



Councillor Bob Pash, District 9, presents a hand carved wooden plaque of the Colchester emblem to Mayor Christine Blair. The plaque was carved by a rural preacher who Pash befriended on a recent trip to Jamaica. (Rees Photo)

Province Allocates 691.3-Million in Capital Plan

By Maurice Rees

Communities across the province will see investments in hospitals, schools, highways and other critical infrastructure that will serve Nova Scotians for generations to come.

When releasing the 2019-20 Capital Plan, Finance and Treasury Board Minister Karen Casey said, "Nova Scotians have told us that health care is their first priority, and that is why this capital plan invests in the next generation of health care service delivery." She continued, "From new and renovated operating rooms to improved cancer care centres, and more, these projects will transform how some of the province's most specialized health services are delivered."

The plan outlines \$691.3 million in capital projects including an overall investment of \$156.9 million to support the largest health care redevelopment projects in the province's history. The projects are spread across the province and include significant investments in the QEII New Generation project, the IWK Health Centre and the CBRM Health Care Redevelopment project.

Capital Plan 2019-20 includes: \$156.9 million for health care redevelopment projects; \$35.2 million for construction, repair and renewal of other hospitals and medical facilities; \$63.1 million for school design and construction; \$13.4 million for vehicles and equip-

ment and \$10.6 million for information technology projects. There is also a contingency fund of \$48 million.

Capital Plan 2019-20 also includes \$300 million in investments outlined in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's five-year Highway Improvement Plan. It maps out government's approach to repairing and maintaining the province's 23,000 kilometres of roads and highways and 4,100 bridges.

Bill Casey Breakfast MARCH 28TH

Bill Casey's last official event, before his retirement, with the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce will be a special breakfast from 8-9 am on Thursday, March 28th at the Holiday Inn, Truro.

The Chamber and members are honouring Casey for his more than two decades of public service. Tickets are \$25 for members; non-members, \$30. HST extra. To register call (902) 895-6328 or email ec@tcchamber.ca



Same Take-Home; No Increase

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As part of his presentation to council Gerald Walsh said population of a municipality was one of the important tools used in calculations.

The population analysis got a strong rebuttal from councillors, with Councillor Bill Masters become most vocal. Masters suggested the size of a councillor's district and the uniqueness of the workload should be more important than population. He suggested, in comparison to Kings County, which has several villages which handle a lot of the workload, while Colchester has two villages - Bible Hill and Tatamagouche, plus Stewiacke and Millbrook.

Master's maintained the number of staff and workload assigned to various councillors were far more important. Following the meeting, some councillors realized Walsh's population figures, at least for Colchester was wrong. Their report of 51,465 also included Towns of Truro, (12,260); Stewiacke, (1405) and Millbrook First Nation, (758).

According to Council policy, a council is supposed to review and adjust remuneration of elected officials before the end of its mandate. The previous council did not make the adjustment prior to the last election, but must do so prior to the next municipal election.

A quick check on other municipalities also demonstrated



Colchester's officials should be adjusted to, to offset CRA's new rules.

Walsh's comprehensive 10 page report suggested to give officials the same "take-home" monies, salaries should be adjusted upwards. Councillors to \$29,494; Deputy Mayor, \$36,090 and Mayor, \$57,865. In grossing up would cost the municipality, \$59,177 per year. It has not been confirmed, but some have suggested the consultant report cost upwards of \$20,000.

The Shoreline's privately sourced data suggested: Councillors, \$29,005; Deputy Mayor, \$35,050 and Mayor, \$58,420. Annual cost increase \$53,082.

(See Separate story with calculations on page 10).

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting

of the

Lower Onslow Community Centre

will be held at the Centre,

12391 Hwy 2, Lower Onslow,
on April 23, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

*All are welcome
to attend this meeting.*



Country Megastar Tanya Tucker Stops in Truro and Bridgewater Over Mother's Day Weekend

In 1974, Rolling Stone ran a cover story on Tanya Tucker with the headline that said "You're Gonna Hear From Me." Tuer words have never been spoken. The country music icon's sultry voice and vivacious stage presence makes her one of the most admired and respected female vocalists in the country music genre. Fans from all corners of the province are sure to hear from the legendary performer with tour dates slated in Bridgewater and Truro this spring. The first stop for the superstar will be on Saturday night, May 11th at the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre at 7pm, followed up with a stop in Truro at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre on Sunday May 12th at 6pm for Mother's Day.

Tanya's reign includes 23 Top 40 albums and a string of 56 Top 40 singles, 10 of which reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts. Along the way, she has provided some of the

biggest country music hits of each decade, including, "Delta Dawn", "Two Sparrows in a Hurricane", "It's a Little Too Late," and "Texas (When I Die)", just to name a few. Tucker is also the recipient of numerous awards, including two CMAs, two ACMs and three CMT awards. In August 2016, the Academy of Country Music honoured Tucker with the Cliffie Stone Icon Award during the 10th Annual ACM Honours™. All-inclusive sales of singles, albums, hits collections and digital downloads have topped 25 million records worldwide.

"Tanya Tucker is country music royalty and I could not think of a better time than Mother's Day for her to grace our stage at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre." Matt Moore, the General Manager at the RECC.

For more information, visit TANYATUCKER.COM

TICKETS TO THIS ALL AGES EVENT CAN BE PURCHASED IN-PERSON AT RECC WELCOME DESK BOX OFFICE OR ONLINE AT TICKETPRO.CA OR BY CALLING 1.888.311.9090



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