Students lobby for Nova Scotia soil

WAYCOBAH—A group of local high school students wants the province to select an official name for its soil.

We’koqma’q high school students involved in the provincial Envirothon made a case for selecting Queensoil as the official name for Nova Scotia soil to Premier Rodney MacDonald last week.

Student Victoria Googoo said soil is one of the categories dealt with in the Envirothon, which is how the lack of a provincial soil was noticed.

“We wanted to get the provincial soil named. PEI has their own soil, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta,” Listed Googoo. “We just want to be on the list as well.”

Looking in to possible names, the students discovered Queensoil is prevalent in 14 of 18 Nova Scotian counties.

MacDonald said Nova Scotia Forestry Association executive director Debbie Waycott approached his office about the Envirothon and how much students benefitted from the program.

“She talked about their interest in wanting a provincial soil named,” said MacDonald. “I indicated to her that if we had the appropriate research, I’d be willing to take a look at it and if it makes sense, I will introduce the bill.”

It isn’t often students get involved in such a topic, much less pursue it to such a degree said MacDonald, who said he is going to do some research on his own.

“My intention is to go and have a bill drafted with respect to provincial soil,” he said. “But I will have to ask and seek more advice because you want to make sure that it is unique to Nova Scotia and that it touches as many parts of Nova Scotia as possible.”

Waste rate increases in Mulgrave

MULGRAVE—Town waste collection is up in the past few months but council hopes it will drop.

During the regular meeting of Mulgrave Town Council on Monday, councillor Art Carter announced the town unloaded about 39 tonnes of waste at the Guysborough landfill in April.

“We’re now doing the contract ourselves,” said Mayor Leonard MacDonald of the town’s waste collection. “We have been telling people to put out what they would normally put out. We may have to look at doing that once a month because there’s been so much coming forward.

When asked how much the recent tonnage is up, MacDonald said at least 20 tonnes.

“This is just regular garbage,” MacDonald said. “Whatever it is I’m not sure but there seems to be a lot of it going out. I’m hoping that it’s going to level off. If not it’s going to be a concern because our costs for tipping fees is going to skyrocket.”

MacDonald said he has no reason to believe residents aren’t properly sorting their waste. He said he assumes people are just cleaning up.

“Our community looks great in the spring. People put a lot of effort into their properties and it’s incumbent upon us to take what we have to take to the landfill.”

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