

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

New Chéticamp-Margarees-Pleasant Bay Riding

Legislation introduced on February 26, will create a new exceptional riding called Chéticamp-Margarees-Pleasant Bay out of the existing Inverness riding. Amendments to the House of Assembly Act implement the recommendations of the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission, which released its final report January 30, 2026. The commission said the new riding will improve the effective representation of the Acadian region of Chéticamp and area.

The current electoral district of Inverness will divide in two: Chéticamp-Margarees-Pleasant Bay, having 3,889 electors; a byelection will be held to choose the MLA; Inverness, having 10,609 electors; to be represented by the current MLA for Inverness until the next general election.

Boundaries can be found in the commission's final report: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/687953fc91d2d028b8b55a99/t/697ccfa829f00a120ba8cdfc/1769787304458/EBC+2025+Final+Report+EN_2026-01-30.pdf

The Nova Scotia legislature currently has protected seats to recognize the traditional Acadian districts of Argyle, Clare and Richmond and the historic African Nova Scotian district of Preston. With the new riding, the legislature will have 56 MLAs.

Strengthen Support, Safety for Children, Families

Amendments to several acts introduced on February 25, will further protect the privacy rights, safety and well-being of children, youth and families in Nova Scotia. The changes include prohibiting the use of social media to identify children who are the subject of a court proceeding and extending the maximum length of emergency protection orders to one year from 30 days.

Amendments under the Children and Family Services Act will: further protect the privacy rights of children who are or have been the subject of a court proceeding by adding social media as a prohibited form of publication; this means publishing information on social media that could identify the child will be strictly prohibited; make explicit that publication bans related to child and family well-being proceedings remain in place even after a proceeding has ended, including cases where a child or youth has died; require any person who has pled guilty or been found guilty of an offence against or involving a child be entered on the Child Abuse Register, including where a conditional or absolute discharge is granted; this strengthens the register as an important safeguard to help protect children and youth and formally recognize the Minister's responsibility to offer supports that help prepare youth aging out of care for adulthood - reinforcing existing practice and ensuring continued focus on successful transitions to independence.

To further support the well-being of children and youth in Nova Scotia, Budget 2026-27 includes funding to establish an Office of Children and Youth.

Key amendments to other legislation include: Changes to the Domestic Violence Intervention Act will extend the maximum length of emergency protection orders to one year from 30 days, which will improve the safety and security of survivors of domestic violence and their families; changes to the Beneficiaries Designation Act will allow electronic signatures for all plans under the act and moving the regulation of social work to the Regulated Health Professions Act and repealing the Social Workers Act; the health professions act, proclaimed in 2023, provides common regulator; and accountability processes for all self-regulated health professions under one piece of legislation.

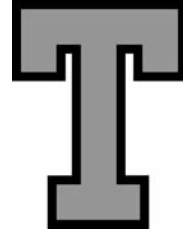
continued on page 9

Truro Bearcats win 2025-26 Young/Knickle Award for Top Goaltending Duo

The Maritime Junior Hockey League (MHL) is pleased to announce that the Truro Bearcats have won the Young/Knickle Award for the top goaltending duo. The award is presented annually to the team that allows the fewest goals in a season. As a team, the Bearcats allowed 145 goals in 52 games, three fewer than last season where they finished second to Edmundston.

Louca Connolly, from Mercier, Quebec, led all goaltenders with a 2.69 goals against average. The 18-year-old posted a record of 19-5-2-1 and was tied with two others for the second-best save percentage at .908. Connolly was one of four goaltenders to have two shutouts this season, which trailed only Edmundston's Cedric Massé, who had four. Connolly was named Top Goaltender and Top Rookie in November and was an Honourable Mention for both awards in September. He was named to the Eastlink South Team of the Week five times.

Sam Berthiaume, from Stel-



arton, N.S., had a 12-4-0 record for the Bearcats with a 2.29 goals against average, .927 save percentage, and two shutouts. The 16-year-old was 52 minutes played shy of being a qualified goaltender for league leaders, or his GAA and SV% would have been considered the best in the MHL. He allowed two or fewer goals in nine of his sixteen games. Berthiaume was named the MHL's Top Rookie and an Honourable Mention for Top Goalie in February/March, and was named to the Eastlink South Team of the Week three times.

Media Contact: James Faulkner, Director of Communications, Maritime Junior Hockey League



Congratulations to Louca Connolly and Sam Berthiaume who have won the Young/Knickle Award as Top Goaltending Duo in the MHL. This is the 11th time the Bearcats have won the award since its inception in 1995/96 and the first time the Bearcats have won the award since Kevin Resop and Alec MacDonald in 2017/18. Well deserved, Louca and Sam!

Double-Overtime Win Sends Truro past Pictou County

The Truro Bearcats are off to the Eastlink South Division Final for the second year in a row after a 2-1 double-overtime win over Pictou County on home ice to defeat the Weeks Crushers in five games.

Auston Hoyt got the Bearcats on the board just 5:26 into the 1st period, but Ethan Dickson tied things up at 12:06 of the 2nd period. Both goaltenders were sharp, with Truro's Sam Berthiaume and

Pictou County's Yianni Karkoulas frustrating shooters all night.

After a penalty against Pictou County for too many men on the ice, Antonie Fontaine scored his fourth goal of the series on a rebound at 13:39 of double-overtime to send Truro to the 2-1 victory and the 4-1 series win.

Berthiaume made 32 saves for the win, with Karkoulas making 48 saves in the loss.

Edmundston Complete a Sweep of West Kent to Advance

The Eastlink North Division Semi-Final returned to Centre Jean Diagle on Saturday, with the Blizzard having a chance to eliminate the Steamers.

Edmundston scored twice in the 1st period. The goals came from Elliott Guenette at 3:30 and Charles-Éric Tremblay at 14:43. Spencer Caines got one back for West Kent at 2:03 of the 2nd period, but Justin Bouchard-Trotier scored at 4:35 to restore the

two-goal lead.

Zachary Paulhus got the Steamers back within a goal at 2:44 of the 3rd period, but that would do it for scoring as the Blizzard completed a sweep of West Kent with a 3-2 victory.

Cedric Massé made 23 saves for the defending Metalfab MHL Cup Champions, while Xavier Farrah had 23 goals in the loss for the Steamers.



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