

COLORFUL PAST, UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR ENGINE No. 9

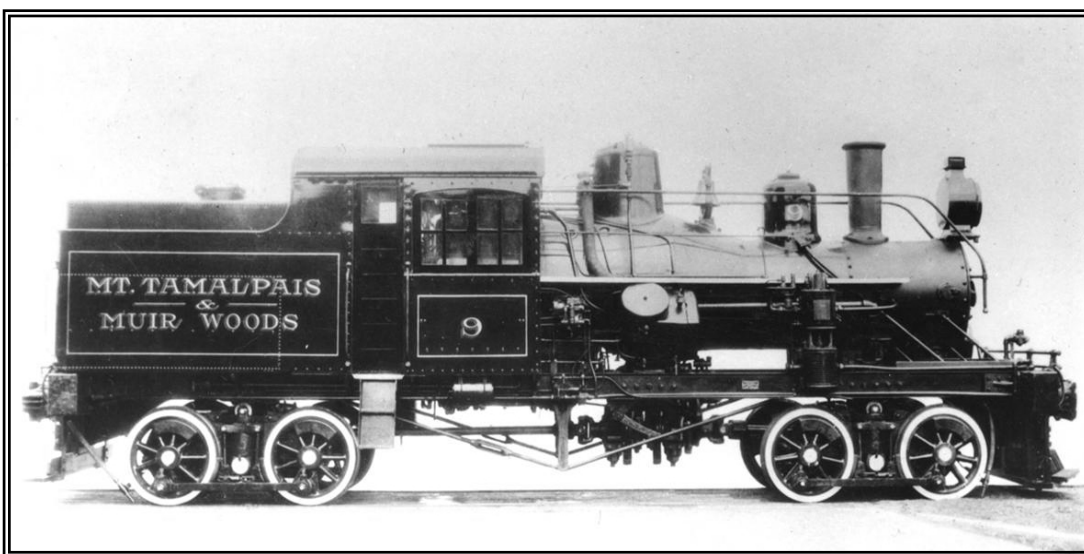
Ninety years ago, just before Christmas in 1920, workmen at the Heisler Locomotive Works in Erie, Pennsylvania were putting the finishing touches on Engine No. 9. The new engine was heading to California, to work on a famous scenic railway that climbed a

mountain 10 miles north of San Francisco's Golden Gate. The railroad was known as the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway, also called the "world's crookedest Railroad." No. 9 was the last engine they would buy, the last symbol of prosperous times and the biggest and most powerful engine they would own.

Engine No. 9 began climbing Mt. Tamalpais in 1921, pushing car loads of tourists to the railroad's grand Tavern of Tamalpais where guests could dine, dance and spend the night high above San Francisco's famous summer fog.

She also moved passengers into and out of Muir Woods. Sadly, in 1923, the great white Tavern of Tamalpais and its dance pavilion burned to the ground, the result of a kitchen fire. No. 9 and the other Tamalpais engines continued to bring

in logging and timber transport at the Siskiyou Lumber Co. and was later sold to the Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company here on the Humboldt County north coast. When Pacific Lumber bought Dolbeer and Carson in 1950, No. 9 came along.



Engine No. 9 before her retirement in Scotia.

tourists to the summit, to see the ruins and the view, but the good times were over. Profits plunged. In 1923 the railroad showed a profit of \$19,584; in 1924 profits fell to \$6,032. By 1925 they would consider abandonment.

The Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway sold engine No. 9 in 1924 for \$9,750. She began her career

lumber products to distant markets. In 1953 No. 9 was put on display in front of the Pacific Lumber museum where she remains today after 58 years.

Recently the Town of Scotia Company has received inquiries from the Mt. Tamalpais interpretive center. They would like to have old No. 9 back, to display next to other old Railroad exhibits at the historic state park there.

The way we see it, she spent four years there, and 53 years here. But what do you think? We'd love to hear from you whether No. 9 should remain an icon and fixture of Scotia, or if she might be better located and more appreciated in connection with her duties and history, albeit brief, hauling passengers up Mt. Tamalpais.

Do you have a story about our locomotive? Do you remember climbing on No. 9 as a kid? Do your children or grandchildren enjoy No. 9 here in Scotia? How does our history with No. 9 compare in significance with the time she spent at work in Marin County? What do you think? Old No. 9 belongs to the Scotia community, and we would like the community to participate in this decision.

