

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## More Help with Hurricane Cleanup

Provincial staff are preparing to do more work to remove downed trees and clean up debris caused by hurricane Fiona. More than 50 staff, depending on need, were deployed early in November. They will work on the ground to clear fallen trees and debris but do not have the equipment or expertise to address certain situations, such as trees that have fallen on homes and buildings or are in contact with meter masts or other parts of the electricity distribution system. The government continues to explore options to provide this kind of support.

Residential property owners and tenants with storm damage must first contact their insurance company about their coverage. Those without insurance or insufficient insurance to cover the costs can apply for help through the Disaster Financial Assistance Program. There are also programs for small businesses and non-profits.

The Department will work with municipalities where a state of emergency applied after the storm. Municipalities will help determine which residents do not have sufficient support through insurance or programs to address their situation in a reasonable time frame. People who need this help need to call their municipality in order to be considered.

## Shorter Wait Times for Eye Surgeries

More Nova Scotians will get their eye surgeries sooner thanks to an expanded partnership between Nova Scotia Health and Halifax Vision Surgical Centre which will perform up to 6,000 cataract surgeries next year, an increase of about 3,700 from this year. The surgeries will continue to be available to patients at no cost and will be performed by the same eye surgeons who perform surgeries through Nova Scotia Health.

Relocating cataract surgeries will free up operating room time for more complex eye surgeries at Nova Scotia Health's Eye Care Centre, which provides specialized surgeries for people across the Maritimes. Doctors at the Eye Care Centre, located at the Victoria General site of the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, perform retina, glaucoma and oculoplastic surgeries, which can include procedures on eye sockets, eyelids, tear ducts and the face.

The new contract with Halifax Vision Surgical Centre will be worth about \$5 million a year. The centre has been performing cataract surgeries for Nova Scotia Health since 2020.

## More Local Food Coming to Northwood

A new pilot project will put more local fruit, vegetables, meat and fish on the menu at Northwood's Halifax Campus, Atlantic Canada's largest long-term care facility. Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow announced the project December 9, at Northwood.

"We have ambitious goals when it comes to buy local - we want 20 per cent of all money spent on food in this province to be on local food. Projects like this one at Northwood are going to help get us there," said Minister Morrow. "When we buy local, we can feel good about what we're serving to our loved ones. And our money stays in Nova Scotia, which is better for our economy and our communities."

The pilot project with Northwood supports a transition from imported food to locally grown and produced food, allowing the facility to access up to \$25,000 in incentives - \$12,500 up front to help cover startup costs and up to \$12,500 later, based on its increased spend on local food.

Work is underway to expand the pilot program to more nursing homes, healthcare facilities, public schools, post-secondary institutions and correctional facilities.

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# Guardian

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## News from our Federal Capital

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strained by the current credentialing process. These talented professionals have been betrayed by an outdated system that refuses to recognize their qualifications. They deserve better and Canadians - especially the 140,000 Nova Scotians without access to primary care - also deserve better.

In Truro, I attended the annual fundraiser for the Colchester East Hants Health Centre Foundation, and the annual awards ceremony of the Pugwash Fire Department.

On December 3rd, I attended Christmas in Stewiacke which kicked off with a tasty and well attended breakfast at the Stewiacke Legion. Stewiacke is a wonderful town and is home to terrific people and a dedicated Council. The Filipino Association of Truro were kind enough to invite me to their annual Christmas Party on December 10th and as per usual they were particularly gracious hosts.

December 11th was a busy day - I was a guest speaker at the Halifax Conservative Association EDA event and really enjoyed highlighting the current issues and hearing shared concerns.

It was also a privilege to welcome, our Leader, Hon. Pierre Poilievre to Nova Scotia on December 11th and 12th. I accompa-

nied Mr. Poilievre and MP Rick Perkins to a Lebanese Business Chamber of Commerce where we discussed the values of enterprise, hospitality, hard work and their contributions to Nova Scotia's rich history.

I then accompanied Mr. Poilievre to a roundtable with Women That Hunt, a group of outdoor enthusiasts. It was incredible to listen to their passion and commitment to promoting a more sustainable nature-connected way of living.

Following that, Mr. Poilievre and I met with members of the Forestry industry who were devastated by the impacts of Hurricane Fiona. The forestry industry needs our support to help them rebuild their livelihoods.

