

to emphasize this – ONLY while implementing robust protections for small business owners. Because an economy that works for the few isn't just unfair – it's unsustainable. We need an economy built for real people, where local businesses can thrive and where economic power is grown throughout our communities.

Question 5:

Because real estate prices have skyrocketed in recent years home ownership is not possible for many. If a couple rents for 30-35 years, they end up with a pile of receipts. Should governments implement 30 or 35 year mortgages with fixed interest rate for 30-35 year period to build equity. Eligible properties less than \$250,000 (cpi adjusted) and located in small or rural communities, on 2 acre lot?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

More housing needs to be built and it needs to be affordable. The NDP says existing it should be built on government-owned land that is currently not being used and much of it should be pubic housing.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

The main difficulty with 30 to 35 year mortgages with fixed interest rates is the length of time of the mortgage. A mortgage over this timeframe would significantly increase the amount of interest paid on that loan. Conservative will remove the sales tax on all new home builds under \$1.3 million, incentivize Those that permit new housing to permit more housing so that more houses can be built quicker.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

This housing question isn't just policy for me, it's deeply personal. Like so many working folks across Cumberland-Colchester, I'm a renter too. I understand firsthand what it means to face this crisis. Governments on both sides have looked at changing the mortgage rules from 20 to 25 to 30 years, but none of those things will lead to more homes being constructed today. When vacancy rates in Colchester are hovering near Zero Percent, we're not facing a mortgage term problem – we're facing a housing shortage emergency. That is why I am excited about Prime Minister Carney's commitment to increase support of the Housing Accelerator Fund, and removing the HST on first time home purchases. We need to empower our local builders to create more homes for rent and purchase.

Question 6:

Keeping in regular contact with residents and voting on issues aligned with voter wishes (except on confidence votes) is key to being an effective popular Member of Parliament. Will you set up an annual schedule with place and dates where you will hold town hall / community meetings?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

I think it makes sense to schedule regular (annual or more often) town hall meetings in various communities. These will be important opportunities for residents to have input, and will be a very important source of community information for me.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

I have always done this and will continue to do so. I am here to represent Colchester and Cumberland counties in Ottawa, not vice versa.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

my rhythm in the world. Through my decade of service with CBDC, it's been common for me to attend 20 community events a month – building relationships with small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. When I'm seeing that barn that needs renovations or sitting at a local Rotary Club luncheon, I'm not just making appearances – I'm listening to the struggles and dreams of working people who deserve a clear voice in our government. This isn't about photo ops – it's about understanding the real-world experiences that politicians in Ottawa have ignored for far too

long. Meeting people where they are isn't just my passion – it's the foundation of true representation. Real change comes from the ground up, from the voices of everyday people working in their communities. And when I serve as your voice in Ottawa, I won't just represent Cumberland-Colchester – I'll bring your stories, your struggles, and your vision into the halls of power. Because this isn't about me – it's about us and the future we can build together. So, yes, I'm happy to work with communities across Cumberland-Colchester to determine a regular, transparent schedule for community meetings that will include every corner of the riding.

Question 7:

Because of political unrest south of the border and because of shortages in Canada of: medical staff - doctors, nurses; tradespeople - plumbers, electricians, carpenters; and truck drivers should Canada embark on a recruitment campaign to encourage Americans to relocate?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

Sure. This seems to be a good time recruit south of the border. Many Americans are probably looking for a chance to leave Trumpland. This would be an appropriate response to The America presidents tariffs and threats of territorial expansion

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

The shortage of healthcare workers and trades people is significant in this country. This forms the basis of the blue seal program, which would allow credentials of internationally, trained healthcare workers, and trades people to have their skills assessed by Canadians who are already working in our system. This allows a rapid Influx of workers in sectors we desperately need most importantly, in healthcare.

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

As I recall, the Canadian immigration page crashed after Trump was elected. That wasn't a coincidence, that was people desperately seeking a way out from what they knew was coming. The largest generation in world history has just retired and there are significant gaps in every corner of our labour market. Our immigration policies can't just be random or reactive – they must be intentional, strategic, and designed with economic opportunity at their core. Look at the numbers – 471,000 new residents came to Canada in 2023, but only Three Percent were skilled trades workers who could help build the homes people desperately need. This isn't just a statistic – it's a policy failure. We should absolutely continue welcoming skilled workers from around the world to make Canada their home – not just because our economy needs them, but because everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better life with dignity and security.

Question 8:

Why should the voters in Cumberland-Colchester vote for you in the April 28th election?

Larry Duchesne (NDP):

The Conservatives have Pollievre for a leader and that's an excellent reason not to vote Conservative. The Liberals under Carney have become more conservative. The NDP is left to warn people that we are in a climate crisis. Global Warming has not been tamed. We have to stop polluting our planet with fossil fuel emissions and poisonous chemicals like glyphosate. We must stand up to Trump, but we don't need to sacrifice our environment to do so.

