The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Province to Host Second Rebuilding HOPE Conference

People with disabilities, their families and other Nova Scotians will come together to share experiences and help shape the future of disability support services in Nova Scotia. On Saturday, March 29, the Province is hosting the second Rebuilding HOPE conference, which will also include service providers, advocates and government officials.

"Real change happens when we listen, share ideas and work together," said Scott Armstrong, Minister of Opportunities and Social Development. "The Rebuilding HOPE conference is a chance for people with disabilities, families, service providers and advocates to connect and talk about the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy and the once-in-a-generation change it's bringing. These conversations make sure the people most affected are leading the way as we build a stronger, more inclusive Nova Scotia – now and for the future."

The conference takes place at four locations – in Middleton, Halifax, New Glasgow and Sydney – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and people can also participate online.

Registration is free and was open until Tuesday, March 25, at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rebuilding-hope-conference-in-person-event-locations-below-tickets-1234807304889?aff=oddtdtcreator . In-person tickets are limited and available first-come, first-served.

The first Rebuilding HOPE conference was held on November 4, 2023; about 1,200 Nova Scotians participated. The conference supports the transformation of disability support services in response to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy, a five-year, legally binding agreement that guides the government's work to address discrimination against people with disabilities.

Soundstage will Support Film Industry Growth

A soundstage facility purchased by Screen Nova Scotia with support from the Province will expand opportunities for the thriving film industry. The government has invested $8 million towards the soundstage – a large, sound-proofed building used for filming – which will increase the industry's capacity and allow productions to continue year round.

"Film and television production is booming in our province. We're committed to fuelling that success, which creates high-value jobs and drives economic growth," said Premier Tim Houston. "By investing in the right infrastructure, we will help unlock the full potential of our film industry and show the world what Nova Scotia has to offer."

The Mount Uniacke facility has multiple buildings to support various production needs, including two clear-span soundstages and space to support long-term growth. It will be ready to accommodate productions later this year.

\"This is a pivotal moment in the post-2015 film industry era. Over the past 10 years, the film industry has not only rebuilt but has now re-established its position as a key player in boosting our economy. Today's announcement is a vital part of our growth potential. A soundstage will anchor our industry for the future – providing a year-round home for productions, attracting business, creating jobs and playing a critical role in developing our workforce to grow the industry.", Laura Mackenzie, Executive Director, Screen Nova Scotia:

The Province has invested $77 million in the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund for 2024-25, generating more than $160 million so far in production spending. Nova Scotia approved 88 productions in 2024-25.

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Deadline for the May issue of The Shoreline Journal is April 22.

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Notes from our Federal Capital - Stephen Ellis, MP

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stituency staff help you with those federally related issues. This will be an incredibly consequential election for Canada and for Cumberland-Colchester. If you have questions please reach out, we will be visiting all local communities soon. Be sure to get out and vote as you contemplate the issues of affordability, housing, healthcare, drug addiction, and many others.

I wish you all the best.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

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happen, not that much about what has happened or about modern mining regulations. Much has been said about the comments of those opposed during Public Bills a week ago Monday.

I actually chaired that meeting and was struck by this young lady who was attending University in Nova Scotia. She was opposed. Her father had worked at a nuclear energy plant in Ontario. There was a Uranium mine in the Community she grew up in. She had no statistics or horror stories about high rates of cancer or no personal stories of tragedy. However she was concerned that it could happen, it could get in our drinking water. She supported a nuclear power plant in Nova Scotia but wanted us to import the Uranium. That is on record at Hansard if you wish to check. Nucular power is predicted to see tremendous growth in coming years as the demand for green energy increases.

Fracking is another contentious industry which causes much concern! Many of you will recall my involvement in chairing the public meetings approximately 12 years ago when a company wanted to treat fracking waste water at a plant in Debert and then release into the Bay of Fundy. Is there concerns with respect to fracking? Yes there is. The removal of the fracking ban will allow companies to come to Nova Scotia and apply for a permit to frack or drill for natural gas. If they do they will have to pass a very stringent environmental assessment! It is reported that there are hundreds of billions of litres or pounds or how ever they measure it in our province. Meanwhile we import natural gas from United States to fire NS Power plants..

Am I concerned about fracking? Yes I am. Am I prepared to say no? Not at this time, as I need to understand the facts. I need to do my own research not just accept the information I received from those opposed. I am told that there have been tremendous advances in fracking technology over the years. I understand but cannot say with certainty that water usage has been dramatically reduced. That is actually my greatest concern. Do I trust the staff at N S Department of Environment to have stringent permiting and oversight? Absolutely! I am really asking that you all have an open mind and attempt to understand, as much as possible the pros and cons. Again Bill 6 does not open the gates, it just allows for government, residents and industry to investigate and determine if there even is potential for Responsible Resource Development in Nova Scotia. It is my hope that there will be potential to develop and grow. To drive our economy and most importantly create those good paying jobs and keep our young families in Nova Scotia, allow those that have left to return as well as attract new families. In saying this I wish to remind you that the real financial benefit is not in the royalties, but in the revenue received from these good paying jobs as that money circulates throughout or economy.

