

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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cal safety, construction codes and standards, business registration, aquaculture, agriculture and corporate registries. Work is also underway to align federal, provincial and territorial building, fire, energy efficiency and plumbing codes, as well as energy efficiency standards for household appliances.

Solar Education Across Nova Scotia

Nova Scotians will soon learn more about how solar electricity can save homeowners money, reduce emissions and support green jobs. Solar Nova Scotia will receive \$55,000 from the Low Carbon Communities Program to deliver a province-wide awareness campaign called the Discover Solar Initiative. Solar Nova Scotia will host a series of public presentations designed to help solar businesses save time and money by answering questions from customers. Low Carbon Communities helps eligible groups jump-start projects by funding feasibility studies and plans, engagement activities and building capacity. Projects also promote efficiency, solar energy, clean transportation and other programs that help communities save money on their energy costs. This year, 11 projects across the province are receiving about \$700,000. Eligible groups have received grants of up to \$75,000 to a maximum of 75 per cent of project costs. The Low Carbon Communities Program supports Mi'kmaw communities, registered non-profit or charitable organizations and municipalities in Nova Scotia.

Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund

Two Nova Scotia organizations have been selected as part of a group of 22 projects, out of a total of 114 nation-wide applicants to receive funding under the newly created Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund—to support the creation of innovative initiatives, research and projects that improve the well-being of Veterans and their families. Canadian Women's Wellness Initiative, Seabright will spearhead a project titled, "Helping Veterans and Their Families Thrive: An Innovative Approach to Family Well-Being", while Dartmouth based Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia will develop a "Landing Strong" initiative.

Film Productions Announced

Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) has announced several approved productions through the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund. Documentary, Behind the Bhangra Boys, produced by Lightbulb Productions Inc., has been approved for a funding commitment of \$27,840 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$96,000. Documentary TV series, Wild Game, produced by Wild Game Productions Inc., has been approved for a funding commitment of \$206,279 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$750,105. Documentary, The Muhlendamrungs Of Karl Salsbury Wood, produced by Skye Larke Productions Limited, has been approved for a funding commitment of \$32,179 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$117,015. Documentary TV Series, High Road Low Road, produced by Winter Light Productions Limited, has been approved for a funding commitment of \$243,200 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$760,000. Dramatic feature film, Under the Weather, produced by Family Farm Films Ltd., has been approved for a funding commitment of \$159,642 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$580,518.

More Supports for Survivors of Violence

The Governments of Nova Scotia and Canada are teaming up to support Indigenous and African Nova Scotian women and families who have experienced violence. Both are investing \$1 million in Creating Communities of Care - a project to support survivors of gender-based violence in Halifax's urban Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities. Since December, the Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network, the Association of Black Social Workers, the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia have been asking survivors what matters most to them. Their aim was to develop a deeper understanding of how to better serve and support these communities. For more information about Standing Together, go to <https://novascotia.ca/standingtogether>.

Human Rights Association Elects Chair

The director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission has been elected chair of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies at the association's Annual General Meeting in Charlottetown. Christine Hanson will serve a two-year term at the head of the association whose membership is comprised of all provincial and territorial human rights agencies as well as the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Ms. Hanson will replace outgoing chair Charles Dent who chairs the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission. To learn more about Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, visit cashra.ca

Expanded Coverage for Transgender Women

Starting July 1, government will cover breast augmentation surgery for transgender women in Nova Scotia. Breast augmentation is being added to the list of publicly funded gender affirming surgeries. Nova Scotia is the fourth province to do so, after British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Transgender women will now have coverage for breast augmentation consistent with that available for all other women. Eligibility is determined based on criteria and assessment by a health care professional. More information, including the list of publicly funded gender-affirming surgeries in Nova Scotia, is available at <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/gender-affirming-surgery/>.

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Community Breakfast Kick Starts Survey

By John Patterson

A community breakfast was hosted by the St James Church of Great Village Preservation Society on June 29th at the Great Village Legion. The purpose of the breakfast was to give the community an update on what the Preservation Society has been up to and to start the community consultative process on a new strategic initiative.

About forty people showed up to the free breakfast where donations were accepted to cover the costs. A number of community members also donated food to help defray the costs. Three people spoke at the meeting.

The first was Laurie Gunn. She heads up the Preservation Society's efforts in running the Elizabeth Bishop house as an artists' retreat since it was donated to the society in late 2017. In 2018 the house was fully booked from May to October, with artists coming from as far away as Australia and Ireland. Demand was so high that the decision was made to keep the house open for the whole winter, although it was not fully occupied during this period. Quite a bit of work has been done on the house.

The second to speak was John Patterson, President of the SJCGVPS, who reviewed efforts to operate a café in the St James Church building and the challenges of a volunteer board running such an enterprise. For the past couple of years the space has been rented to antique dealers, but this does not produce enough revenue to provide for ongoing maintenance and restoration of

5G is Coming to Rural New Brunswick

By Maurice Rees

A combined total investment of \$120-million will enable over 83,000 rural homes and businesses in New Brunswick to have access to the latest 5G-ready Internet technology capable of providing dramatically faster Internet services with unlimited data. Xplornet President and CEO Allison Lenehan joined representatives of the Government of Canada and the Province of New Brunswick on July 25th to confirm the province will see a major upgrade to its rural broadband network, positioning New Brunswick as a leader in access to 5G services.

