

# Rees' Pieces

## Our councillors are excellent.

Colchester is one of the few places people are willing to move, not because of our geography of being in the centre of about 2-million people who are within 90 minutes drive, but because residential and commercial property taxes are among the lowest in the province. Lower taxation is the result of good governance over recent decades.

The existing and previous council's have worked diligently to deliver the best that was possible. Lately Colchester's council has been consumed with "Plan It" meetings, and working toward adoption of a province-wide land use by-law, which the Province tasked all municipalities to development County Wide Planning and the implementation of Land Use By Laws (LUB). Colchester's new LUB is expected to be ready for adoption at end of 2024.

Along with LUB has been amendments to the existing Wind turbine by-law, which became a priority, because a rash of wind turbine farm applications was appearing the horizon. One proponent, EveryWind Fuels/RES got their in the water prior to announcements of wind turbine bylaw amendments were addressed by council.

The pressure on Colchester Councillors, increased beyond LUB public meetings with wind turbine amendments. The by-law amendments were up for second reading on November 16 committee meeting. One stipulation in the amendments, when passed would put a pause on accepting any new applications for wind development until the county wide planning exercise was completed and the Land Use By Laws were put in place.

Because is started its application early, EveryWind Fuels would not be included in the "pause" until LUB was adopted. An amendment to the second reading by-law was made by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Lomond, which would have included EverWindFuels in the Pause. They were not successful on this motion, it was defeated 7 to 4, the other two councillors in favor were MacKenzie and Sandeson. Which means EverWindFuels can proceed with planning and it's Environment Assessment.

Next motion before council was second reading of bylaw amendments, which passed unanimously.

I mention Councillor Lomond, not that others aren't deserving, but for statements she made during council.

Writing in her column, she writes, "I heard all sorts of feedback on this situation, some interested, some positive, some unsure but undoubtedly the majority that I heard from were individuals not in support of moving forward with development blindly without having the greater county wide strategy in place. I have a duty to listen to my constituents, ALL of them- all walks of life, all socio-economic backgrounds, cultures, races and communities. This is why you have elected me. I cannot assume the thoughts of the "silent majority" nor will I put words in the silent voices. I have asked in every way possible for feedback on our planning exercise and on the topic of wind development. For 2 years I have been on a soap box talking about wind."

I voted to pass second reading of the proposed amendments of the Wind Turbine Development By Law to "pause" because I was confident that I did my duty as an elected official on behalf of the people I represent. I listened, attended every information session I was able to and muddle through my own research. I wish there was a way to please everyone, but alas, that will never be the case. If you have comments, feedback or concerns please reach out.

Lomond, in her third year as a novice councillor, deserves compliments she indicated she did her home work; listened, then voted on what she felt was best in the overall picture. She was also willing to say "you can't please everyone all the time."

Wind turbines and green energy is not going away. Colchester seems to have the winds and topography demanded by turbines. In fact, when LUB is adopted watch for a race to the approval office.

Councillor Wade Parkers who for years has been generically against wind turbines, has softened his position to "accept the fact wind turbines and green energy is here to stay. Essentially Colchester won't be able to stop it, so it must extract the best deal possible."

We've asked for future articles from Protect Wentworth and EverWindFuels.

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.  
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## OP-ED

By Dr. Ryan Sommers

The leaves are falling, and with the changing seasons comes the unwelcome return of the influenza virus, along with other seasonal respiratory viruses. While influenza can impact people of all ages, it poses a higher risk for older adults.

Fortunately, Nova Scotia has taken a proactive step to ensure the safety of this vulnerable group by expanding access to free high-dose influenza vaccines for all people aged 65 and over. This measure will help protect our communities and keep our seniors healthy during the influenza season.

It is important to remember that influenza can be a dangerous respiratory illness that can severely impact someone's health. Seniors are particularly vulnerable to influenza and its complications due to age-related changes in their immune systems. While the standard influenza vaccine provides great

## New High-Dose Influenza Vaccine for Nova Scotians Over 65

<https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>

**Dr. Ryan Sommers, Senior Regional Medical Officer of Health and Senior Medical Director Public Health, Nova Scotia Health.**

protection for people under 65, seniors require a higher dose to create the same protection. The good news is that the high-dose influenza vaccine can help provide better protection against the virus for seniors than traditional vaccines.

