



IN THE LOOP



Warden's Message

We are proud to present this special newsletter for our residents, summarizing our path towards the construction of a net zero energy building, located in the heart of Tuskent.

Our journey started with Council making a recommendation to build new, but not before asking permission. We held numerous community hall meetings, and had many conversations with our residents. We conducted a survey after providing residents with the same information as our councilors had received. We were confident that those we represent would come to the same conclusion, and they did.

We are pleased to say our project will be below budget, thanks to our team of staff, council, residents, architects and contractors.

Our net zero energy building is the first administrative building of this kind in Canada. We may be small in region, but we strive and take pride in doing the right thing, the right way.



Warden Danny Muise

The Little Building That Did

By Phil Cassidy

Municipal Research Assistant

Buildings are funny things. I think they are imprinted by their first contact. The soon to be vacated municipal office at 27 Courthouse Road has never lost the feel of its initial raison d'être; a school. Footfalls still echo down the upstairs hallway. The ever-present smell of "school" still floats in the air. It is all too easy to imagine the hum of the building as we might recall it; children in classes, dozens of small voices muttering through their assignments, an adult instructing dutifully "attentive" kids.

Like the tidal river down the road, halls ebbed and flowed with kids dragging their feet to class or hustling outside as fast as they could at lunch or recess, "No running in the halls!" floating unheard over their heads. The site of a school since 1861, over a century of Christmas concerts, bake sales, exams and first loves, class after class of the village's children began and finished their school years here until 1975 when once and for all residents of Tusket sent their children to the new Plymouth School.



*The 'new' old Tusket School,
circa 1900-1910
ATCHA P1988:637*

Don Pothier, in his, *History of Tusket Nova Scotia*, tells us that in 1831, "The [first] school in 'Tusket Village' was known as 'No. 9...'" (Pothier, p.185), likely built, in response to an 1824-25 report showing, "... that there were no public schools anywhere in the Municipality of Argyle, and only two in the entire county." (Pothier, p.185).

The No. 9 school burnt in 1853 and was not replaced until 1861. These were good times in Tusket, shipbuilding was flourishing, the new school "... was a handsome two-story building, [complete] with a cupola or belltower." (Pothier, p.186)

Shirley (Prosser) Margeson in an article written for the Winter 1993 issue of the *The Argus*, "My Little Red School House": an article on the Tusket School in the 1930's, reminisces about her experiences in the two-storey building, scampering feet on the school yard and stormy days working on projects.

A new school was completed in 1949 on the same property as the building Mrs. Margeson attended but on the western side of the property. No doubt the loss of their playing field during the construction phase was a consternation to students!



Tusket School - Teacher & students - 1953 - names of the students are recorded and available at the Archives.



Then and now, the “new” Tusket School built in 1949 on the same property as the former Tusket School which was demolished in 1949.

Upon completion, the student body walked across the yard and into their new building. Subsequently, the old school was demolished, its former footprint is the current Municipal Office’s parking lot.

In 1969 the new school was temporarily shuttered while its students attended the new Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau school until, filled to capacity, students returned for one more year until Plymouth School was completed and opened.

Vacated again and for the last time in 1975, the municipality took over the building and left their offices at the Courthouse and Gaol to its ghosts.

Forty-six years later the offices are on the move again. Ironically, the new Tusket School served as administrative offices for longer than it did as a school.

