



# The Shoreline Journal

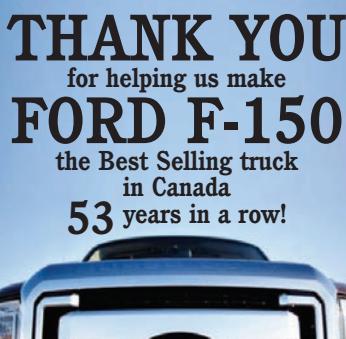
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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS February 2019

**STRESS RELIEF:** Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero out they closed school? Me neither. Why do I have to press one for English when they're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

We are searching for area residents who will be 90 in 2019, or are older and have not attended the Shoreline Journal's Annual 90 & 90+ birthday party. We ask you to send the name, birthday and phone number of area residents, even if they have attended previously. We don't want to miss anyone. Party will be held in Economy on May 11, 2019. Please send details to Maurice Rees, 902-647-2968, or [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

**Nova Scotia's political scene** is changing. A couple of months ago Bill Casey, who has represented the Cumberland-Colchester area in Ottawa for a period spanning 30 years would not be re-offering in the 2019 Federal Election. On January 10<sup>th</sup> Scott Brison who has represented the Kings-Hants riding for 22 years announced he will be spending more time with his four-year old twins and will not seek re-election.

**Medical teams and patients** at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax will soon have faster access to critical information needed for diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries. A partnership between Nova Scotia Health Authority and Synaptive Medical Inc. will see the installation of a dedicated magnetic resonance imaging machine, commonly known as an MRI, in the emergency department.

**REDSpace** is a full-service digital studio specializing in mobile, web, video and gaming for media brands and networks including Turner, NBC, FOX, Viacom, and Sony Pictures. The company provides new ways for its clients to deliver interactive experiences to its users around the world. Nova Scotia Busi-

continued on page 6



Gerrit Damsteegt presents retiring director Derick Canning with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia Board of Directors. Stories and photos on pages 16, 17 and 18.

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## 50% Deposit Required on Flooding Projects

By Maurice Rees

A flood damage program designed to assist property owners whose property is subject to flooding has hit a snag. The program was last updated in 2015.

However, since 2016/17, the program administered by the Flood Advisory Committee, has encountered problems with property owners paying their "previously agreed-upon"

share.

Although amounts or property owner names were not provided, in 2016/17 the committee was involved in eleven cost shared projects.

Five of the projects were not paid on-time, and as of early January 2019 four projects still have outstanding amounts.

At their meeting of December 4, 2018, the Flood

Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending the policy be updated to require property owners deposit 50% of their estimated share of project costs prior to the start of any work on their property.

The changes require payment of 50% of the property owner's estimated cost share prior to the start of any work.

Property owners may still choose to repay the remaining 50% over a year, either as a lump sum, or with 12 equal monthly payments.

The available reduction in applicant's costs are as follows:

- Residential Property 75%;
- Commercial Property 50%;
- Active Farmland 25%;
- Vacant Residential Land 10%;
- Vacant Commercial land 10% and
- Vacant Farmland 10%.

Council committee's recommendation will be formalized at the monthly meeting on January 31.

## Cannabis Committee Being Disbanded

By Maurice Rees

Colchester Council Committee is recommending the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded after just one meeting on December 11th. The Committee brain stormed a possible list of concerns including:

Use in public spaces; Use in municipal places and spaces; Location of cannabis sale; Workplace policy and Economic development.

Upon review of the various topics, the Ad Hoc Committee recognized several of the items are covered under Provincial legislation or are out of council's jurisdiction at this time. The Committee did suggest the following recommendations to Council: Amend the Municipality's Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces Policy by including cannabis consumed by smoking, vaping (e-cigarettes), and waterpipes; Police Review Committee track trends since legalization and advise Council of any policy/ by-law support required and ask RCMP to track expenditures that could be allocated to the Municipality.

By-law will permit the Municipality to charge interest on the Solar Energy Improvement Charge.

On November 28th, council accepted the RFP proposal of Supernova Energy Solutions and instructed staff begin designing a 'Solar Colchester' program to encourage the installation of Solar PV systems in Colchester. The Colchester program is being modelled after a similar program in HRM.

Acceptance of the RFP created a partnership between Colchester and Supernova Energy Solutions to design and implement a Municipal Solar PV Program. Staff have been working with Bruce Thompson of Supernova Energy Solutions to design the Program and application process, with the hope of launching the Program in the Spring of 2019.

The Solar Colchester PACE

Program will establish a lending rate/interest rate for financing solar projects; a rate must be decided at a later date and enacted through policy.

Staff are recommending the Program focus on residential projects in the beginning. The scale of a commercial project could limit the Municipality's ability to support more projects.

The Municipal Program is also being designed to complement Efficiency NS's residential solar rebate. Depending upon interest, the Program could be amended to include commercial applications in future years.

Other recommendations included: the Municipal Alcohol Policy Committee expand their mandate to include cannabis and report back to Council as warranted; Council request staff track any Municipal costs resulting from the legalization of recreational cannabis; The Municipality track provincial regulation of private, boutique sales and the sale of edibles to determine if there is a municipal role in regulation and finally, the Cannabis Committee be disbanded.

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