

Colchester's RCMP Dog Team



Colchester County based RCMP PDS team is comprised of Cpl. Fraser McInnis (right) and Jhett. (Contributed)

Nova Scotia's RCMP goes beyond what you see every day. The RCMP Police Dog Services was born in 1935. All of the RCMP Police Service dogs are pure breed German Shepherds. Every RCMP Police

Services Dog goes through a standardized puppy training program before it is paired with a handler.

Once paired with a handler the Police Service Dog and handler go through training to-

gether in Innisfail, Alberta before being deployed into the field. The Nova Scotia RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) consists of 8 teams strategically located across Nova Scotia.

Each team consists of a handler and a police service dog. RCMP police services dogs are specially trained in bomb detection or narcotic detection. Of the 8 teams in Nova Scotia 5 teams are bomb detection trained and 3 teams are drug detection trained.

PDS is called to assist detachments in the following situations: Missing persons investigations and Tracking suspects who have fled on foot; Barricaded persons; Evidence searches; High risk files involving offenders known to attempt to escape.

PDS also assists other units within the RCMP: The Critical Incident Team during emergency response calls or high-risk warrant execution; The VIP unit to assist with preventative sweeps for high-level visits and Ground Search and Rescue.

Province Conducting Policing Review

One of the Mass Casualty Commission Recommendations was the province conduct a comprehensive review of the policing structure in Nova Scotia and potentially recommend changes for how policing services are delivered.

"We are committed to making our communities safer, and a big part of that work is ensuring our policing services are effective, efficient and structured in a way that best serves Nova Scotians," said Attorney General and Justice Minister Brad Johns. "I'm pleased that this important work will include a committee of people representing the diversity of our communities, ensuring that local voices are reflected in this review."

A request for proposals for an external consultant to conduct the comprehensive, technical review of policing was issued September 29, 2023.

The selected consultant will work closely with a police review advisory committee, which will include people from equity-deserving groups, the provincial government, police agencies, subject matter experts and diverse community representatives.

The committee is chaired by Clare MacLellan, retired Nova Scotia Supreme Court justice, and Hayley Crichton, Executive Director of Public Safety and Security with the Department of Justice. Letters have been sent to policing agencies and community organizations seeking nominations for committee members. Other police review advisory committee members will be announced at a later date.

Quick Facts: There are currently 11 police agencies in Nova Scotia - 10 municipal police agencies and the RCMP serving as the provincial police agency - with almost 2,000 police officer positions; the final report of the Mass Casualty Commission recommended a multi-sectoral

council be established to review the structure of policing in Nova Scotia and make recommendations that can be implemented before the 2022 expiration of the Provincial Police Services Agreement and the review is expected to be completed by 2025

Additional Resources:
Request for proposal: <https://procurement-portal.novascotia.ca/tenders/Doc1647262593>
Turning the Tide Together - Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission: <https://masscasualty-commission.ca/final-report/>
Directory of police agencies in Nova Scotia: https://novascotia.ca/just/policing_services/agencies.asp

Get to Know Your Mounties

Cpl. Derek Bjorklund moved to Colchester County in August of 2020 with his wife and two children and has been serving in Colchester County since. Derek joined the RCMP in 2007 and began his career in Northern Manitoba in General Duties, where he served until 2012. Derek then spent the next eight years in the Arctic in Nunavut where he worked with and led the Major Crime Unit and Containment Team.

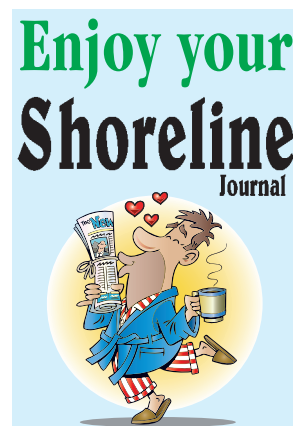
Derek is actively involved with youth sports within Colchester County. Derek volunteers his time coaching a local U9 hockey team and hosts numerous skates and skill sessions with local youths. Derek also organizes




Cpl. Derek Bjorklund moved to Colchester County in August of 2020 with his wife and two children. (Contributed)

"snow day skates" where he takes local youth to the rink when school is cancelled in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles, team cohesiveness, self-development and having fun. Derek is a fixture within the rinks in the winter and the soccer fields in the summer, coaching and leading numerous children who are excited to see him!

Derek brings various investigational and tactical experiences to Colchester County and will begin a new role as the Community Action Team supervisor in the coming months. Derek looks forward to keeping involved with the youth and promoting a healthy relationship within the schools and sports com-





Colchester
be centred here.

Maintenance
Budget Meeting. Tuesday, April 9 @ 6pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, Apr 11 @ 6pm

Additions & Deletions Budget Meeting
Tuesday, Apr 16 @ 6pm

Additions & Deletions Budget Meeting
Monday, Apr 22 @ 6pm

Council Committee Meeting
Thursday, Apr 25 @ 6pm

Municipality of Colchester, 1 Church Street, Truro
902-897-3184 | Colchester.ca

Colchester RCMP – January in Review

The following report was presented to Colchester Municipal Council's Committee meeting on March 14th. Colchester County District RCMP responded to 531 calls for service during the month of January

News Stories:

202442560 - Colchester County RCMP responded to a report from a female driver who was threatened by her ex boyfriend to stab and hit her. The male was grabbing for her phone and she went off the road. The male was arrested and charged with uttering threats.

202488450 - Colchester County RCMP respond to a 911 domestic dispute. A female caller reports her boyfriend was breaking her things. The intoxicated boyfriend secured a firearm and ran into the woods. The RCMP Emergency Response Team, Police Service Dog and several on duty members were deployed. The male was not located in the first instance however was arrested 3 days later. He faces 3 criminal code charges including

careless use of a firearm.

2024101930 - Colchester County RCMP were conducting surveillance for suspected drug trafficking at a residence. A stolen vehicle was identified on the property. The RCMP police service dog and regular members attended and arrested 4 males. Unsecure firearms were located on scene which led to a general search warrant of the residence. Suspected drugs and drug paraphilia were located as a result of the warrant. 11 Criminal Code charges have been laid in this matter.

202477793 - Colchester County RCMP received a complaint of a possible impaired driver which had pulled into a local MacDonald's. After a quick response the suspect vehicle was located at another near by business. The suspect was identified and arrested for impaired driving. He is currently facing 1 impaired charge, 1 charge of illegally possessing liquor and 1 charge of operating without a valid inspection sticker.



2024454969 - Colchester County RCMP received a complaint of sexual assault. The matter has been investigated. A male is currently charged with 1 count of sexual assault.

Safe Roadways:

Highways 102 and 104 continue to be very busy generating 78 calls for service in the month of December. Colchester RCMP investigated 7 impaired driving complaints, resulting in 4 Criminal Code charges. 6 complaints of driving while disqualified, resulting in 5 summary offence tickets being issued. 12 summary offence tickets were issued for speeding and 64 reports of motor vehicle collisions. 5 of which resulted in injury.

Tom TAGGART



Tom Taggart MLA Constituency Office
Location - 10653 HWY 2 Masstown, B0M 1G0
The building beside Masstown Petrocan
Contact Info - 902-641-2335
Email - tom.taggartmla@gmail.com
Hours - 8:30am - 3:30pm
Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in Parking Lot