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Judges and justices of the peace can now issue emergency protection orders for families living in First Nations communities. It gives Mi'kmaw families the same access to protections from domestic violence that other Nova Scotians have. Until now, Mi'kmaw families could call 911 for immediate relief from an abusive spouse, but could only get a peace bond from the court to help keep that spouse away during regular working hours. Emergency protection orders allow a family to get court protection more quickly.

Improvements to the Employment Support and Income Assistance Program will help those Nova Scotians who need it most get support to become more independent and help youth as they become adults. Some youth on income assistance are now able to access supports and services from both that program and Children, Youth and Family Services. Youth, who are at risk and willing, can receive help in many ways, including therapeutic services and educational and financial support. The allowable asset levels have doubled for people receiving assistance from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for individuals and from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for families.

The first tender for construction services at the Dartmouth General Hospital was issued on March 14. The deadline for submissions is April 13. This expansion and renovation is part of the QEII redevelopment project. The tender is for site services, excavation, underground services, foundations and structural concrete for the new addition and a new emergency generator building. It also includes renovation of the loading dock area, elevators for the new addition and relocation of the bulk oxygen storage tanks. The expansion and renovations at the Dartmouth General will result in space for 48 beds on the fifth floor plus eight new operating rooms to replace four existing operating rooms and extensive upgrades to outpatient and diagnostic imaging areas. This is in addition to work already underway on the third and fourth floors. The cost estimate for the entire Dartmouth General Hospital project remains between \$132 million and \$138 million.

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Sports Heritage Awards Dinner – March 5TH

By Maurice Rees

The 33rd Annual Truro Sport Heritage Society sports award dinner will be held Sunday, March 5th at the Best Western Glengarry with up to 450 supports anticipated to attend. Vibrancy of the society continues to excel because of the volunteers who are busy in the background at all times of the year.

Board members include: Ashley Simms, chairwoman of the TSHS board of directors, plus Farida Gabbani, Larry Anthony and Danny Joseph. Craig Burgess, Director Recreation Services for the Municipality of Colchester

is the past chairman. Other volunteer members of the board include: Don Cameron, Bruce Peers, Sara McKenna, Tammy Armstrong, Lloyd Berliner, Dave Hazelton, Heather Fraser and Randy Jollie.

Back for his 11th year as Master of Ceremonies will be Bruce Rainnie, CBC News PEI, a Hockey Night in Canada host and a man who has broadcast six Olympic Games.

Looking ahead to March 5, several induction categories are planned. Karlee Burgess, who gained fame last year will be inducted in the age 16-20 category. She was part of the Canadian junior women's

championship curling team, another curling gold medal followed at the Youth Olympics in Norway and yet another gold was attained with Team Canada.

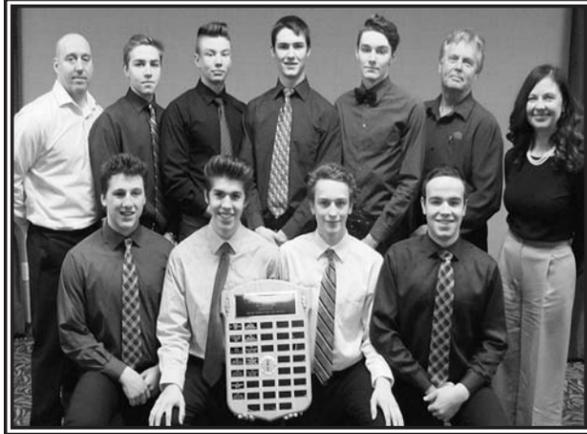
Emma Stevens, currently ranked sixth overall in Canada, became the first Nova Scotian to make a national team in freestyle skiing. Emma is the first Atlantic Canadian freestyle skier to qualify in the slope style category.

Julia Scammell, a top defenceman in Nova Scotia female hockey, attended step two of the national team selection process and travelled with Hockey Canada to Finland

to participate in the IIHF High Performance Camp. Her outstanding 2016 season included representing Nova Scotia in the Atlantic Challenge Cup and being part of Team Atlantic at the U18 national championships.

A number of special awards will be presented during the evening: The Chair Award will be presented to Truro's Chris MacDougall, who embarked on a cross country cycling journey, titled Charlie's Ride, in memory of his son Charlie who died at the age 14 of cancer. His goal: raise one million dollars to support cancer.

