

PHOTO FEATURE

It's Cold Out There! January brought the snow and the cold.
Lawrence R. Nicoll photos



Here we are in York Settlement. This was the last house on the plowed road. I thought it might not be occupied but there was a car at the roadside. And as I turned back a pickup with plow came up that road. The mailbox itself is over 100 feet from the road, and then the long ride to the house.



Back in Parrsboro, the chill is in the air and in the water. Gulls sweep by in the breeze and as we can see across the bay, the weather grows, yet the lighthouse stands it ground.



When you are well equipt – snow is no problem.



When the equipment fails, there's a difficult alternative. Fulcrum, effort and load.

\$292,219.71 Marketing Levy Funds Transferred to CNTDS

By Maurice Rees

At its January 15th committee meeting council on unanimous vote authorized the transfer \$292,219.71 of marketing levy reserve funds to the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society (CNSTDS) following society approval of their 2025-26 operating budget.

Since April 1, 2024, the Municipality of Colchester has collected marketing levy revenues, including amounts collected on behalf of Millbrook First Nation and the Town of Stewiacke under existing service agreements.

The Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society (CNSTDS) is now fully operational. The Society has been formally incorporated and is governed under approved by-laws, the recruitment of its Board of Directors has been completed, the Operating Agreement has been executed by all partners, and Nick Sharpe, Executive Director commenced employment on November 17, 2025.

As required under the Operating Agreement, the Society must submit an operating budget for municipal review and endorsement prior to the release of levy funds.

The Society's 2025-26 operating budget and accompanying work plan were unanimously approved by the CNSTDS Board of Directors at its December 19, 2025 meeting.

Two interim start-up payments of \$25,000 each (total \$50,000) have been advanced to the Society to support initial operations and will be reconciled against the first transfer.

Analysis

Key initiatives in the approved budget include: Branding and digital presence assessment; Development of a centralized digital content library; Industry training initiatives and best practice

learning missions; Hosting a local regional tourism summit and networking event (Spring 2026); Targeted support for local and regional tourism operators and potential operators to develop, package, and promote tourism experiences; Major Event Attraction & Promotion, representing approximately 60% of total investment, to support the potential return of Nova Scotia Music Week to Colchester in November 2026.

Fund Transfer & Disbursement Schedule: The initial transfer will include all marketing levy funds collected from April 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, less applicable administrative expenses, and

less the \$50,000 in interim funding already advanced.

Total Levy Collected (Apr 1, 2024 - Sept 30, 2025) \$417,757.41; Administrative Expenses: -\$75,537.70;

Interim Payments Issued: - \$50,000.00; Net Initial Transfer Amount: \$292,219.71

Following the initial transfer, levy funds will be disbursed to the Society on a quarterly basis, consistent with the Operating Agreement, as follows: April 1 for levy collected October 1 - December 31; July 1 for levy collected January 1 - March 31; October 1 for levy collected April 1 - June 30 and January 1 for levy collected July 1 - September 30.

The second quarterly disbursement is scheduled for April 1, 2026, covering levy revenues collected from October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The Town of Truro will follow the same process for the initial fund transfer and subsequent payments.

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