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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS August 2016

**Tourism Nova Scotia** has announced that [NovaScotia.com](http://NovaScotia.com) has been ranked as one of the best tourism websites in the world, according to Skift, a prominent media company based out of New York City, that deciphers and defines global travel trends.

**Spencer Point Road** is reduced to one lane during paving and other improvements from Trunk 2 for 1.4 km. Work takes place from dawn to dusk. The project is expected to be finished Wednesday, August 31.

**Karen Casey** was nominated, unopposed, by the Colchester North Liberal Association as the candidate for Colchester North for the next provincial election. The nomination meeting was held Thursday, July 21st at Valley Kempton Fire Hall. She has served the area since 2006. Currently she serves in cabinet as Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development with the additional responsibility as Chair Treasury and Policy Board. She also sits on the Standing Committee for Internal Affairs. Premier McNeil has asked all constituencies to have candidates nominated prior to Labour Day. A date for the next election has not been set.

**Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island**, will seek a single supplier to produce driver's licenses and photo identification cards for all four provinces. The change is expected to save Nova Scotia \$1.2 million over five years. Cards would no longer be printed at Registry of Motor Vehicles and Access Nova Scotia Centres, but would instead be printed at a central facility and sent to customers through the mail. Clients would be given a temporary document at the service counter that will be valid until the card arrives. The new, more secure cards will be issued when existing cards are up for renewal.

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Welcome the 2016 Wild Blueberry Festival. Events are planned for August 19 until September 3, 2016. Wild blueberry features in this issue are on page 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, and 20. (Submitted)

## NSPE 70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Features "Celebrate Local"

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE) is right around the corner and this year is celebrating the 70 year anniversary on site at the current Bible Hill location. With the 70th anniversary comes a new look, a new feel, and a new promise of what attendees can

expect. Volunteers and organizers are excited to open the gates in August to an organized, clean, family-oriented event that focuses on fun, agriculture, and celebrating local.

In fact, "Let's Celebrate" is the theme of this year's exhibition and there truly is lots of fun

and activity planned and happening in anticipation of the event including the appearance of the green shirted Street Team popping up at local events throughout the summer and handing out free passes. The NSPE is presented by Masstown Market and a huge thank you is

extended to all sponsors.

This year, organizers are happy to offer a family day pass for \$20 allowing a family of 5 entrance to the grounds. The Exhibition runs Monday August 22nd to Saturday August 27th. A full schedule of events with detailed times will be released on social media and the website the first week of August, however highlights to mark in the calendar include:

**Monday August 22** - 4H Family Day! Free entrance to the grounds to check out the 4H animals, displays, and skill presentations. Food vendors will be on-site so pop by and have lunch! Opening Ceremonies for the Exhibition will take place at 7pm. Stay tuned for a special show announcement! Please note: Hinchey's Midway & Carnival and the Industrial Building will open on Tuesday.

**Tuesday August 23** - The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition ALL Talent Show is back by popular demand! Please visit [www.nspe.ca](http://www.nspe.ca) to enter! Please note: Celebrate Local Vendor Fair starts Thursday.

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Michael Congdon, of the Opportunity Pony Club, will be representing Canada at the North American Challenge Quiz in Mill Spring, North Carolina July 18th- 31st. The Quiz requires teams to compete in written tests, tack identification, and horse based games. Michael is one of only four Pony Club members from across Canada attending the event. Congratulations Michael! (Harrington Photo)

## Taggart appointed FCM Committee Vice-Chair

By **Maurice Rees**

Councilor Tom Taggart, District 10 has been appointed Vice Chair of the Federation Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Standing Committee on Social Economic Development. Taggart, who has served on Colchester Municipal Council since 2008, was appointed to his second term on the FCM Board of Directors as a Nova Scotia representative earlier this spring.

Taggart's appoint as vice chair of the committee was announced by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President Clarke Somerville earlier in July. The Mandate of this Standing Committee is to provide the Board of Directors of FCM with recommendation's on priority and program issues as they pertain to: Housing, Homelessness, Aging, Culture and Community Infrastructure, Immigration and Municipal-Aboriginal Relations.

Mayor Bob Taylor and County Council are very pleased and proud of Tom's appointment to this vitally important leadership role.

Mayor Taylor echoed the sentiments of his colleagues by stating "Tom Taggart has been one of the true leaders on County Council and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of the Municipality of the County of Colchester. We have every confidence that he will make a meaningful contribution in addressing issues of national significance".

It is expected that over the next year, one of the Committees primary objectives will be to work with the Board of Directors to develop a policy and advocacy position to enable FCM to advocate on behalf of Canadian Municipalities as the Government of Canada develops their National Housing Strategy.

For his part, Taggart is very grateful for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee. In only his second year on the National Board, he is humbled to have been selected and is committed to supporting the efforts of FCM. Moreover, he stated "It is both

an honor and a privilege to serve as National Vice Chair and to have a voice in addressing issues for all Canadians. In particular, I am pleased to have the opportunity to advocate for the Senior Citizens of Nova Scotia; many of whom are from rural communities where housing is a real concern given that many are on fixed incomes and are challenged to remain in their family home".

Although new to his role as Vice Chair, Councilor Taggart is a Director of the Colchester East Hants Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association and has a thorough understanding of the linkage between homelessness and Mental Health issues.

FCM is the national voice of municipal government. In leading the municipal movement, FCM works to align federal and local priorities, recognizing that strong hometowns make for a strong Canada.

**For more information, contact the Municipality of the County of Colchester at (902) 897-3184.**

## Debert Days Revived August 10-14

Submitted by **Marie Benoit**

Debert Days have been revived by Marie Benoit and her team of volunteers, who have taken it upon themselves to bring back the festivities, which were a big hit several years ago, until volunteers at that time got burned-out.

Not wanting to over-promise, Marie and her committee have only undertaken what they were comfortable they could handle. Planned events include:

August 10 a supper at the firehall provided by the UCW. August 11 will be the pageant for Little Miss and Master at the Debert Legion.

Friday, August 12 will feature a family dance at the Debert Firehall while Saturday, August 13, the big day, will include the parade and several other Debert Day events.

An open air service is planned for Sunday, August 14th to conclude what is planned to be an annual mid-August Debert Days festivities.

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