Also, if you have any photos of you or your family with Engine No. 9, send us a copy. We'd be happy to feature these in a future edition. Our e-mail address is scotianews@townofscotia.com.

By that time, logging and timber transport operations were making the change to highway trucks, and railroads were largely relegated to long-haul transportation of finished

Hello, Scotia!

Welcome to the first edition of the Scotia Independent, a new community newsletter by and for the people and the town of Scotia.

In the days and weeks ahead we hope to have in place a network of local commentators, authors, journalists, observers and contributing editors providing content and giving us direction as to what they would like to see in a community newsletter.

The newsletter will be published, probably on a monthly basis, by the Town of Scotia, but we hope most all the materials will come from the community.

We will be working with the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department, the Scotia Elementary School, local businesses and individual residents to interface with the community and gather content. We will welcome articles, stories, poems, news items, photos or event announcements for things happening in our town, our school, at the Winema Theatre or the Scotia Inn -- essentially anything from and for the community.

We have started small, with the equivalent of a four page, letter-sized newsletter format. We plan to have our presswork done locally, with layout and editing for clarity and composition generally done right here with help from any experienced volunteer editors or contributors in the community.

You'll notice we have started off this first edition with a general masthead, "Scotia Independent." However, one of our first efforts is to reach out to the community for help in designating a permanent name for our Scotia publication. We have no doubt there will be many creative suggestions—Winema Monthly Monitor Gazette, Forestville Free Press, etc.?

Please give us your recommendations for an appropriate permanent name for Scotia's new local newsletter. We'll assemble a team of leading citizens to pick the best entry and award a prize to the winner.

We want to invite your thoughts

Speed hump project hits speed bump

Town of Scotia still working with county on installation

Residents of Williams Street—take heart. After the better part of a year, the traffic controlling "speed hump" project in your neighborhood is nearing construction.

Town of Scotia has paid to have the signs and pavement painted by the county, and we have lined up our contractor to construct the features designed to "calm" through-traffic and make our neighborhood streets safer.

The project has been a long time coming, but with your patience and the vigilance of some of your neighbors, the administrative process is nearing completion and work will take

place this spring when the weather breaks.



TOS applied for the encroachment and other permits necessary to construct such features over a year ago. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works considers Williams Street to be "county maintained," so the application was eventually taken up by the Board of Supervisors.

On a motion by our District Supervisor Clif Clendenen, it was unanimously approved. Administrative de-

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SCOTIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ELECTION THIS SUMMER

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) recently held its final proceeding—called a "protest hearing"—in connection with formation of the Scotia Community Services District (SCSD), which it approved in October 2010. The hearing took place on January 19, 2011.

As planned, the SCSD will become Scotia's agency for local governance (providing utility services, parks and recreation, etc.), under the guidance of a locally elected Board of Directors.

The mandatory LAFCO Protest Hearing provided registered

voters in Scotia one last opportunity to petition LAFCO to terminate or abandon the CSD formation before the election of community members to its Board of Directors and the start of district operations.

The protest petition would have prevented CSD formation only if a majority of registered voters joined the protest. In Scotia, that would require about 150 petitioners to file formal protest forms. As far as we can tell, only two Scotia residents (a married couple) protested. They did not appear at the hearing to explain

their objection.

As a result, LAFCO unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to direct the Elections Office to hold an election to allow Scotia residents to affirm the LAFCO determination and select from among their neighbors a Board of Directors for the new CSD.

Our election is set for August 30, 2011. The special election does not need to be consolidated with any statewide election process, and the vote can take place entirely by mail-in ballot.



All Scotia registered voters can participate in the election and become candidates for the office of Director. LAFCO approved a CSD form with a body of Five Directors, standard among CSDs in the region. Directors meet periodically to make CSD policy, and

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Bread for Life food pantry to open on Main Street

Scotia is such a strong community in large part because of the caring and generous people who live here.

Since 1988 there has been a facility here in town quietly distributing food and assistance to families and individuals in need.

Originally formed as an outreach ministry by the congregation of our 100-year-old Presbyterian Scotia Union Church, the Bread for Life Food Pantry is now moving to a new home.

