

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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regulatory authority of the province. There are three short-line railways in the province: the Windsor-Hantsport Railway is non-operational. The company owns 34 kilometres of track from Windsor to New Minas; Sydney Coal Railway owned by Nova Scotia Power, is unlicensed and has no direct regulatory oversight although it abides by federal rules; it is classified as an industrial railway and currently falls outside provincial legislation and Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway discontinued the Sydney subdivision, from St. Peter's Junction to Sydney, in 2015 due to low traffic volumes. It is responsible for about 389 kilometres of rail line between Truro and Sydney.

Sergeant-at-Arms Made Peace Officer

The sergeant-at-arms at Province House, will be made a peace officer. With this change, the speaker of the house can permit the sergeant-at-arms to carry a firearm and other equipment used by police, if required. The type of firearm or other weapons must be those approved for use in Nova Scotia by police officers. The changes also include: requiring the sergeant-at-arms to have the same training and certifications that police officers must have in Nova Scotia to possess and use a firearm, and other equipment; permitting the sergeant-at-arms to pursue persons that leave the premises, when appropriate and required and giving the speaker the authority to appoint the sergeant-at-arms and the governor-in-council the authority to determine the salary. Currently the salary is set in legislation

Need for Geographically Separate RCMP Call Centres

Lenore Zann, MP for Cumberland Colchester made a statement in the House of Commons On March 9th on the Recent Earthquake in Dartmouth and the need for geographically separate emergency call centres. The RCMP intends to close the current 911 Emergency Call Centre in Truro, February 2021 and relocate to one single call centre in Dartmouth. Zann also created a petition on behalf of RCMP Civilian members, which has garnered 4248 signatures which she will table in the House of Commons. The petition requests the Chair of the Treasury Board halt a plan to place RCMP civilian members on the flawed Phoenix Pay System and Tom instead "introduce a different reliable, stable replacement system". Part of her statement included, "The number one continuity safety issue for emergency preparedness is geographic separation and redundancy in communications. The recent earthquake is a prime example of why it is not wise to put all of our eggs in one basket, which is what the RCMP is proposing to do by moving the 911 call centre from Truro to Dartmouth. The rationale for this move seems less about safety and more about the fact that the RCMP moved into a headquarters that is too big for its needs. I would urge the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to reconsider this action and protect the 100-kilometre geographic separation of these facilities for the safety and protection of all Nova Scotians". The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made the announcement that they would move the Nova Scotia Operational Communications Centre (OCC) from Truro, NS to Dartmouth, NS effective February 2021. Retired MP Bill Casey serious concerns and referred to studies regarding the potential risks to the Public Safety of Nova Scotian's by co locating the RCMP OCC in the same area as the other largest Police Communications Centre in the Halifax Regional Municipality, NS. In direct response to MP Casey's concerns, the Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale initiated an Independent study that he directed the RCMP to complete. The RCMP have since communicated that they will not be studying the risks or issues of moving the OCC from Truro, NS to Dartmouth, NS but will be in fact study how to make improvements to the OCC once it is moved to Dartmouth, NS.

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Shelter Requests Financial Assistance

By Maurice Rees

Todd White, Truro Homeless Outreach Society Treasurer and Director of Future Planning, Social Media, Fundraising and Grant Writing sent an E-mail requesting assistance for the Truro Homeless Outreach Society (THOS). Lengthy discussion was held with the following points being raised: Availability of other funding opportunities via provincial and federal governments; THOS plans for addressing overcrowding/ social distancing; Recognition of the need for support but noting it should not be the Municipality's responsibility solely, it should be a shared responsibility with others including

the Town of Truro, and the provincial and federal governments; The need for addressing the issue of homelessness from a broader perspective; The potential need to help the broader community, not just one organization; and, Homelessness being an issue across the Country and not just due to COVID19.

Concern was also expressed regarding the COVID-19 pandemic impacting many businesses and individuals and until we are able to proceed with our budgeting process, we should be reluctant to make any such decisions without a concrete plan and knowing what our resources are. The CAO indi-

cated to effectively deal with homelessness, it must be a round table discussion and complete community effort with other partners coming to the table.

On motions by Councillors

Cooper and Parker a letter will be sent to the Premier, Minister of Health, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and the Member of Parliament, regarding what funding is available for homeless shelters and the need for assistance to help keep the homeless safe.

