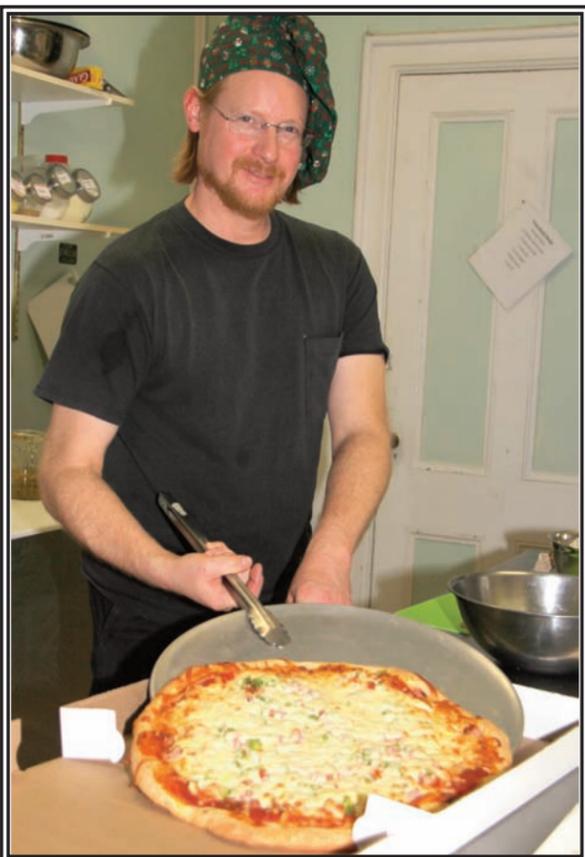




Members of the Great Village Garden Club decorate the community Christmas tree at the former Saint James United Church on Nov. 28th. (submitted)



Mike Burnett boxes up a hot delicious pizza, fresh from the Great Village Pizza oven. The new business has just opened its doors at 8 Wharf Road in Great Village. Owners Sarah Paterson and Mike Burnett say they plan to be open 5 days a week (closed Tuesday & Wednesday) from 3-9PM. (Harrington Photo)

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On a different issue, with Parliament now closed for the holiday season I am scheduling meetings with as many municipalities and economic development agencies as I can in order to find out what projects are being proposed. Once I have an idea what each one is working on I will try to add support to these projects and

find ways to help them succeed. Attracting investment and creating jobs in small town Nova Scotia is very challenging and takes a lot of effort and teamwork. This challenge will be a focus of mine for the next four years.

I wish each and every one a very happy, joyous and healthy holiday season.

Bill Casey is Member of Parliament for Cumberland Colchester.

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times have changed! Several things have come together in a sort of perfect storm type of scenario making it a challenge for it to remain viable and stay open.

Without question the new ice surface at the Rath Eastlink Center has taken ice time away. The decision of Nova Scotia minor hockey to allow players to play in associations of their choosing has had a negative effect as players tended to move away from smaller associations so they could have more choices to play on more elite or higher caliber travel teams. The overall cost of participation in minor hockey and the relatively inexpensive cost of other sports such as soccer, tennis etc have all been contributing factors. For years a very dedicated group of volunteers' have successfully managed this arena, they need our help. Minor hockey is a Canadian Institution and was a way of life as most of us grew up and raised our children around hockey rinks. Please step forward to help save our arenas and to help us enable more children to be physically active.

Now, I am back on the garbage rant. This time I am asking for some input/ feedback/ suggestions from our residents. Recently I have raised the issue of most restaurants removing the garbage cans from their driver thru locations. It is my opinion this contributes to roadside litter.

If you take notice of the litter, a large part of it is fast food packaging and coffee cups. During one of those debates/ discussions at council, it was suggested we place roadside litter cans strategically around the municipality. I have also had a request, and have

asked council to consider placing garbage cans at some public beaches in West Colchester.

It is my opinion roadside litter is getting out of control. There used to be a public campaign each spring. People used to be nervous about throwing litter out the window, signs were posted, people were charged, and basically there was a higher profile.

Times have changed! Too many people do not care! It is time we brought back pride in our communities and take a hard stand against these litter pigs.

Now back to my request for feedback. Placing garbage cans at strategic locations and beaches will come with a cost as I am talking County-wide.

They will need to be tended regularly; this will cost more than we think. I would like your comments for or against; I promise it will be confidential. Councillordistrict10@colchester.ca

Personally I am in favour, but maybe I am overreacting? I am truly interested and look forward to some feedback.