Beginning April 21, 2011, in a cooperative effort with the Town of Scotia, the pantry will begin distributing food packages from its new facilities located at 143 Main Street, near the Scotia Fire House.

Volunteers have already relocated pantry operations, refrigerators and freezers, and constructed shelving and storage bins to meet the needs of the community during the grand opening.

As in the past, distribution will take place for just a few hours beginning at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

The pantry gets its food primarily from federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Those in need from our larger community who stop by and register will be provided a variety of foods from available stocks, packaged and ready to go.

The food pantry also relies on donations of food and funds from those more fortunate, and we urge



The Bread for Life food pantry's new location at 143 Main Street in Scotia.

anyone able to contribute directly to such a worthy cause to help this effort.

You may consider participating as a volunteer, dropping off canned goods or other non-perishable foods items, or helping in other ways.

For example, the pantry benefited tremendously from the effort made by the Del Arte Players group when it urged audience members to bring food items as the price of admission to its annual Christmas show here at Scotia's Winema Community Theater in December. That influx of supplies helped stock the pantry and supplement its distributions for months.

The effort represented a true gift to those without resources of their own.

Our Scotia friends and neighbors, at Hoby's market and other Scotia businesses provide discounts and donations to the pantry to assist in this good work.

Your generosity will likewise make a real difference, in a direct and meaningful way, right here in our community.

Please welcome the Bread for Life food pantry, and assist where and as you are able. ●

SCOTIA SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9

Due to State budget cuts, Scotia School administrators are again challenged to create the coming year's budget, this time with a \$78,000 reduction. To fund Scotia School's music education program, Superintendent Jaenelle Lampp has announced that once again this year the school will host another spectacular fundraiser, featuring a catered dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions.

The program will be held earlier in the year, so as not to compete with many other events. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend and participate on Saturday, April 9th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Winema Theater in Scotia.

Lampp said that last year, with the help of our community and the gener-

backs from the state.

We will be honored again to have our friend, community personality and auctioneer Rex Bohn conducting our live auction, and we will again have a silent auction ongoing throughout the evening.

Entertainment this year includes vocal performances, fiddle playing by our Scotia Elementary Strings group, a performance by children's recording artist Lisa Monet, Filipino Dancers and more.

Another fine catered buffet-style dinner will be prepared by C. C. Market featuring a salad bar, beef tri-tip served with horseradish, baked chicken, red potatoes with butter and garlic, green beans with slivered almonds and butter, tortellini with Alfredo



Scotia School students in a previous production.

osity of donors, the school was able to raise \$7,230 at the benefit to keep the school music program alive.

"If not for the help of local businesses who donated auction items, there is no way we could have secured this important part of our student's education," Lampp said.

Participating students will be creating some of their own art to be sold in a student auction. This is great way for students to take pride in and responsibility for their own art as well as to participate in resolving the ever-increasing problem of financial cut-

sauce, and desserts.

If you would like to donate an item for the auction or attend the buffet (\$10) or show (\$5), please contact the school at 764-2212.

Superintendent Lampp also extended an invitation to donors of auction items to attend the entertainment program free of charge.

"We can't begin to tell you how much your help is appreciated by our students, staff and parents," Lampp said.

"Please help us keep the music alive in our schools." ●

SHOULD THERE BE A GAS STATION IN SCOTIA?

Residents can help determine the future of our town



Since 1992, when the Scotia Center was rebuilt after the earthquakes, there have been tentative plans to bring a gas station to town.

At the time the architect's master plans put the ideal location between the grocery store and the banked curve of Main Street, across from the Scotia Inn.

The plans never did move forward, but from time to time the idea surfaces again.

The station could consist of pump islands and a rain canopy, air and water stations, and restrooms.

It could be located off Main

Street, surrounded by adequate space for parking and customer traffic, and nestle into the interface between the commercial center and the old Mill A industrial site. This location would also provide easy on and off highway access.

What do you think? Is this a service residents and businesses in town want or need?

If so, we would probably want to consider making arrangements

with a local fuel distributor to own and operate a station, rather than host an international "Big Oil" franchise.

There are several reasons for this preference.

First, a local distributor would have knowledge of our community and be sensitive to Scotia's special nature, neighborhoods and needs.

