

PRESS RELEASE – July 13, 2012

No Tax Hike for Third Year in Town Budget

The new skateboard park, new sidewalks, improved snow removal, upgrades to infrastructure and a facelift for downtown will all be accomplished without raising taxes thanks to the new budget approved by Yarmouth Town Council.

“We cut the residential tax rate our first year in office and this Town Council has held the line on taxes ever since,” said Yarmouth Mayor Phil Mooney. “We took a sensible approach because businesses and families pay enough.”

The budget represents investments in safety, young people, and greater cooperation among all levels of government. Approval of funding for the Yarmouth South Skateboard Park means work on the recreational area for all ages can start soon.

Mayor Mooney said when the new high school was announced, plenty of important details were left out. The Town had to negotiate with the province for sidewalks, street widening and storm water runoff. This budget will see the sidewalk work completed.

“The new sidewalks on Forest Street will give students a safe, accessible walking route towards downtown,” Mooney said. “This will help local businesses to continue to benefit from having the high school located within Town limits.”

Funding for façade improvement will also fulfill part of the visionary Downtown Revitalization Plan. The budget also builds on essential infrastructure upgrading that has been happening, such as completion of work on Pleasant Street including the water lines and the Milton dam project.

“Over the past year, we successfully renegotiated some old deals for insurance, banking and phone services, which will save taxpayers nearly a quarter million dollars over the next five years,” Mooney said. “These

savings mean more money to invest in economic development and infrastructure and still not raise taxes.”

The common sense budget means the Town can focus on working with partners and local businesses to take full advantage of upcoming opportunities like the World Junior Hockey Challenge in November.

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For more information, contact: **Philip Mooney** - 902-749-6442
mayor.mooney@townofyarmouth.ca