH & WELLNESS PLAN (For Information)

Councillor MacFarlane has requested a conversation regarding the potential for a health and wellness plan.

CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL AND ONE-TIME GRANT REQUESTS (For Decision)

Please see the attached memo.

CONSIDERATION OF TENDERS (For Decision)

Staff has prepared tender documents to solicit bids for work to be done at the County Court House and the Antigonish Municipal Office, and for the Somers Road waterline extension, and are seeking the Committee's permission to advertise these tender publically.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF A GRANT TO THE HAVRE BOUCHER COMMUNITY CENTRE (For Decision)

Further details will be provided for discussion at the meeting.

STAFF REPORTS (For Information)

Finance

- Antigonish County Fringe Area Water Utility - Application by the County of Antigonish Fringe Area for Approval of waterline extension on Somers Road

Recreation

- Active Transportation Workshop June 6, 2017 at St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre, 930-4pm
- Summer Camp registration open
- County summer newsletter to be published on June 12th
- Canada Day preparations ongoing

Administration

- The Nova Scotia Department of Energy held the official release of The Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program at the County on April 24th, 2017. The program was scheduled to open for applications on May 31, 2017; this has been delayed 6-8 weeks because of the recent election and will not be opened until government is sworn in and a new minister appointed. Staff is in the process of preparing a detailed request for direction for consideration by the Committee at the June 20th meeting.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Warden Russell Boucher, Chair
 Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Hughie Stewart
 Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
 Councillor Rémi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Adam Rogers, Municipal Solicitor (arrived at 7pm)
 Jamie MacDonald, Antigonish Downtown Business Association

Regrets: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden Boucher, at 5:35pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request was made to add the following to the agenda:

- Eastern Strait Region Waste Management Waste Truck Discussion
- École acadienne de Pomquet scholarship / bursary
- Police Week
- Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic
- Andrew Chisholm Water Concerns

Moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 2nd, 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS

Mr. Horne reviewed the table compiled by staff summarizing the community grant requests received. This year, there were 53 applications and \$590,000 in requests; this amount includes the Special District Grants. Staff reviewed each application for compliance with the Community Partnership Grants Policy (Policy 36), and has made recommendations for the Committee and Council to consider based on the requirements of Policy 36 and the Committee's previously indicated desire to keep the total amount the grant monies being awarded to 3.2% of tax revenue.

Each of the grant requests were reviewed with the Committee, and opportunities for questions or further clarification of recommendations were given. Situations where applications were incomplete, missing information, or requested ineligible expenses be considered were identified. For groups that had not yet submitted financial statements, any grants awarded would be conditional upon the Municipality's receipt of a Treasurer's Report or Financial Statement to satisfy the policy requirements. Minor modifications were made to the list of recommendations, and the Committee approved by consensus an amount of \$337,950.00 to proceed to Council as part of the overall Operating Budget review process.

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION REQUEST

Mrs. Schumacher informed the Committee that a request was received by a resident for property tax relief of 30%. This resident has provided documentation indicating their income level being below the Municipality's regular low-income tax exemption threshold, and has received a property tax reduction of 30% for the past several years. Based on last year's tax rate, this 30% reduction translated into \$182.31.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a 30% tax bill reduction for AAN09707956. Motion carried.

BRIERLY BROOK ROAD

Councillor Chisholm brought forward to the Committee a request from a group of Briery Brook Road residents for a letter of support from the Municipality to the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) regarding their request to have a portion of Briery Brook Road paved. Councillor Chisholm noted that during the highway twinning construction, up to 58 trucks each hour (500 trucks a day) were running from the highway to a local quarry, resulting in significant degradation of road conditions and a great deal of dust. With the announcement of further highway twinning work in the area, residents are concerned that road conditions will deteriorate further unless the road is paved.

Moved by Councillor Chisholm and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council prepare a letter noting support for the resident request to NSTIR pave a portion of Briery Brook Road. Motion carried.

EAST ANTIGONISH SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

Mr. Horne noted that the East Antigonish Education Centre has requested a contribution for their scholarship / bursary program. In past years, the Municipality has contributed \$200 to this program.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Mattie that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a scholarship / bursary contribution of \$200 to the East Antigonish Education Centre. Motion carried.

