

PAGE BRIEFS

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New Adoption Records Privacy Tool Available. People who have been adopted or birth parents may want to control how their identifying information is shared or may wish to protect their adoption record information. To help people protect or control their private information, a new web portal is now available for filling out disclosure vetoes and contact notices with the Province's Disclosure Program. The website also has printable versions of the forms to download, fill out and send through email or regular mail. A disclosure veto is a document stating an adopted person or a birth parent does not wish to share information that can identify them. A contact notice lets people share information that can identify them and set parameters around if or how they choose to be contacted. New legislation that takes effect this spring will allow adopted children, once they turn 19, and birth parents to access adoption information if they want to. The change will apply to all adoption records. It is important to note that under the new legislation, people who have previously indicated they want to keep their information private are still required to fill out a privacy tool. More information on the changes to accessing adoption records is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/adoption-records-changes/>

The Nova Scotia Minimum Wage Review Committee submitted its report, at the end of 2021, with recommendations on the minimum wage rate. It included a recommendation that the minimum wage increase by 40 cents an hour to \$13.35 on April 1, based on the national consumer price index (CPI). The government will accept the recommended increase for April 1 and is seeking more stakeholder input before making a decision on the committee's remaining recommendations. A second recommended adjustment on October 1 would bring the minimum wage to \$13.60. The committee's recommendations also include a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2024. The Nova Scotia Minimum Wage Review Committee report is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/lae/pubs>

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

IWK Emergency Department Expansion Site

Work has started on the IWK Health Centre's new emergency department, which will more than double its current size. The new emergency department will be built on University Avenue in Halifax next to the existing parking garage near the front of the Children's Building. The current emergency department is on the opposite side of the complex on South Street. The estimated cost of the project is \$102 million. It will serve children and families from all three Maritime provinces for the next 50 years with a priority on a patient-focused experience. EllisDon was awarded the construction manager contract for the IWK Emergency Expansion Project. The project is anticipated to be completed by March 2025.

Province Launches Recruitment Campaign

As Nova Scotia's population passes the one million mark, the Province is launching a recruitment campaign to increase workers in healthcare and the skilled trades to support labour market needs. The campaign is part of a larger strategy to double the current population to two million people by 2060 - adding an average of 25,000 more people to Nova Scotia each year. The Province is also launching a targeted campaign to promote Nova Scotia's growing job opportunities. It will include TV, radio, billboard, and all forms of digital advertising. The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage is also re-launching the successful Work from Nova Scotia campaign from 2020-21. It encourages Canadians who work remotely to relocate or come to Nova Scotia for longer stays, highlighting the province's communities, coastal lifestyle and world-class experiences.

To preview the healthcare and tradesperson campaign, go to: <https://liveinnovascotia.com/recruitment/> Tourism Nova Scotia advertising campaigns: <https://tourismnsc.ca/marketing/advertising-campaigns>

RCMP investigates fatal crash

Colchester County District RCMP investigated a fatal single vehicle crash that occurred shortly after 7:00 am on December 24th on Onslow Mountain Rd., Onslow. The RCMP, EHS and Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade responded to a single vehicle crash near the 400 block of Onslow Mountain Rd. The driver and only occupant of the vehicle, a 20-year-old man, from Belmont, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The roadway was closed most of the day. Traffic was diverted to Belmont Rd. and Vincent Dr.

RCMP charge man with attempted murder

Colchester County District RCMP has charged a man with attempted murder after a stabbing in Truro Heights. On January 23 at 5 p.m., police responded to a report of a stabbing on Anita Cres. in Truro Heights. When police arrived at the scene, they found a 51-year-old woman suffering from multiple stab wounds to the head and upper body. A man was located at the scene by police and was arrested without incident. The woman was taken by ambulance to hospital in Truro for serious, non-life threatening injuries and was later transferred to hospital in Halifax. Shawn David Olsen, 54, of Truro Heights, has been charged with Attempted Murder, Uttering Threats, Failure to Comply with Conditions of a Release Order (2 counts). Olsen has been remanded into custody and will appear in Truro Provincial Court on January 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. The investigation is continuing and is being assisted by the RCMP Forensic Identification Section.

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News from our Provincial Council *Continued from page 5*

saying "I remember when I was a kid", Well I remember being back on the Lynn Road by the old Charlie Sutherland place. Guys like Harold Corbett and Don Fulton, probably Aubrey McBurnie back there trying to open it up. Pictures of us as kids standing on the snow banks getting our picture taken at the same level as the Telephone lines. I never thought that would happen again.

Take a look, at the picture (on page 12 of this issue). I took just below Carl William's place on the Great Village Lornevale Road at noon on Sunday over 24 hours after the storm and the grader had punched a hole through just the width of the plow. The photo may not show it but, I assure you that cut was well over 20 feet deep and had the telephone lines been a similar in height as they were back then we could have photographed stepping over them as well. (Next month I will tell you about walking 2 miles to school thru snow, uphill both ways, LOL). Nova Scotia Power reported 40+ homes without power up that road. Shortly after lunch, Public Works brought in a loader to clear that drift.