As 2022 ends, I would like to wish each and every resident of Cumberland-Colchester a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2023 will bring us new challenges, new milestones, and new opportunities.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca.

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2683, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca**

## News from our Provincial Council

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well as Mental Health Services.

Another year is coming to an end. There are many challenges facing us. Continuing with the Health Care theme, Covid continues to hang around and we are always told to be aware of the next wave. Children's respiratory illness is very frightening, and we have a particularly severe strain of influenza. It is trying times for everyone! Over the past six weeks I have been dealing with a serious infection in my leg and have had the unfortunate experience of spending a lot of time in Emergency Rooms both in Halifax and Truro. There is no doubt that it is very frustrating. It is also very frustrating for the staff, Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics and support staff. I can tell you that when you get them they do an excellent job. I just had to add this piece in, I dealt with it first hand and it is not pretty. WE are not unique in this as it is happening all across Canada as reported on the news. Staff are stretched to the limit. I can tell you that our Government is working hard to make some gains, we have added more nursing seats at Universities, more Doctors seats as well as additional residencies for Doctors in particular

those that were trained outside NS are now permitted to complete their residency here in NS. We have stood up a program, I think at Cape Breton University to allow foreign trained nurses to meet the credentials required to be licenced in Nova Scotia. It is a slow progress, when you are setting in Emergency it is too slow. Again we are working on it and gains are being made.

This winter will be tough for many of our residents. Inflation and the price of groceries as well as the cost of furnace oil. Do not hesitate to call me. I do not have any magic wand, or any secret funds, but I will or more precisely Andrea in my office will do anything we can to help find support.

Please keep an eye on your neighbours.

In closing off the year, I want to say how much I enjoy my job and thank everyone of you who have given me this opportunity!

Please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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

# Community Development – Sustainability

By Paul Smith

## SUSTAINABLE COLCHESTER

### Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation

- The Municipality's application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for solar installations at municipal facilities has been recently reviewed internally revealing cost escalation of \$600,000 since the original estimate of \$2 million was prepared over a year ago. While the Municipality will be required to cover any additional costs, options are being explored with the Province to mitigate the overrun. Once more is known on the application status, Council will be apprised of options and be asked for further direction prior to any Municipal commitment. The ICIP would fund 74% of the original \$2 million project value.
- Groundwork will be underway this month for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, partly funded by the EV Boost program. The updated locations for the chargers are 1) Municipal courthouse, 2) Tatamagouche library, 3) Fundy Discovery Site, 4) Five Islands Lighthouse Park, 5) Acadia Ave, 6) Don Henderson Memorial Sportplex, and 7) the Upper Stewiacke Co-op. The Flo charging stations are scheduled to be delivered at the end of January and installed shortly after.
- The deadline for grade 9-12 students to apply for the Colchester Climate Crew volunteer program has been extended to December 28th. The volunteer program is funded by ICLEI's Agents of Change program and will begin meeting in the New Year. The student volunteers will receive training from staff and guest speakers and will work in groups to imagine, design, and bring to life their own climate action projects, with mentorship from members of Living Earth Council (LEC), a local environmental non-profit organization.
- The ReCover Initiative, a research and consulting group in Halifax, is working on a feasibility study for a panelized deep energy retrofit for the Municipality's water utility building in Debert. ReCover uses a turn-key, modular approach to deep energy retrofits inspired by the EnergieSprong methodology from the Netherlands. Panelized

retrofits can reduce a building's energy use by 50% or more by wrapping the building in a new prefabricated, panelized skin and replacing its mechanical systems with smaller, more efficient ones. This study is fully funded by NRCan and Nova Scotia's Low Carbon Communities program.

### Solar Colchester / Cozy Colchester

- The Municipality received its first loan disbursement from FCM on August 3, equal to about \$1.3 million or a quarter of the total loan amount. Staff are finishing up a request for the second loan disbursement, which will be transferred in late February or early March. Since August, the Municipality has approved over 80 solar and home retrofit projects for participants who missed the June program pause cut-off, many of these projects have been completed. The programs are still closed to new applicants and staff have yet to confirm a re-launch date for 2023. Staff will prepare an information item in January to keep Council apprised of the program's status.



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