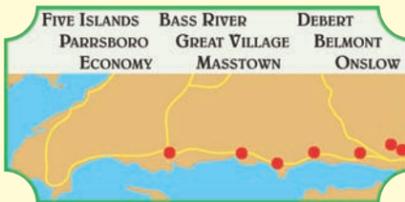




The Shoreline Journal

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS February 2015

Is there a volunteer Youth or Family within your organization/group or community that you would like to nominate for volunteer recognition? If so, Recreation Nova Scotia wants to hear from you! Recreation Nova Scotia is seeking nominations for the 41st Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony. For more information go to www.recreationns.ca/provincial-volunteer-awards or contact 902-425-1128. Nominations are to be submitted to Recreation Nova Scotia on or before February 20, 2015.

Early in January, Tim Hortons launched a program to help inform guests in Canada and the United States about the wide range of balanced menu options available at its restaurants. Balanced Options is a multifaceted initiative featuring new US and Canadian websites (www.timhortons.com/Nutrition in Canada and www.timhortons.com/USNutrition in the United States) with a revamped nutrition calculator, a new Canadian advertising campaign, titled *More Good to Love™*, and an ambassador program with professional hockey player and mom, Hayley Wickenheiser, and Toronto native and professional basketball player, Tristan Thompson.

An Open House to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Bernice Kaulback will be held at the Great Village Legion on January 31st, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Best Wishes Only.

Gary Clarke, who for 36 years has served the students and staff of first, the Cumberland District School Board, and now the CCRSB for 36 years has announced his retirement effective July 31, 2015. A search committee for Superintendent Clarke's replacement has been formed. It is expected the search will be national.

Nova Scotians can give their thoughts and comments about taxes, the tax system and the upcoming provincial budget at a public consultation meeting to be held on February 19 at the Amherst Regional High School, 190 Willow St., Cafeteria. This is the only remaining meeting, out of a series, which is close to Colchester and Cumberland Counties. The meeting begins with an information session at 6 p.m., followed by a discussion from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nova Scotians can also submit their comments via: E-mail to: taxreview@novascotia.ca, or regular mail to Tax Review, Department of Finance and Treasury Board, Box 187, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2N3

Debbie Weatherby's Belmont Notes is not available this month.

Brooke McNeil, Hantsport is one of two 4-H members from across Canada the Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship, sponsored by the Canadian Meat Council. The other winner was Christine Suominen, Lacombe, Alberta. Valued at \$2,500, McNeil will use the scholarship to enroll in the Animal Science degree program at the Agricultural Campus of Dalhousie University, Truro in September 2015.

HUMOUR CORNER - A newly married man asked his wife, "Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?" "Honey", the woman replied sweetly, "I'd have married you, NO MATTER WHO LEFT YOU A FORTUNE".

RASCALS to Unite Our Shore?

By Joy Laking

A few of us would like to see if there is any interest in forming a new group that would meet monthly and take on various initiatives that might strengthen our shore - Masstown to Five

Islands. This group would also be a support or conduit for all of our existing groups. The initial planning meeting to discuss this and see if there is interest will be held on Thursday February 12 at 7 pm at the Joy Laking Gallery, 6730

Hwy. #2, Bass River. If the weather is inclement, the meeting will be Thursday February 19 at 7. If you are interested, but you are unable to attend this meeting please let us know by emailing: joy@joylakinggallery.com

Here are some random thoughts to start the discussion. Possible name of group: **RASCALS**. (Rural Association for Sustainable Communities **ALong** our Shore).

Purpose: To encourage sustainable development along our shore; improve communications and enhance opportunities for folks to get together; enhance relationship with the incredible natural landscape that is at our doorsteps; work together to protect our environment and to make it possible and encourage residents to stay in the area, tourists to visit and new folks to consider moving here.

Area: Masstown to Five Islands (all Colchester & all rural).

A Few Possible initiatives: Email list, web page and Facebook page listing all community events and activities; have a drive share program where folks who need drives are matched with folks who want to offer drives; have weekly year round drop-in socials, free sandwiches, tea and cookies each Wednesday, 10:00 am til noon, rotating throughout the communities

continued on page 3



Fred Hamilton, Lower Onslow, manoeuvres the team of horses onto the narrow dock in Shelburne during filming of CBC's mini-series "The Book of Negroes". (See story and photos on Page 15)

"We won't negotiate what we can't afford" - McNeil

By Maurice Rees

Nova Scotia has had the worst performing economy for 11 years, but previous governments have been settling contracts with the public sector at a rate which is 10% above the national average, Premier Stephen McNeil told business leaders at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Holiday Inn, Truro on Friday, January 16th.

During the election campaign, we promised we would not negotiate contracts which the province could not afford. 2015 is going to be an interesting year, public sector labour contracts are up; health care is being revamped from 54 separate contracts down to four, and changes are coming to education and wherever we can save, but not devalue what is delivered to the taxpayer.

Speaking on economic development, he said, the private sector has a role. We have promised support based on the sectors, but we will not support individual businesses. "I don't want to offend anyone, but for far too long the private sector, like the public

sector has relied on government", McNeil said in outlining how his government will move forward to rebuild the economy.

He said, by partnering and working with the sectors, we can achieve positive results faster and we are not picking winners. It's the entire sector that wins, he continued.

McNeil said that while on an overseas trade mission he

learned about OceanSonics in Great Village, a relatively new small company which is developing world class products from a small community. McNeil said their success illustrates Nova Scotia can develop successful businesses anywhere, and they don't have to be concentrated in large areas.

In response to McNeil's *continued on page 3*

West Colchester Arena Struggling

By Maurice Rees

The West Colchester Arena is struggling, not only as a result of the opening of the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC), but because we're having problems getting volunteers to sit on the board to represent several of the communities, says Dave Allaby, Secretary, West Colchester Recreation Association (WCRA).

According to Allaby, the rink's woes are compounded with several vacancies on the board of directors and very few people have attended the WCRA annual meeting for the

past five years. The board composition is supposed to be one representative from each of the communities from Bass River to Onslow.

The fact the arena has been struggling is not a recent revelation. Rumours have been swirling for over a year, that arenas in Brookfield and Debert have suffered a downturn since the RECC opened. The North Colchester arena in Tatamagouche has not been affected as much, but it also has very strong community support and has been home to Oktoberfest celebrations *continued on page 3*

\$356,000 Per Day to Bus Students

By Maurice Rees

A new AIMS research report, "Education on Wheels", shows student transportation costs are rising steadily across Maritime Canada, even as student enrolment declines, and provincial governments, in the region, are missing opportunities to achieve cost and energy efficiencies. Based on 200 day school year, it's costing \$356,000 per day to bus Nova Scotia's 20,423 students. The authors, Paul W. Bennett, Founding Director of Schoolhouse Consulting and Adjunct Professor of Education, Saint Mary's University and Derek M. Gillis, independent research consultant specializing in sustainable transportation research and program development, demonstrate high spending on managing the school bus fleet absorbs scarce resources that would be better spent in the region's classrooms.

It's time, they claim, to *continued on page 3*

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