



The Shoreline Journal

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\$180.692-Million Underfunded

By Maurice Rees

Three of Nova Scotia's ten municipalities with Defined Benefit Employee Pension Plans (DBP) confirmed their plans are underfunded by a total of \$180.692-Million. Municipalities with under-

funded plans are Halifax Regional Municipality (\$176.093-Million); District of Lunenburg (\$3.558-Million) and Town of Amherst (\$1.041-Million). Details on the special payments to cover the underfunding is listed in each

municipality's listing within the survey.

The other seven municipalities with defined benefit plans Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM), Region of Queens, District of East Hants, Town of New Glasgow

and Town of Truro have confirmed their defined benefit plans are fully funded, some on a "going concern" basis. It has not been revealed if underfunding exists for the Municipality of Richmond, although the Shoreline Journal tried to get answers.

Locally, the County of Colchester plan was fully funded as of its last actuarial report dated December 2013. A new report is expected by early May 2017.

Eleven municipalities did not respond or refused to participate in the survey. They are as follows: Counties of Annapolis, Antigonish, Inverness, Kings, Pictou; Districts of Clare and Yarmouth; Towns of Clark's Harbour, Shelburne, Trenton and Yarmouth.

Other municipalities who participated in the survey have Defined Contribution Plans, which have no way of being underfunding to cause the municipality to make special payments. Details about all the municipalities are outlined in the survey results on page 9 of this issue.

After Morneau Shepell pension plan consultants for the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM), conducted a webinar in early December, about upcoming changes to the Canada Pension Plan, there were rumours some municipal defined benefit plans were significantly underfunded. The Shoreline Journal then undertook an initiative to get the answers by surveying all municipalities.

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS February 2017

STRESS RELIEF: Here's a few words to get you smiling before you start reading this issue: You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body. If that wasn't enough: I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row

Stacey Culgin is in the process of getting a pictorial history of the communities of Belmont & Debert and vicinities gathered together and published. She is reaching out to area residents who may have old photos of houses, events, people, businesses or other items of historical interest. "If you would like to see them included in this book, please contact me and I shall consider them. My email is sculgin@eastlink.ca and home phone (902) 662-3867", Stacey (McCully) Culgin.

Saturday, March 11 will be a big day at the Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club, Folly Lake where it will be holding Radar Runs from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Registration is 8-10 AM at the Clubhouse-\$10.00 per Run; Admission cost for spectators \$5.00 each or \$10.00 per family. Runs will be 1,000 feet on snow. Plaque will be presented for 1st place winner of each class, plus King and Queen of the Lake Plaques.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia is hosting its 2017 Annual General Meeting February 3-5 in Halifax. The meetings will be held at the Westin Nova Scotia. A debate of the 13 candidates for leadership of the federal party will be held on February 4th.

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The Shoreline Journal was proud to host one of the "Wheels to Meals" dinners during the month of December at the Great Village Legion. Dinners return February 7th and 21st. Above we see the dessert cake that was a beautifully decorated and donated by Masstown Market ... with ice cream of course!

World Junior Hockey Challenge WILL BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY

by Maurice Rees

Colchester will host the 2017 World Junior A Challenge December 10-16 at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC), which previously was hosted in Yarmouth in 2012 and 2013.

Establishment of a "Jed Ritcey Legacy Fund" will be a significant factor to future hockey development in the area. A total of six teams will participate in the seven day tourney. There will be four international teams, plus an East and West coast team from Canada.

The Hockey Canada event is a partnership involving the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL), Maritime Hockey League (MHL),

Hockey Nova Scotia, and the local host committee as well as NHL Central Scouting.

The World Junior A Challenge has historically had an economic impact of over \$3 million to host communities.

"Truro has a history of supporting events and we want that tradition to continue when we host the world in December," said Dave Ritcey, chair of the local host committee. "With early support from the community at large and funding partners, we believe participating teams will leave with a positive impression of the area they won't soon forget. Our group is extremely excited about the opportunity to bring such a high level of hockey to the area; both the legacy of this tournament as well as the economic impact for our

region will leave an impression on the community for a long time."

"I would like to thank our dedicated staff and host committee for their hard work in helping to secure this elite level event for our community," said John Kelderman, board chair, Rath Eastlink Community Centre. "I have no doubt our state-of-the-art facility will be greatly complimented by our local hospitality and love for the game."

The United States captured its seventh gold medal at the 2016 World Junior A Challenge in Bonnyville, Alta., and since its inception in 2006, more than 230 NHL draft picks have played in the tournament, including 36 first-round selections. The host organizing committee is looking for over 100 volunteers in all areas from game operations to ticket sales to

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Help 4-H Clubs VOTE TODAY

By Maurice Rees

The 4-H Barn at the Exhibition Grounds, Bible Hill is in a contest to win one of four \$15,000 prizes in the ADAMA "thank a retailer" contest. Details about the contest were introduced to Colchester Council by councillor Lloyd Gibbs on January 26th.

Truro Agromart and Nova Scotia 4-H clubs need you to vote daily. To vote, google "Thank A Retailer" or go to: www.thankaretailer.ca Once online, click on the Eastern Canada button. Truro Agromart Ltd is right there awaiting for you to vote from each of your email accounts.

Residents are asked to encourage their relatives, online friends colleagues to

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Truro WINTER Long John Festival

Schedule on Page 10 & 11

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