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Colchester County has been identified as one of the areas for a new centre or centres for child care. It's part of an \$8.9-Million plan announced by the province to up to 1,000 new spaces. Across the province up to 500 spaces in 15 new regulated child care centres being created in communities in need of child care. \$6.9-Million spread over two years will support a new infant incentive for child care providers. The remaining \$2 million has been designated as a one-time grant in 2018-2019 to support existing centres to convert their space to meet the changing child care needs of their communities. Up to 500 new child care spaces will be created in the home-based regulated child care setting.

The Liberal 2018 National Convention will be held at the Halifax Convention Centre, Argyle Street, Halifax from Thursday, April 19th to Saturday, April 21st. It will include special guests, keynote speakers, policy conversations and training opportunities for volunteers and supporters.

130 new pre-primary classes will be added this fall, in 87 school communities across Nova Scotia. This year, the department will be seeking a partnership with a licensed child care provider to deliver pre-primary as a pilot project in Kings County. This fall, Conseil scolaire acadien provincial will deliver the provincial Pre-primary Program through its Grandir en français program. Families who live within a school community that is offering pre-primary and wish to register their child for the program, can contact their local school board to learn more about the registration process. For a full list of the new pre-primary locations and more information about the program, visit www.ednet.ns.ca/pre-primary.

Former federal justice, Felix Cacchione, has been appointed director of the province's Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT). Mr. Cacchione spent 32 years on the judicial bench and recently retired from the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. He replaces interim director John Scott, who was appointed to replace SiRT's first director, Ron MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald held the position since SiRT became operational in 2012.

The **Atlantic Abilities Conference**, a comprehensive conference for families, educators and professionals focused on these three pillars: Mental Wellness, Physical Wellness and Learning Abilities, will be held at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel September 27-28, 2018.

The Province's Independent Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT) has commenced an investigation into a single vehicle crash that claimed the life of a 59-year-old Moncton man just before midnight on March 3, 2018. The incident occurred on Pictou Road in the community of East Mountain, Colchester County. Colchester District RCMP had attempted to stop the vehicle earlier after receiving a complaint of an impaired driver. As a result, the RCMP referred the matter to SiRT.

Lynne Godlien has been appointed as Perennia's new Chief Operating Officer. Godlien has been at the helm of Perennia as interim CEO for the past year and has been with the company in progressively senior positions since 2001, most recently as Director of Marketing and Communications. Perennia is Nova Scotia's development agency focused on advancing Nova Scotia's agriculture and seafood sectors. Its mission is to help farmers, fishermen and food processors be prosperous and profitable.

Cumberland District RCMP, Oxford is working to identify the individual(s) responsible for five structure fires, which resulted in the destruction of four abandoned buildings in recent weeks. S/Sgt. Craig Learning, Detachment Commander of Cumberland District RCMP said, "We need the community's help to solve". Between February 5 and February 27, a total of five fires were reported in the Collingwood area. Four out of the five buildings, all unoccupied homes, were destroyed: February 5, abandoned home on Wentworth Collingwood Rd; February 20, two abandoned homes on Wyvern Rd and February 27, two additional abandoned homes on Wyvern Rd destroyed by fire.

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News from our Provincial Capital

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and improve productivity.

Those in the hospitality, food/beverage and accommodations industry have acknowledged that the largest tourism season on record in Nova Scotia in 2018 has paid benefits.

As the MLA for Colchester North I recognize the importance of job opportunities for my constituents. I also recognize the importance of employers who own the business that drives the economy, not only here but across the province.

I want to thank those business leaders who recently took time to meet with me, as well as all others who provide employment opportunities in our communities. It is important to our Government that both the employees and employers be successful so that

we can continue to have an economy that is recognized by Bond Rating Agencies and Parliamentary Budget Officers as one of only two provinces in Canada that is on a fiscally sustainable path.

When the Liberal Government took office in 2013, the province was borrowing money to pay its bills. This is not sustainable. Today we are living within our means and balancing a budget for the third consecutive year. Thanks for your support. We all care about the future of this province for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North is also Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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were successful in receiving funding from this program were those who actually got engaged, both with staff work and by a financial investment.

It is very clear the big companies are only interested in investing in upgrading their infrastructure to provide the services required in today's environment, if there are large populations. Thus ensuring a good return on investment for their shareholders.

Later that day we received a presentation titled Canada in 2040. This was mostly blue sky thinking and projections. However, this was completed by someone who had some experience in forecasting economies and such. The one thing that jumped out at me was by 2040 the population of rural Canada is expected to be increased by 7%. Considering the decline we are seeing in our communities this is an exciting number.

