

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## Burn Restrictions

Burn restrictions come into effect on March 15. The BurnSafe map will be updated each day at 2 p.m. to show if burning is permitted that day: if a county is shown in green, burning is permitted after 2 p.m.; if it is shown in yellow, burning is permitted after 7 p.m.; if it is shown in red, burning is not permitted that day and the map will appear grey each day between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. to indicate burning is not permitted.

The BurnSafe map shows provincial restrictions, which cover domestic brush burning and campfires. Restrictions do not apply to campfires in licensed private, municipal or provincial campgrounds with proper campfire facilities.

## TNS New Corporate Website is Live

Tourism Nova Scotia has a new corporate website where you can find research, tools, and advice to help tourism businesses revive and thrive. The website, tourismns.ca, is the go-to source for tourism industry information in Nova Scotia. The site offers the latest research, resources, and webinars, as well as information about our strategy, plans, and programs.

The new corporate website is live at <https://tourismns.ca> and features: A fresh design and new menu structure to make it easier for people to find what they are looking for. A new homepage that highlights the latest news, program opportunities, events, and career opportunities.

Tourism performance graphs will no longer be featured on the front page. Instead, there will be a notice on the front page when new statistics are available with links to the full reports. A section with resources to help start or grow your business, including toolkits, guides, and webinars.

COVID-19 updates and resources accessible by clicking the alert bar at the top of any page on the site. This information includes a COVID-19 Business Supports and Fact Sheet that provides an overview of the programs and resources that are currently available for tourism businesses.

## Ongoing search for photos, videos, articles

The Terry Fox Foundation has an ongoing search for photos, videos, and articles about Terry Fox and The Marathon of Hope. Planning is well underway for the 2021 Terry Fox Run and are searching for new information about Terry's journey and the legacy that has since followed. The Terry Fox Foundation has only 50 employees across Canada, with three in Nova Scotia. Anyone who has information in their personal archives and wish to submit, should contact: Ashley Blenkhorn, Development & Events Coordinator, The Terry Fox Foundation – NS at: [ashley.blenkorn@terryfoxrun.org](mailto:ashley.blenkorn@terryfoxrun.org)

## Supporting Foster Families

Full-time foster families will receive a one-time payment of \$5,000 under the Because You Care Foster Family initiative. The initiative is in recognition of the fact that foster families incur expenses for which they often do not submit a claim. Kelly Regan, Minister of Community Services also announced on March 18 the government is committed to redesigning the province's foster care system to better support both children in care and foster families.

Part of reforming foster care includes the recruitment of nearly 500 more full-time foster families. Recognizing that changing the system will take time, and in recognition that these new families will incur similar costs, government will provide the one-time funding to approved new families until the goal of 1,000 full-time foster families is reached. Nova Scotia has approximately 520 full-time foster parents. There are approximately 1,000 children in care at any given time in the province.

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## News from our Federal Capital Continued from page 5

Background information provided with the announcement of the bill stated: In 2014, as an NDP Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, Ms. Zann introduced Bill 111, An Act to Address Environmental Racism. It did not pass, but at the time it was touted as the first such bill in North America.

Environmental racism is a concept in the environmental justice movement, which developed in the United States throughout the 1970s and 1980s. It generally refers to the way in which minority individuals, groups or communities (e.g., visible minorities, members of low socioeconomic groups) bear a disproportionate burden of adverse health and environmental impacts from environmental pollution (e.g., toxic waste landfills, polluted air).

The Bill, if passed, would create a new Act requiring the Minister of the Environment to develop (within two years of the Act coming into force) a national strategy to redress the harm caused by environmental racism, in consultation with provincial and municipal governments and Indigenous and other affected communi-

nities, persons and bodies. It also requires the Minister to report (every five years thereafter) on the effectiveness of the strategy.

The Bill outlines measures to be included in a national strategy, such as measures to: examine the link between race, socio-economic status and environmental risk; collect information and statistics relating to the location of environmental hazards; collect information and statistics relating to negative health outcomes in communities that have been affected by environmental racism; and assess the administration and enforcement of environmental laws in each province. The Bill would require the Minister of the Environment to table a report setting out the national strategy in the House of Commons and the Senate within two years of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.

Elizabeth May, as Green Party House Leader, supported the proponent by seconding the bill when tabled in the House of Com-

**Lenore Zann is Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester**

## Cumberland County Council Concerned about Bio-diversity

By Maurice Rees

Public outrage about the introduction of the Bio-Diversity act has spilled over to Cumberland Council, who held a special public meeting on March 24th with a presentation by two representatives from the grassroots organization, Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee.

Following the presentation by CFAC's Jeff Black and Steven MacLellan, council discussed the matter, and it was decided that a letter should be sent to the Province of NS to Premier Iain Rankin and Lands and Forestry Minister, Chuck Porter, requesting further public and industry engagement.

Council adopted a second motion asking Mayor Scott to attend Law Amendments Committee deliberations regarding Bill-4 on behalf of the municipality.

CFAC members stated in 2019 the government hired a firm to consult with groups. In summer 2020 consultations continued, but they were very controlled and by invitations only. However attendees had to sign confidentiality agreement making it impossible for them to report back to their organization or group. The slightly revised bill was introduced to the legislature on March 11th as Bill 4m but it was very similar to an earlier version entitled Bill 116. Black and MacLellan stated it was brought to floor without further consultation with groups.

During his presentation Steve MacLellan, CFAC said the Bio-Diversity Act is overreaching enabling the Minister or government to manage private owners land. He said the act with changes announced earlier this week, is intended only for crown land, but references private landowners could volunteer to have their property included. He said uit uis

y7understood the act still includes option for the minister or government to issue an Bio-diversity Order and take over management of the land.

Both CFAC representatives stated it is not just a forestry issue. It is maple syrup, every type of land, dairy and beef farmers, etc. All types of land. They further emphasized there is a lot of vagueness and does not explain how orders will be implemented and managed. They said changes were announced on Tuesday, March 23, but the way the act has been handled, "We don't trust them". They added at a whim Bio-diversity order could shut down ATV trails; close up Christmas Tree Farms, or decide the Tantamar Marsh should be changed from community pastures; take down dykes and convert to wetland.

CFAC reps indicated from discussions with various groups who had participated in the so-called consultative process revealed key points of the act were not explained in the same way to groups who were in separate meetings.

In speaking on the matter during council discussion, Councillor Joseph stated there are many petitions are being circulated throughout Cumberland opposing Bill 4. He also added he is concerned, because he also owns significant acreage, and is wor-

ried about the potential impact Bill 4 could had on his lands.

On the matter the act might result in possible closures of ATV and Snowmobile Trails would have a very negative impact on winter economic activity throughout the county. This past winter is a prime example: Because of Covid-19 snowmobiles were unable to travel to New Brunswick and Quebec. With an abundance of trails and lots of snow, thousands descended upon Cumberland. It amounts to thousands and thousands of snowmobiles coming into Cumberland County every winter. As a result of the increased activity it was impossible to find a hotel / motel room in Cumberland on the weekend.

Residents interested in learning about the act may read the proposed Act by visiting: [https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd\\_3rd/1st\\_recd/b004.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd_3rd/1st_recd/b004.htm)

The final matter during the March 24th special meeting the Nomination Committee nominated Councillor Houghtaling to sit as a member of an ad hoc committee that will create a Terms of Reference for a proposed Joint Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee.

The next public council meeting will be April 7, 2021 at 6 p.m. A committee of the whole meeting will be held April 14, 2021 at 6 p.m.