

Mystery book: Hung Out to Die!

Nova Scotia has a new crime fighter. Riel Brava, CEO of the Canadian Cannabis Corporation, just wants to be left alone to do his job. He also wants to run for president of the United States one day. He has a plan. Murder just keeps getting in his way. It isn't easy being a psychopath.

Hung Out to Die, a new mystery from Nova Scotia author donalee Moulton, just wants to be left alone to do his job. She reluctantly solves his first crime - and eats his first donair. It's a whole new world.

"Setting this book in my home province and Canada's

East Coast felt right," says Moulton. "I'm eager to introduce readers to our way of life and our way of living. And I'm keen to introduce them to Riel, who is unique in his own right."

In the novel, Riel finds his world hanging by a thread. It doesn't take the police long to determine that all is not as it appears - and that includes Riel himself. Pulled into a world not of his making, Riel resists the hunt to catch a killer. Resistance is futile though.

Detective Lin Raynes draws the reluctant CEO into the investigation, and the seeds of an unexpected and unusual friendship are sown. They concoct a scheme to draw a confession out of the killer, but that plan is never put into place. Instead, Riel finds himself on the butt end of a rifle in the ribs and a long drive to the middle of Nowhere, Nova Scotia.

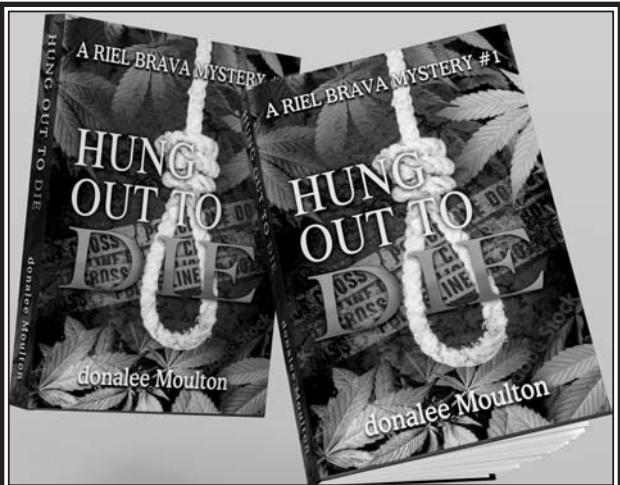
Moulton was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she lives to this day. Learn more about donalee, her other books, poetry, published articles, and short stories on her website <https://donaleemoulton.com>. (Contributed)



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With a mom from Prince Edward Island and dad from Newfoundland, her East Coast roots run deep.

Learn more about donalee Moulton, her other books, poetry, published articles, and short stories on her website at <https://donaleemoulton.com>.



Hung Out to Die, a new mystery from Nova Scotia author donalee Moulton is being shipped. (Contributed)

News from our Provincial Council

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Municipal Affairs and Housing saw the second largest budget increase predominantly focused around housing. I know I am repeating myself from other articles, but I have been trying for years while in Municipal Government to encourage developers to build outside the urban core with little success. Since getting elected, I have been attempting to get some surplus Provincial land in the Debert Onslow area set aside with the intent of incentivizing development there. It is a very slow process!

I do wish to comment that even though it is not in West Colchester, we were successful in securing 1.2 million for a shovel ready private housing development in Tatamagouche.

My final comment on the budget will be on Public Works. The Public Works budget contains 36 million for local gravel roads. We all know that we would love to have more but I do wish to note at that it is an increase of 25 million or approx. 70% since we formed government. For those that may wish for more budget information please Google - Nova Scotia Budget 2023-2024, there are lots of details.

So we have been in the Legislature this past week and I expect for the next five weeks as we debate the budget and pass new legislation. There are 2 different Health Care Bills I wish to highlight. One bill will make changes which after consultation with the appropriate credentialing college will allow and streamline accrediting of nurses and Doctors from outside of Nova Scotia and in many cases outside Canada. We are working hard to create additional seats for Nurses and Doctors in Nova Scotia however it takes time to fully train and this will help fill the short term gap. Secondly in Health Care, Legislation has been introduced to reduce the amount of time doctors spend on paper work. Things such as reducing the numbers of forms other Government agencies such as WCB require to Doc's fill out. Reducing the requirement for Doctors to fill out sick forms for employees. It is expected this will eliminate 50,000 hours of Doctors paperwork annually.

