

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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Online Services for People Receiving various supports

The Department of Community Services has signed an agreement with information systems company, VitalHub, to improve the delivery of supports and services for Nova Scotians who receive income, employment and disability supports. The goal is to simplify administration, deliver services more quickly to clients and better integrate programs across government. The total value of the contract is approximately \$9 million over five years. Online services are expected to be available in phases over the next three years.

Support for Caring for Children Separated from Parents

A new program will support grandparents and other family members who care for children separated from their parents. Alternative Family Care helps prevent children from coming into the care of the province by providing financial assistance to extended family members and other caregivers to support the children's needs. The goal is to keep a familiar connection until the children are able to be reunited with their parents. Under Alternative Family Care, the caregiver receives a start-up amount of \$500 for the first child, and \$250 per additional child, up to a maximum of \$1,000 in the first month. They will then receive \$250 per month, per child. Income through Alternative Family Care is not taxable and it does not affect the Guaranteed Income Supplement and does not impact the child or caregiver's eligibility for other social programs such as Income Assistance, the Caregiver Benefit and the Child Care Subsidy. Alternative Family Care is now available to families through their current protection worker. Community Services anticipates about 400 children, who are involved with child protection, will benefit from the program annually.

Be done with smoking!

Did you know that within 24 hours of quitting smoking the risk of having a heart attack goes down, within 8 hours the level of carbon monoxide in your blood drops to normal, and within 2 weeks to 3 months a person can get more air into their lungs and breathe easier? These are just some of the health benefits gained by quitting smoking and that's not even counting the money saved or the positive impact this decision makes on loved ones.

The Woodland Conferences 2019

The Department of Natural Resources will be held as follows: **Western:** March 2, Digby Regional High School, Digby, NS; **Central:** April 13, Ste. Therese Community Centre, Head of Chezzetcook, NS and **Eastern:** April 27, Havre Boucher Community Centre, Havre Boucher, NS. Registrations are as follows: \$20 Early/\$25 Regular/\$15 Student (lunch included). For details 1-855-679-6637 or visit nswoods.ca.

Grant Program to Benefit Older Nova Scotians

More older Nova Scotians will benefit from a provincial grant program that funds organizations and their work to develop age-friendly communities. No grants were announced for Colchester or Cumberland Counties. The grant program provides funding of up to \$25,000 for projects that fall into one of two categories - age-friendly community planning and community projects. The 16 projects announced amounts to an investment of about \$160,000. Some of the projects include: exploring innovative and supportive housing options; programs addressing healthy, active living and social isolation; mentoring programs linking retirees with young adults and those that encourage inter-generational relationships and professional development and training to help organizations plan and support older adults living in their communities. The next application deadline is Feb. 1. Information and application forms are available at www.novascotia.ca/age-friendly-grant or by calling 902-424-0770 or toll-free 1-844-277-0770.

Province Announces Innovation Equity Tax Credit

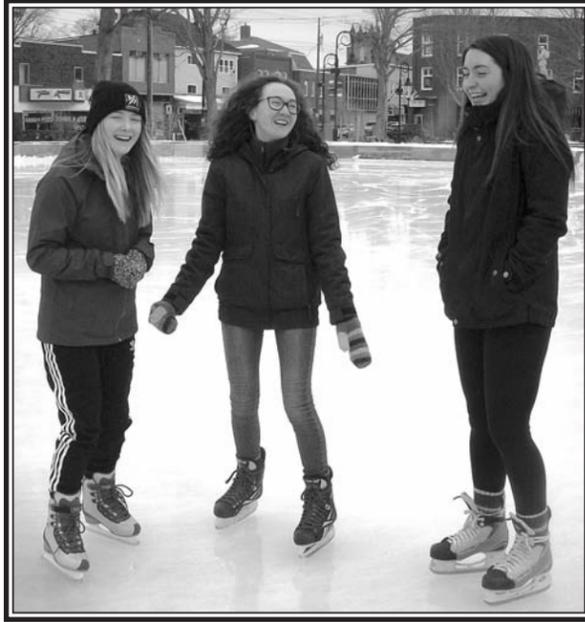
Nova Scotia startup companies and small and medium-sized businesses will benefit from more investment, thanks to a new Innovation Equity Tax Credit announced on January 17th by Finance and Treasury Board Minister Karen Casey. The new tax credit applies to investments up to \$250,000 in eligible businesses, which is \$200,000 more than the current Equity Tax Credit. Nova Scotian investors will receive a tax incentive of 35 per cent, or 45 per cent in priority sectors of oceans technology and life sciences. The new tax credit is effective immediately. To view the regulations visit <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-1.htm#inctax>

