

PAGE BRIEFS

Continued from page 6

who could not afford representation. She is also an avid singer, hoping to join a choir in the Halifax area.

Almost 550 Nova Scotians who didn't graduate high school took the initiative to build a better life for themselves and their families by earning their General Education Diploma (GED) in 2016. On January 1st, government eliminated the fee required to take the GED test. Now, Nova Scotians who decide to pursue their high school equivalency can do so for free. Previously, writing the GED test would cost participants \$50 American.

Yangtze River Express Airlines has commenced operations at Halifax International Airport to deliver Nova Scotia lobster and other seafood to Chinese consumers. Overall exports from Nova Scotia to China totalled \$420 million in 2015, an increase of more than 50 per cent from 2014. In 2015 China was Nova Scotia's third largest seafood export market, accounting for \$210 million of the province's \$1.7 billion in fish and seafood exports. At the end of October, Nova Scotia had exported \$218 million worth of seafood to China.

Melissa MacKinnon has been appointed the new associate deputy minister of Communications Nova Scotia, Premier Stephen McNeil announced on Jan. 12. Ms. MacKinnon joined government in 2004 and has worked in a variety of communications roles at the Departments of Health, Finance, and the Executive Council office. She was most recently a managing director with Communications Nova Scotia. She served as director of communications and community relations with the Halifax 2011 Canada Games from 2008-11.

Through the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund, a two-part documentary series *Vague d'Acadie*, produced by 3300734 Nova Scotia Ltd., has been approved for a funding commitment of \$52,489 based on an eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$201,881. To learn more about the production above, go to www.nsb.ca/articles.

Veterans Affairs Canada has opened an additional office in Fredericton. The office will be in place for the foreseeable future; however, the Department may explore options to relocate the Fredericton service location to provide service closer to Base Gagetown. Approximately 30 staff will serve approximately 4,600 Veterans and their families from the new location. Employees at the new location will answer questions about VAC services and benefits; arrange pension medical examinations; and assist Veterans in completing and submitting applications and receipts. Case-managed Veterans will also be able to meet with their case manager.

On December 23, 2016, Siskinds LLP filed a proposed class action lawsuit against the manufacturers and engine suppliers of certain diesel-powered Dodge RAM 2500 and Dodge RAM 3500 heavy duty pickup trucks. The action relates to an alleged conspiracy among the defendants to equip these trucks with catalyst systems that are not durable and that cause the trucks to consume more fuel and emit higher levels of nitrogen oxides than advertised and allowed by law. It is also alleged that these systems cause the catalytic converter used in these trucks to fail prematurely.

continued on page 12

Schedule of events for the Long John Festival



Saturday, Feb. 4th

- 9am-1pm: Farmers Market
- 9am-4pm: Mayor's Challenge – Curling Fun Spiel at the Brookfield Curling Club
- 10am to 11am: Snowshoeing with Daisy Roberts at Victoria Park, meet at the Truro Jr. High School
- 1pm-1:30pm: Snowshoeing for seniors with Daisy Roberts at Victoria Park, meet at the Truro Jr. High School.
- 2pm-4pm: Winter Long John Festive Kick Off and official outdoor skating celebration on the Caldwell Roach Kings Mutual Insurance Ice Surface at the Civic Square in Truro. Refreshments, entertainment and horse wagon rides.
- 7pm: Truro Jr A Bearcats take on the Woodstock Slammers at the RECC. It's BOGO, buy a ticket to the game on February 3rd, when Bearcats take on Yarmouth and you receive a free ticket to the Woodstock game on Saturday, February 4th.
- 9:30pm: Immediately following the Bearcat hockey game, it's the Betty Lacey Memorial Fan Appreciation Skate with the Bearcats. Fans can get autographs, pictures taken with the players and or skate with the Bearcats. It's all part of the Long John Festival.

Sunday, February 5th

- 11am-1pm: Coasting Party on the Legion Hill, Brunswick Street, Truro
- 2:30pm-4:00pm: Movie Matinee: Happy Feet at Douglas Street Rec Centre
- 1-3pm: Free Skate at the RECC
- 7:30pm-8:30pm: Family skate at the Colchester Legion Stadium. Free admission if you wear your onesie or \$3.00 per person and \$7.00 per family.

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COLCHESTER RECREATION FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

Lunchtime, March Break, or anytime, ice-skating is a great way to have fun and be active this winter.

Colchester Recreation Facilities Association offers online booking to local arenas.

A simple, easy to use website that provides access to meeting rooms, party rentals and ice time.

Colchester County proudly supports the following:

- Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex
- North Shore Recreation Centre
- West Colchester United Arena

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Book Today!
www.colchesterrfa.ca



Colchester Legion Stadium
 14 Lorne St., Truro

Long John Festival Skates!
 Wear your long johns and get in Free!
Adult Skates: Feb. 7 and 10
Family Skate: Feb. 10

Weekly Schedule:

- FREE SENIOR SKATING**
- Monday2:30 to 3:30 pm
- Thursday9:30 to 10:00 am
- ADULT RECREATIONAL SKATE**
- Tuesday10:00 to 11:30 am
- Friday1:15 to 2:40 pm
- FREE PRE-SCHOOL SKATE**
- Monday1:15 to 2:15 pm
- Thursday10:30 to 11:30 am
- SUPERVISED FAMILY SKATE**
- Friday6:30 to 7:30 pm
- OPEN SKATE**
- Sunday7:30 to 8:30 pm



Coming in March
Additional Ice Rental Opportunities



For inquiries and booking
 email: jdawe@truro.ca
 or text: 902-956-1442
www.truro.ca/colchester-legion-stadium.html

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