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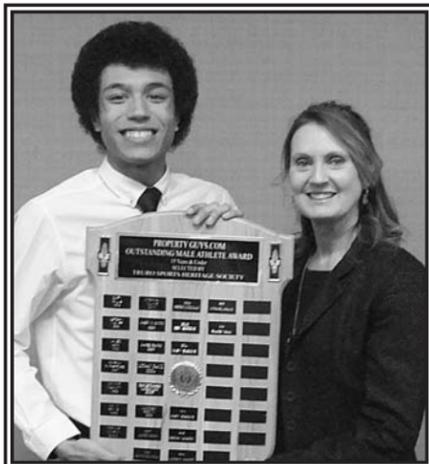
Truro Tide boys' volleyball team was selected at the outstanding club team in the 1-20 category. Shown above L-R are: (Front) Michael Adams, Dean Berry, Henry Doucet and Adam McEachren. Back row, L-R: Rob Adams, coach; Ryan McEachren, Sam Lilly, Thomas Vickers, Sean Gallie, Paul Tufts, coach and Valerie Patterson, representing Eldis Inc.



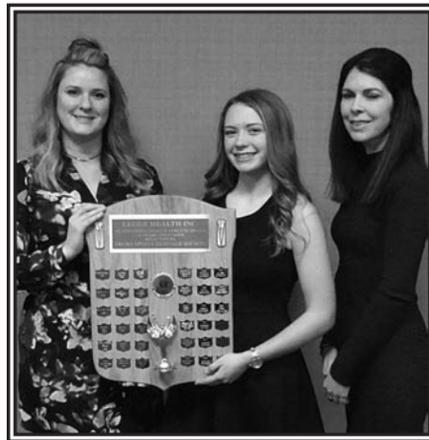
The Municipality of Colchester sponsored the award for outstanding junior high team. Shown are members of the Bible Hill Huskies, kneeling: Chet Scammell, Graham Thurston and Matthew Jones. Back Row: L-R: Craig Thurston, coach, Jarrin MacLean, Austin Southern, Ethan Dahr, Dean Angers, Coach and Mayor Christine Blair.



There was a tie for the coach of the year award. Receiving the award is Iain LaPointe, left, and Raj Makkar, right from Wanda Reynolds, representing award sponsor, Miller Waste Systems.



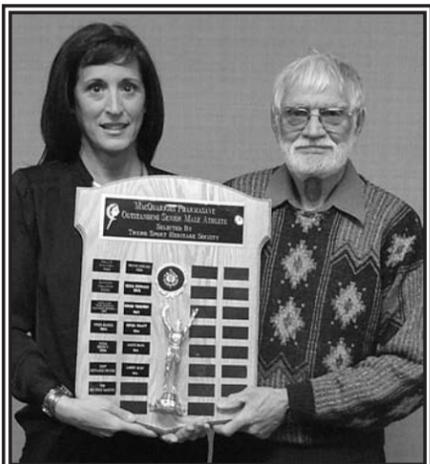
Roblyn Deveau representing Property Guys presented Braden Gray with the outstanding 15 and under male athlete award.



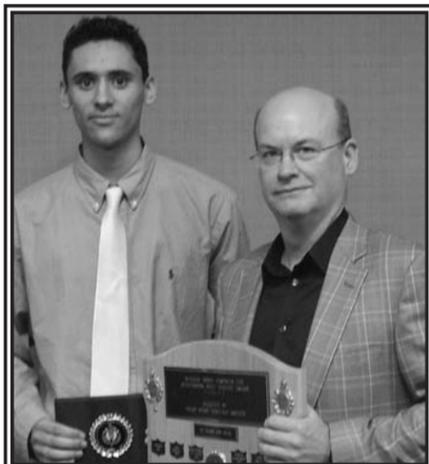
Mira Alexander, outstanding 15 and under female athlete, middle accepts the Legge Health Inc. award from Shephanie Millett, left and Katie Rock, right.



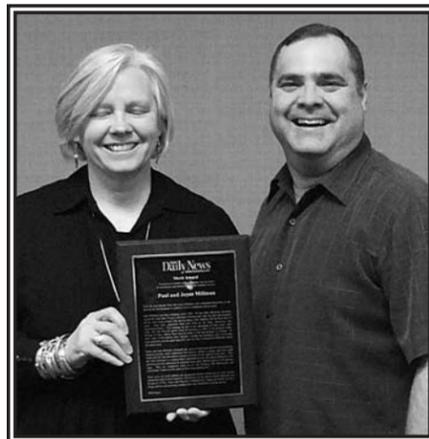
Chris MacDougall was selected by Ashley Simms for the chair recognition award. Simms is chair of the Truro Sports Heritage Society.



David Burt was presented with the senior male athlete award by Vanessa Denton representing MacQuarrie's Pharmasave.



Duane Rath, right presented the Blaikies Dodge Chrysler outstanding male athlete, 16-20 years award to Nicholas Faulkner.



Joyce and Paul Millman, were presented the Truro Daily News Merit Award. Joey Smith, representing Truro Daily News made the presentation.



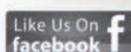
Mayor Bill Mills, presented the Town of Truro award for outstanding female, 21-50 years to Dara Pelkey-Field.

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