



Desmond Waithe and Corina Saunders of Black Point, Pictou Co., have donated a 60 year old, 45 foot white spruce for this year's annual Tree for Boston. Tree cutting was held November 13th and is on its 1,100 kilometre trek to Boston. The tree is an annual gift to the city of Boston to thank them for their efforts following the Halifax Explosion in 1917. (Submitted)

## Crisis Line Operates 24/7

Wait times are expected to be reduced for people who most need mental health services. The most serious situations are when people are experiencing a mental health crisis. They now have faster access to emergency care through the 24/7 provincial Mental Health Crisis Line as well as crisis response teams at regional hospitals throughout the province.

The next level is considered urgent. In these situations, people should be seen within seven days or less, based on best practices. Currently, 96 per cent of adults assessed as urgent are being seen within this target, up from 85 per cent last year. In eastern, northern and western zones, 95 per cent of children and youth are being seen within seven days, up seven per cent from last year. For children and youth served by the IWK Health Centre, 99 per cent are being seen within three days or less.

Some of the investments government has made to help people and their families get care faster include: Created 10 more health-care positions to expand mental health crisis and urgent care teams across the province and at the IWK Health Centre; Allowing health professionals to respond to people who need crisis and urgent care for mental health and addictions issues faster and en-

hanced the provincial Mental Health Crisis Line with system upgrades and hired more health-care professionals, which means all calls are responded to more quickly.

\$1.6 million is being invested each year to improve mental health crisis and urgent care services in Nova Scotia, and the total investment in mental health and addictions this year is \$295 million. The Mental Health Crisis Line receives an average of 1,700 calls each month and 20,100 each year. The level of care people need is assessed and determined by health-care professionals, and there are three levels: emergency, urgent and non-urgent.

Other facts include: Access to other mental health supports and services is being improved through initiatives including hiring 22 new clinicians in mental health and addictions clinics, and expansion of SchoolsPlus and Adolescent Outreach Services/CaperBase. The funding comes from the Canada-Nova Scotia Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addiction Services Funding Agreement.

The Mental Health Crisis Line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week providing crisis response for children, youth and adults anywhere in the province. Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis should call the line toll-free at 1-888-429-8167.

## Council Changes Meetings to 6:00 pm

By Maurice Rees

Will changing meeting times to 6:00 pm for committee or monthly council meetings bring in efficiencies to reduce the time for each meeting? Council's committee meeting on November 14, the first to be held with meeting time at 6:00 pm was completed in less than two hours. Council went into closed session at 7:55pm to discuss one legal matter.

Under action items, three matters were more or less housekeeping: Amendments to expense policies; Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy; Flood Advisory Committee Terms of

Reference and Council Proceedings and Committees Policy Amendment and Personnel Policy Amendments.

A fourth action item, base line coverage for volunteers is published elsewhere in this issue as a separate story, "How much insurance coverage".

Councillor Taggart added, Code of Conduct to the agenda, because at the recent NS Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) meeting, the Minister of Municipal Affairs told delegates he was discouraged because NSFM had not moved forward on the matter. Earlier in the summer, Council had been informed NSFM had submitted their recommendations to Municipal Affairs, but had not received a reply.

Council agreed to send an email to NSFM asking for verification of time lines when recommendations had been

submitted. It is quite conceivable if NSFM confirms the earlier submission details, council will bring the matter to the minister's attention. As for Colchester's plan to adopt a code of conduct they earlier agreed to await confirmation from NSFM or Municipal Affairs.

Staff will research the possible installation of a street light at the intersection of Carrobie and Station Road, which is on the route leading to Londonderry, following a complaint from an area resident.

Councillor Masters added Clydesdale Drive, off Kent Road in Lower Truro, to the agenda following a complaint from a constituent, who was facing problems with storm water run-off and an overflowing ditch onto her property. Councillor Masters said the ditch had not been cleaned for years, then he related situation when the property owner called NSTIR in Bible Hill and was astounded how rudely she was treated.

Several councillors expressed concerns about their experiences with NSTIR. Staff will assist by checking into the matter and Mayor Blair will add the matter to the list for discussion at the next meeting with NSTIR.

Councilor MacKenzie informed councillors, a constituent in her area, often flights out of Debert Airport and has invited councillors, who would like to fly over the area. Details will be shared with staff and councillors.

## The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

### Public Transportation Grants

Colchester and Cumberland Counties were not successful in a recent allotment of nearly \$3.5-Million in government funding for assistance for public transit or a transit research initiative. A government press release on October 30<sup>th</sup> indicated through the Public Transit Assistance Program, government will provide almost \$3 million to seven transit providers from Cape Breton to Yarmouth to help them buy buses, bus terminals and shelters. In addition, 13 organizations will receive \$245,000 through the Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program. These grants help communities develop ideas and plans for new and improved public transit in rural and underserved urban areas.

### Doctor Recruitment and Retention in Truro

Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity is receiving \$25,000 through the new Healthy Communities Stream to support plans to create and train a more diverse group of volunteers to welcome doctors and their families to their community. Brennan Gillis, CEO, Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity said, "Our community leaders, local physicians and business partners have been actively engaged in physician recruitment and retention. This funding will allow us to better utilize our entire community, offering more training on attraction and retention best practices." The TCEPP has been approved for funding under a new grant program to support community-led initiatives around doctor recruitment. The proposal includes community engagement and a reporting system for volunteers to follow-up with physicians after their community tour; municipalities, museums, libraries, social enterprises, First Nations, communities and community groups and cultural organizations that are registered Nova Scotia not-for-profits may apply and the next round of applications for the program closes December 1.

### Award Encourages Young Innovators

Public school students in grades six to 12 across the province will have an opportunity to bring their business ideas to life. The Minister's Entrepreneurship Award of Excellence will provide three students with mentorship and \$1,000 each to launch their ideas. Since the award was launched in 2018, more than 40 students with 35 ideas have participated. The three winner categories are Social Enterprise, Technology and Innovation/Creativity. The application deadline is Feb. 20. To apply, visit <https://novascotia.ca/entrepreneuraward/>

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## 8 New Members Joining Onslow-Belmont 4-H

By Jessica Porter

Onslow-Belmont started registration last month, and so far we have had 42 returning members and 8 new members. We are always happy to see new faces at our meetings. Onslow-Belmont has added some new 4-H projects to our club this year. We will be having the Cake Decorating project, lead by Kari White, Building Blocks project also lead by Kari White, Welding project lead by Paul Kittilsen, Photography project junior lead by Serena Del Mastro, and the Archery project lead by Peter White. All in all, Onslow-Belmont has thirteen projects with leaders avail-

able for its members.

Some of our members who are looking to be in a project that Onslow-Belmont does not have a leader for may seek meetings in other clubs such as Clifton for the Goat project, and Truro North River for the Light Horse and Dog Obedience projects.

Registration is still open in 4H and if people want to register then they can come to the next meeting. The next general meeting will be at the Lower Onslow Community Centre on November 12th at 7 p.m.

Jessica Porter is reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club



CANADA  
4-H Nova Scotia



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"Support Our  
Local Farmers,  
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[www.karencasey.ca](http://www.karencasey.ca)



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Tel: 902-647-2552

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Tuesday 9:30-5  
Wednesday 9:30-5  
Thursday 9:30-5  
Friday 9:30-5