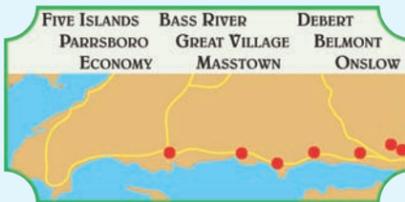


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Nurse Practitioner Coming

By Maurice Rees

Finally after going through several generations of plans and hopes, a solution is in the offing to continue to provide medical services at the West Colchester Community Health Centre (WCCHC) following the retirement of Doctors Rowe and Ewing.

In a letter received on November 9th, the Nova Scotia Health Authority has authorized the hiring a full-time nurse practitioner and efforts to secure a physician replacement are ongoing. Nearly a year ago, when it was learned the retirement of Doctors Rowe and Ewing would be re-

tical society, along with the consistent involvement of Councillor Tom Taggart starting holding regular meetings, often on a weekly basis.

About ten months ago, they thought they hit "pay dirt", when a physician from the UK expressed interest in relocating to the Bass River area. An

exploratory trip was arranged, with the potential doctor visiting the area, meeting local people and then agreeing to relocate.

His decision to relocate required completion of mountains of paperwork, which was completed and submitted, but the appearance of CoVid-19 pandemic the process was halted. Then Dr AJ from Halifax, outlined a process to take over providing medical services and offering an expansion to programs offered at the clinic, with a team of rotating doctors and other professionals, but the complexity of the proposal resulted in the NS Health Authority refusing to proceed, choosing to implement a plan for a full-time nurse practitioner and continue the search for a full-time

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS December 2020

Eligible Tourism Accommodation Operators Can Now Apply to Receive Commercial Property Tax Relief. The Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program will provide qualified operators with a one-time 25% rebate of 2020-2021 commercial property tax paid for qualified roofed accommodations. To be eligible, a business must meet the definition of a roofed accommodation as set out in the Tourist Accommodation Registration Act, be registered as a host under the act, and have five or more rooms. Qualified operators must have incurred a 30% loss in accommodation revenues for the period of April 1, 2020 to Oct. 31, 2020 compared to the same period last year. New accommodations operators who were not in business before 30 March 2020 may still be entitled to a rebate if they can demonstrate lower than 50% occupancy rate since opening their business. Applications must be submitted by Friday, December 11 at 5pm. More information on the program may be found here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/tourism-accommodations-real-property-tax-rebate-program/#how-it-works>

Due to current circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Order of Nova Scotia investiture ceremony will be postponed. Honouring six Nova Scotians who have enriched the province in unique ways, the event was initially scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24. A new date will be announced later, with plans for Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc, Chancellor of the Order of Nova Scotia, to preside over the ceremony.

The Nova Scotia First Responders Steering Committee, a collaboration of front-line first responders, their employers, Government, and WCB Nova Scotia, will be hosting a special event to launch www.FirstRespondersMentalHealthNS.com, a new website to help first responders deal with mental health issues resulting from trauma they experience at work. The website which will be launched on Thursday, November 26th at NSGE&U building at 255 John Savage Avenue, Dartmouth, is part of a broader awareness campaign featuring vivid images of actual Nova Scotia first responders, along with a broad range of tools and resources. The campaign, and online resource, encourages first responders to speak-up and get help, rather than suffer in silence.

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Due to the Pandemic, a socially distanced Service of Remembrance was held at the Cenotaph in Londonderry at 2PM on Nov. 11th, 2020. Above, Darla Rushton places her poppy on a wreath as Audrey Rushton and Macy Drummond look on. See extensive coverage of the 2020 Remembrance Day services held along the shore on pages 17, 18, 19 and 20. (Harrington Photo)

Comparing CoVid-19 Vs Tuberculosis

By Maurice Rees

It is not my intention to be an alarmist, but Nova Scotians better start paying attention and abiding by the health protocols being outlined by Premier McNeil, Dr Robert Strang and health professionals. If we don't curtail our "devil may care" attitude we will be placed under CoVid-19 restrictions which make the curtailments invoked last spring look pale in comparison.

Governments and health professionals are working hard to keep the rate of infections at an acceptable level which will permit us to live a more normal life, but as Premier McNeil as stated, if we don't flatten the curve he will be forced to impose more stringent requirements, and it will make adherence more painful than the ordeals we experienced in the spring. He has hinted at "stay at home", or possible "school closures", reducing limits on shopping, dining, sports activities and a host of other desired activities.

Yes, people are getting cabin fever and tiring of dealing with CoVid-19, but they must remember it will be with us for years, and their diligence is required, while we await until early next summer for any amount of vaccinations from the "yet to be" approved vaccines.

In the United States, there have been approximately 255,000 deaths with almost 12-million reported infections. Some reports suggest if USA residents don't abide by masking, social distancing and limited their trips to

essential public outings, it is quite probable and additional 120,000 will die by March 1st, and if nothing is done death toll could rise to 671,000.

Nova Scotia had 16 new cases of COVID-19 in August, two in September, 21 in October and 51 in November, as of Thursday November 19th. Then eight new cases in the central zone were reported on Friday, November 20th. As of November 21, Nova Scotia has 33 active cases of COVID-19.

What happens in Nova Scotia will be directly related to how we individually act or react to the current up-surge of the infection rate. In a separate article, on page 5 of this issue, this writer drew the comparison of Covid-19 to Tuberculosis (TB) an infectious disease which generally affects the lungs.

CoVid-19 is similar to tuberculosis (TB), because both are spread from one person to the next through the air when people who have active TB in their lungs cough, spit, speak, or sneeze. That's a reason why wearing masks is so important and studies suggest could reduce CoVid infections by up to 70%.

Worldwide in 2018, there were more than 10 million cases of active TB which resulted in 1.5 million deaths. For those old enough to remember, in the 40's, 50's and early 60's we were equally susceptible to contacting mumps, red or German Measles.

To date, Nova Scotia has had 127,237 negative test results, 1,168 positive COVID-19

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Inspirational 150km Wagon Walk

By Linda Harrington
Back in April, when our community was ravaged with grief, I chose not to cover the tragedy out of respect for the families. Since over six months have passed, light is beginning to creep up out of the darkness. The Wagon Walk is a brightly shining light.

On Nov. 5th, twenty-year-old Adrian Delli-Colli and nineteen-year-old Ireland Thurler, both second year students at Dalhousie University, embarked on the Wagon Walk, a 150km Education and Resiliency Walk to remember the lives lost last April and to raise money for an Education Fund and a Community Hall Project.

Adrian and Ireland started their Wagon Walk from the Portauptique Hall at 8AM and would travel a route over four days through the five communities deeply affected by the mass shootings, including Portauptique, Wentworth, Debert, Shubenacadie and Enfield. On board their little wagon, were carefully crafted tote bags containing 23 tulip bulbs, one for each of the lives lost. Adrian and Ireland presented these tulips to the communities along the route, where they will be planted to remember the victims.

The walk was also a means to raise money to help the communities rebuild and to

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Rev. Don and Jean MacQueen were enjoyed the chance to support the Debert Legion Suppers once again. We thank everyone for their support, but future legion suppers have been put on hold until the new year. More from the Debert Legion on page 2. (Harrington Photo)

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