

HOME DECOR & MORE



Farmers Get 25% Tax Credit For Food Bank Donations

By Maurice Rees

The 25% food tax credit given to Nova Scotia farmers has certainly helped Feed Nova Scotia. Since the credit was announced, Feed Nova Scotia has seen an increase in produce donations each month. Compared to last year, there was an increase in July of more than 10,000 kilograms and an increase of almost 30,000 kilograms in August.

"Nova Scotia farmers for many years have graciously donated to food banks in Nova Scotia because it is the right thing to do," said Chris van den Heuvel, president of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. "The Food Bank Tax Credit for Farmers and associated regulations show that government recognizes the resources, such as time, money and labour that go into producing the safe, quality food for the Nova Scotians who need it most."

The tax credit applies to donations of agricultural products like: fruits and vegetables, grains, pulses, including dried peas, beans, lentils and chickpeas; herbs, honey and maple syrup, nuts and mushrooms. The tax credit is retroactive to January 1, 2016. It is estimated that the tax credit could be worth \$300,000 this year.

Individuals or corporations carrying on the business of farming will receive a tax credit equal to 25 per cent of the fair market value of their donations of fresh, surplus produce made to food banks that are registered charities. They will also be eligible for the charitable donation tax credit.

For information about donating to a food bank, visit <http://feednovascotia.ca> Guidelines for the tax credit can be found at: <http://www.novascotia.ca/finance/en/home/taxation/tax101/business/default.aspx>

A Few Christmas Tree Care Tips



By Donald Cameron

Whether you are going "to the woods" or to the downtown corner to get your Christmas tree, following are a few tree care tips:

If you are going to cut trees in the forest, make sure that you first get permission from the landowner. A family trip to a U-cut operation is time well spent as you search for that one perfect specimen. In u-cut lots there are always many nice trees to choose from of different dimensions and grades.

If you purchase a tree that has been previously cut, ask how long ago it was cut, and if you are choosing between two candidates, choose the one most recently cut in order to acquire the freshest tree.

If you are storing your tree for a while before bringing it inside, it is important to keep it outdoors in order to keep it cold and in a dormant stage, and therefore fresh. If, for some reason, you must bring it inside for storage, you should cut a section off the stem (one centimetre or more) and immediately immerse the stem in water for the entire time until you are ready to use it.

When you are ready to bring the tree inside to put on its stand, cut a section off the stem to increase the uptake of water and then fill up your stand immediately after securing your tree to the stand.

It is important to use a large, stable tree stand that can hold six or more litres of water. It is amazing that over the first few days, a freshly cut tree can take in three to five litres of water per day. It is essential that the tree is able to continually take up water in order to keep it as fresh as possible. Therefore, you should check and fill-up your tree stand water supply on a daily basis.

The water in the tree stand should be fresh water only, with no additives, despite the

old myths that you may have heard. Carefully choose the room location for your tree, away from heat vents and open flames. Heat will obviously put additional drying stress on the tree. Decorate the tree your traditional way and enjoy.

Don is a registered professional forester and long-time resident of Truro.



Happy Holidays from all of us!

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ary in regard to the catch or bycatch of vulnerable, threatened and endangered species such as deep-sea sharks.

While the Prime Minister was meeting with premiers on the issue of climate change, the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) is calling for strong leadership and smart policies so the forest sector can do its part to support the transition to a low carbon economy. Earlier this year FPAC announced its ambitious *30 by 30 Climate Change Challenge* where it pledged to cut 30 megatonnes of greenhouse gases a year by 2030, about 13% of the federal government's overall climate change target. To reach that goal, FPAC would like to see provinces allocate all revenue generated by a price on carbon to a technology fund made available to industry to support further greening of operations. FPAC would also like to call on the federal and provincial governments to join the global movement to building more with wood as a way to reduce GHG emissions by replacing materials made from fossil fuels. FPAC provides a voice for Canada's wood, pulp, and paper producers nationally and internationally in government, trade, and environmental affairs. The \$65-billion-a-year forest products industry represents 2% of Canada's GDP and is one of Canada's largest employers operating in hundreds of communities and providing 230,000 direct jobs across the country.

Stores who rent or sell movies and video games will no longer require a license for this activity. Stores will still be required to ensure movies or games they sell or rent are properly classified and that classifications are clearly marked in a way that consumers can see and understand them. Service Nova Scotia issued 672 of these licenses at a cost of \$199 in 2015-2016 compared to 919 in 2006.

Arts Nova Scotia and the provincial government are helping Nova Scotia publishers produce literary work and discover new talent. The Project Grants for Publishing Program is a new \$150,000 fund that will support publishers to produce new literary work, help an author tour or make a public appearance, kick-start new work by a Nova Scotian literary artist and more. Eligible Nova Scotia publishers can apply for three different grants, which range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The deadline to apply for the program is Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017. For more information on how to apply, eligibility criteria and more, please visit <https://www.artsns.ca/grants-programs/grants/new-project-grants-publishing>

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