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February 5, 2019

Alain Muise, CAO
Municipality of Argyle
27 Courthouse Rd., Tusket, NS
B0W 3M0

Mr. Muise,

Last year was a very memorable one for Club Social des Iles. We were able to host many functions that were very well attended and had excellent reviews regarding the food the service and the décor. We were also successful with our applications for grants from the Municipality of Argyle (\$15,000) and the NS Department of Community, Culture, and Heritage (\$16,000). The grant from the NS government permitted us to redo our roof which was in bad need of repair and from the municipality was to do minor repairs, painting, carpentry, small electrical / plumbing and keeping our community centre in tiptop shape. We were all very grateful for both of these grants as they were both for communities improvements. Once the grants were approved and the jobs were identified I was asked if I would keep an eye on both projects. More precisely I was asked to manage the work to be done on each grant and report to either our Municipal Councillor and/or the Club President. I would also take care of the invoices and see that they were paid.

As we made preparations for work on our projects to begin we discovered that the framing under the floor of the old hall (Saint Joseph Parish Hall built circa late 1800's or early 1900's) was giving way in some areas and had to be looked at. In August 2018 Mark Doucette, a local contractor, was hired to level the floor near both the men's and women's bathrooms. While under there he received a shock from one of the electrical wires hanging underneath the floor. The only way in and out of that space was by going through a small manhole on the west

side of the exterior of the building. Since Mr. Doucette had indicated that there was a potential problem with one wire under there and that we also needed to fix a plug in the kitchen, we hired Acadian Plumbing & Electrical to come to replace the plug and examine the problem wire. Before they came we had Mr. Doucette construct a four square foot hatch inside the club because we deemed the manhole outside unsafe. Little did we know at the time that we were looking at a potentially devastating problem.

With the 2'x2' hatch inside the old club to give smoother & safer passage for the electricians to gain access to underneath the old club the work began and by that time winter had already set in. While fixing the plug behind kitchen cooler the electrician for Acadian Plumbing & Electrical not only discover that there was a live wire under the building but that *“ALL THE WIRES THERE WERE IN A DISASTROUS CONDITION”* and that it was a *“FIRE TRAP”* and *“AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN!”* With that very dire warning I contacted both Guy Surette and Philip Surette and we immediately requested a quote from Acadian Plumbing & Electrical to fix the problem. We received the quote on January 2, 2019 of \$4623.98 plus tax. Even with the hatch it was very difficult work. The area was dark, wet, muddy and there were rocks. The two men working there told us it was some of the worst if not the worst conditions to work in. On Friday morning January 11, 2019 one electricians came in and found that one of the wires was arcing and smoldering at the same time. If it were not for them being there at that time we could have had a disaster on our hands.

Once you consider all the functions we have had during that time:

- Candlelit Dinner - 100 with staff
- Tusket Toyota Christmas Party – 50 plus volunteer staff
- La Shoppe À Carl Christmas Party – 70 plus volunteer staff
- Children Christmas Party - 40 children plus volunteer staff

Scheduled events for early 2019:

- Cookie Decorating Course with Kate Giglio
- Valentine Brunch for the Church - ?????? Plus volunteer staff
- CAPEB Dinner Theatre ??????? Plus volunteer staff

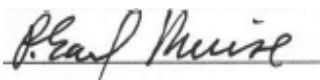
With the above in mind I believe that we acted quickly, reasonably, and responsibly. Otherwise we would have been negligent in our duty of care and we could have had a catastrophe on our hands. Meanwhile the Municipal Grant money that was already earmarked for other projects such as:

- Strengthening other areas of the old floor
- Being plans for accessible non-gender washroom
- Making the exterior doors more accessible to patrons in wheelchairs
- Modernize our kitchen and bar

Mr. Muise what if you were told to replace the wiring in a whole wall of the old administrative building because it was beginning to arc and smoke. Furthermore, if you were told to fix that because it was a “fire trap” and “an accident waiting to happen.” Even with the new Administrative building out to tenders would you not have it fixed immediately so that it was safe for the staff and the public? We see a parallel in there two scenarios and we thank God that there no loss of life or injury and our building was not destroyed. However, we do not come to you “Cup in Hand” but rather we want to see if you and Council feel, as we do, that we have been, in a sense, cheated in the amount of money we were granted to spend on improving our facility. What if we had not been granted these funds for our facility and if we had no funds of our own to fix the problem would Council not have been in a position to help us save our community centre and make it safe for people to use? We think that Council would have helped and, given the circumstances, we kindly request that you and/or Council look favourably upon our request to replace, in whole or in part, those funds we spent on the emergency electrical problems we discovered and that were not part of our Municipal Grant submission. Attached please find invoices from Acadian Plumbing & Electrical and Mark Doucette.

Thank you for your consideration of our request,

P. Earl Muise, A Past President – Club Social des Iles



Philip Surette, President - Club Social des Iles

CC Guy Surette, Municipal Councillor and Richard Donaldson, Warden