

Truro & Colchester
CHAMBER
of Commerce

LOCAL = 68% is Put Back into Local Economy

By Sherry Martell

The holidays are always a good time to remind people about the benefits of "shopping local," whether that is in-person or now more options for local online.

For every dollar spent at a local retailer 68 % is put back into out economy in wages, supplies, services etc. When purchases are made at out-of-town locations Zero percent in maintained here.

While this message is important to consider during this time of year as people are spending money on gifts, the reality is shopping local has no season. There should be a year-round commitment to seek out items in local stores. Even just a little shift in purchasing habits can add to our local economy.

Recently, our Chamber participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. After



Sherry Martell

two years of virtual meetings, there was record attendance at the event. Held in Ottawa, more than 400 Chambers from across the country were represented at the annual policy sessions that sets the direction for advocacy for the year.

This Chamber's policy Addressing Workplace and Entrepreneur Mental Health, renewed in 2021, remains a priority for the national Chamber. Of the more than 60 other policy's of national significance debated and approved for advocacy in 2022, several are priorities for our chamber, related to physician recruitment, improving internet and cell service, enhancing trade enabling infrastructure, access to childcare, agriculture, taxation and more.

The Truro & Colchester Chamber has a long-standing tradition of being a leader among the network often helping pioneer programs and offering mentorship to smaller chambers. A recent activity which the Chamber participated in was a beta test of a wide-range of on-line business training courses. This project was spearheaded by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to meet the ever-growing needs of business want-



The Board of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce recently toured the Debert Aviation Centre to learn about the many economic opportunities now available in this region linked to the aviation industry. The Centre is owned by the Municipality of the County of Colchester and the tour was led by county Economic Development Officer Jenn Mantin and Mayor Christine Blair. (Submitted Photo)

ing to up-skill their staff. During the summer and fall of 2022, 10 local businesses were among a group of 170 testing courses to be offered to chamber members in the future. We are continually looking at ways to increase benefits for our members so stay tuned for more details.

One of the greatest strengths of the Chamber network is connecting members with members, and even the broader business community. In October, we were very pleased to welcome delegates from a Scottish trade mission hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. We hosted a meet and greet at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus where about nine of the delegates shared details about their businesses with about 30 of our members. We believe there were many important connections made in the room and look forward to hearing more about successful collaborations in the future.

As our Chamber begins to look forward to 2023, we are preparing our annual member's newsletter, launching into strategic planning to guide us through the next three to five years, and

planning a range of events to provide lots of quality networking.

To stay informed about events and workshops, or to learn more about Chamber activities visit www.trurocolchesterchamber.com

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Sherry Martell, executive director of the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, chats with Frazer Coupland, CEO Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, Scotland, at a meet and greet hosted by the Chamber on Oct. 25 at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill. Members of the Lochaber Chamber were in the province participating in a trade mission with a goal to explore new business opportunities and during their time in Truro made many connections that have the potential to be very exciting. (Submitted Photo)

No Buses for Students - No Drivers

Continued from page 1

dents a total of 7 days. She said it was not quite as bad in the following month. School had classes 19 days and students were not able to ride the buses on five days.

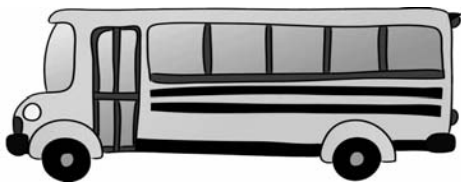
She continued, two years ago students could not attend school when they were closed as result of CoVid-19 and people complained about the lack of learning. We've learned to live with CoVid and students are back in school, but now students are losing education opportunities from problems with the busing network.

Other councillors were quick to express their frustration and supported a letter be sent to the Minister, principals at the local three schools, plus a copy be sent to area MLA's. Councillor Gregory added another frustration: Not only is there a shortage of bus drivers; but he has been informed drivers are not permitted to pick up students at their driveway if within 150 meters of

designated stop. He said he agrees with concern from parents about students being forced to walk along the side of the road to designated stops along busy highways where there are no sidewalks.

Councillor Sandeson added she has learned there is severe shortage of drivers, they have only five spare drivers; job fairs have not attracted enough applicants.

Lomond stated the problem causes major problems for parents: "they either had to find alternative transportation, or childcare, or stay home from work".



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