

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*  
 MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0  
 (902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com



Continued from: Letters to the Editor on page 4

Here is the second of three. -Linda

July 2, 2024

Honorable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment, Province of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.

Dear Minister Halman;

This letter is to express concern and to add voice on behalf of the citizens of the community of Little Dyke. Like the citizens of Little Dyke we have concerns with the proposed expansion and its long term affects on the people who call this home and many have for a very long period of time.

We are in no means trying to see the closure of OSCO, in fact we want to see growth of local businesses but not at all costs. We certainly would expect regulations and operating permits in place that reflect what will be best for all concerned. Environmental concern and quality of life should be taken into account especially with the current state of health and wellness as we know it today. Mental health, cancers, and a magnitude of other environmental induced diseases must and should be reduced or eliminated from the lives of all Nova Scotian's.

Having worked in the mining industry for 30years and knowing what was expected in those years with dust, noise and traffic, it would be my expectation that regulations have not been relaxed to any major extent, if anything made more stringent. We had an enclosed crusher system with dust collectors throughout, water-controlled dust suppression on the haul roads and dust collectors throughout the entire operation with constant maintenance to maintain an environmentally controlled emission level. Would this not be a reasonable step to enforce and mitigate both short and long term affects of noise and dust in particular?

Silica sand was present and it was clearly mandated to keep it covered from becoming airborne from the wind and elements, silica fume which was also stored under a protective cover, for the same reasons knowing either could potentially cause long term affects or worse life ending diseases. It should be determined if there is silica present in the materials of the OSCO operations and proper steps taken to capture and reduce the possibility of exposure to employees and the surrounding community.

Noise control was another aspect of the operation that was a constant and operations had to be maintained at certain levels within the operating permits. There needs to be parameters in place to control this and monitored on a regular basis for compliance that is enforced. Are berms or vegetation such as trees being put in place around the perimeter of the proposed expanded properties to alleviate the noise and other conditions that come from the operations? Should citizens have continuous ongoing background noises that hinder or decrease their quality of life?

Municipality of Colchester led by example on this with some of the most stringent noise levels implemented into our Wind Turbine bylaws that were passed and accepted by regulators!!

Another point is the continuous truck and equipment traffic on a public road that is the access to the properties of the residents. Would it not be reasonable that a separate road be established from Highway 2 to the operations to alleviate this issue, in doing this it will also help to keep the current public road from deteriorating at a much faster rate, reduce traffic flow and dust emissions? Especially on a road that was never designed or built for such heavy traffic.

Why can't the hours of operation be more in line with more standard business hours to give the community quality of life for rest and relaxation? Could the operation not increase production during those hours and allow for this time buffer?

Colchester County Council sent a letter dated June 30, 2017 expressing concern at that time, many of us were part of that Council and our concerns remain today, those signed here not part of that Council today express the same.

We thank you for your consideration of our requests and concerns and trust you, and this government will make the right choice and decisions that will be in the best interests of all concerned.

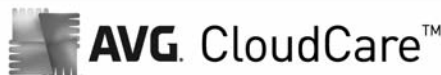
Respectfully submitted;

Geoff Stewart Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Colchester

Supported by: Laurie Sandeson, District 2 Councillor; Lisa Patton, District 8 Councillor  
 Mike Cooper, District 4 Councillor; Michael Gregory, District 7 Councillor; Marie Benoit, District 9 Councillor  
 Wade Parker, District 11 Councillor; Eric Boutlier, District 1 Councillor  
 Cc: Premier Tim Houston, MLA Tom Taggart, Little Dyke Citizens Group

Continued: Letters to the Editor on page 10

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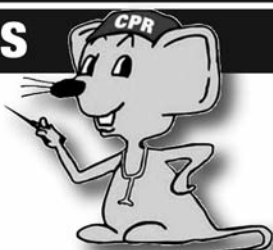
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Thank you to all of our loyal customers!

Sincerely,  
 Todd MacKinnon, Pharmacist Owner

## News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

Continued from page 5

it suddenly lets go, imagine the rush of water that would race downstream. I know my friend Melissa Sheehy Richard, the MLA from West Hants where they had the terrible tragedy last year said she could not believe how fast it happened. Please keep this in mind when we have our next storm!

After many delays and challenges, the N S Loyal program will begin to roll out this week. This program has proven to be a bigger challenge than originally anticipated as the larger retailers needed it to work together with their store brand reward programs like Scene and Air Miles. Some progress has been made on this and it will begin to work with Scene rewards on July 25.

Additionally in June, the Government provided over 135,000 - \$10 gift certificates in the student voucher program that could be redeemed at any participating Farmers Market in N S. This would include the Markets in Portapique and Tatamagouche and I expect the Truro Farmers market. If your student did not show you one it may be worth checking in their school bag.

Additionally, there is a 10% price advantage for government procurement when they purchase from a NS Business. Overall, this is a \$6 million dollar program designed to support local businesses in particular, Agri-Food business and

it highlights the need to support local, keep our money in Nova Scotia and let it work for us instead of another country. Food security is critical! Please support our farmers!! With all the turmoil around the globe, wars, sanctions, unrest and burgeoning populations in other

Countries we never know when or how we could suddenly face shortages. Let's ensure those who feed us locally succeed!

There is currently a policing review underway in Nova Scotia. It is expected to be completed by the spring of 2025. I personally believe that we the residents of Colchester North must voice our opinion and have our say if there is any chance of getting the police protection we deserve. I plan to write about this and give my personal view and thoughts on this next month. However, time is getting by. I became aware of an online survey and just finished completing it and encourage everyone to take a few minutes and PLEASE do so as well. I would be shocked if very many residents of Colchester North are aware of its existence. It is due July 31. That's 12 days from now. Please fill out the survey... Here is the link.

<http://surveys.novascotia.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=87LH8n763>

Tom Taggart, MLA, Colchester North can be reached at [tom.taggartmla@gmail.com](mailto:tom.taggartmla@gmail.com) or (0) - 902-641-2335



## Notice

Nominations for the Municipality of Colchester and  
 Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Elections  
 Saturday October 19, 2024

## Nominations for the Municipality of Colchester

for  
 Mayor  
 and

One Councillor for each Polling District 1 through 11

will be accepted by the

Returning Officer  
 1 Church Street, Truro  
 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Nomination Day, Tuesday, September 10, 2024, or by appointment (by email [gwheeler@colchester.ca](mailto:gwheeler@colchester.ca) or by phone 902-893-0677)  
 on August 29, 30, and September 2, 4, 5, 6, & 9.

## Nominations for Conseil scolaire acadien provincial

for

One Member of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial for the Electoral District of Truro (comprised of the Towns of Truro, Amherst, Oxford, and Stewiacke, the Counties of Colchester and Cumberland, and the District of East Hants)

will be accepted by the

Returning Officer  
 Douglas Street Recreation Centre, Truro  
 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Nomination Day, Tuesday, September 10, 2024, or by appointment (by email [elections@truro.ca](mailto:elections@truro.ca) or by phone 902-898-2020)  
 on August 29, 30, and September 2, 4, 5, 6, & 9.

DATED at Truro, Nova Scotia, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2024

See Also "Revision to the Preliminary List of Electors" ad on page 10