

PAGE BRIEFS

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Nova Scotia's Utility and Review Board now has the authority to impose financial penalties on Nova Scotia Power for not meeting customer service standards. Government proclaimed this last section of the Electricity Plan Implementation Act on November 16th as the board continues with the process of setting performance standards for service reliability and storm response, and customer service. Penalties of up to one-million dollars annually can be imposed and legislation is in place to ensure they will be paid by Nova Scotia Power shareholders without affecting power rates. Minister of Energy Michel Samson says government is following through on its promise to make Nova Scotia Power more accountable to Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotians who have served and protected us will have their own veterans' motorcycle license plate in the spring. "Nova Scotia has a long tradition of military service," said Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. "The license plate is another way that we can show our appreciation to the people who have served us, protected us, and honoured us in uniform." In 2002, Nova Scotia was the first province to introduce a plate for vehicles to honour and recognize those who have served the country. In June 2014, the Royal Canadian Legion updated its definition of a veteran to include all members of the RCMP. The Royal Canadian Legion defines a veteran as any person who is now serving or has honourably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, a Commonwealth nation or its wartime allies, or as a regular member of the RCMP, or as a peace officer in a special duty area or on a special duty operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime. Applications for the plate will be available online and any Access Nova Scotia location this spring.

WWF-Canada applauds the November 15th announcement by the government of Canada and Northern partners establishing a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Beaufort Sea near the community of Paulatuk, N.W.T. Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam (Darnley Bay) is home to a variety of Arctic wildlife, and is the first MPA in Canada where conservation objectives will be guided by Indigenous traditional knowledge. This MPA prioritizes the conservation of species and their habitats and will prohibit oil and gas exploitation, mining and activities such as commercial fishing. A public meeting was held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Parrsboro in early November to discuss possibility of establishing an MPA in the Bay of Fundy. DFO is holding public meetings around the province on 54 potential identified sites.

The Government of Saskatchewan and Fertilizer Canada signed a Memorandum of Cooperation agreeing to work together on the ongoing implementation and adoption of fertilizer application practices using 4R Nutrient Stewardship. Representing more than 35 million acres of cropland in Canada, Saskatchewan will play a significant part in making a tangible contribution toward sustainable farming in Canada. Fertilizer Canada works provincially to help farmers build 4R Nutrient Stewardship into their farm management plans, the most sustainable way to use fertilizer. To date, five other provincial agreements and 39 demonstration farms have been established. Nationally, 4R Nutrient Stewardship represents 2.1 million acres, though it is estimated that the rate of implementation is significantly higher as roughly 70 per cent of farmers across Canada recognize the 4R principles. The association is committed to supporting the fertilizer industry with innovative research and programming while advocating sustainability, stewardship, safety and security through standards and Codes of Practice. Please visit fertilizercanada.ca.

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Casey wants RCMP Idea Scrapped



RCMP Communications operations are located at this Prince Street Property. (Submitted)

Amid persistent rumours that the RCMP are considering closing the RCMP Divisional Operational Communications Center in Truro, MP Bill Casey has

called for any such proposal to be cancelled. The move would transfer 50+ employee positions from Truro to Halifax. This proposal contradicts the reasoning provided

when the communications office was moved to Truro about ten years ago.

Casey says the explanation for the move to Truro at the time was that it was a safety measure which would provide back-up emergency communications for Nova Scotia in the event of a catastrophe in Halifax. It also serves as an overflow for HRM 911 dispatch. At the time of the move to Truro, having a dispatch centre outside of HRM was felt to be important for continuity and redundancy reasons.

Closing the Truro facility would also undermine efforts across the federal government to enhance and invest in rural communities like Truro. Three days ago, the Government of Canada celebrated a federal contribution of \$736,718 to enhance Prince Street and attract more people. The pro-

posed RCMP plan is to close the Prince Street RCMP communications facility across the street and move people out of Truro.

When the communications center moved to Truro, dozens of families were uprooted and moved to Truro. This current proposal would see these families uprooted again and moved to Halifax. The expense to move families to Truro was considerable and it will be even more to move them back to Halifax.

Casey says that he is utterly opposed to any such plan, and has raised the issue with Minister Ralph Goodale and Assistant Commissioner Brian Brennan. While he has been assured that no definite plans have been formed by the RCMP to move the facility, Casey wants the idea scrapped.

Great Village Community Centre Being Re-Purposed

By Maurice Rees

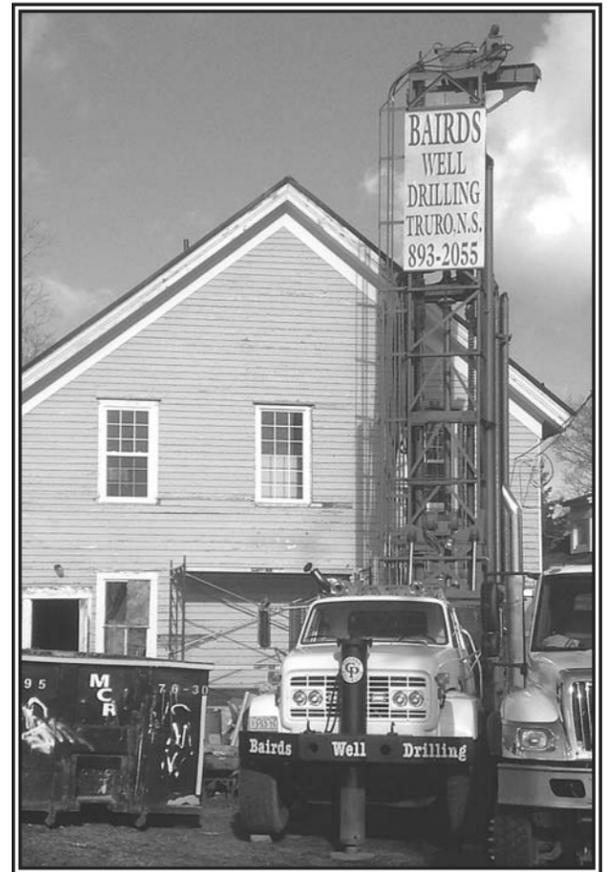
The Community Centre in Great Village, which used to be part of the Great Village Community Association package to deliver services to the community was closed and vacant for a while, but earlier this spring it was purchased by Cees van den Hoek, owner of Great Village Antiques.

Van den Hoek essentially saved the building from the wrecking ball and has been working on it over the summer. Most recently, improvements have included drilling a new well. He expects the renovated building to be ready for an opening in

April, when Great Village Antiques, across the street on the corner, in the former Layton's General Store, gets into the swing of things for the 2017 season.

Having purchased the former Layton's property a few years ago, Cees and his wife have constantly made tons of changes and improvements resulting in an unusual growth in excess of 20% each year. As the customer base continues to grow, customers offer rave reviews on how they like the store's layout, organization and appreciate the constant upgrades.

As discussed were drawing to an end, Van den Hoek said the former community centre building will be in addition to the store on the corner and it will be used to focus more on the furniture side of the business, which is currently under serviced.



Baird's Well Drilling, Truro have been on-site drilling a new well at the former Great Village Community Centre. The building was saved from the wrecking ball by Cees van den Hoek, owner, Great Village Antiques, who will restore the building and use it to focus on an expanded furniture section, which has been under-served in recent years. The building will open in April 2017. (Submitted)

Spread the news of your Community

Deadline for the January issue of

The **Shoreline** Journal

is December 22



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