Also, we can better gauge a

local operator's reputation for environmental stewardship, construction and operation competence, and competitive prices.

Finally, we do not want to bring in an operation that might interfere with current business in the Scotia commercial center.

Please let us know what you think. This is your town, and your future. Let us know what you want Scotia to be. ●



Hoby's Market started in Scotia June 1st, 1976. Two of the original employees—Mel Berti and Herb Colby—are still here. The name Hoby's came from a modification of HERB COLBY.

The store has a service center where customers can purchase stamps, lottery tickets, money orders, drop off dry cleaning for Normans Cleaners, rent a Rug Doctor, make copies and a public fax.

Hoby's is now starting an Espresso Coffee Club. Buy 5 espresso drinks and get the 6th one free. April's special is Snickerdoodle Latte, 16 oz for \$3.50 and 20 oz for \$4.00.



FRANK TALK *with Frank!*

'Newsweek' doesn't get it

Some of you have already seen the article about Scotia entitled "Last Company Town" featured in the February 14 edition of *Newsweek* magazine. The story is available online at www.newsweek.com.

I've heard several of you say that you were disappointed, but not really surprised, at the East Coast, big-city spin and inconsistencies within the *Newsweek* story.

The author seems intent on stirring controversy, so he paints a picture of Scotia residents who are "hyper dependent," with "an almost comical reliance on the company."

One minute, our town is complimented for its "utopian touches" (no homelessness, trash, or outrageous rents), with Mel Berti describing Scotia as "the best town there ever was."

The next minute, the reporter mocks the town for its "laundry list of rules borrowed from a boarding school for delinquent boys" (no marijuana growing or offensive, noisy, immoral or dangerous activity).

First the reporter bemoans the loss of historic company towns, citing some expert's opinion that we Americans really want "nanny corporations" and "corporate mommies." (Freudian analysis anyone?)

Next he describes one corporate community—in China—where "140 million workers live in bleak factory towns," and ten people recently committed suicide all at once.

These examples hardly seem wistful, quaint or Utopian. More importantly, they don't seem to have anything to do with Scotia.

The reporter was even less com-

plimentary to Rio Dell.

"Once called Wildwood because it was where single lumberjacks went to find liquor and women," he wrote, "Rio Dell described itself in a 2007 economic report as a 'run-down com-

And perhaps that's the real problem with the *Newsweek* article. The author has no clue what Scotia has been, what it is, or what it might become.

We'd love to hear what you think

"Perhaps that's the real problem with the *Newsweek* article. The author has no clue what Scotia has been, what it is, or what it might become." —Frank Bacik

munity with an inferiority complex.' Boarded-up shops mar the main drag, abandoned gas stations sprout weeds, and there's a nightly parade of wandering hobos. The side streets are cluttered with rotting boats, rusting cars, and eerily dark 'grow houses' that supply Humboldt County's other famous agricultural product: home-grown marijuana. One fifth of the residents are below the poverty line, according to census data, and the city government is nearly broke. Last year it was forced to sell the police dog to make ends meet."

In his final thoughts, the article's author heralds the new form of "company-campus," like that now being considered by Google and Facebook, which plan to "build all-encompassing worlds for their employees." Amenities include at-work shopping, eating, dry-cleaning and medical care so employees can stay at the office and work longer hours. The writer speculates, "Maybe... Scotia won't be the last company town after all."

But his description of life in the new company campus (commuting on company busses, eating in company restaurants, napping in company 'pods' to prolong the work day) doesn't resemble Scotia in the least.

Those yuppie office malls are not really towns or communities at all.

Rio Dell, or any thoughts you may have on the subject of Scotia's evolution to become a modern community, governed by its residents, rather than controlled entirely by its company owner. ●

SCOTIA WANTS YOU...

...TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE SCOTIA CSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECT YOUR CSD REPRESENTATIVES!

VOTE FOR AN INDEPENDENT SCOTIA!

ELECTION DAY: AUGUST 30, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

Scotia school to get almost \$800,000 for energy repairs and upgrades

Work could begin as early as this summer

The Scotia Union School District has been awarded \$757,500 from the state to repair the gymnasium heating system and convert both the school and gym steam heating systems.

