

MLA mentions school sustainability study in this story on page 2.

# MLA sees potential for industrial park

**DOUG DICKINSON**  
BUGLE OBSERVER

Carleton-Victoria MLA Andrew Harvey thinks an industrial park will bring growth to the town of Florenceville-Bristol. During the regular council meeting on Jan. 14, Harvey talked with council about the potential for an industrial park and concerns with schools in the area. "I believe strongly that Florenceville-Bristol ... the town has to grow and keep growing. Not only in population but

in tax base and eventually expanding its boundaries somewhat," said Harvey.

"I think we should be going in that direction. I think there is a lot of things we can do as a region. Movement back and forth between different communities within the region or subregion. I believe strongly that is the direction we should be going in."

He said an industrial park is needed in the town. Harvey recalled two recent conversations with businesses, one from Ontario, that had looked at the region as

they consider relocating to New Brunswick.

"They want to come to New Brunswick and manufacture," said Harvey. "I think that is one of the growth areas we have with our location and our work ethic and knowledge in light manufacturing and assembling."

Florenceville-Bristol Mayor Karl Curtis told the Bugle Observer he toured the community with Harvey, discussing areas of potential growth for the town.

"One of the things we did talk about

was industrial ... trying to attract businesses to town and the possible creation of an industrial park," said Curtis. "That is something that council, we have talked about it a bit but not a lot. Where would we put it? Probably out off of [the Trans-Canada Highway] would make the most sense. It would have the best access for tractor trailer traffic and the heavier equipment that might be going into an industrial park."

Curtis said one issue with the idea is water and sewer, as some of the land in

that area is outside the municipality.

"Some of the larger pieces of land that would be ideal for a development ... if they are looking for water that is something we don't have. We could extend sewer beyond our limits, provide that service. We can't provide water."

He said either the potential businesses or the town would have to look at drilling a new well.

"I understand that industrial parks do

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## MLA wants industrial park

### POTENTIAL →A1

attract businesses. There are several of them up and down the valley," Curtis said.

Harvey also discussed ongoing school sustainability meetings by the Anglophone West District Education Council.

The Carleton North school sustainability study includes Florenceville Elementary School, Florenceville Middle School, Bristol Elementary School and Bath Community School. Centreville Community School is excluded from the process.

Harvey said he attended meetings in November and will be attending the upcoming meetings starting on Saturday.

Harvey said he doesn't plan on presenting at the meetings for Florenceville-Bristol schools, but will be presenting at the Bath school meeting in regard to the future of the community's school.

He also noted the need for Carleton North High School to have a mid-life upgrade. "I know there are some problems with structure things, heating,

ventilation and other issues that need to be addressed ... but that is definitely part of their study. The mid-life upgrade will definitely need to happen. The timing of it and whether it has to happen immediately, or mid-term or long-term ... that is up to the DEC to decide and recommend."

Coun. Dan McCarthy said he hopes Harvey will support the town's request to DEC for a new K-8 school that would replace Florenceville Elementary, Bristol Elementary and Florenceville Middle School. "I think it's time we said our schools are pretty outdated and if we want to get into renovating them, we have already seen what that has done to one community. It's a losing battle," said McCarthy.

Harvey said he's not against a new school and is waiting to see the outcome of the sustainability study. "If they are going to recommend a new school in March or whenever, we need to get moving ... I'll be there pushing forward," said Harvey. "There is a process in place and that is the reason I'm not speaking at these meetings."