RIVERSIDE CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL REQUEST

Mr. Horne reviewed for the Committee the corporate sponsorship request that was received from the Riverside International Speedway. The Municipality has purchased the gold package for this sponsorship in years past. This year, there is a slight increase in the cost of this package bringing the total cost to \$2875, including HST.

Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the purchase of a gold-level sponsorship package from Riverside International Speedway at a cost of \$2875 (incl. HST). Motion carried.

ECONOMIC FORUM STREET PARTY FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Horne read aloud an email from representatives of the Antigonish Downtown Business Association (ADBA) requesting consideration of a contribution towards a street party that the group was planning to hold during an Economic Forum taking place at St. FX University in early June. Mr. Jamie MacDonald, representing ADBA, was on hand to answer any questions of the Committee. He noted that the group was looking for about \$750 to help with expenses for this initiative, and that the project had come about after the deadline for community grants earlier this year.

Moved by Councillor Dunbar and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a \$750 contribution to the Antigonish Downtown Business Association Street Party, taking place during the St. FX Economic Forum. Motion carried.

EASTERN STRAIT REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT WASTE TRUCK UPDATE

Councillor MacDonald provided the Committee with an update from Eastern Strait Regional Waste Management (ESRWM) regarding their intended purchase of a truck for their compliance officer, to assist with his duties attending to and addressing illegal dumping complaints. ESRWM is looking to use funds from their reserve to purchase the truck, and will replenish the reserve over the next few years in the amount of the depreciation of the truck in order to have the funds available to purchase a new truck at the end of soon-to-be-purchased vehicle's lifespan.

ÉCOLE ACADIENNE DE POMQUET

Councillor Deveau brought forward a request for a scholarship / bursary program contribution for École acadienne de Pomquet. In past years, the Municipality has contributed \$200 to this program.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor MacLellan that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a scholarship / bursary contribution of \$200 to École acadienne de Pomquet. Motion carried.

POLICE WEEK

Councillor Deveau informed the Committee that the local police detachment was going to be holding a BBQ on Thursday, May the 18th.

BONVIE-MACDONALD RINKS TO LINKS GOLF CLASSIC

Councillor Deveau brought forward a request for the Municipality to sponsor a team for the Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic. This tournament raises money that goes back into the community through assistance for children's hockey registration fees, as well as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Antigonish Early Childhood Intervention, Tim Hortons Children's Foundation, the Jordan Myles Foundation, and St. Martha's Hospital Pediatric Department. A question was asked regarding how a family can access the funding assistance; staff was directed to follow-up with the organizers for an answer.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Stewart that the Committee recommends that Municipal Council sponsor a team for the Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links Golf Classic tournament 2017. Motion carried.

ANDREW CHISHOLM WATER CONCERNS

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward a concern from a constituent in the Williams Point area of his district regarding water pressure and backflow into the household damaging the hot water heaters when there is a water main break in Williams Point or Greenwold. The resident has asked that if there is a water main break, that the local hydrant be flushed so that the amount of dirt in the backflow into his system is reduced. Public Works staff was requested to look into the matter further.

IN-CAMERA: LEGAL ADVICE ELIGIBLE FOR SOLICITOR-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (WRIGHT'S RIVER AQUIFER)

These subject matters fall within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as matters that a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session.

Moved by Councillor MacFarlane and seconded by Deputy Warden McCarron that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session at 7:00 pm to discuss Legal Advice Eligible for Solicitor-Client Privilege. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor Dunbar that the In-Camera session be adjourned at 7:36pm. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Warden McCarron and seconded by Councillor MacFarlane that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:37pm. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Owen McCarron
for Warden Russell Boucher

Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

Big Marsh - Glebe Rd / Summary of issue

1. Over 25 years since large sections of this road have been gravelled.
2. Petitions to have repairs done to the Big Marsh Rd have been submitted to the DOT from 2014 to 2016 by resident Aileen Rieksts
29 April 2016

Petition for the Repair of Big Marsh Area Roads

To All Concerned

As taxpayers and residents of Big Marsh, we are entitled to have our road brought up to standard. We definitely need gravel to accomplish this request.

