

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Deputy Mayor and Alternate Chair chosen

Councillors Geoff Stewart & Mike Cooper retained positions as Deputy Mayor and Alternate Chair following October 27th meeting of Colchester Council. The election by their colleagues is for two years. In the month in which a new council is sworn in following a municipal election an election is required to appoint deputy mayor and an alternate chair to the executive committee. The 2022 election was required as council enters the last two years of their current mandate.

According to policy Council Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Every two years Council shall elect by majority vote from among its Members, an Alternate Chair to act as Chairperson of the Council Committee in the absence or incapacity of the Deputy Mayor.

Applications Open for Community Housing Fund

The recently announced \$2.5-million Community Housing Growth Fund provides financial support, tools and expertise to empower community housing providers to increase the supply of affordable housing options in the province.

The Community Housing Transformation Centre will administer the program and allocate funds to approved projects over the next two years. Grants are available to support: capacity building; planning and pre-development; research and innovation.

Applications and criteria are available online at: <https://centre.support/community-housing-growth-fund/>

Reporting thefts of Copper Wire

Over the last few months, there have been copper wire thefts from NS Power electrical equipment across the province. In many cases, ground wire is being stolen, which is designed to protect workers and prevent equipment failures.

The company's Corporate Security department has been providing details of each theft to local authorities who have been investigating these cases. NS Power and the RCMP are asking anyone with information about these copper wire thefts to report it to their local RCMP or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. A reward may be available to any individual who can provide Crime Stoppers with information on these thefts that lead to an arrest.

Suspicious activity can be reported anonymously by members of the public anytime through NS Power's website: www.nspower.ca/customer-service/report-suspicious-activity/theft

Program Will Train 30 L'nu Students

Nova Scotia is training more healthcare workers to provide a diverse range of care in communities across the province. Starting in the 2023-24 academic year, aspiring practical nursing students can learn as part of a Mi'kmaw cohort at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Pictou campus.

The cohort will be open to 30 Mi'kmaw learners from across Nova Scotia and falls under the 120 new practical nursing seats the government announced for NSCC in July. This brings the number of practical nursing seats to 390 per year, on average.

Curriculum for the new Mi'kmaw nursing program is in the early stages of development and will be a custom-learning experience developed with a Mi'kmaq and Indigenous lens. Cohort-based learning allows a group to learn and work their way through a course or a series of courses together, offering a supportive style of learning that helps students succeed.

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as Shadow Minister of Health. I also met with representatives from the Lions of Canada, a charitable organization, well known to our communities and internationally.

In the Health Committee, I have been holding the government to account for its failure to resolve the staffing crisis that has crippled Canada's hospitals. While the government has hesitated, my colleagues and I have been working on a plan to make it easier for our hospitals to hire qualified professionals with foreign credentials. This would bring valuable reinforcements to our hospitals, which have been stretched past the breaking point.

On November 11th, I returned to Cumberland-Colchester to commemorate Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in Truro, and later met with veterans and other members of the community in both Millbrook and Londonderry. As a veteran myself, Remembrance Day holds special significance, and I am happy to say there

are several surviving veterans of WWII still living in Colchester and Cumberland, including Mr. Russell Clarke who celebrated his 98th birthday this year. One day these brave men and women won't be with us anymore, which makes it more important than ever for us to hear their stories and honor their contributions to Canada's finest hour.

While back home in the riding, I spoke at the annual general meeting of the Truro Sport Heritage Society and the Colchester County Sport Hall of fame.

The holidays are fast approaching, and I will soon be coming home to Cumberland-Colchester to spend time with my family and my constituents.

If there is an event you would like me to attend, please feel free to contact my office at stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

News from our Provincial Council

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and the stone monument and part of the existing parking lot. Should this happen Public Works is committed to replacing anything removed, doubling the size of the parking lot and building a decorative wall along the new entrance. I want to be very clear, none of the memorial trees will be touched in any way!!