Dr. Stephen Ellis (Conservative):

Voters in Cumberland-Colchester need a representative with a history of service. The service I have already provided to our country, including that as a Flight Surgeon in the Royal Canadian Air Force and as a family doctor for 26 years is an important asset that I bring to the House of Commons. I'm the last 3 1/2 years I have had the opportunity to work on many files, including helping to the reduce the age of screening mammography from 50 to 40, ensuring that natural health products are available at a reasonable cost to all Canadians and stopping the liberalization of drug policy in this country by bringing forward the fact that so-called safe supply was being diverted. I have also worked tirelessly with my friend Senator Jim Quinn to bring forward his Senate bill which underscores the incredible national importance of the Isthmus of Chignecto .

Alana Hirtle (Liberal):

I'm not just running for office – I'm seeking to join a strong team who will unapologetically defend our country against economic attacks that threaten working families, small businesses, and rural communities. This isn't just about politics – this is about a basic sense of right and wrong. Electing Alana Hirtle as your Liberal MP isn't just about sending another politician to Ottawa – it's about sending a fierce advocate who will ensure Mark Carney remains Canada's Prime Minister; he will never be the governor of the 51st state. I'm working to make sure the communities across Cumberland-Colchester have a seat at the table and a voice in the room. This is our moment to stand up and be counted! #ElbowsUp

TURNERS' EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING

41 Onslow Mt. Road, Belmont



All Gravels, Backhoe, Dozer, Roller,
Septic Plans And Installation,
New Land Development, Driveways, and Culverts.

Cells (902) 890 5409, (902) 890-7348,
(902) 897-7688

PERCY SMITH USED CARS

Quality Used Vehicles

FINANCING AVAILABLE
visit: percysmithauto.com

Valley, NS • 902-895-8453

Call Percy Smith
902-899-7933
or
Louie Smith
902-890-6140



RSV
and
Shingles
Vaccinations

CALL FOR AN
APPOINTMENT
TODAY!



COMFORT
EVERYDAY

20% OFF
LIMITED TIME OFFER



Diabetic
Socks

Lots of
colours & sizes

TIME MY MEDS

We can help make your prescription services more convenient with our patient support services program.

Blister Packaging - 3 systems to choose from.

Time My Meds - We will coordinate your refills to be picked up at the same time.

**SAVE GAS PLUS FEWER
TRIPS TO THE PHARMACY**

The Medicine
Shoppe®
PHARMACY

(902) 893-3500

Call and ask to transfer
your prescriptions to us



Peter Bakes
B.Sc.(Pharm)
Pharmacist Owner

NEW PATIENTS
WELCOME



FREE
DELIVERY

Proud to be your personal pharmacist

THE HUB 245 Robie Street
(Formerly Truro Mall)
www.medicineshoppe.ca

HOURS: M-F: 9am - 5pm | Sat: 9am - 1pm

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 6

COVID-19 Spring Vaccine Dose

People at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 can book a second vaccine dose – if it's been at least three months since their last dose or known infection – starting March 24. The spring dose will be available from March 31 to June 30. The children's COVID-19 vaccine for those aged six months to 11 years is available until June 17.

Nova Scotia is following recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) to provide people at highest risk a spring dose. This includes: people 65 years of age or older; people aged 18 and older living in long-term care, nursing homes, senior congregate living settings or residential care facilities; people six months and older who meet the criteria for being moderately to severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or treatment and people aged 50 years and older who identify as Black, African Nova Scotian or First Nations.

"It is recommended that those with the highest risk of infection get a second dose to prevent severe illness," said Dr. Jesse Kancir, Nova Scotia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health. "People who aren't in that high-risk category and are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines are still well protected." People who did not receive a dose in the fall or winter can continue to get the vaccine, even if they are not in the high-risk category. Anyone who has never had a COVID-19 vaccine can also do so.

COVID-19 and influenza symptoms can include a sudden high fever, headache, general aches and pains, fatigue and weakness, a runny, stuffy nose, sneezing and sore throat. Appointments can be booked online at <https://novascotia.ca/vaccination>.

Those who are unable to book online can schedule an appointment by calling 1-833-797-7772, seven days a week.

The influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are updated annually to protect against the latest strains of influenza and COVID-19. Children younger than nine years old who have never had an influenza vaccine should receive two doses four weeks apart. Nova Scotians can access their vaccine records via the YourHealthNS app and online at <https://vaxrecords.nshealth.ca>

continued on page 15



Colchester
be centred here.

Council Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 10 @ 6pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, April 24 @ 6pm

Presentations Meeting
Tuesday, May 6 @ 6pm

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