Signed

Aileen C. Rieksts

On behalf of all residents, taxpayers, drivers enroute to Lakevale, Cloverville and Glebe road.

3. I first contacted DOT in April 2014 and attended a meeting with the then Area Supervisor Paul Coltron and Road Foreman Gus MacInnis and the following issues were noted.

Summary of Issues regarding the deterioration of the Big Marsh – Glebe Road as presented by resident Archie Huntley to DOT Area Manager Paul Colton and Area

Supervisor Gus MacInnis on 17 Apr 2014 @ 11:00 Hrs.

Last gravel application – Sep 1991

H & S

Bus Route 373 (Re Google Map “Bus Route 373 Bill Teasdale”)

☐ Students (Actual injuries and potential for injury)

☐ Driver (Increased stress, difficulty staying on schedule, increased damage to equipment)

☐ Residents (Mostly single lane traffic due to poor road conditions)

School Board Maintenance Costs Increases

☐ Bus windows become loose to the point that emergency buzzers go off each time a bump is hit. Either the bus driver has to stop the bus or the students have to close the window to reset the buzzer. All other windows have to be screwed shut.

Windows therefore cannot be opened on hot days or in the event of an accident.

☐ Increased wear and tear on suspension, air circulation and mechanical components

☐ Winter turn around not kept clear for Bus

Emergency Services

☐ Accessibility of Ambulance – Home care services

- actual incidents where ambulance and or home care could not access residents

☐ Fire Protection Services

- Response time is greatly reduced

- Tanker truck unable to respond

☐ Nova Scotia Power accessibility

Personal

☐ Unplowed roads more than 24 hours. Plow turning at /West Lakevale road and leaving the North side of road unplowed. Same issues for grading in spring summer and fall.

☐ Contracted plow services – Could not always wing off heavy snow. Car could not get through even after plowing.

☐ Icy roads not maintained. No sanding and difficult to get scraper. Had to call each time we had icy condition. My Family and I were almost killed on road this year...no ice treatment even 3 to 4 days after storm.

☐ No fall grading last year on our side.

Inconsistent Maintenance

- Salt solution - Not 50 meters on each side of residences. Application was very light and only lasted 7-10 days.

- Spot Grading – Is not working well...one section was done then 4 – 6 weeks later another. This always left the road with rough sections. It has the potential of working if spot grading is done on all the bad spots at once.

- Same areas wash out every year (Re Google map “Problem areas”)

- Culverts removed in 1991 are still on the side of the road.

- Same culverts heave each year.

- Roads are lower than sides in areas (ditching required)

Outcomes

- Had to replace a new vehicle before it was 3 years old.

- We run 3 vehicles from our household. Repairs are extremely costly.

- Constant challenge to get to work, school & university.
- Access to Seniors, Emergency services (ambulance, Fire), Mail delivery, & Bus severely impaired.

Solutions

- Repair problem areas
- Ditching
- Grading schedule & salt solution to be increased until road is brought up to standard.
- Keep road side clear
- Winter preparations on all sections of road
- Remove imaginary West Lakevale line so all residents receive the same amount of service (Re Google map “No. of Permanent / Summer Residents” showing 5 to south & 11 to North of imaginary line)
- Establish action plan and contact list.

Action to date

The section of road from Roddie MacDonald’s to the Pond below Jamie Brown’s has been marked as follows

- Culverts identified for replacement are marked with orange flagging tape. Stakes are on end of culvert.
- Culverts for removal are marked with orange flagging tape. Stakes are next to culverts.
- Ditches are marked with pink flagging tape. Stakes are on the inner side of the ditch with arrows pointing to the direction of the proposed ditching activity.

Outstanding Requirements

- DOT to provide short and long term action plan for the Big Marsh, Glebe Rd area.
- Grading ASAP

4. Some ditching, culverts and spot graveling was done but the newly gravelled areas were not all built up or ditched. The unditched areas are quickly deteriorating.

