

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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Stable Funding to Child-Care Centres

Child-care providers across the province will receive additional financial supports as part of their annual funding agreement with the Province this year. Announced on February 18, the additional funding will offset the 25 per cent fee reductions for parents. It also includes a one-time grant to support the freeze on parent fees.

The new agreement will be offered to all child-care providers, including licensed centres that were previously unfunded or partially funded. By accepting the new agreement, centres will have access to the additional supports from the Province. The government's total investment in the one-time grant is \$1 million.

The fee reductions have led to increased interest from families in child care, and the new agreement contains a commitment from operators to accept children where they can. To ensure voices in the sector are heard, the Province is creating a table to advise the Minister on the transformation of child care. More details will be released in the coming weeks.

As announced in January, through the Nova Scotia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, families in Nova Scotia will see a 25 per cent reduction, on average, in child-care fees as of April 1, 2022, retroactive to January 1, 2022, for children in regulated child-care spaces. This reduction means a savings, on average, of \$200 per month for parents with a toddler in child care. This is an initial step in reducing child-care fees for Nova Scotian families by 50 per cent, on average, by the end of 2022, and in achieving an average of \$10-a-day care by March 31, 2026.

Work continues on Nova Scotia's Excellence in Early Childhood Education workforce strategy, which will result in higher wages and benefits for early childhood educators by fall 2022.

The Government of Canada is making a transformative investment to build a Canada-wide early learning and child care system in partnership with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners; this includes a historic federal investment of \$605 million for Nova Scotia from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026, in addition to a one-time investment of about \$10.9 million in 2021-2022 to support Nova Scotia's early childhood workforce.

Nova Scotia invests \$132.6 million in early learning and child care annually, including \$54 million for pre-primary and over \$75 million for the child care sector. There are 330 licensed child-care centres in Nova Scotia and 14 licensed Family Home Child Care Agencies

More information about Nova Scotia's early learning and child-care system and the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: <https://www.childcarenovascotia.ca> More information about Excellence in Early Childhood Education: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/elcc>

Government Invests in Center of Excellence

The government is investing an additional \$3 million to support construction of the Jordantown-Acaciaville-Conway Betterment Association (JACBA) Center of Excellence. The centre will be a state-of-the-art facility promoting collaboration among community, education, and economic institutions within Digby and the surrounding area. It will include a community room, gymnasium, stage, fitness room, library, meeting room, seniors' area, and rental space. In November 2018, the federal, provincial, and municipal governments announced funding toward the centre totalling more than \$5.5 million. However, due to changes in building code requirements and project delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional \$3 million is required. The total cost of the JACBA Center of Excellence is about \$9 million.

Province Invests in Planning Studies

Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Lohr has designated nine special planning areas in Halifax Regional Municipality for as many as 22,600 new residential units. The designation allows the Minister to assume authority for development approvals in those areas as outlined in the Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality Act.

No similar plan to ease housing shortages for areas outside HRM have been indicated.

Government Approves Writeoffs

The Province is writing off \$15.8 million in debts considered uncollectable as of March 31, 2022. None of the 2021-22 writeoffs are related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of them are uncollectable ambulance fees and Pharmacare premiums at Health and Wellness, various unpaid fines at Justice, outstanding loan balances at Agriculture, and unpaid student loans at Advanced Education.

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Ship's Company 2022 Season Features

Awokun/Parrsboro, Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia

Ship's has been an artistic hub of activity since 1984 and in this 38th season of our summer festival, we are proud to be a place on this beautiful Fundy Shore where community and culture connect! This summer season of 2022 we are proud to offer a safe indoor venue to watch summer theatre! We were lucky enough to welcome people into our building last summer with our jam-packed, physically-distanced season and we cannot wait to get you back in our seats this upcoming summer! Ship's Company Theatre's mission is to be a cultural leader and prime centre for the production and development of Canadian and Atlantic theatre. This season is no different as we share world premieres, emerging works, critically acclaimed touring shows, innovative pieces, and a concert series on top of all that!

Ship's Company Theatre has a long history of premiering new Atlantic Canadian works with stellar East Coast talent and this summer is no different. From July 27 - August 7, Ship's Company Theatre will present the world premiere of Dayboil by Sharon King-Campbell. Artistic Director, Richie Wilcox, says: "I love the script's small-town vibe and how it doesn't hold back on facing truths. I so clearly recognize these women in the show and connect to their stories." Dayboil examines the fragile and fraught relationship between two sisters, Kathy and Patricia, as they gather with Christine and Eunice for their weekly gossip over tea. But a shocking turn of events makes way for a day filled with stronger drinks as the gossip shifts inward and secrets of the sisters are revealed. Directed by Samanth Wilson, Ship's Company brings this rural drama to the stage with the premiere production of this award-winning script by Newfoundland playwright Sharon King-Campbell starring some top-notch talent: Stephanie MacDonald, Karen Bassett, Sharleen Kalayil, Riley McGill, Taylor Olson and Sherry Smith.