The last piece of legislation I will speak of is the Off Highway Vehicle act. This legislation will allow recognized ATV clubs to apply to permit ATV to travel along the side of designated pub-

lic roads to access services such as food and gas in rural communities across Nova Scotia. I want to clarify and stress, this DOES NOT give approval for each and every road only requested and approved designated roads. I view this a win for those rural businesses which will be able to take advantage of this fast growing recreational industry.

Enjoy your spring

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The Shoreline Tid-Bits

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\$191,000 for non-clinical support

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Colchester-East Hants will receive \$191,100 towards providing non-clinical support and intervention for individuals living with mental health concerns and those who care for them in a community-based setting. "This investment in community-based mental health will provide timely, hopeful interventions to individuals in mental health distress in the Colchester East Hants communities. Our goal for this pilot project is to increase the clinical supports offered at the community level so that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis can be supported in community, and when appropriate, to be referred to the formal system. With the present strain on the formal system, community organizations such as CMHA have seen greatly increased demands for supports and services. This funding will allow our organization to respond appropriately, increase the professional expertise of staff members and mobilize our community, reducing suicidal outcomes and increasing the well-being of our community members." - Susan Henderson, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association: Colchester-East Hants Branch.

Help Seniors Stay Healthy, Active

Older Nova Scotians will have more options to help them stay healthy, active and socially connected in their communities with an investment by the Province. Thirty-seven groups across Nova Scotia are receiving grants to help create age-friendly environments and promote healthy aging. The government is investing more than \$460,000 in these projects through the Age-Friendly Communities Grant program. This year's grants support a wide range of projects for seniors, including: physical and social activities; learning new hobbies and skills; improving digital and computer skills; helping overcome loneliness and becoming more socially connected and providing non-medical support to seniors in their homes or communities. Locally, grants were awarded to the following: **Municipality of the County of Colchester** - Recreation Services, Indoor Community Walking for Older Adults: the Municipality of Colchester is partnering with the community of Five Island to provide a safe welcoming environment for older adult residents to walk, \$3,750, Colchester; **North Shore Senior Citizens Association**, North Shore Older Adults Activities: recreation activities like ice skating, aqua-fit classes, and craft sessions, workshops on topics important to older adults including how to prepare Wills and Power-of-attorney documents, grief and palliative care, elder abuse, emergency preparedness and digital literacy. Social gatherings with food to bring seniors together, \$10,000, Colchester and **The CHART Society - Culture, Heritage & Art, (Maitland)** - Music is Magic! bringing some magic to the lives of seniors and older adults through music. This project will bring senior and older adult musicians to retirement residences, long-term care residences, local community halls and to individuals at home who may not be able to attend a community hall. The program will provide a weekly musical experience (listen, dance, move, play, sing, learn etc.) for participants, \$3,000, Colchester.

Improved Recreation Infrastructure for Colchester County

The Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club in Folly Lake is receiving \$150,000 for trail grooming equipment. "Folly Lake and the Wentworth Valley are some of the most beautiful areas in our province and this investment will attract more visitors to our area," said Colchester North MLA Tom Taggart. "I'm happy to see our government making this investment in our communities." Community groups, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations across Nova Scotia will receive \$14.5 million for 19 projects through the Recreational Facility Development Grant program. The snowmobile club was the only group approved in Cumberland and Colchester Counties. However the provincial organization, Nova Scotia Trails Federation will receive \$400,000 for trail repairs from Hurricane Fiona damage. The Recreational Facility Development Grant program helps community groups, municipalities and other not-for-profit organizations develop and improve facilities to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation.

Higher Potential Fines for Nova Scotia Power

Amendments to the Public Utilities Act will hold Nova Scotia Power more accountable for service delivery by increasing potential fines related to power outages and other performance standards. Changes to the act will increase the total amount in administrative penalties that can be levied against Nova Scotia Power in a year to \$25 million, up from \$1 million. Nova Scotia Power will pay any fines from its profits - ratepayers will not pay for these penalties. The proceeds from some penalties will go into a new fund to compensate customers who are most affected by the outages. The details of the new fund and how it will be managed will be outlined in future regulations.

Rent Cap Extended

Amendments to the Interim Residential Rental Increase Cap Act extend the cap and respond to concerns from tenants and landlords to December 31, 2025. The Province intends to set the cap at five per cent per year starting January 1, 2024. That amount will be set in regulations. The current cap of two per cent per year remains in place until December 31, 2023. The rent cap applies to residential tenants who are renewing their lease or those in a fixed-term lease who are signing another fixed-term lease for the same unit. It does not apply to new tenants signing new leases or rental increases for lot fees in land-lease communities such as mobile home parks, as they have their own processes for setting rental increase rates.

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