



Pictured are volunteers who assisted with the 2021 Soup Fest event held at the Farmer's Market.
(Contributed)

Soup Fest Tickets \$20

Soup Fest 2022 will be held February 15 at the Truro Farmers' Market between 11:30 and 1:30. Tickets, \$20, are available through the United Way of Colchester Face Book event page, or call the office at 902 895-9313.

The event includes 10 - 12 local soup vendors offering samples of their finest soups. All participants will be able to vote for their favourites on-line for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position.

All CoVid-19 safety protocols will be in place (masks, social distancing, proof of vaccine for anyone entering the building)

Ticket holders can come in the building to meet the vendors and gather their samples to take away with them. Curbside pick-up is also available - sample sets will be delivered to your car.

Electric Vehicles: Who pays for loss of Excise Tax Revenue?

Continued from page 14

I was taken to:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/trade14a-eng.htm>

In 2016 Nova Scotia had 758,467 registered vehicles, of

which 636,986 were listed as highway vehicles. Existing highways will still need to be maintained. What will replace the \$80-Million lost in reduced Excise Tax revenue if 210,205 (33% highway) vehicles were converted to electricity?

If the same amount of Excise

Tax is required for highway maintenance are drivers of 210,205 electric vehicles willing to pay a "up-front" excise tax replacement fee of \$7.31 per week should 33% of Nova Scotia's 636,986 highway registered vehicles in 2016 be converted to electricity.

Looking at the total tax generated from gas and diesel, converting 250,294 (33%) of highway vehicles to electricity will reduce the total tax take by \$189,939,260 just in Nova Scotia. As calculated earlier, of that amount \$80-Million is Excise Tax used for highway maintenance. My concern is what federal and provincial programs will be short-changed by the loss of the additional \$109-Million?

How happy would electric vehicle owners be if they were asked to contribute up to \$17.38 per week to cover the total tax shortfall?

Will electric vehicle owners take pity on the 66% of us who are still driving a gas or diesel vehicle by paying an annual \$903.76 gas and diesel tax replacement fee over and above vehicle registration and re-charging fees? Of that amount \$380.00 is Excise Tax needed for Highway maintenance.

After all Nova Scotia still needs the same amount of pot-hole filled roadways.

Your thoughts?

(Reprinted from previous issue of the Shoreline Journal, but we feel with increased interest in electric vehicles, more charging stations being installed and a change in governments, this matter should be raised for public discussion and a statement for the current provincial government.)

The Christ Child's Day (Mon Dieu)

Hey look me over
Lend me an ear
While you are at it
Pass me a beer

On the Christ Child's day

Bubbles and soap
Thongs and songs
Socks and keys
Prayers and knees

On the Christ Child's day

God bless and thank-you
Thomas A. Marshall
(Ex-navy) 24/11/21

Rugs and thugs
Jail and court
Wicks and bics
Propane and profane

On the Christ Child's day

Doors and glass
A desert past
A saviour born
One special morn!

On the Christ Child's day



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NS Power President Issues Statement

The following is a statement from NS Power President & CEO Peter Gregg, regarding the proposed Net Metering charge filed with the NS Utility and Review Board this week.

"This week, as part of our General Rate Application, we requested approval of a System Access Charge that would be applied to customers in our Net Metering program. These are customers who generate their own electricity at their home or business and use NSP's power lines and infrastructure to put their excess energy on the grid or use power from the grid when they don't produce enough.

We see a strong and fair Net Metering program as a critical part of reaching our shared goal to get Nova Scotia off coal by 2030. Today, the energy and service provided by NSP to solar customers is being subsidized by all of NSP's other customers. Our intent in the General Rate Application is to address this fact and find a so-

lution with the regulator that is fair for all customers.

We understand the proposed System Access Charge raises concerns for the solar industry and with some of our customers. We are listening to your concerns and plan to reach out to meet with industry leadership early next week. We will continue to support the development of more renewables in Nova Scotia while maintaining our commitment to ensuring fairness for all customers.