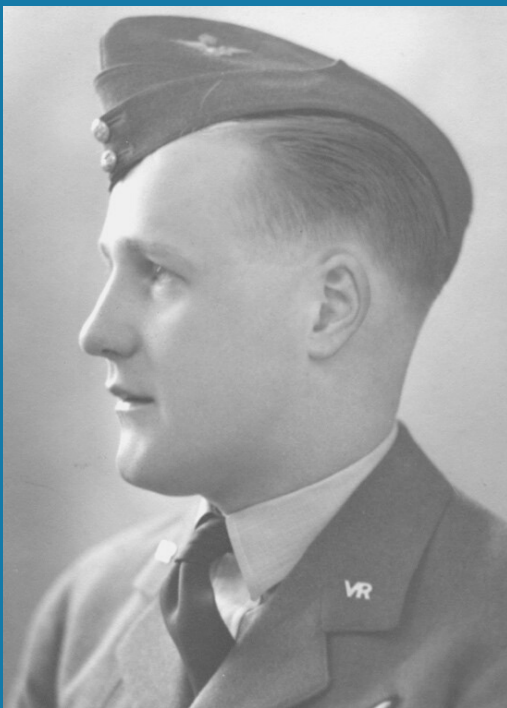
The legacy of dynamic energy, a trademark quality of Argyle’s municipal administration, is without a doubt a nod to the vitality of countless students

who first filled the halls and rooms of the building.

With plans to move to the new municipal building early summer 2021, proposals for the property that has been a focal point of creative energy in this area since 1861 are still undecided. However, the energy and legacy of a little building that could, a hallmark of a municipality that can, will continue to define the municipal administration located at **its new home at 5 J.E. Hatfield Court.**

Jack Elmer Hatfield (1913-1940)

By Phil Cassidy - Municipal Research Assistant



The municipal administration building is located on the newly named J.E. Hatfield Court in Tusket, NS.

Handsome in his uniform, Royal Air Force (RAF) wedge set slightly askew in the style of all airmen, Jack Elmer Hatfield would become the first Nova Scotian and third Canadian to perish in aerial combat in World War 2.

Born in Tusket on April 4, 1913, the son of Elmer and Enola Hatfield, Jack graduated from the Yarmouth Academy and joined the bank of Nova Scotia. However, banking was not Jack’s ambition and he later confided to his father that his true passion was to fly.

In 1937 with pre-war tensions rising in Europe, Jack made his way to Quebec and booked passage for England.

Flight training began in biplanes in mid-November at Brough in East Yorkshire and was completed in Egypt. While Jack enjoyed his time in Egypt, he was also fined one shilling for flipping his aircraft upside down, the result of “hard braking” while landing, and skidding it upside down the length of runway.

By the outbreak of the war, Jack, now one of the older pilots, was back in England excelling in air to air and air to ground gunnery.



Jack Elmer Hatfield – Becklingen Commonwealth War Cemetery

Photo courtesy of Marg Liessens

Holding the squadron record for the highest number of hits with 2500 rounds in a measured time, Jack was asked to become an air gunner instructor. He refused the promotion and pay raise preferring to continue to fly with his squadron.

During an early morning reconnaissance patrol over Holland and Belgium in early May 1940, Jack’s flight came across seven Junkers dive bombing over a burning Rotterdam and moved in for the attack.

The gunner in a Bolton-Paul Defiant, he shot down one of the German bombers before his flight was attacked by a much larger force of Messerschmitt fighters. In the action that followed, his pilot was hit and presumably killed.

Jack was forced to abandon the aircraft. In a letter to his father dated May 19, 1940 he recounts:

“I don’t remember pulling my rip cord, but apparently did as I came to when the chute opened and jerked me upright.

Another German plane was then flying by and gave me a burst. I was hit in the right elbow... [but] the shot didn’t hit the bone. Nothing more than a deep cut in my elbow.”

In a letter to his father, reprinted in the Winter 2007 edition of The Argus, Jack describes a harrowing two weeks as he evaded German troops. With the assistance of sometimes unsympathetic pro-Nazi, Dutch troops and at one time laying in a ditch with “... German helmets ten yards away...”, Jack eventually made his way back to England and his squadron.

It was while flying cover for the evacuation of the British Army at Dunkirk that Jack Elmer Hatfield was lost at sea. His body was recovered by the German navy on August 15. Initially buried at Cuxhaven, Germany with full military honours he was later moved to the Commonwealth War Grave at Becklingen, Germany. Following in his older brother’s footsteps, Tracy Hatfield was also shot down almost two years later to the day in 1942. He would spend the duration of the hostilities as a German prisoner of war.