5. After April 2016 I did not contact the DOT for the remainder of the year as I was advised in a conversation with the road Foreman and the area Supervisor at my home, that although the road wouldn't be getting any gravel the DOT would attempt to build up the road crown by grading and ditching (This did not take place). However, during the summer of 2016 a 4 KM section of the Cloverdale road from Walsh post Rd to the Big Marsh T junction was ditched, crowned and gravelled. Only 1 resident lives on this section of road. We have 26 Residents on the Big Marsh / Glebe Rd.

Full grading of road done on 26 May 2016...salt solution applied on 27 May 2016

For the remaining part of 2016, spot grading by our home occurred on 21 Apr 2016 (No Salt Solution applied), 20 Jul 2016 (No Salt Solution applied).

The next time the grader was by our home was this spring on 18 May 2017. As in the past the grader continues to turn around before it gets to our side of the road as per the 06 & 10 Oct 2016 and 08 May 2017. Yes that means that the road by our home hadn't been graded from 20 Jul 2016 to 18 May 2018.

6. Ombudsman office, local Councillor, MLA and Local MP advised of issues in 2016. In June & July 2016 I was contacted on two occasions by the Ombudsman Mr Brian Condran (now retired, the file is still available at the Ombudsman's office) he advised me that there were communications issues within the DOT that were causing the difficulties in receiving the regular maintenance we should be receiving. He also confirmed that the Nova Scotia Highway Maintenance Standards must be adhered to in order to provide equal services to all. He advised me to escalate these issues to DOT Regional Head Offices(Gerard Jessome, Kevin Mitchell & Barbara Baillie) and the Provincial Fire Marshal (Harold Pothier currently replaced by Fred Jeffers) should we continue to have issues. Nothing heard from Gerard Jessome or Kevin Mitchel from the DOT. The Provincial Fire Marshal referred us to this meeting of the whole. Barbara Baille referred my email to the DOT area supervisor and he was to have contacted me.

7. TIR (ticket S118892) on 29 Mar 2017 requesting information on what the 2017 schedule shows for work on our road. I was advised that the Supervisor would be in contact with me when he had a look at planning for secondary roads. I received a reply on 08 May 2017

Chisholm, Jamie A < >

May
8

Mr. Huntley,

Sorry for the tardiness of my response. For the upcoming year, we have allocated a portion of our RIM funding to perform approximately 2000 meters of ditching on the Glebe Road this year. We are also planning to use our in-house resources to grader ditch and re-crown a portion of the Big Marsh Road and/or Glebe Road. We completed a section of the Cloverville Road in similar fashion last year north of the Wash Post Road and it has held up extremely well. Other than this we will continue to perform regular summer maintenance operations as in the past.

Thanks,

Jamie

*Jamie Chisholm, P. Eng.
Area Manager – Antigonish/Guysborough*

7. DOT's Opinion of Big Marsh / Glebe Rd 29 Apr 2017 (Email to our councilor Mary MacLellan)

From: Cameron, Doug
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 01:12 PM
Subject: RE: Big Marsh road

Hi Mary,

I am responding to your e-mail on behalf of Gussie,

Jimmy Delorey and myself took a drive over Big Marsh and the Glebe this morning. I video taped the drive right through and can share this with you if you like. It does need some attention with a grader. As it stands right now I had no problem going from Cloverville through to Rte 337 at Georgeville with the Highway Ford 150, 2 wheel drive half ton. It is my opinion that this road should be left to let the frost come out and let it dry up further for at least one or two more weeks before putting any heavy equipment on it. To be honest, I have seen this road in much worse shape at this time of year. I think the great work Gussie has done over the past few years is a contributing factor to this. Speaking with Gussie and Jamie earlier, I believe they were looking at doing some additional work this year, with a grader and loader to reshape the road, similar to what they had done last year for Cloverville. **As it stands right now, Vehicles, including ambulances should have no problem getting in and out. I think the worst is over and time will only improve conditions on the road until we can get on it without creating more problems.** Thanks,
Doug Cameron Operation SupervisorAntigonish