Reaching our shared climate goals and realizing a greener Nova Scotia will only be accomplished by working together. Our General Rate Application helps set the stage to ensure we do our part to deliver on this."

Submitted on behalf of: Peter Gregg, NS Power President & CEO

Province Moves to Reduce Child-Care Fees

Parents and caregivers will see a reduction, by 25 percent, in child-care fees ahead of schedule as the Province accelerates its commitment to lower fees under the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The agreement calls for a 50 per cent reduction, on average, in fees by the end of this year. There will be an early initial decrease of 25 per cent, on average, retroactive to January 1, 2022, saving parents and caregivers an average of \$200 a month for a toddler in child care.

Parents will continue to pay their current rate until April 1, when they will choose to receive either a cheque from their centre reflecting the reduction from January to March or a credit. Parents will then pay the reduced rate going forward through centres that have joined the Canada-wide early learning and child-care system.

Under the Canada-wide agreement, fees for regulated child-care will drop to \$10 a day, on average, by March 31, 2026.

In addition to reduced fees, there will be 1,500 new not-for-profit child-care spaces beginning this fall, part of the plan for 9,500 new early learning and child-care spaces by March 31,

2026. The new spaces will be made available in more communities across Nova Scotia, with the goal of equitable access to affordable, accessible child care everywhere in the province. Communities with limited care options will soon have access to licensed child care for infants and toddlers, along with before and after school programs.

The goal is to bring fees for regulated child care down to \$10 per day on average across Canada within the next five years. By the end of 2022, the Government of Canada is aiming to reduce average fees for regulated early learning and child care by 50 per cent to make care more affordable for families. Funding dedicated to the early childhood workforce supports initiatives that focus on recruitment, retention and professional development.

More information about Nova Scotia's early learning and child-care system and the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement can be found at:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/childcare> More information about Excellence in Early Childhood Education can be found at: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/elcc>

NOTICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



Early Learning and Child Care Agreements

The Government of Canada made a transformative investment of over \$27 billion over 5 years as part of Budget 2021 to build a Canada-wide early learning and child care system with provinces and territories. Combined with other investments including Indigenous early learning and child care, up to \$30 billion over 5 years will be provided in support of early learning and child care. These investments will support early learning and child care programs consistent with the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework.

Winter Walks - a Boost for our Bodies and Minds

By Janet Barlow

Making time to be active in the outdoors this Winter will help you stay healthy and happy. Walking or snowshoeing is a wonderful and free way to boost your immune system and feed your soul during the pandemic.

"Making sure we balance screen time and doing something good for ourselves like being outdoors is definitely worth it," says Janet Barlow, Hike NS Executive Director. "Getting out for a walk or a snowshoe is something most folks can do close to home on a local trail."

Hike NS and 18 host organizations partnered to offer the Winter Guided Walk Series in January, February and March. There are 45 walks scheduled province-wide. Walks are led by local folks and participants qualify to win trail prizes. All of these free or low-cost hike or snowshoe events require pre-registration and will follow public health protocols, including physical distancing.

The full schedule with registration details and directions is found at www.hikenovascotia.ca. Hikes are listed by date and region and include various lengths and difficulty levels. For some of the guided walks, snowshoes are provided. If there's no snow, most events will go ahead as walks.

Hike NS thanks its local partners on the ground for organizing the events as well as The Trail Shop, Goose Lane Editions, the Heartland Tour and the NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage for their support. Hike NS encourages and promotes a growing hiking culture throughout the province, striv-

ing to be the voice for those who hike, walk and snowshoe.

If you need snowshoes, you can easily find some to borrow, rent or buy using Hike NS's online directory, with over 90 listings. There

are 60 venues where you can borrow them for free. Also, an Intro to Snowshoeing webinar will be held on January 26. Learn more about the webinar and directory at www.hikenovascotia.ca.

For more information on these events or Hike Nova Scotia contact:

Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia, (902) 932-6902;

info@hikenovascotia.ca, www.hikenovascotia.ca

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