County 4-H Rally Postponed

By Marion Porter

The Onslow-Belmont 4H Club Rally was held on February 29, 2020 with were 22 speeches, 1 demonstration, and 2 Cloverbuds. The members that will move on to County Rally are Nathan Keeton, top junior speaker; Callum Keeton, introducer; Zachary Best, thanker; Marion Porter, top intermediate speaker; Sarah Kittilsen, top senior speaker and Thomas White, top junior demonstrator.

Colchester County Rally will be held at South Colchester Academy (207 Highway 289) in Brookfield, Nova Scotia. It was planned to be on April 4th, 2020, but has been postponed.

The Colchester County Poster Competition will take place at County Rally. Any member that wants to participate designs a poster using the current 4-H year's theme "4-H Leads the Way in 2020." There are two categories: Hand Drawn and Computer Generated. Hand Drawn entries must be hand drawn on a 12" x 12" (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm) piece of Bristol board. Computer Generated entries must be computer generated and mounted on a 12" x 12" (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm) piece of Bristol board. Poster designs should be original and, due to copyright restrictions, cannot contain any cartoon characters, brand

names, or other copyrighted materials. Although the use of the 4-H logo is not required, if a member wishes to use the logo it must be used correctly. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. More info on how to use the logo can be found at http://4-h-canada.ca/sites/default/files/4-h_brand_guideline_en.pdf. The online logo for use in a computer generated poster can be found at <http://4-hcanada.ca/brand-app>. It is not necessary for participating members to preregister.

Due to COVID-19 all 4-H activities in Nova Scotia have been suspended until April 15th, 2020, when the situation can be reassessed. Members are encouraged to keep working on their speeches and demonstrations at home, as well as working on any of their project work that can be done at home. Livestock members are advised to continue to ensure that their animals are cared for. The 2020 Atlantic Intermediate Conference has been postponed to April 24th-26th, 2020 rather than the planned dates of March 27th-29th, 2020.

For more information on changes due to the Coronavirus you can go to <https://4hnovascotia.ca/covid-19-updates/>

Marion Porter is reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

Sportfishing Season is on Hold

Anglers have been waiting all winter for April 1, when they would be permitted to cast their lines. The season normally begins on April 1, however with the current state of emergency around COVID-19, Nova Scotians are encouraged to stay at home. The opening of the season has been postponed until at least May 1.

"Nova Scotians love to fish, however this delay is consistent with closure of parks,

beaches and other activities where people gather," said Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Keith Colwell. "Some Nova Scotians have already purchased 2020 sportfishing licenses and I want them to know those licenses will be valid once the season opens."

Learn to Fish activities have been cancelled this year and no permits will be issued to host trout derbies.



4-H Club Congratulates Lisa Patton

By Marion Porter

We congratulate Lisa Patton of the Truro-North River 4-H Club on being awarded the National Volunteer of the Year Award. She received this award on February 10, 2020, at the 4-H Canada Leadership Awards at the National Art Center in Ottawa. Lisa Patton has been the leader of the Truro-North River Club for over 15 years.

Each year 4-H Nova Scotia holds a fundraiser called the chocolate bar campaign. The fundraiser belongs to the province but each county gets a portion of the money raised. Each member gets a box of chocolate bars to sell. Generally, one for each member, but usually not more than 2 per family. This way a family with many members does not have to sell too many chocolate bars. The members pay for the boxes and so get to keep the money made selling the chocolates. If a member family wishes not to sell chocolate bars that is an option, but they

still must pay to cover the money the box would have made. The Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club will hold a meeting on March 1st, 2020 to give out the boxes of chocolates. The boxes will arrive at the Lower Onslow Community Centre at around 6:00 P.M. so pickup will be any time shortly afterward.

The 2020 Atlantic Intermediate Members Conference will be held from March 27-29, 2020 at the Debert Hospitality Centre and the Debert Diefenbunker site. The theme this year is "From the Bunker to the World." 85 4-H members aged 12-15 from all over Atlantic Canada will be there. There will be laser tag, an escape room, a tour of the declassified nuclear facility- the Debert Diefenbunker, and presentations to inspire, cultivate, and entertain. The 2020 Atlantic Intermediate Members Conference is sponsored by Kubota.

Marion Porter is reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

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