

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 7

Summer Storm Fears: Hurricanes, power outages and severe storms

Heat and humidity are continuing to fuel severe thunderstorm risk across the Maritimes, with Environment Canada issuing heat warnings across the region and powerful thunderstorms already rolling through eastern Nova Scotia. Overall, Atlantic Canada faces a distinct combination of summer storm threats, from severe thunderstorms and flooding to the ever-present risk of hurricanes and tropical storms as the season progresses.

In Atlantic Canada, weather-related fears are led by power outages during severe storms (73%, the highest of any region in Canada), climate change-related weather (76%), and hurricanes or tropical storms (63%, far above the national average of 26%). Severe rain and flooding (56%) and tornadoes and high winds (53%) round out the top concerns.

With the heat and storm season arriving in Atlantic Canada, the days between events are the most critical window to act. Clearing drains, checking sump pumps, and having backup power ready can make a significant difference in how quickly a home or business recovers when the next storm hits.

Ocean Lake Wind Project Approved

The Ocean Lake Wind Project in Guysborough County received its environmental assessment approval today, July 2.

Ocean Lake, which will have up to 158 turbines, is the largest wind energy project approved in Nova Scotia to date. Once operational, it will generate about 1,264 megawatts of clean electricity, enough to power the equivalent of about 404,000 homes. It will also reduce Nova Scotia's annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 1.94 million tonnes - the equivalent of taking about 420,000 gas-powered cars off the road.

Construction of the wind farm is expected to begin in 2029 and take about five years. Between 400 and 500 construction jobs will be created, and another 40 to 50 people will be hired for operations. The project is expected to generate about \$11 million in annual tax revenue for the Municipality of the District of Guysborough.

The project must comply with 61 terms and conditions designed to protect the environment and human health.

Quick Facts:

- the Ocean Lake Wind Project developers are Ever-Wind NS Holdings Ltd. and Membertou Development Corp.
- the project is near the communities of New Harbour, Goldboro, Larry's River, Lundy and Roachvale

continued on page 11

Student Leader Drives Health Promotion in Colchester County

Emilia Fitzgerald's path to community advocacy, healthcare work and leadership began with a brief chat with volunteers at the Truro and area Community Health Board (CHB) during a weekly farmers market.

Emilia graduated this spring from Dalhousie University with a bachelor of health promotion and, earlier this year, the honours student stepped into the role of co-chairperson of the same CHB.

A member since 2024, Emilia views her time with the health board as an experience during which she strengthened her leadership skills and deepened her understanding of health-related opportunities and challenges in Colchester County.

"I wanted to give back to my home community," she explains. "I wanted to be able to apply and experience health promotion work beyond the classroom."

Her interest in health promotion began after she switched programs in her second year at Dalhousie. She had started in general sciences but quickly realized she was drawn to the preventative, strengths-based approach at the centre of health promotion.

"It was the perfect switch," she says. "As the health system is dealing with its challenges, looking at ways we can prevent people from even needing to use it is really the way I like to look at things."

Her involvement with the CHB has given her what she calls "real-world perspectives" or insights into the work of local organizations, their responsibilities and impacts they have, despite limited resources. Hearing directly

from non-profits about issues such as unhoused and mental health stigma has been eye-opening, she says.

"I knew these challenges existed, but it was different hearing about them directly from the people doing the work," Emilia adds. "It really broadened my understanding of what's happening in the community."

Emilia completed an internship with Nova Scotia Health's Mental Health and Addictions health promotion team, which further bolstered her interest in combining research with community based work. She begins her master's degree at Dalhousie this fall.

Her time on the health board included serving on the wellness fund committee, which distributes grant funding to local organizations. Seeing the results of those grants at last year's celebration event was one of the most rewarding moments of her involvement, she says. "It was really cool to see the process, like reading applications and then seeing the work that was actually being done with that money."

She hopes CHBs con-



Emilia Fitzgerald

tinue expanding their advocacy role while increasing their presence in community spaces. "It would be nice to have more engagement, as in physically being in public places a bit more," she says.

Her advice for others who are considering joining a community health board? First, just attend a meeting to see what it's all about.

"It's a great way to meet interesting people

and learn about what's happening in your community," she says. "The flexibility and opportunities make it the perfect place to get involved."

Emilia says she is grateful for the connections she has made and the perspective the CHB has given her. "It has been the perfect opportunity to learn about the inspiring work. I'm grateful for the real world perspectives this has given me."



PARKS CANADA

Canada

CANADA STRONG PASS

Parks Canada

- Free admission for all
- 25% off camping fees

National Museums & Plains of Abraham

- Free for kids 17 & under
- 50% off for youth aged 18-24

VIA Rail

- Kids 17 & under ride free with an adult
- 25% off for youth aged 18-24

Selected Provincial & Territorial Museums

- Free for kids
- 50% off for youth aged 18-24

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

ALANA HIRTLE

CUMBERLAND-COLCHESTER

1-888-752-0552 ALANA.HIRTLE@PARL.GC.CA

Province Names New NS President and CEO

The new President and CEO of Nova Scotia Health is its Executive Vice-President, Dr. Nicole Boutilier. "Dr. Boutilier is known for her collaborative leadership style and ability to bring people together around a shared vision. She has been an excellent leader at Nova Scotia Health," said Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness. "She will lead a very capable team there. I also want to thank Karen Oldfield for nearly five years of tremendous work at Nova Scotia Health."

The appointment takes effect Wednesday, July 1. Dr. Boutilier, currently responsible for medicine and clinical operations at Nova Scotia Health, is a highly respected physician and healthcare executive who has helped shape the delivery of healthcare across Nova Scotia.

Raised in Pictou County



Dr. Nicole Boutilier, the incoming President and CEO of Nova Scotia Health (Nova Scotia Health)

and a graduate of Dalhousie Medical School, she is a family doctor who has practised in a variety of settings in rural Nova Scotia while leading major initiatives to strengthen physician engagement, drive innovation and support healthcare transformation.

Dr. Boutilier is also a certified executive coach dedicated to mentoring and developing the next generation of healthcare leaders. Most recently, she

received the 2026 Chris Carruthers Excellence in Medical Leadership Award from the Canadian Society of Physician Leaders for her exceptional leadership and lasting impact on the medical profession in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Boutilier will take over from Ms. Oldfield, who has held the position since 2021. Ms. Oldfield will become the CEO of Accelerate Nova Scotia, a new agency with a mandate to transform Nova Scotia's world-class health innovation into economic growth. The agency will lead the commercialization and global expansion of healthcare technologies, products, services and research developed in Nova Scotia. It aims to secure strategic partnerships, attract investment, and create new markets, establishing the province as a national and international leader in health innovation.