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# The Shoreline Journal

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## Land-Use By-law Passes

By Maurice Rees

Following a public hearing at Colchester Council's monthly meeting on March 27th, council approved by way of Second Reading the Municipality of Colchester Municipal Planning Strategy and Land-Use By-law as presented, with Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson - District 2 in the chair for the public hearing.

Three written objections were received prior to the public meeting, and several people spoke against the by-law, mostly about the set-back for wind turbines, and several speakers very upset for council's closure of the water source in Lower Truro.

In a preamble to introduce the by-law documents, Paul Smith, Director Community Services said the following:

The Municipality of Colchester's proposed Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law will fulfill the Mu-

nicipality's obligations prescribed by the Province's Bill 58. The legislation mandates all municipalities in Nova Scotia adopt minimum planning requirements which must reflect Statements of Provincial Interest around drinking water, agricultural protection, infrastructure, flood risk and housing. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has set a deadline of March 31, 2025, for all municipalities to adopt such. The requirement to complete a county-wide planning strategy and land use by-law enabled the opportunity to concurrently complete a review of existing planning documents in place for Central Colchester and Tatamagouche. Both were about 20 years old and while they have withstood the test of time, a review was necessary given the need to modernize policies and approaches to housing, infrastructure, flood risk and coastal protection. Extensive community engagement for the county-wide planning exercise that would introduce land use controls for all areas of Colchester began in the Fall of 2023. A second round of public consultation to solicit feedback on the draft documents started in the Fall of 2024 and concluded in early January 2025. A comprehensive list of comments was

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compiled and presented to a joint meeting of Council and the Planning Advisory Committee on January 21, 2025, for review and direction. The Planning Advisory Committee met on February 18, 2025, to review the updated draft documents and passed a motion recommending Council adopt the draft documents with a few minor amendments. First Reading occurred on February 27, 2025.

On March 7, 2025, the Minister of Municipal Affairs notified all municipalities in Nova Scotia that the MGA Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations had been amended to set out new standards relating to wind turbines exceeding 2 MW or greater power production rating. Compliance with these new standards is necessary for the planning documents to be consistent with the regulations contained in the MGA. As part of a Special Council meeting held on

*continued on page 3*

### FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

April 2025

#### Lower Truro Water Problem

Colchester Council's decision to close and dismantle the free water source in Lower Truro will have a very negative affect on thousands of residents who do not have access to potable drinking water. During a public meeting regarding the Land Use By-Law, spoke of their opposition to the closure. One gentleman, during the public meeting, state he fills jugs every two days, and if he had to purchase bottled water it would cost in excess of \$25 per fill up. Other's spoke about not having access to clean water for decades. The Shoreline Journal feels the facility should be saved for the benefit of residents. Our involvement could be publishing Letters to the Editor; help organize a citizen's committee to explore legal options; develop a massive petition, assume ownership and/or operation of the site. Interested parties should contact: Maurice Rees, publisher at: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com) or 902-647-2968, or Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0

### 2025 Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Page 8 and 9 of this Shoreline Journal



Sherry Martell, left, owner of Bountiful Bra Boutique, with her daughter Josephine Martell and sister Tanya Dondale at the 2025 Most Powerful Women in Business Awards gala held in St. John's, NL. See the story and more photos on page 2.



The Chignecto Isthmus is currently protected by a network of earthen dykes originally constructed in the late 1600s to assist with the establishment of farms in the area. Rising sea levels and more frequent severe weather events threaten the isthmus. For example, there is a risk of flooding in the area that could cause significant damage. Photo by Mike Johnson, EMO for Cumberland County.

### Chignecto Isthmus Agreement Reached

A \$650-Mkillion funding agreement to protect the Chignecto Isthmus from the increasingly destructive impacts of climate change has been reached by Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Government of Canada. The isthmus, a narrow land bridge protected by a network of dykes and aboiteaux, connects Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and is a vital national trade corridor. With a 10-year funding agreement in place, preconstruction work to improve the network will continue.

"Protecting Nova Scotia's main connection to the rest of Canada has never been more important as we take action to increase trade between provinces," said Public Works Minister Fred Tilley. "That's why we are taking a Team Canada approach. We're putting the interests of our country first and showing leadership as we unlock our potential."

Under the agreement, Nova Scotia has committed to pay up to \$162.5 million toward the project over the next 10

*continued on page 3*

### Portapique Market gets \$27,400 Grant

Portapique Market has been awarded a \$27,400 to provide training to staff, volunteers and community members to enhance inclusiveness and cultural sensitivity. The award is one of 11 grants to 11 community organizations that are working to address systemic hate, inequity and racism.

The \$400,000 in funding ios provided through the Office of Equity and Anti-

Racism's Community Network Grant program, will support projects ranging from helping 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees and newcomers to anti-racism education.

"I am proud to support these community-driven projects that will help make our province a more welcoming and inclusive place for all Nova Scotians," said Attorney General and Justice Minister Becky Druhan, Minister re-

sponsible for the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism. "It truly takes a collective effort to dismantle systemic hate, inequity and racism."

This is the Community Network Grant program's second year. Projects must align with the goals and objectives of Nova Scotia's Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy, the first of its kind in Canada.

Underrepresented and un-

*continued on page 3*

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