

Bridge this year?

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one of the large lumber trucks could go through the deck on any given day. Another fear local residents have expressed for several years is the speed of traffic to navigate the 90-degree turn in front of the Dominion Chair Factory Store.

Safety will be increased because westward traffic going down the shore toward Parrsboro (From Great Village) will encounter as stop sign before proceeding onto Maple Avenue which is being altered to accept traffic at approximately the mid-point of the gradual slope.

A large graphic of NSTIR / Public Works expectations is presented on the centrefold of this issue. The bridge and its approaches will veer to the right requiring relocation of the Logger's Demonstration Park. Where the park will be relocated is not finalized, but cordial, yet firm discussions are ongoing.

The iconic Veterans Memorial Park (VMP), which started in 2008 was the other group most affected. At times, the Board of Directors were fearful, with new bridge it would lose its entrance and entire parking lot and endangering some of the trees planted in honour of "those fallen". Cordial discussions and good communications would have

resulted in NSTIR and Public Works ensuring the park will not be overly affected. To ensure NSTIR and Public Works management promises are kept, there is speculation an engineer, whose job will be to ensure contractors working on the project do not encroach upon VMP and the promises made by management will be honoured.

The tender for the bridge construction closes on April 6th. With a NSTIR self-imposed deadline of completion before year's end construction is expected to start within week. A lot of the pre-construction has been ongoing during the past month. NS Power has been setting new poles to re-align electricity across the highway. When completed the power lines will be on the left side of the bridge for those motorists who are entering the village from Great Village.

A warning to all. For the months remaining in 2024, there will be traffic disruptions, dust, lots of noise, slow moving trucks and construction equipment all over the place. Keep your cool, smile as you think of the increased safety and driving across a new bridge.

Enjoy the warmer temperatures. Stay safe. Maurice

Two Recreation Facilities Receive \$100,000

MLA's Larry Harrison Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley and John A MacDonald, Hants East each announced funding for their constituencies under the Recreation Facility Development Grant Program

Harrison announced The Truro Alliance Church in Truro will receive \$65,000 for a community playground while MacDonald announced The Enfield, Elmsdale and District Lions Club in Enfield will receive \$35,000 for a new pickleball facility

The Houston government remains committed to collaborating with community partners to ensure Nova Sco-

tians have access to recreation services in their community with funding for recreation facilities that will increase public access to quality sport and recreation programming for community residents.

With investments from the Recreation Facility Development Grant Program, not-for-profit groups, Municipalities, and Mi'kmaq Band Councils will receive support as they develop, upgrade, or renovate recreation facilities. Through this program, local organizations will be able to increase access to sport and recreation programming in our communities.

Outdoor Learning Spaces Enrich Student Life

Accessible picnic tables for more than 40 schools across the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education are being installed as part of the \$1.2-Million federal and provincial funding for an expanded outdoor learning system. Schools across Nova Scotia are benefitting from new or enhanced outdoor learning spaces.

Over the past year more than 100 projects, from outdoor classrooms and gardens to picnic spaces and games areas, have been developed at schools across the province.

Positive outdoor experiences benefit students' mental, emotional and social development. Evidence also shows that when young people are outside, they are more likely to be physically active, which helps with individual growth, academic achievement, school con-

nectedness and sense of belonging.

Joint federal and provincial funding of \$1.2 million supported the projects, which include: an outdoor nature trail at Gaspereau Valley Elementary School, Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education; an outdoor classroom constructed of natural material at Oceanview Education Centre, Cape Breton Regional Centre for Education; ball play area and outdoor amphitheatre upgrades at Petite Riviere Elementary School, South Shore Regional Centre for Education; covered outdoor classroom with accessible walkway at Maple Grove Education Centre, Tri-County Regional Centre for Education and accessible picnic tables for more than 40 schools across the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education.



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