The high-dose influenza vaccine is four times stronger than the standard-dose vaccine and significantly lowers seniors' risk of contracting influenza and experiencing severe illness. Researchers have found that the high-dose vaccine is also generally better at preventing hospitalizations among seniors.

The availability of the high-dose influenza vaccine is part of Nova Scotia's broader public health strategy to minimize the impact of seasonal influenza on our healthcare system. By reducing influenza-related hospitalizations and complications among seniors, this program will help reduce the pressure on our primary and acute care health systems.

The vaccine is available

through primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, public health vaccine clinics and pharmacies throughout the province. It's also safe to receive the high-dose influenza vaccine at the same time as the fall/winter COVID-19 vaccine.

During this time of year when respiratory illnesses like influenza are more common, taking steps to protect yourself and others is essential. In addition to receiving both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, this includes proper hand washing and coughing into your sleeve. If you feel sick, staying home and wearing a mask is important to prevent others from getting sick. If your symptoms are not improving or get worse, you should call 811 or visit a family physician or nurse practitioner for further advice.

For more information about influenza and to book a vaccination appointment, visit <https://novascotia.ca/flu>. To find COVID-19 information and to book an appointment, visit



## Elves for Elders Continues to Grow

By Sarah Flemming

Every year at this time, we hear from our community in a big way.

Our Elves for Elders program — which was created by a local couple in 2014 who saw a need in the community and worked to fill it — has grown every year.

And this year is no different.

In case you aren't familiar with the program, the United Way works with Senior Care facilities and other similar organizations throughout Colchester county to anonymously identify the seniors in our community who would benefit from the program — someone who is isolated over the holidays and might not otherwise be receiving a gift at Christmas — and what items are on their wish list. Gift tags with these items are then placed on trees at various locations\* for the public to choose from.

Nancy Crosby at Classic Rentals joined as a sponsor four years ago and hasn't looked back. "It was a very easy decision to get on board

with Elves for Elders," says Crosby. "Since it is such a wonderful program to show seniors in our community that we care and that they are important to us."

Once gifts are purchased — either by members of our generous community or through sponsorship dollars — the United Way, with the help of our Youth Committee and volunteers, then delivers them to the senior care facilities to be distributed to the seniors to brighten up their holidays.

We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors, partners, individuals, organizations and friends who support this program each year. We couldn't make it happen without our community cheerleaders stepping up to help us out, as they always do.

Nancy Crosby said it best when she said: "We help out each year to put a smile on someone's face during the holidays and to possibly help

**Sarah Flemming is Executive Director, United Way of Colchester County and can be reached at: [unitedwaycolchester.ca](http://unitedwaycolchester.ca) | @uwcoldchester**

them not feel alone."

If you would like to support seniors throughout Colchester County with a gift to open at Christmas, here's how you can help:

Find one of our Elves for Elders trees at the following locations: Alderberry Village, Classic Rentals LTD., elegant Steps, Marigold Cultural Centre and Truro Farmers Market Cooperative.

Select a tag from the tree with the gift you would like to purchase.

Please return your new, unwrapped gifts to Elegant Steps (58 Inglis Place) or United Way (inside the Marigold Centre, 605 Prince Street), during regular business hours by Friday, December 8.

Please note: Gift total: \$20 - \$25; Gift bags and tissue paper only. If you cannot purchase the gift you chose, please return the tag to the United Way office or call 902-895-9313 with your tag #.

**See photo on page 1.**



### Here's where to find us:

#### BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy  
Dominion Chair Factory Store

#### BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy  
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

#### DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

#### FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

#### GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

#### GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

#### MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

#### MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

#### MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites

#### NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

#### PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

#### TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn

MacQuarrie's Pharmasave  
(Esplanade)

Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health

Centre - Coffee Shop

#### NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:

Bass River Consolidated:

Great Village Elementary; Chignois Elementary;

Central Colchester Junior High

School; Parrsboro Elementary and

Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:

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