However, under option 3 the Loggers park will be dramatically affected. The road would go exactly where the current mill sets and come to a stop at a 90 degree intersection on Maple Ave. This option is not very popular with anyone, myself included! However the bridge must be replaced.

With all this in mind I have been in regular contact with Public Works Minister and senior staff. The above options were all predicated on a concrete Bridge and the elevations required. With respect to the size of the bridge girders approximately 7 feet height of girder to span twice the channel, as well as, the requirement from the bottom of the girder to stream bed. This created the need to raise the road elevation considerably and creating the challenges over by the store.

I am very pleased to advise that Public works staff has provided me with what I will call a bit of a compromise. A wooden arched bridge. Given the area's history, I actually am very pleased with the idea of a modern bridge constructed of wood in Bass River. Most importantly the wooden arch, while still meeting the required stream bed height and increased span, will lower the elevations considerably.

I have not seen the actual drawings yet, but I am told it will permit the entrance to the bridge to almost miss the Veterans Park, but will still have significant impact on the Loggers Park. I do however believe, with support from those involved in the Loggers park we can incorporate changes that will mitigate any negative impact.

This new wooden arch bridge concept will still require a 90

degree intersection and a stop sign on Trunk 2 but will to some degree solve most of the negative impact. With respect to the stop sign, when I think of all the speeding complaints I have had over the years, concerning the approaches to the bridge and in the center of the community, a stop sign may very well address that to some degree. This option is NOT FIRM at this time, but it does look very promising. I will be speaking with Minister Masland and senior staff over the next few weeks and hope to confirm by next article.

Certainly there is much to talk about in the aftermath of Fiona and concern over the cost of living, gas, diesel and heating oil. I will try and touch on some of that next month, but wish to say that there have been announcements with respect Federal funding to pay what appears to be all cost in installing heat pumps to replace fossil fuels. Like everything else, the devil will be in the details, but I expect this will be administered Provincially.

Regardless, I believe this will be a great opportunity and my office will make sure we have all the details and will be prepared to help residents of Colchester North work their way through the application process. Andrea, in my office has helped a tremendous amount of residents with funding applications, seniors care grants, home heating and Fiona so if you have any questions or want help, she is the person to call 902-641 2335.

I do hope to be able to talk about some very positive news about Primary Health Care in West Colchester in the next addition.

That's it for now, I expect there will be another Shoreline before Christmas, but in the event there is not, Please enjoy Christmas and have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North can be reached at: (0)-902-641-2335 or tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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Grant season is coming up in the new year. Please find information about municipal funding at <https://colchester.ca/grants-and-funding> I am happy to speak with any local organizations about these grants. We have wonderful staff at our county office that are always willing to help with questions.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns you might have. My contact information is listed above. Take care, be well and stay safe.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10 and can be reached at: (902) 890-1493, or vlomond@colchester.ca

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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airport's future and these discussions are still ongoing.

The tour was very enlightening, and I was able to learn historical facts and see firsthand some of the much-needed infrastructure repairs. I spoke to Denise Sibley, who is Debert Flight Centre's lead training pilot and Truro Flying Club's General Manager and learned they do more than train future pilots. They also do a mail run from Trenton airport twice a week to Pictou Island. They have three planes patrolling for forest fires through the summer months, and they also patrol the natural pipeline for inspection while looking for leaks.

If you are interested in booking a scenic tour in the air, they do

that as well! We are lucky to have this gem and piece of history in our backyard.

As I wrap up, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and hope you have the chance to spend time with your family and friends.

Many events are happening throughout Colchester County, but I would like to let you know of Debert's Tree lighting happening at the Debert River park across from the elementary on December 4th at 6 pm. Debert is having their first Santa Claus parade on December 11th at 12 noon. The parade route is from Ventura Drive and ends at the Debert Legion hosted by Debert and Area Community Association.

Marie Benoit is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 9 and can be reached at: Phone: 902-324-9011; Email: mboenoit@colchester.ca

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