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Publications Mail™
#40048924 - VOL. 25 NO. 4



APRIL 2021

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS April 2021

SINCEREST APOLOGY is extended to all readers for a mistake in the last issue. In the last issue we published a story headlined "Paralyzed by Pain...". Unfortunately after publication we discovered, the article was SCAM. We have changed the relevant pages on the website stating, "Please Ignore, discovered as SCAM". We apologize to readers, and promise to be more careful in the future.

Exhibitions cancelled for 2021. The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE) will not happen again in 2021. The Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia (EANS) has made the decision to not host traditional exhibitions and fairs for the 2021 season. EANS statement said their collective decision does not preclude Exhibitions and Fairs from hosting smaller events that meet all public health requirements. Each year over 1,200 dedicated volunteers who make Exhibitions and Fairs possible give at least 15,000 hours of time each year.

The man who offered two teens a ride in Springhill on March 2 has been identified and it was determined that there was no criminality.

Nova Scotia's Approach to Setting Minimum Wage will be reviewed in the coming months. On January 26, government accepted the committee's recommendation to increase the rate for minimum wage earners to \$12.95 an hour. The new rate increase takes effect on April 1. The Minimum Wage Review Committee, which includes employee and employer representatives, filed its report with the minister of Labour and Advanced Education on January 4. For a copy of the Nova Scotia Minimum Wage Review Committee report, visit: <https://novascotia.ca/lae/pubs>

Enfield District RCMP have charged a Maitland man after he assaulted two women at a home. On February 25 at approximately 5 a.m., Enfield District RCMP members responded to a complaint of an assault with a weapon at a home on Cedar Rd. in Maitland. The investigation determined a 29-year-old man had assaulted two persons. One person suffered serious injuries and was transported to hospital by EHS. The other person did not have physical injuries. The suspect was arrested on scene without incident. Robert Frederick MacKenzie has been charged with the following offences: Aggravated Assault, Assault with a Weapon, Assault, Unlawful Confinement and Uttering Threats. MacKenzie was brought before a judge and released on strict conditions, including: remain within 25 meters of his residence (Onslow); Must not be in the community of Maitland; Must not use, possess or consume alcoholic beverages and must not use or possess firearms. MacKenzie is scheduled to appear in Shubenacadie Provincial Court on April 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

First United Church will hold a gigantic yard sale in Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 1st from 9am - 12 Noon. Covid-19 protocols in place. Please wear a mask.

\$7-Million Relief Program Announced

Early in March the provincial government announced a \$7 million rebate program to help the service sector weather the impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns. The Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program provides qualified businesses a one-time rebate of a portion of their paid property taxes.

Qualified businesses can

choose a rebate of \$1,000 or 50 per cent of the commercial real property taxes paid for the final six months of the 2020-21 tax year. Nearly 3,300 businesses are eligible, including dine-in restaurants and drinking establishments; gym and fitness establishments; hair salons and barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments.

Colchester Noise By-Law "Muted"

By Maurice Rees

The agony of Colchester developing a noise by-law suffered a serious setback at the February meeting of council when the draft of the proposed legislation was presented by staff. After lengthy and vibrant discussion, the proposed by-law was muted, when council refused to pass

first reading.

Councillors had a variety of opinions and concerns concerning what was being proposed in Devin Trefry's explanation to council. As part of his presentation, Mr. Trefry indicated Council had previously directed staff to draft a noise by-law as well as a fireworks by-law for considera-

tion. Complaints from some residents about various occurrences of "fireworks" last summer raised the matter for consideration along with noise by-law.

On February 11th, at council's committee meeting a draft noise by-law was presented and reviewed in detail. Trefry's explanation indicated

staff felt the issue of fireworks could be addressed within the draft noise by-law. The draft by-law as presented by staff was largely derived from the Noise By-law of Cumberland County; vetted through the RCMP and the Municipal Solicitor. There were two main issues from discussions on February 11th: permitting for fireworks; and grandfathering of existing businesses.

Major concerns included unintentional consequences; grandfathering of existing businesses; community or individual fireworks were included when many councillors felt they were different matters and a variety of other concerns.

After lengthy vibrant discussion, a motion from Deputy Mayor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Johnson "That First Reading of the Noise By-law not be approved." The motion was carried with Councillor Boutillier opposed as the first reading was not approved sub-

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The province of Nova Scotia will invest \$700,000 to equip schools with AED's. Presently over 1300 AEDs are registered in Nova Scotia. See story on page 2. (Image courtesy manufacturer KGBcort)

Anniversary Memorial Race - April 18TH

By Maurice Rees

The Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society, incorporated in Fall 2020, will hold a Memorial Race on April 18th. During the past year the group has developed an aggressive plan to honour its commitment of providing ongoing support to the communities of West Colchester affected by the tragedy that took place in April of 2020.

Committee Chair: Megan Netzke and Board Chair: Tiffany Ward have worked hard and make many presentations to various stakeholders, includ-

ing Colchester Council to explain their short and long-term plans.

Their most immediate event is the first annual Nova Scotia Remembers Anniversary Race to be held on April 18th. The race is expected to attract 500-750 with 4 Start Lines. Covid Protocols will be in place. With assistance from Bluenose Marathon/Valley Harvest it is anticipated there will be 1000-1500 virtual participants.

The April 18th event will include: Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Race -

Marathon, Half-Marathon, 10k & 5k; Nova Scotia Remembers Commemorative Walk and Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Ceremony. Colchester Council approved a \$5,000 injection toward the cost of the Memorial Race.

A Nova Scotia Remembers power point presentation indicates as a fundraiser the race will generate \$75-\$90,000 in 2021. Other sources of funding is listed at Nova Scotia Remembers Contribution, Corporate & Private Donors and Government partners.

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Taggart will focus on "The Biodiversity Act"

By Maurice Rees

Colchester County Councillor Tom Taggart will focus on "The Biodiversity Act" as he feels it is a new and emerging threat to the rural communities he represents as District 10 Colchester Councillor a position he has held since 2008. By focusing on the Biodiversity Act, Taggart has withdrawn from race to become the Cumberland-Colchester Conservative in the next federal

election.

"For the last 12 years, I have passionately defended rural Nova Scotia on County Council," says Taggart. "Our rural way of life has been under threat by governments at both the Provincial and Federal level. I honestly believe the biggest threat facing rural Nova Scotia right now is the recently announced 'Biodiversity Act'.

In withdrawing from the

Conservative party candidate race, Taggart will be throwing his support behind Dr. Stephen Ellis leaving two announced candidates for the position to upset Lenore Zann who won the seat for the Liberals when long servinging MP, Bill Casey did not reoffer.

Taggart points out that slowly, but surely, government policy, regulation and oversight have eroded away what

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Northern Pulp Wastewater coming to Colchester

By Maurice Rees

At the March 11th committee meeting council Michelle Newell's Public Works directors report included a mention that even though the mill has been closed for over a year Northern Pulp continues to haul wastewater to the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The wastewater comes from their sewage lagoon, pulp mill and leachate from pulpwood storage. On question from councillor Taggart as to the level of compensation to the municipality Newell replied that in summer 2020 it amounted to approximately \$40,000 per month.

Their permit has been extended to December 31, 2021 with compensation amounting to approximately \$70,000/month which is derived from three truckloads per day. The wastewater is off-loaded into a holding tank then added gradually into the system. Department of Environment regulate the volume which can be added to the wastewater treatment plant on daily basis.

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