Good Neighbour Energy Fund Available

The Good Neighbour Energy Fund is available again this winter to provide financial assistance to low income Nova Scotians needing help with emergency home heating. The Fund is possible through a partnership between government, Nova Scotia Power and the Salvation Army. Last year, income thresholds for eligibility were increased from \$16,000 to \$21,000 for one-person households and from \$24,000 to \$39,000 for households of four or more people. As a result, 2,518 households were supported. This was 34 per cent more households than were supported in 2017. The fund runs until April 30. The maximum assistance amount is \$400. For more information, visit www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/gnef/ People may also be eligible for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program to help with up to \$200 toward home heating costs. Go to www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp for more information.

High Performance Home Plan launched

Efficiency Nova Scotia has launched the High Performance *continued on page 23*



Weather permitting there will be lots of skating during the Long John Festival at the Civic Square Ice surface in front of the Colchester East Hants Public Library on Prince Street. Three friends test their blades in preparation for the Long John Festival. (Submitted)

4-H Has Big Plans for 2019

By Maurice Rees

Now that ownership and control of the 4-H barn and other lands have been rectified with the Department of Agriculture, the Colchester 4-H Council is putting a lot of effort into developing plans to improve the facility and to make it the premiere 4-H facility in the province, with hopes it can become the permanent home of the 4-H Pro Show.

Lisa Patton, co-chair of the 4-H Committee which has worked hard to bring improvements to the barn expressed thanks to the Municipality of Colchester and the Department of Agriculture for their significant contributions in 2018 which resulted in extensive renovations being made to the 4-H Barn. She also expressed gratitude to the many corporate donors, contractors, and volunteers who made 2018 improvements a success.

In mid-August Colchester Council approved a \$30,000 emergency contribution to 4-H to ready the 4-H barn for the provincial exhibition. Earlier in the year council denied a four year \$100,000 commitment because they were not satisfied legal agreements and wording regarding ownership protected 4-H. Years ago the Colchester 4-H Council organized and fund raised with great community support to construct the facility. In the months following budget deliberations until mid-summer 4-H and Department of Agriculture negotiated wording and agreements to the satisfaction of all parties, including the municipality.

After approving the \$30,000 funding, to ready the building for NSPE, in early fall 2018, council reevaluated the situation. Council then approved, the original intention with an investment of \$100,000 (payable at once, but spread over four years). This long-term funding has provided a majority of the funding required for Phase II.

Patton's committee is currently working on a detailed plan for Phase II, for implementation in 2019. She anticipates an expenditure of upwards of \$100,000 which will involvement construction and installation of 30 portable pens; improvements to the outside ring; perhaps a roof over the ring. Another matter high on her committee's priority is meeting room, change



rooms and washroom facilities.

For many years and even with the improvements in 2018, 4-H members participating in a show, after readying their entry for competition must go to another building to change into their show outfit or use a washroom. Part of Phase II includes construction of a meeting room, a change room and washroom inside the barn.

Colchester Legion Stadium
14 Lorne St., Truro

MARCH BREAK ICE RENTALS AVAILABLE.
For inquiries and booking
email: dhutt@truro.ca

SCHEDULE:

Check complete skating schedule:
www.truro.ca/colchester-legion-stadium.html

FREE SENIOR SKATING

- Monday 2:15 to 3:15 pm
- Thursday . . . 9:30 to 10:30 am

ADULT RECREATIONAL SKATE

- Tuesday 10:00 to 11:30 am
- Friday 1:15 to 2:40 pm

FREE PRE-SCHOOL SKATE

- Monday 1:15 to 2:15 pm
- Thursday . . . 10:30 to 11:30 am

SUPERVISED FAMILY SKATE

- Friday 6:30 to 7:30 pm
(except Friday, Feb 15TH)

SPECIAL LONG JOHN FAMILY SKATE
Sunday, Feb 17.....1:00-2:20pm



Truro WINTER
Long John Festival

February 15th-18th, 2019

Go to www.truro.ca
for more information!

Hosted by the
Town of Truro Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
with generous support from our community partners.

 **TRURO**
#longjohntruro

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