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Lastly, we have doubled the Children's Fitness Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000 per child, starting in the 2014 tax year. Unlike the Liberals who would take these new benefits away, and the NDP who want to impose national child care on parents, our Conservative Government is the only party who believes parents are the ones who know what is best for their children. Not only has our Government lowered taxes, we are also making it easier to file your taxes. Four in five Canadians are now experiencing the ease of filing online. Many are receiving their

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Curriculum focuses on volunteerism, civics, Canadian government and citizenship, personal financial management, media and

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a time of your choosing (I get mine a 7pm). They will notify or remind you by email the day prior or, if you wish they will customize a calendar for you that shows only your personal pick up dates. No more confusion over, is mine pink stripes over a green back ground etc. It will be your pickups only. This may be a bit of a pain in the beginning, but I must say I have been trying it out now for the past 6 months and am real happy. I also get notification or should I say a reminder for spring and fall cleanup, household hazardous waste drop off and like I said a reminder the night before to put my garbage out. For those who choose to go the electronic/ computer route there is no end to

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main factor. If the mailbox at the end of your driveway didn't meet Canada Post safety standards you were given an opportunity to meet the standards "if possible" or collect your mail from the nearest community box. In some cases the nearest community mailbox was several kilometers away. This was around the same time Mr. Chopra suggested the loss of mail delivery would be good for seniors as it would provide them a reason to get outdoors for some much needed exercise. He added it would allow seniors to live fuller lives. Fast forwarded to February 2015, if living a fuller life as a senior means having to climb over a 4 foot high frozen solid snow bank and then slide down the other side onto a glaring patch of ice you can't stand up on then by golly Mr. Chopra you have succeeded. Here in the Onslow and Lower Onslow area most of the boxes are located on either private business or community owned properties such as a church or a fire hall. These boxes are being cleaned out and main-

tax refund in as little as 8 days when using direct deposit. That's our Government putting more of your money back in your pocket, faster. Conservatives are delivering real results to hard-working Canadians. As our Prime Minister has said, our Government is fulfilling our promise to balance the federal budget. We are now in a position to fulfill our promise to help Canadian families balance theirs. I encourage all Canadians to be proactive this tax season. The CRA website is a wealth of information on free tax filing software, video tutorials, frequently asked questions, tax tips and contact

digital literacy and service learning. Leadership is designed to challenge and reward our youth. In addition we are introducing a mandatory course in 21st Century Citizenship at Grade 10. This course will be required to graduate.

the info on that particular site. It is my hope many will move to electronic and thus there will be savings that will offset the cost of printing the customized ones. The old ones were great, but could be a bit confusing. I was at a meeting this morning concerning Real Estate and there was discussion about a recent column in the Globe and Mail which spoke about the demise of the economy (hence Real Estate) in the Atlantic Provinces. They talked about how we loved our way of life, which I agree with, but how if we did not make some drastic changes our way of life was not sustainable. With out-migration, our aging population and reluctance to accept change that is perceived to affect our way of life, we were on a very serious downward spiral. When you sit back and think about this, it is likely not far from the truth and quite concerning.

tained by the business owners or the contractors hired by the facilities to maintain their properties. In some cases these mailboxes are being cleaned out by the business owner but a contractor hired by Canada Post is getting paid to do so. There is one mailbox located at #70 Onslow Rd across from the Junior High School residents couldn't excess for days. This box is located on a property occupied by a business which is not operational through the entire winter so the yard does not get cleaned out on regular bases. I must make it clear that even if this property was cleared daily it is not the responsibility of the business owner or the property owner to clean out the community mailbox. Come to find out it wouldn't have mattered if you did manage to dig your way in because the mail carrier didn't. There were seniors in this area that only collected their mail in February once a week because of access or non delivery by the carrier. I would like to add this is at no fault of the mail carriers. It is not their responsibility to clean out the community mailboxes.

information for specific questions. And don't forget - by filing online and using direct deposit, refunds can be received in as little as 8 days. Just click - on www.cra.gc.ca/MyAccount As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong MP. **Scott Armstrong is Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister of Labour. MP Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley.**

It is important to celebrate and support our young students, and it is our collective responsibility to deliver on that commitment. **Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North is Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development**

