

Truro & Colchester
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Sharon Corcoran to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

By **Sherry Patriquin-Martell**
Well-known business woman Sharon Corcoran will be recognized next month for her life-long commitment to building community through real estate and volunteerism in the Truro area.

Corcoran, broker and owner of RE/MAX Fairlane Re-

alty, will be presented with the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award on April 4, at the organization's Annual Dinner Gala and Awards in Truro.

"Sharon has an incomparable zest for life and a love for her community which shines



Sherry Martell

through, not only at her business, but also with the volunteer organizations she supports," said Sherry Patriquin-Martell, Chamber Exec-

utive Director. "She has been an inspiration to many business owners with her willingness to share experiences and knowledge."

Along with the Lifetime Achievement award, sponsored by Patterson Law, two additional prestigious awards will be presented at the Chamber's Dinner Gala and Awards. Developer, entrepreneur and community volunteer Arnold Hagen will be honoured with a Business Person of the Year award, sponsored by BDC, for his efforts to revitalize "Uptown Truro" by modernizing the former Truro Mall creating the new Hub Shopping Centre. Kerr Smart Energy has been selected as this year's recipient of the Business Excellence Award, sponsored by

Community Credit Union. Marking 75 years in operation in 2024, the business has evolved with changing consumer demands and recently constructed a new Distribution Center in Truro, doubling its pallet storage capacity.

Leah Nord, Senior Operations Director with the Canadian Home Builders' Association national branch, will be the guest speaker for the event. The Chamber Social will kick off the evening's festivities at 6 p.m. at the Best Western Glengarry followed by the gala dinner at 7 p.m.

Seats must be reserved in advance by March 26 and cost \$75 plus HST for members and \$125 plus HST for future members. To book a seat contact the Chamber at 902-893-6328, email ec@tcchamber.ca or reserve online at www.trurocolchesterchamber.com by clicking on the event's calendar.

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Annual Gala and Awards Dinner - April 4TH

The Truro Colchester Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Gala and Awards Dinner at 6:00 on April 4th at the Best Western Glengarry. We will celebrate

esteemed business people in our community including: Arnold Hagen, recipient of the 2024 Business Person of the Year Award, sponsored by BDC;

Kerr Smart Energy, recipient of the 2024 Business Excellence Award, sponsored by Community Credit Union of Colchester & Cumberland and Sharon Corcoran, recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Patterson Law.

Tickets are: Members Ticket Price \$75.00 (+hst); Non Members Ticket Price \$125.00 (+hst). For inquiries, reach out to Rebecca at (902) 895-6328 or email ec@tcchamber.ca

Leah Nord, Senior Director of Operations for the Canadian Home Builders As-

sociation will be guest speaker. Ms. Nord will share invaluable insights regarding the Housing Market, enriching our gathering with her expertise.

Sponsors and suppers of the Annual Gala and Awards Dinner are: Royal Bank of Canada; RBC Dominion Securities; Payworks; Kohltech Windows and Entrance Systems; SunKissed Energy; CBDC NOBL; Invest NS; LIB-CAN Property & Restorations; Forestry Nova Scotia; Park n'Fly and Best Western Glengarry.

Legislation to Modernize Electricity System

New legislation introduced February 27 will modernize Nova Scotia's electricity system and enhance public utility regulation in the energy sector.

"We want Nova Scotia ratepayers to have clean, reliable and affordable electricity. Bold changes are needed to our electricity system to do that," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "With this legislation, we're changing how the electricity system is structured and regulated. This will make it more accountable, transparent and competitive to make sure ratepayers get the lowest cost options and put the province in a better position as we move to clean energy."

The new Energy and Regulatory Boards Act will split the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board into two new boards. It will create the new Nova Scotia Energy Board with expertise in and a focus on regulating public utilities in the energy sector. The new Energy Board will be required to consider the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act in its decisions. The remaining responsibilities of the Utility and Review Board will stay with a restructured and renamed Regulatory and Appeals Board.

The new More Access to

Energy Act will create an Independent Energy System Operator to manage the operations of the electricity system, making sure electricity is delivered where and when it is needed. It will also manage the connection of renewable energy projects to the grid. These will no longer be functions of Nova Scotia Power.

The new independent, non-profit organization, managed by a CEO reporting to a board of directors, will also take on responsibilities for system planning and procuring new energy sources. This change will enhance transparency and accountability to Nova Scotians and the energy sector.

The Nova Scotia Energy Board is expected to be established this year, with the new Independent Energy System Operator fully operational by late 2025.

Also under the Public Utilities Act, the bill makes amendments to: remove a barrier to Nova Scotia Power owning a nuclear power generating station, allowing the utility to consider the use of small nuclear reactors in future and require all larger scale public utilities to conduct public procurements for increased transparency and accountability.

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

emption threshold by \$100 for all wage earners receiving income support through Community Services. This means that some clients receiving income assistance while working will be able to keep more of their monthly income.

Training allowances will also be treated as earned income under this new structure, creating an incentive for people to participate in career and job programs. The earned income updates require regulatory changes and will take effect this fall.

Fair Treatment of African Nova Scotians

A new comprehensive policy to guide Nova Scotia Crown attorneys in criminal prosecutions involving African Nova Scotians and people of African descent started on February 29. The Public Prosecution Service developed the policy - Fair Treatment of African Nova Scotians and People of African Descent in Criminal Prosecutions - largely in response to the overrepresentation of people from these communities in the criminal justice system.

The policy acknowledges the long history of Canadian slavery, dating back to 1713, its abolishment in 1833, and ongoing systemic anti-Black policies and practices, which resulted in significant socioeconomic inequalities that persist to this day.

It takes Crown attorneys through every step of a prosecution, beginning with pre-charge advice to police. When an accused person is identified as African Nova Scotian or a person of African descent, the Crown will review police disclosure for issues of racism and discrimination.

The 16-page policy is available at:

https://novascotia.ca/pps/crown_manual.asp

Mill Cove Ferry - Bedford to Downtown Halifax

People who live in and around the Halifax area will have a new, environmentally friendly, high-speed ferry service for travel between Bedford and downtown Halifax.

The Province, along with the federal government and Halifax Regional Municipality, announced on March 4, a joint investment to build the Mill Cove Ferry Service, which will include five electric ferries, two terminals and a maintenance facility.

The new ferry terminals will be net-zero - one at Mill Cove, and the other will replace the aging Halifax ferry terminal. A bridge will also be built over the CN rail line in Bedford to connect buses, cars, pedestrians and cyclists to the Mill Cove terminal. The Province will contribute \$65 million, the federal government is investing \$155.7 million and Halifax Regional Municipality will provide more than \$38 million.

Nova Scotia Launches Critical Minerals Strategy

A new critical minerals strategy for Nova Scotia will help advance the province's transition to net-zero emissions and grow the economy.

"Critical minerals are important for renewable energy, food production and healthcare," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "By tapping into our vast resources of critical minerals through this strategy, we can play a central role in the global transition to net-zero emissions by 2050 while creating a more resilient and prosperous economy for generations of Nova Scotians."

The strategy will support research and the development of a robust critical minerals industry that will create new job opportunities, attract investment, build value chains and drive sustainable economic growth. The strategy includes a list of 16 critical minerals that are found in Nova Scotia. They can help with climate change goals, are in global demand and present strategic opportunities for the Province.

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