The California State Allocation Board, consisting of three Assemblymembers and three Senators, voted on and approved the school's Facility Hardship grant.

The announcement, made February 23rd, came as welcome news for the district.

It means that the district has been authorized to send in the paperwork to get money from Proposition 55 taxes, part of a \$25 billion statewide bond package that provides funding to repair aging school buildings and erect new ones.

The grant will cover \$266,500 to install a gas-fired steam heating system for the school and \$490,000 for the gym improvements.

Project Manager Dennis Hansen has been diligently working with Scotia School Superintendent Jaenelle Lampp for the past three years, seeking additional building funds to complete the gym project.

Lampp said she hoped to begin the project this summer. However, she added, the process of receiving the funds may take longer than anticipated. ●



This photo, titled "Pay day at Scotia," highlights the hardships townsfolk faced in the dark days before direct deposit.

GET TO KNOW YOUR SCOTIA NEIGHBORS

In this edition: John Broadstock and Dr. "Buzz" Rigney

In this space with every edition, we'll try to feature a short biographic sketch and photo of some of our friends and neighbors here in Scotia. We hope this feature will help us all get to know each other better. If you're new to the community, or you have an interesting job or hobby, please send us an email and photo and tell us about yourself. We will be on the lookout for good candidates, and you can help by nominating someone from the community who you think we should feature in the newsletter. Of course, we will contact anyone nominated and get their permission, and also give them the opportunity to review and revise what we put together.

John Broadstock, Chief of the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department

While it may not be true in every town, in Scotia most of us have met our Fire Chief. John can be seen every day, seemingly everywhere, throughout the town, making his rounds, checking on calls, inspecting, advising, enforcing and keeping us all safe.

Our Scotia Volunteer Fire Department addresses potential fire danger, helps control and clean up hazardous materials spills, assists with town security, aids law enforcement and responds to emergency calls, both here in Scotia and in mutual aid to neighboring communities. As full-time Chief, John is always on the go.

He moved to Humboldt County from Anderson, CA in 1973. Here, he found a great place to live and work year-round, with comfortable seasonal weather, those wonderful big trees and people well worth knowing.

John and his family have lived here in Scotia for some 23 years, and he's worked either for PALCO or the Town of Scotia since 1985. He started as a lumber handler in the old Mill A, served as a Grader Machine Operator, Tallyman and Assistant Foreman until 1997 when he was transferred to the Scotia Fire Department, working full time under former Scotia Fire Chief Kendall Mangrum. Chief Mangrum retired in 1999, and John was promoted to Chief.

John loves his job because it gives him the opportunity to help people in their time of greatest need. He also enjoys mentoring and working to develop care and skill in the department's many volunteers.

John and his wife Lisa have been married for 32 years and have three fine sons: Chris, 29, a manager

at the Fortuna Radio Shack; Rusty, 26, a seasonal employee at HRC; and Tanner, 22, a student who works part-time at CC Market, and is a proud member of the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department.

John credits Lisa's understanding and support for his longevity and success as our Chief. Her support makes possible his important work to our community during long and irregular hours, and the good times and bad that are both a part of the fire service.

John has coached and officiated at youth sports while his sons were playing. He enjoys hunting and fishing and, when time permits, a little golf. He'd like to see baseball return to our Carpenters Field.

John is looking forward to the new and independent direction our community is taking, and he plans on being a part of that change, while working hard to preserve the best of life in Scotia.

Be sure to say hello when you see him around town. ●



Recently, John Broadstock has rediscovered bass tournament fishing. This photo was taken this year at Ruth Lake.

Charles "Buzz" Rigney, Scotia Physician

All of us should know the town doctor. With a Board Certified Family Practice at the Scotia Medical Center for the last 21 years, most of us have had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Rigney, but we may not know about his wealth of qualifications or background.

Born and raised in the Central California Valley, "Buzz" Rigney, as he is known by many, served in the Army on active reserve from 1969 to 1975. During that time, he attended U.C. Santa Cruz where he received a B.A. Degree in Biology and Philosophy, and from there attended U.C. Davis where he received a Masters' Degree in Anatomy. From 1973 to 1975 he was an instructor of anatomy and physiology courses to nursing and dental hygiene students at Cabrillo College in



Dr. Rigney with his dog Jeanne, who passed away in February.

