

## PHOTO FEATURE

On her recent trip to the weir in Carrs Brook, Karen Casey had the opportunity to help her two grandchildren understand the importance of the design of a fishing weir. Her report begins on page 5.



A fishing weir at Carr's Brook was subject of an educational tour by Karen Casey with two grandchildren. (Submitted)



As part of their educational tour two youths waded into the water at the Carr's Brook weir one searching for fish, the other with a net in hand. (Submitted)

## The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

### 8 Km of Highway 104 to be twinned

Nova Scotia is improving highway safety and creating jobs with a \$195 million investment in twinning Highway 104. The federal government is contributing \$90 million to the project, which will see 38 kilometres twinned between Sutherland's River, Pictou Co. and Antigonish. The project will include a new, 10 kilometre, four-lane alignment between Barneys River and James River, south of the existing Highway 104, made necessary by the area's topography and terrain as well as a river and rail line. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2020 with the goal to have that portion of Highway 104 twinned by 2024.

### Nova Scotia to get \$600-Million

The Government of Canada is helping to ensure the economic growth we create is the kind of growth that works for everyone. In early July the Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board of Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Canada's Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour announced the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia have signed agreements that will see Canada provide Nova Scotia with over \$700 million over six years to invest in Nova Scotia's workers. These agreements represent an increase in funding of over \$70 million over the period, compared to previous funding levels. This increase means an estimated 17,000 more Nova Scotian workers will benefit over the six years. These new agreements, will ensure more people benefit from these programs than before—including people from groups typically under-represented in the workforce, such as people with disabilities, women and Indigenous people. The agreements announced are the new Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) and the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA). In the first two years Nova Scotia will receive approximately \$235 million—more than \$46 million through the WDA and more than \$188 million through the LMDA.

### Rural Internet transferred to develop Nova Scotia

Development and management of an implementation plan to expand high-speed internet in rural Nova Scotia in connection with the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust will now come under Waterfront Development Corp. which is being renamed Develop Nova Scotia. The crown corporation is also getting a new mandate to help drive strategic economic development across Nova Scotia with province-wide responsibility for strategic economic infrastructure and property. Develop Nova Scotia will work closely with partners, stakeholders and industry to create projects that contribute to economic growth in the province.

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### News from our Provincial Capital

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I want to thank the owners for providing this learning opportunity for my grandkids and for taking the time from their busy schedule at the weir to provide both information and education. It was an experience that they will not soon forget.

**Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North is also Deputy Premier; Deputy President of the Executive Council; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board and Chair of Treasury and Policy Board.**

### News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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the boxes and the flats for the strawberries the list goes on. That money goes around and around and around. Each time someone pays income tax on it and HST on what they purchase, taxes paid into that pool. I am confident someone with math or analytical skills could run the math out on that and it would be absolutely astonishing.

So I believe whole heartedly when we buy local we are actually supporting ourselves as much or more than we are supporting the local producer. This is not limited to just agriculture. There are many other local manufacturers. Think about windows or underwear or ice-cream. The list goes on. One last example. In the past month I broke a gas tank strap on my car. I went to a local auto supply store and they said sorry you have to get those at the dealer. I go to the dealer \$243 for a gas tank strap. Well needless to say I never bought it, I cobbled it up, only to find that a local company in Colchester actually manufactures these straps and sells to a major retailer, cost in around \$35 to \$50 dollars!!!

Many of us, myself included are mad at Trump and being very conscious about not buying from USA. Well in retrospect who cares about Trump or China or anyone. Buy local and get money back in your jeans. Support ourselves!!!!

Now that I have that off my chest.

Kudo's to the organizers and volunteers of the Not Since Moses run. Once again I had the very difficult job of making sure that everyone who got on the 10K bus actually knew they had to run 10K.. Every person that got on those busses was asked where they were from. Easily 50% were not from Nova Scotia and had travelled and were spending their vacation in Nova Scotia so they could participate in this event. The tourism and hospitality industries in Nova Scotia say Thank You

Enjoy your summer and stay safe.

Tom

**Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10**

## Maritime Blueberry Producers Field Day Held July 12<sup>TH</sup>

Wild blueberry producers from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island joined their fellow producers from Nova Scotia at the Maritime Blueberry Producers Field Day. The annual event was held on July 12th at Art Sargent's Receiving Shed with close to 300 people in attendance.

The morning program included a bus tour of neighbouring wild blueberry fields where many producers were surprised to see plants hanging with fruit in one of the fields they visited, despite so much frost damage in areas across the Maritime provinces.

Frost damage was certainly the topic of conversation as producers compared crop predictions and discussed individual considerations for harvest. They had already been struggling with low crop prices the last few years and many are finding it nearly impossible to "tighten the belt" any further to keep farming.

Wild Blueberry Producers of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) President Baron Blois gave an update on how the local Board of Directors has been working to help its members. He wanted producers to know there have been specialists out in the fields and reporting back to the Minister of Agriculture but stressed "nothing happens quickly". There is an expected loss in the 60-70% range due to frost.

New Brunswick's John Schenkels, chairperson of Bleuets NB Blueberries, reported things were slightly different than in Nova Scotia in the north eastern part of the province because plants were not yet in bloom. He expects only a 10-20% loss in this area, where as in the south it was similar to NS with some areas facing an 80% loss.

Robert McLean, PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association, says there was variable frost damage across the Island with some at 75% loss and some not affected at all. He noted the seriousness of the situation saying, "everyone's financial immune system has already been weakened".

WBPANS Executive Director, Peter Rideout estimates the total 2018 regional crop to be around 200 million pounds, down substantially from the 2016 record crop of 403.5 million pounds due to negative impact of the devastating spring frost. Last year's harvest totalled 261 million pounds. Processors expect to have a sufficient supply of wild blueberries to meet ongoing commitments because of existing inventory.

Dr. David Yarborough, Wild Blueberry Specialist University of Maine told those present Maine had also been hit hard by what he calls a "freeze" not simply a "frost". He expects the harvest to be in the 70-75 million pounds because of

good growing conditions so far, this is up from the low of 68 million pounds last year but still below the 100 million pound average.

Lori Kittilsen, Director of Programs, NSDA provided an update on some of the supports they are working on and the next steps, including a request that all wild blueberry producers complete a brief Damage Assessment Questionnaire. Having a clear estimate of crop damage is critical to going forward with an Agri Recovery request to the federal government. The frost hit many crops, including Christmas trees and loss information must be accounted for across all sectors before an application can be made to the dis-

aster relief program.

Baron Blois thanked everyone for attending the 2018 Field Day and to Art Sargent and his staff for hosting the event. He ended the lunch time program with words of encouragement. "Yes, things are difficult, but we are in an industry that has been very profitable. We need to find more buyers and find different ways of doing things," he said, noting the importance of wild blueberries as Nova Scotia's largest agricultural export.

The 2018 Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival will kick off at the Truro Farmer's Market on August 17th and run until Sept. 1st.

Many more photos can be found on pages 16 and 17.



With crop prices down, smaller producers were eager to talk to Pictou County Berry about one of their smaller Grasshopper wild blueberry harvesters. (Harrington photo)

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