I want to jump to our gravel roads. I am well aware that some are in bad shape. It has been a difficult years on roads. You may recall that we had several days of rain in November and early December followed by freezing. We never had what we typically call a January thaw. As a result of the roads being saturated and continual below freezing temperatures traffic just continued to drive the frost into the ground. As a result the spring thaw is much more severe than in normal years.

Take care and enjoy the spring. Tom

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North,
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News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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to remove outdated and redundant functions that are, or will be, part of other pieces of legislation. The acts to be repealed include the Anatomy Act and the Emergency Department Accountability Act. The Health Services and Insurance Act and the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act will be amended.

Repealing the Anatomy Act and amending the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act will modernize the Province's approach to the donation of bodies for medical education. The first Anatomy Act was developed in the late 1800s based on historical concerns about the illegal procurement of cadavers for medical training.

An amendment to the Health Services Insurance Act will clarify that healthcare professionals can bill private insurers and federal government programs, and allow them to bill more than the provincial tariff rate where permitted. Patients cannot be billed for an insured service.

Advances in public reporting of healthcare data will see the Emergency Department Accountability Act be repealed. The act requires the Minister of Health and Wellness to submit annually, a report on the status of emergency departments, based on the previous year, including closure hours and wait times.

Continuing Care Nurses Training to Prescribe Medications

A new pilot program is helping seniors in long-term care facilities and at home get access to more care faster, with nurses trained to prescribe medication for common ailments.

Thirteen registered nurses working in continuing care completed Dalhousie University's certificate in registered nurse prescribing program in December. A second group of continuing care nurses started in early January, and a third will start in the fall. The Province is covering the full cost of tuition for nurses working in continuing care to complete the training through the pilot.

Graduates from the program can prescribe medications for common health conditions and ailments such as urinary tract infections, nausea and dermatitis. They can also renew prescriptions. They work closely with either a nurse practitioner or physician for support when needed and are certified by the Nova Scotia College of Nursing.

Privately Provided Services for Mental Health

Nova Scotians with mood and anxiety disorders will have more access to mental healthcare at no cost in the coming months. The government is building the province's first mental health and addictions publicly funded insured services program. The first phase will boost access to non-urgent mental healthcare by publicly funding private-sector professionals.

The Province has issued a request for proposals to secure a billing administrator for the program. The next step will be identifying the professionals – which will include master's level social workers, master's and PhD psychologists, and registered counselling therapists – to provide non-urgent mental healthcare for eligible Nova Scotians experiencing mood and anxiety disorders.

The Province is making an initial $10-million investment in the new program, which aims to be ready this spring. Nova Scotians who call the provincial intake line will be assessed and could be eligible to be covered for mental health support.

VirtualCareNS

Did you know that Nova Scotians with a primary care provider get two free visits through VirtualCareNS per year? And that those without a primary care provider have unlimited access to virtual care? To learn more about VirtualCareNS and to register visit: www.virtualcarens.ca

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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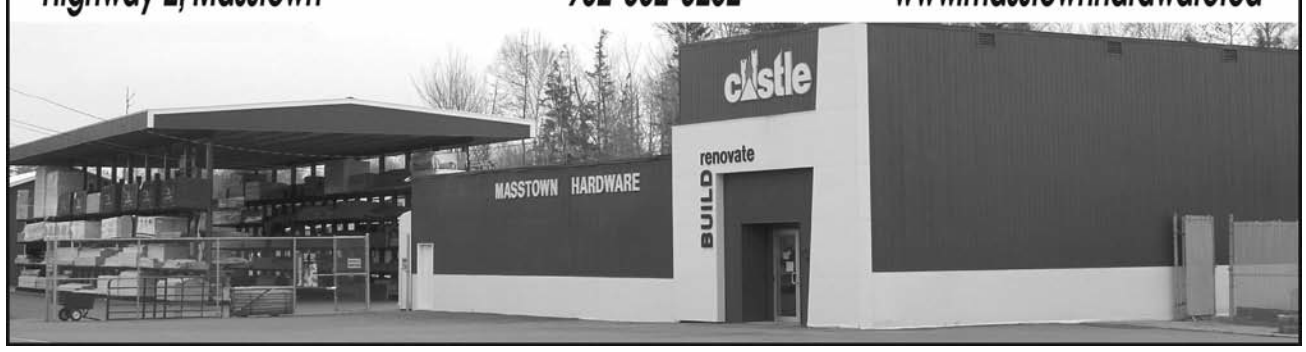
Arena, Elsie's Off-Leash Dog Park, Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail, and Hearts Haven Park. Outdated signage will be removed, and businesses interested in advertising opportunities should contact Lindsay Cochrane, Business Development Officer, at 902-843-4199 for more details. As always, I am available by phone or email should you need assistance. If I don't have the answer, I will do my best to find it for you.

Marie Benoit is Councillor, District 9
can be reached at 902-324-9011, or mbenoit@colchester.ca

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