Xplornet Communications Inc., Canada's leading rural broadband provider, based in New Brunswick, will install or enable up to 3,000 km of fibre optic cable. Along with upgrades to hundreds of sites, this investment will enable the latest wireless technology to deliver future 5G services, while bringing speeds of 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) and unlimited data downloads to rural communities in New Brunswick.

Allison Lenehan, President and CEO of Xplornet said, "Today's announcement is the next step in our plan to continue evolving and improving Internet service in rural New Brunswick by deploying the latest 5G-ready technology in our home Province."

Xplornet will invest \$80 million to deliver this critical broadband infrastructure project to rural New Brunswick-

ers. This investment is enabled by a \$40 million contribution from the Government of Canada, via the Rural and Northern Infrastructure Communities Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The total cost of the project is \$120 million.

"We are grateful to the Government of Canada and the Province of New Brunswick for supporting rural communities by investing in broadband," said Mr. Lenehan.

Earlier this winter in a separate announcement, New Brunswick selected Xplornet as the ISP provider to deliver high speed internet to all of the province. The government of PEI also announced Xplornet as the lead for a province-wide high speed rural upgrade program.

Xplornet holds several similar contracts in western Canada, and Canada's north. In July last year Xplornet was selected to deliver 5G-ready Internet technology with download speeds of up to 100 megabits per second over 35,000 rural homes and businesses in three Ontario counties: Northumberland, Hastings, and Lennox and Addington, located between Brighton and Napanee, in Eastern Ontario. The project will deploy over 450 km of fibre, establishing a hybrid fibre-wireless network spanning 21 communities in the region. The result will be a 5G-ready network to be deployed in rural Canada at the same time as urban Canada.



Jennifer McKay and Doug MacInnes present Debbie and Scott Lundie with a cheque for \$2826. The money was raised at Onslow Rocks, an annual fund raiser held at the end of June to assist a deserving family in the local community. (Harrington Photo)

the church building, and does not provide the community with a gathering place. The Preservation Society had recently received a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage from the Strategic Development Initiative. It will help fund a project to develop a strategic plan for the heritage buildings owned by the Preservation Society, but in particular for the St James church building.

He also advised that the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage had contributed money for a project from their Conservation Advice Grants program to help with the cost of hiring an architectural firm to do an assessment of the exterior and structure of the church building and prepare a report. The Preservation Society will then use this report to develop a priority list of preservation projects to work on.

Finally Shelley Chase, hired by the Preservation Society to prepare the Strategic Plan, spoke about the initiative and what she is hoping for in terms of community engagement. Shelley told the audience she would be starting with a community survey and encouraged lots of responses from community members.

To participate in the community survey, go to the St James Church of Great Village Facebook page and send a message requesting information on the survey.

John Patterson is President, Saint James Church of Great Village Preservation Society.



(R-L) Matthew Berrigan, Connector Program Manager, Truro & Colchester Partnership; Sasha Sears, Program Manager of the National Connector Program with the Halifax Partnership; Mark Wood, Chair of the Truro & Colchester Partnership and CEO Ocean Sonics. (Submitted)

TCPEP Launches Northern Connector Program

The Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP) announced the launch of the Northern Connector Program during its annual meeting at the Marigold Centre on June 12th. The Program will match new residents, local and international graduates, and skilled professionals (Connectees) with local employers, civil servants and community leaders (Connectors).

Closely modeled after the Halifax Connector Program, which began nearly a decade ago and is replicated across Canada and the United States, the Northern Connector Program is designed to connect emerging professionals — who have valuable skills and professional experience but lack an extensive professional network — with a Connector in their field of interest.

Program participants meet with business and community leaders in Truro and Colchester to gain a better understanding of the local job market, the community and local career opportunities. By engaging young professionals early in their career and helping them build extensive professional networks, the Partnership hopes that they

will choose to stay in our communities and continue to build their careers.

"This exciting new initiative will provide support to newcomers and young professionals as they try to build connections, foster relationships, and put down roots in our communities," comments Mark Wood, Chair of the Partnership. "It's another great resource to help our workforce attraction efforts."

The National Connector Program is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the birthplace of the initial Connector Program. This program provides communities with a turn-key solution that increases talent retention through the process of networking. Currently based in 35 communities and growing, the National Connector Program is a successful model to help retain talent, engage employers, and create a more welcoming community. Learn more at www.connectorprogram.ca.

Interested new residents, graduate students and businesses are welcome to contact Matthew Berrigan, Program Manager, via email mberrigan@northnconnector.ca or by phone at (902) 449-1273 for more information.

SEASONS TO BEHOLD

(This is nature's way)

*Nature has a way with us its beauty we behold
The splendor of the winter the harshness of the cold
Some prefer the summer warmth others love the snow
Leaves that change their colors watching flowers grow*

This is nature's way

*Frosty early winter mornings the sparkle of the ice
A quiet walk through the forest can be very nice
Moments with our world around us all of us do share
From the smallest creature to a mighty bear*

This is nature's way

*Take the time to look around a breath of forest air
Hold a moment of your life tell the earth you care
Keep this thought a lifetime hold to that rule
We have but one world life's most precious jewel!*

This is nature's way

God bless and thank-you
Thomas A. Marshall (Ex-navy)

This poem is now in a book called "Island Magic"
By the National Library of Canada