



This photo shows one section of the new security barrier just to the left of Councillor Eric Boutilier's seat at the council table. The other section is to the right of Councillor Wade Parker's seat. Councillor Boutilier introduced discussion on the barrier at May 28th council meeting. Council approved the installation unanimously on motions by Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Gregory. Access beyond the barrier is by invitation only, except for council members and staff. (Rees Photo)

## Security Barrier Installed in Council Chambers

By Maurice Rees

On a global basis increased security of elected officials has been an ongoing "work in progress". Security in council chambers and elsewhere throughout the Colchester municipal building has been on council's minds for a while. Approximately two years ago, a safety glass separator was installed to protect staff at the wicket, where residents make payments on tax bills. Just over a year ago it was decided a security guard be positioned, inside

the public entrance for each committee and monthly meeting when council is in session.

During the May 28th council meeting, security was on the mind of Councillor Boutilier when he originally introduced discussion of erecting a security barrier. On motions by Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Gregory, council unanimously approved a motion to establish a barrier in council chambers to separate the public gallery from council and staff. The barrier

was installed in advance of presentation and committee meetings in June. After installation of the barrier access beyond the barrier is by invitation only.

Two sections of the barrier have been installed one to the right of Councillor Wade Parker and the second, as shown, is to the left of Councillor Eric Boutilier. For the convenience of those sitting in the public gallery, the water cooler was moved to an area outside the barrier.

## Taggart Requests – "Letters of Support"

By Maurice Rees

At a recent council meeting, Councillor Tom Taggart, requested and immediately received council's approval of two letters of support for Balamore Farm Ltd, Great Village. The two projects include growing strawberry plugs in high tunnels for earlier production or to lengthen the season into the fall and a separate initiative of building and evaluating a steam sterilization treatment for strawberry plants.

The letter submitted to council by Councillor Taggart stated, Balamore is seeking funding for "growing strawberry plugs in high tunnels to lengthen the growing season".

An internet search on "high tunnels" reveals: High tunnels may give growers the opportunity to produce early-season or late-season strawberries. High tunnels are unheated, plastic-covered, solar greenhouses. Ventilation is passive through roll-up side walls or curtains

and roof vents. Crops are grown in native, mineral soil under the high tunnel. The high tunnel protects the growing crop from environmental extremes such as wind, hail, rainfall, insects and diseases which allows for significantly earlier and higher marketable yields. High tunnels have low startup and operating costs, a single crop often provides enough revenue to pay for the cost of the structure.

The steam sterilization treatment for strawberry plants effectively is a process of using steam to disinfect the soil ridding soil pests killing most soil pathogens and weed propagules.

A few years ago Nova Scotia strawberry producers faced hardship when diseases were discovered and acreages had to be destroyed. It also had a serious impact on the export of strawberry plants to the United States.

Balamore Farm Limited, Great Village, is a family farm



on 1000 acres overlooking the Bay of Fundy. Originally a cattle farm, they began producing strawberry plants in 1990 and in 2000 expanded the nursery operation to include field grown perennials. They are a major contributor to the local economy providing over 30 full-time seasonal jobs; offer employment to at least 10 students during the summer and bring in over 150 off-shore workers.

Their focus is on quality in the beef program, strawberry plants, perennial bare roots and strawberry fruit crop. Representatives of Balamore Farms declined the opportunity to provide a greater explanation of the technologies which would help combat plant diseases and to increase production.

## David Ritcey Chosen PC Candidate

By Maurice Rees

Provincially the Progressive Conservatives anticipating a fall by-election have acclaimed David Ritcey as their candidate for the constituency of Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River. Provincial parties are on a rush to get organized for a possible by-election as result of Lenore Zann vying to be the Liberal candidate in this fall's Federal Election.