Ship's Company Theatre will also be presenting HEIST's The Princess Show on July 14 & 15. This Masterworks Award nominee has toured the country and is sure to spark joy for summer audiences. The Princess Show offers up a campy and visually stunning fantasy world for the audience where they can cheer Princess on in her quest to save her beloved Abel from The Beast.

In August, Ship's will play host to the Nes-tuita'si Storytelling production, Koqm. Koqm is a journey through time and land to experience the voices of fictional L'nu (Mi'kmaw) women. Throughout the course of this one-person show, shalan joudry plays multiple women who might have spoken and walked through one area of forest over centuries. Guided by the strength of an ancient tree (koqm), the women's voices share with us their personal stories of grief, humour and resiliency through a unique theatrical performance.

Thanks to Masstown Market, this summer

Ship's Company Theatre will be bringing back the Shipwright Sessions and, just like last year, it will be free and on Facebook! From published dramatic poetry to still-in-development musicals, the Shipwright Sessions give you the opportunity to hear excerpts of these works from the playwright themselves combined with an up-close look at the writer through mini-interviews led by Ship's artistic director Richie Wilcox. This season, the Shipwright Sessions will feature Santiago Guzman, Sharon King-Campbell and Jiv Parasram. In addition to this, Ship's will also bring back the Masstown Market Shipwright Residency where an Atlantic Canadian BIPOC artist is given time and space in Parrsboro to create/write/be inspired at the same time as getting to know the region. The residency also comes with dramaturgy, mentorship, and a workshop! Thank you to Masstown Market for joining with Ship's and sponsoring this important work.

Ship's Company Theatre will once again be presenting their music series which features top-notch Atlantic Canadian Talent. The music series opens the summer season with a special concert paying tribute to the great harmony bands such as Fleetwood Mac, Mama's & The Papa's and Simon & Garfunkel. On July 9 and 10, Ship's will showcase the award-winning family band trio The Gilberts in Harmonious. The next instalment of the music series features Ship's favorite Fiddles & Feet taking over our venue for a weekend with their vibrant energy from July 22-24. The music series is rounded out by a special presentation of the Kitbag Theatre production The Songs of Johnny & June. This tribute to Johnny Cash and June Carter featuring a five-piece band with leads Jacob Hemphill and Melissa MacKenzie is not to be missed! This tribute plays for two shows only from September 3-4.

Our season also features plenty for families and youth including weekend drama camps and a week of pay-what-you-can performances of all-ages puppet plays as Ship's brings North Barn Theatre's The Gorgon's Tale to parks in our community and neighbouring towns as part of our Picnic Play Series. In September, Ship's presents Legacy Circus: The World at Our Feet. In this contemporary circus story, Erin Ball and Vanessa Furlong of Legacy Circus discover how full life is when you have so many different feet to choose from! The World at our Feet is a contemporary circus story featuring aerial wheelchairs, circus prosthesis, stilts, trapeze, silks and more! Legacy Circus will leave you questioning everything you thought you knew about storytelling and circus.

Ship's Company Theatre is grateful to acknowledge their funding bodies: The Canada Council for the Arts, Arts Nova Scotia, Canadian Heritage, and the Municipality of Cumberland along with their sponsors O'Regan's, BrokerLink, RBC, Masstown Market, Riverview Cottages, Sunshine Inn, Pye Chevrolet, Atlantic Kia, Autumn Harrison - Royal LePage Cumberland Realty, Long & McQuade, e-Open.

The rotation of the Earth really makes my day. Then again, one of our cows didn't produce milk today. It was an udder failure.

SCOTIA POOL

Check out the Facebook page for Scotia Pool to learn about programs for Spring and Summer. Also if you would like to make a donation to support the pool, Scotia Pool can issue a receipt for tax purposes. Scotia Pool has set up at the Enviro Depot so that you can donate proceeds from your returnables to Scotia Pool.

For more information check Facebook or email: scotiapool@gmail.com

STEP INTO SPRING

The Municipality of Colchester's Recreation services offers the Step Into Spring Program from March 26 to May 20th. It is a simple walking program to boost your current physical activity level and motivate you to get moving. Registration is now open. For more information visit www.colchester.ca/spring. You can also reach out to recreation@colchester.ca

Congratulations to Bible Hill Recreation services for a very successful March Break program.



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