When I think about it, I think, in all likely hood, my generation has had it better than any generation before me and unfortunately better than my children's generation will have it, certainly in this region of the country. What do we do? Not sure I have the answers, but you can be sure it will take strong leadership at all levels of government. As a society we need to be prepared to really think things thru before we say "NO". I am not suggesting the Municipality, or that any other government is going to propose something radical, but we do need to look forward with an open mind. Sorry if I got too deep in this but it is truly on my mind this morning. **Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County**

It is very difficult to get clear answers from Canada Post on this issue. The individuals I've spoken to locally seem to be very concerned and understanding but have very little control to remedy the situation. I have learned for a fact there is a contractor hired to remove the snow, sand and salt as necessary for this box but has just simply failed to do so. Recently an employee of Canada Post has been spreading some sand around and trying to help keep it accessible. If it is any consolation we here in Colchester County are certainly not alone in this country. There are communities like ours from east to west having issue with everything from snow removal, soggy mail, frozen locks, non-existing lighting and the list goes on. Meanwhile Canada Post sits back and waits for the day they can announce the privatization of the entire system by saying, "It's got to be better than what you've got because what you've got sucks". Stay tuned, I'm certainly not done with this one yet. **Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County**

Andrew Lake New Truro Chamber President

By Maurice Rees
Andrew Lake, Will Kare Paving, Truro has been chosen to take as President of the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce. The local chamber is one of the province's largest business organizations. Lake has volunteered on the Chamber board for the past eight years. Alex Stevenson, CIBC in Truro will serve as Mr. Lake's Vice-President for the next year. Outgoing President Stephanie Jones will remain on the Chamber Executive in the position of past-president for the next year. Under Lake's leadership, the Chamber and Dalhousie University will partner to kick-start business interaction with Dalhousie graduates. Dalhousie President Dr.

Richard Florizone, keynote speaker at the Chamber's 125th annual meeting announced the chamber and university staff will be uniting to guide students toward closer ties with individual business owners in the Truro and Colchester business community. The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce represents 450 business owners and operators stretching from Tatamagouche to Stewiacke. **Andrew Lake is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Technical University of Nova Scotia, and University of Nevada: Reno, from which he received a Master of Science. Andrew spent two years working for a large construction company in Watsonville, California where**



he was employed in quality control department. Andrew is currently serving his third term as a Board Member on the Nova Scotia Road Builder's Association and is current Chair of the Nova Scotia Asphalt User-Producer's Association. In his spare time, Andrew enjoys playing hockey, golf, working on landscape projects, and spending time with his family. Andrew is a married father of two. www.trurocolchesterchamber.com

Letter of Credit Still Required

By Maurice Rees
During a conversation with Premier Stephen McNeil, after his address to the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, I brought to his attention the Municipality of Colchester's concern they were being asked to provide a letter of credit to do flood remediation work. **He's the text of the email sent to Premier McNeil:** "When we last spoke in Truro I mentioned to you about Department of Fisheries & Oceans requiring municipalities to provide a Letter of Credit should they need to do remedial, flood prevention or erosion work on waterways that may be lists as fish habitat. Apparently the federal government does not recognize municipalities and only provinces can proceed with such work without a letter of credit. Seems strange since the province has provided \$1-Million+ to assist with a major flood abatement program for

Town of Truro and Municipality of Colchester, but then they are hindered with red tape to protect life and property. If Ottawa can't be convinced otherwise, maybe the province should step forward. In cases or situations where the province has provided funding for the work, maybe the province can say to those municipalities, we'll apply for the permits, and have you do the work on our behalf, since we have already provided the funding. This scenario does not need much additional oversight, because you have already put in place requirements on how the money is to be spent, and the level of expertise to which the work must be done". On Tuesday, March 24th, I received the following response from Tracy Barron, Media Relations Advisor, Department of Municipal Affairs/Emergency Management Office/Office of the

Fire Marshal Service Nova Scotia. **Here is the reply:** "Your inquiry to the Premier was forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs for response. I looked into the issue. The department can tell you the province supports this project and has provided funding to the Municipality of the County of Colchester to assist in carrying out this work. The Fisheries Act Regulations requires the municipality to provide a letter of credit to cover the costs of implementing the project to obtain the necessary permits. Obtaining the permits and carrying out the subsequent work is the responsibility of the municipality. If the municipality has an issue of principle with providing the letter of credit, that is between the municipality and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I hope this provides some clarity as to the province's role. Let me know if you need anything else"

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