Councillor McInnes and I have arranged a public meeting at the PEG (Masstown Market Property) on Jan 16th from 2pm to 4pm. The purpose is to gain public input from the residents of Districts 9 & 10, on the development of the Palliser property as well as a brief status report. I encourage everyone to stop in with their ideas. I believe this project has the potential to have a very positive impact on our communities.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Tom

Tom Taggart, Councilor District 10, Colchester County

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Gateway project located at the old Palliser property to have visitors come and their first impressions be one of dismay by the way we disrespect our beautiful County by throwing garbage along our roadways.

The second issue Council has been dealing with for some time is the drop in use of ice time at our local arenas. Once again there are many factors which has contributed to this downward turn, not only, in hockey but skating in general. County staff have been working with all the stakeholders involved over the passed few years and will continue to support the area arena's in any way they can. Council will definitely continue to support these facilities with funding and by giving our recreational staff the tools they need to help promote the use of more ice time.

At the end of the day though it is you the public who will make or break these facilities. We need everyone to work together and support these facility because, believe me, they will be dearly missed in our community's if we can't sustain them. I have

stated many times in the past the fact we need more volunteers to come forward not only to join the board at the West Colchester United Arena but to be there when needed to help out.

Many of the board members in place now at the arena in Debert have been doing it all for a very long time and definitely could use some new and vibrant visionaries to help out.

On January 16th, 2016 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Councillor Taggart and myself will be holding a public meeting at the Peg in Masstown. This will not only be a chance for Tom and I to gather feed-back from our constituents on topics currently in front of council but also an opportunity for residents to speak with us one on one. We encourage everyone from District 9 and 10 who have any concerns they wish to discuss with their municipal councillor to drop by. The coffee will be hot and the doughnuts may still be warm from the market. Hope to see you there.

From my family to yours have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

Parking Permits to Hang From Rear View Mirror

By Christine Urqubart

Permanent Accessible Parking Identification Parking Permits (the blue card with the wheel chair symbol on it) are supposed to be hung from your rear view mirror when you are parked in a handicap spot. According to Access Nova Scotia the permit is NOT to be displayed while the vehicle is being operated.

I see so many cars passing me with these blue cards dangling from the rear view mirror, distracting the drivers. Please remove it before you drive away. Remember that only the person who's name is on the parking card is entitled to use it, and they must be in the vehicle for it to be displayed.

If you and your partner

are both disabled you both need a card. One card does not do for both of you. Also, if you are travelling out of province, you should check to see if your blue card is accepted where you are going. They are not accepted in many states in the USA. You can apply for special handicap parking cards for where you are heading if you feel that is necessary.



JOB OPPORTUNITY
BOOKKEEPER/OFFICE SUPERVISOR

North Nova Forest Owners Co-op Ltd, based in Wentworth, Nova Scotia, seeks to hire a full time

Bookkeeper/Office Supervisor.

See details at:
www.northnovaforestry.com

Primary Registration for 2016-2017

Grade Primary registration for the 2016-2017 school year takes place throughout January. Registration is open to children age five, on or before December 31, 2016. Parents/guardians are required to contact their local elementary school to arrange an appointment to register their child.

The registration process takes about 30 minutes. Parents/guardians **must** accompany their child to the registration and bring their child's:

- Birth certificate (proof of age)
- Provincial health card
- Immunization records

If the registration date has passed, please contact the school. If parents/guardians are unsure of which school their child should attend, they can contact the Chignecto Family of Schools office at 902-597-4207 for information.

SCHOOL	DATE	PHONE
Advocate District School	January 22	902-392-3400
Cumberland North Academy	January 21	902-661-2464
Cyrus Eaton Elementary	January 12	902-243-3900
Junction Road Elementary	January 14	902-597-4240
Northport Consolidated Elementary	January 22	902-661-2490
Oxford Regional Education Centre	January 15	902-447-4513
Parrsboro Regional Elementary	January 20	902-254-5605
River Hebert District School	January 27	902-251-3200
Spring Street Academy	January 29	902-661-2499
Wallace Consolidated Elementary	January 19	902-257-6100
West End Memorial	January 13	902-597-4242
West Highlands School	January 8	902-661-2410

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
902-897-8900 or Toll-free 1-800-770-0008
60 Lorne Street, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 3K3