

FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF WEST PRINCE

FULL OF HEART

Bloomfield Elementary Grade 6 student Lexi Sharpe displays her heart-themed project during the school's 11th Annual Heart Art event held on Feb. 12. The awareness and fundraising event for Halifax's IWK Children's Hospital saw every class work on their own heart-themed project that were then sold online this year in exchange for a donation to the IWK in memory of Kameron Cooke, a former Bloomfield student. Despite this year's COVID-19 restrictions, Bloomfield Elementary persevered and held a virtual assembly school-wide, where special guests Caroline Maloney and her daughter Jessica, a Bloomfield student, spoke on behalf of their experiences at the IWK. The school raised over \$3,100 this year for the IWK.

Submitted photo



Health PEI dissolves east-west structure

Local critics denounce centralization

By Rachel Collier

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
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Health PEI's new organizational structure has removed east and west-specific representation at the top level of leadership.

The Hospital Services West and East top leadership roles which previously reported directly to Health PEI's CEO have been removed from the organization's structure. In their place there is a sole, Island-wide executive director of hospital services.

Another position has been added into the structure between the executive director of hospital services and the CEO - the new chief operating officer.

Regional hospital administrators are farther away from reporting directly to the CEO than in the previous structure.

Health PEI's CEO Denise Lewis Fleming said this new structure could break down regional silos, promote collaboration as well as regional equity and standardization of care.

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O'Leary's Centennial Park getting a facelift

By Jillian Trainor

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The Town of O'Leary is in the early stages of new playground development at Centennial Park.

Recreation director Andrew Avery said the existing playground equipment has served its purpose and has become a priority for his department to explore a replacement structure that would better serve the town for the next 20-30 years.

"Right now we're in a phase of exploring options and pricing to see what's out there," he said. "A structure with slides and new swing set are the basics and considering additional add on features that might be out there."

Mr Avery has received quotes from two playground equipment development companies, Ocean Playgrounds in Kentville, NS, and Fundy Fencing Ltd. in Saint John, NB.

Ocean Playground gave one quote, for \$52,964.18. Its development would provide sand as a protective surfacing choice, and a variety of colour options for equipment. The equipment also provides the best variety of meeting age categories of 18 month to five years, and five to 12 year old age categories.

Mr Avery said while sand is an approved surface option, he doesn't recommend it for health and safety. In his report at O'Leary's monthly council meeting on Feb. 10, he stated should anything occur on sand, like an animal using it to relieve itself, it could go unnoticed and hidden in the sand, making the entire structure a risk of contamination, which could lead to the potential for a full removal of surfacing.

Fundy Fencing provided two quotes, one for \$83,629.80 and one for \$42,725.95. Both structures from this company would include steel.

\$1.75 + HST



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As a precaution, the fire hall in Tignish was cleaned and disinfected after the building was used during the standoff in Nail Pond as a RCMP command centre for the operation. The town brought in a professional cleaning company to disinfect the fire hall once councillors with the town learned some members from New Brunswick were called in to help with the Jan. 24 incident.

Melissa Heald photo

Tignish disinfects fire hall used as command centre for Nail Pond standoff

By Melissa Heald

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As a precaution, following the armed standoff in Nail Pond on Jan 24, the Town of Tignish decided to have the fire hall immediately disinfected once learning some of the officers assisting during the incident had come from off-Island.

The fire hall had been used as a command centre for the RCMP.

"There was a team here from New Brunswick and we had to have it fogged because of COVID," said Councillor Judy Morrissey Richard, who chairs the EMO committee, at the town's monthly meeting on Feb 8. "We had to do that because of the fact it is our fire hall and they are our first responders."

It was also recommended the town contact the officer in charge of the command centre in 12 to 14 days after the incident to make

sure no one had tested positive for COVID-19.

The idea to disinfect the fire hall was a decision made by Coun. Morrissey Richard and Councillor Lloyd Gavin, who chairs the fire department committee, following discussions between the two.

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