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Publications Mail™
#40048924 - VOL. 27 NO. 4



APRIL 2023

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

April 2023

A **FREE concert** featuring Sean McCann (formerly of Great Big Sea) and 2 others at Economy Rec Centre starting at 7 pm, March 29th. Tickets are free by calling Debert office 641-2225. Geopark had received ReOpening monies from Canada Heritage a long time ago, and learned recently the events held as a result of the funding must be held prior to March 31st. The GeoPark committee are also doing a Scavenger Hunt and talk about tides at Discovery Site and free skates at Debert rink and a few at Parrsboro rink as well.

The **Economy Rec Centre** is holding two fundraisers to pay heating costs. April 15th they will organize a Rubber Ducky Race with over 20 prizes donated from different businesses in the Colchester area. Ducks are \$15. On April 22 it will be a comedy night featuring 3 comedians featuring Cathy Jones from "This Hour Has 22 Minutes. Tickets will be \$30 each. See story elsewhere in this issue. Also check listings in Hollis Ford Community Calendar on page 14 and advertisement on page 10.

Annual Masstown Cemetery Meeting will be held in Masstown Church basement on April 17th 6:00pm.

April 18: Holocaust Remembrance Service at Veterans Memorial Park, Bass River will commence at 7:30 p.m. This date is also the anniversary of the mass shooting. The Park will be lit as in previous years to commemorate this tragic event.

May 5, 11, 12: GET YOUR TICKETS!!! - Village Follies Dinner Theatre in support of Debert Legion Branch 106, 1252 Masstown Rd. Limited tickets remain for 7:00 PM on May 5th, 11th and 12th, and a matinee at 4:00 PM on May 7th. Tickets are \$40, and includes a delicious three course meal of salad, entrée of roast chicken, and dessert. Also included are rolls tea or coffee, and lots of laughs. Order tickets by emailing thevillagefollies@gmail.com or phoning 902-953-1121.

May 28: International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers service at Veterans Memorial Park, Bass River. The Parade of Motorcycles will take place between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. The Ceremony will commence at 11:00 a.m.

\$10,000 Support for Volunteer Fire Departments

Volunteer fire departments, ground search and rescue organizations, and First Nations fire departments will get help to address the impacts of rising operational costs. The Province is investing almost \$3.5 million to provide one-time grants to more than 340 organizations. Each group will receive \$10,000.

"Whether it's opening a comfort centre or helping vulnerable Nova Scotians access safety during a storm, volunteer fire departments and ground search and rescue crews are quick to respond when emergencies happen,"

said Dave Ritcey, MLA for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River, on behalf of Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Lohr. "We know these groups are great at raising money in their communities, but their efforts can't keep pace with rising costs and demand for their services. We hope this will help to bridge the gap."

Grant recipients can determine how they will use the grant to best meet the needs of the organization, its volunteers or the wider community. This could include upgrades to equipment or facilities, sup-

port for training, smoke alarm campaigns, fire prevention education or honorariums to assist firefighters with increased costs.

"This is great news for Colchester's 17 volunteer fire brigades and ground search and rescue. Some brigades are very small, and these funds will be most helpful. I have a great deal of respect for the many volunteers involved, the amazing commitment to their communities and the hard work and training they do. I thank all the families and employers who support them and the provincial govern-

ment for recognizing them in this way.", Christine Blair, Mayor, Municipality of Colchester.

"This will help departments with the ongoing and rising costs of firefighting equipment and operational requirements. Departments are hyper aware of the need and necessity of maintaining required safety standards. The additional funding will aid in this process.", Joey Bisson, Chief, Bible Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade

Organizations will not have to apply for the grant. Funds will go directly to the organizations. Groups will receive the funding in March.



With two sold out performances and one intimate acoustic event for front line workers, Brett Kissel gave a lot of people a few hours of complete joy after what has been a trying three years. The FREE live concerts on March 24th and 25th, were celebrating the 10th anniversary of the RECC while also commemorating the efforts of front-line workers & residents alike. Brett was joined onstage by special guest Heather Rankin for three songs much to the delight of the audience. Saturday's night concert was broadcast live on Eastlink TV. (Harrington photo)

RCMP Charge Man with Fraud & Theft

Colchester County District RCMP has charged a man with Fraud and Theft after two reports of scams. On December 12, 2022, Colchester County District RCMP received a report of a man having been scammed by a 57-year-old Valley man. RCMP officers learned that the victim had paid the suspect over \$5,000 for a vehicle that did not exist. The suspect then ceased communication with the victim.

On February 21, 2023, while the first investigation was ongoing, a second victim reported to Colchester County District RCMP that the same suspect had agreed to restore the victim's vehicle. The victim paid the suspect approximately \$6,000, and when arrangements were made for the victim to pick up their vehicle, the suspect ceased communication.

On March 11, 2023, RCMP officers safely arrested the suspect at a home in Valley. During the arrest, RCMP officers located and seized evidence from the suspect's person. Kevin Buchanan, 57, of Valley, has been charged with Fraud over \$5,000 (2 counts) and Theft of a Motor Vehicle. Buchanan was released on conditions by a Justice of the Peace and will appear in Truro Provincial Court on May 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Investigators believe that there may be other victims throughout Atlantic Canada and are advising anyone who may have been victimized to contact their local police or RCMP Detachment. The RCMP would also like to remind the public to never send anyone money before you have seen the product you are looking to purchase in person.

Director's Report – Battery Collection & Green Cart

By Phillip Redden B. Sc. F.E.

The following is the Battery Collection & Green Cart portion of the report to council committee on March 16th by Phillip Redden B. Sc. F.E., Director of Solid Waste on Materials Recovery Facility, Kemptown. (We divided Redden's report into several separate articles).

Municipality of the County of Colchester Battery Collection Program: There are over 20 locations that contribute to the County's battery collection program which has been in place since 2011. Weekly/bi-weekly/monthly visits are made to collect when needed, resulting in the

totals shown below. The total collected for 2023 to date is 2794 kg; 1730 kg collected in January and 1064 kg in February.

The batteries collected through this program are picked up by GFL out of New Brunswick and are sent to a GFL facility in Hamilton to further sort/prepare them for recycling. They are processed through the Call2Recycle program where material can be recovered and used in the making of new products such as silverware, pots, pans and new batteries.

continued on page 3

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