Soquel, CA, and from 1975 to 1977 he lived and studied Spanish, Law, History, Geography and Medicine at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

In 1977, Dr. Rigney continued medical studies at

George Washington University on an Army scholarship. Having graduated with his Medical Degree in 1980, he then served in the U.S. Army as an Army doctor until 1986, completing his service to his country with the rank of Major.

Dr. Rigney, his wife Kay Hardin (Rigney), and his two sons Colin and Rex came to live in Scotia in 1988, when Buzz joined the practice of Dr. Rodney Cade.

As many know, Kay Hardin is herself a prolific and accomplished artist whose work often features local landscapes and landmarks, is widely known, much loved and often exhibited at the Morris Graves and other fine galleries.

Having lived primarily in big cities before that time, coming to Scotia was quite an adjustment, but for a family practitioner our small town was ideally suited. Where else can a Doctor get to know almost everyone in town and follow up on his

patients' health and progress?

Dr. Rigney loves being a doctor. He enjoys listening to his patients tell their stories, learning how many of them are connected to one another, and he especially enjoys the privilege of caring for the people of Scotia and surrounding areas. He genuinely cares about people, and his patients see that for themselves when they come to see him.

Most of his patients have met Dr. Rigney's dog, Jeannie, whom he brought to the office during the

later part of her life. Jeannie was usually very quiet when she was at the office except when she was missing Dr. Rigney. Then she would bark once, wait and bark again and again (and sometimes again) until Dr. Rigney spoke to her and let her be with him for a moment. When Jeannie was at the office, Dr. Rigney would affectionately say his patients were getting a "pet scan." But in February

2011, at the age of 15, Jeannie died. She had a tumor on her shoulder that grew rapidly and when it was obvious she was suffering, Dr. Rigney and Kay chose to let her go while sitting with her at their home in Fortuna.

Dr. Rigney is Board Certified in Family Practice and is currently accepting new patients. ●

Cont. from "Speed Humps," page 1

lays since that time have drawn out realization of this important work.

County policy requires that we post some 24 signs to alert drivers of the five separate speed humps, strategically located between Bridge St. and the end of Williams St.

The speed humps will be more than 20 feet long, and will run from curb to curb. Each hump will be located beneath a street light, and the raised surfaces will be painted with white stripes. The nearest example of similar traffic features is at the Rio Dell School. ●

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the District Manager and his or her staff of utility operators and employees implement that policy.

In the days and weeks ahead, Town of Scotia will hold neighborhood meetings and submit articles to the Scotia Newsletter (like this update) to keep our residents informed of progress toward the election, and to share guidance we receive from the Elections Office, County Counsel and others on the candidacy and election process.

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on how the newsletter might meet the needs of the community as you see them from your unique perspective.

Our editorial policy is simple: we want to meet a perceived need in town for more direct and relevant communication, and all residents, business owners, employees and contractors, visitors and tourists are key elements of the Scotia community.

It is our hope to reserve space in each edition for an article or announcement by, about, for or from the Scotia School Students. Certainly we would like to carry any announcements Scotians might want to announce to a wider audience.

In future editions, we will also accept for distribution appropriate letter-sized "handouts" to stuff into the newsletter, so that local Scotia businesses, clubs and community organizations and others may take advantage of the distribution potential of a town newsletter.

This publication will be what you make of it. If and when we see there is a need for expanded size, content and reporting, or for more photography, more frequent publication, etc., that would be great, and we can just add pages to the edition, try a larger format or publish additional editions.

Please let us know what you think! Tell us whether you might be interested in writing or editing content for our subsequent editions. We welcome all suggestions regarding editorial policy, regular features or special stories you would like to see.

Town of Scotia will also place announcements and updates in the paper, but the main purpose of this project is to serve the community's need for more communication of all sorts.

Please get involved. This is your newspaper. Help us make it what you want it to be. ●



Do you have news for us?

Email scotianews@townofscotia.com

Those wishing to stand as a candidate for one of the five positions as SCSD Director at the August 30 election must declare their candidacy between May 9 and June 3 and file required paperwork.

We will have more information for you about the election process in the next edition of the Scotia newsletter, on the Town of Scotia website at www.townofscotia.com and at town meetings. ●