Why are they projecting this increase? In today's new technological world more people, can work and operate a small business, from home. Given this option, more and more business leaders and entrepreneurs are choosing a better quality of life for themselves and their families. On this subject I can confirm, as a Real-estate agent, the past 12 months have shown a very noticeable increase in request for info from Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. The one critical requirement is reliable, fast and efficient broadband. Obviously this motivated me. I returned home and contacted

Councillors Mike Gregory from Tatamagouche and Mike Cooper from Stewiacke Valley. We got together one morning last week and decided if we were every going to ensure the outlying communities of Colchester County receive the same level of service as the urban core, our Municipality would need to be prepared to engage and invest to make this happen.

I believe I speak for the three of us when I say as a Municipality we invest in many, many things to make our communities better places to live. We invest in trails and sidewalks, in water and sewer, in recreation and many other worthwhile projects. We feel it is time for our Municipality to invest to ensure this very essential service is available in all regions and that we are in a position to take advantage of funding from other levels of Government.

Ironically the very day we met on this, the Province announced \$120-Million for internet funding. Many have criticized that announcement.

I say, Thank You!!

I will keep you informed as we try to move this forward. I have spoken with MLA Casey and am confident of her support in this as well.

Now it's time to get out the lawn mowers!

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10

Archaeological Digs Cost \$1,367,000

By Maurice Rees

Just over \$1,367,000 was spent on archaeological digs in Debert in 2017 on 18 acres on Block 1 involving land north of Tim Hortons and two lots totaling four acres on Lancaster Avenue. Council committee was informed on March 8th the higher cost per acre is because the digs were in areas with much more sand. Instead of the normal 1.2 metres, digging in 2017 required digs of approaching 2.5 metres to reach bedrock.

When land has been cleared, the cost is recorded as a deferred expense; added to the cost of the lot for recovery, when the land is sold.

Since the Home Hardware project, which took a lot more time and cost more than anticipated, the Municipality has become proactive clearing land. Being proactive allows the municipality to offer land that is pre-cleared and available for quick sale. In order to construct roads and sewer, archaeology has become a required step in lot preparation for sale.

In 2017, Lancaster Crescent was a priority due to existing, fully serviced lots and two locations were tested at the airport to support private hanger development and options for commercial hangar use. With construction anticipated to build a round-about off Highway 104, land tested at the entrance to Debert will support highway commercial/ business development that requires highway exposure and serve highway traffic as well as the Business Park. On larger block 1, the 18 acres, north of Tim Hortons, is ideally situated for large lot, regional distribution businesses.

The 2018 program will focus on two locations: The first objective is to continue with the Block 1 area. The second priority is to test two smaller lots on Dakota Road. However, two businesses have expressed interest in expansion which may adjust the archaeological work plan.

Deeper levels of sand on top of bedrock has increased the cost. Council hopes to reduce its cost by seeking co-operative funding from the federal and provincial governments to continuing a proactive dig program.

In order for an area to be cleared, testing must be done down to bedrock. Once a site exceeds a 1.2 metre depth hand auguring is required. This extra step lengthens the testing of each pit. A two-acre area directly adjacent to Tim Hortons had extremely deep test holes which reached 3 to 4 metres in depth, which significantly delayed progress and drove up costs. The remaining 16 acres typically exceeded 1.2 metres (maximum depth for shovel testing) and hand augers were still required.

Chamber Elects New Officers

Joanne McRae, a manager with MNP LLP Truro, has been selected to serve a one year term as president of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce.

At the end of 2017 there were 430 members making it the largest Chamber in Nova Scotia outside metro.

Other newly elected executives and directors are: Vice-President Ron Smith, Business Development, Old Fletcher Farm Property Limited, a division of Masstown Market Limited; Treasurer Amanda Pothier, owner Atkinson's Accounting; Solicitor George White, Patterson Law; and directors Dr. David Gray, Dean of Dalhousie Agricultural Campus; Karen Baillie, Elegant Steps; Karen Gillespie, Nova Scotia Community College; Bob Brown E.

Lynds Enterprises; Nancy Johnstone, Lock and Stone Property Management; Peter Thiesen Pulse Property Care; Connie Baird, Party Time Rentals and Sam Abushenaf, PuroClean Restorations; David Ritcey, Hampton Inn Truro; Julie Taylor, Skin Decision; Trina Langille, Warmth By Design; and Matthew Mossman, Bell Media. Alex Stevenson, manager of commercial banking CIBC, will remain on the board as past-president.

The Chamber's Annual Dinner Gala and Awards will be held on April 12 at the Best Western Glengarry.

The Chamber's call for nominations for BDC Business Person of the Year and the Community Credit Union Business Excellence awards closed on March 16th.

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