

PAGE BRIEFS

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To celebrate the unveiling of the new Art Gallery of Nova Scotia design, the Donald R. Sobey Foundation, with The Sobey Foundation, announced a \$10 million gift. On November 18 the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) announced the team of KPMB Architects with Omar Gandhi Architect, Jordan Bennett Studio, Elder Lorraine Whitman, Public Work and Transsolar as winners of the international design competition for the new Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and Waterfront Arts District. The new gallery and arts district, located on the Salter block of the Halifax Waterfront, will be a transformative destination for all to experience. It will inspire and celebrate creativity and imagination, but also challenge the status quo and reshape institutional values. It will be a place created with people, art and culture at its core. The gallery and the province will work with the team and the public to shape a final design that is a meaningful and accurate reflection of the diversity of Nova Scotian communities. Formal public engagement will begin in early 2021. The public can view the winning conceptual design at: <https://artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/artsdistrict>

Five wines received the 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines at a ceremony at Government House, Halifax on Thursday, November 19. The following wines, listed in alphabetical order, were selected as the best among the wines submitted: NV Crémant, Blomidon Estate Winery, Canning, Kings Co; 2019 Riesling, Gaspereau Vineyards, Wolfville; 2019 Tidal Bay, Gaspereau Vineyards, Wolfville; 2014 Blanc de Blancs Brut, Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards, Wolfville and Sparkling Rosé, Lüvo Life Company, Malagash, Cumberland Co. The award is administered in conjunction with Taste of Nova Scotia and Wine Growers Nova Scotia.

With an unprecedented increase in demand not seen since the Second World War, The Salvation Army has officially launched its 2020 Christmas Kettle Campaign – the organization's largest public fundraising drive of the year. Please see attached press release outlining details. With a regional \$1.8 million fundraising goal, the Christmas Kettle Campaign enables The Salvation Army to provide practical assistance to thousands of families and individuals who have met with hard times. Last year, in the Maritimes, The Salvation Army helped more than 56,000 people, providing 13,000 free meals, assisting 14,000 with Christmas food hampers and toys, and over 31,000 with food, clothing or practical help.

Atlantic Canadian businesses will benefit under the Nova Scotia Venture Capital Tax Credit's new regulations. "This tax credit is an incentive for individual and corporate investors to pool their resources in professionally managed funds to increase venture capital investments in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada," said Minister of Finance and Treasury Board Karen Casey. "Our small and medium-sized businesses will benefit from more opportunities. We appreciate the input of the business community while regulations were developed." Qualifying funds will be able to access up to \$20 million from eligible investors every year with a maximum tax credit of \$3 million. Eligible businesses must meet conditions, including having their head office in Atlantic Canada.

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News from our Provincial Capital

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- Wood Invoice Form if you use wood to heat your home but do not have a receipt
- Canada Child Benefit Form
- Citizenship application
- GST/HST payment information form

HARP is an initiative that takes financial burden off everyday people. Many Nova Scotians have applied for the rebate in previous years and they are always relieved that at least part of their heating expense will be covered by the rebate. The program closes March 31, 2021.

A second program through Efficiency Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia provides opportunities to reduce heating and power bills and to provide upgrades to those Nova Scotians who qualify.

Home Warming offers no-charge energy assessments to eligible Nova Scotians. It is 100% free to all qualified home owners in the province.

You may be one of those Nova Scotians and the Home Warming initiatives will help make your home more energy efficient. To be

eligible your maximum annual household income (line 236 from your Notice of Assessment) must meet this criteria: 1 person in the home, \$25,673 or less per year; 2-4 people in the home, \$47,703, or 5+ people in the home, \$67,937

The program supports all heating types (electric, oil, wood, coal, natural gas, etc.) and on average, people who go through the program can see an annual savings of up to 20-30% off their annual heating bills.

In addition to your income you must own a single unit home and be able to provide proof of ownership and it must be your current primary residence and it must be your year round home. If you qualify for Home Warming an energy audit will be conducted to determine the energy efficiency upgrades required. To determine if you are eligible contact Efficiency Nova Scotia at 1-877-434-2136 (toll free) or by visiting HomeWarming.ca. Information and Home Warming program applications are also available at my Masstown office.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North is also Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and can be reached at: 902-641-2200.

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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get it right.

In closing, I want to say overall our rural less densely populated communities have fared reasonably well during this crisis, in particular, as it pertains to our health. I am very concerned in terms of the economy and more importantly the financial impact, the worst is yet to come.

Without a doubt there are residents who have lost employment as a result. Very clearly the cost of groceries has been significantly increased. I am asking if you or anyone you know is in need, please contact me 902-899-7768. I absolutely assure you complete confidentiality. Our Municipality supports the food bank financially.

However, it is often difficult for some folks to travel to Truro or

maybe they are too proud to ask or be seen there. I have spoken with the Chair of the Board of Colchester Food bank and if you wish to register with them, again in confidence, I will personally deliver one day per month to residents of District 10.

I am pretty sure the need is there. I hear stories about children going to school without proper food, seniors going without so they can heat their homes. I go to meetings or listen to information sessions.

It is unrealistic to believe it is not happening here. Please take advantage.

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester District 10 councillor and submits a monthly column.

Investments to Improve Community Facilities

Nova Scotia communities depend on safe spaces where people can gather, celebrate and connect. To support these spaces, the province is investing in 36 projects that will improve existing cultural and community facilities.

Three organizations in Colchester and Cumberland Counties have been granted funding for their projects including: Atlantic Christian

Training Centre / Tatamagouche Centre, Colchester Co., roof replacement, heating upgrades, \$45,000; Central Community Centre, Upper North River, Colchester Co., new flooring, windows, door upgrades, and insulation, \$28,000 and Ship's Company Theatre, Parrsboro, roof replacement, entrance, and chimney upgrades, \$32,000.

A total of \$910,000 will be

invested in projects across the province this year through the program. Communities, Culture and Heritage funds community infrastructure through a variety of programs, includ-

ing the Recreation Facility Development grant program, the Legion Capital Assistance Program, and community and small business ACCESS-Ability grant programs.

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