The following emails from our service providers confirm our concerns as raised in my initial meeting with DOT in 2014 and directly contradict the DOT's opinion. The evaluations were done on the full Big Marsh / Glebe Rd roadway and not just the areas of the road that have not been gravelled for over 25 years. This is a dangerous precedent that the DOT has adopted in making an unqualified decision as to the Health and Safety of my Family and our residents. The emergency response delays due to the condition of our roads each fall and spring season as mentioned below could very well cost the life of a resident or the loss of their home and or property. Please note that the response evaluation emails below are dated after DOT's Operation Supervisors assessment. Also the Big Marsh / Glebe road was closed to local traffic on 12 May 2017, again after The DOT's Operations Supervisor assessment.

Chief of the 4 Valley's Fire Dept

Carol Anne MacDougall

May 24 (8 days ago)

This note is in regard to the condition of the Glebe Road in Antigonish County. I am Greg MacDougall, fire chief for Four Valleys Fire Department. Last month I drove through the Glebe Road which is in our coverage area to see how accessible it was for the fire trucks. I felt that due to the conditions of the road our response time, if there was a emergency call would decrease by 50%. I am also concerned about the damages that could occur to our fire vehicles if driven over this road. If a fire truck gets damaged it would put it out of service. This could be costly for the fire department. Every truck hauls a certain amount of gear, so with a truck out of service, the gear has to be moved to the other trucks costing valuable time and leaving us with less trucks. Every truck is important. Our concern is not only for the people living on the Glebe Road but for the whole coverage area. Please address this problem.

Greg MacDougall, Fire Chief, Four Valleys Fire Dept.

Nova Scotia EMS Regional Support Supervisor Northeastern Region

From: [derek.leblanc](#)

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:04 AM

To: Archie

Hi Archie:

From an emergency response agency perspective, our concerns are twofold:

- 1. Can we access each dwelling with an ambulance (which we can provided there is no further significant deterioration), and;**
- 2. Can we anticipate that response times and transport times will be prolonged due to the condition of the roadway (which they will if the road is left in its current condition).**

There is, however, no reliable way for us to quantify the degree to which response times or patient care / outcomes might be impacted by the condition of a particular roadway.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have anyone attend the meeting on June 6th – sorry. **Again, if you see or are made aware of any further deterioration of the road surface that might threaten our ability to get an ambulance through the Glebe Road, please notify me as soon as possible.**

Thanks,
Derek

Derek J LeBlanc
Regional Support Supervisor,
EHS Northeastern Region

203 Wade Road, Truro
Nova Scotia B2N 0B8
Office: [\(902\) 407-1491](#)
Mobile: [\(902\) 863-8777](#)

Strait Regional School Board Transport Supervisor

On Fri, Jun 2, 2017 at 8:59 AM, Kevin Pierce < > wrote:

Good morning Archie

Thank you for the invitation to express my concern regarding the conditions of Big Marsh/Glebe Road. As we discussed, it would be very difficult to determine the extra damage or excess wear on the bus caused by the poor condition of the road.

Having said that, the number one concern of SRSB is safety.

If the condition of the road continues to deteriorate, we will monitor the condition to determine if the bus route will need to be changed or worst case scenario, have the bus stop travelling that road.

If you or anyone has more questions or concerns, please contact me at the number below

Kevin Pierce
Manager of Transportation

In conclusion the current condition of our road has detrimental effects on the very survival of our community. My two oldest children choose to purchase a home and cottage in other communities that have better roads. This type of reaction regarding unmaintained roads obviously has a negative effect on the tax base of secondary road communities. Many seniors live in our communities and have made their contribution to this society. They deserve access to emergency services that only well maintained roads can provide. Increased maintenance costs resulting from unmaintained roads are costly and unnecessary. Adherence to the Nova Scotia Road Maintenance standards will ensure equal treatment for all secondary road communities. There must be a minimum standard for our roads that ensures the health and safety for all of us. We are asking that the Big Marsh / Glebe Rd be brought up to standard as per the Nova Scotia Highway Maintenance Standards guideline in it's entirety. Better roads & Communities grow.