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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN OF ANTIGONISH SUPPORTS IMPROVEMENTS TO HOMECOMING

(Antigonish, Nova Scotia) – The Town of Antigonish recognizes that Homecoming is a special event for St. Francis Xavier University, as students and alumni are inspired to celebrate their Xavierian pride. Earlier this month Antigonish played host to over 1,000 Xavierians who were welcomed back to a community they once called home.

Last month, Mayor and Council approved a motion to provide StFX with \$4000 to support the Student Life Department in hosting an on-campus event as part of the 2018 Homecoming celebrations. The purpose of the event was to mitigate some of the reoccurring issues that the Town and its residents have dealt with during previous Homecoming weekends.

“By collaborating with StFX, our By-law Enforcement Officers, the Landlord’s Association and the RCMP, the Town hopes to play a part in encouraging everyone to demonstrate safe, respectful behavior and good judgement while enjoying Homecoming,” said Mayor Laurie Boucher. “We understand that Homecoming will continue to be topic that requires the Town and StFX to find an effective solution for disruptive student partying. The financial contribution shows the Town’s commitment to working with StFX to support measures that draw students back to campus so that the tradition of Homecoming can continue to happen.”

A post-event evaluation from local RCMP and St. Martha’s Regional Hospital noted that although officers and staff were busy, there was a noticeable improvement from last year. “I also think it is important to recognize the cooperation of the Landlord’s Association and the positive impact their presence had throughout Town during Homecoming,” said Boucher.

StFX’s Student Life Department remarked on the positive impact of the role the Town and RCMP played in making this event happen for students. With student safety a top priority, the Student Life Department hopes to draw more students back to campus to enjoy homecoming festivities.

“The University values the open line of communication with the Town, emergency services, and landlords and looks to keep this positive relationship moving forward as we prepare to plan for Homecoming 2019,” said Jacqueline De Leebeeck, Director of Student Life with StFX University. “Homecoming is a special event for StFX and we want it to continue to be a successful event that can be enjoyed by students, alumni, and the community.”

Each year Antigonish welcomes more than 4000 students who provide a positive impact on the greater community. By becoming involved through part-time employment, volunteer work, mentoring, and entrepreneurship, StFX encourages students to make their mark beyond academics in our community.

“Our community plays an instrumental role in building a well-rounded university experience for students who call Antigonish home,” said Boucher. “The Town looks to support those who are engaged in our community and will always look for new ways to improve communication, as well as make connections possible for students looking for new opportunities to grow and succeed.”

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