A descendant of one of the original Loyalist families to settle in the Tusket area, Jack continued a legacy of perseverance and hard work and, in his case, the ultimate sacrifice. In recognition of this sacrifice, Argyle Municipal Council has named a new road, home to the new administrative offices for the municipality, in his honour, J.E. Hatfield Court.

Q&A: NET-ZERO

written by Alain Muise - Chief Administrative Officer



What does net-zero energy mean?

Net-zero energy means the ability of a building to produce as much renewable energy as it consumes in energy - net-zero energy also technically means that Argyle will not have energy costs for electrical, heating, cooling etc.

Why did the Municipality decide on a net-zero energy building

The concept was introduced by our architects, Wild Salt Architecture. Our priority was to construct a building that reduced our carbon footprint, and at all possible, relied on renewable energy for operations. The installation of solar and related equipment is more expensive than a typical building, so Argyle sought

funding to support their decision, which will cover the additional cost, with the cost savings of operation benefitting Argyle and the taxpayer.

How much did the solar panels cost ?

The solar panels cost about \$250,000, but the solar panels are not the only investment needed to achieve net zero energy. We also installed an air to air heat pump, and highly efficient heating and cooling equipment to reduce energy use.

How does the energy get used from solar?

The solar energy is on a net-metering contract with NS Power. We essentially 'sell' the power, and it offsets our use of power.

What happens if the power goes off?

The building does not currently have a back up of power (batteries) or an alternate source.

No power, means we don't have power in the building. The installation of a diesel powered generator on site is not a qualified source for our federal funding. There are other avenues that we may look into in the future.



A Word From our Architects

By Wild Salt Architecture



The building interior is really taking shape, and as the finishes are applied this is the moment when we learn how some of the design measures we employed have worked out! We can now see how the light plays with the subtle colours on the walls in the lobby and meeting rooms to invoke a different feeling in each space. We are starting to see some of the reclaimed long leaf yellow pine that is being used in the reception area; this wood came from the structure of the Yarmouth Cotton Mill when it was demolished.



The wood was felled from old growth forests in southern USA that no longer exist, it has a very rich quality, and you will see some of the bolt holes and other character that it has accumulated as part of its several hundred-year story.

As those following the progress of the project will know, its objectives had to be re-evaluated due to an unexpected cost situation. The concept of maximum efficiency in building's energy use was very popular and was demonstrated to make long term financial sense, and it became necessary to extend this concept to include efficiency in the buildingform as well, which by extension means making more efficient use of materials.

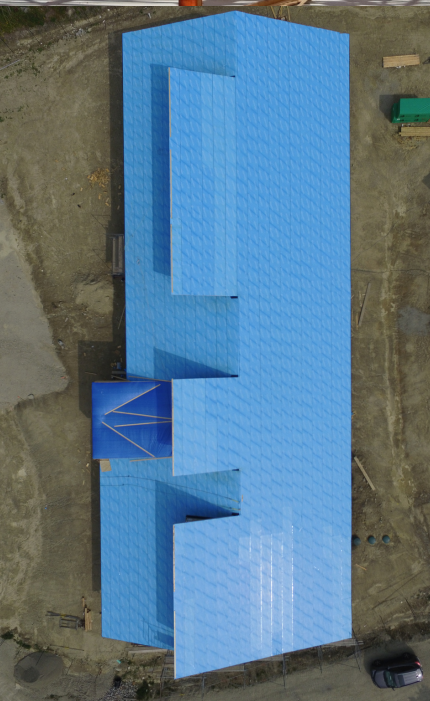
This posed a design challenge as the most efficient building form has the least exposed perimeter – and that is where the windows usually are! We would not compromise on the availability of natural light in workspaces and meeting spaces as we've experienced the negative impact of working under artificial lights and understand the benefits that natural lights have on health, wellbeing, attendance and productivity.