"I'm proud to be representing the Progressive Conservative Party at such an exciting time," Ritcey said. "I'm looking forward to getting on the campaign trail and share PC Leader Tim Houston's vision for a more positive Nova Scotia." Ritcey follows

a tradition of service. His grandfather, Gerry Ritcey, served as a PC MLA from 1968 to 1974 and acted as the Minister of Tourism and Industry.

Ritcey is deeply involved in his community, particularly in his role as Director of Community and Business Development for the Community Credit Union in Cumberland-Colchester. He has also been actively involved in the Maritime Junior Hockey League, most recently in the role of Chairman of the Board and was honoured with the Moe Bent Builders Award for service and dedication to the League this past June.

## Two Millbrook Men Facing Several Charges

An incident involving guns being fired, and then the lockdown of the Colchester-East Hants Hospital on July 23rd and 24th has resulted in RCMP charging two men with offences related to an incident in Truro Heights section of Millbrook First Nation.

Charges have been laid against Kitpu Pikun McDonald and Robert John Joseph Gloade, both of Millbrook. Both appeared in Truro Provincial Court on July 25th. Events started to unfold on July 23 at 3:12 p.m., when Millbrook RCMP responded to a call of a disturbance on Truro Heights Rd.

When police arrived on scene they learned there had been an altercation between a number of people and shots had been fired.

One person was injured and was taken to hospital in Truro. Police arrested one person a short time later, while a second person fled the area on foot. The RCMP arrested the second person on the evening of July 24. Police have charged two men with the following offences:

Kitpu Pikun McDonald, 26, of Millbrook, has been charged with Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Weapon, and Uttering Threats. McDonald was arrested on July 23, held in custody and

remanded by the court on July 24.

Robert John Joseph Gloade, 28, of Millbrook, appeared in court on July 25th facing charges for Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Weapon, and Uttering Threats. Gloade, who had fled the scene was arrested on July 24.

The unidentified victim was treated for injuries at the Truro hospital and released the following day. Additional charges may follow. The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the RCMP Northeast Nova Major Crimes Unit.

## On The Hunt For Firearms

Colchester RCMP are still on the hunt for several firearms stolen from a Lorneville Road, Great Village residence. Thieves smashed the patio door of the home, removed a gun safe containing six restricted handguns and two rifles. The July 20th report to police indicated nothing else in the home was disturbed.

Colchester District RCMP are asking anyone who has information about the missing guns to call 902 893-6820. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you can also contact Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or text TIP202 + your message to 'CRIMES' (274637) or submit tips by Secure Web Tips at [www.crimestoppers.ns.ca](http://www.crimestoppers.ns.ca).

## \$127,000 Grants Announced

Six grants in local recreation projects in trails, playgrounds and other outdoor and indoor recreation projects in Truro, Tatamagouche, Brookfield and other areas in and around Colchester County were announced on July 9th.

The grants totaling \$127,000 were announced today through the Recreation Facility Development Program. Three more projects will be announced at a later date.

The grants included: Chignecto-Central Regional

School Board, Brookfield Elementary Natural Playground, \$58,000; Camp Evangeline, construction of new playground, \$18,000; Town of Truro, Victoria Park playground upgrades, \$15,000; Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club, expansion of clubhouse, \$12,000; Municipality of Colchester, new Zamboni for West Colchester United Arena, \$12,500 and Tatamagouche and Area Trails Association, 9.6 kms of trail improvements, \$12,000.

## PHOTO CONTEST

The Shoreline Journal is conducting a photo contest for the best photos along the Shore from Truro to Advocate.

### \$500 in Prizes

\$125 prize for each of four categories:

**Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.**

1st - \$50;  
2nd - \$35;  
3rd - \$20;  
4th - \$15;

Honourable Mention, \$5.

Take photos of each season. Submissions to be made in December 2019.

Judging and awards in January, 2020.

Complete rules and submission details announced in September.

Contact: Maurice Rees: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

# Guardian

**Bayside Pharmacy**  
6044 Highway #2  
Bass River  
Tel: 902-647-2552

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