Again, it was a big storm and I truly appreciate the work those folks did to get us out as soon as possible.

With respect to the storm and snowplowing, without question, I understand the angst and concern when your road is not plowed especially when it is impassable and emergency vehicles cannot get to you which was the case during our last storm.

I just wish to take a moment to pass on what I understand to be the policy or schedule. In the case of a significant storm, the plows will focus on the main road to ensure it is open and passable. After all, no value in getting to the highway if you cannot travel from there. Other than that, plows have an assigned route and it is critical for all that they stay on that route. I fully understand the need to get out to go to work or appointments. However, if the plows start jumping from one road to another to assist certain folks, it slows the whole process down for everyone plus inevitably someone gets missed.

For sure I understand the frustration and I hear it often, "the plow just drove by my road, why can he not just run in and get me out"? That would be nice, but if they do it for one, they will

need to do it for everyone, again, slowing down the process. Each road is assigned a level of service, beginning with Trunk roads, paved local roads, gravel roads etc. It is there for a reason. Is it perfect? Probably not. I guarantee, those on the end of a run will disagree. To close this off, I assure you if you have an emergency during a storm the emergency first responders or the 911 dispatcher will be in touch with Public Works and every effort will be made to get your road open ASAP.

Moving on I want to note that since getting elected, I have not participated in Facebook. I do not really feel comfortable doing business, so to speak, in a public form. However, I believe it may be best to have a site opened for some public service things or a way to communicate easily with larger groups. An example can be seen in this Journal. I often become aware of programs or policies that can benefit many residents. Please note in this issue, I have information about the Seniors Care Program, a \$500 grant for seniors whose income is below a certain threshold. I just received notice and applications for a Salvation Army Heat Fund. This fund supported by levels of Government, NSP and the Salvation Army provides \$400 for anyone earning below a certain threshold and heating their home. Another reason for me to have a public platform would be to advise of things within communities. For example, during the recent power outages some Fire Brigades opened up as warming centers. I do not believe they were very well attended, probably because many were not aware. A Facebook site would help communicate and even though the power is out I believe this will still work on cell phones.

To close I will say I believe we are getting close to turning the corner on Covid. Hopefully hospital admissions will soon be down to the point we can start to move toward living with Covid.

Hopefully we all will have weathered the storm forecast for January 29 & 30. Stay Safe.

Tom

Tom Taggart, is MLA for Colchester North. He can be reached at: (0) - 902-641-2335, or tom.taggartmla@gmail.com

News from our Provincial Capital *Continued from page 5*

pairing and maintaining the province's roads, highways and bridges. The plan includes major highway and road projects, repaving, major bridge replacements, capital maintenance, and infrastructure work that the province plans to pursue annually over the next five years. (The Shoreline Journal has indicated, in the next issue, it will provide extensive coverage of which highways, roads and bridges will be part of the five year program).

The improvement of our Healthcare and Long-Term Care remains a top-priority and our government is taking steps as we speak to assure that every Nova Scotian has access to primary care. A new service for people struggling with substance use and gambling addictions will open in Dartmouth this week with Re-

covey Support Centres also expected to open across the province, including here in Truro! A Recovery Support Centre will be an incredible asset to our community and will be the first local hub for adults requiring less intensive withdrawal management support. Services will include in-person assessments, group programming, and recovery and harm reduction support, with on-site withdrawal support and one-on-one programming added in the coming months.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving my newsletter, please have them contact the office at 902-897-0884 or via e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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step in the right direction. Stay tuned for information on this in the coming months.

Another exciting project in the Debert area is the announcement of Heart's Haven Memorial Park. This space will have many features including walking trails, a playspace and quiet areas to reflect and remember.

January 19th, 2022 the federal government (through ACOA) announced \$100,000 for the Portapique Community Build Up +

project. To learn more about this project please visit <https://www.facebook.com/portapiquehall/> My understanding is that the community hall's historical integrity will be maintained within a new building focused on bringing the community and surrounding areas together.

These are just a few of the positive things happening in our communities. Stay safe folks and be well.

Victoria Lomond is Colchester Councillor for District 10

Mass Murder Commission's Public Proceedings Schedule

Covid-19 has played as much havoc with the Mass Murder Commission's public proceedings schedule as it has with the general public. Originally scheduled to start in October, the proceedings were re-scheduled to January.

Now the public proceedings have been scheduled for February 22, 23 & 24; March 1, 2 3 and March 28, 29, 30, 31. and on into March 1, 2 and March 28, 29, 30 and 31. Surges of CoVid-19 variants could cause the Commission to make additional schedule changes.



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