This led to the 'dormer' windows along the roofline, and the distinctive gable end shape that gives a dynamic appearance to an otherwise compact building form. The entrance canopy has turned out very nice and the silver colour makes an elegant background for the signage. Its nice to have that covered verandah along the front that makes it seem like a place you can naturally linger and socialize, like home.

We are delighted to see how the natural light is permeating from dormer windows deep into the inner spaces including the lobby, meeting rooms, kitchen and council chambers.

The ceilings in these rooms are of course vaulted for the light to shine down, and so the large volume of those spaces acts as a welcome relief from the otherwise economical ceiling heights in the remainder of the building. For example, the kitchen already has windows along its north wall, but the inclusion of the dormer at its southern end makes a beam of light shine down along the kitchen counter and makes the whole room much more uplifting.

We hope that staff and visitors will enjoy using the building, it has been designed and constructed with great care, and its achievement in reaching Net-Zero Energy status reflects leadership in renewable energy that the community can be proud of.



Graham and Elaine Edgar



Canada's 1st Net-Zero Energy Administration Building

By Hans Pfeil - Director of Public Works

Mediocrity is easy, good things take time and the great take commitment (Bob Seger). In 2009 the Municipality and community was committed to create a better way of delivering services to our residents.

After careful public engagement we heard their voice and were able to start the design process for a New Administration Building in August 2017 by hiring Wild Salt Architecture.

The inspiring design process brought us down the road of resilience and sustainability and municipal staff and council were committed to go a step further to create a building that the community can be proud of.

Besides our commitment for better accessibility, we also found ways to make this building a long lasting success for future generations to enjoy. Federal and Provincial funding allowed us to utilize Net-Zero Energy Technologies, which means we are producing as much energy through a solar system as the building is consuming, leaving zero energy cost for heating and power needs.

After realizing that the first design idea was not within budget range it was decided to re-design and create an even more compact and efficient building.

In May 2020 GARIAN Construction started with the groundwork and moved the

existing residential building further into the site. We were also committed to reduce waste production during the construction process, and we are re-using the house as a storage facility right next to the main building. This decision will be saving construction debris from going to the landfill.

Construction moved along smoothly over the summer of 2020. Despite the global pandemic Garian Construction was able to stay on schedule. Framing and roofing came together by October 2020.



Simultaneously site work for parking and landscaping was installed before the fall 2020.

The project is a complex overlay of artful design, new technology, compact and efficient construction techniques and cultural identity.

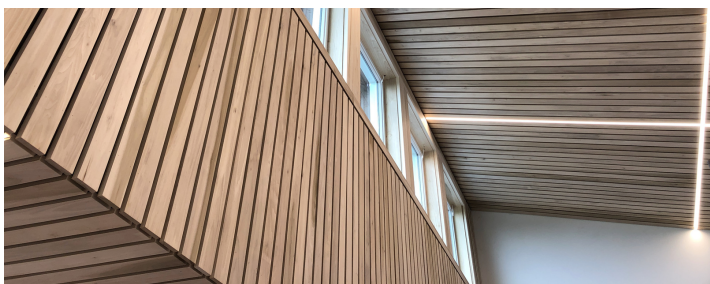
External siding colour choices have been tested and changed over time to suit the community best.

Over the winter the contractor focused on the inside of the building by framing all internal walls, installing electrical and mechanical systems, which is the heart of the building and moving into the finishing touches during spring 2021.

Garian Construction managed to keep the construction schedule on track and all involved stakeholders (Architects, Engineers, Municipal Staff & Council)

were able to coordinate all construction questions within time and desired outcome.

We are eager to open the doors by early summer 2021 to showcase the efforts of the past several years, which was led by the Building Steering committee and its members, providing guidance in a building that will serve the community now and for generations to come. A place we are proud to call Home!



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Public Works / Inspection	902-648-2623
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